

Alfredians

A Newsletter for Old Alfredians

Spring 2024



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& Visits

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KAS

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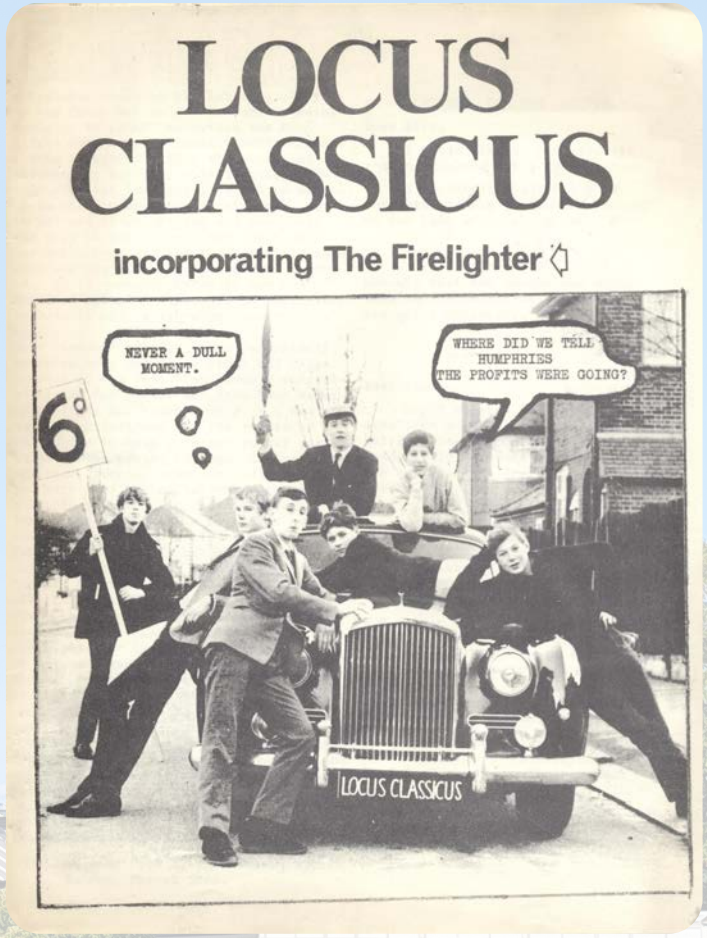
Forthcoming
Events



Learn about the launch of
our first podcast series
**What I REALLY learnt at
School: Alfredian Voices**
on page 23

Reunion Lunch

In February, we welcomed back Old Alfredians who were at KAS in the 1940s and 1950s. Robert greeted 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 these classes who are no longer with us and to share the important impact of a Legacy recently left to The King Alfred School by **Julian Anderson (OA 1956)**. We had a fantastic afternoon, celebrating together and enjoying a lovely meal, set to the backdrop of the nostalgic KAS Film with video clips from our archive. Later that afternoon, we had the opportunity to take these OAs for a tour around our grounds. It was a special, impromptu idea that gave our OAs the chance to relive their childhood with fond memories.



L-R: Simon Peters, Paul Shepherd, David Wolchover, Alan D'Arcy, Frank Taylor, Nick Norden and Jonathan Myer



Felix Moore & Penelope Rowlatt



Head, Robert, welcomes Old Alfredians back to their School



Gillian Sonin & Peter Ross



Felix Moore, Diana Shelley, Lucy Moy Thomas, John Bayes, Dorothy Judd & Peter Segelow took an impromptu tour of the School grounds



Alan Fraser & Paul Davis



Simon Peters, Alison Chitty, Anton Smith, Ulf Ehrenmark & John Bayes



Peter Ross, Peter Segelow, Anne Fraser, Alan Fraser, Paul Davis & Angela Davis



Dorothy Judd, Diana Kornbrot, Lucy Moy Thomas, Diana Shelley, Xenia Bowlby & Gillian Sonin



David Wolchover, Nick Norden, Frank Taylor, Alan D'Arcy & Alison Chitty

KAS Fireworks

One of our favourite events in the calendar - KAS Fireworks! We had a wonderful turn out of Old Alfredians for pre-display drinks in the warmth of the Sixth Form Centre and met with old teachers and

friends alike. It is always great to have the newest crop of OAs return for their first reunion. We were also able to catch up with lots of OAs who left in the 90s and were visiting with their own families.

Thank you to KASparents, who did an amazing job of organising the event for the KAS community. The grounds always look so magical lit up at this time of year.



Natalya Parsons-Smith & Fiona Parsons



Isobel Goldman, Ella Ericsson, Natalya Parsons-Smith, Eva De Beer, Laura Murphy & Lara Kurtulus



Alex Talwar, Hugo Pomiankowski-Florin, Max Flacks, Jonny Moghissi & Pauline



Bogues Cooper Friedlos & Laura Murphy



Claire Murphy, Romy Florin-Pomiankowski, Eliza Burrow & Madeline Wells



Eliza Burrow, Madeline Wells, Georgina Cooper Friedlos & Jamie Toeg



Ella Maude, Angus Van Pelt & Max Flacks



Sam Dye-Montefiore, George Prybus, Bertie Richmond, Tom Dyer & Lucas Jaehnig



Gillian Maguire, Ella Raphael & Maya Raphael



Gabriel Elston & Samuel Griffiths



Tara Nouroozi-Shambayati & Elfie Woodford



Joseph Connor & Lewis Sternberg



Takako, Arthur Conti, Kaari & Louis Maudi



Xander Niarchos, Adebambo Akinjogbin & Paul Fisher



Nikita Nerozin, Max Marinic & Eve Hardaker



Jessica & Thomas Ludgrove

Festive Tea: KAS Society Honorary Members, Friends of KAS and Past parents

Kara hosted the annual KASS Festive Tea for Honorary Members, Life Members, KAS Friends and Past Parents.

Kara said: "It was wonderful to see so many guests join us in the Old Library from the KAS community past and present. We were delighted to welcome **Xenia Bowlby (OA 1960)** and her daughter, **Sophia Barnard (OA 1988)**, both Old Alfredians. It was Sophia that alerted us to the fact Xenia is, in fact, related to Millicent Fawcett."

Sophia said: "I can't believe that my mother, Xenia Bowlby (née Garrett) didn't tell Kara or the OA team that Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Millicent Garrett Fawcett were her great-great aunts. Their brother Samuel was her great-grandfather. My mother was a student in the 50s, she was a member of council for years (while my brother and I were there, and for years afterwards) and her father, Roderick Garrett was Chair."



