

The King Alfred School

Upper School Magazine



June & July 2023



THE BREAKFAST CLUB



Students in Years 7-9 took to the Phoenix Theatre stage to perform a musical version of the cult movie 'The Breakfast Club'. Featuring songs from the 80s by Madonna, Whitney Houston and Simple Minds the cast brought the spirit of an American High School to North End Road. As each of the main characters revealed their reasons for being in detention on a weekend, truths were revealed and friendships blossomed. The supporting cast provided brilliant moments of comic relief between the big numbers and the whole production sparkled with the usual KAS magic.



KAS 125

Echoes of the past rippled through Manor Wood as the KAS community came together to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the day pioneering suffragist Millicent Fawcett opened the School.

125 years to the day since the School was opened by Mrs Fawcett, a leading campaigner for equal rights for women, her great great great niece Fenella Dernie and The Fawcett Society joined past and present students, staff, and parents at KAS to celebrate the milestone birthday with a party on the field.

Robert said: "Our 125th year is a historic moment for our community and a point in time that has given us many opportunities to reflect on the School's journey so far. But it is not just about honouring our past, it is also about inspiring our future. We know the positive impact that a KAS education has on our students, empowering them to make a difference in the world, and we look forward to continuing that tradition over the next 125 years.

"Having Fenella and The Fawcett Society with us for our anniversary event was a perfect nod to the School's beginnings. Millicent was independent, determined, and courageous. These are the qualities that King Alfred has always sought to nurture, and it is a fitting thought that she set the process in motion."

Old Alfredian staff and students from as far back as the 1930s joined the current community to share stories of their time at KAS and about life at the School today. In a special moment, the School's community gathered on the field and posed for a drone photo to record the historic gathering.

Thanks to Old Alfredians Neil Gordon & Joel Mishcon for the idea and delivery of the drone photography.



Kara Conti, President of the King Alfred School Society, has been looking into the history of the School as part of the KAS 125 celebrations. "This month we celebrated the opening of our School in 1898 by Millicent Garrett Fawcett, the leading suffragist who founded the NUWSS, Britain's largest women's rights association.



Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

"As we have discovered, she knew about the School because her cousin Elsie Garrett was newly married to Charles Rice, our school's first headmaster. Elsie and her siblings had been orphaned as small children and Millicent and her sister Agnes had helped to raise them. Millicent had one daughter, Philippa, a groundbreaking mathematician, who did not marry or have children. So our search for a direct descendant of Millicent stopped there.

"But Millicent's sister, Elizabeth, did have children. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, also a suffragist, was the first woman in Britain to qualify as a doctor. With a bit more research, Tamlyn found Elizabeth's great great granddaughter, Fenella Dernie, who agreed to come to represent the bloodline on our 125th birthday. It was my privilege and pleasure to entertain her and show off our wild and bustling campus. A happy day and what really felt like a bit of history."



Fenella Dernie with Kara

FAREWELL TO THE CHAIR

Annabel Cody steps down from her position as Chair of Council this term. She fulfilled this role for six years with such calm clear-mindedness and tireless good humour she will be sorely missed. Her commitment was unwavering and Council functioned well under her leadership.

Robert writes: "It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Annabel. Patient and thoughtful, supportive and forthright, it has helped me enormously to navigate the complexities and nuances of being the Head of KAS. Her dedication to the School, and the ideas the School stands for, has been immense, and I have learnt much from our work together."

Her parting wisdoms to Council she summarised as:

1. Stick to the Society's Articles of Association
2. Keep Council the size it is
3. Listen to the children



Sam Jukes-Adams will take over as Chair of Council. She has many valuable years of experience on Council already to prepare her for the role and we wish her every success.

KAS 125 BUNTING WINNERS

If you came along to the KAS 125 celebration in June you will have seen all the stunning bunting adorning the entrance to Manor Wood. Over 500 flags were created by staff, students and parents (and sewn together by Rita and Pauline). While the founders of The King Alfred School didn't believe in School prizes for academic achievements, it was seen as fitting to shout out some of the outstanding contributions to the beautiful bunting. Judges Richard Wade, Sandrine Rodriguez and Gill Newsam decided on the following winners:



Lower School students:

Winner: Shira Y5

Highly commended: Lily Y5

Upper School students:

Winner: Holly, Elena & Louise Y8 (group entry)

Highly commended: Holly Y8

Adults:

Winner: Hannah Lang

Highly commended: Pauline Moloney



SCHOOL NEWS

EXAMS AND RESULTS

We are delighted to announce a successful completion of this year's GCSE and A level exams. It has been an extraordinary journey for our students, and we are immensely proud of their hard work, dedication and resilience throughout the year. These exams are a significant milestone in their educational journey, and we extend our warmest congratulations to all our Year 11 and Year 13 students and look forward to seeing them again on Results Day.

