



The King Alfred School

Upper School Newsletter

November & December 2022

The Addams Family



Students from Years 10-13 had a ghoulishly good time putting on an incredible show. We gathered a few thoughts from the cast.

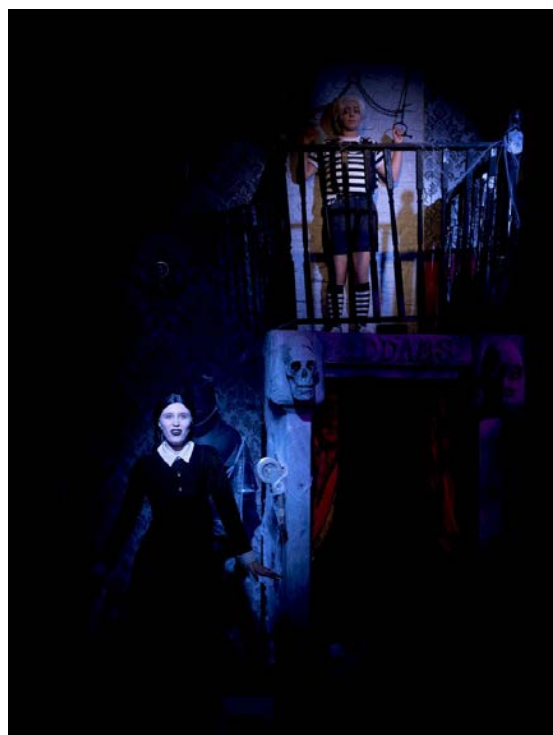
Lilli played Morticia Addams: "She was a tough character to play because she's funny but quite held back so the comedy comes from her contrast with the more over the top characters. My highlight was jumping into people's arms during 'Death Is Round The Corner.' I was worried about doing it but it was so fun."

Lola played The Duchess Ancestor: "My high point was the second night because the crowd was so good and everyone clearly enjoyed it and I loved that vibe. Everyone was clicking along and laughing which made you feel good about going on."

Jacob played Gomez Addams: "I liked getting out of my comfort zone and learning how to tango."

Anoushka played Ballerina Ancestor: "This production pushed me out of my comfort zone as I'm not used to channelling my darker side—it was really fun to do."

Ellie played Wednesday: "When this show was first announced we weren't sure about it, but it turned out great. The costumes were amazing but I am never wearing a wig again! Itchy!"



Thanks to
Emma Ziff
for the
fabulous
photos.

DRAMA NEWS

It's been Masterclass season in the Drama & Music Departments with visits from actors Anne-Marie Duff to work on Shakespeare, Tracy-Ann Oberman to talk characterisation and Meera Syal for a Q&A full of insider industry advice. There was also a fantastic vocal workshop with soprano Yvette Bonner. Students in years 11, 12 and 13 have really benefitted from the expert sessions.



AT THE PHOENIX

Alongside co-masterminding school productions like the recent showstopper 'The Addams Family', Rob Messik is also Manager of The Phoenix Theatre. Here he rounds up the goings on both backstage and onstage.

"November and December have been busy months with the school show taking pride of place and regular bookings like Lower School Breakfast Club and UAL workshops meaning there is never a quiet day. The theatre has also hosted the KASparents 'Let's Talk' series, Christmas shows by St Anthony's School and Clowns Nursery, Christmas events for our own students from Reception and Y9 and will be in use in the holidays as a venue for Breaking the Fourth Drama Club and the Pauline Quirke Academy."

It's a great space for theatrical productions or events - for booking enquiries visit

<https://www.kingalfredphoenix.org.uk/>



YPRES



Y9 students headed to Ypres to visit the memorials to those who died in WW1. Head Robert accompanied them and said: "The individual stories carried great power, and as well as finding connections to some of our students, we also found two connections to KAS among the memorials. It was a sobering reminder how we should never take peace for granted."

