

Parent Bulletin Friday 12th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin.

In addition to this update, please do follow our 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:

- Headteacher Update
- Proposed Academy Day from September 2026
- Move from epraise to MCAS
- Sweatbox is on the move
- Our next Annual School Production
- KA's students doing amazing things
- Leadership Team (LT) Clinics
- Free School Meals (FSM)
- Academic Enrichment
- Careers and Work Experience
- Sweatbox
- Year Group Updates
- Vacancies
- Forthcoming Events

Headteacher Update

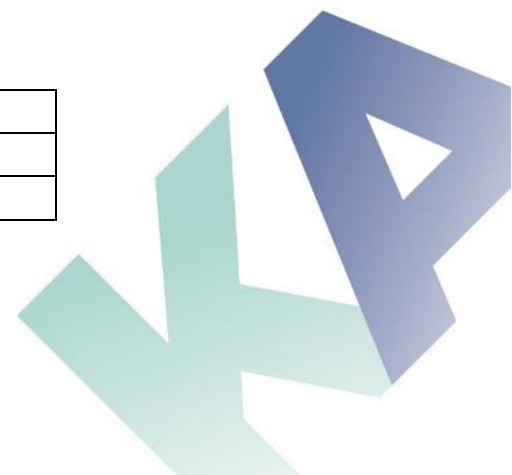
I wanted to give parents notice that we are starting a two-week consultation process about the timings of the school day. The proposal outlines the intention to start the school day five minutes earlier, shorten lunch to 30-minutes and finish the school day at 3.05pm. This will not reduce teaching time in any way but will give more flexibility around teacher directed time to allow for staff training and creating capacity for staff to communicate with parents.

The shortened lunch will mean that KA Klubs will be more limited at this time. In order to mitigate this, we intend to create a 'enrichment period' within the timetable for Years 7-10. This enrichment period will give students the opportunity to pursue a wide range of extra-curricular activities during the school day, ensuring every student has access to these and that there are no barriers to participation. Students will be able to select their enrichment activity through the MCAS student app at the start of the academic year.

Below is an outline of the new school day timings. Parents are welcome to feedback any thoughts, comments or concerns that they may have via our Enquiries webform or by emailing: enquiries@kas.cambrianlt.org

Proposed Academy Day from September 2026

8:40am - 8:55am	Tutor time
8:55am - 9:00am	Transition time
9:00am - 10:00am	P1



10:00am - 10:20am	Break
10:20am - 10:25am	Transition time
10:25am - 11:25am	P2
11:25am - 11:30am	Transition time
11:30am - 12:30pm	P3
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 1:05pm	Transition time
1:05pm - 2:00pm	P4
2:00pm - 2:05pm	Transition time
2:05pm - 3:05pm	P5

Move from epraise to MCAS (My Child At School)

Thank you to parents for their patience whilst we have started the process of moving to MCAS as a single platform for staff, students and parents to access information on demerits, house points, detentions, attendance, timetables and ultimately homework. We appreciate that change like this will always present a few issues, but believe that this change will present many benefits and a far simpler way of accessing a range of information in the long term.

Mr Hume (Assistant Headteacher) has prepared a brief update video for parents on this matter.

Move to MCAS update from Mr Hume: [Update Video for Parents on move to MCAS](#)

Sweatbox is on the move

Year 8 (at 345 students) are currently our largest year group and when they move to Centre Site next academic year we are going to have to create sufficient classroom spaces for them. One of the ways that we are going to achieve this is to move our Sweatbox Youth Service to West Site.

The space vacated by Sweatbox will be used for delivering Creative Arts lessons. Sweatbox sessions will be delivered from West Site, although it is highly likely that we will not be ready to do so at the start of the academic year in September. Hopefully, by the end of Term 1 we will have moved them into their new location and they will be ready to offer their usual sessions following the October half term.

Our next Annual School Production

King Alfred's is delighted to announce the next Annual School Production will be 'Hadestown'. And this great news comes earlier than previously, as we are putting on the production in **January 2027!**

HADESTOWN, a haunting and hopeful journey inspired by ancient Greek myth, weaves together the timeless love stories of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and the powerful, volatile partnership of Hades and Persephone. In a world divided between the cold, industrial underworld and the fragile beauty above, Orpheus sets out on an impossible quest to rescue Eurydice after hardship leads her to make a fateful choice. As the lines blur between love and doubt, freedom and control, the characters must confront what they are willing to risk - and what it truly means to



trust. With a rich, soulful score and a story as old as time, everything hangs in the balance as one glance back could change everything forever.

Students who will be in Years 9-13 in September 2026 are welcome to audition for a principle role or chorus. There is a meeting to explain the audition process and songs on Tuesday 16th June at 3.30-4pm for Centre Site students in the Alfredian Studio Theatre (Drama/Music Room), and on Wednesday 17th June from 3.30-4pm in WA.03 for Year 8 students on West Site. If you would like to be part of the band, please contact Miss Mullington by email via smullington@kas.cambrianlt.org and attend an initial meeting at lunchtime in CP.03N (Miss Mullington's office) on Tuesday 16th June. There is also the opportunity to be considered for a leadership role for the production, if this is of interest please email Miss Newton via hnewton@kas.cambrianlt.org

KA's students doing amazing things

We look forward to our students auditioning for roles in the Academy production of 'Hadestown'

We are proud to display the high quality of our students' work in the forthcoming Art, Design, Graphics and Textiles Exhibition on Friday 19th to Sunday 21st June. Please see attached poster and come along if you can.

