





MAGAZINE AUTUMN TERM EDITION 2022



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| Chief Executive Officer's Message |
|-----------------------------------|
| Principal's Message |
| Vice Principals' Messages |
| Awards |
| Year Groups |
| |

| 2 | Sixth Form | 15 |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| 3 | Subjects | 19 |
| 4 | Reading | 32 |
| 5 | Preloved Prom | 38 |
| 5 | Term Dates | 40 |
| | | WIŠIE - ¥ |



CEO THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST



MR JENKINS— CEO

Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

Thank you for your unrelenting support this past calendar year. It's been another very busy but successful year and I'm extremely pleased with the way all our academies are developing. The environment within our schools is constantly improving as is our practice. This is abundantly clear when I walk around the schools and see the enjoyment and engagement in classrooms. There is so much going on and it is clear that things are definitely returning to normal.

We currently have 8 academies across 9 sites, plus our 4 Little Learners Nursery provisions. I was thrilled to be able to officially open the brand new purpose built Little Learners Nursery site at Castle Batch Primary School Academy recently having moved there from PCSA at the end of the Summer. This is another excellent provision and demonstrates our continued commitment for our very youngest children and indeed our communities. The Little Learners Nursery provision is really strong across our schools with fantastic work with play, outdoor learning and our early years education. It is a really solid foundation for the future. If you know of local people who need nursery places please be aware, we also have a Little Learners Nursery at St Anne's West Wick and at East & West Huntpill Primary Academies. Please do contact us for places and for further information.

Sixth Form @ TKASA – the extension to the Sixth Form building has been completed and has added to the already strong post 16 provision. With the increase in numbers choosing to study at

TKASA Sixth Form the building had to be expanded to accommodate our students. Our A level results have been outstanding for a number of years with many of our students progressing to top universities and higher level apprenticeships. Please do contact Doug Radnidge (Head of Sixth Form) <u>dradnidge@tkasa.org.uk</u> if you would like a tour of the facilities or to find out more information.

Charity /Community is hugely important to us - Our Trust-wide charity of the year for 2022-23 is the **Foodbank**, with our Somerset schools supporting the Burnham & Highbridge centre and our Weston schools supporting the centre there. I am delighted to say that a recent non-uniform day across all our academies raised a total of £4,547.72 (as well as a vast amount of food donations) for this great charity and for 'Children In Need'. <u>Thank you</u> for your great support.

We offer a wide, varied and aspirational curriculum and have a fantastic extra circular offer - **Our Trust will always be more than exam results**. You will see many of these great activities within this newsletter. To keep up with all our news please do follow our schools on Twitter – we have lots of 'news and views' on Twitter and we also have our excellent website <u>https://goodnewspost.co.uk/</u>. Here you will find all the great things we have been involved with from September to December.

Again – thank you for all your support.

Nathan Jenkins CEO





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE





MR MILFORD

Welcome to the Autumn and Christmas edition of the TKASA newsletter. The last seven weeks since the half term break have flown by and it has been such a busy term as always.

You will have seen from their recent letter that we had an OFSTED inspection a few weeks ago and, at the time of writing, we are awaiting publication of their report. As soon as we receive it, we will be sure to share that with you.

I want to also highlight that we recently appointed Miss Charles as permanent Vice Principal for the Quality of Education, replacing Mr Witts who has moved into a different role within the Trust. I am very fortunate to have such strong Vice Principals in Miss Charles and Mr Walker, who help lead our school alongside the other highly professional and expert leaders in the Leadership Team.

As you are all aware, this year is very different to last year, as we approach Christmas in a challenging financial time and I am mindful that this festive period might look very different for everyone this year. If anyone has any concerns when we return from the holidays, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year to discuss how we may be able to support you in any way we can.

It is always brilliant to see the students arrive in their smart uniforms, ready to learn, making progress in all their subject areas and contributing to all the wider aspects of school life, including the period 6 enrichment activities.

This term has been a busy one, with lots of events happening in and around school as well as the day to day lessons. In the following pages, you will be hearing from subject leaders, pastoral staff and support staff. I particularly enjoy seeing all the photos of our students and staff as they remind me of the vast array of opportunities we provide for our young people here at TKASA.

I have been overwhelmed by the support we get from our local community, and this year we have linked in several ways with our Local Council on various community projects. As always, this year, we joined in the annual Burnham-on-Sea Remembrance Parade and we were also joined by the Royal British Legion for our school based Remembrance Service. We were also pleased to welcome the Mayor Lesley Millard who switched on our Christmas lights to kick off our Christmas activities. The light switch on was a lovely event in the misty, cold Christmassy weather... although we were warmed up by some festive carols sung by our school choir!

Each week I receive many emails and speak to and meet parents face to face. Often, ideas and improvements come from our parents and we really welcome suggestions from our parental body. We have another Parent Forum arranged for January and you would be most welcome to attend, the focus will be on quality of education and the curriculum. Our Parent Forums are a great way to hear what goes on at school from our school leaders and to raise any ideas with us.

This term, we have been thrilled that those 'in person' events that had to be cancelled last year due to COVID, made a welcome return. What a great Christmas Concert we had with the students taking part and just enjoying their craft. We held our Annual Awards Evening this year too, the first non virtual one since COVID, where we celebrated students past and present. I am incredibly proud of all our students and I am sure that as their parents and carers, you are too, but having events like this to celebrate high achievements and effort levels are so important.

My favourite part of the day though, is spent with the students both in the classroom, and out and about at social times. A particular favourite time of mine is Friday breaktime, when I present my 'Student of the Week' awards to students who have worked particularly hard, made a difference in school that week, have supported their local community, represented the school, raised money for charity or have achieved lots of praise points for excellent work.

As you know, we pride ourselves on being a school that builds its culture around strong relationships between staff and students, in addition to being a one which is at the centre of the community and this will be something we will continue to fully focus on in 2023.

You will see inside this newsletter the many activities that your children are a part of and I hope you will enjoy reading all about school life this term at TKASA. We are lucky to have such wonderful students at our school, who throw themselves into their learning and all the extra curricular activities we offer every day.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and positive 2023; please enjoy some rest and relaxation

with family and friends and thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.





*VICE PRINCIPALS' MESSAGES



MR WALKER

What an eventful and uplifting term it has been. For teachers this is always the longest term, with many late and dark evenings, awards evenings, parent forums, parent evenings, carol concerts and even an Ofsted inspection to boot.

But it is also the most rewarding. For me this was so evident in our Christmas Concert and Awards Evening at the end of term, which highlighted just how brilliant, gifted, inspiring and talented our students are here at TKASA. Our students are truly brilliant!

Along with the more celebratory and festive events we have had in term, we have also had lots of focus on our Year 11 and 13 summer exam preparation with PPEs alongside our Sixth Form interview evenings. No matter what the time of year, the school calendar is always busy with activity.

One of the many strong developments at TKASA this year has been our work with the community; something we are striving to continue to develop even further. Working closely with The Mayor, Cllr Lesley Millard, we aim to develop a Youth Council for the town that can support development and sustainability for all age groups, locally and across the wider region, growing our strong student leadership from across the school to support community development.

As Designated Safeguarding Lead, it is also prudent for me to remind you all of what a difficult time of year this can be for all families. Whilst we hope you all have a wonderful and exciting Christmas, this time of year can also be a very lonely and difficult time for many around us. Earlier in their piece, I expressed how important our shared sense of community is and this is so vital to our wider sense of belonging and happiness. So please take this time to check in on older neighbours and friends, offer to help more at home with chores and jobs and think of others first, but most importantly of all; be kind and thoughtful to be the best version of yourself this Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you all when we return in the New Year. Merry Christmas everybody!



MISS CHARLES

I am thoroughly excited and feel very proud and privileged to have been successful in gaining the position of Vice Principal at TKASA. Starting my career here in 2006 I have already worked with so many of our wonderful

families, staff and members of the community, which I am looking forward to continuing. Quality of Education is crucial to ensure that our students have the correct curriculum which is broad and knowledge rich providing a range of experiences throughout their time here. Relevant and regular assessments throughout the learning cycles means we are able to continually identify and fill gaps in learning. This will give students the opportunities to reach their fullest potential, opening doors for their futures.

Our students are brilliant and our staff are amazing. Together they make a strong team of committed, dedicated people working together striving for the best. There is no end to the times throughout this first term that I have stepped back and felt immensely proud of their work ethic, positivity, determination and kindness to others. Its clear that our students are the engine that drives our school.

There are times throughout this term that have been challenging for different members of our school community for all sorts of reasons, I know, with complete confidence that in each of these instances there will be a student and/or staff member at our school that has helped that student/teacher/support staff through the day.

This term our students had all sorts of learning experiences. Our Year 11 English students, for instance, had the amazing opportunity to go to London to watch A Christmas Carol. Students have been out on Geography field work and many have been involved in sporting festivals and competitions.

Celebrating achievements is so important to us, being able to share successes with families through classcharts and positive calls home. We also this term were able to have our in person awards evening where students received awards from their subjects and other aspects of school life from the previous academic year. A lovely night was had by all.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2023.