Student Huxley M reflected on the trip: "After seeing the bomb craters and all the graves I got a much deeper understanding of the destruction and all the poor soldiers, some so young, who died. This made me think how useless war and conflict is in general because it leads to nothing." [You can read a fuller account of the story on our website.](#)

LYON



GSCE and A Level French students had the wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in French language and culture over half term, in the beautiful, historical and gastronomical city of Lyon!

Mornings were spent in language school Lyon Bleu, where they developed their French with other students from around the world. In the afternoons we experienced what the city had to offer.

Our students also had the opportunity to take part in French cookery classes, explore the mouth-watering food stalls of Les Halles de Paul Bocuse, named after the celebrated chef. Cheese, oysters, cheese, chocolate and more cheese were everywhere to be seen.

[More on the school website.](#)

Cliff Bevan

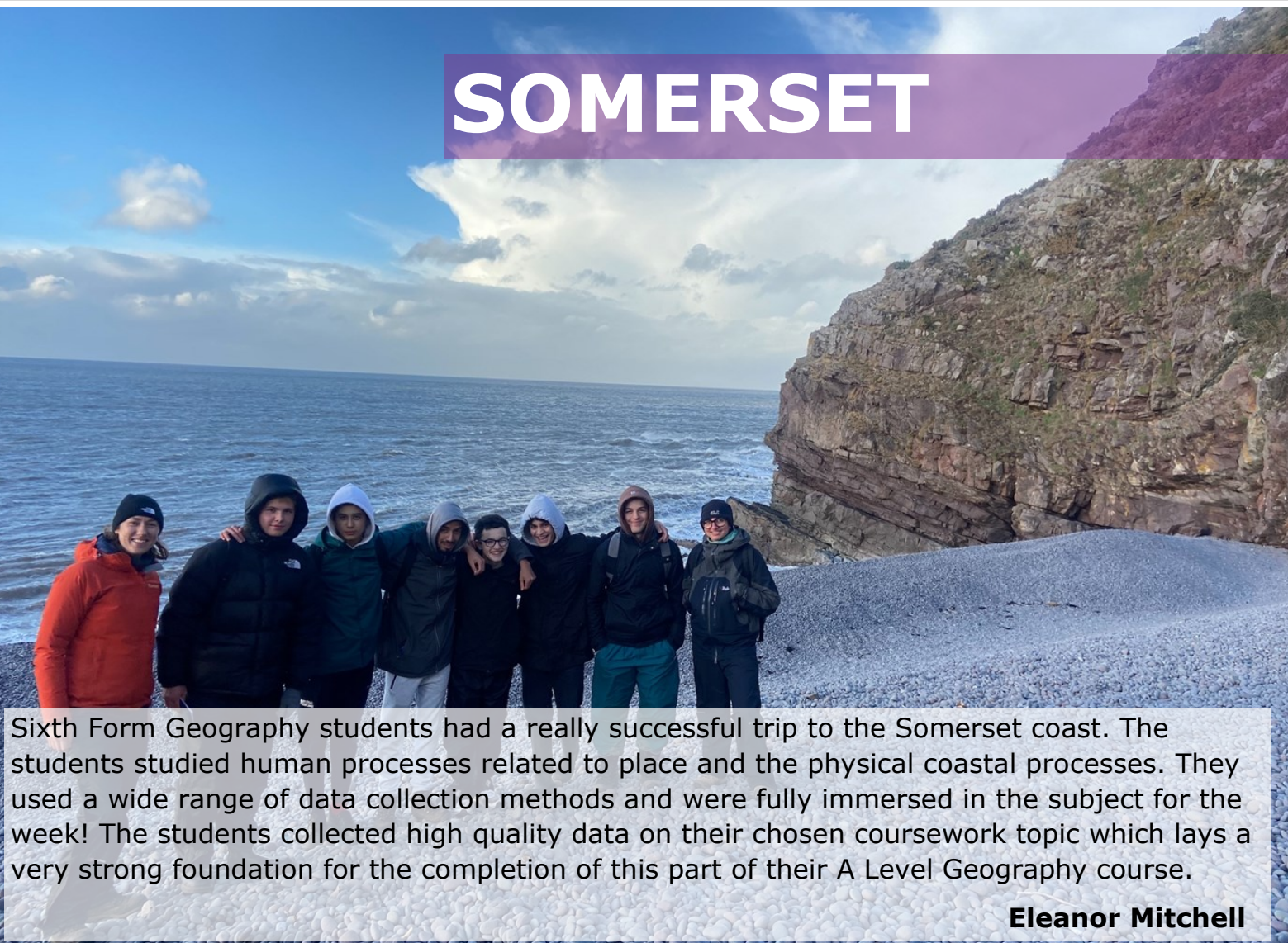
EINDHOVEN



Sixth Form students headed to Dutch Design week to see exhibitions from the cutting edge of design during Half Term for an inspirational trip. [You can read an interview about the trip with Y13 student Joe on the school website](#) and see more photos.

Design Technology teacher Adam said: "The trip is a great chance for students to start to think critically about other designers' work – I can't wait to see how it influences their projects going forward."

SOMERSET



Sixth Form Geography students had a really successful trip to the Somerset coast. The students studied human processes related to place and the physical coastal processes. They used a wide range of data collection methods and were fully immersed in the subject for the week! The students collected high quality data on their chosen coursework topic which lays a very strong foundation for the completion of this part of their A Level Geography course.

Eleanor Mitchell

PARIS



Paris is a scenic and dreamy city where art and photography has thrived over the last century. In November A-Level students headed to Paris for the weekend. In the late 19th century Paris was where the world saw the birth of photography. Paris became the world centre of culture and creativity, artists, writers, photographers, and thinkers all united. They began to shoot black and white images of the city which was beautifully lit with gas lamps.

