



The King Alfred School

Upper School Newsletter



December
2024

SCHOOL NEWS

Update on Indonesia

Beaming staff and Sixth Formers were pleased to receive certificates from **Operation Wallacea** this term in recognition of their contribution to biodiversity research during their summer expedition to Indonesia.

The data they gathered on the trip will aid OpWall's research objectives, written materials and long-term conservation goals. Read more about the trip (and see some envy-inducing pictures) [on our website](#).



Remembrance Day at KAS

Staff and students held a minute's silence for **Remembrance Day** in the Old Library last month, with music from **Elvis S (Y9)** on the cello and **Dylan V (Y10)** on the trumpet.



Head of History and Politics **Leon Whitman** paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the two World Wars, as well as those currently facing conflict across the world. Head **Robert Lobatto** also spoke, quoting a passage from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem 'The Song of Hiawatha', including the words:

*All your strength is in your union,
All your danger is in discord;
Therefore be at peace henceforward,
And as brothers and sisters live together.*

DEIB Committee

Our **Student Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee** participated in an engaging and informative Parent Forum this term, in which they shared their reasons for joining the committee, achievements to date and plans for the future.

Parent feedback was very positive, with one praising the committee's work as "so impressive". Read more about KAS's [commitment to DEIB here](#).



KAS cares this Christmas

Huge thanks to everyone in the KAS community who contributed to our charitable efforts this term.

KASparents co-ordinated the annual winter coat collection for the **Wrap Up London** campaign. We donated several sackfuls of coats, which will be distributed to those in need this wintertime. We also filled the pink bins with items for the **Alexandra Wylie** food bank collection.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students held a bake sale, selling homemade brownies, cookies and gingerbread men to raise money for the charity **STAR (Student Action for Refugees)**. The Crew Time project was set up by Head of Year Adam as part of the Big Give Campaign, where for one week only all donations were doubled. Well done, Crew – you all did smashingly!

We finished the term with Christmas Jumper Day, which saw students collect donations for **Save the Children**. Congratulations to our resident Santa, **Elvis S (Y9)**, who won recognition for his services to Christmas (which involved dressing as the big man in red throughout December!) in the end of term Callover.



Smart(phone) advice for parents

The King Alfred School and KASparents were thrilled to welcome UCL professor **Dr Kaitlyn Regehr** in late November to discuss how to navigate the dangers of smartphones for children.

Hosted by **Dermot O'Leary**, the hour-long talk tapped into many parents' fears about the rapid rise of issues associated with smartphones and social media — problems that, as Dr Regehr pointed out, parents have never previously navigated.

Some of the worrying facts to emerge from the session included:

- 88% of children watch YouTube, according to [Ofcom](#) – a completely unregulated platform;
- The amount of misogyny fed to young boys after one week of using TikTok increased four-fold, according to Dr Regehr's research;
- TikTok's algorithm becomes addictive within just 35 minutes of use, according to recently leaked [internal documents](#);
- 27% of children have seen online pornography by age 11, rising to half of children by age 13, and that content is increasingly violent – as per last year's [Children's Commissioner report](#).



Whilst these stats make for stark reading, Dr Regehr was full of helpful and practical advice for parents. Her top tips included:

1. Understand your own and your children's screen usage and consumption habits – both qualitatively and quantitatively;
2. Proactively manage smartphone use;
3. Discuss healthy versus unhealthy screen time and consumption with your children;
4. Teach critical thinking skills;
5. Aim for more 'interactive screentime';
6. Encourage a digital spring clean.

You can read her advice in full in our [online news article](#). The whole discussion is also available to watch or listen to in our [Parent Portal](#).

Huge thanks to Dermot and his fellow KASparents, especially **Tiffany, Awsa** and **Jez**, for organising and executing this insightful and vital conversation.

THE SMARTPHONE TRAP

How Algorithmic Addiction works
and what you can do about it



Click to watch on the Parent Portal

KAS at The House of Lords

Our Development Director, **Tamlyn Worrall**, attended the House Of Lords in November as part of the Independent Schools Council Partnerships Week.

The event celebrated the power of partnerships and highlighted KAS's work with nearby school The Archer Academy, supporting students' mental health.

To mark Partnerships Week, our Head of Partnerships & Leadership, **Liz Robinson**, wrote a [terrific blog post](#) outlining how KAS works with other educators to drive educational progress, including:

- Our work with **Rethinking Assessment**, including a [joint research report](#) on methods of assessment;
- Our leading role in the **School Directed Courses Consortium**, which looks at how all schools can adopt alternatives to traditional GCSEs;
- How we share best practices with like-minded schools through **Big Education's Next Big 10** group.



TEDxKAS returns

Calling all students, staff and parents! Got something to shout about? A passionate idea you want to share? It's your lucky year, as TEDxKingAlfredSchool is back for 2025.



To express interest or find out more, contact **Kara**: karac@kingalfred.org.uk. You can also [watch last year's talks](#) to get inspired.

Outside influences

External experts are a key part of our co-curricular offering at KAS, helping to bring the PSHE curriculum to life. Some of the visitors we welcomed this term include author and speaker **Robert Higgs** who talked to Year 7 students about bullying, **detectives from the Met Police** who spoke to Sixth Formers about drugs and the law, and a speaker from testicular cancer awareness charity **Oddballs** who spoke to Year 9 & 10 students.



