



The King Alfred School

Upper School Newsletter



TEDx
KingAlfredSchool

January Half Term 2024

Art, Music & Drama

Serious Clowning Around for UAL

This term, we were excited to watch seven of our Year 12 UAL students performing their Clowning Around piece in The Phoenix Theatre.

Students Ella, Libby, Ana, Elise, Amelie, Rosie and Rosy participated in workshops to 'find their inner clown' and worked together to devise a short performance full of comedy.

Rosie said: "We learnt about stage fighting and about different comedians, including how they worked and how we could use those techniques in our own devised pieces. There was a lot of learning about yourself and how you perform too. There's a lot about learning to trust yourself."

Libby added: "UAL has lived up to my expectations. I've always felt like I'm learning something new and have been exploring and stretching myself. During UAL, I'm pushed out of my comfort zone and clowning was no different."

Amelie commented: "When we got the final piece, along with the music and props, it was really satisfying. For anyone considering UAL, I would say it really does help with your confidence. You become really close with your group and feel nothing but support."

We are looking forward to seeing a devised piece from our Year 13 UAL students over the next few weeks!





Royal Photographic Society Awards

Congratulations to 14 of our Summer 2023 GCSE Photography students who were awarded 'high achievement in Photography' (Level 7 and above) by the Royal Photographic Society!



Year 9 Make Art Wearable

Some wild experimentation took place with our Year 9 students in their wearable sculpture workshop a couple of weeks ago. In groups of three and four they studied an abstract painting which provided inspiration for a wearable sculpture.

One group said: "We really enjoyed the day. It's really fun and it let us express ourselves."

Another added: "It's nice to work with your friends. We got to bring all our ideas together and work together creatively as a group."

[Click here to see more images of the day.](#)



Emer And Her Portrait

Year 13 student, Emer, has been working on a series of portraits for the last few months which culminated in this brilliant oil paint on paper self portrait for her 'Overlooked' project.



Work-In-Progress Art Displayed

Year 12 artists held a work-in-progress exhibition in the Art Department foyer. The experience was fantastic for sharpening focus, challenging and encouraging them all to explore beyond their comfort zone and to take creative risks.



The National Theatre Comes To The Phoenix

The Phoenix is excited to reveal that it will be screening National Theatre Live productions from Tuesday 20 February!

This fantastic opportunity is open to the whole KAS community, as well as our wider, local community. The screenings will be shown from 5pm and the bar in The Phoenix will be open to provide refreshments.

[Click here to book tickets.](#)



Student Plays In The BBC Ariel Orchestra

Director of Finance and Operations, Caroline, has started offering students the opportunity to play in an orchestra which she leads at a BBC studio. Jacob, in Year 9, was invited along and joined in a rehearsal of Beethoven's violin concerto. He was warmly welcomed by the orchestra, who let him sit on the front desk by the lead cellist.



Choice, Explorations & Global Challenges

Exploring Kew With Year 7

Students in Year 7 braved the cold snap for a trip to Kew Gardens to launch one of this Term's Explorations: *How can we design a sensory garden for our school?*

The trip to Kew provided the students with lots of different sources of inspiration as they were tasked with looking at elements they might want to incorporate in their own designs.

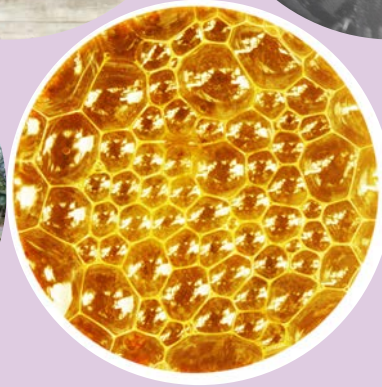
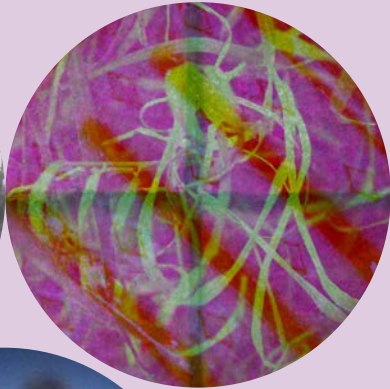
Working with the teachers, they stopped regularly to review what they'd seen and to talk about the sensory elements of the different spaces, which they'd enjoyed and why. From looking at different ways the spaces were being used to how they smelt and felt, students took inspiration from everywhere, from the treetop walkway to the palm houses. They even had a chance to play on some of the structures in the children's sensory garden before they headed back to School.



A Snapshot Into Photography Choice

So far this academic year, Year 6-9 Photography Choice has been an exciting whirlwind of activity. Students played with analogue, alternative and digital processes, transformed cardboard boxes and coffee tins into cameras, experimented with photograms and digital editing to mixed science and photography to create potions that magically transform into cosmic painterly planets.

We can't wait to see what they get up to for the rest of the year!



