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## ■ MR MILFORD

Welcome to the Spring edition of the TKASA newsletter. I can't believe we are already over half way through the academic year - time flies! As I write this piece, I can hear the heavy rain outside and I have to remind myself that Spring is on its way.

Fortunately, the lighter mornings and evenings are a sign of the Spring and Summer months ahead! I really enjoy this time of year, the promise of warmer weather to come and a time where the students start to spend more time outside enjoying the fresh air. In the next few weeks, after the Easter break, we can open our school fields up to all the students at social times, which is great for them, as they can more easily burn off some energy as well as enjoy sitting on the benches and grass, in the warm weather, having their lunch.

In this newsletter, you will be hearing from subject leaders, pastoral staff, as well as support staff, about the great things that happen all around the school. The pages that follow are a testament to the vast array of opportunities we provide for our great students here at TKASA each and every day. Each area of school has put together wonderful examples of students working well, performing brilliantly and contributing toward school life.

This term has been both a busy and rewarding one with preparations for the Summer exams well and truly underway, the P6 revision sessions and general extra-curricular activities. This term has seen drama presentations, trips, nominations for awards ceremonies, sporting excellence, university places offered, planned Easter Conference, and in person parents' evenings.

The Summer terms also bring the opportunity to welcome our incoming Year 6 children and their families to TKASA for the various transition days and events that we organise. Our Year 7 numbers for September are once again really good and highlight that parents are choosing to send their children to TKASA as their first choice. We are also finalising our numbers for Year 12 in our brilliant Sixth Form Centre for next September following a long period of recruitment and open events for students and their families. Exciting times ahead for both these groups of families!

I really hope you enjoy reading all about school life this term at TKASA in the pages that follow. The newsletters we do each term are so important to us as

they highlight how busy life is at school and give a multitude of examples of how much our staff go above and beyond to make our students' experiences so memorable. More importantly, the newsletters highlight what fantastic students we have at TKASA and how proud we are of them.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your support so far this academic year and wishing all our students a well earned break over the holidays. I look forward to working with you all for the remainder of the school year where it will no doubt be another busy four months of activity.

Dan Milford - Principal



*Mr Milford with Rafi, Ava and Gracie who were awarded Students of the week for their excellent work on the Antarctic Flag Project. (page 32)*





## MISS CHARLES

It has been a busy term with many achievements made both within lessons and through extra curricular sessions. I am very proud of our students. They know that if they want to achieve something, they have to work hard at it. I regularly see them displaying this in all aspects of their school life.

Our Year 11 and 13 students are only 2 months away from starting their final exams, an anxious but exciting time where they can show off their potential and add more blocks to the pathway of their future. There are lots of opportunities and extra support they can take up to help them in these final weeks to ensure they are fully prepared.

We have had a real push this term with homework. Homework develops good study habits and independent learning. All information about the rationale of our homework policy and the different strategies that students are using to complete homework can be found on the school website.

Thank you to all parents who attended parents evenings and information evenings. We hope you found them useful in providing gaps in learning and ways to support your child.

As ever please do get in touch if you have any questions.



## MR WALKER

Happy Easter everybody. It's been a long and busy couple of months and with Christmas thoroughly in the distance, we all look forward to the lighter nights and hopeful of some nicer weather ahead.

We also look towards this longer school holiday as a great opportunity to reset, take stock, spend time with family and hopefully, like all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, spend some time revisiting important work, reading and planning for things to come later this year.

Our TKASA House System has gone from strength to strength this year, with some superb personal achievements across the school and wonderful events. This culminated on our TKASA community MacMillan cake and coffee morning towards the end of the term. Our hope is to continue to grow our community links and engagement with local partners. As we come into the lighter months it's a great opportunity to try a new club or activity, develop a new hobby or skill. Our Enrichment and P6 programme for Term 5 and 6 will be ready shared very soon. As a call for all students, make the most of these brilliant opportunities in school that are totally free.

I hope everybody enjoys the long break. Keep safe and look after those around you.



## ATTENDANCE AT TKASA

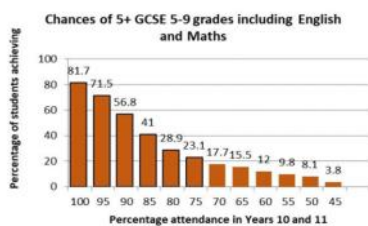
You will have seen in the national press that school attendance is a key priority at present. Thank you for your support with ensuring your child is in school and their lessons every day possible.

## WHY ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

There is a direct correlation between attendance to school and success whether that be in the classroom, engaging with sports or other clubs, social skills, resilience and the ability to succeed in the world of work. If you are concerned about your child's attendance please reach out to your child's tutor or Head of Year.

Attendance figures of 92 and 93% are where, in most cases, we start to see a real impact on the progress a child is making academically. The best way to ensure that your child is having as much support towards their final outcomes is to ensure they are in their classes as much as possible. As well as increasing your child's chances of retaining information, positive attendance also builds resilience and stamina for the upcoming exam period. This is an intense period of time for students and it is important that they understand these are run on an external exams timetable and an absence would result in scoring a 0 or U grade for that paper.

While an **attendance** figure of 90% may not sound very low, it reduces a child's chance of achieving 5+ 5-9 grades at **GCSE** from 81% to around 57%.



## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS TOO UNWELL FOR SCHOOL?

The NHS has some useful advice for parents and carers on when it is appropriate to send a child into school and when they need to stay at home. Please scan the QR code or go to [www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school) to access this guidance.



If your child is too unwell to attend school we do not send work home for them to complete as they need to focus on getting better.

## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is absent then it must be reported to the school as soon as possible via the Weduc app, If you are unable to do this you can also email [attendance@tkasa.theplt.org.uk](mailto:attendance@tkasa.theplt.org.uk) or call the absence line on 01278 764088.

Any Absences without explanation will have to be coded as unauthorised.

If your child is ill, please contact the school on each day of absence, before 8.40am.



Yearly Attendance Percentage	Equals-days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means approximately these lessons missed
<b>95%</b>	<b>9 days</b>	<b>2 weeks</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>90%</b>	<b>19 days</b>	<b>4 weeks</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>85%</b>	<b>29 days</b>	<b>6 weeks</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>80%</b>	<b>38 days</b>	<b>8 weeks</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>75%</b>	<b>48 days</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>70%</b>	<b>57 days</b>	<b>11.5 weeks</b>	<b>285</b>

## IN TO WIN

To acknowledge students and the efforts they have made with their attendance we continue to run a weekly raffle for all students who were present the week before. This then resets each week meaning everyone has the opportunity to win. Students are drawn at random and get a choice of small prizes. This has been really popular with students in all year groups and it has been brilliant to see Year 10 and 11 winners selecting prizes such as flash cards and highlighters to help them with their revision.

*Be in to*  
**Win!**

## ■ HOUSES

Since I last wrote we have had the results of our Step in to Christmas challenge - which saw us as a school travel 6,215.31km (Nearly 4000miles) from sleepy Somerset all the way to Wisconsin, USA.

House Points are being dished out on a daily basis. I have added extra points to those students and staff who enter the competitions we run.



@TKASAHouses

Since Christmas we have added points for our incredible Sister Act Cast as well as the many staff and students that dressed up on World Book Day. Outside the classroom students and staff have amassed over 95,000 points across all four Houses.

Class Chart House Points scored (without the extras above) at the time of writing (Wednesday 20th March) are:

**Brent 98,433, Mendip 105,501, Quantock 99,689, Steart 97,087**

It is still all to play for with Sports Day and 'Welly Wanging Week' in the Summer Term.

As you may have seen we have hosted a MacMillian Coffee morning, where staff and students have been encouraged to submit a House or School Themed Bake. Pictures and a total raised will feature in our Summer Newsletter.

Mr Shepherd  
House Coordinator

## ■ SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council held a parliament in February to discuss what TKASA does well for our students and what improvements students feel could be made to improve their school experience. This year we met in Houses, meaning vertical year groups met for an hour to discuss their ideas and suggestions, allowing us to hear from lower and upper school and collate shared issues across the school body! The main headlines to celebrate are: students are proud of the school grounds commenting that they are "clean and tidy" and "well presented". Furthermore, students feel that there is a "friendly teacher community" and they are prepared for post-GCSE pathways, with a variety of options to choose from in Year 9. Departments who were specifically mentioned by students for being enjoyable and varied included Drama, Art and Science. Also, Learning Support was highlighted as a "safe space" and a place that offers "extra support". Improvements suggested by students were constructive and sensible. The next steps for these ideas are for them to be presented to the rest of the school and for a student voice survey to be completed by all. The meeting notes will also be discussed with Mr Milford and SLT. Overall, the meeting and process has been a success and will support the future of ensuring students feel a sense of ownership and belonging at TKASA. Thank you to all of those who were involved.



Miss Groves



THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL  
An Academy

THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL AN ACADEMY  
PRESENTS...

# SISTER ACT

Music by ALAN MENKEN      Book by CHERI STEINKELLNER & BILL STEINKELLNER      Lyrics by GLENN SLATER

**25th - 27th April 2024**  
**The Princess Theatre & Arts Centre**

Tickets available from box office  
Princess Street, Burnham-On-Sea, TA8 1EH

16 & UNDER £13  
ADULTS £15

Additional book material DONCLAS CARTER BEANE  
Based on the touchstone pictures motion picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard. This amateur production is present by arrangement with the Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
www.mtishows.co.uk

**Due to popular demand**  
**Sister Act**  
will be returning to  
The Princess Theatre & Arts Centre,  
Burnham-on-Sea  
Tickets available from  
The Princess Theatre Box office

Thursday Evening Performance	25th April
Friday Evening Performance	26th April
Saturday Matinee Performance	27th April
Saturday Evening performance	27th April



## ■ D-DAY 80

The Royal British Legion will be holding local events to celebrate 80 years since D-Day. One of the events will be taking place at The King Alfred School on Saturday, 8th June 2024 and another one on Saturday, 15th June at the Oaktree Arena Grounds.

The event at TKASA will include a display of local information from photographs, newspapers and other information. Further details of this event will be issued nearer the time via Weduc.

To help celebrate we are looking for anyone who has any photographs or stories of the local area during World War 2. This includes Bason Bridge, Berrow, Brean, Brent Knoll, Burnham-on-Sea, Edithmead, East Huntspill, Highbridge, Pawlett and West Huntspill

If you are able to share please can you send to

Mrs Williams

[library@tkasa.theplt.org.uk](mailto:library@tkasa.theplt.org.uk)

Thank you!



Royal British Legion  
Burnham on Sea Branch  
Presents

## D-Day 80

Saturday 15th June  
10am - 4pm

*Military Vehicles, Airsoft Range, Live Displays, Activities, Food & Drink, Memorabilia Stalls*

Oaktree Arena Grounds  
Highbridge TA9 4HA

FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING

## ■ MRS GIBSON—HEAD OF YEAR 7

We have had lots of things to celebrate this term but a massive highlight for me (which I'm sure lots of you will agree) has been the Sister Act show! Well done to the Year 7 students who took part, what an incredibly proud moment it was for me to see you on the stage. Another highlight for me has to be our wonderful Rafi who has presented assemblies to different year groups on Ramadan. It was incredibly brave of him to not only stand up in front of other year groups but also share his personal journey of completing Ramdan this year. Well done also to Tay with Monarchs Gymnastics - two 1st places in the pairs in the South West Prelims and now through to the regional finals (SW) and national finals! Wishing you a restful Easter break and thank you all for support at our Year 7 Parents Evening this term, we had an incredible turn out.



## ■ 7-K MR HARDIE

With what at times feels like an incessant procession of wet weather fronts visiting the South West, it is difficult to believe that we have moved from winter to spring. I am thankful, therefore, to have the good fortune of being able to rely on sunny 7K to lift my spirits during morning tutor. Elliott, Shae and Damian are rarely without an opinion on something or other, and Eliza, Megan and Autumn also have points of view that are freely given. The warmth of their good-natured conversation has certainly been a great antidote to the damp chills of February and March. With April on the horizon as I write this, it is astonishing to think that we are already more than halfway through the academic year and, at the same time, immensely pleasing to see how students have adapted to the rigours of life in the big school. Schools are dynamic environments and it is with great pleasure that I welcome newcomers Beau and Meadow to 7K. Also, special mention must of course go to the Spring Term book monitors (Ebony, Aston, Leon and Tamara) who have been a great help with the distribution and collection of "Chinese Cinderella" in the morning. Finally, I wish everyone a very happy Easter and look forward to hearing about what you have done (and how much chocolate you have eaten!) over the holiday.