2021-2022 ANNUAL AWARDS**

Key Stage 5





| Subject | Winner |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Art | Demi-Leigh Cox |
| Computing | Issac Tilson |
| Design & Technology | Poppy Mackay |
| Drama | Bethan Rose |
| English | Stan Ballard |
| French | George Dyer |
| Geography | Evie Pearson |
| History | Ruby Chapman |
| Maths | Aimee Dennehy |
| Music | Martha Hughes |
| Boys PE | Kieran Blain |
| Girls PE | Melody Darlison |
| Religious Studies | Willow Rivers |
| Science | Ruby Chapman |
| Head of Year | Jake Randall |
| | |

Principal and Special Awards

Principal's Award GCSE Catherine Taylor

Principal's Award A Levels Jamie Raynard

> **Community Service** Jacob Kemp

Julian Stearnes Sporting Excellence Lucas Earthy

Helen Pardey Sporting Excellence Macy Noad

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Isabella Brafield





Winner Poppy Groves Byron Davis Kevina Williams Rory Kerton Alex Markoutsas Daniel Murley Libby Hall Mollie Ford Lili-Anne Salter Catherine Taylor Grace Anderson Rhys Lewis Kemble Melissa Hunt Jack Richardson Subject Skve Bowcott Art Tia Cox Biology Matthew Ethridge

Ra'Eesah Tarafdar



Prabhjot Multani

Jacob Radford

Emily Whaley

Key Stage 4

Subject

Business

Drama

French

History

Maths

Music

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

Head of Year

Geography

Computing

Engineering English Language

English Literature

Religious Studies

Combined Science

OCR National Sport Science

Design and Technology

Hospitality and Catering

Art

Thank you to Miss Pardey and ex student Mark Coles for attending our 2021-2022 Annual Awards Evening



Business

Computing

Chemistry

English Language

English Literature

Geography History

Maths

Physics

Psychology Sociology

Drama

Key Stage 5

Design and Technology BTEC Health & Social Care OCR Technical Sport &

Physical Activity Religious Studies Head of Year

Matthew Bartlett Mollie Croker Carter Davis Jamie Raynard Sophie Leonard Charlotte Taylor Jay Dumpleton Max Bradley Jacob Kemp Amy Taylor Libby Ruston Jack Hudson Jamie Raynard Evie Skinner Bailey Morgan Hannah Jeffries

Winner

Erin Murray George Tillam Bailey Morgan



MR HARRIS - HEAD OF YEAR 7

It has been a real treat watching our new cohort of Year 7s setting into life here at TKASA. So many students have taken advantage of every opportunity available to them, both in and out of lessons. I hope many more will look to take part in our extra curricular clubs after the Christmas break. I would like to thank the Year 7 Tutor team for their hard work and dedication to giving their groups the best start to secondary school. Have a great Christmas break everyone, and see you all ready to get to work in 2023!

7K - MR JOHN

7K have had a remarkable start to their first term at TKASA. Each member of the group has made strides in their school work and behaviours, taking great pride in their 'weekly leaderboard' on ClassCharts. Many of the group have been awarded with their 'Be Proud' badges for excellent behaviour, and have been at the top of the board multiple times since the start of the year. The group are thriving, and I look forward to seeing how they continue to settle throughout the year.

7I- MISS STANLEY

71 have made an outstanding start to the year! Not only have they been number one on the positive board twice but they have also been a treat to teach. Many of you have earned your 'Be Proud' badges, and they truly are deserved. From school council, to extra curricular clubs, and sports matches outside of school, you have all made yourselves at home at TKASA! During tutor and PSHCE, 7I are enthusiastic to get stuck in and explore. Each and every one of you has been a delight to have in my tutor, and I have such pride to lead you all through year 7 and beyond. Have a very merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

7N - MR MAGUIRE

7N have transitioned well into good learners, with some of the tutor making the top ten in the year for Class Charts points. I feel that we now know the requirements of being an excellent tutor group, (we have the quiz knowledge for it), we just need to all work together and we can top the leaderboard in the New Year.

7G - MRS APPLEBY

What an incredible start to year 7! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all. We made our way to the top of the leaderboard of the classchart points multiple times. Well done 7G and keep it up! It shows your great attitude towards your learning. We had some individual successes as well. Well done Kuba Roper and Kitty Hurley who have been voted to represent 7G in the school council, I am sure you will do a great job. Grace Fear became the Lead Junior Cadet and was awarded the Junior Sea Cadet of the Year. Julia Chat won a school poetry competition for BOS Fest and was invited to perform it in the Gatsby lounge at the Ritz. Well done everyone for your individual efforts so far this year and enjoy the well earned Christmas break.



7A - MISS DIX

7A you have had a brilliant start to year 7 and it has been a pleasure to see you every morning as a tutor group and getting to know you individually.

Well done to Maisie and Declan who were picked for tutor representatives for the school council. There has been some great commitment shown from those of you who have joined and taken part in various extra curricular activities after school including sports and cooking clubs. Have a fantastic Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.





7L - MR WHITEOAK

7L have really settled well into cycle 2. Students have made a real effort to contribute positively in lessons and we are improving our weekly classcharts tally week on week. A very special mention to Evelyn and Bronwyn (our student council representatives) who are regularly outlined for achieving the most classchart points. Students have settled in well into the school community and we are forming some really positive relationships with both staff and students. I would like to give a huge well done to all students who regularly complete a week's learning without gaining a single negative. We are celebrating lots of success in this area. We are looking forward to finishing the term positively and enjoying a well deserved Christmas break.

7F - MISS WALLIS



7F have made an excellent start to the year, and it has been a pleasure getting to know the group! Congratulations to Logan Flinders and Freya Slade who were voted by the class to be Year 7 reps, I am sure they will be absolutely fantastic in this role. Also well done to Logan Flinders who is about to publish a book!

He is currently at the editing stage and we can't wait to find out more. Well done to Elsie Moreno who performed outside of school in a production on 'Our House' and getting ready for another show 'Jack and the Beanstalk!' Congratulations to Grace Hackett who achieved 'leading cadets' at Sea Cadets! 7F participated in the TKASA Christmas single - they really enjoyed singing and we can't wait to watch it as a tutor group soon. Thank you to Emily McGinnis and Chloe Baker-Savage for these beautiful pieces of

artwork produced for our tutor room wall. Well done for all of your fantastic efforts and achievements so far 7F and have a lovely Christmas break!



7R - MRS RICHARDS

What a fantastic start to their King Alfred's journey 7R have had. The tutor group as a whole has settled in well to the routines of secondary school. 7R have had a positive start to the year achieving a significant number of positive class chart points which reflects their excellent behaviour and positive attitude in lessons. I am very proud to hear of so much positivity from class teachers about the commitment to learning from 7R - well done! Many members of 7R are showing their commitment to our school community by getting involved in a number of after school activities including cooking club, extra curricular PE and the Jill Dando news team. Well done for all of your hard work and achievements so far 7R, have a fantastic Christmas break, it is well deserved!

7E - MISS BIRD

With Christmas around the corner it's time to recap the many achievements and successes from our tutor group! It has been a pleasure getting to know all of the students in 7E, I'd like to congratulate them all for settling into their new routines and forming new relationships at TKASA. This is a big adjustment and everyone has done very well! I would like to pass on the positive praise I have received for my tutor group, for their effort and attitude to learning in lessons. I am looking forward to seeing more learning stars points in the new year. I would like to give a few mentions to students that have gone above and beyond in school; Harry for taking part in the remembrance service. Becca and Aleyna for writing and sharing their short stories with the group, and Henley and Ellis for coming in early every day to set up the room and hand out the books. Wishing you ALL a very Happy Christmas!







MISS BULLOCK - HEAD OF YEAR 8

What a start to Year 8 it has been! I am thrilled with the passion and effort shown so far this year and I am looking forward to seeing this continue after the Christmas break.

Year 8 have thrown themselves into lots of opportunities and have been earning ACTIV8 points within their tutor groups. From the Rotary Young Chef competition to Sports clubs, from the TKASA Prose Society to making donations to our reverse advent calendar for the food bank, year 8 have been at the forefront of it all. We have held two inter tutor ACTIV8 competitions, the tutor cheer competition and a cross bar challenge. Final ACTIV8 results will be revealed in our end of term assembly. Well done to 8K who came out on top in Term 1. There has been a jam packed assembly schedule so far this year with important issues and events being discussed from Cop 27, to mental health, to remembrance. Thank you to all of our wonderful staff and visitors for coming in and making these engaging.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the year 8 tutor team for all of their hard work. I hope everyone has a lovely break and I look forward to going from strength to strength in 2023.

Miss Bullock



8K - MISS DODD

8K have had a brilliant start to year 8. Amazing effort from all to collectively win the tutor group of the term for term 1. Well done to Francesca, Amelia R, Esme, Lola, Carra and Toby for making your own pom poms to take part in the tutor cheer competition! As a group we have over 8300 positives since September and counting!

