



# The King Alfred School

*Upper School Newsletter*



November/December 2023



# Art, Music & Drama

## Elf Is A Festive Treat

The annual Upper School production took a festive turn this year as students from Years 10 to 13 performed 'Elf – The Musical'. Just like Buddy The Elf himself, it really upped the levels of Christmas cheer and was a huge hit with the packed audiences for its three night run. In addition to all the performers, the band who provided all the wonderful music was also full of KAS students playing alongside professional musicians.









## Year 13 Art Exhibition

Well done to Ruby, Helena, Emer, Roxana and Clil in Year 13 for their fantastic A level exhibition.

Running from Wednesday 6 to Wednesday 13 December, the exhibition was open to staff, students and parents alike to attend. It showcased the students' work-in-progress in the lead up to Christmas.



## Year 9 Structures

In Year 9, students have been working on structures and experimenting with a series of inter-related short projects within a subject. Starting with deconstructed shoes, students had to work together to dismantle and then merge old shoes. With this project, they have looked at Robert Rauschenberg's Cardboard (1971–1972) works as inspiration. They had to answer the following question:

'You own a skateboard shop and you are obsessed with Robert Rauschenberg, how will you display these luxury shoes?'



## Art Inspired By Gillian Wearing

In response to artwork by Gillian Wearing, Year 12 student Georgia interviewed members of the public to critique negative generalisations made in the media and news. Georgia investigated subtle, brief glimpses into people's lives through conversation, photography and writing.





# Choice, Explorations & Global Challenges

## Spoilt For Choice

This academic term, students had a fantastic range of options from which to select for their Choice activities. We have seen students participate in cooking - creating homemade pasta and gingerbread houses to get into the festive spirit before the holidays.

Another group of students volunteer at the Age UK Dementia Centre. One Year 7 student said: "My highlight was playing a game with the members about their past. I got to know so much about all of their lives, they remembered so much and told such good stories. It was very sweet, and I felt connected to them."

We also saw some first time options, such as Classics. After a discussion of what the group were interested in, they began to research and eventually created models of Athena, holding a small Nike (the goddess of Victory), and a temple.

Other activities including volunteering at local foodbanks, where students unloaded trucks, weighed food and organised shelves, and appreciating world cultures, where students wrote their names in different languages, created decorations for different festivals and tried food from an array of cultures.





## Exploring The Ethics Of Space and Health Inequality

This Autumn Term, Year 7 and 8 tackled new Exploration topics. Year 7 answered the question 'Is space exploration ethical?' While Year 8 discussed 'How can we tackle global health inequality?'

Both Explorations kicked off with students researching the subjects. Year 7 found out what conditions and resources were needed for people to live in space and calculated the distance of the **Goldilocks zone** from a star. They also looked into the benefits of space exploration to life on Earth, before considering its environmental impact and cost, and experimented with mini-rockets to learn about trajectory and aerodynamics. They could choose from a variety of outcomes to present their work, you can [click here to see an example of their work.](#)

Meanwhile, Year 8 welcomed Imperial College lecturer, Lauren Mustarde, who spoke about public health and health inequalities, before they went on to find out about the history of medicine, a country's influencing factors and media bias and stereotypes. Students applied their learning by writing case studies on the cholera crisis in Yemen with suggested solutions - [you can read an example of work by clicking here.](#) SuperKind also came in to speak about social action. Students put their advice into practice by volunteering at care homes, donating items to charity, creating clubs for younger year groups and making educational videos.

Some fantastic work was created as part of these Explorations. You can read a much more detailed description of them on the School website's 'News' section.

“*Instead of just learning about one subject. Explorations are more engaging as the way we learn is different and you learn about subjects you do not normally learn about.*”

- Hugo (Y7)

“*I think one of the best things is the fact that rotation enables us to experience different teachers' styles of teaching so we get to learn in different ways, which is a really fun and engaging experience.*”

- Ellie (Y8)

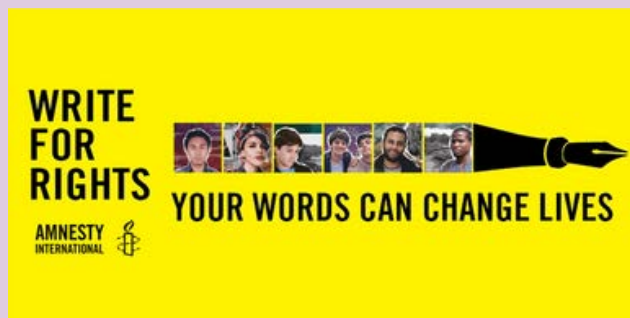




## Discussing Challenging Global Issues

Our Global Challenges KAS directed course has had a brilliant start to the academic year, with students having the chance to listen to a number of speakers. In Year 10, students got involved with the Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign - showing their support for people enduring human rights abuses.

