

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**.

Lily-Rose Clements 10K, Emily Dunne 10I and Tasha White 10A have been selected by Girlguiding Somerset to attend a two-week trip to Sri Lanka to volunteer in schools and undertake various community projects. This is a fantastic achievement and will be an amazing opportunity. Well done - **STUDENTS FIRST**.

The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) - an update from Mr. Coles and Mrs. Hurr

Thank you to all parents / carers, students and staff for a fantastic half term of work and learning. The energy and enthusiasm which our students continue to show towards their studies, the improvements in our school and being great members of our community, are things of which we should all be rightly **proud**. Please enjoy a safe and happy half term. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday, 19th February 2018. Terms 4, 5 and 6 will again be very busy at TKAS; we wish all Year 13s and Year 11s the very best with all exam preparation and study in the coming months. Please find time to relax but equally focus on study - we are here to help. Please do note the new TKAS Year 11 Scholarship Programme.

Safer Internet Day (SID) 2018

Celebrated globally every year, **Safer Internet Day** offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together and play their part for a better internet. Ultimately, a better internet is up to us! Safer Internet Day provides a brilliant opportunity to discuss online safety with children and young people and think about how being online has changed our day to day lives. We have celebrated **SID 2018** this week in lessons, tutor time and at break/lunchtimes on the theme of **'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'**. Thank you to all the staff and students who took part. Find out more here: www.saferinternet.org.uk, <https://vimeo.com/247778717>, #SID2018

**Children's Mental Health Week**

We have had an enormously successful week with lots of pupils taking part in activities. On Monday, local PT Sonny Topham came in to talk about confidence and resilience - leading to facing fears head-on with the 'slackline' low rope. On Wednesday, local MC Kai Ryder Martin led a two hour workshop on writing rap lyrics. Year 8 performed some fantastic spoken word pieces about school and being yourself. On Thursday, the Rev. Eldergill from St Andrew's Church talked to our 'Anxiety Awareness' group on the theme of dealing

with panic attacks. There has also been a drop in session every day in C13 and SHARE are running a poster competition. LGBTQ+ Alliance starts on Thursday. Thank you to Mrs Hewlitt for organising the events and all the students for taking part.

Year 8 Options & Careers Week

Year 8 Careers Week gave students a taste of what they can expect from subjects at GCSE, A Level and Degree level. Students relished the opportunity to really extend themselves and many staff commented on their engagement with some really challenging work. This week all Year 8s have

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been having Careers Interviews with members of the Senior Leadership Team, or their Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year. It has been a pleasure to meet with students and discuss their options. We have all been very impressed with their mature engagement with the process, and it bodes very well for their option choices and the next 3 years of GCSE study.

Please discuss your Year 8 child's options with them over the half term break. They have completed extensive activities in Tutor Time, they have a Careers Passport to show you, and on **Thursday 22nd February from 6.30-8pm we will be holding Year 8 Options Evening**. These activities and interventions will ensure that the students are as prepared as possible for the options process. We would strongly encourage all parents/carers and students to attend to help make these very important decisions for our students' future. Even if you have older children in the school it would be helpful for you to attend as all the subjects will be following reformed GCSE courses, which may be very different from those offered previously. Thank you for your support.

Attendance Update

Despite the longest half term of the year up to Christmas we are delighted that a significant number of students achieved 100% attendance. With two very short half terms either side of Easter there is a real opportunity for as many students as possible to aim for this real achievement. **As a school we consider 95% or higher as regular attendance**. Attendance that falls below this is monitored closely by the attendance team so please keep communicating reasons for any absence with school. In some cases of absence a referral to the Education Welfare Service will result and further action may be taken.

We have only 5 weeks in the next half term. That is only 25 school days. We would ask that all parents and carers support the school and their child by ensuring that, if at all possible, their attendance over the 5 weeks is 100%. This will make a big difference to their outcomes. We are launching another of our **Fantastic 50** rewards for this period (as we have 2 sessions, morning and afternoon, on each of the 25 days). **Any students with 100% attendance over this period will be rewarded with a cinema trip in the Summer Term**. Year 11 students will be rewarded with 3 free lunches as they will be too close to exams to go to the cinema!



This reward will be in addition to our usual **100 Club** each half term. The 100 Club rewards students with 100% attendance in a half term with membership of the 100 Club, with benefits including a non-uniform day for members, free lunch or the equivalent to spend in the Canteen, and entry into our 100% attendance draws.

Thank you to all those students already on 100% attendance this year, or who have been in every day this term. We do appreciate it is difficult at times, especially with so many bugs and germs around, but it really does make a difference to your child's education. Thank you again for your support.

Uniform Update - Nails & Jewellery

Following a big focus on uniform this term, it is really pleasing to see how much smarter TKAS students are looking. **Thank you to staff, parents/carers and students** for making the necessary changes and ensuring all our students are adhering to the School Uniform Policy. Staff at school will be consistent in driving high standards of uniform, whether it be insisting on shirts tucked in, appropriate school shoes or correct school jumpers.

As a reminder about students' personal appearance, our policy states that piercings are limited to **one plain stud per ear**. **No other forms of facial piercing are permitted**. Additionally, makeup should be discreet and neutral in colour. **Nail varnish should be in natural colours only (stick-on or acrylic nails are not acceptable) and nails should be short in length for health and safety reasons** (particularly for PE, Science, D&T etc). If you have any queries or concerns regarding our Uniform Policy, please contact Mr Milford at the school who will be more than happy to discuss this with you. **Communication is key!**