

What's Happening at KAS...

8th September 2017



Welcome back

We hope that all students and their families had a fantastic summer together sharing new experiences and creating lifelong memories. There has been much development on site with changes to ensure that we support our students in all areas of their school life, and make the best use of the space available to us. We are excited to see our new Year 11 prefects start back to school in their blazers and ties - a new initiative about which we and they are thrilled. An update on their involvement in the school will follow next week.

Mobile phone policy

We have spoken to all students in assembly and clarified with them that phones should be on silent, not on vibrate and in their bags (not pockets) during lessons and tutor time. They should not be visible at any time in lessons. Also, headphones should not be on view at any time other than at social time (not tucked into shirt pockets).

If phones are seen or heard in lessons actions are as follows:

- The phone will be confiscated until the end of the day by staff and sent to the office
- If students refuse to hand over their phone, despite the consequences of this being made clear, this will result in the student leaving their lesson and being sent to another classroom (parking)
- Refusal to hand over their phone in parking despite having the consequences of this made clear, will result in a member of senior staff being called and further consequences put in place, including internal exclusion
- First confiscation offence = phone collected by student at end of day
- Second confiscation offence = collected by parent at the end of the day (weekdays between 8.30am - 4.30pm)
- Third confiscation offence = parent must attend a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to collect
- Fourth confiscation offence = parent must attend a meeting with the Headteacher to collect
- Each student's record will be re-set at the start of each full term

Mr Darcy - P.A.T. dog

We are extremely lucky to now have a fully qualified, registered P.A.T. (Pets As Therapy) dog working within the Learning Support Department. P.A.T. dogs are used to enhance students' (and staff) health and wellbeing, as well as their learning experiences in a range of different settings. All dogs are trained to a high standard, behaviourally assessed and are fully vaccinated, before completing a 3 hour assessment in order to qualify. Mr Darcy is an experienced P.A.T. dog. He has previously worked in another mainstream secondary school and is very used to both students and school life. He will be an asset to many students, supporting them to work through a wide range of difficulties that can become a barrier to their learning and making progress. In addition, Mr Darcy will be supporting students to improve their literacy by developing their confidence, interest and enjoyment in reading.



Parent Information Events

We will be holding information evenings for parents of each year group on the dates listed below. The evening will be from 6pm - 7pm in 'B' block. The purpose of these meetings is to provide you with the key information and dates. This will allow you to support your child in their current academic year. Following the evening the presentation given will be available on the website.

- Year 11 - Monday 11th September
- Years 9 and 10 - Tuesday 12th September
- Year 8 - Thursday 14th September
- Year 7 - Monday 25th September

Year 6 Open Evening

On Thursday 21st September we cordially invite parents/carers of year 6 pupils to King Alfred School. The evening will run from 5.30pm - 7.45pm starting with a presentation on our vision and values followed by an opportunity to meet all our departments and see them in action. There will be students supporting each department who will be more than happy to give you the student perspective of life at school. Parents/carers of year 4 and 5 students are more than welcome to attend.

Academy and Ofsted Update

We are now in a position to update you on the process of our academisation which has been impacted by our Ofsted judgement of April 2017. As you are aware, Somerset Local Authority commissioned the Clevedon Learning Trust to lead our post-Ofsted school improvement programme. We worked closely with The Clevedon Learning Trust in the last half term. During this time we worked together with students and staff to develop our 'Be Proud Plan', which we shared with you at the post-Ofsted parent meeting.

On Thursday 31st August 2017 the South West Headteacher Board met to decide which Trust should be asked to 'sponsor' our school. This group of experienced Headteachers were led by the Regional Commissioner for Schools (RSC) in the South West, Rebecca Clark. During this meeting they discussed in detail which local Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) was at this time, best-placed to become our sponsor and work with us as we develop and move forward from our Ofsted judgement of April 2017.

The Headteacher Board decided that The Priory Learning Trust (PLT) based in Weston-super-Mare are the Trust best placed to support and develop our school as we embark on the next stage of our improvement journey. You can find out more about The Priory Learning Trust online at www.priorylearningtrust.org.uk Currently PLT has two secondary schools within the MAT. These are Priory Community School and Worle Community School. Worle was placed in Special Measures in April 2016 - prior to joining the trust - and has made rapid improvement in recent times. It is planned that three local primary schools will join The Priory Learning Trust in 2018.

A 'due diligence' process will now start to enable the financial and legal aspects of this partnership to be fully explored ahead of The King Alfred School formally becoming part of The Priory Learning Trust, early in 2018. We will be running meetings to give further information about this and the work we are doing to improve over the coming weeks. We are meeting with key staff from The PLT early next week. We look forward to working together in the years ahead.