Year 10 also welcomed Beatrice Stern, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the Refugee Council. She outlined the challenges faced by refugees arriving in the UK and gave some global context for their understanding. Sonita Gale, a KAS parent who organised the talk, also contributed to the lively discussion around the experience of asylum seekers and the contemporary political situation.



## KAS Education On Film

As a School we are proud to be part of **Big Education's Next Big 10 Project**. It's a two year whole school transformation project for schools who want to develop innovative education practices alongside like-minded schools, and to shout louder about the possibility of providing education differently.

We have **staff from across the School** who meet regularly with like-minded peers from other schools to share ideas and information and, as part of this, Big Education has made films about two of our signature practices to help us spread the word about what we do differently and how other schools can take our ideas and run with them. One is about Enquiry Based Learning in Lower School and the other is about the Village Project - **you can view them here.**



## Student Survey Request

Year 13 student Tilly is doing a psychological study, looking at the fear of clowns, for her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). As part of the study, she needs as many people as possible to complete a short online questionnaire.

The aim of this study is to understand the main reason for coulrophobia (fear of clowns). Please note that the questionnaire will ask for some personal details (age, gender, name). This information will be kept confidential and will be destroyed after it has been used in this questionnaire. **Here is the link to take part.**



# School News

## Remembrance Day Service Honours Old Alfredians

On Friday 10 November, the School held it's Remembrance Day service in the Old Library, which was open for everyone to attend.

The service began with some beautiful music played by students before Leon gave a presentation which touched upon the stories of some members of the KAS community, who lost their lives during the war. **You can read about them here.**



Our **Old Alfredians** team love to hear stories from or about our ex students and staff, so do get in touch with any information you may have.



## Year 8 Grow A Fiver

This term, Year 8 have been busy trying to 'grow a fiver' for Cerebral Palsy UK. They have been using different fundraising means to turn their initial seed funding into a bigger donation for charity. Initiatives have ranged from guessing the number of sweets in a jar to pieing a teacher in the face, beat the goalie competitions and a stunt biking show.

## Spanish Success for Sixth Form Student

Congratulations to Lucy in Year 13 who was runner up in the University of Glasgow Essay Competition! The entry, written about Fighting Cholitas - a group of female wrestlers who perform in Bolivia - can be read by **clicking here.**



## Christmas (Lunch) Comes To KAS!

Christmas lunch was enjoyed by all the KAS community before the end of term, with a special guest behind the serving counter... Robert!







## Practice Pays Off

It has been another fantastic half term of sport at KAS. The PE Department have been impressed with the number of students joining and committing to clubs - even morning sessions which start at 8am!

Year 7 and 8 students have been attending Monday basketball training with external coach, Chris. All the practice paid off when they won the recent North London ISA Basketball tournament.

Football, netball and trampolining (with coach Ebony) are also popular.

With more students participating in sports, we are seeing an increase in fixtures (over the last term, the PE Department have organised and attended more than 60 fixtures) and some great results.

We cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for all those involved in sport at KAS.



## Bendigedig! Student Invited To Welsh Ruby Squad

Congratulations to Maddie (Y13) who, over the October half term, was invited to join a development camp for the U18s Women's Welsh Rugby Union squad ahead of the Six Nations in the new year.

Maddie said: "Alongside 30 or so other girls, I had the privilege to train at Christ College in Brecon and use their amazing facilities. Time was spent getting to know each other as a squad and it was intense but really rewarding and enjoyable."

*Da iawn, Maddie!*







ISA Cross-Country competition



Sixth Form boys Football 2-2 draw away against Highgate

Year 7 Inter Form Netball



Year 8 Netball 7-6 win away against Hendon



Year 7 girls Netball 7-0 win away against Hendon

Year 10 boys reach ISA Regional Badminton final





Year 8 girls Netball teams 6-4 & 8-7 win at home against Northbridge House



Year 10 boys Basketball, 17-40 loss at home against Hendon School



Year 9 Inter Form Badminton



Year 7 girls Football win at home against CSWS



Year 7 Basketball loss at home against Wren Academy



Year 8 boys Basketball win away at the ISA Basketball tournament



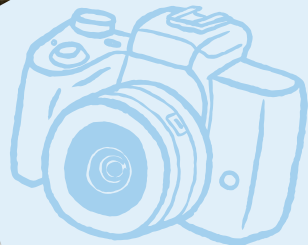


# Trips

## Exploring a Love of Photography in Paris

Our Sixth Form photography classes went to Paris on a three day trip. There, they explored and developed their techniques, all while enjoying the scenery and opportunities that Paris offered.

