



Kettering Science Academy

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Principal: Jennifer Giovannelli

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Dear all

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've had a good week, despite the darker nights and the autumn weather.

Open Evening Success

Last week, we held our **Open Evening**, welcoming over **800 visitors** to Kettering Science Academy. It gave prospective families a chance to experience what our school has to offer, and the feedback was very positive. Although this feedback came from potential new families, we wanted to share it with you, our current parents:

- *"I just wanted to commend you on an outstanding Open Evening. The best one we've experienced so far. The opening number was very impressive, and you can see how hard the kids and teachers worked on putting it together."*
- *"We were blown away by the teachers and students we spoke to. There is such a positive buzz around the school, and your vision for supporting all children was so refreshing."*
- *"It was so lovely to see how friendly and welcoming everyone was, especially the students who were clearly so proud and enthusiastic about their school."*
- *"What impressed me most was that we weren't just introduced to 'cherry-picked' students. We saw a wide range of students from all year groups, and they were all so polite, engaged, and enthusiastic. It made the school feel genuine."*

Many visitors also mentioned how impressed they were with our **student tour guides** and those **helping in classrooms**. The feedback praised how polite, knowledgeable, and engaged our students were, making a fantastic impression. We are so proud of how our students represented the school and showed their pride in the KSA community.

It was also great to hear how much people appreciated our **inclusive approach**, especially the support offered in the Rainbow Wing for children who need extra help. One parent described it as "emotional" to see the hard work going into helping children succeed.

Some families mentioned that the **layout of the school** was a bit hard to navigate, and we acknowledge this. We'll continue to work on improving guidance for future visitors and parents.

If any **current parents or family members** would like to visit the school during the day, you are more than welcome. Just get in touch, and we'll be happy to arrange a visit.

Our Commitment to Listening

In addition to feedback from prospective families, we were pleased to hear from parents who have older children currently at the school or who have now left. They shared how they've seen the school improve over time, especially in areas like **communication**—something we've worked hard to address over the past year.

We know that Kettering Science Academy had a different reputation in the past, but we are working hard to change that. We want the school to be seen as it is today: an inclusive, ambitious, and supportive environment where we **ignite brilliance** in every child.

This doesn't mean we're unaware of areas where we still need to improve. For example, we recognise that **behaviour during social times** and the way some students present themselves **outside of school**, especially on their way home, does not always meet the high expectations we set. We are actively working to address this with the support of community members and local agencies. We've partnered with organisations to come in and speak to students about the importance of **social media responsibility, personal conduct**, and why they need to be cautious about their behaviour online. We are committed to ensuring that our students not only succeed academically but also understand the importance of responsible behaviour in and outside of school.

Addressing Social Media Concerns

We are aware that some concerns have been raised on **social media**, particularly about **lunchtime and queuing**. I encourage parents to **contact us directly** with any concerns. What is being described online doesn't match what we see day-to-day in school. However, I want to understand why some may feel this way. We're considering holding a **live stream** to address questions and provide clarity on how things work in practice.

Social Time, Punctuality, and Upcoming Changes

Mrs. Gant, Senior Vice Principal, is focusing on **social time** and **punctuality** over the next few weeks. The following key messages will be shared with students:

- **Caught Doing the Right Thing (CDTRT) Tickets:** Last week, we introduced CDTRT tickets specifically for social time. These tickets reward students for showing

positive behaviour. We are reminding staff to issue as many of these tickets as possible to encourage and recognise students who are consistently ready, respectful, and safe during social times.

- **Punctuality for Period 5:** It is important that students transition calmly and on time to their afternoon lessons. When the bell rings at **1:55pm**, students should head straight to class. Lessons begin promptly at **2:00pm**, and students who are late will receive a **1-point sanction**.
 - Last week, **135 students** were late after lunch, which is **9% of our student population**. We want to reduce this in the coming weeks.
 - **New Behaviour Category on Edulink:** We are introducing a new behaviour category on **Edulink** called **Social Time Behaviour**. This will allow staff to monitor and report behaviour during break times that doesn't meet our expectations.
 - **1-Point Sanction:** For minor issues like shouting, running, or pushing in queues.
 - **2-Point Sanction:** If the behaviour persists, it will result in a 2-point sanction.
 - **3-Point Sanction:** Serious incidents, such as making others feel unsafe, will lead to a 3-point sanction and an immediate lunchtime detention.
 - **Upcoming Changes:** Starting the week of **21st October**, the **library** will become a designated **quiet space** during lunchtimes. Students will need a **pass** to enter, and the space will be supervised by **Mrs. Merry, Mrs. Canham, and Miss Galer**. This change is based on feedback from students and parents who wanted a calmer environment for eating, reading, or studying.
 - **Support:** For students who struggle with social time expectations, we are updating our **lunchtime detention system** and introducing **social time report cards**. These measures will support students in improving their behaviour and contributing positively to our school community.
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Rewards and Recognition

We have also introduced a "**Subject Star of the Week**" initiative. Every week, each subject will nominate a student who has excelled through effort or performance. Alongside our **Hidden Gems** programme, and our commitment to recognising the achievements of children who find school tricky, we hope to have broadened our approach to celebrating the achievements of all students.

We have received feedback about **front-of-queue passes** in our reward system. Please be assured that only a small, limited number of passes are issued each day, and they should not therefore have a significant impact on overall wait times.

I'd like to finish by reiterating again the invitation to get in touch. While we're proud of the positive feedback we've received, we also know that we haven't yet got it right for all children and families. We are determined to keep improving and make sure every child feels supported and successful. So, if you do have any concerns or something has been on your mind, please **get in touch**.

I look forward to updating you again next week.

Mrs Giovanelli