KASS Festive Tea



EX CORDE VITA.

KAS Society Membership

Society membership is offered to all parents and staff on joining the School – and indeed to any former parents, staff and Old Alfredians who want to remain actively involved. Membership entitles you to take part in the running of the Society, attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, and elect or stand for Council. The annual subscription fees for membership fund educational research projects and conferences. By becoming a member of the Society, you are able to have a voice in furthering the aims of the Society and the School.



Lisbet Davies & Irene Panayiotou



Xenia Bowlby & Sophia Barnard



Vegan Cheese
Egg Mayo/Mustard & Mustard Cream (V)
Pam Oliver & Xenia Bowlby



Sixth Form students with Tom Bloch & Cristine Prowse



Lesley Moss, Kara Conti, Xenia Bowlby & Shelley Frazer



Sixth Form student, Sophia Barnard, Kara Conti & Lesley Moss



Lisbet Davies & Linda Fraser

The Class of 2023 A level Certificate Presentation

The Class of 2023 A level Certificate Presentation is a wonderful evening of celebration for our youngest OAs and their families. We have a thriving and growing Old Alfredian network and our former students and parents are very much a part of the Alfredian community. This event in the School calendar is an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends after leaving KAS.



Class of 2023 receive their A level certificates



Avalon Cowles Joe Summers & Bogues Cooper Friedlos



Lara Kurtulus, Eve Burrows, Lucas Manwaring, Ollie Ager & Tom Dyer



Lilavarti Guest Erler & Ollie Ager catch up with Takako



Ollie Ager, Lilavarti Guest Erler, Tom Dyer & Lucas Manwaring



Ben Reed, Alex Marshall, Arthur Pierce & Oscar Van Somerson



Romy Stangroom, Kai Morriss-O'Farrell & Lilavarti Guest Erler



Head of Sixth Form, Takako talks to the Class of 2023 & their families

Old Alfredian Lunch & Film Screening

The King Alfred School hosted almost 50 Old Alfredians who attended the School during the 1960s. The lunch came about after chatting to OAs at the KAS 125 event in the summer who wanted to gather their year groups and watch the videos taken during the early 60s at the School. It grew in size and we welcomed guests from across the globe; as far as Australia!

Old Alfredians assembled in the Old Library for a joyous afternoon - for some the first time back in 50 years! It was our biggest Reunion yet, set to the background of the captivating KAS 1960s News Reels - it was a joy seeing so many there.

A special thank you to **Andrew Berton (OA 1972)** who visited us from Australia and brought gifts of his board game, *13 Dead End Drive*, for Old Alfredians.

We are particularly grateful for your input into helping us find OAs with whom the School has lost touch. If you know of an Old Alfredian not receiving our invitations to events and our newsletters please direct them to the KAS website and the Contact Form under Old Alfredians.



Cathy Meeus, Julia Elliot & Jennifer Hannison



David Morgan & Helen Ward



Denise Parnes & Brenda Cole



Helene Berman



Jonathan Savitt



Ian Jacobs & Julie Mills watching the archive films



Tony D'Arcy, Andrew Berton, Cathy Meeus, Jennifer Hanison, Judith Barker, Eugenie Verney, Lorrain De Peyer, Jonathan Savitt & Julia Elliot



Julia Willey, David Morgan & Peter York



Ian Jacobs & Eugenie Verney



Peter Rutland



Laurence Hanison & Michael Wood



Tony D'Arcy



Peter York & Julia Willey



Julie Mills, Gill Lipson & Debbie Kartun



Maggie Norden



The Old Library



Noel Hart & Melissa Lipkin-Berman



Peter Rutland & Lorryn De Peyer

Recent Leavers Drinks

We had a quiet Leavers Drinks this year because of the end of term clashes with Universities but we did have a great turn out from some of those Old Alfredians who left us in the summer and are still in North London. When we took this photo of **Lara Kurtulus (OA 2023)** with staff, Fiona pointed out that KAS has always had a great staff to student ratio - the same could be said for staff to Old Alfredian ratio too!

We would love to hear from you when you think it would be best to host a Recent Leavers event, message us your ideas on 07570728568.



Lara Kurtulus (OA 2023) with Leon, Takako, Ai, Shyama, Deborah, Jeff & Fiona



Lara Kurtulus & Eve Burrow

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 were pleased to receive a letter from Old Alfredian **Professor Sir Anthony Epstein CBE FRS (OA 1939)** at a youthful 102 years old! Tony received a Knighthood for his discovery of the Epstein Barr Virus in 1991. Sadly, Sir Anthony passed away in February. Students also received responses from **Marion Hiller (OA 1952)** in Israel who sent photos of her own artwork back for the children. **Dinah Heller (OA 1947)** sent a beautiful and festive card to students with a photo of herself taken last summer in Croatia from her

home in New York, whilst **Julie James Bailey (OA 1952)** sent her greetings to the children from Australia. Year 6 teacher, Adele, read out the letters to a captivated class.



Julie James Bailey in Australia



Esmond Harris, MBE



Emma & her letter from Julie James Bailey



Paul Davis



Student with letter from Dinah



Marion Hiller

OAs at ELF

In December we were treated to the Upper School production of ELF.

Paul Davis (OA 1951), who was at KAS during World War II, joined us for opening night. He said of the performance: "Drama is certainly alive and thriving at KAS. I think there are some up and coming stars at the School."



Calum Drake (OA 2021)



Nadia Rodin (OA 1979) & her daughter, Lily – ELF stage manager

It was great to see Old Alfredians involved in this community event - working on the technical team (**Alex Talwar OA 2017**), serving refreshments at the Phoenix Theatre bar and supporting their children who were involved in the show.



Paul Davis (OA 1951) was in the audience with his wife, Angela

What was your most memorable KAS production?



Adrienne Severson Hurn (OA 2028) & her father, Chris Hurn

Adrienne Severson Hurn (OA 2028)

In February, we had the pleasure of welcoming back a young Old Alfredian, **Adrienne Severson Hurn**. Adrienne was visiting London with her family who now live in the US and one of the priorities of her visit to London was stopping by KAS. Her years here were spent in the Lower School, and we were lucky to time her visit during the Lower School break time so that she could see some of her past teachers. Her father, Chris shared:

"Our visit was delightful, and Adrienne really appreciated these connections with past and present— is important to Catherine and I to keep her perspective of a world view and her place in it (so easy to lose sight of this in America!). This was a really nice experience of that and so fun to see teachers again."



