



The King Alfred School

Upper School Newsletter



Spring Half Term 2024

Art, Music & Drama

Year 12 CCS Exhibition

Gericault's infamous painting, *The Raft of Medusa*, depicts the horrific aftermath of a French Naval wreck. Year 12 students created a brilliant, immersive exhibition with their own responses to the painting and the issues in society that it exposed.

Written by Rebecca Sainsot-Reynolds



Year 8 and 9 Finding Their Way and Throwing Some Clay

Year 8 created a map wall, made up of descriptions of personal journeys and way finding, through drawings and sculpture.

Year 9 made clay tile work based on the landscape architecture and playgrounds of artist and sculptor Noguchi.

Written by Rebecca Sainsot-Reynolds





Forging a Dragon from the Flames

Fantastic work by Otis in Year 8 during the blacksmithing lunchtime club this half term! He created this dragon and learnt all seven of the main blacksmith techniques, making him quite the pro. Well done, Otis!

Written by Isabella Busoni

Abstract Art

Year 9 created abstract art from photographs that were taken earlier in the term.

Written by Will Lewer



Art Studio Days for GCSE Students

GCSE students have spent two solid days in the art studio working with clay, wire armature, print, guache, mod-roc and making mixed media sculptures. This time was used to create final pieces, document the processes and present their work.

Written by Rebecca Sainsot-Reynolds



All About the Drama!

This half term has been another busy one for the Drama Department. We have been excited to welcome Sam Spiro to our Drama and UAL classes to help with monologues, and bringing character into songs. Her expertise and advice was very valued by our students!

We also had performances by our Year 13 Drama and Year 11 UAL students. Year 13's piece was set during the Second World War and was titled *A Matter of Life and Death*. Year 11 presented a Gothic melodrama play called *The Monstrum*. Both were fantastic ways for students to demonstrate their brilliant acting skills, as well as being a great night out for all who attended.



National Theatre Live

The Phoenix Theatre is excited to be showing National Theatre Live screenings this year. It is a fantastic opportunity that is open to the whole KAS community. The screenings will be shown from 5pm and the bar in The Phoenix will be open to provide refreshments.

Click here to get your tickets now!

Choice, Explorations & Global Challenges

Word Challenge in Photography Choice

In 6-8 Choice, students were tasked with taking photographs which represented words like Spring, Joy and Friendship.



If they felt that their images were better represented by other words they could assign a more appropriate moniker which was a better fit for their image.



They could photograph whatever they wished, as long as they took it from a close up, worms-eye or birds-eye view. They then made an exhibition with these photographs on the wall in photography, considering pairing of images and layout. They did a wonderful and poetic job. Well done!

Written by Clara Cowan



[Click here to read more.](#)

Exploring Roots with the Roots Programme

We have 10 Year 12 students who are currently participating with Roots, a programme which brings together young people and teachers from state and independent schools, bridging class, cultural, racial and religious divides.

Sweet and Savoury on the Menu

During Choice with Years 9 to 11, students alternated between cooking savoury dishes such as fillet burgers and spaghetti bolognese and sweet dishes such as cookies and cakes.

Written by Athena Coddington-Wiratunga



School News

Children's Mental Health Week

This year, Children's Mental Health Week took place from Monday 5 to Friday 9 February with the theme *My Voice Matters*. The School ensures, throughout the year, that our students feel their voices are being heard through different forums such as School Six (involving Sixth Form representatives), Pupil Council (Lower School, Year 3 upwards) and Student Voice (Upper School).

Children's Mental Health Week is a great opportunity to further highlight to our students just how important it is to look after your mental health. The week began with a Callover for Year 7, given by Heidi in Year 12 who is a member of School Six. Heidi spoke to them about what they could do to support their own mental wellbeing, discussed the stigma surrounding mental health issues and how someone struggling with their mental health may not show it.

There were several speakers welcomed across our year groups. Year 11 had a talk on sleep by Dr Irshaad Ebrahim, Year 12 heard from *The Roots Programme* and Year 13 listened to *Solutions Not Sides*.

