

Parent Bulletin
Friday 24th 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](#)

In this update:

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- Year 8 North Wales trip
- Spaces remaining on enrichment trips
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Headteacher Update

A sincere thank you to those parents who supported us during the recent OFSTED inspection by offering messages of support and by completing the Parent View Survey. It was much appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to note how magnificent the students were during the inspection. Typically, they were polite, courteous and positive. They reflected the values of the Academy, managed themselves around site well and engaged in conversation with the inspection team.

It is likely to be some weeks before the outcome can be shared, but in the interim I will provide a little more explanation about the new OFSTED approach and what the different grades mean in the next few parent bulletins.

Year 8 North Wales trip

All students had a fantastic time on the trip led by Mr Cornley and Global Footprints. They enjoyed multiple challenges including canoeing, abseiling, gorge walking, climbing and hiking. Most impressively, every student and staff member made it to the top of Mt Yr Wyddffa (Snowdon) which was an incredible achievement! Well done to everyone involved.

**Spaces remaining on enrichment trips**

We have some opportunities for those interested, for students to join some of our enrichment trips:

- Peak District trip (Year 7) Friday 19th to Monday 22nd June 2026, one place remaining. If anyone would like to take the place please contact us via the enrichment email kaenrichment@kas.cambrianlt.org
- Languages trip to Nice Thursday 22nd October to Wednesday 28th October 2026 available to current Year 8 to 12 students, places are still available - please sign up on ParentPay.
- Languages trip to Seville Thursday 22nd October to Tuesday 27th October 2026 available to current Year 8 to 12 students, places are still available - please sign up on ParentPay.

The Year 7 Peak District trip Parent Information Evening will be on Wednesday 13th May 2026 in the Centre Hall Dining Room, 5.30-6.30pm.

KA's students doing amazing things

Congratulations to Ellie in Year 7 for winning the Easter cookie competition.

Well done to the Year 8 students who climbed to the summit of Snowdon as part of their North Wales adventure.

Our Dance students produced an excellent showcase event on Tuesday evening – a real celebration of Dance.

Year 8 students who took part in the KAAEP trip to a range of Oxford museums were excellent ambassadors for the Academy.



A reminder about the Cambrian Learning Trust SEN whitepaper information event

CAMBRIAN LEARNING TRUST
Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds



**SEN
WHITE PAPER**

*Information Session for
Parents and Carers*

 **MON 27TH APRIL
6 PM**

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR USE
THE LINK, ID AND PASSCODE TO JOIN



MICROSOFT TEAMS
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/35512606127513?p=JKSMsGttSQISOXO1CW>
MEETING ID: 355 126 061 275 13
PASSCODE: Cj9iy6BK

Academic Enrichment

Physics: Lab to Life 2026 (in person event)

Date and time: Tuesday 12th May 2026, 6:30-9:00pm

Venue: Martin Wood Complex, Department of Physics, University of Oxford

Audience: No background knowledge required. Age 14+ years only (due to safety requirements in the labs), and young people should be accompanied by an adult family member.

Details: Open Evening: Explore how their physics research can lead to a range of technologies that will affect your everyday life. Tour their state-of-the-art labs, hear from leading researchers and pick the brains of the scientists that make it all happen! This evening event includes talks, hands-on demos and lab tours. More information and booking: Free event, booking required. Visit the [Physics: Lab to Life event page](#)

Year 10 students help the Ashmolean Museum to review new teaching resources

A group of our Year 10 students visited the Ashmolean Museum last week to test out a new visitors' trail intended to shed light into the history of some of the Ashmolean exhibits and their connection with the sugar trade and slavery. The Year 10 students had been especially selected for their critical thinking skills and awareness of world events. The students spotted areas where the narrative could lead to misconceptions, areas where more context was needed, and they were able to discuss what they felt had worked well for them and what they would like to see more of.

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](#). The new pages noted on the left-hand side are: Careers FAQs (for students and parents), Unifrog, Work Experience, Careers Programme, Careers Fair (in person and virtual) and Careers Blog. Please continue to email any questions that you have to Careers at kacareersadmin@kas.cambrianlt.org but we hope to also see you on our webpage soon!

Sweatbox

Sweatbox planned dates for Term 5:

Date	Event
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	A heartfelt thanks to our Year 7 students this week - having visited a large number of lessons we are immensely proud to consistently see all of our students working hard in every single lesson, contributing to the class, giving independent activities a really good go and trying their absolute best. It is a pleasure to get to see this across a huge range of faculties and staff members.
Year 8	Thank you to our Year 8 students for a fantastic team effort, it is a privilege to witness such unity and responsibility. You clearly demonstrated your care, commitment and pride in being part of King Alfred's Academy.

Year 9	This week's assembly focused on developing a growth mindset, encouraging pupils to see challenge and effort as important parts of learning. We talked about having a go, persevering when things feel tricky, and learning from mistakes. Next week, pupils will be invited to put this into practice through an upcoming House Point Challenge, where points will be awarded for demonstrating resilience, courage and positive attitudes to learning. We look forward to celebrating how pupils apply these skills in a meaningful, practical way.
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	The PowerPoint from the University and Apprenticeship Information Evening is now available on the Sixth Form pages of our website. Year 12 Progress Reports will be sent home at the start of May. Please can you take some time to discuss this with your child, celebrate their successes and talk through any areas for improvement.
Year 13	Written A-Level exams start on Monday 11 th May. Please be aware that A-Level lessons will continue until Friday 22 nd May. BTEC lessons will continue until Friday 19 th June. Tickets for the Year 13 Ball on Wednesday 24 th 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. 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 The deadline has been extended to Thursday 30th April. All orders will be delivered direct to school for you to collect. We will advise when this will be, in due course. 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.

Vacancies

The link to the KA's website for vacancies:

[Vacancies | King Alfred's Academy, Wantage, Oxfordshire UK \(kaacademy.org\)](https://www.kaacademy.org/vacancies)

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 28 th April	Year 9 TDP/MenACWY immunisations in school
Thursday 30 th April	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 6 th – Friday 8 th May	A-Level Art exam

Best Wishes
Mr Smart