

Parent Bulletin Friday 1st May 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

GCSE examinations are now very close for our Year 11 students. Many of them have already completed some form of examination if they are studying Art or a Language, but the first formal written exams start on Friday 8th May. To support their preparation, Ms Saull and Mr Wood (along with subject leaders) have created an 'exam booster' programme. This consists of a series of pre-exam breakfast and revision booster sessions for each subject. These have all been placed immediately before the examination in each subject.

The sessions will focus on key knowledge, subject skills and exam techniques so that it is fresh in students' minds. These will sometimes be during the school day, some will be before/after school and a few will take place on weekends (for example the English Literature session will be on Sunday 7th May ahead of the exam on the morning on Monday 8th May).

Staff will be working hard to prepare our students well; we simply ask that parents support these efforts by ensuring their child attends all of the sessions that are relevant to them.

More detail and the full 'exam booster' schedule will be shared by Ms Saull very shortly.

Headteacher's Update 1st May 2026 – [Headteacher Video 1st May 2026](#)

Change to school calendar (Year 10 parent information evening)

In the school diary, we had arranged for a Year 10 Parent Information Evening focusing on revision on Thursday 21st May. This was due to the fact we had intended to run Year 10 mock exams in Term 6. However, we have taken the decision to instead run two series of full mock exams in Year 11 instead of running one in Year 10. This is so students have covered more of the course content prior to sitting a formal mock exam. As such, we will move this information evening to Term 1 of

next academic year to support this year group at the beginning of their Year 11 journey, in the preparation for their mock exams.

Leadership Team (LT Clinics)

For Term 3 and Term 4, our focus was on Reporting and Supporting Student Progress and Outcomes. Over the academic year, we have implemented several changes and we would now appreciate parental feedback on their effectiveness.

To remind you of our focus, the initiatives were:

- New Attitude to Learning and Equipment reports
- Refined information evenings for Year 7 parents regarding Teaching and Learning and Reporting at King Alfred's Academy
- In-person Careers Fayre earlier in the academic year for Years 9-13 and the sharing of an online digital careers' fayre for all students and parents to access via our website
- School-created revision guides regarding what to revise for mini mocks and mock exams (Year 11)
- Information evenings regarding how to support students at the start of GCSEs (Year 10 & Year 12) and how to prepare for GCSE examinations (Year 11) and A Levels (Year 13)
- Year 9 parents' evening prior to the Year 9 pathways (options) evening to facilitate 1-2-1 discussions between parents, students and teachers regarding suitable choices for GCSE

The LT Clinic is set for **Thursday 21st May from 5.00pm to 6.00pm**. We will be meeting in the Dining Hall on Centre Site and would like to invite parents/carers to come and share their views.

Please could you click on the link below to register your intent to attend?

[Attendance to LT Clinic Thursday 21st May 2026 – Fill in form](#)

2027 ski trip

The 2027 ski trip is oversubscribed so we have managed to secure additional places. This means that all those who signed up are able to attend. We now have 50 places instead of 40 and 6 of these places are still available. We have extended the deadline for paying a deposit to Sunday 10th May 2026. Please sign up via ParentPay if you would like your child to be a part of this fantastic trip. Full information is provided on the attached letter.

KA's students doing amazing things

Well done to Arthur in Year 7 for winning the Library 6 Nations reading competition.

Thank you to the Year 7 and Year 8 students and their parents who attended our first 'Chop and Chat' session. An opportunity to connect and prepare a healthy meal at the same time!

Our Year 7 KAAEP students had a fabulous time visiting the Oxford History Museum.



Free Tellmi wellbeing support for students

We would like to remind families that all students at King Alfred's Academy are able to access **Tellmi**, a free wellbeing support app for young people who live or go to school in Oxfordshire. Tellmi provides a safe, anonymous space where young people can talk about worries, feelings and challenges, and receive support from others of a similar age. Students can use Tellmi to seek advice, share experiences, and access wellbeing resources whenever they need them.

A key feature of Tellmi is its safeguarding model. All posts and replies are checked by **trained human moderators** before they appear on the app. This means content is reviewed by people, not simply by artificial intelligence. Where a post suggests a young person may need additional help, Tellmi's in-house counselling team can provide private support.

Tellmi is available to students with access to resources and support 365 days a year. Counsellors and moderators work continually with counsellor support available between **8.30am and 11.00pm**. Please note that Tellmi is not an emergency or crisis service; if a young person is at immediate risk of harm, emergency services or urgent NHS support should be contacted.