During Form Hour, students in Years 6-8 participated in a number of wellbeing activities which took place all over Manor Wood. There was Lego building and bead jewellery making in the 6-8 Building; campfire and singing at the back of the amphitheatre; shirt tie-dye and nail painting on the Science floor; music band and dancing on the Drama and

Music floor, as well as wood whittling in the Middle School common room and crystal singing bowls in one of the Year 6 classrooms.

It was a brilliant week of highlighting how important it is to look after your mental health and to take time to do the things that you enjoy most.



British Science Week

Students have had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate British Science Week with a selection of workshops exploring space, learning about new creatures and having fun experimenting with science thanks to *Explorer Dome* and *Zoolab*.

Head of Science, Phil, rounded off saying: "Science Week is a fantastic opportunity to take the knowledge students have learned in their science classes and apply it in a slightly different context. The three presentations were a great success - you could see this just by the looks on the students' faces. It was evident they were thinking about what they were seeing and hearing and really enjoying the workshops. These types of experience can provide the catalyst for choosing science as a career and I hope that this might be true for some of our students."

Click here to read what our students had to say.



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

At the end of March we marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week across the School. The impact of neurodiversity was discussed in Callovers and classroom discussions and included a short film of some KAS students talking about their personal experiences of neurodivergent conditions.

A couple of our Year 7 students visited Year 3 to share something they were passionate about. Charlie told us: "We chose to come and speak to the younger students about different learning styles because both of us have drastically different styles of learning to what is considered the ordinary and we wanted them to feel it's OK, in fact it's amazing, to learn differently."

And it wasn't just students who got involved, our SENDCo, Dan Love, hosted a parent talk by *Connections In Mind* on Cognitive Executive Function which was well attended and full of useful information to help us all be more aware of other people's challenges and how to help them.



Celebrating Diverse, Intriguing Projects at EPQ Evening

The Sixth Form Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) presentation evening was a resounding success, showcasing the ingenuity and creativity of our students as they delved into a wide array of thought-provoking topics. From dissecting the intricacies of human behaviour to exploring cultural phenomena, the evening was a testament to the depth of intellectual curiosity among our student body.

The breadth and depth of these projects is remarkable, demonstrating the power of independent inquiry and the boundless curiosity of our students.

Well done to all the students involved for their outstanding contributions to knowledge and discourse and thank you to all those who came to support. A brilliant evening all round!

Written by Eleanor Mitchell



Festival de Théâtre francophone 2024

This half term, KAS was excited to welcome 13 schools for the 9th annual French Drama Festival.

Each school prepared a short piece of French theatre to perform in front of a panel of judges, all hoping to win one of six prizes. It is fantastic to announce that our own Year 12 student, Xavier, won the Best Performance in a Supporting Role!

Well done to all who participated, and thank you to Pauline who organised it all; it was a fantastic evening!

Click here to read what Year 12 students, Xavier and Amelie, said about the experience.

KAS Comments In GCSE Alternatives Article

As a School we are working with groups like Rethinking Assessment and coordinating the School Directed Courses Consortium to look at alternatives to the current GCSE system. Leading the charge at KAS is our Deputy Head Alistair McConville (one of the founders of both of the above organisations), so its great to

see him quoted prominently in this article in School House magazine (School House magazine Spring/Summer 2024) about the reasons reform is necessary, and the work some schools are already doing to move away from the traditional nine GCSE model.



You can view the article in the online version of School House magazine here (on pages 44-46).

Assessment Methods up for Discussion

Deputy Head, Al, headed to Manchester with members of SLT and Council to attend the Next Generation Assessment - Shaping the Future Conference hosted by The Edge Foundation, The Heads' Conference and Rethinking Assessment. As well as hosting a standing room only breakout session on School Directed Courses, we also launched our own research paper:

A Review of Assessment Methods in Higher Education, which backs our calls for GCSEs to move away from a mono-focus on end of year timed exams.

Head, Robert, said: "This review lays bare the worrying divide between the ways in which schools and universities assess their students. Schools need to be freed from the limitations of the current exam system so they can introduce more effective methods of assessment that better reflect what will be asked of their students, not just at university but in the workplace too."

You can read more about the review and read the paper on our website.



