

What's Happening at KAS...

1st December 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**.

Well done to Faith Hooper (8N) and Abi Dowell (9G) who both undertook and passed the grading for their red belt in Tae Kwon-Do last weekend (a three hour exam!). Congratulations Faith & Abi!!

Congratulations to Jacob Radford (7G) who has been selected by the Somerset Golf Union for their development programme for aspiring golfers. This is especially commendable because Jacob initially didn't get selected, but he went away and practiced and now has achieved his goal. As the great golfer Arnold Palmer once said "It's a funny thing: the more I practice the luckier I get." Well done and great persistence Jacob!

Well done to Ellie Lodge (10F) who not only passed her Grade 4 Piano exam last week, but passed with Distinction! Fantastic effort Ellie!

Thank you to all the students and staff who helped to raise money for the Royal British Legion and also those who attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Burnham. We have just received a lovely thank you letter from the British Legion advising us of the total proceeds from the sale of Remembrance Poppies of £125.52. Over the next few months we will also be taking some students to the Burnham British Legion Coffee Mornings to help raise awareness and support for the British Legion amongst the younger members of our community.

Priory Learning Trust (PLT) Update

We were recently visited by OFSTED as part of their monitoring actions following their inspection last April. It was very pleasing to see that the inspection team recognised that behaviour and conduct at The King Alfred School (TKAS) has improved significantly since April. Inspectors now note that pupils work well on their own and with their peers. Safeguarding is strong and pupils are safe. Well done to all involved for this improved picture. They also recognised that the School's Development Plan is a comprehensive document that sets out clearly the actions to be taken and the intended impact, and that Mrs. Hurr has a very strong understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school.

It would not be normal on a first monitoring visit to see the school removed from 'Special Measures' as this is mostly done over a two year period. Staff have now been given a structured approach to teaching and learning that follows the clear approach adopted by The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT). Staff at TKAS are now very clear about the quality of teaching expected and the school's leaders are also clear on the standards expected along with the monitoring required. It is now about being consistent in all that we do in every lesson, within each department and that we work as ONE TEAM. We recognise the school will benefit from the support of parents and carers and we are pleased to see evidence of such strong support from many of you already. **Thank you.**

We can assure you that all students who are not making sufficient progress are now being given a high priority. Teachers and middle leaders are being rigorously held to account and we are certain better outcomes will follow this summer. There remains a lot of work to do and many changes have been made to the site and the environment already, which is now bearing fruit. However, the focus will continue to be on good teaching in every lesson with a clear emphasis on the exemplary behaviour of our students. We are certain you will want to discuss these findings with us. We have, therefore, arranged a meeting of parents and carers at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 6th December 2017, in the School Hall. This meeting will also give us the opportunity to reassure you of the actions that are being taken to improve all outcomes. A full copy of the report is available on the KAS website.

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

Senior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 23rd November The King Alfred School hosted the South West Regional Heat of the Senior Team Maths Challenge. This is a national competition organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) in conjunction with Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI). This year there were 18 teams taking part, a record number for the South West region, including teams from Millfield, Wellington and Wells Cathedral School to name but a few. It was a fantastic event lasting 3 hours with Wellington School eventually announced as winners. They will now take part in the national final to be held in Covent Garden in London early next year. The King Alfred team of Alex Vowles, Dan Anderson, Michael Hainsby and Tommy Nullmeyers did extremely well against tough opposition and secured the highest placing of a King Alfred School team since we started entering the competition in 2012. You should be very **proud** of your achievement!

Quiz Night – Battle of the Minds

The newly formed PTFA will be hosting its first event on Thursday 7th December 7pm – 9pm in B Block. They are looking for quiz teams of up to 5 people at a cost of £2 per person. There will be a raffle during the evening and teas/coffees/soft drinks available to purchase. Please bring your own snacks to feed your minds! We would like to see teams of students, families, teachers and governors going head to head with a prize for the winning team.

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (PPEs)

This week we finished the Year 11 PPEs. These are their preparation exams for next summer's public examinations (formerly called mock exams). We are very proud of the effort and conduct shown by our Year 11 students at what is a stressful time. We look forward to celebrating their success on Tuesday 9th January 2018. More details to follow regarding this in due course.

Uniform Update

As we prepare for the end of Term 2 and the Christmas break, we would like to clarify the school's expectations regarding students' uniform. A letter has gone home to all Parents/Carers regarding the Uniform Policy. We are very clear on the policy for uniform in school and we believe all students should represent the school with pride, wearing their uniform correctly every day at school.

At the start of Term 3, we are requesting that all students return to school adhering to the uniform policy. I hope, as parents/carers, you will fully support this drive on high standards of uniform at school. **For any student arriving at school in Term 3, incorrectly dressed or presented, we will be contacting home to ask if your child can return home to change into correct uniform. If unable to return home that day, the clear expectation will be that your child arrives the next day correctly dressed.**

For students with medical conditions requiring them to wear alternative footwear to school shoes, we will be requesting certified medical notes as from Term 3. This will be the consistent message to all students. Please do take some time to look at the Uniform Policy on the school website.

Gardening Project

'Operation Polytunnel' has launched with many parents and pupils coming along to help turn the space behind A Block into a community garden. With the help of the Somerset Rural Youth Project, the transformation will continue every Wednesday 3.10pm to 4.10pm, whatever the weather. All are welcome to come along but we must ask for parent consent forms and DBS checks for adults - please contact bhewlitt@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk for further information.

Debating Competition

The King Alfred School's Sixth Form played host to the UK's most prestigious debating competition this week: the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace. Our school hosted the South West regional heat and our fantastic Sixth Form took part as the only non-private school in the heat. We were very grateful for the presence of former MP Tessa Munt and renowned solicitor Siobhan Casey who will be acting as judges. There will be more information to follow next week.

End of Term Arrangements

The school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday, 21st December at 12.40pm. School transport has been arranged for the early closure.

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.