Despite overpacking, all 22 students made it to the hostel (thanks Cliff) and after dropping our bags we began to explore the city. We visited galleries, the Carter-Bresson foundation and MEP where we immersed ourselves in bohemian culture. We were lucky enough see work by Ukrainian photographer Boris Mikhailov, Henry Cartier-Bresson and Martin Parr.

With Cliff's help we negotiated the Metro ("backpacks on your fronts, and don't split up"), had dinner in Montmartre then began our night photography on black and white film, mimicking the late 19th century pioneers.

On Saturday we shot the characters and scenes around the canal before visiting Photo Paris. The exhibition introduced us to the work of photographers from around the world. We discovered new techniques and processes which have inspired us. AFTER TWO HOURS we finally were able to convince Cliff to let us see the Eiffel Tower where we modelled our tourist t-shirts.

We were up early on Sunday for the flea market where we explored the various stalls before another of Cliff's long 'promenades' back to the station pushed many of us over the edge (Ubers may have been called!) - see more photos [on the school website](#) and the [Photography Instagram account](#).

Bella, Year 12

OA AND

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

OLD ALFREDIANS

We kicked off the half term with the inaugural Old Alfredian drinks at the KAS Fireworks. We had a fantastic turnout, and it was lovely to see some of the class of 2022 return for their first OA event and the current School Six spent time chatting to OAs who had attended KAS in the 50s and 60s.



As part of the Connections Series we invited Old Alfredian and Council member, Johnny Rosen to talk to current Sixth Formers. Johnny shared his top tips for approaching university and his career. It was an informative talk that gave Sixth Formers the opportunity to look at the next stage of their lives from another perspective.



As we gear up to the 125th anniversary of KAS next year we have been busy interviewing Old Alfredians as part of the 125 Old Alfredian Voices project. We have had the pleasure of discussing all things KAS through the eyes of OAs spanning many decades. You will be able to hear more when the project is launched in the New Year.