## ■ 7-I MISS KEEBLE

I have been so impressed with 7I this term! It has been lovely to have Mr Giblett join us in tutor time and he has loved getting to know the students. World book day was great with lots of the tutor group (including Mr Giblett!) dressed up as book characters! It was also great to hear how well the first student leadership meeting went with our house representatives Zach, Jeshua, Freddie and Leo doing a brilliant job liaising with the rest of the student council about different school matters. It makes us so proud when we hear about all the amazing things the students get up to inside and outside of school. Willow told us all about her recent drama performance which sounded amazing and we get to hear lots about the different sports teams lots of the tutor group are involved in. Well done to Willow, Freddie and Lydia who are top of positives for the tutor group this term! We are so chuffed with all of 7I and can't wait to continue next term with them!



## ■ 7-N MISS BURGE

First of all, I would like to welcome Ivy W to our tutor who has recently joined us from 7R. Welcome Ivy!

I am so incredibly proud of you all as a tutor group and how well we are all growing together. We have some weird and wonderful conversations every morning, discussing your weekends and how early we all get up in the morning, especially those of you who swim most mornings! 7N hit the ground running in September to keeping their pace now, consistently achieving the top score for positives in year 7 week in and week out! We are always at the top of those leaderboards and I could not be prouder. You are all growing into remarkable young adults and I have no doubt that you will continue to push through barriers and strive to be the very best you can be!! We had an amazing world book day, with lots of you dressing up as your favourite literary characters and all had a good laugh at my costume! You consistently prove to myself and other members of staff how kind and hardworking you all are! I have no doubt that with your determination and enjoyment of school you will continue to be the very best tutor group in year 7! I am so very proud of each and every one of you.



## 7-G MISS WOODMAN

This term 7G have been fantastic, we have welcomed Daisy and Oscar to our wonderful tutor team. Together you have worked really hard and have collected over 4000 positive house points. We have enjoyed our morning reading and have moved on to Chinese Cinderella which we are thoroughly enjoying. Every week you blow me away with your general knowledge and have consistently scored 19 or 20/20 on the fab friday current affairs quiz! This term we have embraced world book day with some great costumes, well done to Charlie for winning a prize for the treasure hunt. Well done to Mercedes, Harley, Koby, Harry and Lily-May who have all enjoyed the cooking skills club, with lots of amazing skills learnt and yummy food produced. A particular highlight was the cheesecake making workshop with sandwich sandwich! It has been wonderful to see you all grow and develop since joining TKASA. I am excited to watch you continue your journey over the coming months and celebrating every success with you.

## 7-A MR CLEMENTS / MS KING



This term, 7A has welcomed and said good-bye to some tutees. Lacey has returned and showed excellent effort and engagement, we're glad to have you back! You have excelled in collecting over 4000 house points for us this term, and done the tutor proud. We enjoyed reading Wonder together each morning and definitely never cheating in the quiz after seeing Ms Stanley's answers on a Thursday. You continue to brighten Ms King's and Mr Clements' morning each and every day and we are so proud of the progress you have been making. A12 was gratefully adorned with some excellent door art to celebrate world book day, after the tutor chose the Cat in the Hat to welcome us to school each morning. Some students even spent their own break time putting together our masterpiece and it will be cherished for the rest of the year. As always Mr Clements' stick insects and Peruvian fern insect have been treated to star hospitality by our tutor, collecting fresh food (bramble) on the regular. And as the term has gone on there has been growing competition to have one of the strange science gizmos from my desk each tutor time to distract wandering minds. We are still just at the start of 7As journey through TKASA and we are all so excited to see what you are going to achieve, keep up the good work!



## 7-L MRS ROBERTSON & MRS EDGECOMBE

This term 7L have continued to amaze Mrs Edgecombe and I, with their excellent behaviour, great attitude to learning and fantastic kindness. This has been reflected in them getting nearly 6,000 positive points on class charts with Meg, Leo, Gracie, Rafi and Tay leading the way. Last week we celebrated world book day at TKASA and the tutor group excelled again by designing and covering two of the tutor doors with brilliant book covers. 7L have continued to enjoy the extra curricular activities on offer at the school. Last week I was lucky enough to get out after school and watch some of the year 7 football team in action - well done to Harry, Tay and Leo for some great performances. A big well done to Gracie for helping with the primary school netball competition, as part of her sports captain role. Outside of school 7L have been impressing us with their commitment to other activities as well. Harry trains with Exeter City Football academy, Tay trains and competes for Monarchs Gymnastic Club, Demi trains with Hard Knox boxing club, Jacob plays for Burnham Rugby Club, and we have fierce competition between the local football teams - Jacob, Oli E, Antoni, Harry Nate and Tay play for Burnham United and Leo and Jaiden play for Burnbridge Wanderers. Well done 7L, what a great term!





## 7-F MRS MARTIN

I have been really pleased with how 7F has welcomed me as their tutor, lots of helpful students and excellent work. They have had a great spring term collecting over 4,000 positive class chart points - an amazing achievement. We are currently enjoying reading Wonder during tutor time, which pupils seem to be really engaged with. In PSHCE we have been delving into Health and Wellbeing most recently - personal hygiene which the class had some excellent ideas about how to maintain excellent hygiene. The weekly quiz has been a fun end to our week with eager students waiting for me on a Friday morning asking to run the quiz, read questions and take in the votes - an absolute pleasure to be a part of.

Brooke has competed in Nationals for sailing and achieved 21st in the whole country - what a massive achievement. Ben has been learning to speak Filipino as his parents are from the Philippines. Ayan has been trying to learn the whole Quran. Lily has competed in the English gymnastic championships where she placed 4th - outstanding work! Keep up the fantastic work team.

I am really looking forward to continuing the journey through secondary school with 7F, they have made an outstanding start and I am very proud to be their tutor.



## 7-R MISS GROVES

7R have continued to make me proud with their involvement in whole school activities. Pixie, Lola, Emily R and Neala were absolutely fantastic in the school production, which was phenomenal. What an achievement to be part of such a wonderful performance, enjoyed by students, staff and parents! House reps: Ethan H, Sophie W, Neala and Tobias attended our School Council Day and contributed sensible and constructive ideas.

We have welcomed Ella and Macey to our tutor group, who have been great additions to our team! In the mornings we have been reading the positive and negative experiences of school life for Auggie Pullman in R.J. Palacio's 'Wonder'. Collectively, we prepared for World Book Day by decorating our door as a book cover chosen by 7R - 'Holes'! A fond favourite from primary school! In PSHCE, we have discussed puberty, personal hygiene and consent. Neala is storming the positives leaderboard with over 500+ and there's lots of 7R closely behind her. No doubt we will see lots more '500s' by half term! You've got this 7R - keep going!



## 7-E MR JOHNSON

I am so proud of this tutor group and how we are all growing together. We have a good relationship, myself and 7E, in History, PSHE and every morning in tutor as well! Whether it's learning some strange facts that they have picked up on their recent travels, or telling me new words and phrases that they have learned from Tik Tok! From hitting the ground running in September to keeping their pace now, 7E consistently achieves the top or around the top score for positives in year 7 week in and week out! They consistently prove to myself and other members of staff that they are a kind, level, and hardworking group of young people that attack each lesson with their best efforts! However, one of the best parts of the week for both myself and the cast of 7E would be attempting the current affairs quiz every Friday during tutor time! One day we will get 20/20 right! It's just a matter of time! With this group's determination and enjoyment of school in general they will be sure to continue with their outstanding attitude and ways for the rest of the year! I am an incredibly proud tutor.

## ■ MR BAIL HEAD OF YEAR 8 AND MISS COX

We have seen a positive change in the Year group throughout this year and in particular this term. Students are consistently getting it right and working hard in their lessons. It was a very proud moment during parents' evening to hear so many positive conversations happening. They continue to improve and are giving themselves and their peers the best learning environment to be successful. We hope this positive attitude to school continues into the summer term and into Year 9. We have a fantastic tutor team who are working tirelessly with the students.

Thank you to all of the Year 8 family.

## ■ 8-K MR JOHN

We are proud to be 8K: having Mr John as our tutor is an inspiration! We have many role models in our tutor such as tutor house leaders: Amara Gamwell and Maisie Raymond for Brent, Mendip: Jennifer Byrne, Quantock: Henneh and Steart: James Farmer. Finally our tutor reps are: Sienna Moores and Riley Francis. Achievements within the tutor: our person with the highest positives is Matilda Taylor

Some of our peers in 8k have also represented our tutor and school, in the school show (Sister Act) These include: dancers, Amara Gamwell and Sienna Moores! Tina as a nun, Maisie Raymond as a gangster, and Ethan Whiteoak. We have had many students receiving Friday praise calls; Stanley Dean, Finnlay Crawford, Amara Gamwell, Sienna Moores, Maisie Raymond, Juno Channon-Reader, Tilly Taylor, Holly, Ella, Megan, Isla and many others

## ■ 8-I MISS STANLEY

We are Proud to be 8I. We have been involved in many extra-curricular activities. Cameron Hicks was involved in our amazing school production (Sister Act). Jaydon, Alfie, Hayden, Poppy, Grace and Kayleigh have been representing King Alfred in our football matches after school. We have been improving our reading skills and our vocabulary through the new book 'The Graveyard Book', where we have been following the life of Nobody Owens. Logan has received the most positives in our tutor. Many of our tutor have been given praise calls home; Olivia (x6), Jamie, Hayden(x2), Cameron(x2), Logan, Poppy(x3), Kayleigh(x2), Lydia(x4), Nathan(x2), Alfie, Jaydon, Theo, Nathaniel, Maisie, Harrison, Grace, Rogan, Sophia.

## ■ 8-N MR MAGUIRE

There has been a lot of change in 8N people leaving our tutor and new people joining, and we have adjusted really well, with those new tutees settling in well.

We are a fun tutor with lots of members trying to help each other to be better. We even try to run the homework checking for Mr Maguire. We definitely like to take the lead to show our

Leadership skills. Mr Maguire loves the quiz and we have heated debates over what's happened in the world each week. Congratulations to Thomas for receiving a top ten positives for the week. A big shout out to Evie who we support in her swimming galas  
.#MaguireOUT

## ■ 8-G MRS BROWN

We are a really good tutor group. We have had loads of positives this year and have got along really well. In the last assembly we won the most points. We are also near the top of the weekly quiz board. We also had a lovely selection of students who enjoyed World Book Day. We are a sporty tutor group. We have lots of people involved in extracurricular activities - rugby ( Fin, Travis and Jenson) and football (Olli, Rori, Ellis, Kuba, Jenson, Isaac, Abel, Anold) dominate. We also have lots of netball players on the school team - (Lilly, Kitty and Paulina) Kuba and Emilia also play cricket outside of school. Finley and Travis also box outside of school and Finley also goes to the gym, Jenson swims lots of weekdays and really enjoys the fitness. Isaac also enjoys a drum session in a band - One Shot, Johan and Abel also participate in Taekwondo

## ■ 8-A MRS SEYMOUR

8A has had another great term. Well done to Harrison, Caleb, Paul and Ashton for volunteering to be the representatives for their house in 8A and attending the tutor house representative meeting. Welcome those new tutees who have joined our tutor group, we hope that you have settled in.

## ■ 8-L MR WHITEOAK AND MISS MAPES

In 8L this term we have seen several individuals improve their behaviour and have been working to earn more positive achievements in lessons. Students enjoy after school activities such as football. Students have worked to improve homework and attendance. In particular, Bronwyn, Evelyn, Matthew, and Byron always have very good homework. Harvey has improved his homework as has Shaylah. Kacey has over 300 positives this school year with no negatives which has earned her student of the week in the past. On World Book Day, Bronwyn won a prize for her great character costume!

## ■ 8-F MISS WALLIS

In 8F this term we have achieved some amazing things! Louie Wyton won the talent competition where he sang 'a million dreams'. We have amazing attendance and still currently compete in the top 3 highest attendance every week. Our positives are very good and we usually get top 2 in the positives every week. Grace, Hattie, Freya and Millie all join in on after school netball club. Henry is in the beauty and the beast with his acting club. We are reading the Graveyard book where we are following the life of Nobody Owens. Albert Vjoby does karate and won a certificate. One of our very own students, who we're really proud to have, is Jaiden Burrows and he is constantly in the top 10 positives every week. He's a superstar. 2 of our students dressed up for world book day, Henry Edgell being a wizard in Slytherin house and Ryan McGinnis dressed up as Percy Jackson. Well done 8F!