Cooking Up A Storm In Choice

Cooking Choice has been rife with fantastic smelling items this half term! Continuing to build from last term, students have made more savoury snacks and sweet treats to enjoy, including some delicious chocolate cake!



School News

TEDx Success For Students, Staff & Parents

It was a packed house on Sunday 28 January in The King Alfred Phoenix Theatre as 17 brave members of the KAS community took to the stage to give TEDx talks.

Tasked with giving talks on something they were passionate about – the students, parents, Old Alfredians and staff chose topics as diverse as Chinese tea ceremonies, ekphrastic poetry, investing in Africa, dementia research and financial savvy for students.

Head Robert Lobatto said: "It's great to see how open the student speakers are about their experiences but also to hear different perspectives from the parents and staff. The camaraderie between the student, parent, and staff speakers was a sight to behold. It is always a special moment when you see a 17-year-old reassuring one of the more mature speakers that 'it is all going to be OK'. It was also very powerful to see how the process developed the 3C skills which are embedded into our 'KAS Deeper Learning Wheel' – Creative Thinking, Communication and Collaboration."

The afternoon was masterminded by Kara Conti, President of The King Alfred School Society. She told us: "I could not be more proud – everyone has come so far from where they started, it's just splendid. Rebekah set the bar really high and all the others kept it there! There is a great mix of subjects and by keeping the talks to five minutes means you get to hear many different viewpoints."

The first of eight students to take the stage, Maya said: "I chose to do TEDx because I wanted to share my story but when I stepped on the stage I was shocked, it was a lot of people and a spotlight, but I relaxed into it in the end."

The talks will be available on the School website soon.

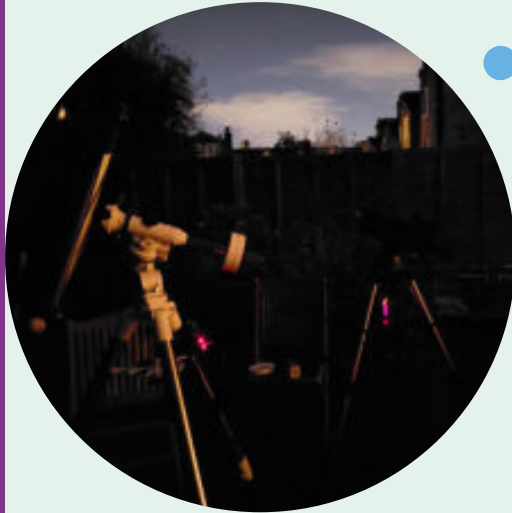




Science Student Reaching For The Stars

Using a telescope which was previously donated to the School, Year 13 student, Jasper, has been taking some fantastic photos of astronomical objects and areas of the night sky.

Jasper said: "It's amazing and technical, I can still use my science skills and understanding, but it's a break from having to do something super methodical. It's so beneficial to all year groups. Kids in Reception can stand on a stool and look at the rings of Saturn, while a Sixth Form student doing Physics or Chemistry can use it to boost the saturation on a moon photo so you can tell the mineral composition or look at the types of gases in nebulae. It really does have a range of opportunities."



Year 9 Model UN Conference

Year 9 held a model UN conference to mirror the COP 28 climate conference that took place in the UAE last November. Students had been learning about the theory and consequences of climate change and the differing challenges it poses for countries around the world. Students used this knowledge in the conference to represent the views of their assigned country in the formation of a new UN resolution.

All students were involved in giving a speech to the whole year group and holding each other to account in a series of debates. The students' speeches were excellent and well-supported by evidence and the debate was lively and passionate!





Prêts? Allez! No Stopping Sixth Form Fencer

Congratulations to Year 13 student, David, who has had fantastic success in his Fencing competitions.

Representing Great Britain in U20 and senior tournaments, his recent achievements include a silver medal at the U20 Junior World Cup in Italy and a Top 10 finish at a Senior tournament in Paris. The competition in Paris was part of a collective where participants can earn points to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

David said: "It was great to get 8th in the Seniors – the highest I placed before this was 80th. I am competing against older fencers, being one of the youngest, but you don't tend to notice. It's a great honour to represent GB and really satisfying to have that privilege, so I'm very grateful."

Well done, David! We can't wait to hear more about how you get on throughout the rest of the season.





Sixth Form Inter Form Badminton

Sixth Form Inter Form Football



Year 9 girls Netball 6-12 loss against SMSJ



Year 8 boys Football 3-0 win against UCS



Year 8 & 10 girls Netball 18-9 and 18-9 wins against CCF



Year 8 girls Netball ISA regional tournament





U13 Table Tennis ISA tournament

Sixth Form boys Football ISA national tournament



Year 10 boys Basketball 24-107 loss against CCF



U16 Table Tennis ISA tournament



Year 7 girls Football 0-3 loss against Highgate

Year 7 boys Basketball 18-4 & 10-6 win against Kings & Northbridge



Trips

Artistic Exhibitions Inspire Students

Our Year 12 Art, DT and Photography students visited some fantastic exhibitions in Central London.