One student wrote about their experiences: "Overall, it's safe to say everyone on the trip had an amazing time and still wish we were there now. Cliff, Clara and Julian were the perfect teachers to have with us, they managed to balance both organisation and fun and it resulted in us all (including the teachers) having a lot of fun and being very productive with our photography work."



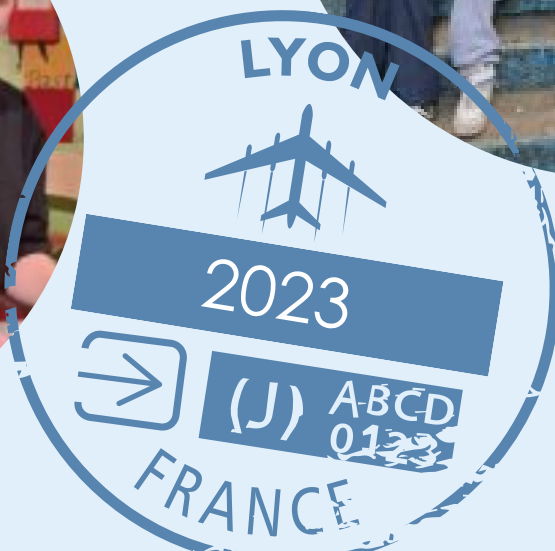


## Learning from Lyon

A group of Year 11 French students went on a languages trip to one of France's oldest cities, Lyon. Each morning, the students attended Lyon Bleu, a language school. There they were able to develop their speaking, listening and reading skills.

French teacher Pauline said: "I was particularly impressed by their confidence, ability and stamina in these classes."

Overall, the trip to Lyon was a fantastic opportunity for the group to be immersed in a vibrant culture and it was very hard to say au revoir. A massive thank you to Pauline for organising and Cliff for supporting.





## Memories Made in Malta at ISTA Drama Festival

Year 10 UAL Drama students participated in the International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) Drama Festival in Malta. This year's theme was 'hekk gara, HAWNHEKK, hekk jigri' which means 'This happened, HERE, this happens.'

Working alongside schools from Dusseldorf, Barcelona, Belgrade and Egham, KAS students tuned in to their surroundings by taking a walking tour of Valletta, visiting The Great Siege Monument and learning about the assassination of journalist Daphne Galizia. Then they explored Straight Street, affectionately known as The Gut, built in the 16th century. They took in a street art show in a disused historic building and finished the tour at St Catherine's Monastery.

Students built their confidence by sharing work in their ensembles, as well as full group performances, and they experimented in site specific theatre performance.

Head of Drama, Lucy, said: "It was a wonderful experience to witness first hand the bonds made between students."





## Artists Explore Eindhoven

Our Design Technology and Art Departments took a group of Year 12s on a joint trip to Eindhoven where they had the opportunity to explore some fantastic design shows and sights.

Year 12 students, Leila and Katy, wrote about the trip: "We felt inspired by the culture in Eindhoven – the sheer amount of design shows taking place all around us created an atmosphere of new ideas and creativity. You could see skeletons of areas that had previous use in industry which had been repurposed in creative and innovative ways. In addition to all of the incredible design, the Eindhoven trip also gave us a taste of the city's culture."





## Students Reflect on WWI in Belgium

Year 9 visited the battlefields in Ypres and the Somme in November. They stood along the front line of trenches and imagined themselves in the same situations as the thousands of soldiers who had stood there years prior.

Head of History and Politics, Leon, said: "The students showed real maturity and thoughtfulness in their reflections on the war and the questions they asked. They were a credit to themselves in their conduct and approach."

Seb in Year 9 commented: "The trip was very memorable and I learnt a lot; it really helped me truly understand the effects of the First World War."

Thank you to everyone who was involved with the organising of the trip and who accompanied the students.





# Old Alfredians & Development

## Fireworks Night 2023

KAS welcomed back Old Alfredians in the Sixth Form Centre at the annual KAS Fireworks this November. We had a wonderful turn out of Old Alfredians stopping by for drinks, meeting up with old teachers and friends alike. It is always great to have the newest crop of OAs return as alumni for their first reunion. We were also able to catch up with lots of OAs that left in the 90s and are now returning with their own families.



**Takako (Staff), Arthur Conti (OA 2022), Kaari and Louis Maudi (OA 2022)**



**Natalya Parsons-Smith (OA 2023) and Fiona Parsons (Staff)**



**Ella Maude, Angus Van Pelt and Max**





## KASS Festive Tea

In late November, Kara Conti, President of The King Alfred School Society (KASS), hosted the annual KASS Festive Tea for Honorary Members, Life Members, KAS Friends and past parents. It was wonderful to see so many guests join us in the Old Library from the KAS community - past and present. For more information about becoming a KAS Society member, [click here](#).