Looking ahead to GCSE & A levels

It might seem a long way off, but for students in Years 9 and 11, support for next-step planning has already begun.

Year 9 parents enjoyed a webinar this term about Year 10 & 11 Options (see your messages in the Parent Portal to rewatch it) and students will have their January Form Hour sessions dedicated to helping them make the right choices.

In addition, subject teachers will be talking to students about what their GCSE or School Directed Course entails and giving individualised advice. Full details of our courses can be found in the Options Booklet or on our website.

Meanwhile, Year 11 students had various opportunities to look ahead to Sixth Form this term. At our Sixth Form Open Events they spoke to subject specialist teachers about A level courses and current Sixth Formers shared their own experiences of the individualised learning on offer.



New Head of Sixth Form **Eleanor Mitchell-Webb** has held informal drop-ins to answer questions from Year 11s, as well as running a workshop in which they considered the different factors that might filter into their Sixth Form decision-making process.

If you don't already know, last year's A level results beat both national and independent school averages, and our Value Added score is in the top 7% of UK schools. Find out more here.

Feeling thankful in Sixth Form 🙏

Late November saw Year 12 & 13 students spreading the love as part of **Sixth Form Appreciation Week**.



They spent a Form Hour focusing on gratitude and discussing the importance of appreciating the people around us. They also had the opportunity to write and deliver thank you postcards to staff.

Staff were encouraged to get involved too, by writing their own thank you card for a Sixth Former who had made a positive contribution to the KAS community – for example, by participating in lessons in thought-provoking and mature ways, helping other students, and taking an active role in Sixth Form life.

✨ *Gratitude* ✨

Nice mo, bro!

Please take a mo-moment to appreciate the fine efforts of two King Alfred teachers as part of this year's Movember fundraiser.

Assistant Head **Peter Nickson** and Head of Mathematics **Jeff Harlow** carefully curated these impressive 'taches throughout November to raise funds for the men's health charity.

Peter said: "This Movember, I'm helping to raise awareness around boy's health. It's a tragedy that young boys are three times more likely to die by suicide than girls. The heavy expectations, attitudes and stereotypes that are forced on young boys likely play a big part in this.

"Movember is at the forefront of addressing this issue, funding the brightest minds to delve into the root causes and develop ways to support boys and men. That's why I'm supporting Movember this month and asking for donations to this cause."



Jeff added: "Movember is a fun way to raise awareness about men's health, which is close to my heart as my dad has been living with cancer for the past year or so."

November may be behind us, but you can still donate in honour of the gents' fine cause (and facial fur) – simply head to [Peter's page](#) or [Jeff's page](#).

William Sutcliffe workshop

Year 7 welcomed Young Adult author **William Sutcliffe** to the Upper School Library in November to discuss his book 'The Summer We Turned Green', a fun and humorous tale of rebel climate protestors.

They did workshops on crafting a story premise and how to introduce humour and conflict when writing a novel. Will even treat us to a reading from the book!

His top tip was to have tenacity when writing. "Anyone can sit down and write 60,000 words," he said. "The hard bit is making it coherent and engaging."



Au revoir to Pauline

Modern Foreign Languages teacher **Pauline Moloney** is leaving us at the end of this term following 17 years at KAS, having joined the school in 2007.

For Pauline, coming into KAS every day has been more than work, and she has shown great dedication, work ethic and motivation to ensure the best outcomes for all students. Not only has she been an inspiring French and Spanish teacher, but she has also gone above and beyond to support the extra-curricular life of the school. This has included organising the annual French Theatre Festival (now in its 10th year), planning French and Spanish trips that immerse students in new experiences, and designing and making costumes for the Middle and Upper school shows.

Pauline set up the French Theatre Festival 10 years ago for schools from London and beyond. The standard of French and acting is extraordinary! She is also well known for bringing language to life in the classroom – students have fond memories of making pancakes to celebrate the French tradition of *La Chandeleur* (Candlemass).