Tellmi has been commissioned by **Oxfordshire County Council** to support young people aged 11–18 who live or go to school in Oxfordshire. The service is also recognised through NHS-linked routes, including the NHS Innovation Accelerator.

You may find the following links useful:

Tellmi information for Oxfordshire families:

<https://oxme.info/services/health-and-wellbeing/tellmi-app>

Oxfordshire County Council announcement:

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/new-mental-health-app-for-young-people-in-oxfordshire/>

NHS Innovation Accelerator information about Tellmi:

<https://nhsaccelerator.com/innovations/tellmi/>

Tellmi parent information:

<https://www.tellmi.help/parents>

We encourage parents and carers to discuss Tellmi with their child as one of the support options available to them. It can be a helpful additional source of wellbeing support, particularly for students who may find it difficult to talk directly to an adult at first.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact their Tutor, Student Manager or Head of Year at school.

Academic Enrichment

Final Call - Is your child in Year 8 or 9? Would they relish the chance to learn GCSE Latin at the University of Oxford? The Classics Department at the University of Oxford is offering access to its popular OxLAT Scheme whereby state school students can take up the opportunity to learn Latin GCSE at the Department. This offer is only open to students currently on Years 8 and 9. It is a two-year course, taking place on Saturday mornings during term time. For more information: [King Alfred's Academy - Do you Want to Learn Latin?](#) Or, if you have further questions, please contact Pam Stokell via pstokell@kas.cambrianlt.org. The deadline for applications is Friday 15th May.

Year 8 students explore the links between Science and Maths at the University Museums A group of our Year 8 students attended workshops on some of the ways that Maths is used in the Biological Natural Sciences, as well as how Maths was used by ancient mariners when navigating

across the oceans. It was a fantastic day for cross-curricular learning and, as ever, our students were brilliant ambassadors for our school.

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)** – Provides key answers to questions from work experience to career pathways.
- **Unifrog** – Lists helpful guides to using Unifrog to log work experience placements, create CVs, and more.
- **Work Experience** – Find all guides and deadlines related to work experience, as well as a section on how to become a work experience provider.

**With Year 10 work experience coming up from 29th June - 3rd July, this is a great place to find resources to support your student to independently source an in-person work experience placement.*

- **Careers Programme** – A summary of how our year groups engage with the Careers Programme while at school.
- **Careers Fair – In Person and Virtual** – An online version of our Careers Fair for students who want to revisit, or missed, the in-person day.
- **Careers Blog** – Key upcoming events for parents and students (this will now cover all events that previously would have been listed in this Bulletin).

Please continue to email any questions that you have to kacareersadmin@kas.cambrianlt.org and we hope to also see you on our webpage soon!

Sweatbox

Sweatbox planned dates for Term 5:

Date	Event
Monday 4 th May	CLOSED AS BANK HOLIDAY
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	Please do remind your child/children that pastoral staff are available during break and lunchtime. Please do seek them out if you have any concerns at all. We would also ask that you remind your child/children not to pull off other students' ties - while this may be in good spirits, this can cause the clips to break and make the tie unusable.
Year 8	No specific updates this week.
Year 9	We have continued to focus on developing a growth mindset across the year group. The second half of our students have now received the assembly, which means all of Year 9 have explored the theme further through videos and case studies in tutor time. Our two-week House Point Challenge, focusing on resilience, will now be live, and pupils are encouraged to engage with their tutors to find out more. Points will

	<p>be awarded for demonstrating Resilience across the school community, both in and out of school, and we look forward to recognising how pupils show this in a range of situations.</p> <p>A reminder also for students to engage with Miss Dominguez and Miss Rion in relation to the trips advertised to Seville and Nice during assembly.</p>
Year 10	<p>A reminder the Work Experience window is Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd 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</p>
Year 11	<p>Please ensure you read the email with the letter and schedule for the GCSE booster sessions. More information can be found at the beginning of this bulletin. This is a vital opportunity to boost GCSE performance and give students confidence going into their GCSE examinations. Please do all you can to ensure your child attends these sessions.</p>
Year 12	<p>The PowerPoint from the University and Apprenticeship Information Evening is now available on the Sixth Form pages of our website.</p> <p>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.</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>

Vacancies

The link to the KA's website for vacancies:

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

Forthcoming Events

Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 6 th – Friday 8 th May	A-Level Art exam
Tuesday 12 th May	SEND Coffee Morning, Centre Site, 9.15-10.45am
Thursday 14 th May	Year 8 Parents' Evening

Best Wishes
Mr Smart