Flipping Pancakes for Science

Year 7 have been looking at variables in Science. They focused on how the volume of water added to pancake mixture affects the diameter of a pancake. They planned their practical carefully and ensured all the other variables were kept constant so they could draw a valid conclusion. Their findings showed the more water added, the greater the diameter. One clear advantage of this experiment was that it was edible at the end.

(All necessary precautions were taken to ensure that the pancakes were safe to eat.)

Written by Phillip Price



TEDx Talks Are Live

Back in January we hosted our fourth TEDxKingAlfredSchool event in The King Alfred Phoenix Theatre featuring fascinating talks by students, staff and parents from the KAS Community.

The majority of the talks are now live and we've gathered them together in a handy playlist! Just scan the QR code to watch.



KAS AGM 2024

Thank you to everyone who joined us at 126th Annual General Meeting of the King Alfred School Society (The Society or KASS), which took place on Tuesday 6 February 2024. The AGM is an opportunity for the election of new Council members (the School's governing body).

We are delighted to announce that three new Council members were elected as follows (in alphabetical order): Galia Shilo Sum, Phoebe D'Arcy and Rebekah Clark.

We are also pleased to announce that the following candidates were re-elected to Council: Sam Jukes-Adams (Chair) and Philip Whale.

If you would like to see more about the AGM, click here to watch and read Robert's speech.



EX CORDE VITA.



Bronze for Year 7 girls Football

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls Football team who came 3rd out of 22 teams in the Barnet League Final!



Year 10 Student Strides to Silver

Congratulations to Oliver in Year 10 who got a Silver medal in the 1500m indoor Middlesex County Championships at Lee Valley. He missed the Gold by less than half a second with a time of 4:40.

Well done, Oliver! Fantastic effort.

Shield Final Place for Year 10 and 11 Netball

The Year 10 and 11 girls Netball teams headed to Nottingham for the ISA National Finals recently.

Coach Henrietta said: "This is a team who have been playing together since Year 7 and it's been great to see them support each other as they have progressed. Some of them will be leaving after Year 11 to go to different Sixth Forms so this felt like a significant moment to celebrate. We drove up to Nottingham the night before

the tournament and enjoyed a meal together. On the day, the girls played brilliantly and never gave up. They were up against schools with much larger squads (and some very tall shooters!) but they never stopped trying to win. They lost 5-7 in the Shield final but I was delighted with the way they played. They were skilled, determined and, most importantly, they had fun."



Spring Interform

It was fantastic to have Years 5 to 9 all participate in Interform before the Easter Holidays. Depending on the year group the students had the chance to play mixed basketball, netball, football, volleyball or handball.

There were also awards handed out at the end of each day for fair play (for good sportsmanship), the best team player, best team organisation and overall winners.





A Level students coaching Year 4 PE class Volleyball

Year 8 boys Football 2-2 draw away against UCS



Year 9-11 boys Football 1-0 win away against Northbridge Canonbury



Year 10 girls Netball into Barnet Finals



Year 7 girls Netball into Barnet Finals

Year 9 boys Football 2-1 win away against North London Grammar



Trips

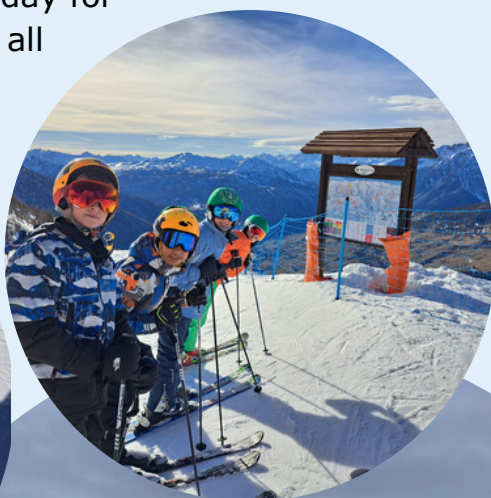
Sunny Ski Trip to Sestriere

When February half term rolls around it's a welcome chance to relax, regroup and find peace in the winter darkness... unless you're taking 80 students to the Italian Alps for an epic ski trip!

The group stayed in a beautiful resort with a hotel that looked out directly over the slopes. There were ski lessons throughout the day for those who had never skied all the way up to expert level.