8I - MRS BONNETT

I inherited the lovely 8I at the start of this year from Mr Robbins and welcomed Miss Hyder to the Tutor. Over the past term our tutor has achieved so much, just a few of the highlights have been: Tutor of the week (Twice!) Came first in the inter-cheer competition and can't wait to take part in the crossbar challenge. We are consistently in the top 10 for positives, with Noah winning student of the term from Miss Bullock. Currently we're reading Animal Farm each morning, having brilliant debates about the storyline and making comparisons to historical/current events.

8N - MR BAIL & MISS PROBERT

8N have begun the year positively accumulating more than 5500 positive points at the time of writing. They have engaged in their school work well and continue to strive to improve. With a supportive group of students they have been able to work collaboratively throughout learning cycle 1. 8N are a fabulous group of young learners, full of diversity, character and huge personalities. 8N are committed to doing their best, and seek new challenges within school. 8N have participated in a range of activities so far this year, including representing the tutor and King Alfred's' in junior cooking competitions, cheerleading, Jill Dando and other extra-curricular opportunities across the school. 8N are creative, and have demonstrated an impressive understanding about the books covered so far in the tutor time reading programme, and can logical, positive and considerate arguments make around PSHCE topics. 8N is full of enthusiastic learners, and they have made excellent progress so far this academic year. 8N are kind and respectful, and you can always rely on them to put a smile on your face. Well done 8N!

8G - MR WARD

8G have continued their fine work from year 7 into the beginning of year 8. The journey and confidence grown in these young people is great to watch. We have lots of members of our tutor group representing local community football teams. It's been great to have Riley N and Freddie B attending P6 rugby as well as Phoebe P. Emma H is going to be a part of this year's production 'We Will Rock You' and we can't wait to see her in action. Tyler was a part of the remembrance service held with the Royal British Legion this year and it was great to see him represent the St John Ambulance Crew.

A really big highlight for me this year was getting the class together to watch the first game for the world cup. Mr Watkins and Mr Ward's Tutee of the term is Amelia.





8A - MISS LODGE

8A have made a fantastic start to the year; I have been thoroughly impressed with the outstanding attitude and behaviour shown by the students. 8A have collectively received over 6000 positive points, with Kira and Beatrix achieving the most points in the group. 8A have been involved in a range of activities: Ellena recently took part in a 1 mile swimming contest, Beatrix completed a 3 peak walk with her football team, and Leo received his 2nd belt in kickboxing. Well done 8A – I am extremely proud of each and every one of you!

8L - MR BARHAM

8L - In a term full of illness and viruses it is commendable that 8L have been one of the best Year 8 tutor groups for attendance since September. A resilient bunch. We were the first winners of the weekly Year 8 cup and hope to win it back soon. Some of the boys have had success in the recent inter tutor crossbar challenge, but we need to get better in our weekly current affairs quiz. We have finished our first reading book of the year; Ruby In The Smoke and are now engrossed in Animal Farm. We have said goodbye to Oscar, Ryley and Ruby, who have moved to other tutor groups, and have said hello to Leland, Lily, Eva and Callum, who have joined us from Bridgwater, India and 8R. We would like to wish everyone reading this a very Happy Christmas and a great 2023.

8F - MR SMITH

It is clear from the amount of positive points that 8F have accumulated this year that they are working well in year 8. Many of the group have enjoyed the extra curricular activities, which has led to many of the tutor group representing the school in hockey, football and rugby matches. Several members took part in the recent crossbar challenge and I am looking forward to seeing members performing in the upcoming drama performance. 2023 will be a bright year for 8F.



8R - MRS MARTIN

8R have had a great start to year 8 and have spent time with Mrs Siab and Mr Cox. Many students are engaging in extra curricular clubs and it is wonderful to see students signing up to be involved in the whole school production. Over the terms the group have worked hard to increase the positive ClassCharts points they are earning and have been focusing on doing their best.







MRS WHITEOAK - HEAD OF YEAR 9

A superb start to the year from year 9. As they start to think about options choices a number of them have spent time with our careers advisor Mrs Govier and started thinking about their future plans. Please see your form tutor, Miss Jones or Mrs Whiteoak if you would like some careers advice before choosing your options next term.

It has been great to see year 9 involved in so many extra curricular activities - from PE, cooking club, Christmas concert, Reverse Advent and auditions for We Will Rock You.

9K - MR SHEWRING

It has been a real pleasure getting to know everyone in the 9k tutor group. I took over as their tutor at the end of the summer term of 2022 and have been constantly impressed by their achievements in and out of school. Ashton Hancock and Cameron Gammon's adventures in Paris! Liam Puddy's involvement in the carnival and ability to juggle the demands of school life at the same time. Leah Pikes continuous involvement in extra activities such as the school musical auditions and the Christmas advent video. Lucas Chillcots success with local Rugby team, Bristol Bears, perhaps shaping into our next England Captain? Alfred Bissell's saxophone/trumpet talents and also the intricate knitting skills from Ava Boley (Perhaps my Christmas scarf?) and secret agent 00700787876 Leah Adler. Real progress has been made and demonstrations resilience excellent of and determination from Esmae Gordon Smith and Danielle Collard, along with consistent examples of immaculate manners from students such as Anthony Ladd, Ruby Webb, Leo Lloyd, Aaron Hill and Renata Ohiichenko. A world of opportunity is waiting for each and every one of these talented and expressive individuals who will no doubt be at the forefront of shaping our future in years to come.



9I - MISS MILFORD

I am extremely proud and impressed by 9I's achievements and enthusiasm to do well so far this year. I have watched many members of 9I attend different extra curricular clubs, audition for the school production and get recognised for their actions of kindness. They make my role as their tutor a pleasure and I adore their support for one another! Their team efforts in both sporting and academic events within school, in addition to their positive encouragement for others has ensured an excellent start to the academic year. I hope everyone in 9I has a wonderful, well deserved Christmas break.

9N - MISS GROVES & MR MCBRIDE

It has been great to see 9N begin their last KS3 year with such enthusiasm and impressive attitudes towards their own learning, especially in PSHE as you have started to discuss your future post 16! It has been great to see so many of you being celebrated in assemblies this year for top positives each week and the introduction of 'Terrific Tuesday' has allowed us to recognise those of you getting it right and making a significant improvement towards your attitude to learning. We were very proud so see Isla and Harrison sat next to Mr Milford as his students of the week in November for displaying great attitudes and personality in and out of school. Also, many of you have contributed to the wider school community through sports and music performances. As a tutor group we have welcomed the brilliant Miss Burge, who has become a highly valued part of our 9N team! Keep up the great work and well done for an amazing start to Year 9!

9G - MRS MEREDITH

We have had a fantastic winter term with lots of wonderful achievements. Special mentions go to: Kobe who achieved a PB in his swimming heats recently - he was not convinced he would do so but we all had faith in him! Casey for another brilliant performance locally in pantomime, she is a superstar in the making! As are Corey and Faith for a lovely contribution to our Christmas Performance Advent Calendar with their awesome dancing. So many others have made great progress this term and are starting to grow into extraordinary young people. Mrs M wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and a super New Year!'



9A - MR ELLIS

9A go from strength to strength. We have lost a couple of members to other groups but we have also gained some new members. 9A are a mature and kind tutor group who have made huge efforts to get things right in all lessons. This year so far I have been incredibly proud to hear and read from subject teachers about how brilliant members of 9A have been. Very proud of Jocelyn who constantly appears in assembly at the top of the points chart, Sonnie, who on Remembrance Day took part in the Last Post in his cadet uniform looking incredibly smart and serious, Jack H. who is a sports captain and Maddie and Georgia who provide constant entertainment at the end of tutor time, usually involving their singing. I know that 2023 will be an important year for 9A as they complete their option choices and eventually move into Year 10 next September.

9L - MR MOORE

9L have had a great term and have continued to build on our positive start to year 9. Every pupil has tried to show a positive attitude towards school life and Mr Moore is proud to see the progress the group has made. Many in the group have participated in a plethora or extra-curricular activities. Tommy and Reece have successfully played within the school rugby team and Chanelle has represented the school in our whole school musical production. Jared, Max, Rylee and Matt have also participated in hockey after school. We also had Maisey who successfully entered an English writing competition.

Many positive Class Chart points have been received with a huge reduction in the negative points. Mr Moore wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

9F - MR CLEMENTS

Congratulations to 9F for starting Year 9 as they finished year 8 - with an excellent attitude to their learning and being a joy to be with. Merry Christmas.



9R - MR DAY

It has been a really successful term for 9R. You deserve all the recognition that you receive for all the hard work and effort you put into your studies. The praise and the positive Class Charts points from a variety of teachers remains consistently high. Countless pages of amazing homework are displayed every week, showing their commitment to their own learning. In PSHE we have covered a variety of topics and are currently looking to the future with topics such as GCSE options and post-16 opportunities. We have already completed one reading book, 'The Book Thief' and are currently reading 'Refugee Boy', both of these books cover some challenging issues, which has lead to some interesting discussions. Keep up the good work – well done 9R.