Music Teacher, Camilla & Adrienne Severson Hurn (OA 2028)

Amy Cash (OA 2020)

Amy visited us in the Music Department to record the introductions to our soon to be released Alfredian Voices podcast.

The series delves into the lives of Old Alfredians and their experiences at school. Turn to page 23 for more details on how to listen.



Amy recording the Alfredian Podcast intros



Gavyn in the amphitheatre

Gavyn Wright (OA 1963)

Driving down North End Road, celebrated violinist, conductor and orchestra leader for numerous Film and TV productions, **Gavyn Wright**

(OA 1963) felt the School gates call him in for an impromptu visit for the first time in many years.

It was an emotional moment. His memories of ball games in the Covered Court and a version of Granny's footsteps up the bank between Squirrel Hall and the tennis courts are vivid.

Do you remember what the ball game was called?

Richard Martin Thomas (OA 1953)

Richard had agreed to be interviewed for our new podcast series, and we were excited to hear about his journey from the Main Hall stage at KAS to the Royal Shakespeare Company and later to directing Daleks across Westminster Bridge!

was a twinkle in his eye as he spoke about his memories that was wonderful to see. There were then long discussions on the educational ethos at KAS and how and why it is important that this is brought to a wider audience.



February. But we do hope that we will see a return to KAS for an Old Alfredian whose talent was honed at our School, and whose memory of School is as vivid today as it was 60 years ago.

Richard's stories about drama at the School tell of whole School involvement; there

Unfortunately, Richard and Sue were unable join us for the Reunion at the end of

Sara Berman (OA 1993)

Tamlyn was invited to artist **Sara Berman's (OA 1993)** studio at the end of 2023. It was a privilege to see the studio, listen to Sara's inspiration and work process and to hear her memories of the School. Three generations of OAs in the family mean a special

affinity with KAS. Sara gifted the School a copy of her beautiful book. Sara's words inside describing KAS as 'a playground of dreams' is a sentiment many OAs share.



Sara in her studio



Jordan Schwarzenberger (OA 2015)

Jordan was recently invited to speak on a panel chaired by Rishi Sunak about all things Sidemen and the creator space. Jordan spoke to

over 70 founders at 10 Downing Street as part of the *Help To Grow* campaign supporting business owners with (much needed) resources.

Ilana Bergsagel (OA 2004)

The School was in touch with **Ilana Bergsagel (OA 2004)** recently, who is based in Israel, to hear more about a project she is working on:

"Thank you so much for your kind message. I was not expecting it, and it means a lot. A small light in this mess is that on Sunday I started a new job at *The Parents Circle*, an organisation that brings together Palestinian and

Israeli bereaved families to spread the message of reconciliation and dialogue and not revenge and violence. It is an incredibly difficult time, but it is important to know that especially in times of such hardship, there are Israelis and Palestinians who are steadfast in their commitment to a non-violent end to the horrors.

Thank you again for writing, Ilana."

Tilly Summers (née Cowan) (OA 2000)

Tilly is a producer/director and currently works for Channel 4 News making short documentaries focusing on the climate crisis.

On 4 and 5 December, Channel 4 news announced

the public release of the film, *Tuvalu: Losing Paradise* that Tilly worked extremely hard on and even flew across the other side of the world to visit this stunning country which sadly will be lost due to climate change

temperatures and rising sea levels. It was also shown at Copt 24. You can watch the film on Youtube by scanning the QR code.



You can find out more about the PCFF's work here:

[About PCFF - Parents Circle Families Forum \(theparentscircle.org\)](#)

Coco Laroque Rothstein (OA 2021)

“Whilst at King Alfred I was lucky enough to flourish under the guidance of amazing teachers Rob/Lucy, Cliff and Nuray in Drama, Photography and Film. I am now months away from graduating film school which wouldn't have been possible if I hadn't grown in the nurturing environment of King Alfred helping me form who I am and find my passion.

Both at Uni and with other KAS alumni I have formed an amazing network of talented and likeminded filmmakers who I am currently collaborating with on a short film I have written and will direct in April.

As an emerging crew of under-represented filmmakers, we are seeking all the support we can to help us achieve this first independently funded project and help us get going in our careers. From the outset of this production one of

our main priorities was to have a crew led by women/queer filmmakers. Our focus is to create a positive and safe set where people of all backgrounds can flourish and to make our film as environmentally friendly as possible - both of which my experience at King Alfred definitely influenced.

Troopers is a short form comedy following the bizarre experience of 'Dan' and 'Nick' - in need of money the two friends agree to do a butlers in the buff job, but soon realise they're in for far more than was advertised.”

Follow the team on their journey and help support an independent film crew of female/non-binary filmmakers fulfil their vision!



Ella Hohnen Ford (OA 2016)



Hohnen Ford RH Rising x BBC
(Credit: John Williams)

Ella performed at the BBC introducing Roundhouse Rising Festival in October 2023. Ella is currently part of the Roundhouse Resident Artist programme that facilitates and supports the creative and professional development of outstanding emerging artists across a range of disciplines, as they

transition into building sustainable careers in the creative industries. The 2023 cohort includes musicians, theatre-makers and poets. Alongside workshops, masterclasses and mentoring over the course of a year, the programme provides Artists opportunities to develop work and perform at the Roundhouse and on stages beyond our walls.

Ella, from London, cultivated a devoted online audience through performances at her piano, live-streamed from her home to millions each week. Taking confidence

from these performances, she set about creating her first release, a combination of self-written songs and collaborations with the likes of Matt Maltese, creating a collection of intimate songs recorded at home, on the very same piano they were written on. Her debut EP *Infinity* was released in October 2022 and she's currently working on her next E.P. between tours and writing collaborations, she has toured Europe supporting Matt Maltese and the UK supporting Etta Marcus and was named *One to watch* by Sofar Sounds for 2023.

Naomi Hull (née Elkan) (OA 1951)

Naomi shared with us her long association with Free Tibet and the relationships she and her late husband Mike forged over nearly 50 years through sponsorship.

"Perhaps one of the reasons that I am writing this story is because I was a refugee from Nazi Germany, coming to England nearly 90 years ago and thinking of others has always been important to me.