HONORARY MEMBERS AFTERNOON TEA

This week, we welcomed back our Society Honorary Members for our first in person Afternoon Tea in almost three years. It is fair to say that the hugs and smiles showed how much we had missed these gatherings. Our Honorary Members are former staff who were at KAS for 15 years or more, many for many more years than that! It was an event to celebrate the moment 125 years ago when our intrepid founders met to form the King Alfred School Society, and Kara shared with us the stories of these 'Magnificent Seven'. The full story is available to read [in the recent Old Alfredian newsletter on our website](#).



LOWER SCHOOL ARTWORK

The 125 Artwork has been made by children from Reception though to Year 5 and it is a celebration of the energy and dynamism that each child brings to the school. The idea of the artwork came about through thinking about the community of the school; how we move together, evolve together, grow together as individuals and as a school community. The baubles look like atoms, or particles which together make up a whole.

Each class were invited into the Lower School Art Space, where they learnt how to turn wool fibres into felt. They experienced the softness and smell of the wool, remembering where else they have experienced such textures in the past. Then Lower School Artist in residence, Kat showed them how to separate the fibres and layer them, ready to add warm, soapy water. The children clearly enjoyed the warm, soft, tactile quality of the felting process, and the atmosphere in the classroom was calm and peaceful. Kat said: "The process seemed to be therapeutic for the children – it has calmed and motivated them."

Once felted and dried, the baubles were then screwed onto display panels. Because of the collective nature of the work, individual baubles are not named. Some children wanted to take their creations home to show to their grown ups but instead they discussed how their bauble was a part of a collective artwork, and instead of taking them home, they could invite their grown ups into school to see how their work was part of a whole piece.

The KAS 125 Artwork is installed in the Main Hall, so do pop in to have a look.



KAS 125: THE NEW CENTURY SOCIETY

125 years ago this month our founders decided against the name The New Century Society and opted for The King Alfred School Society instead. They planned the opening of their brave new school for 1898 which was approaching the 1000th anniversary of the death of King Alfred the Great. Nationwide plans were already in place to celebrate this king, one of only two monarchs ever given the title 'the Great' and a ruler perhaps best known for his attitude to learning. He founded a school at his court and educated his daughters as well as his sons. He invited scholars to assist him to translate works from Latin to English to facilitate learning for all.

Our founder, Hamo Thorneycroft, a celebrated sculptor, was commissioned to create a statue of King Alfred at this time. The magnificent bronze stands to this day in Winchester, Alfred's capital. I found this photo, credited to John Brimfield, of Hamo with a plaster cast of the statue. It stands a striking 15 feet tall but looks even more towering in this print with the sculptor standing in the background.

As President of what might have been the New Century Society I cannot stop researching this piece of history. My latest research has revealed more about those first families. That foremost founder Isabel White Wallis (nee Callard) had three nephews also enrolled that first year. Her family, the Callards, were bakers and confectioners. Who remembers Callard and Bowser toffees or butterscotch? It was an enormously successful brand in my childhood.

Kara Conti, President of The King Alfred School Society



EDUCATION ON THE MOVE

Better late than never! The talks from the conference we hosted back in March are now available online via the school website. The aim of the conference was to bring together voices from across the UK to share ideas on how our education system needs to change and the talks are fascinating and forward thinking. [See them here.](#)



KAS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Confidential counselling support is available for all students.

Contact Tracy via email tracyp@kingalfred.org.uk to make an appointment.

FIREWORKS

KASparents organised another hugely successful fireworks event which was attended by over 2000 of our Alfredian community. Robert said: "The dramatic lighting on the building and trees, the atmospheric music, the spectacular display itself and the buzzing atmosphere made it a special event. With students and families from the past and present – if you indulge me for a moment - it felt like the gathering of the King Alfred Clan.



Huge thanks to everyone who made it happen – the organisers, volunteers, school staff and external contractors. Each person's contribution is much appreciated. Special mention to Year 3 parents for the clear up on Sunday, and to Jorge from our Estates Team, for whom this will be his last fireworks."

