



What's Happening at TKASA...?

7th December 2018

Newsletter



Be Proud

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

Message from Mr Jenkins (Principal- TKASA)

I write as we are approaching the end of the term and what has been a very busy two weeks. Today, we have the BBC here interviewing our students who are involved in the Jill Dando News Centre, so look out for us in the news. The students involved are a credit to you and the school. They are building on their skills in writing news stories, but, more than that, they are growing in confidence as they are introduced to the fantastic opportunities this venture affords. On 17th December, we have the launch of our Jill Dando News Centre. We are delighted to welcome Nigel Dando (Jill's brother) as our VIP to the launch who will deliver the first Jill Dando Journalism Lecture in her honour. Nigel also worked in the media for many years himself and so we are looking forward to him coming in and meeting staff and students, I am sure he will be inspirational.

It is now two weeks since we introduced the new timetables and the Ready to Learn points in every lesson. Already I can see a positive impact in the classroom as a result of these changes and I hope, like me, you too will have witnessed this change.

My weekly Be Proud Awards continue this term, and it is a great pleasure to award students who are representing the school so admirably both in the classroom and in the wider community. Last week, I was privileged to award some budding gymnasts. Well done to them!

You will have also seen on our website this week that we are continuing with our sixth form provision next year. This is fantastic news for the school community and we will be publicising the sixth form provision as we move forward into the New Year. I hope to see as many Year 11 parents as can make it to the Sixth Form Open Evening on 23rd January 2019. Come and meet some of our alumni and find out how the Sixth Form supported them into the top universities (known as the Russell Group) or into a new career path.

You will have also noticed our Christmas tree outside A block. We had a great evening at the Christmas tree light switch on earlier this week, singing carols accompanied by so many of our talented students playing a vast array of instruments. Our next Christmas event is the Christmas Concert on 12th December 2018. Please come along and begin your Christmas festivities and support the students.

Finally, I would like to give you advance notice that school will finish at 12.30 pm on Friday 21st December 2018. School transport arrangements will be made for anyone catching school transport.



Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Some of us are lucky enough to be able to spend December preparing for Christmas with happiness, not dread. This couldn't be further from reality of many living in the UK today.

While food bank use is on the rise throughout the year in the UK, it typically sees a 45% spike in referrals for emergency food parcels in the two weeks before Christmas. There is already a concern food banks will not be able to meet this soaring need.

Our school (staff and students) are hoping to collect as many items as possible over the festive period to help others in our community. Please bring your donation(s), on any day through December, to the Year office before school, at break, at lunch or after school.

You can donate as much or as little as you like. We are hoping to have items donated every day across the school. Donations start from 3rd December until 20th December. The items will be donated to the food bank on the 21st December.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Christmas Concert

King Alfred's Christmas Concert tickets went on sale on Monday 26th November. The Concert will be held on **Wednesday 12th December** doors opening at 6.15pm. Weston Brass will be in attendance as our special guests!

Christmas Holidays

Please note the students will break up at **12.30pm** on **Friday 21st December** and return on **Monday 7th January**.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Recruitment has been going well and to date we have 31 Year 9's signed up for the Bronze Award. They have all collected their welcome packs but it is really important that they go onto their DofE page and activate it - once that has happened they will be sent their DofE discount card. This card enables them to get at least 10% discount from GoOutdoors, Millets, Blacks, Ulitimate Outdoors and Tisa. It is also not just for the participant it is for the whole family, so if you are going skiing or camping it's a help towards the costs.

I am also pushing the Year 10's and 11's to finish their awards. It is mostly the admin side of things that hasn't been completed and it is such a pity that the student does all the work but doesn't get recognition for it. If they need any help they can always find me in the Library at break or lunchtime. They can then move on to their Silver.

There is still plenty of room for anymore who wishes to register for any of the Awards. Remember the **DofE is for life not just for Christmas!**

1st King Alfred Scout Group

This week Years 7 and 8 were introduced to the exciting new adventure starting at King Alfred in Term 3 - 1st King Alfred Scout Group! Excitingly TKASA are to be one of the first secondary schools to work with the Scouts to offer a challenging and fun extra-curricular programme teaching skills for life to pupils.

The group will run after school on Wednesday nights, completely free of charge, by TKASA staff members. More information about the troop has been handed out in tutor time and registration of interest form can be brought back in up until 9th January.



Food bank items:

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| Coffee | Tin veg |
| Tea | Tin tomatoes |
| UHT milk | Tin lentils/ beans and pulses |
| Granulated sugar | Tin fruit |
| Soups | Biscuits |
| Pasta | Fruit juice/ squash |
| Rice | UHT milk |
| Pasta sauce | Toilet rolls |
| Jar sauces | Shower gel |
| Dried noodles | Toothbrushes |
| Cereals | Toothpaste |
| Tin meat | Chocolates |
| Custard | Crisps |
| Rice pudding | Sweets |

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