

BE PROUD

Again this week we have some fantastic student achievements to celebrate at The King Alfred School (TKAS). Thank you to all the students involved. You make us very **proud**.

Thank you this week to our Year 8 students. They have been working hard in tutor times to find out more about future careers, using their Careers Passport, ready for making their Options Choices in February. Their engagement has been excellent, and it's been exciting to hear so much mature enthusiasm and aspiration regarding their futures. It bodes very well for their progress through Key Stage 4, and their outcomes at the end of Year 11. Next week they will experience Year 8 Careers Week, with all departments focusing on a taste of GCSE, A Level, and even Degree Level content to really inspire our Year 8s. All Year 8 students will also have a Careers Interview with Senior Staff ready for making their choices.

Year 8 Options Evening will be held on Thursday 22nd February from 6.30-8pm, and we would encourage all parents/carers and students to attend to help make these very important decisions for our students' future.

**The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) Update from Mr Coles**

The hard work in the New Year continues at pace at TKAS. Our **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** ensure that **Quality First Teaching** happens in the classroom, enabling students to make increasing progress. **Year 11** received their PPE Results on 9th January, and since then have shown themselves to be mature and absolutely focussed on gaining the best outcomes in the summer. Every week they are working hard in lessons, at revision sessions and at home, and this will reflect in their results. **Prefect Applications** are in progress at the moment from Year 10. It has been fantastic to work with our first group of Year 11 Prefects, and there are many Year 10s from whom we very much look forward to receiving applications. Please encourage your child to apply if they are in Year 10. **Year 7 Transition Leader** applications are also open and we have received many, many applications, highlighting the team ethos in the year group, and their desire to be part of TKAS community. Again, please encourage your child to apply.

Sixth Form Taster Day

Y11 students enjoyed a taste of A level lessons last week as they finalise their post 16 choices. Many of our students recognise the advantages of joining our high performing Sixth Form that offers high quality learning and teaching in small classes. The 2017 results shared with the students reveal that Year 12 and Year 13 students in the sixth form progress more than students at the local colleges.

Due to enormous interest in the Sixth Form following these outstanding results we are holding our 2nd **Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 30 January at 6.00pm in the Main Hall**. This event will offer the chance for students and parents to meet current sixth form students and staff and learn more about how we ensure high aspirations and excellent results.

King Alfred School Rotary Cookery Club

Thanks to the Burnham On Sea Rotary Club and their very kind donation of £250, which last Thursday helped the start of TKAS Cookery Club. Miss Timmins and Mr Hoffman, ably assisted by Cody Jane Holland (Year 11) and Zoe Anderson (Year 10), supervised nine students from Years 7 & 8 who were making pizzas, which the students were then able to take home to share with their families. There was a great atmosphere and lots of teamwork (also a lot of tasting!).

The club will run for six weeks for the current group of students. We have been delighted with the number of students who have shown an interest in taking part and we will be running another group in the summer term.

If you are a parent/carer or grandparent and interested in volunteering to help at the Cookery Club 3:10pm to 4:30pm weekly on a Thursday then please contact Mrs Lawrence on slawrence@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk



Learning & Teaching at TKAS

If you are a parent of a Year 11 student I hope that you have found receiving the weekly challenging maths and english questions helpful and informative. These are based around the topics that are being studied in lessons each week.

We have also had some great feedback through our student voice work, presented to all our staff by our Learning & Teaching Prefects last Thursday (**Lily Keeley-Watts, Jake Rodmell, Leah Adams, Oli Cook, Tabitha Butler and Heidi Reynolds**). The students have been really positive about our introduction of a 'silent starter' activity for the first part of all lessons (around 10 minutes). It's great to see so many students using the time to really engage with their learning as soon as they enter the classroom, and making sure every minute of their education counts.

It would be great to hear what you think about these and other developments in lessons. Please contact Mr Witts by email on switts@kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk

Young Carers Drop-in

Thank you to everyone who came to the Young Carers drop in session on 24th January, it was great to see you all! The next dates for these drop in sessions have been arranged for 21 February and 221 March. As usual, they will be held in B4 at lunchtime.

Learning Habits

It is vital that our students are supported by all of us to develop the learning habits to ensure that they can take an active part in their lessons and make the progress of which they are capable. These learning habits also set them up for later life, to arrive at work fully equipped, be that with safety boots, hairdressing scissors or a stethoscope.

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.**

- Pencils x 2 Pens x 2 black ink Ruler Pencil case
- Rubber Sharpener Scientific Calculator (required in Years 9 to 11)

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.

Site Entry And Visitors To Site

A reminder that all adults visiting the school now 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 this reception. If you need to visit the school for any reason please use this new reception as the old reception will be for students only. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Energy Drinks

Thank you for your support since the introduction of our school ban on energy drinks in light of evidence linking them to short and long term health issues. For some students on medication these energy drinks actually counteract the effects of their prescribed medication. Please remind your children that 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).