Leadership Team (LT) Clinics

During Term 6, our focus is Behaviour - changes to our behaviour system and reporting. We have already implemented several changes and will seek parental feedback on their effectiveness during Term 1 of the new academic year. These initiatives include:

- Revised detention system
- Use of the 'My Child at School' (MCAS) app to log and monitor your child's behaviour

We will announce the Term 1 LT Clinic date well in advance to accommodate parents' schedules and look forward to your participation and valuable insights.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Please could all parents/carers read the attached update on Free School Meals. The Government has confirmed that the rules for FSM eligibility will be changing from the start of the new academic year (September 2026), and this may affect you whether your child currently receives this entitlement or not.

Academic Enrichment

University Clearing explained - a guide for parents and carers

The University of Swansea invite you to a webinar that explains the process of University Clearing and all the options that it opens to A-Level students on Results Day. It is not just about finding a course if you miss your offer. The webinar is at 6pm on Wednesday 1st July and you can register for it here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Fantastic Resource of open ended tasks to explore subjects beyond the school curriculum

Every year, Caius College Cambridge produces a list of about 30 open-ended questions to support students with exploring a subject that they love or would like to research into. Students in Year 12 can submit their responses and will receive feedback on their work. [Caius Explore | Gonville & Caius](#)

Our Year 9s are introduced to Quantum Mechanics

The Oxford Department of Physics have been very busy as, this Monday, they hosted thirty of our Year 9s and introduced them to the wacky world of Quantum Mechanics, and provided them with an insight into the world of science research at university level.

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](#)

Please continue to email any questions that you have to kacareers@kas.cambrianlt.org

Sweatbox

Sweatbox planned dates for Term 6:

Date	Event
Friday 12 th June	Friday Open Night – Centre Site 7pm – 9.30pm for Yrs 7-10
Monday 15 th June	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 6-13
Monday 22 nd June	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 6-13
Friday 26 th June	Friday Open Night – Centre Site 7pm – 9.30pm for Yrs 7-10
Monday 29 th June	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 6-13
Monday 6 th July	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 6-13
Friday 10 th July	Friday Open Night – Centre Site 7pm – 9.30pm for Yrs 7-10
Monday 13 th July	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 6-13

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	This week we've been lucky to have the University of Oxford Physics Roadshow in to give an interactive assembly to Year 7 on the Hadron Collider; how particle accelerators work and what they are used for. Mr Russell (AHT KS4) also visited our normal assembly slot to do a session on equality. Huge thanks to both and a big done well for Year 7 engaging with this positively.
Year 8	Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in completing the MFL choices form so promptly – this has been incredibly helpful as we move forward with planning. In assembly this week, we spoke to students about using this term as an opportunity to reflect on their transition to Year 9. We encouraged them to set a personal challenge to work on over the coming weeks – for example, improving punctuality to lessons, contributing more actively to class, or maintaining a consistently positive approach to learning. This focus is particularly important as we begin to finalise plans for Transition Day, the end of year celebration, and a range of exciting activities taking place.
Year 9	No specific updates this week.
Year 10	Year 10 have completed their first week of in-class assessments. It's been really apparent how many students are striving to produce their best work and are really motivated to succeed. If students have any questions or concerns regarding any of their in-class assessments they should speak with their class teacher who can provide them with any additional details they need. A reminder of the assessments and the required equipment for each one can be found here: Year 10 in-class assessment revision list 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

<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Year 11 Sixth Form Applications – King Alfred’s: A reminder to all Year 11 students to ensure they have accepted their Sixth Form offer at King Alfred’s. Over 80 students have not yet confirmed their place. If you are unsure how to do this, please get in touch with Mr Johnson for support by emailing on: djohnson@kas.cambrianlt.org Over the next few weeks, please also look out for your Sixth Form Induction Day invitation. Induction will take place on Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July. Students will need to pre-select their subjects ahead of the event via Applicaa.</p> <p>Please refer to the schedule for the GCSE booster sessions. This is a vital opportunity to boost GCSE performance and give students confidence going into their GCSE examinations, so do encourage your child to attend these sessions. Breakfast sessions start at 8.20am and the after-school sessions run until 4:30pm.</p>
<p>Year 12</p>	<p>Year 12 A-Level mock exams start on Friday 26th June. Students should now be starting to prepare themselves for these important end of year exams. They have been provided via epraise with a revision booklet, which contains the dates, times, and topics covered in each exam. It also contains some revision resources for each subject. This booklet is available for you to view on the Sixth Form page of our website here: Year 12 A Levels Mock Revision Guide 2026</p>
<p>Year 13</p>	<p>We are looking forward to seeing all of our Year 13 students in the Auditorium on Monday 22nd June at 1.15pm to mark the end of their exams. This is a perfect opportunity for all students to return their textbooks, and donate any other textbooks or revision guides they no longer need.</p> <p>The Year 13 Ball is on Wednesday 24th June. 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

We currently have the following vacancies:

Support Staff:

- Sweatbox Youth Club – Volunteer Youth Support Worker
- Caretaker

The link to the KA’s website for vacancies:

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

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 16 th & Wednesday 17 th June	Year 10 Hengistbury Head Geography fieldwork day trips
Wednesday 17 th June	SEND profile review evening 4pm-6.30pm
Friday 19 th – Monday 22 nd June	Year 7 Activities Trip to the Peak District
Saturday 20 th June 10am – 2pm	Summer Art Exhibition, The Alfredian Studio, Centre Site
Sunday 21 st June 10am – 12pm	Summer Art Exhibition, the Alfredian Studio, Centre Site

Best Wishes
Mr Smart