

What's Happening at KAS...

10th November 2017



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**.

Sixth Form Success

It's official! The government's recently published analysis of 2017 A level results across the UK shows that sixth form students at The King Alfred School make more progress than at local colleges. These outstanding results are due to a culture of high expectations in the Sixth Form and the support of teachers who offer extra classes to support the aspirations of our hard working students. As news spreads of our excellent Sixth Form we will soon be welcoming Year 11 students from Priory and Worle who are looking for a good quality school-based sixth form for a Taster Day.

Year 13 students have completed their UCAS applications well in advance of the 15 January deadline and there are some great offers from universities such as St Andrews, University of Glasgow, University of Manchester, Queen's University Belfast, King's College London, University of Bristol, University of Leeds, and University College London. Three students have completed their Oxbridge pre-interview assessments and we now await a response from Oxford and Cambridge.

Fifteen Year 12 students have started the HE+ Programme with the University of Cambridge. The programme includes assistance with applications to university and masterclasses to enhance aspirations and boost progress. There will be a University of Cambridge residential in July 2018.

The Sixth Form will also be hosting the first round of the prestigious English Speaking Union's debating competition on 29 November. Our debating team will be up against four private schools: Millfield, Bristol Grammar School, Badminton School and Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School. Good luck to you all!

Exeter Mosque & Cathedral Trip 2017

Year 11 Religious Studies students visited Exeter Cathedral and Mosque on Wednesday 1st November. This visit was the first time some students had visited a church or mosque and proved an exciting and instructive day. Students met Christian and Muslim worshippers and experienced what it means first hand for adherents to live out their day-to-day lives following their faiths. In their GCSE examination the students will need to answer questions on Beliefs, Teachings & Practices of both faiths. Visiting their places of worship will be vital in understanding what the faith really means to both Christians and Muslims.



Year 7 Literacy Breakfasts

Year 7 students have been working hard on their literacy skills this week, whilst enjoying a yummy breakfast! Sixth form literacy champions, Imo Wright, Lucy Lodge, Alex Phillips and Matt Fry will be working with the students on a variety of different literacy activities every Wednesday morning over the coming weeks. We're looking forward to seeing what they get up to!

Learning and Teaching Prefects

The Year 11 Learning and Teaching prefects have been working hard over the last few weeks questioning Year 7 and 8 students on what is happening in their lessons at KAS. Heidi Reynolds, Jake Rodmell, Oliver Cook, Tabitha Butler, Leah Adams and Lilly Keeley Watts designed a survey

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which KS3 students completed in their computing lessons, and have this week been meeting with students to ask some follow up questions. The students are looking forward to presenting their findings to staff later in the term, with some useful suggestions on how to make lessons at KAS even better.

Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Update

Mr Coles (Executive Principal) and the Trust team continue to support us at KAS. We hope that the transfer to the Trust will be officially completed in April 2018. We hope you have seen the new and improved signage start to appear. We have now also started to use the new benches for seated eating. All staff who wanted a KAS red coat have been issued with one to promote a ONE TEAM approach. We are proudly wearing these coats on the school gates and around the site. Much work is ongoing with teaching as we improve standards both inside and outside of the classroom. Expectations of all staff and students are high. We are feeling very positive about the forthcoming OfSTED monitoring visit that will happen this term.

Year 8 Zoo Trips

Come rain or shine, Year 8 geographers always make the most of learning opportunities! This week they explored how animals adapt to extreme environments during a visit to Bristol Zoo, attending an education session. They gained hands-on experience of the animals under expert guidance of zoo staff and toured the zoo in their hunt for desert and rainforest creatures. As always, our students were a credit to the school and made the most of the experience. On Wednesday we were delighted to be joined by eight students and two staff from Elmwood School in Bridgwater. Thanks to Mrs Owen & Mrs Robertson for arranging the trips.



Coats

Autumn (or winter) is definitely here this week! The weather has certainly turned chilly, and with the nights closing in it's that time of year where we all need to prompt the students to wear a coat! Please remind them to wear an appropriate outdoor coat in line with the uniform policy. No hoodies (zipped or pullover), or denim jackets please.

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.

King Alfred's on Facebook

Following the launch of our Twitter page last year, we now have our own Facebook page at King Alfred's. Please use this link to access: bit.ly/KASFacebook. Our Facebook page is centred around celebrating our students' success and promoting events across the school community. For any other questions or issues please contact the school in the usual way.

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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