

Parent Bulletin Friday 11th September 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](#)

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Headteacher Update

Welcome to the first Parent Bulletin of the new academic year. An exciting time to be part of any school community, but especially so in such a vibrant and dynamic school community as KA's.

I am going to endeavour to make the bulletin more focused this year following parent feedback. So, things that I think it would be helpful to know as a parent...

- We hope to bring you this bulletin in a new and refreshed format within the next few weeks. Rebranded and repackaged as

'THE ALFREDIAN'

King Alfred's Academy | Parent & Carer Bulletin

- I am still producing Headteacher videos once or twice each week. These are now much shorter (just over 1 minute!) and accessed through Facebook
- We have spent lots of time talking to students about what a positive attitude to learning looks like in our school. Each classroom now has the 'Attitude to Learning' information (see below) and teachers will be using it to model, praise and reward the behaviours that make a really effective learner at KA's. This is about rewarding effort first and foremost
- We launched our new 'Enrichment lesson' programme to Year 7, 8 and 10 on Wednesday of this week and Year 9 will have their chance next week. Students got to watch video introductions from staff running these sessions before signing up to the enrichment session of their choice. The sign-up form links are available via our Facebook page for any student who has not done so yet



Contacting the Academy by telephone

We have listened to parent voice. You told us that it was often frustrating when you could not contact the Academy by phone. Whilst email, or the enquiries webform via our website are still the best methods to contact us, we have reorganised our office teams so that we now have a dedicated telephone receptionist whose job is to answer the phone to parents throughout the day. The Academy automated telephone message offered to our callers is now

- 1) to report your child's absence
- 2) if you know the extension number you require
- 3) to speak to a member of the Reception Team, or
- 4) hold for assistance

When option 3 is selected, the caller will go through to a dedicated telephone manned by an Office Administrator, who will take the caller's details and the reason for their call and pass the enquiry immediately to the relevant staff member, via email.

Parent Information Evenings

Please note in your diary the dates for the upcoming Parents' Information Evenings. A brilliant opportunity for parents to connect with the school and for us to share key information about the year ahead:

Wednesday 16th September: Year 7 information evening. All the important things you need to know about the way things work in a secondary school (West Site, 5-6pm)

Thursday 17th September: Year 12 information evening. An introduction to Sixth Form (Sixth Form Auditorium, 5.30-6.30pm)

Tuesday 29th September: Year 10 information evening. An introduction to KS4 and the GCSE journey (Centre Site, 5.30-6.30pm)

Thursday 1st October: Year 11 information evening. Supporting your child through Year 11 and their examinations (Centre Site, 5.30-6.30pm)

Trip brochure

As part of our enrichment programme, King Alfred's Academy offers a comprehensive range of trips to our students. You can view a copy of this year's brochure here:

[KA's Trip Brochure 2026-2027](#)

If your child(ren) are interested in a trip, you can find payment details on www.parentpay.com, where you can sign up to and pay deposits for the trips on offer.

PE kit

Thank you from the PE Department for the excellent standard of PE uniform that our students have worn at the start of this new academic year. It is important that this is maintained throughout the year please, with replacement items purchased when necessary from PMG Schoolwear in Faringdon. For reference, the link to our Uniform Policy is provided:

[King Alfred's Academy - Uniform and dress code](#)

Please can you remind your child if they are taking part in Football or Tag Rugby, that they will need to bring their boots to each lesson. With the ground being hard and slippery, both first thing in the morning and after rain, we need students to be wearing them to be safe. We do have a limited stock in school that students can wear if they forget their own pair.

With this in mind, we are also requesting that should you have any boots and spare/outgrown PE kit at home, please consider donating them to the PE Department. We will gratefully accept them and find them a good home, and can welcome them to be delivered to either Site Reception for your convenience.

Team Training - we would like to advise parents it's strongly recommended for any GCSE PE students to attend the team training for their chosen activities. The afterschool clubs are due to start Tuesday 15th September, with the students being notified during Tutor time on the 11th September.

KA's students doing amazing things

Emily and Lucie both completed their 45-mile walk and have raised over £2600 for Breast Cancer Now, during the Summer. We are all so proud of them!

Well done to Year 7 for a magnificent start to their KA career. A faultless first week.

Academic Enrichment

[Sir Christopher Ricks talk is open for booking: "Death by Shakespeare" with Dr Kathryn Harkup.](#)

Across his numerous works, Shakespeare came up with some very creative and inventive ways of “doing away” with some of his characters. This talk takes a look at the scientific and medical knowledge of the time to find out where Shakespeare might have got some of his ideas from, what events might have inspired him, and also at the underlying science to assess just how realistic some of his ideas were. The talk is FREE to our students and Staff, with a modest fee of £5 for one accompanying adult and £8 for two and takes place at The Beacon on Wednesday 30th September 2026. You can book your seats here: [The Sir Christopher Ricks Talk 2026 - "Death by Shakespeare" – Fill out form](#) and you can find out more at: [King Alfred's Academy - Sir Christopher Ricks Talk 2026!](#)

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

Careers and Work Experience

Our Careers webpage has new, updated resources to help answer questions and provide vital Careers information: [King Alfred's Academy - Careers](#) In particular, there are a number of Summer Work Experience opportunities listed on our website that may be of interest to students. Please continue to email any questions that you have to kacareers@kas.cambrianlt.org

Sweatbox

Sweatbox planned dates for Term 1:

Date	Event
Monday 14 th September	Monday Open Night – Kingsgrove 7pm – 9pm for Yrs 7-13

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	What a fantastic start to the term for our new Year 7s! It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the year group and seeing their energy and enthusiasm around school. Our tutors have been impressed by how smartly everyone is wearing their uniform, taking real pride in representing the school. Equipment standards have also been excellent, with students arriving fully prepared with all the right essentials for learning. As we settle into the term, a key focus for the next couple of weeks will be mastering quick transitions between lessons and using break and lunchtimes wisely for toilet visits. Maintaining these great habits now will set the tone for a brilliant year ahead. A reminder that the mobile phone pouches must be brought into school daily, and kept in full-working order and free of graffiti. They remain the property of the Academy and are expected to be returned in good condition at the end of each young person’s journey here at King Alfred’s. If your child does not bring a mobile into school, please visit our website address and complete a webform to confirm this; a card will be issued which must then be stored in their phone pouch.
Year 8	Thank you for a great start to our Year 8 cohort of students – welcome back!
Year 9	A warm welcome to Year 9 and well done to all students for such a positive start to the academic year. Students have navigated the transition to the Centre Site with great resilience, maturity, and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful and rewarding year ahead for all of our Year 9 students.
Year 10	Welcome to our Year 10 students, to their second year on Centre Site.
Year 11	A welcome start to a very important year for our Year 11 students.

Year 12	It has been a fantastic start to the term for our new Year 12 cohort. They are all settling in well. We would like to invite all parents of Year 12 students to a Sixth Form Information Evening on Thursday 17 th September from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the Sixth Form Auditorium, where you will have an opportunity to learn more about what life in the Sixth Form will be like for your child. We hope to see as many parents there as possible.
Year 13	Welcome to our Year 13 students for this academic year in our Sixth Form.

Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

Support Staff:

- Sweatbox Youth Club – Volunteer Youth Support Worker

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 15 th September	School photos for students in Years 10, 11, 13
Wednesday 16 th September	Yr 7 KS3 'systems support evening' How to Support Your Child at School Information Evening, 5-6pm, West Site Hall
Thursday 17 th September	Yr 12 Introduction to KS5 Parents' Information Evening, 5.30-6.30pm, Sixth Form Auditorium

Best Wishes

Mr Smart