## ■ 8-R MRS RICHARDS

8R have had a fantastic start to the year. Members of 8R have taken part in lots of exciting things both inside & outside of school. Molly took part in a show jumping competition and had a clear round, knocking down no poles. Xander has taken part in lots of swimming competitions since Christmas, achieving great results! Kyla & Grace take part in a drama club outside of school and are rehearsing for a new show. Many members of 8R went to watch the 'Sister Act' school show and have said how brilliant the show was - well done everyone! Leah took part in the Guides 'World

Thinking Day' along with many other guides in year 8 and across the school. Bella & Leah are members of the Jill Dando News Centre and recently interviewed a presenter from Radio Sedgemoor. There are other extra curricular clubs that members of 8R attend, including Joseph attending Art club and Woody, Kai & Xander attending the football club. Joseph & Leah dressed up for world book day as 'Charlie' from Willy Wonka and 'Matilda' - both students' outfits were fab! There is a science competition which is running across the school that many members of 8R are taking part in, we can't wait to see the entries!

## ■ 8-E MISS BIRD

Our tutor group has grown over the past few months and we are all proud to be part of 8E! We have been working hard on our shared resolutions and have improved our attendance and the quality of our homework. In particular, James has improved his attendance and is working hard to maintain this. Members of Jill Dando have been interviewing exciting people with hopes of school trip opportunities in the future. During World Book Day most people dressed up and took part in the scavenger hunt. Scarlett, Mya and Grace won an award for a brilliant group costume! Every day, our reading is improving as we go through 'The Graveyard Book'. Looking ahead to the rest of the year (and beyond!), we want to take on more responsibilities in the school community, perhaps getting involved in the school show, extracurriculars and sports competitions. We will continue to be kind to each other and make people feel welcome in our tutor group.



## ■ MRS PUZEY / MISS BULLOCK

It feels like only 5 minutes ago since you heard from our wonderful Year 9s who helped to write December's newsletter entry but here we are a whole term later. Our end of term assembly on the last day of term in December was a real treat, all of the amazing Year 9 tutors got in the festive spirit and we had a number of performances from students as well as celebrating students of the term? The Easter eggs are already in the Pastoral Hub ready for this term's... who will be our winners? As always it is bound to be an almost impossible decision!

Year 9 have been incredible and thrown themselves into all aspects of school life in terms 3 and 4. They continue to lead the way on attendance to P6 and lunchtime clubs and we are pleased to have had more students than any other year group involved in Sister Act. Many of you will have seen the show and appreciate the time, effort and energy that was put in.

A lot of our Year 9 girls have been involved in sports initiatives such as the Bristol Bears Bear in Mind project as well as the FA Girls Whistlers event. It has been absolutely fantastic to see our Year 9 students approach these initiatives with such enthusiasm and positivity. They have all made us incredibly proud, especially when we have had such amazing feedback from the external coaches who have come in to work with them. We love how keen our year group is to get involved in the broad range of opportunities offered to them.

## ■ OPTIONS

GCSE Options have formed a large part of this term and we are thrilled to have a folder full of options forms to process. Tutors and other staff across the school have had lots of positive conversations around the different subjects that can be chosen and we had a record attendance at Options evening. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have supported this process. Just a reminder all information on Options can be found in the Students section of the school website and includes the presentation from Options evening if you were unable to make it.



## ■ MR MOORE — HEAD OF YEAR 10

Since taking over as Head of Year, I have been very impressed with the attitude, effort and progress from all. On the whole, behaviour and punctuality has been great. There is always room for improvement, but as 91% of the ClassChart behaviour points have been positive, it shows that Year Ten students have shown a real effort to engage with their learning.

Many in the Year group have taken part in extracurricular activities. Our football and netball teams performed very well during their fixtures against other schools, our Sports Captains showed great leadership when they ran a tag rugby tournament at Millfield School, and there were some great performances in the talent show.

Many Year 10 students took part in the school production of Sister Act. It was a privilege to watch such a fantastic show and the hard work from all involved was not unnoticed. A special mention must go to Jacob and Casey who played lead roles, but the professionalism shown by all was inspiring.

With work experience around the corner, I am pleased to say that most students have now found a placement. If you have not yet done so, please continue to try and ask for support if required. Although some students are understandably nervous, work experience is an invaluable opportunity and I am sure it will be a positive experience.

During PSHCE lessons, all tutor groups have recently covered both interesting and difficult topics. Every tutor group has engaged fully with the PSHCE curriculum and have discussed each topic in a mature way.

It will come as no surprise that I have to mention attendance. It is vitally important that all students attend school every day to give themselves the best chance of positive outcomes next year. An attendance figure of 85% may seem like a good figure, but it equates to 29 school days off each year and 145 hours worth of lessons missed. I want every student in Year10 to have the best chance of getting into college courses, apprenticeships or being able to work in an industry of their choice. Ultimately, I would like students to open as many doors as possible for their future, so it is vital they are in school everyday.

Overall, I cannot put into words how proud I am of every single student in the year group for navigating their way through both educational and personal challenges they have faced.

Keep up the good work Year 10!

## ■ 10-K MR SHREWRING

Well done to all the students of 10K. Some really great efforts were made this term. In particular Alfred Bissel, Anthony Ladd, Leah Pike, Emma Lilley and Freya Watkins for their fantastic performances in Sister Act. There have been a lot of good class discussions during PSHCE and good involvements in Friday Quiz. Many of 10K have regular features in the points board and represent the tutor with pride. It's great to see so many of them growing into mature, respectful and interested individuals as well as developing skills as team players - well done and thank you. And well done to everyone else for another great term at TKASA.

## ■ 10-I MISS NEWTON (MISS MILFORD)

It has been SUPER seeing 10I each and every morning for the last few weeks and the proof is in the pudding because for the last 2 weeks 10I have topped the class charts behaviour tracker which is fantastic! We've been the first tutor group to knock off 10R after weeks of them leading it! We've also reinvigorated their love for reading and continue to improve their standards for homework which pleases me immensely. Our tutor was also most proud to support the students in our school production - Zoe and Phoebe you did us and all at TKASA very proud indeed! We have 13 students on 100% attendance which is marvellous and another 12 with zero negatives this academic year - many students fall into both which is a huge success! Fast approaching is work experience taking place in May and we are excited to hear what our brilliant students achieve!



### **Silver The Duke of Edinburgh Award**

*Good luck with the Silver DofE  
expeditions **Year 10!***

**Practice  
Wednesday, 19th June to Friday, 21st June**

**Qualifying  
Friday, 5th July to Tuesday, 9th July 2024**

## ■ 10-N MR MCBRIDE AND MISS MARKOUTSAS

As part of the schoolwide reading programme, 10N have been reading Aldous Huxley's - Brave New World. The story is set in a futuristic society where natural reproduction is replaced by artificial methods and people are conditioned for predetermined roles, the novel explores themes of individuality, freedom, and the dehumanizing effects of a highly controlled and pleasure-driven culture. It is not the easiest of reads due to the scientific language at times, but the concepts contained are very 21st Century themes. However, Miss Markoutsas and I have been impressed by the maturity of the group as the story is read. I also have to say how well they engaged in the PSCH session on Contraception before half term - controlling their enthusiasm and again, showing great maturity. The group is represented in the upcoming school production of Sister Act by Jacob Presdee - if the promo reel is anything to go by, then he will be amazing. As we approach the end of the term, I know that many are filled with both nerves and excitement at the prospect of their work experience in May - hopefully, we will have many tales for the summer newsletter.

## ■ 10-G MRS APPLEBY

It has been my pleasure to take over as a 10G tutor in January. I love getting to know all the students. 10G has warmly welcomed Arabella into our group recently. Casey Slocombe made us all proud as she won the TKASA talent show! Her beautiful voice could also be heard in the successful production of Sister Act. Faith Pitt, Amy Herbert, Florence Newcombe, Oscar Aylward also participated in different roles. Well done! We are eagerly awaiting the work experience in May which will give us some invaluable insights into the workplace. We have managed to creep up to second place in the class chart positive points ranking. I am sure we will make it to the top soon. I can wait to see what new term will bring.

## ■ 10-A MRS FLAMSTEED

This term we have been reading Brave New World during tutor times in the morning and for our PSCH lessons we have been focusing on relationships. I have been very impressed at the maturity shown by 10A for both of these, especially during PSCH, where students have partaken in great class discussions and asking questions. You have also shown yourself to be very sensible when we have had fire bells this term.

We have had some wonderful performances during this term from members of the tutor group. Well done to Jocelyn Lacey, Ellie Macbeth and Sonnie Macbeth for their participation in the TKASA talent show and to Evelyn Moore for her part in Sister Act.

Work experience is coming up next term and members of 10A have been busy finding some wonderful opportunities and completing their forms; by February half term we were the tutor group in second place with placements! I am sure you will have lots of fun.

Jack Bettany is still leading the way with the amount of positive behaviour points collected on class charts this year so far! Well done Jack, keep it up!

We should also celebrate the fact that 4 members of the group are still on an impressive 100% attendance since the start of September. Fantastic work Charlie Harris, Jocelyn Lacey, Cooper Long and Lilia Lovibond-Stephens!

Finally, as we round off my last half term with you guys, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of luck, both for the rest of the year and as you enter year 11. Continue to work hard and try your very best at all times.

## ■ 10-L Ms BARRETT

It has been my pleasure to meet and get to know 10 L. We are currently reading the grim but portentous Dystopian text 'Brave New World. Our talented Violet Nicholls provided a wonderful illustration of the text for our door's World Book Day display. We have had some good success with Friday's general knowledge quizzes averaging 75% and achieving 90% on a good week. Behaviour points are accruing and there is a good supportive dynamic in the group.

We have some good sporting stars, especially in football with Tommy Tregale's U15 Hutton team reaching the semi-final in the league cup. Reece Snout, Chad Webb + Dillon Britton all play regularly outside school, some in Bridgewater district schools; whilst Dillon plays for North Somerset. Rylee + Jayden play for Burnbridge Wanderers.

Stephen Smith is a talented gamer, Will Riggs works as a cleaner in a restaurant and Rebecca Wood plays netball + swims regularly whilst Mazie Sheppard should not be messed with as she is a good boxer.

I look forward to watching skills blossom and friendships bloom as we welcome Andra Gabor into our tutor group this week.

## 10-F MR CLEMENTS

Well done 10f we are well and truly settled into our GCSEs and studying hard. The feedback from teachers is almost all positive and if you continue the constructive start you have made I am sure you will go on and achieve your objectives.

Beyond academic studies the tutor group has been well represented in the school drama production especially musically and there always seems to be a long list of students taking advantage of the various extra curricular opportunities.

Sorting out work experience has been a priority this last term and many have arranged exciting placements. 10F have excelled at getting this done with only a handful now to sort out.

So keep up the positive can do attitude. Onwards and upwards!

## 10-R MR DAY

It has been another successful term for 10R. All the hard work and effort you put into your studies is clearly being recognised by all your teachers. The amount of positive Class Charts points awarded each week reflect this, with 10R achieving the most points overall in Year 10.

Homework, completed through knowledge organisers for the first time in Year 10, has steadily improved throughout the year. Numerous techniques have been used by pupils, so that they are ready for all that revision they will need to be doing this year and next.

In PSHCE we have recently covered some interesting and difficult topics, which we have discussed in a mature and thoughtful way. Issues such as knife crime and drugs have been covered.

Morning reading, we are currently reading our third book of the year, 'Burn' by Patrick Ness, a fantasy novel set in 1950s America.

Work experience is next term and 10R seem excited at the prospect of being out in the world of work, though some are a little nervous. I am sure you will be fine.

Well done 10R - Keep up all the good work!



## ■ MR BRITTAN—HEAD OF YEAR 11

As always, I am writing to say how proud I am of year 11 - yet again they have impressed with their maturity at what is a really stressful but also such an important time for them. So many are talking about revision planning, exam techniques, going to P6's and asking about tutoring and exam practice. It is really positive to see them so engaged with the morning tutor intervention work so I asked the subjects to say a little about what they have been focusing on rather than the usual tutor comments that they now only see on a Friday morning. Hopefully it gives a brief insight into just how intensive the work is for year 11 and how much they will all deserve a massive congratulations on results day.

