

What's Happening at KAS...

29th September 2017



Primary Open Evening

Lights, camera, action! It was all go for Primary Open Evening last week as King Alfred threw its doors open to welcome primary student visitors and parents/carers. Our guests took part in a departmental treasure hunt, finding out along the way what it means to **belong** at King Alfred. Parents/carers and children were able to attend a presentation by Mrs Hurr, finding out what the new Year 6 can expect when they come to King Alfred, and take part in a range of activities, from the 'prayer tray', to tasting the Food Department's amazing courgette and cheese muffins. Our guests told us that the evening was a great success, and really showcased our ethos of **Belong, Believe, Be Proud**.

The lucky winners in our Treasure Hunt Prize Draw were as follows:

1st Prize of a Fitbit - Charlotte Gosling, Brent Knoll; 2nd Prize of a 1610 seven day membership - Ralfie Puddy, St Andrews; 3rd Prize of a Burnham on Sea Swim Sports Academy gift card - Eleanor Partington, St Andrews; 4th Prize of a pair of Sony wireless headphones - Joseph Aylward, St Joseph's; joint 5th Prize of a £5 Love2Shop voucher - Chloe Holley, Churchfield and Lauren Smith, Pawlett. Congratulations to you all and enjoy your prizes!

Be Proud

Again this week we have some fantastic student achievements to celebrate. We are very **proud** of our Year 11 Prefects who have been fantastic ambassadors for the school on Open Evening, and our Transition Leaders, who have led the Open Morning Tours. Well done and thank you to you all.

Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Parent/Carers' Information Evening

On Wednesday evening the PLT Team, including the Executive Principal, Neville Coles, along with colleagues from across the PLT, visited The King Alfred School for a Parents / Carers' Information Evening. During the session parents, carers and students were able to hear more about our exciting future plans. The 'Be Proud' plan remains central to what we do at The King Alfred School to ensure that students make more progress than those nationally with the same starting points.

A key point made by Mr Coles, and his colleagues, was about the **continuation** of all the current good work in putting STUDENTS FIRST and BE PROUD, but also the importance of a **clear quality assurance system** to make sure plans are happening! Mr Coles also spoke about site improvements so we can all then feel **proud** of The King Alfred School. **Site improvements** with a new reception area and new signage will be happening over the next few weeks. As Mrs Hurr announced last week, from September 2018 all our new Year 7s will be wearing a **blazer and tie uniform**. Other year groups may wear the new uniform by choice, or remain in the current uniform. We hope many will choose our new blazer and tie uniform. Mr Coles can be contacted on Neville.coles@priorylearningtrust.org.uk. There is another meeting with him and the team next Wednesday at 6pm in 'B' block. This meeting is for Year 6 parents but we'd also be happy to see current parents who could not attend this week. The future is bright.

Learning Support

Following the redevelopment of the Learning Support Centre and the appointment of our new SENDCO, Miss Wilkins, we have some exciting new plans for the support of our vulnerable students. At social times we now offer a supportive and fun environment for students who may find breaks and lunch more challenging. Board games, radio, our P.A.T Dog, Mr Darcy, and a quiet area with comfy bean bags are all on offer. Learning Support staff, Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team will signpost students to Learning Support if they feel that they would benefit. Please feel free to contact Miss Wilkins on the school email if you would like to find out more.

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

Open Morning Tours

Following last week's Primary Open Evening we have, this week, offered parents of pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to see us in action. The tours have taken place every morning this week, led by our Transition Leaders, now in Year 8, and senior school staff. Parents/carers and children told us that they are impressed by what they have seen, especially the range of activities on offer, and the calm, purposeful learning. The children are already excited to belong to King Alfred full-time, so roll on September 2018!

If you, or another parent you know have not been able to attend the tours this week, please contact us and we will arrange a mutually convenient time for a visit.

Class Charts

We are now three 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 have said that they find it particularly useful to track homework and general behaviour on a day to day basis. We do have a dedicated email classcharts@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk for any technical issues that may arise and we will respond to you within 48 hours. We would also ask that any family having difficulties with accessing the internet contact us as soon as possible.

Behaviour Update

Thank you to students, parents and carers for their support so far this year in ensuring that students are demonstrating **positive relationships and mutual respect**, both in lessons and during social times. Visitors to the school this term have commented on the calm atmosphere and the students' good behaviour. Reassuringly students have also told us that they can see that behaviour is very positive and that they can see the **Be Proud Plan** in place throughout the school, with consistent expectations from all staff. Thank you for continuing to work with us to promote positive behaviour for learning through attendance, uniform expectations, equipment and students completing homework. This support, and your children's own high standards and hard work will help them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

6th Form Open Evening

Next Thursday is King Alfred School's 6th Form Open Evening 2017. We do hope that parents and students in our current year 11 will come along to hear more about our fantastic Sixth form. The event starts at 6pm, with a presentation in the Main Hall.

After School Revision Sessions

Revision sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 are already in full swing, with a wide range of subjects on offer. For Year 11 in particular we would like to draw your attention to English and Maths sessions which have already started. There are also many other revision/study opportunities and more details can be found on our school website.

Energy Drinks

Thank you for your support this week since the introduction of our school ban on energy drinks. 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. In line with this new rule, 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).