Parent Bulletin
Friday 18th 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

In this update:

- Headteacher Update
- KA's students doing amazing things
- USA ski trip – one space now available
- Academic Enrichment
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Headteacher Update
Welcome to what will be the last Parent Bulletin in this current format – from 2nd October we will move to the newly formatted and rebranded:

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King Alfred's Academy | Parent & Carer Bulletin

Things that might be useful for parents to know at the end of the third week of term:

- Mr Sandhu and Mr Hume have now delivered assemblies to all students in Year 7-11 about positive attitude to learning behaviours. Students have responded well to this message, the core of which is about them not just demonstrating good behaviour, but good learning behaviour
- The Year 7 and Year 12 parent information evenings were well attended this week. There will be an opportunity for Year 10 and Year 11 parents to join staff so that we can share details about the year ahead the week after next (dates in year group updates below)
- We also saw the start of Enrichment lessons this week. Years 7, 8 and 10 all had the opportunity to experience and enjoy this opportunity to broaden their experience. We were very pleased with how this went.
- Parents have received a letter via email about the sponsored walk which takes place on Friday 25th September. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the school community out onto the Ridgeway and experiencing the local countryside in which we are so fortunate to live. The letter contains everything parents need to know about the logistics and organisation of the day. We are raising money via Just Giving this year, hopefully this makes it easier for families to help us raise vital additional funds to spend on our students – every penny goes back into improving the school environment for them.

- Don't forget that the day before the sponsored walk is our annual 'Open Evening'. The Academy will close at 12:30pm in order to allow staff to set up for this important event.
- There will not be a bulletin next week because of the sponsored walk.

KA's students doing amazing things
A massive congratulations to Noah and Cullen for earning their Black belt's in Taekwon-Do!

USA ski trip
A rare opportunity for skiers – a space has become available on the USA ski trip to New Hampshire, at the Waterville Valley and Cannon ski resorts. The date of the visit will be Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 2nd April 2027 and is available to students in Years 11-13. The cost of the trip is £2800 and includes return direct flights, private transfers between accommodation and slopes, full medical and travel insurance cover, 6 nights' half board accommodation, lift passes and hire of skis, boots, poles and helmets, lunch each day, 5 x 5 hours of ski tuition, evening entertainment, a trip hoodie and a shopping stop. To express your interest or to ask any further questions, please contact Enrichment via kaenrichment@kas.cambrianlt.org

Academic Enrichment
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 21st 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	This week students were introduced to our Attitude to Learning framework, which focuses on the learning behaviours that support success both in school and beyond. Through the theme of effort versus compliance, students explored how real effort is about more than simply completing work. We have encouraged them to reflect on the importance of responding positively to challenges, seeking help when needed from teachers, acting on feedback, persevering when learning becomes difficult and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zone. These behaviours, alongside qualities such as resilience, curiosity, participation and responsibility, will be a key focus for Year 7 throughout the remainder of the term as we continue to develop positive habits for learning and personal growth. At home, please do explore conversations about: • What challenges your child faced this week and how they responded to them. • Whether they asked for help when needed. • How they acted on feedback from teachers • Times when they chose to persevere with a task

Year 8	Thank you to our Year 8 students for a great first couple of weeks back. Feels like we've never been away! Let's make sure we keep uniform standards high - as the role models on West Site we need to keep setting a great example to others.
Year 9	Year 9 students have made their Enrichment lesson selection on Wednesday 16th September. Please check with your child what they have selected and let Ms Avis know (via enquiries) if there are any issues. During a recent assembly, we discussed the importance of active participation in lessons and the positive impact it has on learning, confidence, and resilience. We encouraged students to make the most of every opportunity available to them by contributing in class, embracing challenges, and taking responsibility for their own learning. This message is particularly important as students begin their Year 9 journey - it is an exciting and significant year, providing students with the chance to explore a wide range of subjects, develop new skills, and start thinking about their future pathways. Over the coming months, students will begin considering their GCSE options. We encourage them to approach this process with curiosity and an open mind, reflecting on the subjects they enjoy, where their strengths lie, and the opportunities different courses can offer. By working hard, participating fully in lessons, and maintaining a positive attitude towards learning, students will be well placed to make informed choices about their next steps. We look forward to supporting all Year 9 students as they continue to grow in confidence, independence, and ambition throughout the year.
Year 10	We would like to remind parents of our upcoming Information Evening, "Introduction to Year 10," on **Tuesday 29th September**. This event will provide valuable information to parents on key dates, information and ways of supporting your child through their GCSE journey. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend.
Year 11	It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 11 students back to the Academy over the past two weeks. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many students hit the ground running and demonstrate a positive focus on their studies from the very start of the term. Lessons have been engaging, productive, and purposeful as students continue learning new content, whilst they also begin preparing for their first formal mock examination series in November. A key focus this term has been ensuring that students arrive promptly to lessons. The beginning of each lesson provides a valuable opportunity to revisit prior learning, strengthen key skills, and set students up for success. We would therefore encourage all students to make their way directly to their next lesson as soon as the bell sounds. Finally, we would like to remind parents of our upcoming Information Evening, "Supporting Your Child Through Year 11," on **Thursday 1st October**. This event will provide valuable guidance on how parents can support their child throughout this important academic year. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend. We look forward to working together to ensure every Year 11 student achieves their very best this year.
Year 12	No specific updates.
Year 13	No specific updates.

Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies:

<u>Support Staff:</u>

- 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)

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 24th September	Early close at 12:30pm due to Open Evening Event
Friday 25th September	Whole School Sponsored Walk
Tuesday 29th September	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening – An Introduction to KS4 Centre Hall, 5.30-6.30pm
Thursday 1st October	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening – Supporting Your Child Through Year 11 Centre Hall, 5.30-6.30pm

Best Wishes
Mr Smart