



The King Alfred School

Upper School Newsletter



October
Half Term
2024

SCHOOL NEWS

Assessment on the agenda

Deputy Head Al McConville spent a day at the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference in Belfast earlier this month. Al took part in a panel on Curriculum and Assessment, and how we can model pathways for change.

He talked about School Directed Courses, and how schools can use the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) imaginatively to start the shift away from exam-only assessments.



KAS
Fireworks

Saturday 9 November 2024 4:30 - 7PM

FIREWORKS DISPLAY: 6:45PM

BAR, FOOD, STALLS & ENTERTAINMENT

Earlybird tickets Available until 3 Nov £10 for children £15 for adults	Standard tickets £15 for children £20 for adults
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Full price tickets may be available to purchase at the gate on the day, subject to availability.

Booking fees apply



Art and about

Year 13 Critical and Contextual Studies students headed into central London on a trip to look at how shows are put together, how they use space and how (and who) they appeal to. They visited Nike Town, The Wallace Collection and the Tracy Emin exhibition to see the relationship between institutions, people and art.

They also bumped into **OA Emer** who is now at the Royal Drawing School having graduated last year. As you can see, everyone had a great time!



To the Thames!

KAS crews took to the Thames in two of the School's boats as part of September's 36th annual **Great River Race**.

The 21.6-mile route runs from Millwall in the East to Richmond in the West, with some 270 crews from all over the world taking part. Along the way they were treated to amazing views of some of London's most iconic sights, including Canary Wharf, Tower Bridge, the Shard and the Houses of Parliament.

"It's a unique view of the city, and one that very few people get to see," says **DT and Forest School teacher Chris Raymond**, who coxed one of the boats. "It's a genuinely special experience."

It was the second year of taking part in the race for **Year 13 student Luke**, who was pleased to be handed a hard-earned trophy – humorously topped with a rubber duck – after his crew finished ahead of their KAS counterparts. The event has inspired him to take up rowing when he goes to university next September.



For teacher Chris, the outing was a real-world opportunity to underscore a key KAS principle. "We teach students about resilience in the classroom, but events such as this put that teaching into action. When you're out on the river, the only option is to keep going."

"It's hard work but ultimately very rewarding. The students get an enormous sense of achievement at the end, and it was great to see how much they enjoyed themselves."

Congratulations to all who took part for battling through blisters and the warm September sunshine to finish the race!



Black History Month... and beyond

The theme of October's Black History Month is 'Reclaiming Narratives', recognising the ways in which the history of Black communities has been told through lenses that often misrepresent, oversimplify or entirely overlook the rich and diverse experiences of those who lived it.

We've reflected this theme in a range of activities planned by our **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)** team, led by **Assistant Head Takako**, both this month and throughout the School year. These include:

- Equipping students to respond to racist incidents through anti-racist workshops, developed on the back of the recent FLAIR survey the School conducted;
- Supporting Wear Red Day on 18 October, organised by anti-racist educational charity **Show Racism the Red Card**;
- Hosting form discussion groups, led by **KAS Learning Support staff member Pat**, who will also talk about his lived experience of racism;
- Recruiting new representatives to our Student Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee, led by **teacher and DEIB team member Nabihah**.



Displays celebrating Black achievement in D&T and PE

We've also introduced more Black narratives into classroom teaching – for example:

- Exploring the experiences of Black Members of Parliament and the House of Lords in **Year 13 Politics**;
- Asking 'How should we commemorate parts of history we are not proud of?' in **Year 7 & 8 Explorations**;
- Discussing John Boyega's experience of racism after being cast as the first Black Star Wars lead in **Year 12 & 13 Film Studies**;
- Examining the history and legacy of British colonialism when studying *Anita and Me* in **Year 10 KAS Literature**;
- Looking at the experiences of migrants in the Notting Hill area of London in the 1950s and 60s in **Year 11 History**;
- Learning about the development of Afro-American music, from its spiritual origins to modern day Jazz and Rhythm & Blues, in **Year 8 Music**;
- Exploring 'culture bias' in **Year 13 Psychology**, looking at how research is mainly done in Western countries with white participants.

Read more about our year-round commitment to DEIB [here](#).