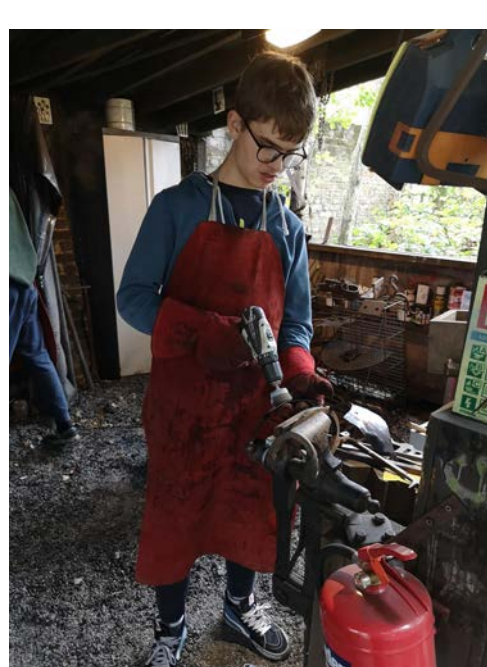


The first event in KASparents' Let's Talk series, "How Do I Talk To My Child About Race?" took place in the Phoenix Theatre at the end of November. The talk featured Temi Akindele Barker, founder of Inclusion Labs, and Marvyn Harrison, founder of Dope Black Dads, who shared their experiences and individual perspectives on how to discuss challenging issues with their children. Facilitated by the founder of Dream Rehab, Reuben Christian, the well-attended event provided an inclusive and open space for discussion and learning. Head Robert attended and said: "I am very grateful to Lalitha and Victoria for organising the event, and we look forward to continuing this critical work in the new year."

COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS

KASparents organised a coat collection for WrapUp London and edible donations for the Alexandra Wylie Tower Foundation food bank— it was amazing to see the generosity of students, staff and parents. In this last week of term they have been busy gathering presents for the Young Barnet Foundation Christmas Gift campaign in special Giving Tree Boxes, once again the KAS community has stepped up to help others which is lovely to see.





Blacksmiths have been working hard in Choice to create beautiful (and useful) objects. The forge is home to dragons, coat hooks, toasting forks and all manner of individual creations.



SCHOOL NEWS



HISTORY ON THE STAGE

Y13 History students enjoyed a trip to the theatre to see 'To Kill a Mockingbird' along with teacher Emma Sevitt.



POPPIES RAISE POUNDS

Thank you to everyone who bought a poppy, £159.97 was collected. Special thanks to Stella in Y8 who volunteered to tour the school with the poppies and card machine collecting donations. Thank you, Stella!

PARLIAMENTARY PRESENTATION

Deputy Head Al McConville headed to Westminster at the end of November to address the All Party Parliamentary Group for Schools, Learning and Assessment (APPG Schools). The event titled, *An End to Exam Factories: A New Era in Secondary Assessment?* heard from representatives from across the Education sector regarding the need to reform the current assessment system. Al spoke in his role as a co-founder of the Rethinking Assessment group and from his experiences here at KAS.

He spoke about the need for new kinds of courses and educational experiences and digital learner profiles to record student achievements in a new and more holistic way—the day was a great way to share our vision for an ‘Excellent Education’ with a wider audience.



MOVIE NIGHT

Year 7 got comfy in the Lower School Hall for a Secret Cinema night where they enjoyed popcorn, swapping secret santa presents and watching Christmas Classic Home Alone.



CAKE THAT

There have been so many cake sales by Crews in Years 7 & 8 it's been impossible to keep track on how much we've eaten and how much has been raised for a variety of good causes. The most recent cake, waffle and hot chocolate extravaganza was run by the Pankhurst Crew and raised £134 for Breast Cancer charity Future Dreams.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK



14TH-18TH NOVEMBER

During anti-bullying week there were activities across the school to encourage students to reach out and talk to someone if they are experiencing any issues around bullying.