A level Results Day - Thursday 17 August 8am—11.30am

GCSE Results Day - Thursday 24 August 9am—11.30am

Shyama Chandrasekhar

KAS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Confidential counselling support is available for all students.

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

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE 2.0

This term we were treated to the expert knowledge of Soil Scientist extraordinaire, Capucine Jacob-Chavagnac, who explained the importance of soils analysis in the successful regeneration of habitat in the UK. Many of us were unaware of how important the soil is in determining the natural habitat of the area and the ecosystem services that soils provide. After the presentation, the discussion that ensued was fascinating and audience members left with lots to think about. Please keep your eyes peeled for another Café event next term.

Philip Price



SCIENTISTS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

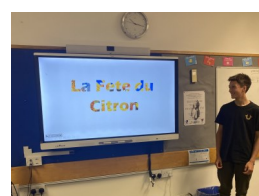
Year 10 triple science students and Year 12 Physicists were treated to a Physics trip to the O2 Centre. Students took part in two exciting experiences: climbing over the roof of the O2 Centre and indoor sky-diving with iFly. The trip was a great success and allowed students to experience a whole range of forces in action.

Phil Price



LANGUAGE SKILLS ON SHOW

Sandrine's Year 9 French students were given a week to research French speaking countries and festivals in pairs, groups or on their own, before presenting their findings to the class. Practicing their presentation skills is great exam preparation.



SAN SEBASTIAN TRIP

Year 10 & 13 Spanish students headed to San Sebastian for the last week of term. With a bike tour of the city, beach football, salsa lessons and sampling lots of the local foods alongside Spanish lessons, it's been a busy week.



SCHOOL NEWS

CASTING VOTES

Year 10 Art students took part in a workshop exploring plaster and casting processes inspired by a trip to the Tate to see Maria Bartuzsova's work.

Head of Art, Will, said: "The students did really well to keep their energy up all day, experimenting with ideas for their 'Inside: Outside' theme. There was some really great inspiring work. Well done to everyone involved!"



SIXTH FORM PSYCHOLOGISTS VISITED FREUD'S HOUSE



UAL STUDENTS TAKE TO THEIR BED

The final performance of the year for our UAL Performing Arts students featured an in-the-round production of Jim Cartwright's 'Bed'. We met seven elderly characters who were dreaming, reminiscing and sharing stories. Y12 student Ralph told us about it: "What I loved about our recent production was the nuance and surrealism to the piece itself. Going into the production, as a cast we all presumed we would be putting on a more naturalistic piece, one with a more conventional staging layout and a storyline easy to follow. We discovered how wrong our presumptions were very quickly! I think everyone in the cast would agree that, although straying from the norm, 'Bed' was a production which taught each one of us so much about ourselves and what we are able to achieve as actors. It was a challenge that stretched our capabilities far further than anything we had done before, it was an incredible experience."



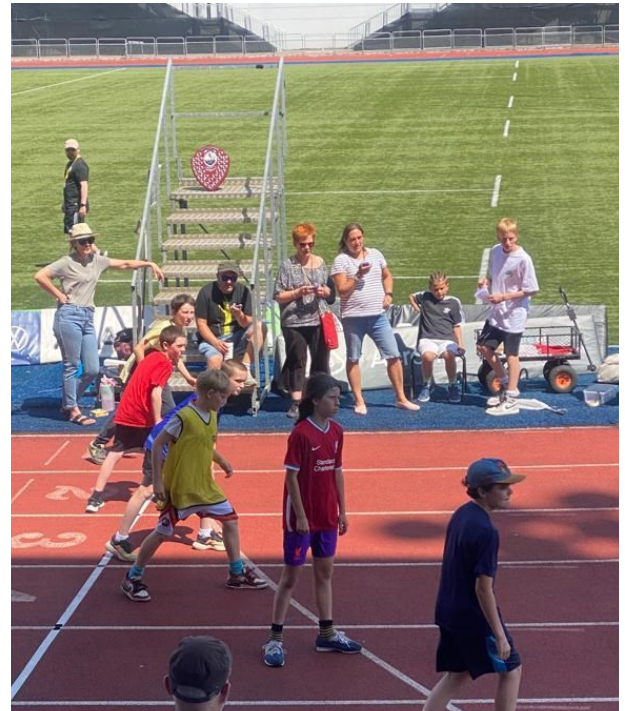
SPORTS NEWS

Sports Day for Years 6-8 moved off site for the first time with students travelling to the Saracens StoneX Stadium for track and field events.