My husband Michael and I encountered Passang in 1981 through a small organisation called the Ockenden Venture who cared for Tibetan children. The Council for Tibetan Information sent us information about Passang, whose parents had fled from the Chinese invasion in 1959. The Tibetan Refugee Settlement in India had provided them with a plot of land in Bylakuppe, but caring for four young children caused financial hardship. We were told that Passang was aged seven, healthy, friendly and fond of games, attending a residential school but needing money for his education.

We decided to sponsor him, paying 50 rupees per month initially for his schooling and we began to write to each other.

By March 1998, he was worrying about us: "I request you not to do too much work, as you both do too much work." And then seriously: "Our religion says that what will be tomorrow is depend on today, so to stay happy tomorrow we have to do good today."

His labours become impressive: "My English is not good you can see. But my knowledge of Hindi is much more better. I teach Hindi to my friends." And then: "You will be surprise to learn that the last two weeks I was too busy in my news job as a editor of a newspaper, a bi-weekly non-governmental newspaper. We circulate about 1,400 in

India and outside.

The job suits me

well. I have to work

hard all the time finding for news. At present I'm accompanied in Dharamsala by my dad, brother and sister, in a very active place where our political and spiritual leader H H the Dalai Lama was established."

Michael and I retire from work, and we move to Gloucestershire. During the move we lost some of Passang's letters but we know that he marries Legkey, (who is also a Tibetan refugee who was raised in Bhutan), and that the Dalai Lama names their first daughter Choezom. She is followed quickly by a second daughter, Dazae, and the family moves to Washington DC. Passang now works as a successful journalist for the Radio Free Asia organisation.

In Spring 2023, I was delighted to hear from Passang that he was planning to bring his family to see me, as he has wished for many years. So in July they arrived, via Iceland, London, and Bristol where Passang's brother lives and works as a pharmacist. Passang took me for my morning walk to Minchinhampton every day.

They also spoilt me with gifts of Ayurvedic massage oil and beautiful wall hangings and a silk scarf. It was very special for all of us finally to meet after the 42 years of friendship."





Simon & classmates performing Hamlet

Simon Dobbs (OA 1954)

Simon kindly found and shared this priceless photo of himself and classmates during his time at KAS. Himself "as Horatio on stage around 1950, with **Richard Thomas OA 1953**) as Hamlet, **Robert Preston (OA 1950s)** as Marcellus and **Simon**

Ryder-Smith (OA 1953) as the ghost."

He said: "I was at KAS 1948-54 and was very happy there. I remember all the staff and many of the students, a few of whom are still my friends."

Overheard...

In our festive eNewsletter, we put a call out looking for more details about The King Alfred School tiles that once made up the beautiful school sign - as featured. At the KAS Archives exhibition at the 24 June celebration, an OA mentioned she had rescued a couple from the skip - we asked for her to come forward, and she did!

Cathy Meeus (OA 1971)

brought them with her to the reunion lunch in February to donate to the KAS Archives! We had them photographed by the Photography Department for everyone to enjoy.

Do you have any KAS memorabilia lying around at home?



The sign as it was



The tiles donated back to KAS

Noel Hart (OA 1969)

"I thought you may want to add these photos to the archives. The photos are of the KAS School skiing trip to Davos in December 1963 (60 years ago!) The teachers taking the trip were Malcolm and Michael Heller (Geography)."

If you spot anyone you recognise or remember the trip, contact us on oa@kingalfred.org.uk or 07570728568.



Malcolm, Paul Hackman, unknown & Charlie Rubenstein



Tony D'Arcy, Robert Bierman, Nicky Norden, & Alan D'Arcy

Travelling by train overnight



Vera Rosenbluth Hanvelt (OA 1964)

"I was a student at KAS for only one year, 1961-1962, but it was a formative and unforgettable year in my life. I was at KAS because five members of my father's family came as students to KAS in the 1930's from Berlin, when they escaped Nazi Germany. His (my father's) first term was in 1933 and the last two terms were in 1938.

Some of the staff my father remembered, like 'Monty' the headmaster, and 'Hibby' (Miss Hibbard) the School secretary were still there when I came to KAS.

Coming from a more structured school system in Canada, I revelled in the atmosphere of a progressive school based on a strong philosophy of student-centered learning. I was 14 years old, and made many close friends whom I still think about and wonder about who



they've become. My memories of the teachers, callover at Squirrel Hall, the orchestra, playing fives and tennis are all very vivid. My favourite tennis partner was Jane Epstein, with whom I'm still in touch, 64 years later.

One of the strongest memories concerns my (somewhat foolish, I think) attempt to form a cheerleading squad for the cricket matches, loosely ased on the tradition of North American cheerleaders at football games. Great fun, but it was perhaps a North American tradition that doesn't translate very well."

Andrew Frowd (OA 1962)



We heard from **Andrew Frowd (OA 1962)**, who shared some lovely memories of KAS.

"I entered KAS in 1951, at age 5, in Miss Robey's nursery class. The next term, I was 'bumped up' to Miss Mousley's Lower School class (E2): in it, I made a purse from orange

felt that still houses some of my coin collection. In the 1952-53 school year, I was in Pat Bulman's class (E1) and she introduced us to silkworm biology, including a visit to Lullingstone Silk Farm in Kent.

Cynthia Walker, the teacher in D2, had a serious disposition and read to us many of the books written by the American author Lucy Fitch-Perkins. Some shockingly described the destruction of homes and households in France and Belgium during World War I.

For my last year in the Lower School, we had a new teacher called Ruth Wiseman. In her class, we listened to BBC Radio's *How Things Began*, a serialised documentary about the different eras of prehistory.

From the Lower School, I embarked on eight years in the Middle and Upper Schools. In my KAS final year (1962-63), I was taught by Michael Heller (Geography), Barbara Heap (Biology) and Mr Sofair (Chemistry): Mr Sofair never revealed his first name."

Author Jonathan Rush contacts KAS about Solomon Cutner (OA 1920)

"I am writing a book in which Solomon Cutner (1902-1988) ... features. Solomon attended King Alfred School (probably mornings only) from February 1916. Thank you, Jonathan Rush."



Solomon Cutner (OA 1920) was born in the East End of London in 1902, the seventh child of tailors of German-Jewish and Polish-Jewish extraction. His talent was recognized at the age of seven when, with no

formal tuition, he performed his own arrangement of the 1812 Overture on the family piano. He gave his first concerts in 1912 at the age of 10, retired from public performance in his teens but later resumed his career as an adult performer. He began making records in 1929.