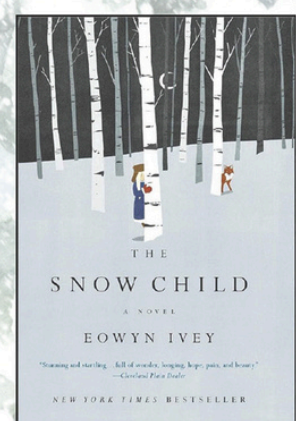
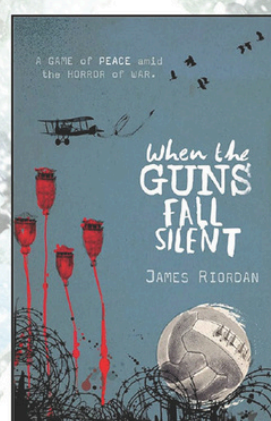
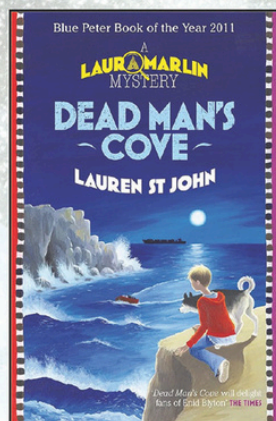
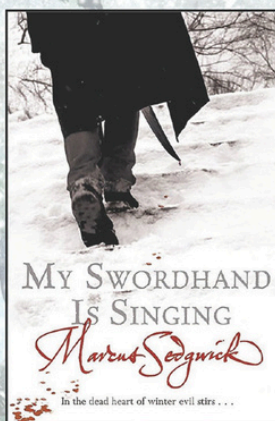
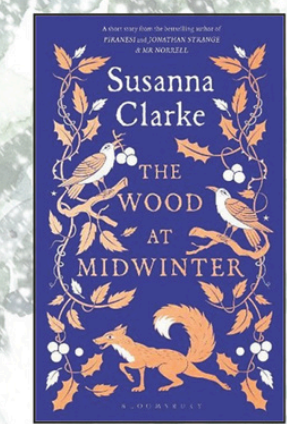
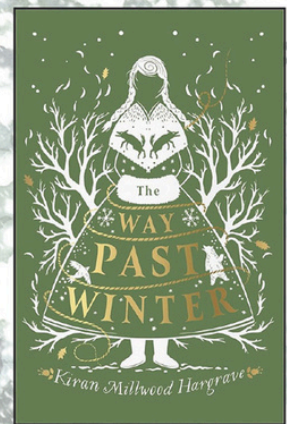
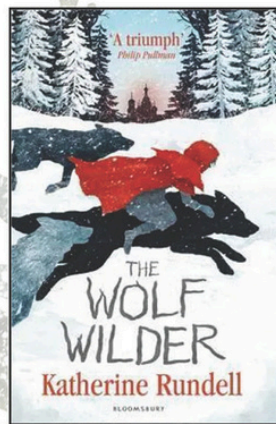
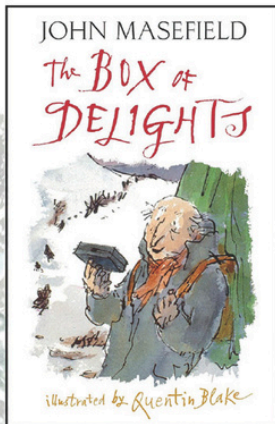
*Goodbye
&
Good Luck*

Pauline has also made a significant contribution to KAS Drama over the years. Her talent as a seamstress and milliner for school productions has been phenomenal. Her costume and hat creations are nothing short of works of art, bringing that extra *je ne sais quoi* to every performance. Her recreation of Marylyn Monroe's 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend' dress and Bottom's donkey costume for our 'Dream' play are particular standouts. And as the Drama department's requests became more outlandish, her response never changed: a resounding *oui*!

Pauline has also taken on the responsibility for organising staff social events, including some memorable Christmas parties, and we know her colleagues will miss her aptitude for acquiring tickets for some really enjoyable outings. For these and so many other reasons, she will be very missed by us all.

WINTER READING LIST

KAS UPPER SCHOOL LIBRARY



ALL BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Box of Delights* by John Masefield
- *The Wolf Wilder* by Katherine Rundell
- *After the Snow* by S.D. Crockett
- *The Way Past Winter* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- *Murder in Midwinter* by Fleur Hitchcock
- *Winter's Tales* by Lari Don
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *The Wood at Midwinter* by Susanna Clarke
- *My Swordhand is Singing* by Marcus Sedgwick
- *Dead Man's Cove* by Lauren St. John
- *When the Guns Fall Silent* by James Riordan
- *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey

ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

Alice wows the Art Depot

KAS students brought the house down at the Arts Depot in Finchley last month with this year's Upper School show, **'The Ballad of Raggedy Alice'**.

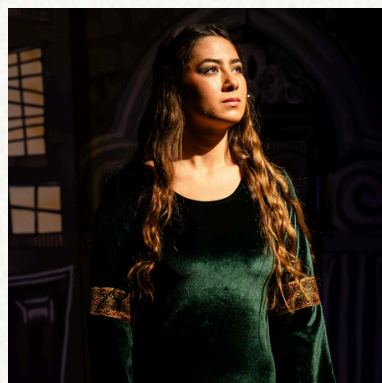
It was penned by KAS's very own Head of Drama, **Rob Messick**, with an original score by our former Head of Music, **Roy Raby**. Of pulling off the show in just 10 short weeks, Rob said: "It's quite exceptional to be a part of The King Alfred School, where creative exploration is so actively encouraged."

The titular role was played by **Tabitha N-L (Year 12)**, who called the experience "magical".

"I feel very lucky to have been a part of 'The Ballad of Raggedy Alice'. There was so much trust and freedom in the project from all angles. Finding the hidden quirks behind the lines was an unforgettable experience.

"For me as a performer, creating what I felt Alice was made of – perseverance, fragility, humanity, desire – gave me the chance to open up and find myself within those moments, which is all an actress could ever dream of."

The show went down a storm across the KAS community, with Deputy Head **Al McConville** describing it as "Camus meets Aesop meets Lloyd-Weber meets Python. Macabre, hilarious, profound, existential. A tremendous achievement, and KAS at its best." Meanwhile, Head **Robert** said: "It was a phenomenal evening, full of passion, creativity and artistry, that showcased the immense talent of our senior students." Well done to all involved!



ART, MUSIC, DRAMA



Music takes centre stage

The Music Department at KAS is always buzzing with activity and this term has been packed. **Axemonsters** took to the Main Hall stage just before October Half Term, filling the space with amazing performances from across the year groups.

