

## ***What's Happening at KAS...***

***22nd September 2017***



### **Be Proud**

We are **proud** of all our students, and encourage them to be **proud** of their achievements both inside and out of school. Sometimes our students go that extra mile and do something that goes beyond making us feel **proud**, and truly makes a difference to others. Recently two of our students have done just this. One, in the course of her role as a lifeguard, performed CPR and saved the life of a child. Another, when simply walking home, gave first aid to someone in distress, called an ambulance, and quite possibly saved a life of an elderly lady. These two students quite simply sum up our values: **Belong, Believe, Be Proud**. Well done and thank you to you both.

### **Meet The Priory Learning Trust Team - sponsor of The King Alfred School**

There will be a meeting for all current parents and carers with the team from The Priory Learning Trust (The PLT) on Wednesday, 27th September 2017 at 6pm in B block. The following week there will be a meeting for parents of students in Year 6. This meeting will be on Wednesday, 4th October 2017 again at 6pm in B block.

The Executive Principal (of the PLT), Neville Coles, and a Trust school improvement consultant Gail Webb have been in school this week meeting staff and students, enabling them to gain an understanding of our school. Neville is a National Leader in Education and an OfSTED inspector. He was the Principal of Priory Community School - an Academy Trust in WSM from 2007 -2017. We do hope that parents / carers will be able to come along and hear more about our exciting future plans as part of The PLT.

At these meetings Neville will talk about the PLT methods that have made Priory Community School - an Academy, an OfSTED 'outstanding school'. The PLT have been working at Worle Community School Academy and this year Worle's GCSE results have improved by 14%. Both WCSA and PCSA are formally part of The PLT. It is planned that St Anne's Primary and Castle Batch primary both in WSM will join the Trust in 2018. It is also very likely that one of our feeder primaries Pawlett Primary will also join in 2018.

### **Student Success - Lauren Bird**

This month Lauren became Junior British Champion in Waterski Racing (9th - 10th September 2017). This was the final competition of the season held in Cardiff. This is an amazing achievement and we are very **proud** of Lauren due to her dedication and hard work ethic. Well done Lauren!

### **Student Leadership - Year 11 Prefects**

We are very **proud** of our first cohort of Year 11 Prefects. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the school. This week our Prefects have started their duties during social times. They are fantastic role models who have been approachable ensuring that these times of the day have gone smoothly and that students feel safe and supported. This week they will be allocated their roles within the school. Just a few of these include links within all Departments and Year Groups, Peer Mentors and Digital Leaders. We look forward to sharing their successes in future 'What's happening' bulletins.

### **Open Morning Tours**

Following a fantastic Primary Open Evening on Thursday night, where departments showcased what the new Year 6 can expect when they come to King Alfred, we are offering parents of pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to see us in action. The tours

will take place the week beginning 25th to 29th September and start at 9.15am. Please ring the school to book a place. If this week is not convenient then please contact us and we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

### **Class Charts**

We are now two weeks into using the new online homework and behaviour system class charts. Feedback from students, parents and staff has been overwhelmingly positive as a communication tool. Parents / carers especially have welcomed the opportunity to keep a very close eye on what is happening on a day to day basis! We do have a dedicated email [classcharts@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:classcharts@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk) for any technical issues that may arise. We would also ask that any family having difficulties with accessing the internet contact us as soon as possible.

### **Attendance Update**

Thank you to students, parents and carers for their support so far this year in ensuring that students arrive to school on time each day. Data from the Summer 2017 GCSE results showed that only 41% of students who missed just one Maths lesson a fortnight in Year 11 gained a Level 4 pass. In comparison 76% of those who attended all Maths lessons achieved a Level 4 pass. Attendance really does matter. Thank you for your continued support to ensure that your child's attendance is at least 95%. This will help them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **Parent Information Sessions**

The Parent Information Session for Year 7 is on Monday 25th September. This will provide parents with an opportunity to discover key information regarding the year ahead for their child. Curriculum, expectations, values, and what it means to **belong** to the King Alfred School will be explained in more detail. We will also give you more information regarding our fantastic new software Class Charts. Please do join us for an informative evening and another chance to meet the Year 7 and Senior Leadership Team.

### **Uniform**

In discussion with the School's Governing Body we have decided to gradually introduce a new uniform for students at The King Alfred School. The new Year 7 cohort who will join us in September 2018 will do so wearing a plain white shirt, tie and blazer. The PLT team are fully supportive of our '**Be Proud**' plan and the move to a blazer and tie uniform for Year 6s joining The King Alfred School - an Academy in September 2018. All other students will have blazer and tie as an option during their remaining time with us. These badged items will be available from our normal suppliers, Goldstar Clothing and Trutex at a lesser cost than the current badged shirts/blouses and jumpers. Since the introduction of blazers for the Year 11 Prefects a vast number of students have underlined their wish for the whole school to move to this smarter uniform. They have spoken of their wish to **be proud** of their school and feel that they **belong** to a school that prides itself on high standards. This change was suggested by many parents as part of the Ofsted feedback and we are keen to work in partnership with our community to improve our school.

### **Energy Drinks**

In line with many schools we will not be allowing the consumption of energy drinks by students on the school site from Monday 25th September 2017. Recent reviews of worldwide evidence on energy drinks links them to a wide range of short and long term health issues, including headaches, stomach aches, heart and liver problems and sleep problems. They have also been linked to impacts on well-being and educational outcomes. Many such drinks contain far more than the recommended daily intake of sugar and caffeine, affecting concentration and mood. If students are seen consuming energy drinks on the school site the drink will be confiscated and disposed of (or, if unopened, they will be retained for parental collection).