

What's Happening at KAS...

8th December 2017



Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) Update

Thank you to the parents and carers who came along to our update meeting on Wednesday of this week. The meeting followed on from the publication last week of our recent Ofsted monitoring visit letter. We hope that you found the opportunity to ask questions and hear from the Local Authority representative useful.

The evening consisted of a brief presentation from Neville Coles (TPLT) and Neal Chislett (Somerset County Council) who outlined the steps that had been taken to support the school and that the removal of special measures from a school is an 18 -24 month journey. Mr Chislett expressed that he was pleased with the recognition by Ofsted of the positive steps achieved by the school staff and acknowledged in the monitoring visit.

Questions were then taken from those present around the improvements in communication that had been felt by parents and several parents mentioned how positive their children now felt about coming to our school. Other questions focused on the support provided to improve teaching and learning at the school. Neville Coles referred to the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) which are his expectation of all teachers at the school. He reiterated that he believed the issue of consistency in application by all staff at the school to be the key area - a focus in the school for the last 10 weeks of work with Mrs Gail Webb, School Improvement Consultant (TPLT). A further question was received regarding Governance at the school. Neal Chislett stated that the LA were reviewing the governance arrangements at the school.

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**.

Amy Englefield (8G) competed in a swimming competition at Millfield School last weekend and achieved a silver and a bronze in 50m backstroke and 50m breaststroke. To date, Amy has achieved 7 county qualifying times. This is a wonderful achievement for such a young person and in a sport that demands great discipline and commitment. Well done Amy - we'll no doubt see you in future Olympics!

Well done to Jack Kidner & Oran Kendrew from 9K who trained every week last season even though they didn't have a Rugby team! Their persistence has paid off & 17 lads played on Thursday night. It has been great to see them come together as a team and we look forward to seeing this develop further next year.

Site Entry And Visitors To Site

Our new visitor reception will open officially on Monday 11th December 2017. All adults visiting the school will do so via the new reception located next to the coach bay car park. Students who arrive after the start of the school day or who need to leave during the school day will also be using the new reception. If you need to visit the school for any reason please use the new reception as the old reception will be for students only. This will be clearly signposted from the car parks. 1610 users will use the separate entrance gate in the car park in front of the main block where the allocated parking for members is provided.

6th Form Debating Competition

KAS Sixth Form hosted and starred in the UK's most prestigious debating competition on Wednesday 29th November, the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace. The other participating teams were all from the private sector: Bristol Grammar School, Badminton School, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School and Millfield School.

Representing KAS Sixth Form were Year 12 students Daniel Anderson, Megan Richards, Sophie Butt and Ishrat Syeda, who should all be proud of themselves as they were just a single point

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away from going through to the next round. We would like to thank our two esteemed judges for their words of wisdom and for giving up their time to adjudicate proceedings: Councillor Tessa Munt, Liberal Democrat MP for the Wells Constituency (2010-2015), and Siobhan Casey, Solicitor advocate specialising in criminal, children, family and domestic violence law. Well done to all the students involved.



KAS CHRISTMAS DINNER

This will be served on Wednesday 20th December 2017. The menu will feature Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Roasted Vegetable Tart, Roast Potatoes, Peas and Carrots and Gravy. This will be followed by Sparkle Iced Doughnuts and Chocolate, with unlimited squash to drink. Students have to purchase a ticket from the canteen before school, at break or lunchtime. This is great value at only £2.50*. Please encourage the students to join in the festive atmosphere. (*Those entitled to Free School Meals do not have to pay but will require a ticket.)

100 Club - DH

Congratulations to the 500 students who achieved 100% attendance in term one! We appreciate the resilience required on occasions to get into school every day particularly as the sniffle season starts. The '100 Club' students will be in their own clothes on Friday 8th December. They will also receive a card that entitles them to 'queue-jump' at lunchtime in the Canteen, and also to a free meal of their choice in recognition. We are very **proud** of these students' attendance. We know what a positive impact good attendance has on academic outcomes, so well done and keep it up! We will be running the 100 Club each half term, so students have a fresh chance each half term to be recognised and rewarded for their attendance.



Parent Zone Digital Membership - Free support for Parents & Carers

Our school is part of Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme, in liaison with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. It recognises our commitment to keeping our pupils safer online, and making sure we work with you to achieve this. This membership gives you FREE access to Parent Zone's brand new Parent Lounge with online training, expert advice and information on all things digital, and access to a free help service for all your tech questions. To get started, go to <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>



Once there click **ENTER PARENT LOUNGE**, click on the pink **ADD TO CART** button, on the next page click **CHECKOUT**. You'll then be asked to enter your email address and some basic contact details. Click **CONTINUE** and on the next page, you will need to enter the coupon code **DSP16** to ensure you have free access. Click **CONTINUE** again, and you will see a confirmation code page.

Once you've completed the short registration you'll receive two emails - one confirming your order and one with login instructions. After clicking the link in the email press the login button to set a password, then you'll be directed to Parent Lounge. Once you have logged in the Parent Lounge will always be accessible at this link: <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

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

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.

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