

# The King Alfred School

## Upper School Newsletter



April & May 2023





# CUMBRAE FIELD TRIP

GCSE students enjoyed a fabulous Geography fieldtrip up to the Island of Cumbrae in Scotland where they studied river and coastal processes, as well as human management and aquatic ecosystems. They also spent a morning taking soil samples and recording their data.

This was a wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in the physical fieldwork element of what we have been studying in class since September and the subject was fully brought to life.





# GREECE TRIP

Before Easter a group of 27 students from Years 8-13 took off on a road trip round Greece to see some of the most important sites of ancient times, including Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, Epidauros and Corinth. The schedule was packed but everyone had a wonderful time.

Latin and Classics teacher Judith said: "For the GCSE and A level Classical Civilisation students, it was an amazing opportunity to bring to life the places they have already studied; for others it was a chance to get a glimpse of a part of their heritage and learn about ancient theatres, temples and palaces through sketching, taking photographs, or just exploring. The Year 9 students proclaimed it: "Amazing, educational and inspirational!"



Y8 student Seren heading into the concealed cistern at Mycenae



Lion Gate at Mycenae – Students from Years 8-13 and staff

## MUSEUM MARVELS

Y13 Classical Civilisation students visited the new exhibition *Luxury and Power* at the British Museum, which looks at relationships between Greeks and Persians in ancient times. We also looked at other objects in the museum which are relevant to the Sixth Form studies.





## TEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST HEAD OF KAS 1898

### **CHARLES E. RICE (1865-1949)**

1. Charles wanted to be a doctor but became a teacher of science instead.
2. He taught at Bedales since it was founded in 1893.
3. He married Elsie Garrett just months before becoming Head at KAS in 1898.
4. Elsie had taught art at Bedales. Her sister taught music there and was married to the Head of Bedales, John Badley.
5. The sisters were orphaned very young and their cousin, the suffragist Millicent Garrett Fawcett, helped to raise them. Millicent agreed to officially open the School.
6. Charles and Elsie had two babies in the three years they were at KAS. So not much sleep.
7. They lived in Fitzjohn's Avenue. The School was nearby in Ellerdale Road.
8. Charles resigned in 1901 over a clash with the founders on the advisability of maintaining KAS as an all age school. Charles believed it wiser to restrict it to 14 years and under.
9. Charles and Elsie opened their own school, West Heath, in Froggnal but returned to work at Bedales in 1908.
10. Charles later trained and qualified as the doctor he always wanted to be.

And let's add no.11 - Elsie left to live in South Africa, becoming a published illustrator there. She was joined by her daughter and her husband and their son was born there, the actor Nigel Hawthorne.



Charles E. Rice is in the back row, far left



# OA & DEVELOPMENT NEWS



## OLD ALFREDIANS V SIXTH FORMERS FOOTBALL MATCH

Director of Sport, Tom helped organise a friendly afternoon of football between returning OAs and current sixth formers on the Astro courts. Jeff played on an OA team and Claire and Takako cheered on from the side lines. It was great afternoon of good sporting fun.



## OLD ALFREDIAN VISIT

We had the pleasure of OA, Marissa visiting from Seattle with her husband, Paul. Marissa only attended KAS for a year in 1970 but her time here stayed with her and she still lives by many of the values she learnt here. She shared these wonderful photos that her mother took of her at school with her teacher, Penny and friends. We were able to recreate one of the photos with Marissa outside her Year 2 classroom. It really was a special afternoon.



## NEWEST OLD ALFREDIANS

We would like to welcome the Class of 2023 and their families to the OA community as they embark on their A level exams and new adventures beyond KAS. We wish them all the best in their exams and we look forward to welcoming them as the newest crop of Old Alfredians at future events and reunions.



## Connections

OA Anna De Beer is currently a medical student at St Andrew's University. She spoke about studying medicine and STEM research but also about her involvement in Marrow – the Anthony Nolan branch at St Andrew's, which encourages people to donate stem cells.

After giving A level students helpful advice on choosing University courses, she went on to explain how she grabbed the opportunities presented to her through University.

