

Parent Bulletin Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin.

In addition to this update, please do follow our brand-new Facebook page to keep up to date with school news, student successes, notices and updates by clicking here: [King Alfred's Academy, Wantage](#) You can also follow us on Instagram [@kingalfredsacademy](#)

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Headteacher Update

Welcome back to a new term! A term of (hopefully) lighter mornings and evenings, rising temperatures and open playing fields. This term will also see the start of GCSE and A-Level exams (seemingly earlier each year), planning for student transition in September and numerous residential trips. I hope that the two-week break has allowed families the opportunity to recharge ahead of this busy next 6 weeks.

I did want to take this opportunity to make parents aware that during the busy period of examinations (starting 11th May), we may on occasion need to use members of our support staff to help invigilate at certain times. This is most likely at times when we are running the core GCSE examinations (Maths, English and Science). Typically, this is most likely to involve colleagues from our inclusion team helping to run examinations where students have access arrangements – for example students who require extra time, or a quiet room. At these times it may be that our normal Teaching Assistant provision will be reduced. This will only be for a short period of time and we thank you for your understanding – it is really important that we support our students to have the best possible chance of success in their examinations.

Schools' White Paper and SEND Strategy

You will have seen the announcements this term about the DFE proposals to better support pupils with SEND.

A useful summary is available here. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/02/schools-white-paper-what-parents-need-to-know-about-changes-to-the-send-system/> The Trust will be running two repeat information sessions on 17th April at 11am and 27th April at 6pm online. These can be accessed via the QR code in the attached Cambrian Learning Trust Inclusion newsletter.

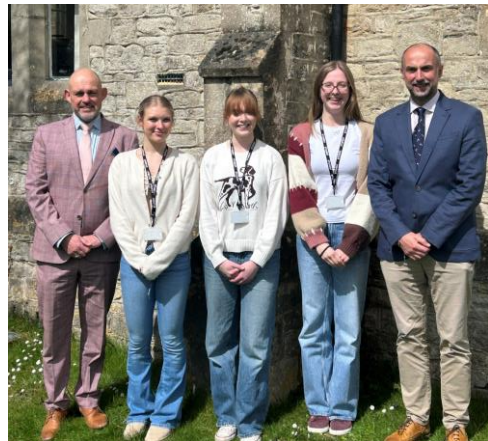
We will continue to work with colleagues across the Trust, our external partners and OCC to ensure our children's learning is high quality in all of our classes. This wider working is important in ensuring we learn from others to bring back the best thinking to our school. Working with other schools and taking on additional roles, across other schools and organisations, helps our staff bring fresh ideas, new skills, and even better practice back into our classrooms. As a trust, this is encouraged and celebrated.

Between us, we are fortunate to have a great range of skills and knowledge which we pool through collaboration.

Head Students appointed for academic year 2026-27

On Thursday 16th April Mr Smart and Mr Hogan (Head of Sixth Form) had the privilege and pleasure to interview the four Year 12 candidates that had been shortlisted for the role of 'Head Student'. The four students had already performed brilliantly in a range of pre-selection tasks that included, amongst other things, presenting their manifesto to fellow Sixth Form students in an assembly. The interviews were of the very highest quality, and we were delighted to appoint:

Jade A – Head Student
Ciara S – Head Student
Evie S – Deputy Head Student



The successful candidates will take up post this term, meeting regularly with Mr Hogan, leading younger student leaders in termly meetings, and representing the Academy across a range of different events. A massive well done!

KA Klubs

KA's Klubs will recommence on Monday 20th April. Thank you for your continued support of our enrichment offer.

National Year of Reading

A reminder of this important opportunity for us all to engage in the love of reading. There are some excellent resources available, promoting the message that reading comes in all shapes and forms and for all ages and abilities. Flipping the narrative from 'I have to' to 'I choose to' will help grow readers for life. [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)

Follow us on Facebook

A reminder that this is now the best social media platform to share in the successes and celebrate the achievements of our school. We are close to 500 followers, but would love to have many more!