All year groups attended Callovers but the real focus was on student initiated activities. There was a student-led forum discussing the results of an anti-bullying survey and a host of activities to share on Friendship Friday to highlight the power of connection and community. Thanks to PSHE lead Claire Murphy for organising a packed week.

SPORTS NEWS



YEAR 9 & 10 NETBALLERS

At the end of Nov the girls went up against North Bridge House, our local rivals with a reputation as a strong team which meant nerves were jangling. Coach Henrietta said: "I was extremely proud of Y9 who drew their game 7-7 but showed a lot of skill. The Y10s weren't so successful but are continuing to develop as a strong team and came away feeling liked they'd played well despite not getting the win. Look out for a rematch in February."

Year 8 netballers played an exciting game against SMSJ in Nov, which they narrowly lost. There are so many Y8 girls who want to play that the team changes every time but every student showed why they deserved a chance to be in the squad. Congratulations on a great game!

YEAR 7 & 8 FOOTBALLERS

The girls had their first match of the season, against St Margaret's, in the pouring rain. The girls played extremely well and represented the school fantastically but sadly lost 1-0. They showed amazing team spirit in soggy conditions!



YEAR 8 & 9 FOOTBALLERS

The girls ended 3-1 down to Whitefields in a game they were unlucky to lose.

YEAR 6 & 7 FOOTBALLERS

Two losses (2-0 to Winchmore Hill and 1-0 to North Bridge House) didn't dampen the spirits of the 21 strong squad!



YEAR 10 FOOTBALLERS

The boys lost 4-3 to a spirited North Bridge House team.

INTERFORM COMPETITIONS

Recently the PE Department hosted interform competitions for Years 6-9. Competing in football and netball (and badminton for Y6) they vied to win the overall interform cup. Medals are awarded as follows:

Year 6 overall winner: 6N

Year 6 best team organisation: 6A

Year 6 best team players: Zach, Hayley, Max

Year 6 fair play award: Marnie

Year 7 overall winner: 7A

Year 7 best team organisation: 7B

Year 7 best team players: Elvis & Cara

Year 7 fair play award: Eve

Year 8 overall winner: 8B

Year 8 best team organisation: 8A

Year 8 best team players: Albie and Otto

Year 8 fair play award: Ewan & Isla

Year 9 overall winner: 9C

Year 9 best team organisation: 9C

Year 9 best team players: Alexia & Stanley

Year 9 fair play award: Ranya & Garvin



UPDATED FITNESS SUITE

The fitness suite has had an upgrade with Head of Sport, Tom overseeing the purchase and installation of some new equipment. Massive thanks to the Estates team for the install! The new look will improve delivery of health related fitness lessons in Upper School Games and GCSE PE sessions. It will also act as a venue for a new co-curricular club and improve staff health as it can be used by them when it's not in use by pupils.





LEAVE IT TO YEAR 8

In Design Technology Year 8 students have been getting to grips with the basics of Metalwork in Design Technology and these beautiful copper leaves are the result.

The lessons help the students to understand the properties of metal and how they can be affected by heat and hammering. The results are a beautiful reminder of the leaves as the last ones fall from the trees around Manor and Ivy Wood.

SCHOOL NEWS



VERSE VS VERSE

The annual Upper School poetry competition kicked off on National Poetry Day and concluded with four fabulous winners—here is one of the victorious entries from Bea in Y9. To see the other winners (you guessed it) [visit the school website](#).



FASHION, CULTURE AND DYSTOPIA

The Y13 Critical and Contextual students put on an exhibition of their work exploring dystopia in Fashion Design that they have been working on for the last few months. The project culminated in dramatically lit larger scale individual sculptures responding to the work of designers such as Issey Miyake, Vivienne Westwood and Iris Van Herpen. The show is up until January 9th 2023.



ART



Y9 designed sculptures inspired by songs and displayed them with projected music videos to mesmerising effect.



GCSE students completed a two day mock exam which brought together their ideas on the theme of 'Connections'.