After establishing a reputation, he toured abroad a good deal. Renowned especially for his Beethoven, (he broadcast the entire cycle of the 32 piano sonatas for the BBC), he was in the midst of recording the complete cycle of the sonatas for EMI Records when he suffered a devastating stroke in 1956, which paralysed his right arm. He never recorded or performed in public again, but lived on for another 32 years. His recordings of Mozart, Schumann and Brahms are also highly regarded; his Debussy, Bach and Schubert recordings are likewise esteemed.

He was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1946. He died in London in 1988, aged 85.

Remembrance Day and Fallen OAs

On Remembrance Day, we shared stories of some of our Old Alfredians lost in World War One. Our School's Head of History, Leon gathered students and staff in the Old Library for a minute's silence.



The Team, 1905
(Credit: KAS Archives)

Maurice Basden (OA) seated in the front of this photo served with the Royal Flying Corps and died in service on 20 May 1916. Two brothers, **Arnold (OA)** and **Eric (OA) Miall Smith** joined The King Alfred School in the Spring Term of 1905. Arnold died in the Battle of the Somme on 27 September 1916 and is one of the Fallen. He was 20 years old. Tragically, exactly a year later, the Miall Smith family lost their eldest son Eric who also served in the Royal Flying Corps.

Students of KAS visit Ypres every year and have visited the graves of our Old Alfredians.

Amphitheatre Memories

We shared this stunning photo of the amphitheatre on our OA social media channels after a week of the School looking spectacular in the autumn sunshine.

Here are some of the comments:

John Williams (OA 1969):

Loved hanging out there!! We used to climb up the old tree, sadly no longer there anymore. I remember sitting in the amphitheatre and watching my daughter be completely spellbinding playing *The White Queen* in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, I think, if my memory serves me correctly, she was in Tony's class, anyway she commanded the entire amphitheatre and you could of heard a pin drop!! She's in her second year now at Rose Bruford Drama School.

Jade Townsend (OA 1998):

I remember *The Village Project* and *Our Day Out* musical.

David Howard (OA 1977):

I have to say I never missed school anywhere except a few maths lessons where we congregated here. Maths was and still is beyond me.

Former staff member, Robert Hersey: Such a place — that's a stage full of memories - lovely to see it.

Michele Elias-Silva (OA 1994):

The first *Village Project*. Amazing memories.

Did you know the amphitheatre was dug out when the School first moved to Manor Wood in the 1920s with the help of students! What are your memories of the amphitheatre?

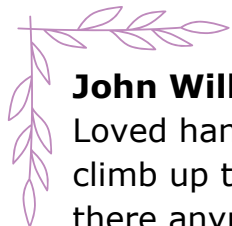


The Amphitheatre
(Credit: Nuray Jemil)

David Henry (OA 1976) wrote about when he dislocated his ankle climbing over the tennis court nets, 1974 or close to it: quite painful!

Dave Rindl's (OA 1977) memories are: Mostly, collecting the football from it when, at some point in one of our break games, it'd sail over the fence. 50 years ago now.

Former staff and past parent, Jane Townsend, told us: I am singing in a ceremony of carols in a few weeks. Inside my copy is the programme from 1994 at KAS. How time flies.





Head's Message

I can think back on many special School moments this last year. The one that will live longest in the memory is the beautiful summer's day back in June, when the sky was blue and the sun shone, the hum of conversation and play could be heard across the field, and the community past and present came together to celebrate our 125th anniversary.

As a historian, I had always wondered, why our founders had settled on the name of 'King Alfred'. The answer I discovered was this: in 1897, the country was building up to the 1000th anniversary of his death, which took place in the year 899. He was high in the public consciousness as a symbol of British greatness – being the only English monarch to be awarded the epithet of 'Great'. Like all historical figures, his reign is open to multiple interpretations, but certain ideas were powerful in the late Victorian era of complex industrialisation, urbanisation and social and political change. His re-instatement of the Witan – or Baron's Council – was seen as an early sign of England's distinct and admirable democratic tradition. His translation of the law codes into Olde English and their distribution around the country was seen as his commitment to a just and fair society. His translation of parts of the Bible, opening of new schools, and employment of tutors for his three daughters (after whom, of course, our three boats are named) was seen to embody his passion for education. His image, as we would all

recognise, sits front and centre in the KASS logo, and Often placed just underneath is our motto. 'Ex Corde Vita', traditionally translated as "out of the Heart Springs Life".

Somewhat to my surprise, I discovered that it has a biblical origin. It is taken from the book of Proverbs – Chapter 4, verse 23 – the same book, incidentally, that Alfred holds up in the logo. Originally in biblical Hebrew, the words were translated into Greek, then into Latin and then into English. Let us dwell for a moment on the Latin:

- 'Ex' means 'out of', as in Exit.
- Corde is the origin of words such as coronary and means 'heart'.
- Vita meanwhile means, 'Life' – such as in Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" and gives us words such as vitality.

Interestingly, there is no verb. Instead of "Out of the Heart springs life", it could instead be translated as 'Out of the Heart, springs of life' or simply 'Out of the Heart, Life'.

Alternatively, one can think differently about the word Corde. I am grateful to Judith our Classics teacher, and to Al's Dad, a scholar of biblical Hebrew, for explaining that in classical times, the concept of heart was understood differently to today. When I hear heart, I instinctively think of it as the seat of emotions. Back then, it was also to

seen to be the seat of intellect, wisdom and judgement. Some have linked the word 'Corde' with the word 'core' embodying the notion of 'essence', 'innermost being' or even 'soul'. So, we could take 'Ex Corde Vita' and perfectly reasonably translate it as 'out of the core, life'.

This last translation I personally find the most compelling. It is optimistic and and creative, encouraging each individual to discover and express who they really are. The 'source of life' for every person will be different and may change over time, and the motto elegantly allows this to be the recognised. Its simplicity leaves plenty to the imagination.

It would be a mistake however to think of our approach as a crude rewilding exercise where nature is left to itself. Learning will not happen without well-structured curriculums and pedagogies and assessment. Personal development will not happen without clear boundaries carefully held, and empathetic support to help each student to learn to take responsibility for themselves. Thriving cannot happen without strong structure underpinning the freedom.