Thinking ahead to results day it seems so close now but I can't write this final chapter on our year group without mentioning the 11th of July - Leavers assembly and Prom! Plans are currently taking shape for what is going to be an outstanding send off for an outstanding year group (yes I am biased but I have been their head of year for nearly 4 years now!) I really hope to see as many there as possible, all looking so amazingly smart, celebrating the end of a massive chapter and the start of a fantastic future for so many of them.

There is so much more that I could say but am saving most of the thoughts for the summer newsletter and leavers book - so for now I will leave with the comments from the focus intervention groups;

See you all in the summer!  
Mr Brittan

## ■ SCIENCE

During this term we have focussed on supporting students with past paper exam practice. Students have really engaged in the work and we have been delighted with their progress. We have looked at atoms, atomic structure, atomic models, electron arrangement and much much more. Students have been an absolute delight to teach and I wish them the very best of luck in all their exams.

## ■ MATHS

During this term we have been focussing our morning intervention sessions on the crossover topics between Higher and Foundation and looking at topics such as simultaneous equations and expanding and factorising expressions. Students have engaged in the sessions well and many have made lots of improvement, which will help them in their summer exams.

## ■ ENGLISH

Invention has been focused on refining key skills in Language - clearly identifying at point and improving our ability to accurately identify a range of subject specific terms. We Then have been putting these skills into practice with a range of examination past papers. Additionally, we have also been reaffirming key Literature content through the recall of key quotations and the context of our Literature examination texts.

## ■ FRENCH

During this term we have focussed on helping students with speaking exam practice. Students have really enjoyed coming during these morning sessions because they feel more confident about the process of the GCSE speaking exam and they also have made a lot of progress in terms of being accurate in French.

We wish them well with all their GCSE exams.

## ■ GEOGRAPHY

In learning cycle 3 our intervention sessions have been complimenting the geovise work students are doing in their geography lessons. So far we have been focussing on physical geography and have reviewed the Nepal and Chile earthquakes, Typhoon Haiyan, the Sahara Desert, the Malaysian Rainforest and the Swanage coastline. We review knowledge using kahoots on Tuesdays, complete case study recap sheets on Wednesdays and answer 6 and 9 mark questions on Thursdays. Students have been working hard & deserve to do well in their exams.

**GEOVISE**







■ MR RADNIDGE  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

One of the great things about being the Head of Sixth Form is getting to experience and be a part of the consistently positive atmosphere that we have within our Sixth Form Centre. Being able to offer an array of extra-curricular and super-curricular programmes, fundraising events, post-18 preparatory activities and so much more, creates an environment in which there is always a 'buzz' of excitement.

Whilst our students have been working incredibly hard and maintaining a high standard of commitment to their academic studies, we have also witnessed them immerse themselves in the many opportunities that are available to them. One such example of this can be found in our fantastic Young Enterprise company, 'Threadly'. The products, design and marketing that they have put together and developed throughout the year has been some of the finest that we have seen, whilst their commitment to the company and their product is demonstrable through the events that they have voluntarily arranged and undertaken to sell and promote their business. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth of Threadly and wish them the very best of luck within the Young Enterprise competitions that will take place later in the school year. This kind of dedication and investment can be found in many areas of our community including those students who competed in the Rotary Photography competition, our superb fundraising committee who have provided an array of entertaining and highly successful events throughout the term, as well as all of our hugely talented performers and musicians, whom we had the pleasure of watching in the recent school production of Sister Act! Such talent, enthusiasm and pride in work is a joy to be around, and a feature that has become one of the leading characteristics of our Sixth Form Community.

As we move steadily towards the summer term, we are pleased to say that our Year 13 university applicants have all submitted their UCAS and in many cases, offers have been received! Students who have opted for a different route, have been, and where necessary, continue to be provided with guidance and support in exploring their other options, whether that be apprenticeship, gap year or employment. Indeed, the final hurdle for our Year 13 students is their upcoming examinations and, as always, we will support each and every one of them in the lead up to, and throughout this period. Meanwhile, we are



educating our Year 12 students on the many options available to them, which they have been introduced to through a selection of informative trips, including Cardiff University campus tour and the UCAS Exhibition. In coming months, they will begin the UCAS application process and will receive guidance in apprenticeship opportunities and applications, which will provide them with the necessary tools to make a fully informed and well-rounded decision about their post-18 pursuits.

Whilst our current cohort of students are busy preparing for their next steps, whether that be to progress to their final year of A Levels, or move on to their desired Post-18 route, the Sixth Form Leadership team are looking forward to welcoming next year's intake of students. We are immensely proud of our unique and nurturing post-16 offer and throughout this term it has been a pleasure to continue to promote this offer and watch this materialise as applications flow in. In recent months we have had the pleasure of meeting these applicants during our interview process and during our Sixth Former for a Day event. As this new cohort prepares to sit their GCSE examinations, we look forward to welcoming them into the Sixth Form Centre family in September.

Despite approaching a very intense time of year, we still have many things to look forward to throughout next term. Whilst we will continue to promote a variety of opportunities for the students to engage with - including an exciting residential opportunity with the Rotary Youth Leadership Award team - students will also be participating in work experience, RAG week and further fundraising events, as well as our annual End of Year Celebration, which will be an opportunity for students to reflect on their Sixth Form journey and recognise their many achievements.



## UNIVERSITY CAMPUS DAY

Year 12 had the opportunity to visit Cardiff University to support them in deciding next steps after Sixth Form. This was a chance to see what a campus university was like with a student-led tour of its facilities and the services on offer.



They attended seminars on 'UCAS and the application process' and how the UCAS hub can support students exploring university or apprenticeships and the requirements during the application cycle. The second seminar was 'Student Life' which encompasses societies, student union, accommodation and had an informative Q&A with student representatives.



*'It was good to speak to actual uni students about their experiences'*

## UCAS DISCOVERY

UCAS Discovery events are in full swing across the UK and our Year 12 students got to attend the Exeter show to ask questions to University staff about the range of courses on offer.



*'For me the trip was very useful as it gave me more insight of places that I can go to, including apprenticeships.'*

*'This was a very useful event, meeting the universities and seeing what is available for me. I found most useful discovering what universities had to offer and what sort of grades I would need to get in'*



## ■ SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY



On Wednesday 6th March, the Sixth Form Centre opened its doors to over one hundred students who have decided that they would like to join us for their Post-16 studies. All of our applicants were invited to spend the day at our nurturing Sixth Form, to experience 'a day in the life of a Sixth Form student'.

Based on subject preferences that were indicated during the application and interview processes, each student in attendance was provided with a personal timetable which gave them the opportunity to attend three subject taster sessions. Aside from this important aspect of ensuring that applicants are happy with their subject choices, the day also provided the opportunity to meet with the Sixth Form Leadership team and A-level teachers, as well as the chance to familiarise themselves with the Sixth Form Centre, and for those unfamiliar with it, the wider school site. We were also very pleased to have our Student Union President and Vice Presidents deliver a presentation

on 'student life', which was a really special touch that conveyed our community spirit, as well as our ability to offer a highly personalised learning experience.

Having spent the day exploring subjects, hearing about various post-16 opportunities on offer to them here and recognising the educational journey that is available to our Sixth Formers, the student feedback was extremely positive. The overall opinion was that the day was highly engaging, insightful and useful in confirming subject choices, whilst our external applicants commented that they also found it a highly beneficial social exercise, providing them with the opportunity to meet and get to know their future peers, prior to joining in September.

As a team, we are thrilled that everyone found the day to be such a positive and useful experience and we look forward to seeing them all again during the summer, for our annual Sixth Form Applicant Social.



## ■ APPRENTICESHIPS AFTER SIXTH FORM

### TOP TIPS for searching for an Apprenticeship:

- ☑ Keep a close eye out for new apprenticeships that are released daily.
- ☑ Higher & Degree Apprenticeships are very sought after and competitive so apply early.
- ☑ Make sure you are the best applicant by listing those super curricula activities you have undertaken, work experience and transferable skills.
- ☑ Have an up to date CV.
- ☑ Don't be afraid to ask for help!

### Sixth Form Student Career Support Sessions

Wednesdays with Jodie Silmon in the ISR meeting room



[jodie.silmon@pcsa.theplt.org.uk](mailto:jodie.silmon@pcsa.theplt.org.uk)

Year 12 & 13 Support with general careers advice and guidance. If you would like some support with finding work experience, understanding different career routes and Post-18 options that are available to you, please book an appointment.

## ■ YEAR 12 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### ■ HE+

HE+ Programme launched in January for those successful in their application. HE+ is provided by University of Cambridge and its Colleges, working together with groups of state schools and colleges in 19 regions of the UK. They provide access to super-curricular activities designed to stretch and challenge the students academically, and their outreach practitioners also deliver a comprehensive programme of information, advice and guidance. They also support study skills in order to help ensure that students make both a successful application and also a successful transition to highly selective universities.

This year we had 15 students successfully secure a place on the programme, all of which will be in with a chance of attending a residential trip to Cambridge University at the end of the summer term.

On the launch day of the programme, students were provided with a blank piece of card, to create a poster based on their super curricular interests and achievements, which they will all present to a group of like minded peers, during the upcoming conference day.

## ■ SCHOLARS PROGRAMME



TKASA Sixth Form has invested this year in 'The Brilliant Club' Scholars programme. It is a UK-wide university access charity focused on increasing the number of less advantaged students accessing the most competitive universities and supporting them to succeed when they get there. PhD tutors share their subject knowledge and passion for learning with small groups of Year 12 students. It develops the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university. They work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades. Selection criteria was based on a number of factors including widening participation criteria from the Scholars programme, academic performance and students post 18 destination aspirations. They will receive their results and 'Graduate' later in the summer term.

## ■ THE VALUE OF WORK EXPERIENCE

As a Sixth Form, and a school, we recognise and champion the importance and value of work experience. Whether it be transferable skills, general insight, confidence or confirmation, there is so much to be gained from work experience!

Recently, having secured a highly competitive placement, Jodie Hillier in Year 13 completed a week's placement at Musgrove Park Hospital, within the Maternity unit.

As an aspiring midwife, this was a significantly beneficial experience that will not only act to strengthen any application she makes for her Post-18 studies, but also to confirm that she is in fact suited to a profession of this nature.

During her week at the hospital, Jodie gained the eye-opening experience of observing both a natural and caesarean section delivery. Through shadowing an experienced team of midwives she also had the opportunity to learn about routine observation procedures and record keeping, as well as how to perform checks on the placenta.

Whilst Jodie wasn't able to gain any practical skills due to the nature of the placement, she said that she has developed a deeper knowledge and insight into the profession, which has acted to assure her that she would like to pursue midwifery as a career (and that she can stomach the gory nature of the job!). In Jodie's words, the experience has cemented her career aspirations and has even inspired future professional development within that field. Having now returned to school, Jodie said that she feels much more determined and focused on her studies and she is ready for the next steps of her life to begin.

We hope that the excitement and passion that can be found in Jodie, is likewise instilled in our Year 12 cohort during their work experience week that is scheduled to take place in June 2024! In the lead up to this, we have our weekly careers appointments available, should students need any guidance in securing a beneficial placement.



# YOUNG ENTERPRISE/ THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



## ■ YOUNG ENTERPRISE *Written by Lucy Falber*



The Spring term has proven to be very successful for Threadly, the Young Enterprise company run by a group of Year 12 students. Threadly creates beautiful, handmade crochet products; aiming to be as sustainable as possible, using recycled yarn and plastic free packaging.

The term got off to a flying start with a new and exciting Valentine's day range, including crochet roses, heart charms and various earrings. Not only did the students run a stall within the school itself, they also attended a craft fair in Burnham-On-Sea expanding their sales to members of the general public.

Following the success of the Valentine's day range, the students set their focus onto Mother's day; it's safe to say that many mother's received a crochet gift of some kind this year!

With the summer term fast approaching, Threadly is working hard on a brand new range of products and sales opportunities; including a stall at a local chain supermarket!

As always keep your eyes peeled for all things Threadly, make sure to follow them on their various social medias @[threadly.ye](https://www.threadly.ye) so you never miss a Threadly update!