MR BRITTAN - HEAD OF YEAR 10

It seems such a short time ago that I was meeting the year 8's for the first time as their head of year and here we are already two terms into year 10! And what a time - so much has happened and so many challenges and hurdles along the way but yet again I am so impressed with how year 10 have come together and got through this as a team. It gives me so much pride every week to talk about how we are doing as a year group, often beating other years for weekly positives, how good our behaviour is generally (I'm always popping into classrooms and always seeing hard working, conscientious year 10's trying their hardest) but mostly how well they are supporting each other, looking after each others mental health. There are so many positive moments already this year and not just in school, with excellent awards for sailing, dance and cooking to mention a few. There is also still so much to look forward to with work experience, The Duke of Edinburgh Award, ski trip and so much more. As always a few messages from the tutors below.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you all in term 3.

10K - MR HARDIE

10K have had to contend with a room change and we now find ourselves at the other end of B block, closer to the centre of the school. Naturally any advantage this has afforded us (me included!) with regard to timekeeping has been offset by the less welcome loss of the underfloor heating in the old classroom. Luckily 10K are a resilient bunch and I am pleased to report that they seem to have settled into their new tutor room with little to no fuss. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

10I - MISS KEEBLE

12

10I have had a great start to the year. It has been lovely seeing them hit the ground running with their GCSE subjects and adapt so well to the change in homework, classes and new subjects. We have welcomed two new students Paige and Daria to our tutor group which has been lovely and they have settled in really well. I have been so impressed hearing about all the amazing things the students do inside and outside of school from swimming competitions, football matches and rugby matches to drama performances and sea cadets. Well done to Daria and Riley who are top of the tutor group for positive points!



10N - MR SWAINE

A new year, a new set of subjects, and a new tutor! Quite the start to Year 10 for the fearless students of 10N! Much like our book of choice this year, Lord of Flies, we have created our own island community to navigate our way through Year 10. We've enjoyed success in school, lots of positives and some brilliant work outside of the classrooms. Drama, creative writing, sporting activities and DofE to name but a few! Myself and Ryan Reynolds have had an amazing time in T1 and T2, and I look forward to T3! Merry Christmas!

10G - MRS WOODMAN

I am incredibly proud of how 10G have started year 10, taking all the changes which come with KS4 in their stride and embracing their new subjects and taking every opportunity which comes your way. You are focused and determined to succeed. There have been lots of fantastic achievements in and out of school with Oliver competing in a national sailing competition and achieving a bronze in the RS Junior Quest class and Ollie competing in lots of racing competitions across Europe! I am very proud to be your tutor for the fourth year and look forward to celebrating more successes in 2023. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!'





10A - MRS CLOUGH

10A I have been incredibly proud of how 10A has approached the start of KS4. Students have been focused and this has been recognised by their subject teachers and the fantastic feedback on many of the students' effort and attitude. Outside of lessons there has been lots of success; from Evie in Gymnastics through to Ryan, Josh and Woodie representing their local football teams and achieving success.

Although it was only for a short period of time, I know Mrs O'Brien really enjoyed being your tutor and especially Quiz Friday!! I wish you all a fantastic Christmas and look forward to even more success and memories in the new year. Merry Christmas!

10L - MS KING

10L appear to be taking year 10 in their stride. We have seen many changes with how things are done with homework and our option subjects and have done this in a mature manner.

Tutor times are filled with supporting each other, laughter and team work. I hope this continues as you continue to smash year 10 and into year 11.

10F - MRS ROBERTSON & MRS GODWIN

10F have had an amazing start to their GCSE courses, working hard and receiving lots of praise from their class teachers. Mrs Robertson and I are so proud of the maturity that they have shown and of the example that they continue to set for other students every day. A special congratulations to Ruby, Willow, Towan, Gui and Aimee who are currently topping the Class Charts leaderboard.

Outside of lessons, members of the group continue to have successes in lots of different areas. Well done to James and Towan who both came away with medals in the Sea Cadets National Sailing and Windsurfing Regatta in September. In other sporting news, our football and rugby players continue to enjoy great success with their teams. And finally, as auditions get underway for our whole school production, we also have several members of the group hoping to secure a role - good luck to all of you!

Mrs Robertson and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



10R - MRS OWEN

Thank you once again to 10R for being such a fantastic tutor group. You are such a positive bunch and have settled into your GCSE studies guickly and without fuss, appreciating the opportunity to study more subjects you have chosen. Outside the classroom I have been delighted to hear about Poppy winning the TKASA Rotary Young Chef competition, Ryan representing Rovers on the football field and Louie winning medals for his gymnastics. In school, Jaz and Ryan have been doing a great job as tutor group reps, Jake represented our in the Remembrance ceremony and many students have headed out on trips related to their drama, art and geography courses. I'm looking forward to a dazzling 2023 with such a wonderful tutor group!





MRS GIBSON - HEAD OF YEAR 11 and MR SHEPHERD

It has been quite a bumper term and the Year Eleven students have been very busy. As you will read throughout this newsletter there have been English Trips, Drama Performances. The reveal of the next school musical, students practising for their Duke of Edinburgh award, our Prefects representing the school and the community beautifully during the annual remembrance day parade.

All these outside of the classroom opportunities don't happen without a lot of hard work from our staff, we are extremely grateful to those that give up their evenings and weekends to allow our students this type of enrichment.

Inside the classroom things are going well, the implementation of a 30 minute morning tutor period means that our Year 11 cohort can really get their teeth into the intervention offered by our English, Maths and Science specialists.

The students were impeccable when it came to the recent PPE Fortnight and we will now have shared their results with them.

The point of the PPEs is to allow our staff to offer targeted support on any gaps in knowledge that the exams might have thrown up. Your child might then be offered targeted revision sessions or an appointment with Mrs Gibson and Miss Charles to offer further support.

The next round of Feb PPEs are scheduled to begin W/C 6th Feb.

We hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to working with you through the coming months and ultimately the GCSEs in the Summer term.



Year 11 doing The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition



14

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM-MR RADNIDGE



MESSAGE FROM MR RADNIDGE THE NEW HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



It is with great pleasure that I have been appointed to lead the TKASA Sixth Form Centre and take it on its next phase of its journey to excellence. My Team now consists of Mr England, Deputy Head of the Sixth Form Centre, Mrs Semple, Learning Mentor for Year 12, Miss Silmon, Learning Mentor for

Year 13 and Mrs Moore, Business Administrator and Administrative Support. The Sixth Form tutoring team is highly experienced and we are working closely with our link Governor, Mrs Dawn Carey, and we welcome her to the Team.

Academic outcomes for the last year were incredibly encouraging and we have continued to improve in most areas compared to 2019. Destinations were outstanding for this year and all students were able to attend the university of their choice. For those students who did not want to attend a university, they were helped to secure successful apprenticeship placements or start working full time with local and national businesses. It was really interesting to see quite a few students having a Gap year and deciding to travel the world, which after COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, is such a valuable opportunity I completely endorse.

Over the summer vacation, we have spent much time, and money, developing the Sixth Form Centre. We have extended our Social Hub, where students relax when not attending lessons or completing independent study. Our new cafeteria has recently opened and all Sixth Form students are entitled to a free breakfast each morning.

It goes without saying that this has been an incredibly busy term. I am delighted that our new pastoral program has been so well received. At a recent Parents Forum, our plans to develop our provision



further was very well received and I look forward to sharing with you shortly the findings from our recent Ofsted inspection.

We have held a series of exciting Open Mornings to help promote our Centre. Events were incredibly well attended and students were so enthusiastic when talking about their Sixth Form. Some students have attended careers events at Ashton Gate and many students have attended Open Days at universities across the country. Many UCAS applications have already been received and, at the time of writing this article, we have numerous students who have been called for interviews at Oxford University!

Applications for next year are coming in thick and fast and it is looking like next year will be our most popular ever! Over the next term, we will continue to develop our Sixth Form Centre and I look forward to meeting all the Year 11 students who have applied to join us in September 2023.





SIXTH FORM

STUDENT UNION



Since September, I believe that we have established a wonderful Student Union, composed of people who are fuelled by a combination of motivation to improve our learning environment and a passion to help others. We have a variety of projects that are in the works or are to begin imminently; the Reverse Advent Calendar being one of them.

We have partnered up with the Student Leadership Team (Prefects and Head students) to create a unified front against the rising uncertainty regarding financial and food security for those in our local community. In response to this, much like our

MENTORING PROGRAMME

This year in the Sixth Form, we've been busy launching our new student mentoring programme.

Since September, Year 12 students have been paired with a tutor group in Years 7-11, as well as The Pathfinder Centre. Once a week they've been taking an active part in student life in the lower school; helping out with tutor time reading, checking and talking about homework, as well as building relationships with younger students. It's clear that our Key Stage 3 students in particular love having an extra person to read to them in the morning!