This calls to mind my somewhat ambivalent response to the motto when I first arrived. I loved the warmth and welcome of KAS but I knew it needed a stronger spine. I was worried that emphasising things other than the heart would be seen to go against our ethos, and would lead me into some trouble. Understanding now that the classical view of the heart encompasses emotion and intellect and wisdom, makes me far more at ease with Ex Corde Vita and enables me to appreciate Ex Corde Vita in a whole new light.

This takes us back to the character of King Alfred. He breathed new life into a broken

nation and it was this that appealed to the founders. They dreamed of educational revival leading to national revival, and they saw KAS as a key engine to make this happen.

Today we continue to honour this intent by reaching out beyond our gates. We are seeking to give more young people a taste of the best of what KAS has to offer, via bursaries, events and partnerships. We are codifying and sharing with other schools our carefully developed, values-based practices, ranging from enquiry-based learning to digital portfolios, and School Directed Courses to the Village. And, we are joining with others to amplify the voice that says the system needs rebalancing with the 'KAS defined' heart at the centre.

This is a time when what we do here is extremely important. Political change is most probably on its way, and that will create an opportunity for the education pendulum to swing back to something more human-centred. Not only do we need to provide our own students with the very best experience, but we need to show others that it can be done in practice. We need to join with and empower all those who share this vision. And by working together, let us hope, that in a year's time, we are seeing the beginning of new King Alfred inspired educational era, with the inherent humanity of Ex Corde Vita at its heart.





Connections

Connections is our series of talks, Q&A, and videos providing advice and insights into higher education and careers for the Sixth Form delivered by Old Alfredians.

In December, **Zoë Blackler (OA 1986)** joined Sixth Formers during their Form Hour to not only talk about her journey from investigative journalist to climate activist and founder but also about being 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.

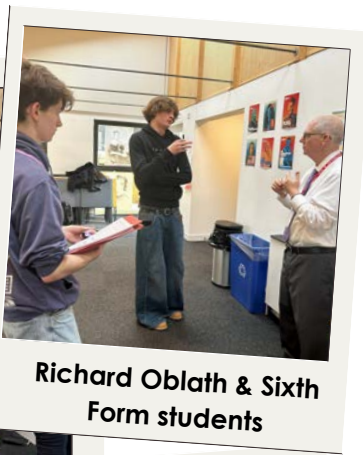
After the talk we wandered around the School and found the stump of a tree that Zoë had sat on with her peers as part of her very first protest!



Zoë revisits the tree she held her first protest on



Zoë talks to students after the Connections talk



Richard Oblath & Sixth Form students



Richard Oblath & A level Chemist student



Richard delivers a talk to Sixth Form about Climate Change

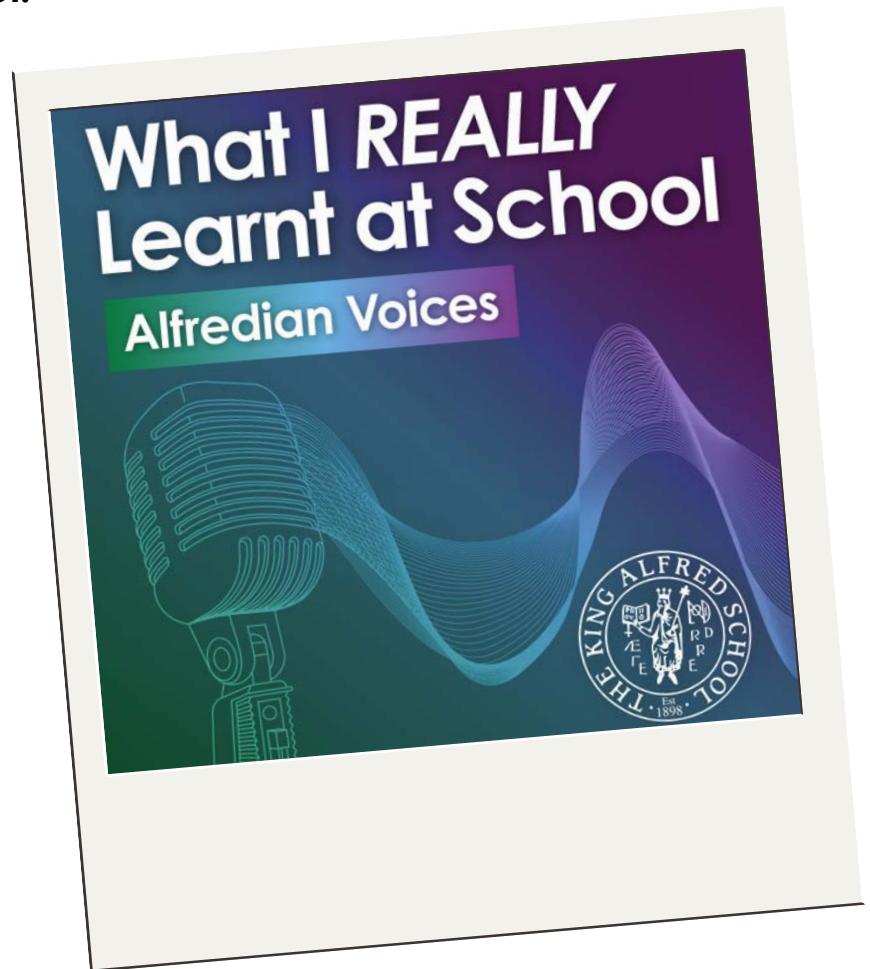
In March, **Richard Oblath (OA 1972)** spoke to Sixth Formers about his career path as a scientist implementing sustainable energy plans within big oil. His work has been so important in the fight against climate change, and Richard has sat across the table from world leaders, activists, and corporate executives to bring the science to the forefront of enacting carbon neutral strategies. KAS students have an impressive mentor in Richard and were certainly very engaged throughout his talk.

What I REALLY learnt at School:

Alfredian Voices

A school podcast that takes you on a journey through time as we listen to the voices that have both shaped, and been shaped by, our beloved school community. Highlighting these stories shows the impact that schools can have when they are bold and innovative with a bold ambition to have meaningful impact on the World.

You can listen and download the series by scanning the QR code.



TEDx 2024

The fourth iteration of the TEDx King Alfred School event took place in January.