She said: "I'm very lucky to be moving to Singapore on a scholarship to work with the Singapore Immunology Network A\*STAR (Agency for Science Technology and Research).

Research is a passion of mine due to the potential end benefit to patients. I will be working on a project about skin microbiome and eczema.



\*If you are in touch with Old Alfredians who are not receiving our OA newsletters and invitations to events and reunions – they may not be on our mailing list. OAs can update us with their contact details at [oa@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:oa@kingalfred.org.uk)



# Connections



## KAS 125 EVENT

SAT JUNE 24TH 2-5PM

FOOD PRE-ORDERS  
AVAILABLE NOW

To order picnic boxes or afternoon teas [click here](#) and then click on the 'Buy now' button to find the 'Products' tab.



## BLOOD BROTHERS

The Y10 students chose to perform extracts from the 'Blood Brothers' musical. The performance was created, directed, designed by students as part of their modules on 'Communicating with an audience', 'Staging a performance' and 'Contextual research for performance and production'.



## MONOLOGUE SUCCESS

Well done to our Y7 students in the ISA Shakespeare Monologue Competition. There were strong entries from Tommy, Kitty and Toby (who wrote his own Bard-inspired piece) and congratulations to Drummy who achieved Highly Commended for his portrayal of Launce from 'Two Gentleman from Verona'.



## DRAMA NEWS

### YEAR 12 TACKLE PINTER

'The Birthday Party' is Harold Pinter's first full-length play and it



was tackled by Year 12 UAL students. It's the story of an innocuous birthday which turns into a nightmare. Y12 student Annie told us: "We really learnt about making bold character decisions for ourselves right from the start - it ended up being great but we also learnt that we needed to learn our lines sooner too!"

## DRAMATIC BUCHAREST



Our Year 10 students were lucky enough to take part in this year's International School Theatre Association (ISTA) Festival hosted by British School of Bucharest. This truly global experience allowed

students from KAS to work alongside students from Bucharest, America and the KAUST School of Saudi Arabia. Exploring the theme 'what lies beneath' they experienced a collaborative approach to learning and community building using stories as a way to understand the world and as a tool for change.



## SURPRISE PARTY

Year 12 A level Drama students also took on a play about a party in their devised performance which saw many tensions come to the surface as a group of friends celebrated a milestone birthday.



## MORE MASTERCLASSES

We were lucky to have Sam Spiro come on for our very final Year 11 UAL Drama lesson of the year. She ran an improvisation and character development workshop. The students had a brilliant time creating original characters and backstories and

working on individual and pair performances. Drama teacher Lynne said: "It was a fantastic way to end our inaugural UAL Level 2 Performing and Production Arts course!"

## IN CONVERSATION WITH...

We were delighted to host a fascinating evening with award winning actors Adjoa Andoh and Tracy-Ann Oberman. They came together in The Phoenix Theatre to talk about modern interpretations of Shakespeare in an evening hosted by Director of The Park Theatre, Jez Bond.



## KAS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Confidential counselling support is available for all students.

Contact Tracy via email [tracyp@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:tracyp@kingalfred.org.uk) to make an appointment.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## MUSICAL SUCCESSES

Year 7 student Kitty made it into the final of the ISA Musical Theatre competition. There were over 200 entries and only nine were chosen to perform at LVS Ascot.

Congratulations also go to Sixth Former Shaan who was picked as one of the top 10 in the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition. You can hear his composition (which he created as part of his EPQ studies) by [clicking here](#).



Song Academy @songacademyUK · 12 May

Congratulations to @kingalfreds student, Shaan, for reaching the top 10 of The Young Songwriter 2023 competition #youngsongwriter #SAYS23 #creativity [songacademy.co.uk/announcing-the...](https://songacademy.co.uk/announcing-the-top-10)



SONG  
ACADEMY

YOUNG SONGWRITER 2023  
TOP 10 SONGS



SHAAN BHASKAR  
'HARP'



## SPRING CONCERT

As usual there were so many marvellous performances at the Spring Concert in front of a packed audience of parents and friends—there wasn't any time to take photos! We promise, it happened!