The trip was a fabulous way for nearly a quarter of the Upper School to get to know each other better, learn a new skill or perfect an old one and see a beautiful part of the world.

Thanks as usual to Jeff for organising, and all the other teachers who made it possible.



Exploring German History

The History Department, along with Zoe and Al, had the pleasure of taking 30 Year 10 students on the annual trip to Berlin. The group uncovered layers of history, from Napoleon to German reunification, ate currywurst and pretzels, and enthusiastically walked thousands of steps in their quest to explore the history of the city.

Read what students had to say on our website.

Written by Leon Whitham



Walking through the History of the Stuart Dynasty

Our A level History students took a walking tour around London before the end of term.

The group had the opportunity to visit the Great Fire of London Memorial, learnt about the pleasure gardens and how Samuel Pepys' time spent there, along with where Pepys' house once stood. They also went to Billingsgate fish market, the Tower of London and the location of Archbishop Laud's execution in 1645.

There was time spent in a sky garden to look out over all of London before finishing the tour with a trip to a Stuart coffee house, a visit to the only slave trade memorial in London and a final stop at St Paul's Cathedral.

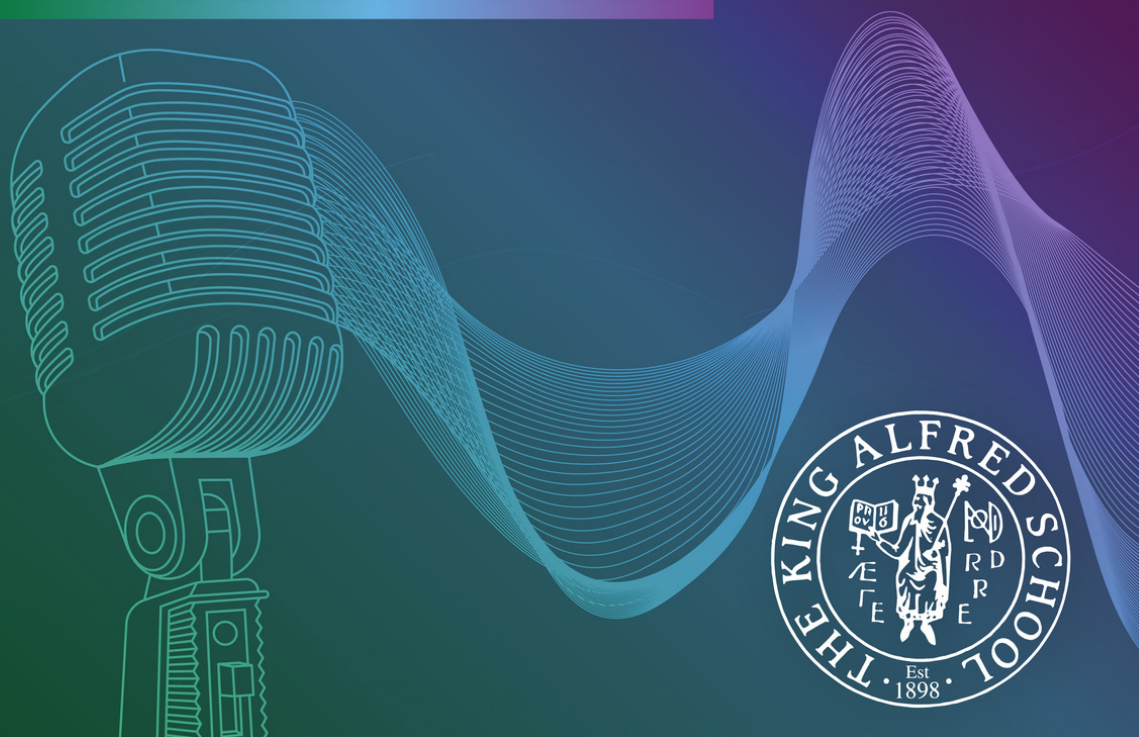
Read what students said on our website.



Old Alfredians & Development

What I *REALLY* Learnt at School

Alfredian Voices



What I *REALLY* learnt at School: Alfredian Voices

The King Alfred School Podcast, *What I Really Learnt at School: Alfredian Voices*, has launched.

This project showcases the stories of our Old Alfredians and the impact that a KAS education has had on their career paths and life, and the stories are extraordinary!