## ■ THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

### Bronze Award

Bronze participants enjoyed a training weekend in March including a practice walk to Brent Knoll. They are now preparing for their expeditions next term.

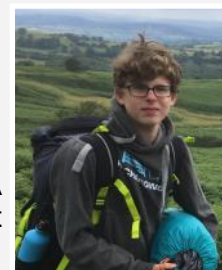
For more information about the Award please scan or click the QR code below.

### GOLD AWARD

#### *Congratulations to*

Jacob Kemp who has achieved his Gold Award!

Jacob, who attended TKASA Sixth Form is now studying at Cardiff University.



### BRONZE AWARD

Expedition Practice  
Saturday, 20th April to Sunday, 21st April  
Expedition Qualifying  
Saturday, 18th May to Sunday, 19th May



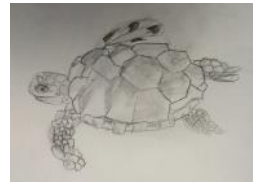
### GOLD & SILVER AWARD

Expedition Practice  
Wednesday, 19th June to Friday, 21st June  
Expedition Qualifying  
Friday, 5th July to Tuesday, 9th July

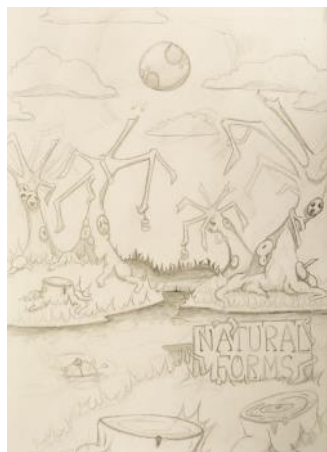
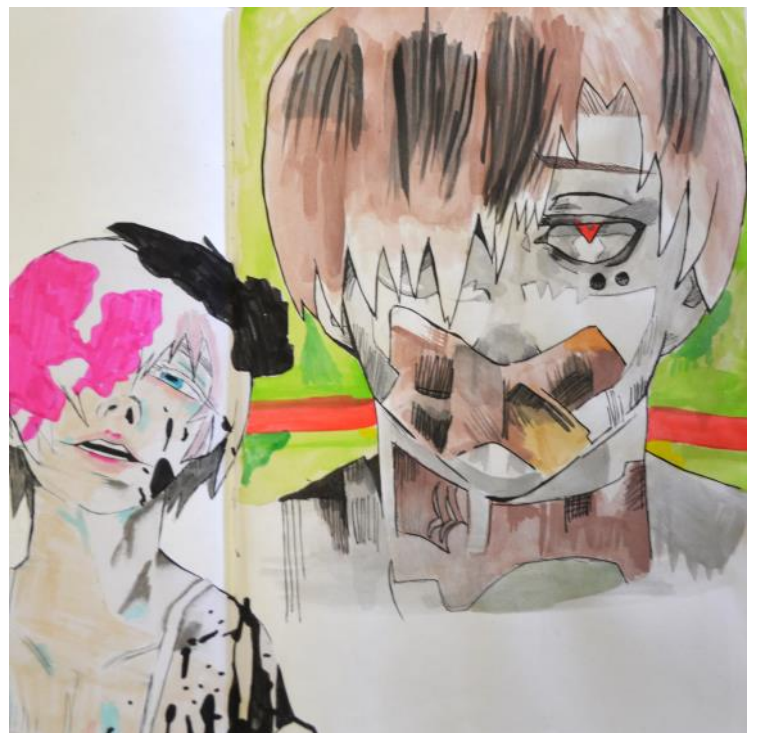
## ■ A LEVEL ART



## YEAR 7



## GCSE ART



## ■ BUSINESS STUDIES AND ECONOMICS

In Business Studies Year 10 students are well into their GCSE course. They have completed the first three units (Business in the Real World, Influences on Business and Business Operations) and are just beginning to learn about the human resources functional area of business including organisational structures, recruitment & selection, motivation and training.

The Year 11 Business students have completed the course and are busy revising for their final exams on 14th May and 5th June. A reminder that all students have been issued with a revision guide that covers the entire course content, which they can keep until they have completed their final exams at the end of year 11. They have also been issued with a revision workbook which they are completing in lessons. Students also have access to useful revision material including practice papers and a key terms checklist through the student shared area on the google drive and the Seneca website. I wish them well in their final exams and look forward to welcoming many back to the sixth form.

The sixth form business students are working hard on their A level studies. The Year 13 business students have completed their course and are revising for their three final exams on 14th May, 21st May and 6th June. Along with many other schools across the south west they recently attended a revision course in Bristol run by a specialist external firm. I wish them all good luck in their final exams and every success for the future, wherever it may take them.

Meanwhile the Year 12 business class are nearing completion of all the 'year 1' A level content and are reviewing what they have learnt before moving on to the year 2 material ahead of schedule. The Year 12 economics students have almost finished their first macroeconomic unit where they have been studying the UK economy, after which they will be beginning their second microeconomic unit which explores business behaviour and the labour market. They have made great connections between classroom concepts and the real world.

Several business and economics students from the sixth form are also involved in the Young Enterprise company called Threadly. Having sold shares to finance their start-up costs, allocated roles and responsibilities and designed their product (handmade crocheted gifts) they have been busy producing and selling their products both within school and at external sites. They will be attending the area final in Yeovil in May.

As always, I encourage all business and economics students to follow business news stories on a daily basis so that they can relate what they are learning in the classroom to the real world. The cost of living, rising interest rates, industrial action and the ongoing geopolitical conflicts have been regular topics of discussion this year.

Students can also follow me on X: @TKASAMrKing.







Year 11 students have been busy with planning their next steps beyond year 11. The 6th form remains a very popular destination alongside our local colleges and even colleges a little more further afield. '6th former for a day' was a great success!

National Apprenticeship Week ran very well in February with guest speakers in assemblies to raise awareness of work based learning.



National careers week was a huge success with guest speakers visiting every year group to talk about their own career paths and the possibilities available to our students. We had guests from the NHS, Wessex Water, Weston College, Bridgwater & Taunton College, Griffiths Engineering, The National Citizen Service, Thatchers, Boomsatsuma and more.



## CAREERS with Mrs Sinclair

I am busy working through my first term at TKASA and wanted to say thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

The big focus for year 10 students has been around work experience planning ready for May. It has been great to see students being so proactive with speaking to employers to find a placement. Students have been working together to find a placement and huge thanks for parents and carers for their support too.



For the rest of the school year, we are really looking forward to work experience week for years 10 & 12, year 10 mock interview day will give students the opportunity to meet dozens of employers. College taster day will provide year 10 students the chance to sample further education.

The year 7 interview challenge will be a lot of fun and the careers office door is open to students in all year groups and their families who would like to talk about ideas and plans for life after school. You can Email me with any careers related questions – nina.sinclair@tkasa.theplt.org.uk

Please do look out for careers related posts, events and activities sent home via Weduc and posted on school Facebook.

## ■ COMPUTER SCIENCE

Another fantastic term in the Computer Science department. Year 7 are currently developing their programming skills using Scratch and how to code different aspects of a game such as: movement, keeping track of score and lives etc. Year 8 are continuing their journey from Scratch, having done this previously in Year 7. However they are now looking at more advanced techniques, supporting them to make larger scale games such as space invaders. Year 9 are learning how to program using Python, having the opportunity to understand the key elements behind the very programs we use from games and apps, providing an insight into our year 10 and 11 courses.

Our year 10 and 11 cohort are continuing to impress us with their determination and commitment in our Computer Science and iMedia courses. In the lead up to our exams, we have been offering P6 sessions to further support our year 11s and have been very well received with our pupils. Our year 10s are also making fantastic progress as we continue to develop the skills needed to pursue a career whether that be software engineer, programmer, IT technician, data analyst etc. We do our very best to develop pupils to contribute to our ever growing technological world.

Our A Level Computer Science cohort across year 12 and 13 continue to excel and make tremendous progress, as always. Our year 13s have finished their NEA projects and have produced a fantastic range of project solutions including AI, games and revision software. We also delivered our taster lesson for sixth former for a day, welcoming both our current and external pupils to experience computing lessons in the sixth form.

Our coding club is ever growing and continues to further develop pupils' programming skills. We offer a variety of opportunities such as offering further support from lessons, sharing ideas and programs, use of the Arduino Education Boards and developing further skills in Python. This is a fantastic opportunity to share ideas amongst other keen programmers and further.

We say goodbye to Mr Whiteoak who has worked very hard to ensure our pupils are making the best progress. He will be greatly missed amongst the department and the pupils he has worked with and we wish him all the best for the future.

The Computer Science department would like to thank all of the hard work our pupils have been making and wish them all a well deserved Easter break. We will look forward to seeing their return after Easter.



## ■ SISTER ACT

The first week of March we put on four sell out performances of our whole school production of Sister Act. It was an incredible success and the feedback we have received from the community has been extraordinary. We thank everyone who supported us whether that be from sponsorship, coming to watch the show or giving your feedback to us/the students.

Due to the unprecedented response from the show and with so much amazing feedback and praise given about our fantastic students, we have been specially requested to extend our run of the show and put the production 'on tour' taking it into the community and performing it at 'The Princess Theatre' in Burnham-On-Sea.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for the students and we encourage you all to come and support them by buying tickets to watch the show!



## TALENT SHOW

In February we held a Talent Show which saw 20 acts of brilliant talent perform for a packed out audience. We welcomed guest judge Dave Englefield from Sedgemoor fm to judge the show along with Mr Shepherd and Mrs Griggs. They were all blown away by the 36 students from all key stages performing and we were so proud of them all!

Well done to our winners!



**Key Stage 3 Winners**  
1st Louie, 2nd Ellena, 3rd Tay and Rafi



**Key Stage 4/5 Winners**  
1st Casey, 2nd Darcy & Freddy, 3rd Martha & Emma



## BLOOD BROTHERS TRIP



In February we took our Y10 GCSE and Y11 GCSE students to see a live production of Blood Brothers in Southampton. This was to aid them in their GCSE written paper where they need to analyse a live theatre production. It was a brilliant trip and the students even got to meet one of the cast members afterwards!

## YEAR 10 PERFORMING ARTS EXAM

Our Y10 Performing Arts cohort completed their Unit 2 performance pieces before Easter. They had to create their own devised drama or piece of choreography based on a stimulus. They did such an excellent job getting stuck in creating their pieces and all the written evidence alongside it. This was on top of lots of them being heavily involved in the school production.



Well done Y10!



## YEAR 11 COMPONENT 2 EXAM



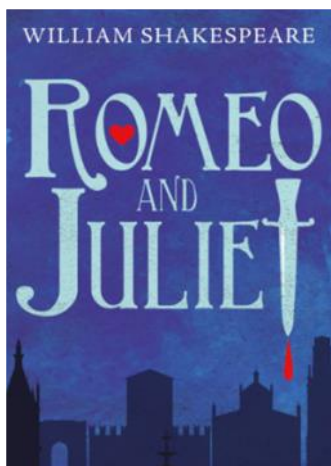
Our Y11 GCSE students performed their final performance piece in February. We are so proud of them and have loved working with them over the last 2 years. It had been amazing how much they have grown as performers and designers and it was a privilege to watch them perform their hearts out in their component 2 exam.

## Y13 COMPONENT 2 EXAM



Well done to our Y13 students who performed for the final ever time in March! They performed two scripted pieces, one as a group and one monologue each. They have worked so hard on these pieces and it has been so lovely to see their passion and love for performing shine through in their incredible final performances.

## SIXTH FORM PRODUCTION



Rehearsals are underway for the 6th form Drama Society's production of Romeo and Juliet! Auditions began last week and the students are now in rehearsal ready to put on the play in June!

## SIXTH FORM BRISTOL OLD VIC TRIP



In January our Y12 and Y13 students went to see a Frantic Assembly performance of Metamorphosis at the Bristol Old Vic. This was to aid them with their written exam where they analyse live theatre. It was a really thought provoking and complex piece of theatre which the students all really enjoyed. They were also incredibly lucky to have been able to have a live Q&A with the writer Lemn Seesay who gave a brilliant insight into his inspiration for the play.



## KEY STAGE 3

The students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have impressed us all this Learning Cycle with their positive approach to their new teachers and new classes.

Year 7 have been playing up a storm with their understanding of the plot and characters of the bard's 'The Tempest' – they will be performing an extract from the play to familiarise themselves with the joy of Shakespeare's language.

