

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

***24th 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**.

Dorothy Green 7N has had a good run of dance competitions which have now come to an end. These include Longwell Green Festival and The Quatro Southwest Cup level 4 12-13 yrs women's artistic gymnastics. She won gold on bars, silver on floor and beam and also silver in the all around competition with J21 gymnastics club, Weston. Well done!

Congratulations to Jacob New 7N who passed his Brown Belt 3rd Q this week at Burnham and Highbridge Karate club. Well done Jacob!

### **Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Update**

The improvements of the site are ongoing and we hope to be able to open the new Reception area early in December. Students have told us how much they appreciate the additional seating around the site and the window art which, along with the new signage, has given the site a much smarter look and feel. The students too are demonstrating their **pride** by ensuring that their uniform is correct and that they are coming to school fully equipped and ready to learn.

### **Declan Shortall**

We received some very sad news this week regarding one of our former members of staff. Declan supported students and families as one of our Parent & Family Support Advisors (PFSAs). He was truly committed to inclusive education and to helping students achieve their best, in school and in the community. The news was very hard for us all to hear especially for those of us who worked closely with him. Declan was diagnosed only last week with cancer which was inoperable. He sadly died a few days later on Saturday, with his family with him. We send our thoughts to Declan's family at this very difficult time.



### **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**

Declan was also a key part of planning and delivering our Primary Anti-Bullying Ambassadors programme. Declan, together with Gail Maxwell (PFSA), brought together students from all our local Primary Schools to train as Anti-bullying Ambassadors. This was to tie in with Anti-bullying Week 13th -17th November 2017. We had a fantastic turn out for the Awards Ceremony that was held at King Alfred School on 8th November 2017. The Year 6 students received their certificates, badges and wrist-bands from Mr Harris who will be their Head of Year when they join King Alfred School. The students then went on to enthusiastically demonstrate the activities they did with Declan and Gail last term. It was a loud and fun event. Thank you to all the students, parents and staff from the junior schools that attended, and also to our wonderful Year 11 Prefects who helped make the event a great success. This is a wonderful example of Declan's work, and his commitment to developing opportunities for children.

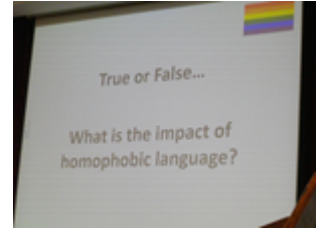


### **Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying Week is co-ordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and this year took place from 13th to 17th November. The theme in 2017 was 'All Different, All Equal' and it had the aim of

***Belong. Believe. Be Proud.***

empowering children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique. Throughout the week a host of activities took place, encouraging them to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying and to create safe environments where children can be themselves. Mr Shepherd and Mrs Hewlitt fronted assemblies throughout the week, talking about personal experiences with bullying as well as the use and effect of language that we ALL use; Mrs Standford and Mrs Lawrence ran craft and design activities which had an excellent turn out. Some of the creations will be on display outside classrooms and around the site in the coming weeks. Our MASSIVE cake sale raised £135 which will be distributed to children's charities chosen by the Year Reps. We were also very fortunate to be visited by 2BU, a Somerset Youth Support Group who provide advice and support for LGBT young people. Lisa, one of 2BU's key staff kindly ran workshops and drop-in sessions on the theme of equality, diversity, and preventing bullying. Thank you to all involved!



### **Children in Need**

We were delighted to hand over a cheque for £1,050.00 to DJ Claire Carter from BBC Radio Somerset and Pudsey Bear on Friday 17th November, which were the proceeds of our Non-Uniform Day in aid of Children in Need. We have since collected a further £62 which will be forwarded direct to Children in Need. Well done to Jake Rodmell and Lilly Keeley-Watts for handing over the cheque and, as always, representing the school as Prefects and superb ambassadors.



### **Sixth Form News**

Congratulations to Vivien Aston in Y13 who passed the University of Cambridge pre-interview assessment; we wish her luck at interview in December as she follows her dream to read Psychological and Behavioural Sciences. Good luck also to our outstanding debating team who are competing in the prestigious ESU Schools' Mace debating competition later this month, and to the Young Enterprise group who go by the name 'Calore' and are competing in Dragons' Den in Taunton at the beginning of December; their products are seasonal candles made from vegan products.

### **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](https://www.facebook.com/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, as outlined below.

### **Communication**

Thank you for your support and for working with us. We hope 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.

### **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).