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

Old Alfredian, KAS parent and speaker, **Amiee Carlton (OA 1998)** said: "TEDx is such a great example of the self-expression this School fosters. Students are allowed to have a voice on subjects they're interested in. You do feel anything is possible. The student speakers have made a choice to speak about something they're passionate about in front of a group, to spread their word because they believe that their voice is valuable."



Milla Lewis (OA 2015) - Casting Call!

"I am currently looking to cast my next short film *Divine Origins*, supported by the Sundance Institute, and shooting this summer in North London.

I would love to cast the two protagonists, Ama (female, 18) and Sam (male, 18), from schools local to the area I grew up in, and where the film is set - obviously I would love to include KAS in this search, having spent essentially all my school life there! No previous acting experience is needed.

Divine Origins is a magical-realist, coming-of-age short drama examining the legacy of parental trauma, the predetermination belief systems and the significance of fantasy, through the story of a young girl encountering an otherworldly woman who seems to be the same ghost that haunts her parents.

We're also looking for funding for the project, so if anyone is interested in supporting the film or getting involved in other ways, that would also be fantastic!"

National Theatre Live screenings at The Phoenix

The Phoenix Theatre is excited to be screening 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.



Special 125th anniversary book

This special 125th anniversary book was produced to commemorate the School's history and celebrate its future. You can still order a limited edition copy via The King Alfred School website. Scan the QR code to get yours!



Listen of the Week

Listen of the Week was launched when the School returned in January and it has been hugely popular so we decided to share it with the Old Alfreudian community.

Here's what it is and how it will work:

- Every Friday during the academic year, we will share a piece of music on Youtube that lasts less than five minutes on the @oldalfredians Instagram story
- Listen to the piece at least once - we recommend once watching the clip and once with your eyes closed
- Then let us know what you think! Email us or comment on Instagram.



What's Your Legacy? Honouring your past by Inspiring our Future

“Leaving a legacy in my will is my way of saying thank you to those organisations that had a transformational impact on my life. Giving back to KAS in this way, I hope, will ensure that the School’s unique education is protected for future generations of young Alfredians.”

- Julian Anderson (OA 1956)

Julian credited KAS with giving him the ‘joy of learning’, the ability to think laterally, and to express oneself. This last quality was deeply influential in his life, as he was taught how to argue his case at KAS.

Julian Anderson was a student at The King Alfred School from 1945 to 1956. An editor of the School magazine, he also opened the batting for the KAS cricket team, played hockey and tennis, and was a key member of the School orchestra, where he played his beloved violin.

Clearly a talented all rounder, Julian won a place at Wadham College, Oxford University to study Chemistry. When he passed away in 2022, Julian left a Legacy gift for the King Alfred School, in recognition of his belief that his education had the most transformative impact on his life.

Julian promised to support the School for future generations and his legacy ensures his connection with The King Alfred School will be perpetuated.



Jack Black (KASS Honorary Fellow)

"My father, Jack Black, died aged 91 on 30th November 2023 at the Royal Free Hospital, fortunately peacefully and painlessly. I'm so pleased Dad attended the KAS 125 Celebration last June with my brother Andrew and I as he, and we, so enjoyed the event and meeting old friends there. Below is the eulogy written by my brother, **Andrew Black (OA 1979)**.

Best wishes, **Sophie Prett (OA 1981)**."

"Jack Black was born Jacob Sänger in Hamburg, Germany, on 9th January 1932. His mother, Flora, a housewife, had 2 sons: Jacob and Erwin. His father, Willi, was Treasurer of the Hamburg Orthodox Jewish community.

In 1938 Willi was violently attacked during the wave of attacks on Jewish people and buildings, known as Kristallnacht. As a result, the family decided to send 6-year-old Jacob to England on the Kindertransport, along with thousands of other children, to keep him safe. The rest of the family sadly couldn't join him, as his younger brother had Down's Syndrome, so they had to care for him. Dad never fully recovered from being sent away at such a young age and later hearing that his parents, brother and other relatives had died in the Holocaust.

In England he was kindly taken-in by Charles and Sophie Black, a childless couple, whom we knew as our Grandparents. They were very loving and supportive to my father.

Dad met Mum when they were both 16-year-old pupils at Hendon County High School. It was the start of a very special



Jack Black & his wife, Dora

relationship which lasted until Mum's death in December 2021. Our parents married on 4th December 1955 and had 3 children, David, Andrew and Sophie, in fairly quick succession in the early 60s. Dad and Mum were fantastic parents, encouraging us children with our interests.

Sophie and I went into different branches of Music and David had a business selling Motorbike spare parts. Sadly David died in a motorbike accident aged 50.

Dad was a Senior Partner at Heald Nickinson, then Radcliffes, specialising in Copyright and Patent Law and also European Law. He helped to found the British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association and was also an active member of British-German Jurists Association. Among his more famous clients were Bertrand Russell, John Le Carré, Julie Christie and Lennox Berkeley. Dad had many interests, including travel, Music, Theatre, Astronomy and Cricket. Dad, Jack, shall be missed by me, family, friends and colleagues for his warmth, wisdom and wit, all of which kept going even in his difficult final years without his beloved wife Dora, of 68 years.

Sophie and I were very pleased to be able to visit him the day before, where he gave us a beaming smile which we will never forget."

Prof Sir Anthony Epstein, FRS (OA 1939) 18 May 1921 to 6 February 2024*Edited from The Times*

OA Anthony Epstein was a pathologist who discovered the first human virus associated with cancer, the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV).

He was born in 1921 and was educated at the King Alfred School, London for his first ten years of schooling, then at St Paul's School. He developed an interest in biology and won an exhibition to read

medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge. He completed his clinical training at Middlesex Hospital during the Blitz. After serving in India, he realised that his interests lay in laboratory rather than clinical medicine. He was promoted to reader in experimental pathology in 1965 and three years later was a professor. In 1986 he moved to Wolfson College, Oxford, remaining there until he retired, having dedicated the rest of his working life to EBV research.

Anthony Epstein was at a lecture on children's cancers in tropical Africa given by the Irish "bush surgeon" Denis Burkitt in March 1961 when he had his eureka moment. He recalled thinking that if viruses could cause cancer in birds, why not in humans? Epstein visited Burkitt at the Mulago Hospital in Uganda and began to map the incidence of the tumours that Burkitt was discovering across the wet lowlands of Africa. His hypothesis was

that the cancer was caused by an infection spread by the malarial mosquito.