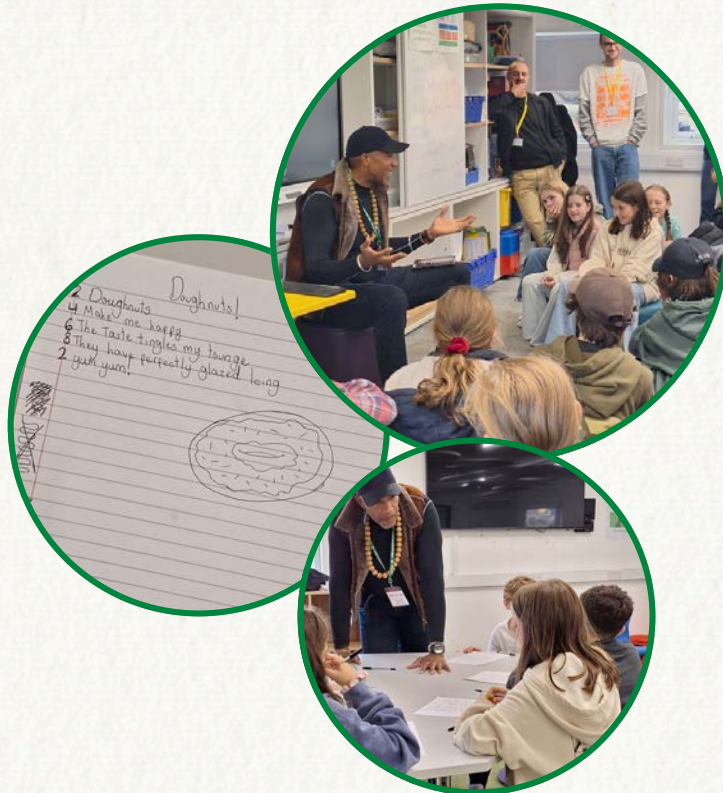


Pupils turn poets

Year 7 students welcomed poet **Adisa** back to the classroom for a poetry workshop, in honour of **National Poetry Day** on Thursday 3 October.

They discussed rhyme, word associations and different forms of poems. Adisa also worked with pupils to create their own cinquains, five-line poems that follow a 2-4-6-8-2 syllable pattern. They also enjoyed some spoken word – [head to our Facebook page](#) to see it in action!

Upper School students penned poems based on the NPD theme of ‘counting’. We had dozens of excellent entries; the winners and runners-up are listed below, along with the winning poems.



Year 7

Winner:
Freddie

Runner-up:
Ludo

Year 8

Winner:
Charlie

Runners-up:
Clara
Luke N

Year 9

Winner:
Arissa

Runners-up:
Kitty M
Tate
Keiran
Eila
Walter

I Count Them Because They Matter

Freddie, Year 7

I walk past people every day.
Some smartly dressed, driving shiny, expensive cars.
Then there are others who seem to disappear.
I count them all, especially the ones we miss.
Every single human deserves to be noticed.

I count the Man lying on the street.
He sits all day, next to his scruffy smelly dog.
I wonder how he survives on his own.
While people walk past and don't see him at all.

I count the Woman begging for help.
Wearing ripped clothes, splattered with stains.
I wonder how she feels when nobody acknowledges her cries.
Or when she last tasted a decent meal or felt the warmth of a hug.

I count the Child pale and thin,
Who patiently sits, hours on end hoping someone will help
A refugee fleeing from harm.
Only to come here and have no one.

I count them all because they are here.
I count them all because they are real.
I count them all because they matter.

So maybe if we all counted, opened our eyes
To stop, to talk, to respect.
We would start to see them as people, not invisible.

What a Nice Smile

Arissa, Year 9

Teeth or no teeth?
 I think about that one chimpanzee, forced into orbit.
 How he was found grinning.
 'What a nice smile' said the newspapers
 And the public
 And the TV presenters but the scientists knew better.
 Not the teddy-bear grin of an adventurer
 But the useless grimace of a science experiments.
 My friends say my smile is nice

I don't believe them.

3.

The lady with the camera sends me a practised smile.

2

She makes her final adjustments.

1.

Do we have lift off?

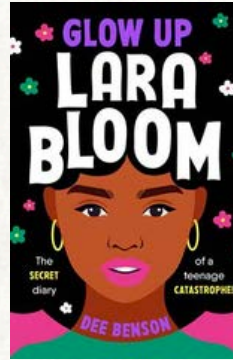
Did I blink?

Am I going to like the photo?

A flash on all sides, suddenly surrounded by stars

'What a nice smile' says the lady.

Year 7s order free Bookbuzz books



Bookbuzz is a reading programme that lets students choose and keep their own book from a list of specially-selected titles. Run by BookTrust, the UK's largest reading charity, the aim is to support students to continue reading for pleasure as they transition to Y7 and get them excited about books.

Our most-chosen books this year were:

- [Glow up Lara Bloom by Dee Benson](#)
- [21% Monster by P. J. Canning](#)
- [Horrible Histories: Ghosts by Terry Deary](#)

The books should be delivered after half-term. For more info, reading lists and author blogs, go to the [Bookbuzz student zone](#).

JUMP!

Charlie, Year 8

Today I count before I jump.
 Just like she used to.