November saw the Hall transformed into a Jazz Club for a fabulous performance from the **Jazz Band**, who were treated to a performance by their pro-musician teachers as a reward for all their hard work. You can [read all about it on the school website](#).

Then, as the cold began to bite in December, the **Christmas Concert** gave a warm feeling to everyone who came along to enjoy the festive performances.

Bravo to all the performers!

Axemonsters





Christmas Concert



CHOICE, EXPLORATIONS & GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Explorations in Year 7

This term's enquiry question: How can we live on a deserted island?

This term's Exploration provided Year 7 students with an engaging, interdisciplinary learning experience, culminating in a survival exhibition that showcased practical skills, maps, and creative work.

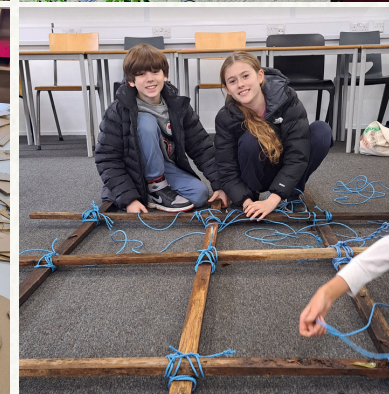
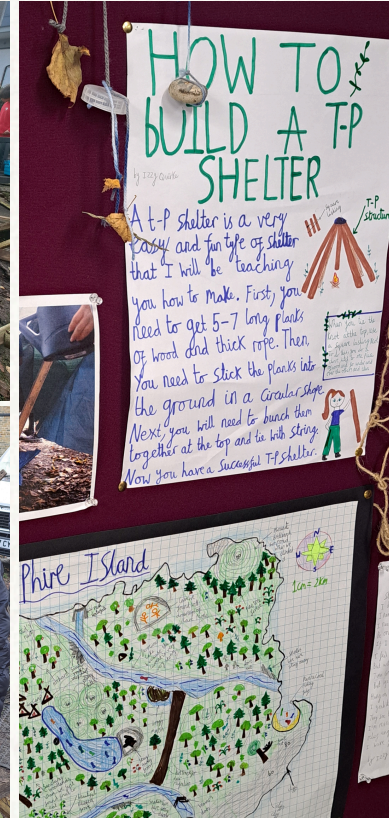
Students explored survival through the lens of various subjects. In Humanities they learned about Maslow's hierarchy of needs and analysed the difference between surviving and thriving.

Meanwhile, in Geography and Maths they developed map skills including scales, coordinates and contours, and studied how latitude influenced forest types and the plants and animals within them.

In Science, students engaged in practical activities like fire-making, water filtration, creating natural toothpaste, and dissecting fish to understand survival at a biological level.

The design component focused on building strong shelters and creating art using natural materials, fostering both functionality and creativity.

Throughout, students built skills in creative thinking, communication, and collaboration as they worked together to solve survival challenges, present their journey through maps and writing, and create innovative solutions to thrive on the island. The project wove academic knowledge with hands-on learning, offering students an immersive way to understand survival.



Explorations in Year 8

This term's enquiry question: How can we tackle health inequality?

This term, Year 8 students embarked on a deep learning journey in their Exploration. This interdisciplinary study provided a rich opportunity for students to develop their communication, collaboration and creative thinking skills while addressing a pressing global issue.

The Exploration began with a guest lecture by **Lauren Mustarde**, a lecturer at Imperial College, who introduced students to the factors contributing to health inequalities globally and in the UK.

Across subjects, students examined health inequality from various perspectives. In Science, they explored historical advancements that have raised public health standards and reduced inequality. In Geography, they investigated why some countries are more developed than others and how these disparities impact health outcomes. In English, sessions focused on the influence of media bias and stereotypes on perceptions of health, while in Maths students learned to calculate economic indicators of development and evaluate graphs and data to understand health-related disparities.



Building on this foundation, students applied their learning to write a detailed case study on the causes, impacts, and responses to the cholera crisis in Yemen. This task deepened their understanding of global health challenges while honing their independent research and critical thinking skills. They analysed detailed evidence, evaluated responses to the crisis, and proposed solutions, justifying their ideas with logic and evidence.

Through this Exploration, students gained a comprehensive understanding of health inequality and the tools to think critically about addressing it.

A terrific term for Choice

This term, Friday afternoons in Upper School have been more energetic and lively than ever before, with our weekly Choice co-curricular activities bringing students from Years 7 to 12 together for the first time.

This unlocked new opportunities for even more teachers to get involved in running their own Choice options. Roaming around

school on any given Friday afternoon, you'd see children learning Japanese, building radio-controlled cars and mastering photography skills, to name but a few of the incredible activities on offer.

In the culinary realm, they whipped up everything from curries to crumbles. Over in the school's forge, students turned >>>

>>> their hand to blacksmithing, bending bolts and bracelets. Sports enthusiasts were thrilled to train with our expert coaches, **Chris** and **Jazzi**, for basketball and football.

Meanwhile, sewing teacher **Brianna** helped students to handmake skirts and purses. **Stelios** introduced the art of jewellery making, including crafting rings out of silver and wax. And film buffs enjoyed sessions with **Nuray**, who imparted A level Film Studies techniques to younger students.