## BUNTING COMPETITION

To celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the School. Students, both from across the School, Old Alfredians, former and current teachers and parents have submitted flags to be part of a phenomenal 500-plus long string of bunting which will be on display on the [KAS 125 event](#) on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

It will be kept in the archive and discovered with delight by the team organising the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Alfred!







## PLANTING SEEDS

Year 7 headed to Kew Gardens for a workshop on plant reproduction as part of their Exploration into urban gardening. They are now growing their own crops (peas) in order to gather data about how to get the best crop.



## HOLOCAUST & HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Y9 historians enjoyed an engaging talk from Hampstead resident and daughter of Holocaust survivors, Hannah Loftus. She reflected on her own experiences and shared personal photos and objects.



## BAKED IN LEARNING

Year 10 triple scientists baked focaccia. Teacher Jo Tang said: "We've been learning about anaerobic respiration in yeast and thought it'd be fun to put it into practice down in the Orchard room!"

Science can be tasty!



## BRILLANTE BFI

Year 8 visited the BFI to participate in a day of immersive Spanish cinema for youngsters. In the morning they watched some short films, clips and a short documentary whilst completing activities in Spanish. Dylan got up on stage as a volunteer as part of the session. After lunch on the Southbank, pupils watched the Spanish Comedy 'Héroes de barrio 2022' which follows Paula, a nine year old who wants to be a footballer. All activities were conducted in Spanish with little English being spoken by the facilitator of the BFI.

"Fue excelente," said Judah and Aviv





# SCHOOL NEWS

## APP ADVICE



It has recently become clear that an app called Zepeto has become popular amongst the Year 7 students, and we thought parents may appreciate a quick summary of what it is, so you can stay informed regarding the apps that the student body are using.

Zepeto is a social media app that allows you to create a 3D avatar and then communicate with people in an online environment. Due to the cartoonish and brightly coloured environments that your avatar interacts with, many parents and children may mistake Zepeto for a children's app/game, but the worlds are inhabited by adults. Depending on the settings used, children can interact with their friends only or with anyone on the app. It markets itself as part of the 'metaverse' and has been very popular in South East Asia, particularly Korea. [Read here for more information.](#)

As with most social media apps, materialism is highly encouraged and users are frequently prompted to make purchases using in-game currency, which can be earned through mini games or bought with real money. These games are designed with psychological hooks in mind to encourage users to return often to the app for fear of missing out on timed rewards. Zepeto also allows users to communicate with strangers all over the world, as well as send video and photo content to each other. This is no different to many other apps, but as always, presents a significant risk of children being contacted by strangers and the potential dangers this entails. [Police in Scotland have already been made aware of one instance of a child being allegedly groomed on the app and have launched an investigation.](#)

To be clear, Zepeto is not inherently more or less dangerous than any other social media app, but as always, parents should be aware of the potential dangers before deciding which apps their children should use. The age requirement for Zepeto is 13+, but Common Sense Media advise an age rating of 16+,

For more information, please [click here for a summary](#), and [here for a parent focussed review](#).

**Kevin Tibble, Head of Digital Literacy, Lower School**



**Would you like to understand more about county lines in Harrow, Brent & Barnet?**

## Join our panel of experts for a live webinar



**Lindsay Dalton**  
CEO, Pace



**Metropolitan  
Police**







**Sarah Pritchard**  
Advanced Practitioner and  
Consultant

## Free webinar for parents & carers

**6th July, 7.00 - 8.30pm**

**Join our panel of experts and find out about county lines in your area, how to keep your child safe and what to do if you have concerns. You will also hear about child exploitation from a lived experience perspective.**

-  **Learn what county lines and child criminal exploitation is**
-  **Understand the signs that your child might be at risk or involved**
-  **Learn how offenders groom and exploit children**
-  **Understand what is happening in your area**

**Register:** [HarrowBrentBarnetParentWebinar.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harrow-brent-barnet-parent-webinar-2023-tickets-704481200000)