Year 8 students Izzy and Lili told us about the day:

Lili "It felt really professional to be at a proper sports stadium and the atmosphere was so good. There was music playing and students who weren't competing were cheering so it felt very supportive."

Izzy "The track was great to run on and the highlight was really the atmosphere, it was so well organised and so fun!"



The Year 10 GCSE PE team played their first handball fixture vs Northbridge Canonbury. Hours of practice and the support of Ulrike Mertesacker (parent and ex pro) contributed to a convincing 9-0 win! Man of the match was Raphael, who scored seven goals.

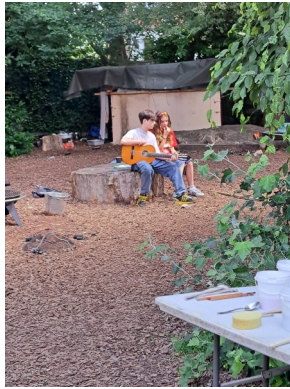
The Year 9s trounced the Year 10's score by winning 22-4 against Northbridge Canonbury. The fixture was the first competitive match for Arno, Mishik, Jacob P and Rafferty who all asked to play again!

Year 10 students Ossie and Raphael competed in a London schools tennis tournament. The boys played against tough competition and managed to win one of their matches. A lovely afternoon of tennis. **Tom Franklin**



THE VILLAGE

Year 8 set up camp in Manor Wood as they took part in The Village. Building their own shelters, cooking over open fires, establishing their own governance structure and learning to live off grid. Students embraced activities from wild swimming to ceramics all under the watchful eyes of Thea, Nic and the rest of the dedicated Village team.



Y9 CAMPS



The Year 9 camps headed to Woolacombe Bay and Twitchen Holiday Park in Devon, the Lake District and Poole on the South coast for a selection of outdoor activities.



Devon was a sun-filled, action packed and memorable week on both sites! Students and staff alike learned to surf, played football on the beach, cooked for each other, played minigolf, built sandcastles dodged seagulls with our fish and chips at sunset, swum in the sea, and enjoyed incredible views on coastal walks. The final day of adventure was an afternoon coasteering when we donned hardhats and buoyancy aids, paddled giant paddleboards (and fell off them!), jumped off cliffs and made fires to toast marshmallows. An unforgettable experience all round!

Eleanor and Lynne



Year 9 camp to Poole was incredible. The weather seemed a bit foreboding for our water sports day on Tuesday, but we had so much fun. We took a boat cruise to get up close to Durdle Door and after trekking all the way down to a near secluded beach, we swam out to the rocks and jumped off. Splashdown Park for water slide fun on Thursday, followed by bowling (where the girls beat the boys) and then a McDonald's for dinner! Ali and I want to thank all the students for an awesome week. So many memories. **Bettina**





The trip to the Lakes was beautiful, fun and relaxing. With no mobile phone signal we spent the evenings playing cards and the days walking, paddle boarding and ghyll scrambling after fuelling up on yummy cooked breakfasts. **Jeff**



Y10 CAMP



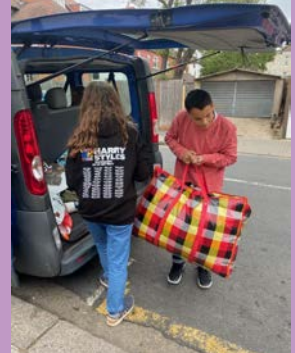
Y7 PROJECT WEEK

Year 7 students spent a week off timetable in June. The week saw them taking part in a two day teamworking challenge where students took on budgeting, marketing, cooking and stall construction responsibilities before hosting a fantastic food fair. The Wednesday was spent doing activities at Essex Outdoors and the final two days were taken up by a creative project around the theme of Medusa. Phew!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Year 8 students collected clothes and food to donate to local charities including Sue Ryder cancer charity and Food Bank Aid in Finchley as part of their final exploration task. This was part of their topic which looked at how we tackle global public health issues.



YEAR 10 COMMUNITY DAY

Before heading off on camp, students in Y10 took part in a day of volunteering across North London. Groups headed off to JW3 and SUFRA Food Banks, Jewish Care Centres and Kentish Town City Farm to help out and learn about the work they do.



SPORTS FOR SCOTT



Photo by: Sonya Walzer

Upper School students donned look-alike masks for a sports-day sprint in honour of Nxt Gen Activities coach and valued member of the KAS community, Scott.