After overcoming bureaucratic and political hurdles, Epstein arranged for cells from patients with Burkitt lymphoma to be flown from Uganda to his laboratory. Yet his attempts to extract the virus from the tumour cells failed. After three years with no results, Epstein was convinced that his career was on the line.

That was until one flight was delayed, having been diverted from a fog-bound Heathrow to Manchester airport. By the time the sample landed on Epstein's desk late one Friday afternoon in December 1963, it was past its use-by date. "The fluid was cloudy," he recalled. "This suggested it had been contaminated on the way." It was the 26th biopsy he had received. Instead of throwing it away, Epstein decided he would culture the cells. After several weeks he saw a cell filled with a herpes virus. Here was the evidence that a virus could be a contributory cause of cancer in humans. Epstein, who was helped by his PhD student, Yvonne Barr, told the BBC that he was so exhilarated by what he had seen that he took a walk in the January snow without his coat. It was the first successful long-term culture of a human lymphoma of any kind.

His work has led to the discovery that the virus can be spread by saliva and fluids and is responsible for glandular fever. It also paved the way for the discovery of many other cancer-causing viruses, including those that can lead to liver and cervical cancers — hence the introduction in 2008 of the HPV vaccine for teenage girls and later for boys.

Jennifer Cara Elizabeth Hautman (OA 1992)

Androulla Antoniou (Former Staff & Past KAS Parent):

"I have had the pleasure of knowing the Hautman family since 1983, when Jenny was in Year 5. My fondest memories of Jenny as a little girl are, her skipping around the School with her mother, inquisitively looking at the flowers and shrubs or in the animal enclosure which she adored, her long brown hair in pig tails and the most beautiful smile you will ever see. Carefree and happy, she loved the freedom and the space that the openness of the KAS site provided.

Jenny embraced all aspects of life at school with relish and excitement and she was a pupil who would stand up for what she and her fellow students believed in, unafraid in a quiet and determined way to challenge what may be perceived as unfair. She always showed an interest in a variety of causes which championed the disadvantaged and the under privileged around the world whilst at KAS.

Jenny was generous to a fault with her time, supporting her friends and all those she perceived to be vulnerable; always kind and gentle, aiming to look after everyone. Often using her quirky sense of humour to dilute potentially tricky situations amongst peers. Consequently, she was loved and respected by all.

Jenny went on to have a distinguished career, initially reading Social Anthropology and completing an MA in Latin American Studies, after which she discovered her passion for alternative therapies, completing another degree in homeopathy and becoming a yoga teacher. She recently launched a

Virtual Wellness Portal which epitomised Jenny's determination, creativity, talent, and care for all those around her, and her desire to support and help people by sharing her skills and knowledge.

Jenny was a precious, beautiful soul who we have lost too soon, I think of her as a dynamic multicoloured butterfly floating amongst us."

Rita Murray (Former KAS Teacher):

"I knew Jenny as a pupil at KAS She was full of joy, with an infectious enthusiasm for all that the School offered both in and out of the classroom. One memorable occasion was a Middle School sailing camp in Dorset. There could not have been a more delightful pupil to have on a residential trip. Jenny was natural and warm, always co-operative and grateful, full of life and fun, as ever with that broad smile and a sparkle in her eyes. She also swam like a fish. She would have had the same commitment to the School as a parent as did when a pupil, with a deep understanding of, and support for the School's ethos.

It is very sad to hear about Jenny's life being cut short at such a young age. The ever positive influence she cast on all those around her throughout her life will stay in our memories. May you rest in peace, Jenny."



Jenny on Sports Day
in the 1980s



Jenny in reception
class, wearing bunny
ears, with Suzy Ratner,
Christmas 1978

Nicholas Willey (OA 1963)

We recently heard from Sarah, widow of **Nicholas Willey (OA 1963)** to let us know that he had passed away in 2011. Nicholas was a poet. Willey's work was included in the seminal anthology of beat poets by Michael Horovitz, *Children of Albion: Poetry of the Underground in Britain*. His work however does not (as he himself considered) lend itself usefully to definition beyond that of poetry itself. He had a profound understanding of the sonorous meaning of poetry, and was a fine reader of his work. A small number of recordings of him are held in the British Library.



John (OA 1949) and Paul Williams (OA 1952)

The families of **John (OA 1949)** and **Paul Williams (OA 1952)** announce the brothers' respective deaths. Paul on 9th April 2023 aged 87 and John on 21st October 2023 aged 91. They attended KAS shortly after returning from evacuation during World War II.



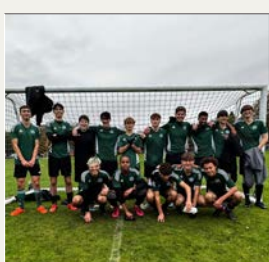
Keen hockey player, John is back row, second from the right.

We host a robust calendar of events throughout the School year for Old Alfredians, former staff, past parents and Society members.

Please register your interest to attend these Old Alfredian gatherings or to ask for more details. They promise to be an excellent opportunity to revisit the School and meet up with your old

school friends, former colleagues and teachers. Or if you would like us to arrange a reunion for your year group, let us know.

If you are aware of Old Alfredians who are not receiving our communications, have them connect with us via the online Contact Form.



Old Alfredian Football Tournament

Friday 26 April 2024

The King Alfred School, Manor Wood,
149 North End Road, London NW11 7HY



Old Alfredian Dinner Classes of 1978 – 1988

Wednesday 8 May 2024

The King Alfred School, Manor Wood,
149 North End Road, London NW11 7HY



KAStonbury

Saturday 6 July 2024

The King Alfred School, Manor Wood,
149 North End Road, London NW11 7HY



Reunion Day Classes of 1973 – 1977 & 2014

Saturday 21 September 2024

The King Alfred School, Manor Wood,
149 North End Road, London NW11 7HY

Calling all Old Alfredians!

WWW.KASCONNECTED.ORG



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You can also view photo albums, get notified about upcoming events and share your business/services with other OAs. Most importantly...

You get to Stay Connected!



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Old Alfredians & Development Office


Tamlyn Worrall
Development Director

Heather Roberts
Development & Old Alfredian Officer


Deborah Castillo
Alumni & Development Office Administrator


The King Alfred School,
149 North End Rd, London.
NW11 7HY.

 oa@kingalfred.org.uk

 0208 457 5175

 thekingalfredschool.org.uk

 [@oldalfredians](https://www.instagram.com/oldalfredians)

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