We were also excited to finally bring Year 7 and 8 into the Photography darkroom, sharing our fantastic facilities with the younger students. Head of Computer Science **Saurabh** has been guiding students through Photoshop, and will continue with game design and coding sessions next term.

Our sports team launched the Young Leaders Sports Qualification with Year 8 and 9 (see next page), empowering our children to lead their own activities. Our singers, dancers, musicians, and actors were rehearsing for the fabulous Upper School show, 'The Ballad of Raggedy Alice'. Upstairs in Art, students delved into sketchbook work, printmaking, and clay modelling. Students learnt about probabilities through board games with **Pany**, and Yoga provided welcome opportunities for some to unwind.

Next half-term promises even more exciting Choice options on offer, including Dungeons and Dragons, life skills, meditation and Buddhism, classics, bicycle maintenance, and money matters.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for offering these incredible opportunities and to our students for embracing them with open minds.



SPORT

Sports Leaders success

This term, our Year 8 Sports Leaders had the final assessment for their Level 1 qualification in planning, organising and delivering a sport session to a group of Year 5 & 6 children. It saw them host students from neighbouring school Ivy House this term for a netball workshop during Choice.

Students were assessed on their use of verbal and nonverbal communication; demonstrating active listening and questioning; using motivational methods through praise and targets to challenge students; effective organisation when planning and changing their session; and adapting a session to cater for participants' needs.



We are incredibly proud of this group, made up of **Elijah B, Panos C, Harry M, Marnie E-O, Lola W, Sierra K, Penny F, Eden P** and **Summer P**. They delivered each point with fantastic energy, and certainly ticked the 'three Cs' from our illustrious wheel. Congratulations on your tremendous work!

Five of these students (Elijah, Panos, Harry, Marnie and Summer) and Level 3 Sports Leader **Luca W** (Year 13) also attended Barnet Bar No One at Hendon Leisure Centre, an event that supports children with SEN in Barnet to get active.



Our Sports Leaders were tasked with assisting two of the eight activity stations. They quickly got to grips with two new sports (boccia and golf) and helped to lead activities for a wide variety of children with special education needs, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities. It was incredible to see them thrive and adapt under pressure – the learning zone sweet spot!

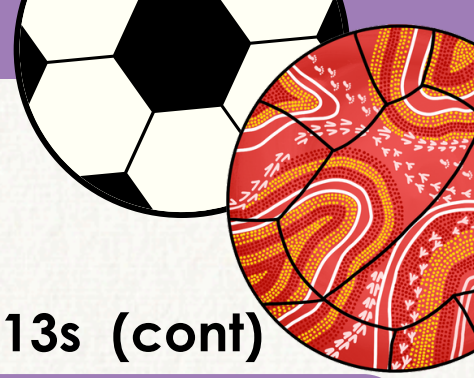
West Barnet coordinator **Caroline Connell** said: "For their first experience at a BBN1, they [the KAS students] did a fantastic job. They all listened brilliantly and got stuck in with the stations. The schools who attended were very impressed with how involved they were, and the coaches relished their support.

"Please pass on our thanks, without their extra help we cannot offer these opportunities to the pupils of Barnet."

Interform competition kicks off

The Blue team are top of the interform sports table after the first round of games in badminton, football and netball, followed by Yellow and then Red. This term we also gave awards for fair play, best team leader, best team organisation and overall winner. Final standings will be revealed at the end of Summer term!

RESULTS



UNDER 12s

BOYS FOOTBALL **1** VS **1** HIGHGATE SCHOOL

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (B) **3** VS **10** SHERRARDSWOOD

FRIENDLY

GIRLS FOOTBALL **1** VS **3** WHITEFIELD SCHOOL

LEAGUE

GIRLS FOOTBALL **0** VS **12** TOTTERIDGE ACADEMY

AREA CUP

BOYS FOOTBALL **2** VS **5** NORTHBRIDGE HOUSE

LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL (A) **15** VS **6** ST MARGARETS

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (A) **18** VS **4** NORTH LONDON GRAMMAR

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (B) **5** VS **0** NORTH LONDON GRAMMAR

FRIENDLY

GIRLS FOOTBALL **0** VS **9** THE ARCHER ACADEMY

LEAGUE

UNDER 13s

BOYS FOOTBALL **7** VS **6** TREVOR ROBERTS

FRIENDLY

BOYS FOOTBALL **1** VS **4** DWIGHT SCHOOL

LEAGUE

UNDER 13s (cont)

BOYS FOOTBALL **7** VS **1** MAIDA VALE

LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL (B) **4** VS **10** SHERRARDSWOOD

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (A) **24** VS **1** NORTH LONDON GRAMMAR

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (B) **16** VS **1** NORTH LONDON GRAMMAR

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL (A) **15** VS **6** ST MARGARETS

FRIENDLY

GIRLS FOOTBALL **1** VS **1** WHITEFIELD

FRIENDLY

UNDER 14s

GIRLS NETBALL **7** VS **15** ST MARGARETS

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL **6** VS **10** SHERRARDSWOOD

FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL **7** VS **1** WHITEFIELD SCHOOL

LEAGUE

BOYS FOOTBALL **4** VS **4** KINGS SCHOOL

FRIENDLY

BOYS FOOTBALL **4** VS **3** NORTHBRIDGE HOUSE

LEAGUE

RESULTS (CONT.)