The second phase of our mentoring programme is now underway, too. Our Year 13 students are working hard studying for their final exams this summer, and they'll be sharing their knowledge and experience with selected Year 11 students, helping them get the very best out of their GCSE year.

predecessors, we have launched the Reverse Advent Calendar intending to donate as many items as possible to the local food bank and alleviate some of the pressures that accompany this festive season. In previous years, we have donated a substantial amount of both food and items required for everyday life, but this year we would love to smash that and give back to the community in which we are situated.

In regards to other projects, the SU's Eco Officers, Freja Fleuriot and Grace Anderson, are in the process of teaming up with Somerset's Wilder Coast Programme, to learn how we as a school can improve our biodiversity and do our part against Climate Change. Additionally, they are on the lookout for an upcoming beach clean-up, if you are wanting to partake in a wonderful activity that will not only benefit those visiting the beach but also our four-legged or winged friends who live there, then stay tuned for further updates!

As we look toward the New Year, and everything that it brings, we are planning and filling our calendar with wonderful fundraising events and activities. Numerous other projects are still in the works, but we promise them to be incredibly exciting! When we are more certain about some of the finer details, we will let you guys know what you have to look forward to!

The SU Team



16

SIXTH FORM



SIXTH FORM DESTINATIONS

Our 2022 Sixth Form leavers did us proud on results day, achieving a great set of A level and BTEC results.

2022 Destinations included;

Jamie Raynard: University of Warwick studying, Physics,

Jasmin Rogers: University of Brighton, Nursing (Child),



Erin Murray: University of Plymouth, Psychology with Clinical Psychology, Max Bradley: University of Liverpool, English Language. Millie Thomas: University of the West of England, Biological Sciences, Amy Taylor: University of Plymouth, Geology, Grace Huggins: Kings College London, Psychology with Professional Placement.

Harrison Taylor: Balfour Beatty Apprenticeship, Quantity Surveyor, Molly Clarke: Thatchers Cider Apprenticeship Michella Wagg: NHS Apprenticeship, Oz Speight: Dental Apprenticeship



Jacob Kemp, Cardiff University, Politics & Sociology

I am enjoying my time at Cardiff University. I am in student accommodation with very friendly flatmates, and this has made me feel very much at home at university. I am studying politics and sociology, which is a very interesting course, with topics that are very relevant to today's world. Cardiff is a very diverse and dynamic city, with events taking place all the time. You never feel that you are on your own when you are at Cardiff University. The lecturers are very approachable and helpful, and you make friends very easily. I would definitely recommend Cardiff University to students in the Sixth Form!



Caitlin Steven; Police constable degree apprenticeship

To be able to finally say that I managed to get onto the course for a PCDA and to become an official police officer at the end of the 3 year degree apprenticeship is overwhelming. I am beyond proud of myself for getting through the recruitment process as it was not easy and had multiple stages to complete so to be able to pass it all first time with no set backs is incredible to me. Each stage holds different aspects needed to fit the role for a PCDA but as long as you believe in yourself and tell yourself this is what you want to do, anything is possible when you put your mind to it. The next three years are going to be very challenging

and definitely push me to my limit but to be able to get such a reward out of it at the end knowing you have potentially saved a life is just... wow! There really are no words to describe how excited I am to be participating in this course and how such a life changing experience it will be to help save our community.



Izzy Simmons; Level 3 Business Administration Apprenticeship with Avon Fire & Rescue I began my Business Administration apprenticeship at the start of September, went straight into work after my last summer holiday ever! Sounds like a lot, going into full time work from education, but I am so glad I chose this path. I began applying in Spring of 2022, before I was due to sit my A-Levels, and to be honest I didn't have a clear route in mind - but that's okay! I applied for lots of different positions, which I'd recommend doing to anyone wanting to pursue an apprenticeship because it kept my options open. Avon Fire and Rescue Service, I saw that they were the employer of this role and it really intrigued me. I've always been interested in the

Public Services, but I never thought that I'd have the opportunity to be working for them. Even in the early days, this apprenticeship has taught me so much on the job, I always have something to do or am learning new things, broadening my knowledge to carry with me throughout life. I do a Level 3 course, which initially I wasn't too keen on. I felt like it was a step backwards doing something which will give me the equivalent grades to three A-Levels, but after consideration I decided that this was okay. I showed that you don't always need to go for the higher level qualifications to be happy and successful - I am learning on the go, whilst being paid (bonus!), what more could I want? There's so many opportunities and progression in the organisation which I am already seeing which has boosted my confidence in my work. As I've already said, I was apprehensive about the job to start with, but I think this role suits me perfectly. It's allowed me to pursue my favourite subject from school and Sixth Form - English Language. I assist with writing and editing documents, meaning I can tell people if they've written something incorrectly (even the big bosses of the Service!). I am very proud of myself for taking this step, and I hope this has encouraged you, regardless of what you're doing post Sixth Form, to go for whatever you want and know that you can achieve anything.



SIXTH FORM

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK



Sixth form geographers in both years 12 and 13 have been out on fieldwork this term. Year 12 headed to the Quantocks in November to investigate infiltration rates in the valley of Holford Brook, developing their investigation skills in preparation for their individual investigations which they will complete later in the course. Year 13 geographers braved the late November cold for two days to head to a variety of destinations to collect data for their individual investigations, including Burnham, Berrow, Westonsuper-Mare and Bristol. All fieldwork was ably facilitated Mr by Clements, the geography department's fieldwork guru. Thanks to all of our A level geographers for their enthusiasm when learning outside the classroom



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The 2022 Young Enterprise group at King Alfred School is 'SEAstainable'.

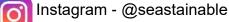


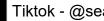
We are a group of Year 12 Sixth Form students who are participating in the Young Enterprise opportunity. We plan to use this business to promote sustainability in our local community and also on a larger scale.

Our business idea is based on using renewable materials from our local beaches that would otherwise be wasted or even end up in our oceans and cause harm to animals and the environment. We want to use resources such as sea glass and driftwood to create products which we feel will appeal to our target market.

We plan to have our main selling point be our jewellery products, however we have many ideas of how we could create other products from our recycled materials in the future. We hope not only the students in our school will get behind this idea but also the people in our community.

Twitter - @SEAstainable





Tiktok - @seastainable



BUSINESS STUDIES

In Business Studies Year 10 students have made a great start to their GCSE course. They have completed the first unit (Business in the Real World) and have learnt about the purpose and nature of business, what it takes to be an entrepreneur, different types of business ownership, different stakeholders, business planning and how to grow a business. They are currently studying the importance of external influences on business such as e-commerce, the economic climate, globalisation, ethical & environmental issues, legislation and competition, and how businesses change in response to these influences.

The Year 11 Business students are just completing the fifth unit of the GCSE course (business marketing) and will soon begin studying their final module which looks at business finance. We plan to have completed teaching all the curriculum content by February half term which will leave us with plenty of time to revisit some of the trickier areas of the course and work on developing expert exam technique. The provisional dates for the two final exams are 19th May and 12th 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 will also be issued with a revision workbook once we have finished teaching the final unit. Students also have access to useful revision material through the student shared google drive and the Seneca website.

The sixth form business students are working hard on their A level studies. The Year 13s are currently studying the external forces that affect business strategy. The provisional dates for their three final exams are 25th May, 7th June and 14th June. Meanwhile the Year 12 class have made a great start to the course and are currently studying the marketing functional area, having already learnt about business aims and objectives, different ownership formats, management and leadership styles, decision making and the relationship with different stakeholders.

Several business students from the sixth form are also involved in the new Young Enterprise company called Seastainable. They have sold shares to finance their start-up costs, allocated roles and responsibilities and have been discussing a range of business ideas. More details about Young Enterprise will appear in future issues and on the sixth form pages of our newsletters.

As always, I encourage all business 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 impact on businesses of the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis have been regular topics of discussion this term. Students can also follow me on twitter:







COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

A fantastic first term from all students engaging really well with their computer science. Year 7 are currently building their skills of understanding the infrastructure of a modern computer. We have been really impressed at the amount of students who have experience in building or repairing PC's and are happy to share their expertise in the classroom. Year 8; are beginning their creative project by understanding the elements of a graphic image and will soon begin to develop their skills on Photoshop. We are very fortunate to have the latest software installed on all machines at TKASA, giving access to all of this incredible piece of software. Year 9's, also engaging with a creative project are developing these skills in the creation of assets for a website designed by the students from a client brief. We have had a fantastic response from students so far in their designs and visualisation diagram. In the last week our KS3 students will work on a digital festive design. Keep your eyes peeled to your email for a festive greeting from your young budding graphics designers.

We have been tremendously impressed with the focus and dedication from the year 10 and year 11 cohort this year for computer science. Year 10 has stepped up to the challenge of GSCE exceptionally well and we are enjoying some outstanding committed study from all of KS5.



Our creative designers in iMedia are also showing some fantastic Photoshop skill and are currently working towards completing their design units. Our year 11's are creating an interactive multimedia product with year 10's working on a travel guide for a company called 'Whereabouts'. We stopped for a little festive detour with year 10 who created some fantastic designs for the Christmas song released by the Music department. Well done to Ryan in year 10 who created the winning design. Ryan can now celebrate becoming a published designer and his work will feature on all music platforms. A very difficult decision for our judges with a fantastic collection of designs to choose from. Well done to all of our creative designers.

