

What's Happening at KAS...

13th October 2017



Primary Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Over the last three weeks the Parent & Family Support Advisors (PFSAs) had a great time training our Year 6 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in readiness for Anti-Bullying Week 13th - 17th November 2017. The PFSA Team are based here at King Alfred School, but work not only with King Alfred School students but also students from all the Primary and Junior schools.

On Wednesday it was the turn of students from St. Andrew's and St. Joseph's Schools. The students mixed very well and engaged fantastically with the training. Students were chosen to take part having completed an application. There will be a Celebration/Awards Evening at King Alfred School on 8th November 2017 for the 60 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Thank you to staff at all the Junior Schools for helping the team to co-ordinate the event and Gail Maxwell-Grange and Declan Shortall for organising the sessions. We're very **proud** of the whole group and their commitment to tackling bullying in our community.



Sixth Form News

Following the excellent turn-out and positive atmosphere at the Sixth Form Open Evening its great to see the Year 11s collaborating so well with sixth form students on the Young Enterprise Company Programme and in the prestigious English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace debating competition: both of these enrichment opportunities allow students to develop important employability skills such as leadership, communication and problem solving. As part of our programme to ensure high aspirations among our students we have organised a free trip for interested Year 11 students to The University of Exeter on 19th December while those students looking at alternatives to university will be supported by local businesses who will advise on job applications, interview skills and CVs. The sixth form students are also busy planning Rag Day which will raise money for charity on 3rd November: we hope the whole school will support the staff versus students football match at lunchtime.

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**.

Congratulations to Katie-Bea Robinson 11G for winning the Swim England South West 'October Volunteer of the Month' award. Katie is a credit to the community and her local club, Burnham, encouraging and supporting younger swimmers to help them gain confidence in the water and improve in their sport. Well done Katie!



Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Update from Mr Coles (Executive Principal)

We welcomed Mr Danny Milford to The King Alfred School this week. Mr Milford has been working at Worle School over the last year. His role will be student conduct with particular focus on lunchtimes and he is an additional member of staff supporting the school daily. Mr Milford will be a full time member of the KAS staff and a key part of the school's Leadership Team. Other important changes to be seen soon at KAS will be many more benches for students and staff to use at both lunchtimes and break times. There will be a 'window art' project happening over the half term break with more signage also being installed. This is all part of the Be Proud plan. We hope all

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parents, students and staff will welcome these important changes to how the site looks at our school. Clearly, what happens in lessons is our key focus but the way in which the school environment looks and feels is also vitally important to successful schools.

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

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 to us by phone or email we will respond to your query within 48 hours.

Be Proud of the work you produce

In order to support us in celebrating successes can we ask that you take the time to ask your child/children to tell you about their proudest achievement this week in school in terms of their learning journey in their lessons. **What have you done this week that you are most proud of in a particular subject?** This will filter into the discussions at tutor evenings this week and next week where students have been encouraged to gather three pieces of evidence to lead the learning conversation with yourselves and their form tutor.

Macmillan Big Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 4th October the Year 7 Charity Reps organised a cake sale to raise money for the Macmillan Coffee Morning appeal. They got members of their tutor groups to bake cakes to bring in, which the reps sold at break time. Thanks to their hard work, the Year group raised £80 for the charity - a lot of cake! The picture shown are the Reps and their near empty stall. Great work Year 7!



PSHCE - Working with the Community

In partnership with the Avon & Somerset Police we have been offered the opportunity to have a visit from the Dog Section. The many roles of the Dog Section include crime prevention and detection of legally banned items. They will be visiting the site, meeting staff and students, and giving them an insight into the day-to-day role of the team. We will also be linking in PSHCE lessons with the team and the wider Police service with regard to careers and e-safety.

PTFA Presents... 'A guide to helping your child study Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde at GCSE'

The first PTFA parent lecture on the English Literature set texts was very well attended - thank you. We covered 'Jekyll & Hyde' plus examination techniques and parents commented that it was 'very informative and helpful'. The next meeting is on Wednesday the 1st November in the Lecture Theatre between 6pm and 7pm and will cover An Inspector Calls and PPE preparation. Parental help is vital to success and we very much appreciate your support. The next meeting of the PTFA is on Tuesday 17th October in the dining hall to form the committee and plan our Christmas events. All are welcome from families of our children and from the community.

Energy Drinks

Thank you for your support 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).

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