Year 8 have been learning the language of love with a selection of poetry from different cultures ranging across the centuries.

Year 9 have demonstrated the value of the tutor time reading schedule with their recall of Malorie Blackman's dystopian novel 'Noughts and Crosses' – we will now explore this in more depth and detail during lessons.

Overall, as ever, very well done to our budding English specialists.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

TKASA celebrated World Book Day on 7th March - a celebration of our favourite literary characters, the best books we've read and the importance of reading.

Teachers across the school dressed up in various weird, wacky and wonderful costumes from Oompa Loompas, Shakespearean characters, crayons, dalmatians and more!

Lots of students also participated in the TKASA World Book Day treasure hunt - searching the school for the best decorated doors and the best costumes.

A brilliant effort from all and we can't wait for next year!



## KEY STAGE 4

As Spring approaches, the students have continued to impress us with their hard work, their commitment and their enthusiasm. Learning Cycle 3 has started with the students in Year 10 learning all about the saga surrounding Eva Smith's death in the play An Inspector calls, whilst Year 11s have started to revise their set texts in preparation for their summer exams.

Before Christmas Key Stage 4 students were lucky enough to go on a theatre trip to The Brewhouse in Taunton to watch an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novella A Christmas Carol, in which the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge achieves his eventual redemption. It was a wonderful occasion that was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Sixth form journalists from Jill Dando News relaunched the 'Spotlight' magazine at Christmas which was followed by a highly anticipated Valentine Day edition. Celebrating the best of each season, the magazines are jam-packed with stories, quizzes, competitions, articles, feature pieces, opinions and even reviews of essential products. The 'Spotlight' magazine is becoming an essential read for all sixth formers and teachers alike!



## ■ JILL DANDO NEWS CENTRE

The Jill Dando News Centre Journalists have been reporting on an array of exciting events around school, ranging from Sixth Form Charity Events, House Bake Sales, and celebrating the outstanding achievements of our very own TKASA heroes.

Our Spotlight Magazine journalists recently had the privilege of visiting the House of Commons. During this visit, they interviewed Mr. Speaker, met with John Penrose, and observed the proceedings of the Prime Minister's Question Time in the press gallery. The Jill Dando News Centre Journalists are looking forward to a second trip to the House of Commons next month.

The journalists also had the opportunity to interview Dave Englefield, a local radio presenter

from Sedgemoor FM. Dave shared valuable insights and tips for effective radio presenting. Soon, they will introduce their own dedicated 'Good News' segment on his show, providing a platform to share uplifting stories and positive experiences.



## ANTARCTICA FLAG



In the last newsletter the geography department reported that we had sent our flag to the UK Polar Network, hoping that it would be sent to Antarctica.

First of all Iain Gordon, a Mechanical Services Technician, enlisted the help of the station staff to take a photograph of our flag in the kitchen at Halley VI Research Station, which is on the Brunt Ice Shelf



Next, Carrie Gunn, Marine Biologist for the British Antarctic Survey, took our flag to Lyell Glacier, South Georgia. We couldn't believe our eyes when we saw our picture - King penguins were looking at our flag!

The King Penguins in the photograph are undergoing their catastrophic moult, which means they replace all of their feathers over the course of a few weeks. During this time they can't go into the sea to feed so they remain on land, hungry and Carrie believes - very itchy! The penguins were delighted with the flag and came over to take a closer look.

Fiona from UK Polar Network sent us a message saying 'In four years of doing this project and probably close to 2000 photos, this one is my absolute favourite of all of the photos I've received back from Antarctica! It's not even my school and I want to frame this photo. I also couldn't imagine a more worthy recipient than you and your school to receive this brilliant picture!'



Mr Milford was keen to reward Rafi, Ava and Gracie for their excellent work on this project, making them his students of the week. What a great team!



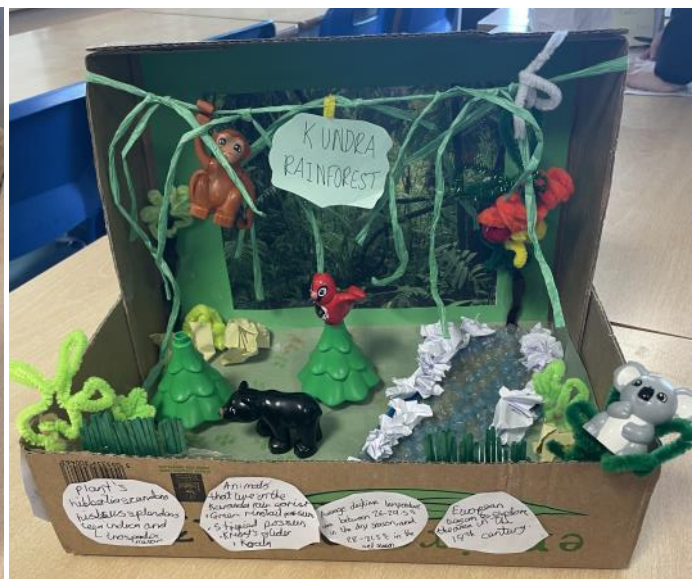
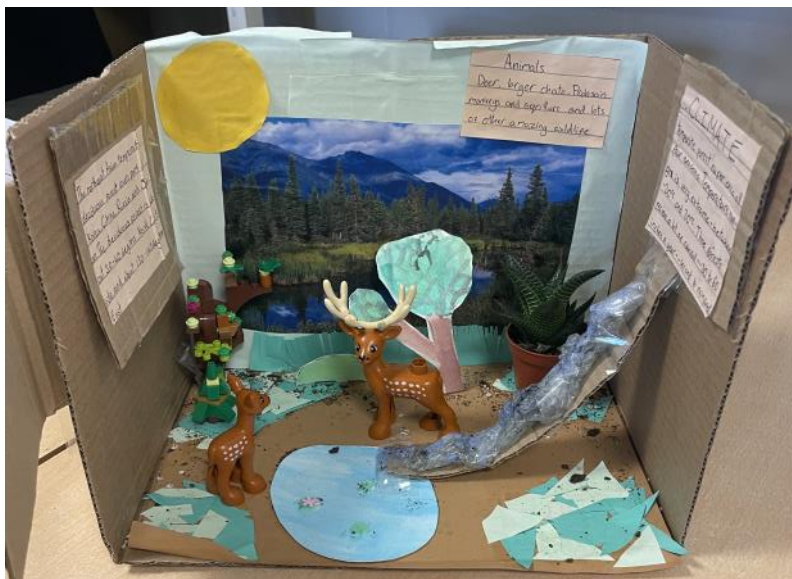
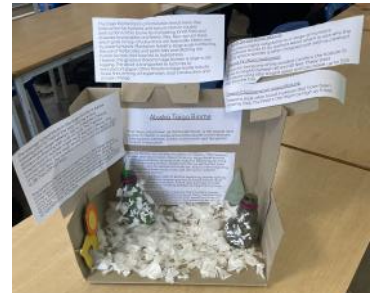
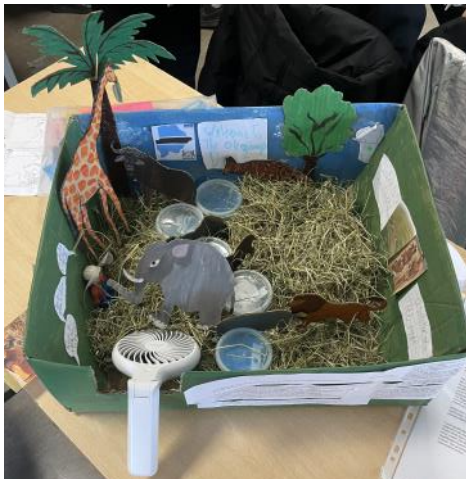


## BIOME BOXES

Once again, year 7 geographers have impressed their teachers by making biomes in boxes as part of their Extreme Environments topic. Students choose a large-scale ecosystem, such as a rainforest or a desert, then work in groups to create a model to educate others in the class.

The first lesson on the project is spent on research and planning using iPads, then students build their biomes in the second lesson. During the third lesson they quickly finish their models, then take a tour of the biomes created by their class, noting key points in their biomes passport.

It was wonderful to see students learning about the natural world at the same time as using their creativity, teamwork and problem solving skills.



## ■ LANGUAGES

This term we've been discovering different aspects of culture. Year 7 have been learning about French greeting customs and the century-old sport of pétanque; Year 8 have discovered the grisly history of the catacombs of Paris; Year 9 have looked at several French festivals, including the famous Lemon Festival of Menton; Year 10 have compared the British school experience with that of French-speaking countries around the world; and in Spanish our Year 7-9 groups have been discussing hispanic music and learning how to express the music they enjoy listening to.

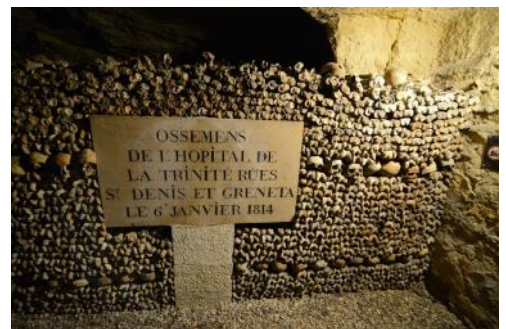
Years 11 and 13 have also been working hard as they near their GCSE and A Level exams - we wish them all the best!



*La Fête du Citron (The Lemon Festival)*



*Pétanque*



*The Catacombs of Paris*

## ■ MATHS — YEAR 10 MATHS FEAST TRIP

We were lucky enough to take 4 year 10 students to the Met Office in Exeter on Pi Day this year to take part in the Year 10 Maths Feast Competition. Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of four students test their maths skills with AMSP's all-you-can-eat feast of problems! There are several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success.

Round 1 saw the students engage in 4 activities based on the TV shows Only Connect, Richard Osman's House of Games and The 1% Club. Round 2 was a calculator round where the teams had to answer maths questions to complete a cross-number. Next up was our students' favourite round called The Maths-Hatters. This round involved worlds, rules and hats! The final round required teams to build cubes and a rhombic dodecahedra out of card and tape.

Our year 10 team were fantastic and an absolute credit to the school, winning an award for demonstrating great teamwork.

Before we left, we were given a tour of the Met Office which gave us an insight into the working life of an employee, the careers on offer as well as its history, importance and future aims.

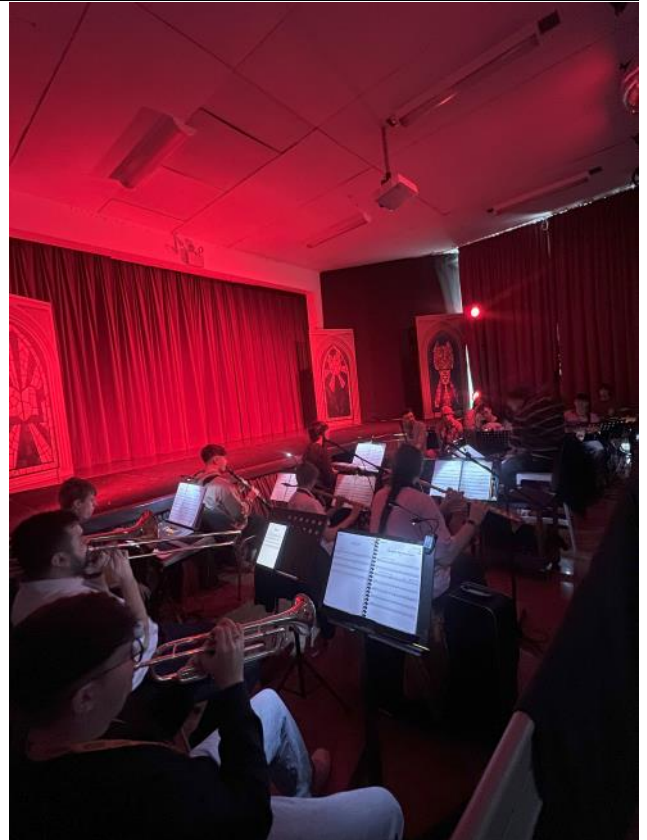


## ■ MUSIC

We would like to give a massive well done to 'The Sister Act Orchestra', who have worked tirelessly and relentlessly over past four months to produce something really special.