This has been a true labour of love, collecting and curating these stories through relationships with Old Alfredians. We are so pleased to have captured (and to continue to capture)

these memories and bring to life how a KAS education influenced decisions and paths taken.

In our first episode, we sat down with Jordan Schwarzenberger (OA 2015) to reflect on The King Alfred School's impact on his successes. Jordan is the Co-Founder of Arcade Media, was named in Forbes 30 under 30 in 2023, and was recently invited to speak on a panel at Downing Street with Rishi Sunak.

Scan the QR code to enjoy this episode.

Connections

Richard Oblath delivered a Connections Series talk to Sixth Form during Form Hour this half term. Richard is a second-generation OA - his mother Gerda attended KAS as a refugee in 1937. Richard spoke about his career path as a scientist implementing sustainable energy plans within big oil. His work has been so important in the fight against climate change, and Richard has sat across the table from world leaders, activists, and corporate executives to bring the science to the forefront of enacting carbon neutral strategies.

He encouraged students to use their voices and to consider this as a career path for the scientifically minded.

Look out for Richard's interview for *What I REALLY learnt at School* which will be released in the Summer Term.




Richard Oblath with an A level Chemistry student

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FIND &
UPLOAD
JOBS TO
THE KAS JOB
BOARD




CONNECT
WITH OLD
ALFREDIANS
IN YOUR
INDUSTRY

**HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP?**




PROVIDE
MENTORING
& ADVICE

CONNECT WITH THE OA COMMUNITY

Old Alfredian Lunch and Film Screening

More than 40 Old Alfredians assembled in the Old Library for a joyous afternoon of food and film - for some it was their first visit back in 50 years!

Garden suburb to reconnect over their School days, all set to the backdrop of archival footage of the School taken in the 1950s and 1960s.

OAs made their way back to KAS from as far as Australia and as close as the

One thing was evident - once an Alfredian, always an Alfredian!

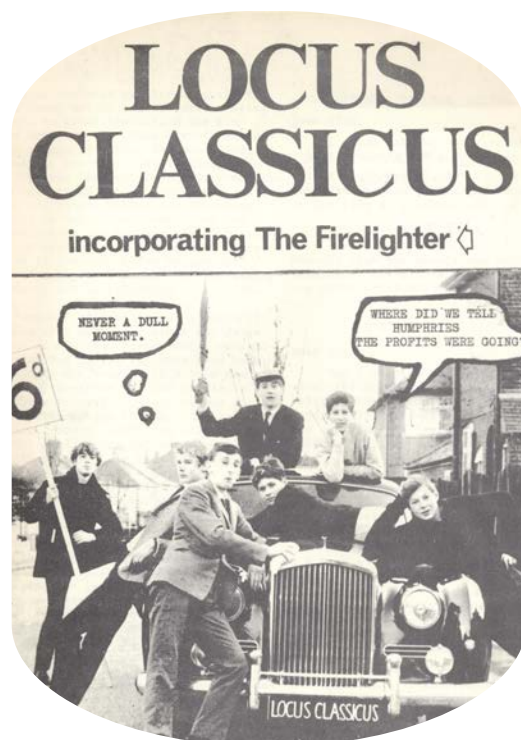


Old Alfredian Lunch

Robert welcomed many familiar Old Alfredian faces and some returning for the first time in a long time for a special lunch in the Lower School Hall. It was an opportunity to remember those from their classes who are no longer with us and to share the important impact of a

legacy recently left to The King Alfred School by an Old Alfredian.

It was great to see most of the Old Alfredians featured on the cover of *Locus Classicus* - their short-lived school publication, back together!



Upcoming Events

| Title of event | Date |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Summer Term starts | Tuesday 16 April |
| Year 9 Bronze DoE practice expedition | Friday 19 - Sunday 21 April |
| Football - OA v Sixth Form | Friday 26 April |
| Year 9 Bronze DoE qualifying expedition | Friday 3 - Sunday 5 May |
| BANK HOLIDAY | MONDAY 6 MAY |
| Middle School Show | Tuesday 21 - Wednesday 22 May |
| Summer Half Term | Monday 27 - Friday 31 May |



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