

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

**12th January 2018**



## **BE PROUD**

This week our students underlined why we as a school feel **PROUD** and privileged to work with such amazing young people. Our students returned from their Christmas break ready to make a real difference in 2018 with smart uniforms, fantastic manners and a real enthusiasm for learning. It has been great to see and bodes well for this year. Thank you to all the students who do so much every day to make us very **PROUD**. Happy New Year, and thank you to parents and carers who support us and encourage their children to be the best they can. If you have not had a chance yet to read our Autumn Term School Newsletter, please download it from our website. It is packed full of fantastic examples of our great school, staff and students.

## **The Priory Learning Trust Update (TPLT) - Mr. Coles (Executive Principal)**

Happy New Year to all students, parents and carers. I had the great pleasure of meeting around 80 Year 11 students just before the Christmas break. These were 80 Year 11s who Ms Charles (Head of Y11) was particularly keen for me to see and simply say 'well done'. More Year 11s will be coming along over the next few weeks. Clearly, we are absolutely focussed on providing a great 'run-in' towards the important GCSE exams this summer. This is the school's number 1 priority over the coming weeks. As Miss Matthews writes below... **there is still some time still to go to improve grades** from the PPE exams, however, students and staff now need to be 'urgent' in their preparations. We have just marked and returned PPEs (mock exams) to students. I can tell you that the 192 Year 11s at our school are working well and are a credit to their families. Some will need a bit more motivation and we will provide this in the coming weeks. The best grades will be achieved through an early start to revision and a focus on past papers. Please let us know if you need support or past papers. Many past papers can be found online, of course. We must encourage all students to be independent in their study habits; they must **WANT** to achieve the very top grades. Remember it is a 9-1 GCSE scale now, with 9 being the very top grade and 7 being equivalent to the old 'A' grade. It is our collective job to make our students/children achieve this coming summer. We are **very** optimistic this year. Our new Standard Operating Practices are in place with an increased emphasis on structured lessons and high quality feedback to students. We are really keen to see many of our Year 11s return to TKAS Sixth Form this coming year - we do need 100 students in Y12 and Y13 to make this a vibrant Sixth Form. TKAS Sixth Form remains a very high quality provision here in Burnham and Highbridge. **Thank you for your continued support.**

## **Year 11 Pre-Public Exam (PPE) Results Day**

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 11 students all gathered together for a presentation and results ceremony. It was a fantastic afternoon where, following headline figures and a group countdown, the students opened their PPE results together. Tears of joy and friends supporting & congratulating each other was the common theme, but for those not as successful as they had hoped, this provided the opportunity to talk to staff about what they can do now to make the corrections for the final exams in the summer term. Students expressed that they valued this event as it gave them the opportunity to experience the 'real' feelings of opening unknown results, exactly like the summer, and the corresponding emotions this holds, and doors that this will open for their future. One student said, "It has really helped me to identify my gaps and realised the importance of the exam results. It's confirmed what I would be happy to achieve and how I will feel if I do not get those grades on the real results document, to give me a push and not leave things too late. Now I can prioritise and continue working hard for the remaining weeks before the real exams."

## **Year 11 Exeter Trip & Futures Day**

Year 11 students enjoyed a taste of university life during a trip to the University of Exeter before Christmas. A highlight was the tour of the campus - we were all very impressed by the excellent facilities and Y11s realised the value and rewards of hard work. Students who remained in school found the employability workshops very useful and are now more confident when producing their

CV and preparing for future interviews.

### **6th Former for a Day**

Year 11 students have the opportunity to participate in A level taster lessons on **Friday 19 January**, starting in the lecture theatre at 08.45. If they haven't done so already, students need to complete and return an application form to Mr Gaskell as soon as possible. Participating students do not have to wear uniform and there will be refreshments provided in the lecture theatre at lunchtime. Even if students are undecided about their future destination they should come along and experience sixth form life - our 2017 results were very strong, with outstanding student destinations. We are now looking forward to welcoming the excellent students from Year 11 as we grow and enjoy future success. Please encourage your children to come and take a look at how we can support them to get the very best from their post-16 education.

### **Uniform**

As advised before the Christmas break, we would like to clarify the school's expectations regarding students' uniform. Thank you for your support, which has been clear this week in uniform standards around the school. All students should arrive at school adhering to the uniform policy. **For any student arriving at school 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.

### **Equipment**

Thank you to all parents and carers who have ensured that their children have returned after the Christmas break fully equipped to learn. This is vital to ensure that they can take an active part in their lessons and make the progress of which they are capable. All students are expected to arrive at school on time equipped with a practical school bag (e.g. rucksack or satchel style) large enough to accommodate A4 exercise books/folders. They should also have the books and equipment appropriate for that day's lessons (e.g. PE kit), and a pencil case containing the minimum equipment outlined below. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is ready to learn. Pencil cases and all listed items can be purchased from the Library during break and lunch at very reasonable prices.

Pencils (x 2)	Pens (x 2) blue or black ink (Year 11 should be black ink)	
Ruler	Pencil case	Protractor
Rubber	Sharpener	
Scientific Calculator (required in Years 9 to 11)		

### **Parent & Family Support Advisors (PFSA) - Team Update**

Our new PFSAs are now working across the Burnham and Highbridge Community Learning Partnership. Your Parent and Family Support Advisors are able to offer impartial support, advice and guidance to students, parents and carers, and school staff. This is a school based service that provides free and confidential support with concerns such as: parenting concerns, school transitions, school attendance, healthy lifestyles, emotion management, confidence building, mental well-being, relationship issues, signposting to local services, bereavement, bullying, behaviour management, substance misuse, and domestic abuse.

The PFSAs are running informal coffee mornings and afternoons as follows. Please feel free to drop in if your children attend any of our local primaries. There will be more dates to follow:

15.01.18 - Berrow Church of England Primary School at 2.30pm  
16.01.18 - Churchfield Church School at 2.30pm  
16.01.18 - Pawlett Primary School at 2.30pm  
22.01.18 - Brent Knoll Church of England Primary School at 2.30pm  
24.01.18 - St.Andrew's Church of England Junior School at 9am  
24.01.18 - West Huntspill Primary School at 2.30pm  
25.01.18 - St.Joseph's Catholic Primary School at 2.30pm  
26.01.18 - Burnham Community Infant School at 2.30pm