

7th November 2019

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to Term 2, with the winter months and Christmas on the horizon, and a determination by all staff to remain focussed on high quality teaching, we look forward to the term ahead.

Last term as usual here at King Alf's was very busy but it was an absolute pleasure to be back in school following a fabulous set of summer results, and all signs are pointing to further improvement to come next year. As some of you will be aware our results at GCSE have improved significantly this year and in fact we are now ranked at number 7 in the 'best 10 performing state schools in Somerset for 2019 GCSE results'; this places us as the most improved school in Somerset for 2019. A level results improved significantly too with many of our students moving on to their first choice of university or apprenticeship. I would like to thank everyone involved in the school for their hard work and determination as it's this "one team" approach that is helping King Alf's secure itself as one of the best performing schools in the county

Reading Programme

As you know, we have introduced a number of changes this year, not least of which being our tutor reading programme. This programme is designed to help students foster a love of reading and exposes students to literature and language that will enrich both their lives and their ability to develop their vocabulary. Student voice informs us that students enjoy this time reading and staff tell us that this calm start to the day prepares students for their lessons during the day. In all, students will read 4 books this year with their tutors and this programme will run annually, ensuring that every child will read at least 16 books by the time they finish year 10. For those students in year 11 we are running a different programme that supports their learning in the core subjects of Science, Maths and English in the run up to their GCSE exams.

Homework

We have also launched the new homework system this year which is supported by our fantastic knowledge organisers. Students have, on the whole, fully embraced this new and structured approach to homework. As with any new initiative there have been some teething problems with understanding the new system, but we are thankful for parents' support in helping us to make sure this valuable learning experience supports the work students do in school.

GCSE Options Year 9

The time is fast approaching when our year 9 students will make their option choices. All our year 9 students will receive advice and guidance to ensure they are making an informed choice for their future study and career choices. We will let you have more information in the coming weeks, but please be assured that support will be available for all students to talk through their option choices with a member of staff.

Safeguarding Information

We have a safeguarding Evening on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 6 pm. This is open to all parents. We are working in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police and Somewhere House to put on this event and we would encourage all parents who want to find out more and want to support our community to attend.

Site Improvements

Last year we were fortunate to be able to complete significant works across the site, not least of which was the new roofs. We will continue to develop the site in the coming years and have many site improvements planned. We have recognised for some time that our toilet facilities need upgrading and whilst we have decorated our current toilets, we still need to do more. I am pleased to be able to inform you that there are plans afoot to build a brand new toilet block. The new block is planned for opening in September 2020 and work is due to commence in the New Year. We have also completely refitted C Block and are gradually working our way around the site to deliver high quality learning environments for all students.

Information from Wessex Water about Essential Work to be Carried Out

We have received notice from Wessex Water that as part of their essential work in Worston Lane, Rhyne and Pepperall Road roundabout, that Worston Lane footpath/cycle path will be closed and in turn the access to King Alfred's school fields from the pedestrian footpath will be closed for the duration of the works. We are informed that the estimated duration of this work will be for six months from the period of February 2020 to August 2020. If we receive any further update we will of course keep you informed. I realise that many of our students come into school via this route and I wanted to give you as much notice of this closure as possible to allow you to make alternative arrangements for your son/daughter.

Finally I would like to point out that we have a large number of events planned for the coming year and these will be detailed on the school website. I do however want to point out a couple of important dates for your diaries. Particularly the year 7 Parents' Forum on 13th November where we would love to hear from parents and carers about their experience since joining the school in September. The meeting will be held in A Block 6-7pm.

Important dates Nov & Dec

- 4th Nov – 22nd Nov Yr 11 PPE's
- 13th Nov – Yr 7 Parents Forum
- 2nd Dec - Christmas Tree Lights Switch On & Carol Service
- 5th Dec -Sixth Form Parents' Evening
- 11th Dec - Christmas Concert
- 12th Dec - Yr 10 Parents Evening
- 17th Dec - Battle of the Bands
- 18th Dec - Annual Awards Evening
- 20th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day

As always, thank you for your continued support to our school.

Yours faithfully



Nathan Jenkins
Principal