

BE PROUD

Again this week we have some fantastic student achievements to celebrate at The King Alfred School (TKAS). Thank you to all the students involved. You make us very **proud**.

On Tuesday evening The King Alfred School opened its doors and 17 Year 10 Edvocate students dazzled parents with their impressive presentations. Students were tasked with creating a research project on an area of their choice and producing an engaging 5 minute talk to present to an audience of 80. Presentations included a wide range of topics, from 'How is art separate from the artist?' to 'Is it realistic to live in our dreams?' and 'Duke of Edinburgh' to 'Final Fantasy VII'. All students spoke with passion from their particular field and listened politely to their peers. Thank you to Miss Wray and the individual staff mentors for their own input into a fantastic night.

Thank you to all who came and supported our students.

The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) - an update from Mr Coles and Mrs Hurr

As the school year progresses it is a pleasure to see the engagement and motivation of our excellent year 11 students led by their Head of Year, Miss Charles, and Assistant Head of Year, Mr Penman. Their focus in their most recent PPE (mock exams) and in their actual practical exams of drama most recently has been a credit to them and their families. We are still waiting for the letter from Ofsted regarding our most recent monitoring inspection - as soon as this is received we will share the positive news with parents.

Tutor Evenings - Advance Notice

These will take place for all students on 12th April and 19th April. Letters are being issued to parents and carers next week. This is a vital chance to meet with your child's tutor to discuss their general progress, as well as allowing you to discuss their latest report in detail. Research has shown that meetings between parents and staff are a key part in improving student outcomes (both academically and pastorally) and Tutors have a holistic picture of your child's progress which enables them to help and support them. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you in April.

Osmington Bay Trip

It was a particularly muddy weekend at Osmington this year! On Saturday we studied coastal processes, geology and fossils, then on Sunday we visited Osmington Village to learn about how and why the village has changed. Students also took part in quad biking, giant swing, buggy build and archery.

Thanks to Mrs Owen, Mr Clements, Mrs Robertson, Ms Hurl and Miss Coulson for giving up their weekend and to the PGL instructors for being so encouraging and fun.

**Understanding Young Minds - free online course for parents/carers**

Thousands of children and young people in the UK are thought to be impacted by self-harm each year. Spotting the signs can be difficult, and approaching the subject with your children can be an uncomfortable experience.

This online course, 'Talking to your children about emotional resilience and self-harm', has been designed to provide you with a basic awareness of the subject to help you approach your children with confidence about the issue. Find out more and take the course for free using this link to the course: <https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/understanding-young-minds>

Drama Practical Exams

A big well done to all the Year 11 Drama students who completed their last practical exam on Friday! We were blown away at the quality of their pieces and are so proud of all the hard work they have put in over the last few weeks.



Learning Habits

Thank you to students and parents/carers for your support in ensuring that good learning habits are developed each day through students being prepared for lessons. Students are now showing that they have the right equipment each day and are ready to learn. It is now an expectation that students have their equipment out on the desk in Tutor Time and in each and every lesson.

Please remind your child to bring full equipment every day, and remind them that this should automatically be out on the desk in each and every lesson. Pencil cases and all listed items (see our website for details) can be purchased from the Library during break and lunch at very reasonable prices.

Parent & Family Support Advisors (PFSA) Update

Would you allow your child to watch an 18 rated film, e.g. Fifty Shades of Grey, Hannibal or Pulp Fiction? Would you allow your child to play an 18 rated game, e.g. Grand Theft Auto, Dead Space or Call of Duty?

The amount of children and young people playing 18 rated games when they are under age is rising. Research shows a clear link between children and young people playing these games and poor mental health and emotional wellbeing. "Recent evidence raises concerns about media's effects on aggression, sexual behaviour, substance misuse, disordered eating, and academic difficulties" (Victor C. Strasburger et al). Such games include, and at times promote:

- Violence
- Sexual acts
- Murder
- Torture
- Drugs
- Illegal behaviour
- Anti-social behaviour
- Gang violence
- Rape and sexual assault

No child or young person should be playing games or watching films under age. It may be difficult to stop, but it's not impossible and it is worth it. If you would like further information, advice or support please contact the PFSA Team on 01278 784881.

Site Entry And Visitors To Site

A reminder that all adults visiting the school now need to do so via the new Reception located next to the coach bay car park. Please follow the new signage and park in the car park next to the 6th Form Block where there are allocated visitors parking spaces for school users. Students who arrive after the start of the school day or who need to leave during the school day will also be using this Reception. If you need to visit the school for any reason please use the new Reception as the old Reception will be for students only. Thank you for your support in this matter.