Our year 13 are working hard to complete their NEA with some exciting projects beginning to take shape. All of our 6th formers continue to impress with their focus and dedication at this important time in their studies. The computer science department wishes all of our students, parents and carers a restful and Merry Christmas.

Mr Whiteoak



CREATIVE ARTS — MUSIC



MUSIC

The Music department has had an incredibly busy couple of months. Our first event since we last spoke to you, the whole school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' was a huge success. Our Pit Band, comprised of Music students from year 9, 10, 11 & 12, blew the audiences away with their 'west-end style performances', and the immense time and effort that went into their rehearsals, and the final product. Students involved should be very, very proud of everything they have achieved.

In the new term, we have started things off with a bang, with our Choir providing beautiful carols to open our Festive celebrations at the Christmas light switch on, which the mayor attended and gave glowing reviews to our fantastic students. Continuing our Festive celebrations, our annual Christmas concert had everybody in the mood, with fantastic performances from over 40 students from across the school ages, performing in Ensembles, Orchestra, Solos & Duets which blew our audiences away. A massive thank you to Mrs Alsop for leading, rehearsing and performing with our Brass Band, who played carols in the foyer, and in the concert. Additionally, a huge thank you to Miss. Gardener for rehearsing our Choir for both the light switch on and the Christmas concert, where all students performed outstanding renditions of 'Jingle Bells', 'Rudolph' & А 'We Wish You Merry Christmas'. Our extra-curricular clubs are thriving, with nearly 50 students attending our clubs: We offer a range of clubs for all students to be involved with, including Orchestra, Superstars, Choir & many more!

As always we are so, so proud of everything that our students have achieved over the last few months, and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in our upcoming concerts: Our Acoustic evening is back by popular demand, and will take place before February half term, with students from across the





school getting involved. This is an opportunity for students to showcase songs they have been working on in a public setting with help from our older students and staff. Finally, we'd love to share with you our annual 'TKASA Charity Single', which has been created by our fantastic students, and will be released on all major streaming platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Music, soon. Additionally, we are releasing our '12 Days of Christmas' which showcases the wealth of talent our performers have. We do this every year to help raise and promote awareness of the local food banks, and to encourage any donations.

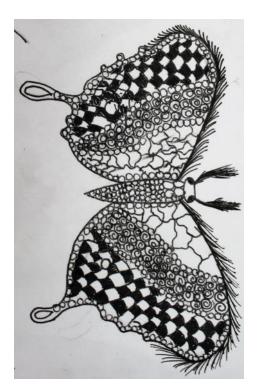
We've enjoyed a great year so far, and we can't wait to see what our students bring next. From all of us at the TKASA Music Department, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!





CREATIVE ARTS - ART

ART





Year 8 Insect Project



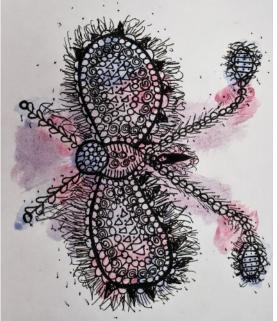












CREATIVE ARTS - PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOGRAPHY

Recently Year 10 Art and Photography students visited The National Arboretum at Westonbirt. It was extremely beautiful and everyone had a good time, the forest was awash with stunning colours and trees of every shape and size. Students took outstanding photos and many memories were made.





















YEAR 11 EXAM PERFORMANCES

Our Y11 GCSE students performed their devised pieces this term and we were blown away! We have been so impressed with their hard work and commitment and are so proud of what they produced!



YEAR 10 EVENING PERFORMANCES

Our Y10 students performed their scripted pieces in a wonderful performance evening last month. Our performers and designers worked hard to put on great performances aided by innovative lighting and costumes. We are so proud of them!



YEAR 13 COMPONENT 2

Year 13 have been hard at work cutting and editing their scripts for their final A level performance. We are so impressed with the enthusiasm they have shown as well as being sad that this is the last time they'll perform for us at TKASA! Their pieces are due to be performed in February!







Year 12 students have been working hard on some duologue performances which they will perform at the end of term. It has been lovely to see them working closely with each other and spending their free time coming to the studios to refine their work.

KS3 DRAMA CLUB

KS3 Drama club has been up and running with lots of keen KS3 performers! Under the direction of Miss Keeble, Mr Watkins and Year 13 student Ellie Brazier they have been rehearsing a short performance to perform in January!

Tickets and info will be advertised soon!

SIXTH FORM PLAY



Our Sixth Form Drama Society have been working on a production with director Mr Shewring exploring the lives of local characters living and working in Burnham and Highbridge. 'All Roads into Burnham' is due to be performed at the end of January, ticket information out soon!



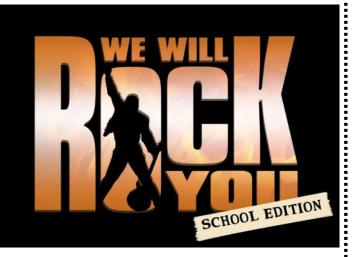
NOUGHTS AND CROSSES TRIP

Year 12 and Year 13 went on a trip to Exeter Northcott Theatre to watch a production of Noughts and Crosses. It was a brilliant show and the students learnt a lot about live theatre.



WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

We are so excited to announce that our annual whole school musical 2023 is:



After the huge success of Little Shop of Horrors last year we received over 100 audition slips from students wanting to be involved in the show this year! It has been amazing to see so many passionate performers and we were blown away at auditions! We can't wait to get rehearsals underway in the new year!

HAMILTON WEST END!

We were very lucky this term to have the amazing opportunity to be invited to go and see a special performance of Hamilton in the West End with a Q&A afterwards with the cast, production team and crew. Our Y10, Y12 and a selection of Y9 students really enjoyed the day, not only getting to watch this hugely popular and unforgettable show, but also gaining valuable insight from theatre professionals afterwards.



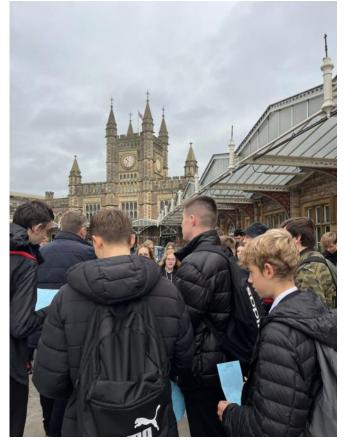
WELCOME

We have been delighted to welcome two new staff to the Drama department this term! Mr Watkins joins us as a trainee drama teacher and Miss Borthwick is our new technician across Drama and Music!



GEOGRAPHY

YEAR 10 FIELD WORK



Year 10 geographers made it to Bristol to carry out their GCSE human geography fieldwork, despite train strikes and heavy rain on some days. They carried out research to investigate the question 'Is the regeneration of Temple Quarter sustainable?', including an environmental survey, a land use transect and field sketching. When they returned to the classroom they processed their data and drew conclusions. They will return to this work when preparing for their Paper 3 Geographical Applications exam at the end of year 11. Thank you to all the staff and students who were so positive during this visit and especially to Mrs Robertson who made such an excellent job of organising and running the visits.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The geography department is delighted to have had its Centre of Excellence status reconfirmed by the Geographical Association this Sept.

The Geographical Association quality mark moderators complimented our department on our carefully constructed curriculum which gives students the opportunity to develop their understanding of a wide range of concepts in the context of a variety of places at different scales. Mrs Owen also received praise for the work she does to support the geography teaching community nationally through her work with the Geographical Association and other organisations.



SUSTAINABILITY SOCIETY

The Sustainability Society has got off to a great start this year, with two teams of year 12 students working to produce entries for the Rotary Club's Young Environmentalist of the Year competition on the theme of biodiversity. Each team of four students has been given £50 by the local Rotary Club to support them in planning and implementing a project to improve the biodiversity of the sixth form area of the school. We are excited to see what they come up with and the impact this will have on biodiversity

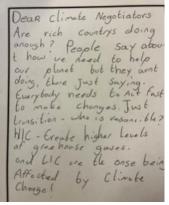


GEOGRAPHY



COP 27









Each year the TKASA Geography Department is keen to raise awareness of the COP meetings which aim to find solutions to the climate challenges facing our planet. In November Mrs Owen visited assemblies to make sure all students knew what would be happening at COP 27 in Egypt and why the goal of temperature rise being kept to within 1.5 degrees of pre-industrial temperatures is so important. This was followed by the TKASA COP 27 day on 18th November, when geography classes in years 7-9 found out more about what had happened during the climate change conference and designed postcards to share their thoughts about climate change with others. Some examples were tweeted from the @TAKSAGeog Twitter account, with the hashtag #COP27, others were displayed in E block and some are shown on this page. Thank you to all students for taking an interest in this issue and for sharing their views. PIKEMK



To World Leaders Please do your best to put forward your best ideas toloke action for climate change as, if we don't work now we won't have much more time left! We need to talke action for the next general so Lets take Charge and SAVE OUR WORLD!