This orchestra is a hybrid band comprised of students from GCSE & A-Level music, alongside professionals from the local area. This means that TKASA students get the amazing experience of being able to learn 'on the job' from working musicians whilst making a crucial contribution as principal players in the band.

Sister Act is a very tough show for the band, but the students have adapted amazingly well, rehearsing regularly, and have certainly done the score justice!



## PE

A very busy term with lots of extra-curricular fixtures, leadership opportunities thanks to our strong links with SASP and great initiatives having a lasting impact through Bristol Bears. This term also sees the build up to our Year 11 OCR National Exams and the final push for our Year 13's. All P6s and Easter Intervention have been shared and we are excited to see the impact this will have on overall outcomes.

Mrs Clough and Miss Shire

## PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

Mr Moore has continued the Primary School Outreach Programme in Pawlett Primary, East Huntspill and West Huntspill every afternoon. The programme remains in place to provide students with additional PE opportunities and Primary Teachers with additional PE CPD.

Mr Moore would like to thank every student for their enthusiasm, engagement and development over the last term.

During term 3, students worked on developing their gymnastic skills over a 5 week period. Students worked on their ability to perform shapes, movement sequences and how to use gymnastic apparatus safely.

For term 4, netball and basketball were the activities students had the opportunity to take part in. Students developed their knowledge of the rules, ability to perform basketball / netball related skills and their understanding of the two sports.

Mr Moore is pleased to say that the confidence of all students has grown, along with their understanding of the activities we have completed.

## BADMINTON

It has been absolutely excellent to see such a committed group of students attending Badminton club on a weekly basis. The group has ranged from Year 7 through to Year 10 and they often mix courts to ensure they have different people to play against. All students who attend Badminton are so helpful and set up the courts really efficiently in order to get the most of their time after school. The level of enthusiasm and effort is fantastic to see. A massive well done to all who have committed to Badminton this term.

## NETBALL



Netball has been well attended the past 2 terms, with year groups 7 - 10 having all participated in fixtures. Teams have worked hard on developing their connections within their teams to enhance their likelihood of success during these fixtures which has been possible due to the club being well attended by all year groups.

It has been great to see our older students leading by example, and assisting with the development of our Year 7 & 8 students and even acting as coaches during some of their fixtures.

It has been fantastic to see all year groups develop with their netball throughout the terms. Well done to all involved!



## TKASA SPORTS CAPTAINS

Throughout the spring term, TKASA have hosted numerous events for some of our local (and further afield!) Primary Schools. These have included; cross-country, football, netball and basketball events. At each of these events some of our TKASA Sport Captains have been fantastic in assisting with the running of the activities, their roles including; welcoming Primary Parents/Students, officiating games, marshalling at events and scoring. Without the Sports Captains, these events would not be able to run. Miss Shire is incredibly thankful to the Sports Captains who have given up their time to ensure that these events have ran smoothly and been role models to younger students participating in these events.



Our Year 10 Sports Captains participated in a 2 day leadership event at Millfield School in February. Here they spent the first day completing workshops on developing their leadership skills, before they were in charge of hosting a Primary School Tag Rugby festival on the following day. All Year 10 students that participated in this opportunity were phenomenal, with staff from other schools and the organisers making comments on how professional, and confident our students were.

In March, 17 of our Year 9 students completed the FA Girls Whistlers' training day. Throughout the day, students learnt what the role of an official entails and were able to put this developed understanding into practice. It was fantastic to be able to provide these students with an additional opportunity within football, and broaden their understanding of roles within football outside of playing.



## FOOTBALL

Throughout every year group, we have had many opportunities for students to get involved with football. Year 7 and 8 have competed in multiple 6 a side style tournaments against local schools. Both year groups were brilliant in all of their games and we have had a great turnout from both year groups to training each week. Year 9 have played some 11 a side fixtures and have been equally impressive. Year 10 have had 4 successful football matches throughout the last term including a County Cup fixture. Year 10 have shown a fantastic attitude in all of their games where every player worked hard, showed great resilience and showed fantastic support for each other.

We have also taken part in 5 a side Futsal tournaments in every year group and the students involved have enjoyed the fast paced nature of the game, which has really tested their technique and tactical knowledge. The Year 11s were very successful in their final Futsal competition, demonstrating excellent skills and togetherness. It has been a pleasure taking the Futsal teams to the competitions. The Year 11 football team unfortunately lost in the County Cup Semi-final, they have played some fantastic football over their 5 years here at TKASA and it is a shame they will not experience the joy of a county cup final. That being said, it is an incredible achievement to make the semi-finals. We wish the Year 11s moving onto other things all the very best in the future.

Mr Bail, Mr Moore and Mr Harris would like to thank every student who has participated and we hope to continue having high engagement for football in future years.



## ROSSLYN PARK



For the third year in a row we have taken some of our students to the World renowned Rosslyn Park National School 7s.

The 12 boys from Year 9 joined nearly 14,000 other boys and girls that represented their schools over the week-long festival in the capital. We faced off against teams from St George's, Weybridge, Surrey, Pocklington School, East Ridings, Yorkshire and Langley Park School for Boys, Beckenham, Greater London.

We are again indebted to Brendan Steer of Holley and Steer Solicitors for their ongoing sponsorship and support as well as Mr Bail, Sixth Formers Harvey Fisher and former 7s Captain Jacob Radford who supported the squad and Mr Shephard in the build up and on the day.

## BRISTOL BEARS STAR SCHEME

Two of the Year 8 girls PE groups have really enjoyed the Bristol Bears Star Scheme. Students have had the opportunity to learn new skills in Rugby, a sport of which most of them haven't had loads of experience in. Rich from Bristol Bears has coached them excellently and created loads of enthusiasm through a lot of game play. The girls have been given the opportunity to take ownership during these sessions by being able to add rules to the games to benefit their team and make it harder for the opposition. It has been brilliant to see the Year 8 girls put 100% effort in and approach these sessions with real positivity and a competitive spirit. A massive well done to them and thank you to Rich for the time he has given to come in and coach.



## BRISTOL BEARS IN MIND

We cannot express how proud we are of each and every student involved in this initiative. Bear in Mind is an exciting 11-week programme launched in January 2020 which assists girls to navigate the challenges of growing up in the modern world. **The key aim of the Bear in Mind programme is to develop strong, resilient, confident young women for the future.**

The programme focuses on -

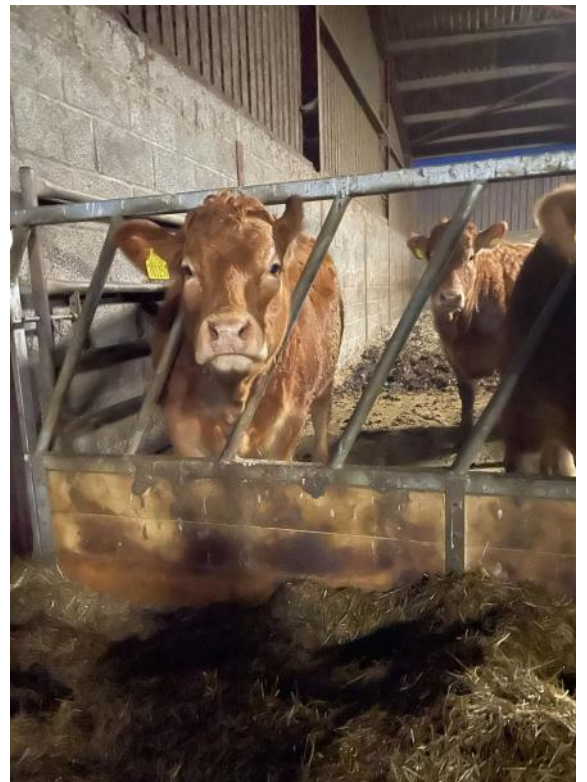
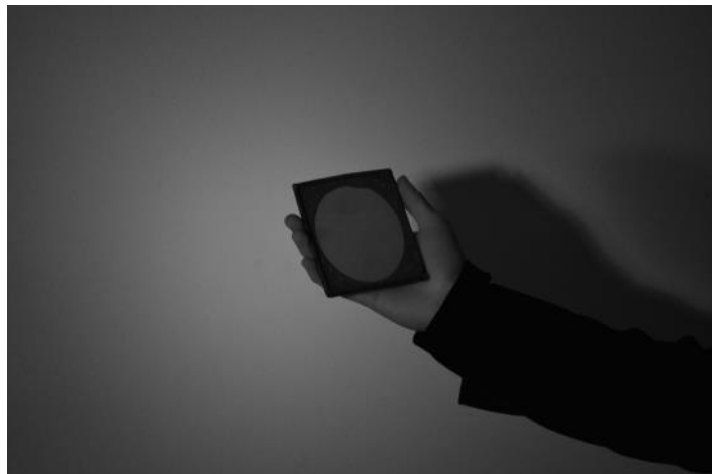
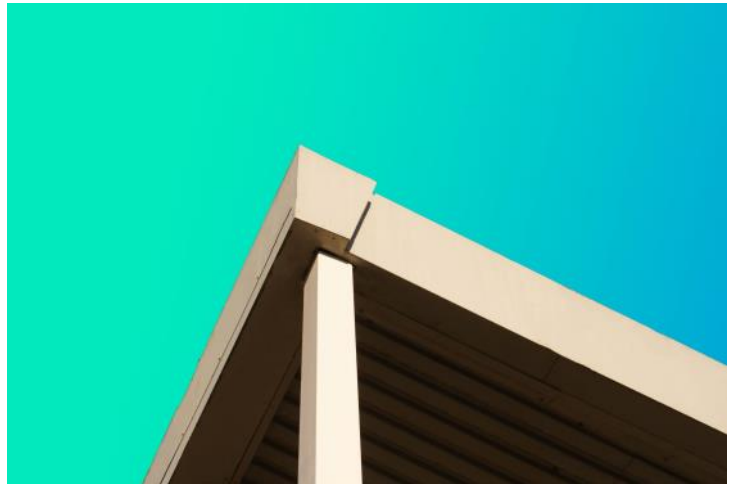
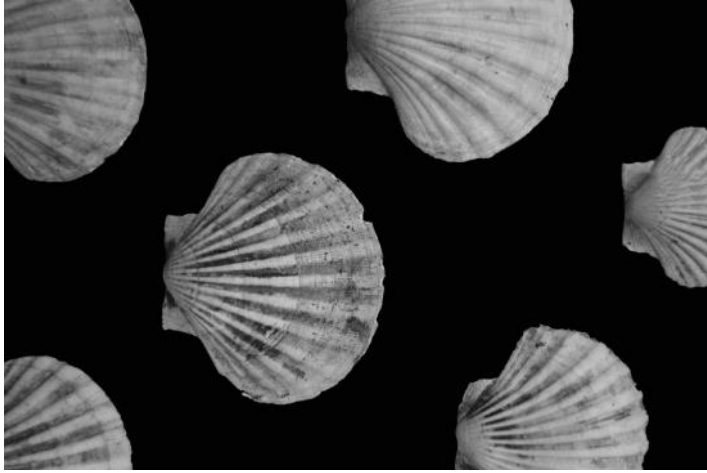
- Benefits of physical activity on mental health.
- Developing strategies to manage stress and build resilience
- The positive and negative impact of social media on self-esteem and body image
- Developing and maintaining positive and healthy relationships with ourselves and key people within our lives
- The impact of online bullying
- Developing a growth mindset, by daring to be themselves and surrounding themselves with people who value them as they are.

The content, passion from the leads Geraint and Kirsty and supporting partners, paired with the unique format of lessons has helped our students feel more confident and equipped for the variety of challenges that impact young women today.

Our students have made such an impression on Geraint and Kirsty that they have been asked to visit the offices of our partners XLedger at Tower Wharf in the city centre of Bristol. Only one school is asked to attend this out of the many taking part in the initiative because Geraint and Kirsty have been so proud of the journey and progress our students have been on. XLedger is an international cloud finance solutions company with four global offices, including the UK headquarters based in Bristol. XLedger share Bristol Sport's view in recognising the positive impact and powerful influence that sport has in breaking down social boundaries, between age groups and inequalities. The visit has given our students the chance to have a tour of the impressive offices and an opportunity to meet and interview some of the employees at the company who will share their life journeys thus far.

A fantastic initiative, brilliant leads and something we hope continues for years to come. The impact it has had on our group of Year 9 Girls has been truly remarkable.