The way the different pieces of artwork were displayed was thought-provoking – from the white cube aesthetic of Tate Modern to the interactive and multisensory experience of the 'Missing Threads' exhibition at Somerset House.

We look forward to seeing how the trip has inspired them for their independent A level projects!



Students Get Insight Into Creative Processes

The Year 12 artists, who are currently working on their 'Figure' project, were very lucky to be invited to the studio of parent and painter Sara Berman, who showed them her work and talked with them about the joys and challenges of being an artist. The talk was a fascinating insight into Sara's creative processes when creating art, which is exhibited internationally, and proved to be a really inspiring morning for everyone.



Space To Learn for Year 7

Year 7 took a trip to the planetarium in Greenwich, with the Science Department, where they took themselves on a self-guided tour of the telescopes, camera obscura and the meridian line along with a show that was out-of-this-world.

Old Alfredians & Development

Class of 2023 A Level Certificate Presentation

What a wonderful evening of celebration for the Class of 2023 and their families!

A level exams seemed like a distant memory for these Old Alfredians but we were pleased to mark the occasion with an A level certificate presentation. It was an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends who recently left KAS and embarked on new adventures. Parents also enjoyed the opportunity to gather again, and we have been asked to arrange a Parent Alumni Reunion for them next year!



A Visit to OA Sara Berman

Thank you to Old Alfredian and artist Sara Berman for inviting us to her studio. It was a privilege to see the studio, Sara's work and listen to her inspiration and work process as well as to hear her memories of KAS. Three generations of OAs in the family mean a special affinity with the School. Sara gifted the School a beautiful book with an inscription describing KAS as 'a playground of dreams' - a sentiment many OAs share.

KAS Festive Post

A highlight of the Old Alfredian year is when Year 6 students write to our Old Alfredians during the festive period and in return, the children receive some delightful responses and photographs from their pen pals. Amongst the replies this year, we heard from our oldest OA, Anthony, who is 102 years old. Professor Sir Anthony Epstein (OA 1939) received a Knighthood for his discovery of the Epstein Barr Virus in 1991.



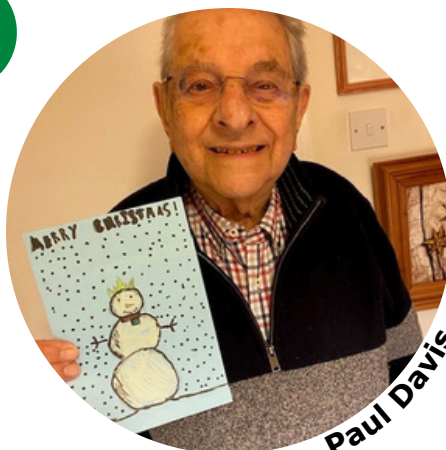
Current students with responses to their festive post



Esmond Harris



Julie James Bailey in Australia



Paul Davis



Marion Hiller

OA Speaks At No.10

Old Alfredian Jordan Schwarzenberger recently spoke on a panel chaired by Rishi Sunak at No. 10 Downing Street. The panel discussed supporting businessowners as part of the 'Help to Grow' campaign. You can read more about the event on [The Independent](#).



Jordan outside No. 10

CONNECT WITH THE KAS COMMUNITY



UPLOAD
YOUR
BUSINESS TO
THE KAS
DIRECTORY



PROVIDE
MENTORING
& ADVICE



OFFER
INTERNSHIPS
AND SHARE
JOBS



HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP?



WWW.KASCONNECTED.ORG

KAS Connected

We are very excited to invite you to sign up to our 'Beyond KAS' community portal. KAS Connected is an online platform, where you can update your profile, connect with Old Alfredians and use the trusted King Alfred School Community to expand your professional network.

Share work experience and internship opportunities, post job openings and engage with Old Alfredians to offer advice and mentoring. Share your experiences of higher education choices and pathways. Upload your business or professional services to the KAS Directory. Gain access to a whole host of other exclusive features and resources.

Looking to get back into work? Sign up to KAS Connected and extend your job search.

Upcoming Events

| Title of event | Date |
|--|---|
| Ski Trip | Sunday 11 - Sunday 18 February 2024 |
| Spring Half Term | Monday 12 - Friday 16 February 2024 |
| STAFF INSET DAY | Monday 19 February 2024 |
| Year 13 Mock Examinations | Monday 19 - Friday 23 February 2024 |
| National Theatre screening of 'Dear England' | Tuesday 20 February 2024 |
| French Drama Festival | Thursday 7 March 2024 |
| KASparents Quiz Night | Saturday 16 March 2024 |
| Year 10 History Trip to Berlin | Wednesday 20 - Friday 22 March 2024 |
| National Theatre screening of 'Vanya' | Tuesday 26 March 2024 |
| Sixth Form French Trip to Versailles | Wednesday 27 March 2024 |
| Spring Concert | Wednesday 27 March 2024 |
| End of Spring Term | Thursday 28 March 2024 |
| Easter Holidays | Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April 2024 |
| STAFF INSET DAY | Monday 15 April 2024 |





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