COMPETITIONS

In the summer term of 2022, year 7 to 9 students worked on entries for the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year competition. They produced posters showing where they would like to go in the world, how they would travel there and why they would like to go there. The three entries on this page were selected from the hundreds produced and sent to the Royal Geographical Society - thank you Laila, Towan and Rosie. Whilst they didn't win the national competition, we are still very proud of the quality of work our students produced.



This term our year 12 geographers have also taken part in a competition, this time to design a flag to be taken to Antarctica and displayed by a scientist. We were delighted to see their design on the deck of SH Vega, with Antony Jinman from Swan Hellenic. The photograph was taken close by The South Shetland Islands- whilst it looks bright and sunny, don't be fooled! It is still very cold and windy there!





SPARX MATHS

Introducing Sparx Maths! Our new platform for online homework that delivers personalised intelligent maths practice, that is proven to boost grades. Sparx ensures students always receive homework that is both achievable and challenging. This means they experience success as well as being stretched.

To promote high-quality written work, Sparx Maths delivers bookwork checks to all students as they complete their homework. This will encourage students to show their working which is great practice for exams. KS3 students can use their homework books for this. Here is an example of good working out and the book work checks that appear during online work.

Sparx Maths also sends out weekly update emails to parents with how their child is progressing and also gives reminders with any outstanding tasks.

If you have any questions regarding Sparx Maths please come and ask us or email one of the maths team.

PERIOD 6 MATHS TIMETABLE

D1 Year 7-9 Thursday Year 10 **D**8 Wednesday Year 11 Foundation D9 Wednesday D4 Year 11 Higher Wednesday Year 11 Further (invitation only) D8 Tuesday Year 12 D12 Thursday D4 Year 13 Thursday

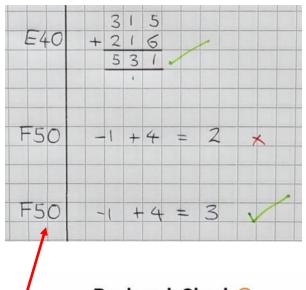
CALCULATORS

We kindly encourage students to have their own calculator for their math's lessons. Here is all the information you need:

Why? Used in many maths topics Used in other subjects Practise before exams Which? Any scientific calculator Where? School website via Weduc Supermarket Amazon



Sparx Maths



Bookwork Check 📀

What is the correct answer for this bookwork code?





PE DEPARTMENT

It has been a great start to the 2022/2023 Academic Year in the PE Department. We have loved seeing our Year 7 students making the most of the extra curricular provision and really getting to grips with our Concept Curriculum in PE lessons. Our KS4 OCR CAMNAT Groups have made a positive start to the course and our Sixth Form students have fully the leadership embraced and volunteering opportunities provided by the Department. We look forward to the next academic term and all it has to offer!



RUGBY

Rugby Clubs have been relatively well attended throughout Terms 1 & 2. We have welcomed our new Y7s and they, alongside teams in Y8, 9 and 11, have represented the school in some inter school fixtures against our Bridgwater neighbours.

We have been extremely fortunate to have the help of Sixth Formers Harvey Fisher, Jacob Radford and Kian Hawkes who have been out almost every week to support, coach and officiate. A special shout out to Y8 Violet Worley who has been casting her coaching eyes over the Y7s she has helped out on a Tuesday night.

We welcomed rugby coaches from Burnham Rugby Club and Bristol Bears on the 11th October as we continue to support one another and remove barriers to young people accessing Rugby at the local clubs. If you would like some more information please contact us.

Rugby will continue after Christmas for Girls across the school and for our Y9 boys who we will be taking to the Rosslyn Park 7s Festival in March. Watch this space.

Thanks as always go to Mr Bail and Mr Harris for their tireless work getting teams organised and transporting them to fixtures.



KS4 Basketball was very popular at the start of the year with many pupils attending. Pupils were able to put their knowledge and skills learnt from previous years into practice as we played many casual matches and tournaments. On the whole, we had very relaxed sessions allowing our KS4 students to be active.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORT



This academic year has seen the return of the TKASA Primary School Sport Festivals, both development and competitive sessions hosted at TKASA, run by TKASA Sixth Form Sport students. 6 local Primary Schools have been a part of the initiative, each attending a development session where year 5 students developed their skills used in football, as well as subsequent competitive sessions where they played friendly games against other Primary Schools.

All sessions were coached, officiated and run by Sixth Form Sport students, allowing them to develop their leadership and organisational skills.

It has been great to have so many Primary students experience the facilities at TKASA and meet many young people who may eventually be TKASA students. Furthermore, well done to all the TKASA Sixth Form Sport students who have led the sessions, you have been a true credit to both the PE Department and TKASA in your professionalism and enthusiasm throughout.

YOUR TIME INITIATIVE

Your Time is an inspirational programme designed to encourage girls in school to participate in competitive sport and sports leadership opportunities. Your Time is a new initiative which is designed to empower girls with confidence to become leaders in sport. This programme is the first of its kind, which combines inclusive e-learning, peer-led support and practical learning opportunities. Six Year 9 girls have been carefully selected to participate in this programme, in which they will complete a series of six online learning modules that will develop the skills to help them make a difference: teamwork, communication, problem solving, self-belief and self-management. The programme will be completed with a competitive sports event led by the Your Time Sports Leaders.





Year 7 - Coached by Sixth Form students Paige Brittan and Harriet Jones



Since October half term there has been a year seven & eight girls football club. There was an amazing turn out with around 20 keen players for year 7 alone! We have had such great attendance that we have managed to fulfil 2 full teams!

have shown massive of The girls amounts determination and sportsmanship as they have gone through training and competed in a couple of tournaments through term 2. Despite these being their first ever tournaments the girls achieved some very successful wins which showed through their team accomplishment. morale and overall genuine Hopefully as the weeks go on the teams will be able to work together in order to grow and if they keep working the way that they are with the spirit and excitement we will concede many more goals, winning and representing our school.

Year 8 - Coached by Sixth Form students Emily Whaley / Katie Coles

Since the club first started in early October, there has been on average around 15 to 20 year 8 and 9 girls interested in playing football and attending our after school extracurricular. The majority of the girls play football outside of school, and as it is a passion of theirs, by starting a girls football club they are able to enjoy the sport even more. They have not only participated in the matches and the fixtures but they have also got involved with the drills and the warm up and cooling down exercises. The girls have adapted well to playing in a new team and have shown so much enthusiasm to the sport!

The year 7 girls competed in their first fixture at home on Wednesday, 23rd November and successfully came out with 2 wins. The girls have really shown levels of improvement while still being able to enjoy playing football.



As coaches, we set up the girls football club because we believe that girls football isn't recognised enough or as much as men's football. We wanted to give girls, who not just enjoy the sport but also girls who wanted to be a part of something, the opportunity to progress and grow and show others the talent they hold. Most girls don't choose to play football because it is usually perceived as a "boy sport". We wanted to stop this stigma and make a fun and safe environment for girls to play as well. As 2 girls, we enjoy watching the girls play and we love participating in the sport ourselves. We hope to encourage more girls to start playing football because it is such an enjoyable sport. We love being able to create our own mark on something guite important to us both, so being able to coach younger girls and helping them become as talented as they can has given us that opportunity.

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Back in September, the PE Department delivered assemblies to all year groups rolling out this years' application process to become a Sport Captain. We were overwhelmed with the amount of applications with over 100 students from across the School applying!!

The PE Department read all applications and have selected 42 students to represent TKASA and PE throughout this academic year. Well done to all those that either applied or have been selected!

The 2022 - 2023 Sport Captains participated in a 'Leadership Academy' day in late December, where a member of SASP ran workshops for the students to develop their leadership skills and confidence.

The 2022 - 2023 Sports Captains will continue to develop their leadership skills throughout this academic year, with lots of Primary School events in the diary where they will assist and officiate a variety of activities.

PE





Year 7 Hockey has kicked off to a FANTASTIC start! The girls are massively committed, passionate and dedicated to attending extra-curricular hockey, and this is clearly apparent in their performances during training and fixtures! The year 7's have made massive progress in hockey, as their skills and knowledge of the game has excelled throughout term 1 and 2. The girls' attitudes, behaviours and team spirit has been amazing during both training and at fixtures as the girls are invested in reaching a goal together, and are supportive of one another. Attendance at year 7 hockey has been outstanding, and numbers continue to increase weekly. I am so unbelievably proud of the year 7 hockey squad, and have enjoyed watching their confidence and skills develop from the start of the academic year. Having the opportunity to coach these talented young athletes has been awesome, keep up the hard work **#TEAMTKASA**.



Year 8 It has been an absolute joy to take this group of girls for Hockey. There has been consistent numbers to training and fixtures and this consistency has enabled the team to make such progress in terms of their skill level and positive approach to being a part of this team. They are really coming into their own and their understanding of the role they play along with their growing knowledge of rules and tactics. It will be really exciting to see what they achieve in future years.