UNDER 15s

GIRLS
NETBALL

24

VS

6

ST
MARGARETS

FRIENDLY

BOYS
FOOTBALL

5

VS

2

MAIDA VALE
SCHOOL

LEAGUE

UNDER 16s

BOYS
FOOTBALL

4

VS

1

NORTHBRIDGE
HOUSE

LEAGUE

BOYS
FOOTBALL

2

VS

1

NORTHBRIDGE
HOUSE

LEAGUE

FIRST XI

BOYS
FOOTBALL

1

VS

2

MERCHANT
TAYLORS'

LEAGUE

TOURNAMENTS & MEETS

ISA NORTH LONDON TOURNAMENT
– BADMINTON

U16 BOYS

ISA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT –
WINNERS

U13 BOYS

ISA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT –
2ND PLACE

U15 BOYS

BARNET CROSS COUNTRY – 15TH,
16TH AND 22ND PLACE

U15 MIXED

Spotlight on netball

It was a busy term for netball, with Head of PE **Henri** taking a whole range of age groups out for fixtures, giving them valuable game time and progression in their leagues. The attitude, behaviour and professionalism of the girls across all year groups has been outstanding, helping to cast KAS in a positive light and to develop relationships with other schools. Well done to everyone who participated in netball this season!



Boys ace badminton

A big well done to the boys who competed in the all-day badminton tournament in early November. There were great performances in both the singles and doubles, with everyone representing the school in a highly professional manner. Some of the competition was extremely tough, but the boys showed great resilience in any games they ultimately lost, and never let it knock their confidence. A fantastic day out.



A brilliant term for basketball

The Friday morning basketball club for Years 9, 10 and 11 has seen the boys attend the session with real enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Special mention goes to the Year 9 boys, who have been particularly consistent with training this term. Their hard work and enthusiasm very nearly paid off in the Under 15s ISA tournament, where they put in an amazing performance. The team reached the finals, narrowly missing out on the win in a nail-biting 23-24 finish against Northbridge House. Well done to **Henry D, Georgiy V, Stellan Z, Sachdhian D, Troy S, Freddie T** and **Wolf S** on a great tournament and proudly representing KAS.



Meanwhile, Year 7 & 8's Monday morning basketball club has seen amazing success, with up to 22 students participating. The skill, development and enjoyment shown by all students has been great to see. Next term, they will start playing school matches and putting all their practice to work.

Ending the year on a high, the boys were victorious at the Under 13s ISA tournament in early December, snatching gold from close rivals Northbridge House by a nail-biting 24-21. Well done to **Noah C, Ben B, Max L, Zach W, Harry F, Panos C, Yousef A** and **Harry M!**



Fab efforts in football

In football, Year 10 and 11 boys are unbeaten in their leagues so far this school year. Meanwhile, a highlight win for the Year 8 girls was their massive 9-3 victory over Trevor Roberts. And whilst we are counting scores, we must highlight our top goal scorer so far this year, **Aiden R (Y10)!** Although **Eugene F** and **Eden P (both Y8)** are chasing his tail...

Lots of big tournaments await next term, and we look forward to seeing our players doing their best for KAS, whatever the result!





KAS CROSS COUNTRY CLUB

**SPRING + SUMMER TERM
PROGRESSIVE MARATHON**

**EVERY FRIDAY MORNING - 8:00-8:45AM
MEETING AT GOLDERS HILL CAFE ACROSS THE
ROAD. WE WILL BE ACCUMULATING KILOMETERS
RAN, WITH THE TARGET OF RUNNING A FULL
MARATHON OVER 22 WEEKS!**

**YEARS 4-10 - PARENTS AND TEACHERS ALWAYS
WELCOME TOO!**

**EMAIL CALLUML@KINGALFRED.ORG.UK FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

CAMPS & TRIPS

Spanish on the big screen

Year 12 & 13 Spanish students attended an inspiring Spanish study day at the British Film Institute (BFI). The event provided a unique opportunity to delve into the life and works of the celebrated Spanish poet and playwright **Federico García Lorca**.

The morning session was led by **Prof. Sarah Wright** from Royal Holloway, **Dr. Miguel García López** from the University of Bristol, and **Dr. Mari Bastianes** from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Through a combination of interactive discussions in Spanish and audiovisual resources, students explored Lorca's impact on Spanish literature and culture. Themes such as tradition, gender roles, and repression were analysed in the context of his work.



In the afternoon, students enjoyed a screening of 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba', one of Lorca's most iconic plays and a key text for their A level exams.

"It was an unforgettable experience," said Year 13 student **Romily G.** "Hearing expert insights and being immersed in the Spanish language helped us connect with Lorca's work in a completely new way."

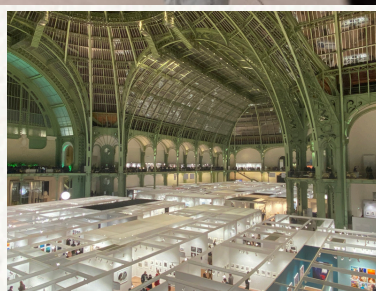
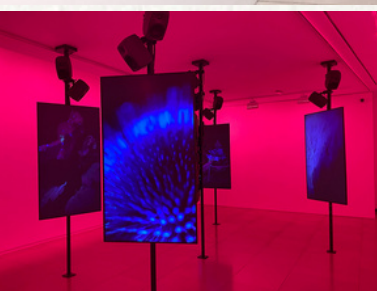


Flipping good festive fun

For the last Choice session of the term, Years 9-11 headed off site to take part in fun group activities. These outings are a great way for students to get to know people who aren't in their Forms, and to build bonds within the year group.