## ■ GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### YEAR 7

Year 7 have continued to show dedication to Religious Studies at King Alfred's. They have studied a variety of ideas within the Animal Rights topic, Judaism and have begun studying Christianity in cycle 3. Students are studying evidence for Jesus, whether Jesus was a rebel, famous Christians, including Martin Luther King Jr and Mother Teresa. As well as the importance of Christian festivals and Christian places of pilgrimage.

### YEAR 8

Year 8 have continued to develop their knowledge of religious Studies. Year 8 focuses upon Eastern Religions including Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. The year group have created some fantastic work so far this year and their efforts continue as we begin studying Sikhism. Students have explored the life of Guru Nanak, the Khalsa and the 5Ks. Students will be studying a thematic topic in cycle 4 which explores life after death, including beliefs about the afterlife, the soul and ghosts.

### YEAR 9

Year 9 have begun studying Philosophy and Ethics this year which has allowed for lots of discussion, debates and opinions to be shared. Students have studied a wide range of ethical ideas such as gender equality, human rights and the death penalty. Year 9 have put significant effort into their religious studies lessons this year and we are looking forward to welcoming many students to studying GCSE RS next year.

### YEAR 10

Our year 10 students continue to thrive at GCSE Religious Studies. Students have completed the study of Christianity and have now begun to study the religion of Islam. Students have learnt about the connection of Islam to Christianity and Judaism, the importance of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and the Five Pillars of Islam. In year 11, students will study Philosophy and Ethics, they will study the different viewpoints on war and weapons of mass destruction; racism; the death penalty; and marriage. We are looking forward to developing students' knowledge of religion, philosophy and ethics in preparation for their GCSEs.

### YEAR 11

Our year 11 students have almost finished the GCSE course. Students recently visited Gloucester Mosque and Cathedral which was a beneficial and fantastic trip. Students were guided around the Mosque and the Imam spoke brilliantly about the religion and answered students' questions with honesty and humour. Students enjoyed visiting the Cathedral. Students saw key features of the Cathedral which is relevant to the course content as well as exploring the history of the Cathedral. Our year 11 students are preparing for their GCSE RS exams which are taking place on the 9th and 16th May.



### YEAR 12

Our year 12 students are showing a great level of interest and commitment to their A-Level. Our students have shown passion for the subject and have worked really hard throughout the course so far. Some of the year 12 students attended a trip to Gloucester Cathedral and a Mosque which students found beneficial. This trip supports the Christianity section of the A-Level. We are very proud that some of our students are accessing University courses through programmes linked with our Sixth Form. Students are undertaking RS based courses and we are thrilled that they are showing such interest in Religion, Philosophy & Ethics. Mr Ellis and Mrs Richards are looking forward to further developing students' knowledge of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics as they go into year 13.

### YEAR 13

What an incredible journey our year 13 students have had so far! They have been outstanding and dedicated a significant amount of time to their studies. Students are continuing to show this drive as we work up to the summer exams. Students are looking forward to the next step in their journey and are working very hard to achieve the results to get them there.



## ■ WILDING CLUB

### **Year 7-9 Wilding Club - 3:10 in A12 every Thursday!**

The newly formed Wilding Club aims to empower students to make a difference in the natural world right in their own community. Our club is dedicated to restoring and preserving local ecosystems, fostering biodiversity, and reconnecting with the wilderness.

Through hands-on activities members of Wilding Club engage in various projects aimed at rewilding our school grounds and surrounding areas. Over the coming months we are looking to create wildlife habitats and plant native species, working collaboratively to transform our environment into a thriving ecosystem.

So far we have been researching the subject, planning actions, mapping the grounds, and surveying the wildlife already on site! I look forward to updating you on our journey to rewild, restore, and rejuvenate the natural world around us going forwards. Watch this space!



## ■ ROTARY CHEF

In October 2023 TKASA held their local heat of the Rotary Young Chef competition, where it saw an amazing effort from across the year groups. A special mention to Year 8 who smashed it with the entries and cooking ability.

The winner from that local heat was Poppy Mackay, in a very close competition with only a few points splitting the field. Poppy then represented TKASA and Burnham-on-sea Rotary at the District Final on Saturday, 24th February held at TKASA.



Poppy was up against strong competition from across the Rotary South West district however she came out on top, in another close competition. As a result of this competition Poppy went on to represent the Rotary District 1200 in the Cluster Final held in Cardiff.

## ■ SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES CLUSTER FINAL—CARDIFF

On Saturday, 23rd March Poppy, along with her family, Ms King and Mrs King for support, made the trip to Cardiff for the South West and South Wales Cluster Final.

In a day that had all seasons of weather, Poppy used temperamental gas cookers, in a very different college kitchen and overcame many challenges to produce her two dishes in two hours. The young chef field was strong across four Rotary districts, eight young chefs battled it out. Rotary 1200 district took Poppy and the second place student from the round at TKASA. This saw another battle between the two girls who the judges said were ahead of the rest of the field. Poppy was placed runner-up losing out by one point. The judges' feedback celebrated Poppy's calm confidence in the kitchen along with her professional manner. There could be only one winner and with the judges taking an hour to deliberate on the students' dishes it was down to the smallest of margins.

This was Poppy's last competition for TKASA. She is leaving in the summer term after her GCSEs for an exciting career in hospitality and catering aspiring to be a top chef. Poppy has secured an apprenticeship



with a chef that was judging a previous Springboard Young Chef Competition in 2023, and starts in September at a Michelin starred restaurant in Bath.

We are very proud of what Poppy has achieved representing the school in a number of cooking competitions over the past three years. We wish Poppy all the very best with her future career.

Ms King and Mrs King look forward to working with Rotary again in 2024/2025, and will be releasing the school heat competition date soon for October 2024. We are pleased to announce that Poppy will be returning as a guest judge to support students to progress and achieve their cooking dreams like she has.



## COOKING SKILLS CLUB

This term we had another batch of keen year sevens at cooking skills after school club and they have been superb. Very little help was needed from Mrs King or Mr Smith, they just got on and produced some great bits. Pizzas, focaccia bread, and Welsh cakes to name a few. The highlight had to be the visit of Josh and Megan from award winning Sandwich Sandwich, Bristol. The cheesecake masterclass was a huge success and they made some stunning Oreo and Biscoff cheesecakes. Big thanks for Sandwich Sandwich for coming down from Bristol, the students had a blast.



## KS4 HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering have been using their practical lessons to upskill their complex skills, preparing for their practical exam at the beginning of Y11.

They have been experimenting with different cooking techniques and methods. Learning how to de-bone chicken turning it into a wonderful curry with rice and naan breads. Poaching eggs for a wonderful brunch special of eggs benedict, forming their own burgers to go into homemade soft burger rolls. As well as learning crimping techniques whilst making Cornish pasties which looked and tasted fantastic. Next we will be practising deep frying with onion bhajis, practising our cutting and wrapping techniques with spring rolls as well as a few sweet treats with panna cotta and strawberry tartlets.

Year 11 have continued to impress us with the dedication and hard work. With coursework completed students are working hard learning all about the hospitality and catering industry ready for their final exam in June. They have also been enjoy some fun practical lessons; making cheesecakes and Welsh cakes. We have more fun to come with honeycomb making.

Keep up the hard work year 11, you are almost there!



## YEAR 7 BIRD BOXES

Another amazing batch of bird boxes from Learning Cycle 2. Get those boxes up this spring for happy nesting birds!



## YEAR 9 BUBBLE GUM DISPENSERS

The bubble gum dispenser projects have come on this year since the introduction of professional art pens to improve the final touches.



## YEAR 10 CONSTRUCTION

Following on from completing electric circuits and joinery in Learning cycles one and two, Construction students have already been smashing out their plumbing work in Learning cycle 3. Students working in pairs this time around as their components amount to £70 plus.

Coursework for these students starts on 1st June when they will have to repeat their skills, unaided and against the clock!

We hope by then that students will have mastered the art of looking at a camera!



## YEAR 11 GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY COURSEWORK



Year 11 D&T students have been making their final projects since February. The coursework is worth 50% of the entire GCSE. Here is a selection of photos of work in progress for your viewing pleasure.





**Providing affordable and sustainable formalwear options in an inclusive environment**

We have been growing our collection of formalwear and have a selection of dresses and suits in a range of styles and sizes.



Better for the environment



Affordable and accessible to all



Giving back to a good cause

### How does it work?

Borrowing an outfit from us is easy. Outfits can be rented for a donation. Not sure how much to give? We have a suggested donation of £20 - £25 but you are welcome to donate more or less.

In order to borrow an outfit we will need to take some contact details and the date of your event. If this is close you can take your outfit that very day or if it is in the future we will reserve the outfit for you to collect closer to the time.

Once you have worn the outfit we ask that you return it to us within 2 weeks of your event in a wearable condition eg cleaned and ready for the next customer.

*Supporting Weston Hospicecare*



If you would like to borrow an outfit for a prom or any other formal event please email us on [preloved@tkasa.theplt.org.uk](mailto:preloved@tkasa.theplt.org.uk) and we can book you an appointment. We have been thrilled to welcome families from within The TPLT but also from Kings of Wessex and other local schools.

We are always looking to accept new donations and these can be dropped to Main Reception. Due to an influx of recent donations we are in desperate need of hangers, if you have any tucked away in the corner of a wardrobe gathering dust we would love to put them to use.

Please remember Preloved Prom is not just about saving money....Although this is an added bonus! We are aiming to make Prom and other formal events more sustainable and consider the ethical side of fast fashion.

All funds raised through Preloved Prom go to Weston Hospicecare.



## Clothes Hangers needed!

If you are able to donate any clothes hangers please can you take them to Main School Reception

Thank you



## TEACHER TRAINING

If you are looking to train as a teacher, The Priory Learning Trust offers an alternative to traditional university-based teacher training at both primary and secondary level. With our School Direct teacher training programme you train in two schools in the Weston and Burnham areas, learning on the job, while working towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). If you'd like to find out more please contact Denise Hurr, Head of Training School via email: [tsa@theplt.org.uk](mailto:tsa@theplt.org.uk)



**TKASA communication and finance system.**

**If you have not yet registered please contact the school for the enrolment details**

### Label it!

Please label items so we can return lost property!

**Especially water bottles, ties, blazers,  
jumpers and PE kit!**

Any unclaimed items will be used to help those who need it or recycled.

**To claim any lost property please  
contact the school.  
Thank you!**

### Support Signposts

We understand that the cost of living crisis is affecting so many people, and so we have pulled together some links across North Somerset and Somerset, with the aim of signposting available support.

*If you are reading this online please click the QR code to go to the website or alternatively scan the code.*



### MEDICAL REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

Don't forget to update the school on any medical conditions your child may have.

The only medication we keep in the school for students to use is paracetamol in tablet form.

If your child requires any other medication during school e.g. inhaler, hay fever medication, Calpol then please bring these into school at the beginning of the new term and complete a medication form at reception.

If your child has brought home any blue gel ice packs or purple fleece heat packs this year please return them to the school.

If you have any outgrown/unwanted uniform e.g. trousers, skirts, shirts, PE kit or new tights and new underwear please consider donating them for the medical room. These items are a real help to students in emergency situations.

Have a safe and happy holiday!  
Mrs Butler

# TERM DATES 2024

Term Days
  INSET Day
  Holidays
  Bank Holidays

January 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Academic Year 2023 - 2024	
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>Starts Monday 19 February 2024 Ends Thursday 28 March 2024</b>
<b>TERM 5</b>	<b>Starts Monday 15 April 2024 Ends Friday 24 May 2024</b>
<b>TERM 6</b>	<b>Starts Monday 3 June 2024 Ends Wednesday 24 July 2024</b>

Academic Year 2024 - 2025	
<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>Starts Monday 2 September 2024 Ends Friday 18 October 2024</b> Monday 2 September, Tuesday 3 September and Friday 18 October 2024 are Staff Training Days
<b>TERM 2</b>	<b>Starts Monday 4 November 2024 Ends Friday 20 December 2024</b>
<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>Starts Monday 6 January 2025 Ends Friday 14 February 2025</b>
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>Starts Monday 19 February 2024 Ends Friday 4 April 2025</b>
<b>TERM 5</b>	<b>Starts Tuesday 22 April 2025 Ends Friday 23 May 2025</b>
<b>TERM 6</b>	<b>Starts Monday 2 June 2025 Ends Tuesday 22 July 2025</b>