Thank you to Sixth Form students Lucy Smith and Harriet Jones for their commitment to fixtures and training yet again, this Year 8 team really look up to these two fantastic role models.



Year 9 Hockey has been hugely enjoyable throughout term 1 and 2. We have had consistent attendance to both after school trainings and fixtures which has led to fantastic team spirit and development of tactics. Fixtures have been competitive and constructive, with developments in confidence and skill evident as the season has progressed.

Well done to all that have attended and represented TKASA for year 9 Hockey this season, you have all been amazing!





READING

READING



Every morning, our Tutor Reading Programme ensures that students in Years 7 to 10 experience a wide range of books being read to them during registration. Survey results highlight that the majority of students enjoy this quiet, calm start to the day and value the opportunity to read books they might not normally have chosen themselves.

As well as fostering a love of reading for pleasure, the daily routine of reading has many benefits. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- Vocabulary
- Spelling skills
- Understanding of grammar
- Writing attainment
- Attitudes to reading and writing
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- · Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- Empathy and understanding of emotions
- Mental well-being
- Development of our sense of 'self' and identity



As the winter season and Christmas approaches, we are delighted to be able to share a selection of books that cover a range of reading ages and topics of interest

which your child may like to read. Please note that the texts are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

In addition to exploring the books mentioned in this newsletter, you can encourage reading in other ways too. For example:

- Find out what your child is curious about, or takes an interest in, and look at books around these topics.
- If your child struggles with reading and this poses an obstacle to their enjoyment, explore the blurbs of books and select a couple to try on audiobook. You can often borrow these for free from your local library too.
- Support your child with reading for purpose. You could read recipes and cook some of these over the Christmas break.

Whatever you and your child choose to read, we hope you enjoy it and we wish you a wonderful end to 2022.

Mrs Pickford Assistant Principal



Birdsong by Katya Balen

After a devastating car crash, Annie is unable to play her flute and retreats from the music she's always loved. She exists in a world of angry silence – furious with her mum and furious she can't seem to play her beloved flute anymore. Then she meets Noah. As their friendship grows, the blackbird's glorious song reignites Annie's passion for music. But when tragedy strikes again, will her fragile progress be put at risk?



32

Journey Back to Freedom by Catherine Johnson

Olaudah Equiano's childhood was brought to an abrupt end when he was enslaved aged 11. He spent much of the next eight years of his life at sea, seeing action in the Seven Years' War. When he was finally able to buy his freedom, he went on to become a prominent member of the abolition movement and published one of the first books by a Black African writer. Journey Back to Freedom focuses on Equiano's early life, demonstrating the resilience of the human spirit and one man's determination to be free.

READING / ENGLISH



READING



Rat by Patrice Lawrence

When his mum is sent back to prison, AI knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker from downstairs has been making trouble for AI's mum ever since they moved in. AI is determined to get his revenge, but things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined...



Swarm Enemy: Book 2 by Tim Peake and Steve Cole

When Danny's best friend Jamila goes missing, and no one remembers she exists, Danny knows the alien Swarm are back on Earth. They've tracked the digital energy signals Jamila has been unintentionally transmitting. Her alien-enhanced DNA can be used to clone super-strong beings with super-powers, and now it's not just the Swarm who are after her...

We hope you find the following information useful.

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

Book Trust Book finder



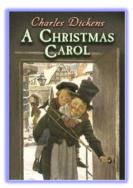
Libraries West Somerset online Library Service Project Gutenberg Free online e-books







103 Year 11 students were given the exciting opportunity to visit the capital city to see a performance of one of their GCSE texts. The trip to London's Old Vic Theatre to see a performance of A Christmas Carol was brilliant and enjoyed by all who attended!









TEAM TECH NEWS

COOKING SKILLS CLUB

Team Tech have been blown away with the passion and commitment shown by students wanting to join in with 'Cooking Skills Club'. The first session saw an outstanding 60+ students turn up, which resulted in the team of Ms King, Mr Smith (honorary member) and Mrs King needing a plan of action to accommodate so many students. We saw year 7 and 8 make some fabulous dishes including potato salad, pizza and jammy buns, demonstrating and developing a range of skills.

We have exciting plans for the next few terms, offering the club to a different year group every 6 weeks including 7, 8 and 9 with a trip to Maisey's Bakery who have offered to support the club with not only a donation for ingredients but a trip to the bakery to bake and learn with their team.





MAISEY'S BAKERY

Our after school cooking skills club were invited to Maisey's bakery to see and take part in full batch production in a professional kitchen. Of course we couldn't say no.

The Maisey's staff said that the students made over 200 turnovers as well as the pros! Praise indeed! They were on sale from 6am the next morning!

Cooking Skills club in the New Year will turn to Year 8 students who have also been invited to Maisey's. We will have to find out if they are equally as good as the Year 7's.

Maisey's have also sponsored some of the ingredients for the club - **thank you so much**



TEAM TECH NEWS









New for 2022!



Year 8 Aluminium tea-lights with laminated hardwood base

Year 7 Bird Boxes

We are getting close to celebrating our first 1000 bird boxes made here at TKASA. Here is a nice photo of some Year 7 ones taken in November when it wasn't actually raining!



Year 7 Textiles

Book bags using hand sewing techniques and sewing machines. These bags are used to keep morning registration reading books clean and tidy until the end of Year 10!



TEAMTECH



KS4 Engineering clocks



The clocks need to be made accurately by following a specification and final drawing information. Lathes and laser cutters are used in the construction. As you can see these two clocks look identical.



LANGUAGES

It's been a busy start to the 2022-23 year in the Languages department! This year we've introduced a whole new language – Spanish – which is being pioneered by students in 7N, 7R and 7E. And as well as French, every Year 9 student this year is now learning a Spanish course written specially for them. We can't wait to see their understanding of a brand new language and culture develop over the coming year!

French has been a busy subject too... Year 7 have come all the way from a simple "bonjour" in September, to describing their school day. Year 8 have been learning how to describe events in the past, present and future tenses. Year 9 have been talking about diverse topics such as family relationships and how they use social media. Our Y10 and Y12 students have also been working hard, learning how to talk about issues facing the world around them. And well done Year 11 for going through a true rite of passage... their first French speaking exam!

But it's not just French and Spanish that we're interested in... if you speak another language at home, we'd like to work with you to help you study for a GCSE or A Level in that language. We've already had enquiries about Mandarin and Russian, but we can offer Arabic, Bengali, Polish, Turkish and many others. If you'd like to know more, speak to Mr Disney.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



During September we were lucky with the weather and fourteen Year 11 students successfully completed a three day Silver qualifying expedition across Exmoor. We now look forward to our participants completing their Silver Award and progressing to Gold.



We have begun the process of recruiting for our next cohorts of Bronze, Silver and Gold with around 80 students already signing up across years 9, 10 and Sixth form. There is still time to sign up if your are interested, please see Mr Swaine, Mr King or Mrs Williams for more information.

Further information about The Duke of Edinburgh Award can also be found on our school website. Click the QR code or scan to go to our web page.



The cost of the Award has changed this year to include the cost of the expedition. A £50 deposit is required and the remaining payments can be made in instalments but must be paid in full before the expeditions take place. Payment is made via Weduc.

Bronze Award - £145 Silver Award - £175 Gold Award - £195

For anyone who needs help with payment for DofE there is a Somerset Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee Bursary Fund which can be applied for. The form can be found on our DofE website page. Please complete the form and return to Mrs Williams in the Library. If you need help completing the form please ask Mrs Williams or Mr Swaine.

We are now looking forward to next term and planning our training expeditions which commence in March 2023.

Mr Swaine DofE Coordinator

How long does a DofE programme take to complete?





by the participant's 25th birthday











PRELOVED PROM





A wide selection of suits and dresses available to hire. (And not just for proms!)

Open to the local community.

All outfits can be hired for a small donation to Weston Hospice Care.

We are always welcoming new donations, if you have any dresses, suits, shoes or accessories you'd like to donate please get in touch or drop items to TKASA Main Reception.

For more information or to book a visit please email: preloved@tkasa.org.uk

INFORMATION





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 area, 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



WECUC 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.



Support Signposts

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 2023

Term Days

| May 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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INSET Day Holidays February 2023 MTWT S S F 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

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| | July 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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Bank Holidays

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| August 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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| September 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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| October 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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| November 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
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| December 2023 | | | | | | |
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| TERM 1 | Monday 4 September—Friday 13 October 2023 Monday, 4th and Tuesday 5th September Friday, 13th October 2023 are Staff Training Days |
|--------|---|
| TERM 2 | Starts Monday 30 October 2023 Ends Wednesday 20 December 2023 |
| TERM 3 | Starts Thursday 4 January 2024 Ends Friday 9 February 2024 |
| TERM 4 | Starts Monday 19 February 2024 Ends Thursday 28 March 2024 |
| TERM 5 | Starts Monday 15 April 2024 Ends Friday 24 May 2024 |
| TERM 6 | Starts Monday 3 June 2024 Ends Wednesday 24 July 2024 |