Year 9 took to the lanes for a spot of ten-pin bowling, Year 10 laced up for some ice skating, and Year 11 leapt for joy with some trampolining at Flip Out.





Paris Photo: always good ideas

A group of KAS Sixth Form students journeyed across the channel in November for the Photography department's annual pilgrimage to **Paris Photo**, an international photography fair held at the city's magnificent Grand Palais. Among them was **Clemmie W (Year 13)**, who was attending for the second year.

What did you enjoy most about the trip?

"The exhibition features many types of photography, so it was a huge source of inspiration for my A level personal investigation project. I'm currently looking at Polaroids and there was a whole section dedicated to Polaroid x Magnum, a partnership celebrating instant photography, so I took a lot of inspiration from that.

"It's also fantastic to have the opportunity to talk to working artists and those who work in the industry. I spoke to a few people this year about their experience of working in a gallery, which I'm interested in doing when I'm older."

Did the trip help you think about your future?

"Yes, it did. I don't necessarily want to be a photographer or an artist, but I still want to work in a creative environment – perhaps as a curator at a gallery like the Gagosian or White Cube. [Head of Photography] **Cliff** has given me lots of opportunities to experience that through the exhibitions we've hosted at school, but this trip gave me the chance to explore that side of the industry in more detail – for example, looking at how the galleries were laid out."

Read more about Clemmie's experience on our website.

“Ypres trip changed my understanding of the War”

Every November, Year 9 students spend two days visiting World War I sites in Belgium as part of their History studies.

Head of History and Politics **Leon** has led the trip for many years. He said: “The visit to Belgium really supports our teaching about the First World War in the Autumn term, but on a holistic level it also inspires important reflections on the sacrifices and hardships of conflict and warfare.”

Student **Elliot** found the trip challenged his viewpoint: “As I looked out at what

had been no man’s land, I reflected on the huge tragedy that this war was. In just 24 hours, my idea of war had been changed and it seemed no longer like a thing of glory and honour, but a thing that must be avoided. I don’t think I’ll forget this trip anytime soon, so thank you.”

Troy S reflected on the importance of the visit: “It certainly helps to cement the subject in your mind when you visit a place, so it helps you to learn.”

Read the full story on our website.

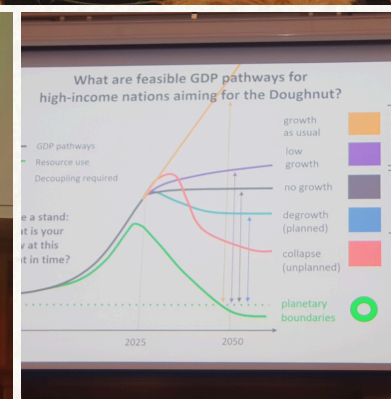


Reflecting on economic issues

The **Economics** department went for a day of economics in Central London this December.

There were speakers from a range of political and economic perspectives, including former Chancellor of the Exchequer **Ed Balls**, **Kate Raworth**, author of 'Donut Economics', and **Grace Blakeney**, author of 'Vulture Capitalism'.

The topics addressed were wide-ranging, including the impacts of migration on the UK economy, the likely impacts on trade under a Trump administration, and the potential outcomes on the environment of economic policies. Some interesting and controversial ideas were taken away!



Charting the Civil Rights movement in the American South

As the Autumn term came to an end for most students, a small group of Sixth Formers packed their bags and set out for a fascinating journey through the history of the Civil Rights movement and its legacy in the American South, travelling from Alabama up to Washington DC.

The group are blogging about their trip – [head here](#) to follow their progress!



OLD ALFREDIANS & DEVELOPMENT

Fireworks reunion fun

The OA Reunion at the Fireworks was as fun as ever last month!

A wonderful turnout of Old Alfredians stopped by the Sixth Form Centre for drinks and to meet up with old teachers and friends alike.

It was particularly great to have the newest crop of alumni return for their first reunion. We also had some of our OAs from the 1950s stop by for the reunion.

You can see all the photos from the evening at kasconnected.org.

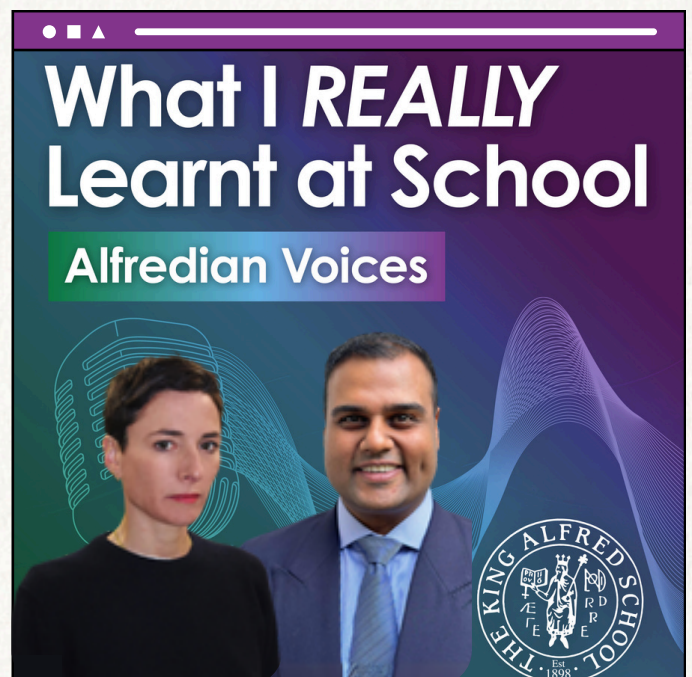


New episodes of Alfredian Voices

Two new episodes of our podcast **Alfredian Voices: What I REALLY Learnt at School** are now available to enjoy.