Lisbet Davies and Irene Panayiotou



Sixth Form students with Tom Bloch and Cristine Prowse



Xenia Bowlby and Sophia Baran



Zoë on the tree stump she once sat on as part of her first protest



## Connections with Zoë Blackler

On Wednesday 6 December, Zoë Blackler (OA 1986) joined Sixth Formers during Form Hour to talk about her journey from investigative journalist to climate activist and founder and director of Kairos - a new London space exploring ideas for radical social and cultural change in response to the climate and nature crises. We are looking forward to having Zoë back to continue the conversation.



# Upcoming Events

Title of event	Date & Time
<b><i>End of Autumn Term</i></b>	<b><i>Friday 15 December 2023</i></b>
Staff INSET Day	Monday 8 January 2024
<b><i>Start of Spring Term</i></b>	<b><i>Tuesday 9 January 2024</i></b>
Year 11 Mock Exams	Tuesday 9 - Friday 19 January 2024
TEDx TheKingAlfredSchool	Sunday 28 January 2024
Year 9 GCSE Options Evening	Monday 29 January 2024
Unplugged Concert	Wednesday 31 January 2024
KAS AGM	Tuesday 6 February 2024
Ski Trip	Sunday 11 - Sunday 18 February 2024
<b><i>Spring Half Term</i></b>	<b><i>Monday 12 - Friday 16 February 2024</i></b>



# SAVE THE DATE

**TED<sup>x</sup>**

**KingAlfredSchool**

**x** = independently organized TED event

**Sunday 28 January 2024, 2pm-6pm**

**The Phoenix Theatre**

## UPPER SCHOOL SKI TRIP

**Sunday 11 - Sunday 18 February 2024**  
**Sestriere, Italy**

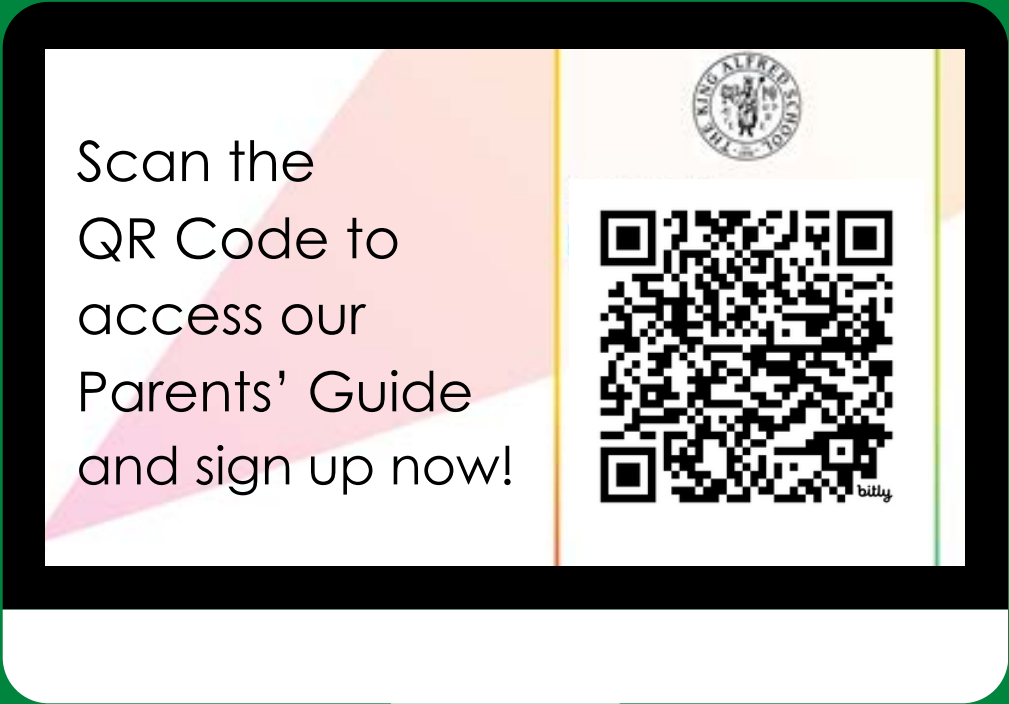
The trip includes ski lessons, three hot meals a day and exciting evening activities.

For more information, contact Jeff Harlow at [jeffh@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:jeffh@kingalfred.org.uk) and book your spot now!





# our sports system







# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Have a wonderful winter break!  
Reminder that students return on  
Tuesday 9 January 2024.











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