Academic Enrichment

[Is your Year 9-10 child interested in STEM?](#)

The Educational STEM Charity, E-Trust, are running an online virtual programme on STEM careers and insights over the May Break, during 26th - 29th May. You can find out more information at [King Alfred's Academy - E-Trust Future Skills Careers Programme for Years 9 and 10](#)

[Is your child a young Engineer? Are they in Years 8 - 13?](#)

The Sheriff of Oxfordshire Young Engineer Awards are fast coming up, and I am aware that often our students have super curricular interests that we may not be aware of. If your child has taken part (either individually or with friends) in an engineering project and you have evidence in terms of plans and photos, please do get in touch as we may be able to nominate them for this prestigious award. For more information, go to [High Sheriff Young Engineer Awards - Lucy Group](#) or email Pam Stokell at pstokell@kas.cambrianlt.org

You may find information on Academic Enrichment via this link to our website: [King Alfred's Academy - Academic Enrichment](#)

Careers and Work Experience

We have re-launched our Careers webpage with new, updated resources to help answer questions and provide vital Careers information: [King Alfred's Academy - Careers](#)

Sweatbox

Sweatbox planned dates for Term 5:

Date	Event
Monday 20 th April	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm
Friday 24 th April	CANCELLED
Monday 27 th April	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm
Friday 8 th May	Friday Open Night – Centre Site 7pm – 9.30pm
Monday 11 th May	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm
Monday 18 th May	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm
Friday 22 nd May	Friday Open Night – Centre Site 7pm – 9.30pm

Year Group Updates – This information can also be found on the 'Key Information for Parents' section of our website [King Alfred's Academy - Key information \(kaacademy.org\)](#)

Year 7	<p>A warm welcome back to all Year 7 students on their return to school, we are really looking forward to working together as we near the end of their first academic year at King Alfred's - it does go fast!</p> <p>The field is now open to all students during social times - litter and weather dependent. We have shared the importance of not littering with students in tutor time and assembly this week, but any further conversations at home with your child would be greatly appreciated.</p>
Year 8	No specific updates this week.
Year 9	As we begin this new term, we want Year 9 to see it as a genuine fresh start – an opportunity to reset, refocus and take pride in the small choices they make each day. We continue to encourage students to reflect on their attitude, attendance and engagement across all lessons. By attending school consistently, working closely with their tutors, and striving to earn house points through positive choices, effort and conduct together with the ongoing support from parents reinforcing these messages, our students will build strong, lasting habits.
Year 10	A reminder the Work Experience window is Monday 29 th June to Friday 3 rd July. If students need any support in finding a placement or submitting the required information on Unifrog, please do get in contact. Students should send any enquires about Work Experience to: kacareersadmin@kas.cambrianlt.org
Year 11	There is a webinar for students around managing exam stress, which you can register for via this link: Managing Exam Stress: Coping strategies that can help you succeed. - Pathway CTM Pearson will discuss strategies that can help you stay calm, focused and confident. It is on Tuesday 28 th April from 6-7pm.

Year 12	<p>All parents of Year 12 students are invited to attend a University and Apprenticeship Information Evening on Thursday 23rd April at 5.30pm in the Sixth Form Auditorium. This will cover the application process and provide a guide to what support parents can offer their child over the coming months as they start to make decisions about their future.</p>
Year 13	<p>Written A-Level exams start on Monday 11th May. Please be aware that A-Level lessons will continue until Friday 22nd May. BTEC lessons will continue until Friday 19th June.</p> <p>Tickets for the Year 13 Ball on Wednesday 24th June are now available on ParentPay. It would be lovely to see all Year 13 students attending the Ball to celebrate the end of their time in the Sixth Form.</p> <p>You can now order Year 13 Leavers Hoodies by visiting the following website: https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/ Our School Unique ID is: 25875YR13 You must place an order before midnight on Tuesday 21st April. All orders will be delivered direct to school for you to collect. We will advise when this will be, in due course.</p> <p>There is a webinar for students around managing exam stress, which you can register for via this link: Managing Exam Stress: Coping strategies that can help you succeed. - Pathway CTM Pearson will discuss strategies that can help you stay calm, focused and confident. It is on Tuesday 28th April from 6-7pm.</p> <p>The PowerPoint from the recent Year 13 Parents' Information Evening is available on the Sixth Form pages on our website, or via this link: Year 13 Parents' Information Evening</p>

Vacancies

The link to the KA's website for vacancies:

[Vacancies | King Alfred's Academy, Wantage, Oxfordshire UK \(kaacademy.org\)](#)

Forthcoming Events

Friday 17 th to Monday 20 th April	Year 8 North Wales Trip
Tuesday 21 st April	SEND Coffee Morning, West Site, 9.15-10.45am
Tuesday 21 st April	Spring Dance Shows, Centre Hall, 5pm and 7pm
Thursday 23 rd April	UCAS Parents' Information Evening, Sixth Form, 5.30-6.30pm
Tuesday 28 th April	Year 9 TDP/MenACWY immunisations in school

Best Wishes
Mr Smart