In episode 7, **Preeyus Patel (OA 2009)** shares his profound journey of growth, learning and self-discovery at The King Alfred School. He emphasises the unique, open environment of the school that allowed him to overcome the constraints often found in traditional education systems.

Preeyus also reflects on the school's culture of academic freedom, acceptance of failure, and the strong bonds formed with teachers. These experiences and relationships have had a lasting influence



on his personal and professional life, helping him achieve notable successes in his career, including leading large-scale environmental projects globally. >>>

>>> Interestingly, Preeyus – Associate Director of Environment at a multinational engineering firm – is currently mentoring recent university graduate and fellow Old Alfredian **Charlotte-Lily Baker-Maher (OA 2020)** in her search for a role in environmental policy.

Meanwhile, in Episode 8 we visit **Sara Berman (OA 1993)** in her London studio to delve into her unique artistic process and the impact of KAS on her and her family's lives (she is one of three generations of OAs).

Sara discusses the foundational character of the 'trickster whore' in her work, her intricate painting techniques, and how her background in fashion and weaving influences her art.

She also reflects on the values and resilience instilled by KAS, which she believes are critical to her and her children's successes.

You can listen to both episodes, along with all previous instalments of the podcast, [here](#).

Alfredians: OA Autumn Newsletter

The Autumn 2024 Old Alfredian Newsletter is out! Want to see what our Old Alfredians have been up to lately? [Read it online here](#).



WWW.KASCONNECTED.ORG

KASConnected.org is an online community, forum and engagement platform that allows Old Alfredians and KAS students to benefit from networking, internship offers, work experience, mentoring and job opportunities from across the KAS community.

KASConnected.org brings together our KAS community to help educate beyond KAS, so that students and Old Alfredians can thrive at School and beyond.



**HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP?**



**FIND &
UPLOAD JOBS
TO THE KAS
JOB BOARD**



**CONNECT WITH
OLD ALFREDIANS
IN YOUR
INDUSTRY**



**PROVIDE
MENTORING
AND
ADVICE**

Inside the Industry: Working in Film

November's Inside the Industry event was a deep dive into what it truly means to work in film.

The latest instalment of our series of Connections talks saw our panel of seasoned pros share their stories of triumph, failure and the moments in between that have shaped their journeys.

From first jobs to big breaks, they offered up a roadmap for navigating the twists and turns of an industry that's anything but predictable. The real magic, though, happened when the audience stepped up to the mic for the Q&A. This sparked interesting conversations that reminded us all that there's no one way to make it in film; it takes passion, persistence and a little bit of luck.



Thank you to our amazing panellists – **David Arnold, Teddy Leifer, Sonita Gale, Miranda Bowen, and Clemente Lohr (OA 2015)** – as well as moderator and KAS Drama teacher, **Nuray Jemil**.

Thanks also to the staff, parents and students from both KAS and nearby Parliament Hill School who joined us for this special evening. Let's keep dreaming, creating and breaking new ground — together.

KASS Festive Tea

Chair of the King Alfred School Society **Kara Conti** hosted the annual KASS Festive Tea in the Old Library last month.

Head Teacher **Robert** also joined our lovely group of Honorary Members, Life Members, KAS Friends and Past Parents.

We all enjoyed a thoughtful discussion on the latest KAS news, with a particular focus on psychology and the well-being of our students.

Thank you to all who joined; it was a wonderful way to kick off the festive season. Maybe next year you can join the KASS Festive Tea as a KASS member! [Find out more here.](#)



Upcoming Events

| <u>What</u> | <u>When</u> |
|--|--|
| Staff INSET Day | Monday 6 January |
| Spring Term | Tuesday 7 January – Friday 4 April |
| Spring Half Term | Monday 17 – Monday 24 February (Staff INSET Day) |
| Year 11 Mock Exams | Tuesday 7 – Friday 17 January |
| Year 13 Mock Exams – Art, CCS & Three-Dimensional Design (Art & Design) | Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 January |
| Year 9 GCSE Options Evening | Monday 27 January |
| KASS AGM | Tuesday 11 February |
| Unplugged Concert | Wednesday 12 February |
| Year 13 Mock Exams | Tuesday 25 – Friday 28 February |
| Ski Trip | Saturday 15 – Friday 21 February |
| Spring Concert | Wednesday 26 February |
| Summer Term | Wednesday 23 April – Thursday 10 July |
| Bank Holiday (school closed) | Monday 5 May |
| Summer Half Term | Monday 26 – Friday 30 May |



**The King Alfred School,
North End Road, London NW11 7HY**

 kingalfred.org.uk



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