

What's Happening at KAS...

6th October 2017



Sixth Form Open Evening

Yesterday we held our Sixth Form Open Evening at King Alfred School. This is the start of a process to welcome Year 11 students to **belong** to our excellent sixth form. There are new subjects available for 2018-19 to suit all learners.

Our Sixth Form is based on high aspirations and challenge and our students have responded by gaining places at 16 of the 24 prestigious Russell Group universities spread right across Great Britain. The Sixth Form has also been recognised as an 'Apprenticeship Champion' by the National Apprenticeship Service, for preparing students for advanced and higher apprenticeships, we were delighted that Tyler Paul gained a place on a Higher Apprenticeship with the Hydrographic Office following a rigorous selection process with over 80 applicants. We were equally thrilled for Jamie Furlong who has started an Advanced Apprenticeship with EDF Energy. Whatever their choice of next steps after 6th Form, our students **believe** that they can succeed, with hard work and the support of our excellent staff. We are rightly proud of our students' achievements, and look forward to welcoming a high number of our current Year 11 into our Sixth Form in September 2018.

The Sixth Form is very different from the lower school; students are regarded as young adults and enjoy leadership opportunities which fine tune their employability skills through a comprehensive enrichment programme and via work experience with top UK firms. It is, in the words of our current Sixth Form students, the automatic choice for them, providing challenge, support and excellent teaching.

Be Proud

Again this week we have some fantastic student achievements to celebrate. Thank you to all the students involved. You make us very **proud**.

Ollie Croker, Luke Newman and Luka Krstic all went through recent trials to represent their school in the Bridgwater District Football Academy and were all selected for the final squad of 16. They played their first game against Bristol Rovers Under 13s and the head coach from Bristol Rovers was so impressed with their work rate and attitude that he has decided to start training sessions with them, taking a keen interest in their further development.

Faith Hooper has been busy on St. John Ambulance First Aid duty at Bridgwater Fair. She is trained to give First Aid to people if they need it and can even use a defibrillator!

Jack Murphy has been tirelessly running Chess Club and giving tuition to younger pupils every lunchtime. He embodies what being a Prefect is all about. Well done Jack!

Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Year 6 Parents' / 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 primarily for those with children in Year 6. During this evening, the PLT team talked about their plans for supporting our school as we continue to improve. The presentation is available on the school website.

Class Charts

We are now four weeks into using the new online homework and behaviour system Class Charts. 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

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difficulties with accessing the internet contact us as soon as possible.

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Communication

Thank you for your support and for working with us. We hope you found the Parent Information Evenings useful and that Class Charts is keeping you up to date with your child's homework and conduct. If you would like to meet with a member of staff please contact the Office to book an appointment. If you prefer to contact us by phone or email we will respond to your query within 48 hours.

Positive Relationships & Mutual Respect

As you may be aware middle and senior staff are regularly visiting lessons to support the learning of the students and to recognise and celebrate their successes. Towards the end of last summer we introduced a **learning stars** protocol whereby certain, identified students are publicly praised within the lesson by the member of staff visiting and a letter is sent home to inform you of their achievement. We are delighted with the positive start to the academic year and are continuing to remind students and staff of the importance of building **positive relationships** and showing **mutual respect** to one another in line with the **Be Proud Plan**.



Tutor Evening

On Thursday 12th and 19th October we will be inviting parents/carers to discuss academic progress to date with your child's form tutor.

During your tutor evening students will be guiding the learning conversation and showing why they are proud of the work they do in school.

Students will be asked to present 3 pieces of evidence at your appointment:

1. A piece of work that makes them feel **proud**
2. A piece of work that shows that they can **produce work of a very high level**
3. A final piece of work that shows that they know how to **reflect on and improve their work**

Please ensure you book your most convenient appointment time via the online booking system on the school website.

Attendance

As a school we expect a minimum of 95% to maximise learning opportunities in school. Even 95% means that two weeks of schooling have been missed over the year. At the Parent Information Evenings we highlighted what an impact this can have on academic performance. Students who fall below that threshold can expect to be contacted by the school attendance staff and in some cases the Educational Welfare Officer.

Battlefield Trip Parents' Information Evening

There will be an information evening for parents of those students going on the trip to the Battlefields of the First World War on Monday 9th October at 6 pm in the Lecture Theatre. Parents of those going should have received a reminder letter and an information form to complete. This trip takes place annually in October and is open to Year 10 students who are studying History. Mr Ellis will start the planning for next year's trip in January, so History students in the current Year 9 will be able to apply for a place for the January 2018 trip.

Supporting Your Child with English Lessons

The PTFA would like to present 'A guide to helping your child study *Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde* at GCSE' in the Lecture Theatre at 6pm to 7pm on Tuesday 10th October. This will cover themes, characters and the layout of exam questions. It would be helpful if you have read the text (available for £2 from the library) but it's not essential. There will also be resources made available on Youtube after the event. Some students are studying 'A Christmas Carol' so please check with your child.

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Future sessions will cover '*An Inspector Calls*', '*Macbeth*' and poetry. The effect of parental support on progress cannot be underestimated, whether that be taking an informed interest, or supporting with homework/revision, so please come along.

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