Scott, who has inspired a love of sport in so many of our KAS students, is currently undergoing treatment for cancer and students wanted to do something to show him how much he is missed on the field.

Lower School also hosted a Sport for Scott afternoon and parents have been fundraising to support him through treatment.

CULTURE DAY

Year 9 were delighted to plan and hold their very first Culture Day at KAS. The idea was hatched by the students themselves who wanted a way of embracing and expressing the different cultures and traditions of their peers through food and music. With the help of some willing parents, they hosted stalls featuring food from around the world which were visited by students from Years 7 & 8 (along with many passing staff!).

Head of Year 9, Lynne, said: "It was a real celebration of all different cultures and Year 9 really did themselves proud with such a fantastic event."

Robert was seen sampling the amazing array of food on offer and he said: "My plate was simultaneously full of baklava and samosas, goat curry and Nigerian street food. Each stall raised donations for their selected charities, and it was both an apt and delicious way to celebrate our diversity."



FUTURE DREAMS FUNDRAISING

Year 9 students turned ice-cream vendors for an afternoon to raise money for cancer support charity Future Dreams.





To mark the School's milestone 125th anniversary we invited Old Alfredians and former staff back to KAS for a celebratory lunch on the field. The response was overwhelming, with 480 Old Alfredians registered to attend the day. We welcomed over 300 Old Alfredians to the lunch in a marquee on the field, provided by our School caterers. OAs gathered from across 10 decades of class groups – some who had not been back to the School for over 50 years. With tables decorated with flowers and foliage from the School grounds arranged by our School gardeners in jam jars donated by staff, the joyous occasion captured the KAS spirit.

We were delighted that Old Alfredians visited us from as far as Australia, the US, Japan and all over Europe to mark the occasion. Throughout the afternoon, Old Alfredians greeted their former teachers and classmates with hugs, smiles and sometimes tears, whilst sharing the lasting impact that The King Alfred School has had on their lives.



Arnab Banerjee and friends



The Fives Court



Jack Mann, Chris Potter & the Brearleys

CLASS OF 2023

We welcomed our newest Old Alfredians at the Year 13 graduation and Prom last week. Old Alfredian, Fran Silverton (OA 1989), was invited to talk to our Leavers about how OAs can take their experience at KAS and apply it to life beyond the School gates. The Class of 2023 went on to party the night away in The Phoenix Theatre. We wish you the best of luck in your next adventures and look forward to seeing you back for Fireworks!



CONNECTIONS SERIES

We rounded off this year's Connections programme with a visit from OA, Jonah Kaplan (OA 2015), to speak to a captivated Year 12 audience. The talk covered applying to Oxbridge, studying in China and the benefits of immersing yourself in new cultures, and the ins and outs of Jonah's career as an Asia analyst. Jonah will be offering support and advice to those applying to Oxbridge next year. You can watch Jonah's and other Connections talks and join the OA community on KAS Connected. Email oa@kingalfred.org.uk for more information.



OA VISITORS

In the lead up to our quasiquicentennial celebration, the phones were running hot.

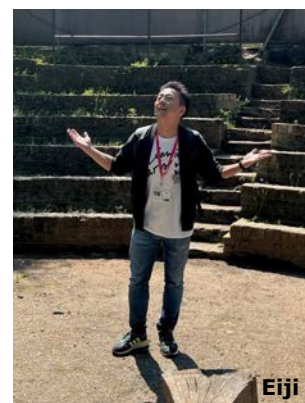
We were also delighted by several surprise visits from Old Alfredians this half term. Eiji (OA 1992) was visiting from Japan after attending KAS over 40 years ago! He brought photographs from his three years here, clearly an influential time for him and his family.

Preeyus (OA 2009) stopped by to show KAS to his wife and was able to catch up with Stephen to share how he has turned his love of science into a career as an environmental consultant working all over the globe.

Marissa (OA 1983) visited from Seattle. She'd only attended KAS for a year in 1970 but her time here has stayed with her.

OA Dana (OA 2003) stopped by whilst visiting from Dubai. We spoke about her school memories and how she instils the same lessons she was taught at school in her own children.

Julie (OA 1952) made a special visit to the school from Australia for the 125th anniversary. She returned later in the week to talk more about her time at KAS and to enjoy lunch in the Main Hall again after 50 years!



KAS 125 BOOK LAUNCH

The publication of the KAS 125 book was marked with an elegant launch event held in the Main Hall, which was transformed with objects and imagery from the archives that feature in the book. It was an opportunity to honour the stories and images of our Old Alfredians captured in this special book.

To purchase a copy of the book [visit the school website](#).