"5!"

Five summers by the shore
 A wise laugh **four** years gone
Three cafes down the road
Two friends fade before they shone,
 And **one** flower on the door, dried but not quite old

"4"

Four books from the library never to be returned
Three tattered postcards
Two kettle burns
 For **one** lonely girl, sitting at the dockyard

"3"

Three withered lilies in
Two broken vases
One more sunrise walk

"2!"

Two cherry stained hands drawing in the sand
One last time

"1!"

One final goodbye

"JUMP!"

I hit the water,
 And I hold my breath.
 The water is kind.
 It lets me think.

Everything is different now
 She was summer,
 She was age,
 But now she's nothing.
 And I stand here instead.

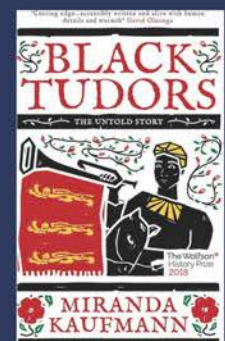
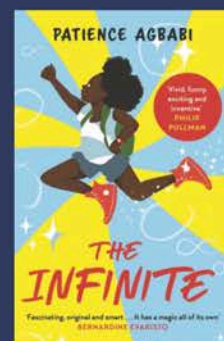
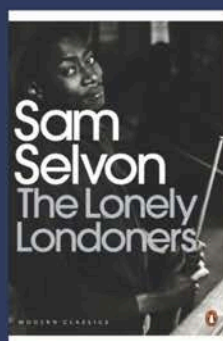
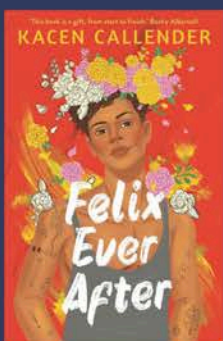
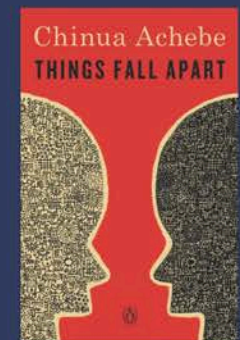
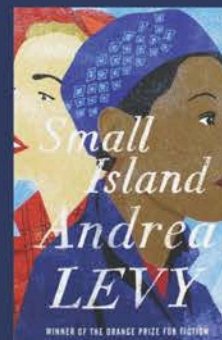
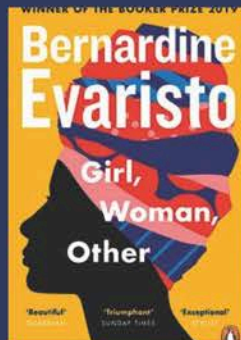
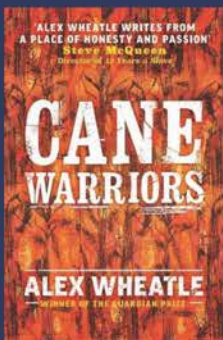
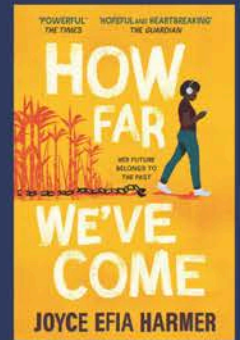
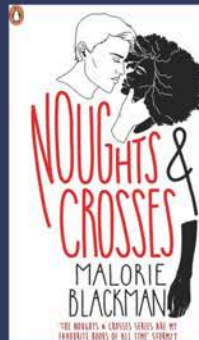
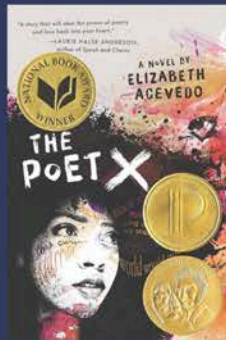
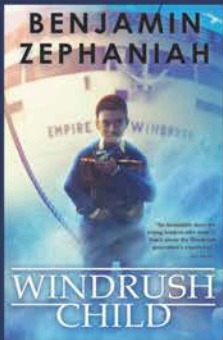
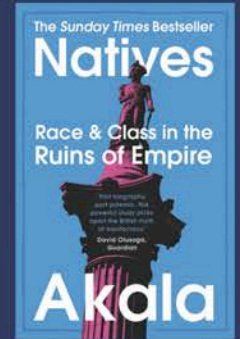
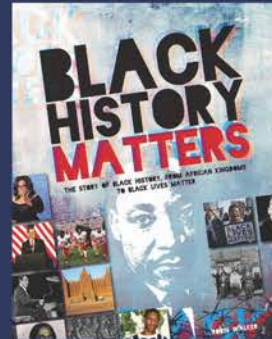
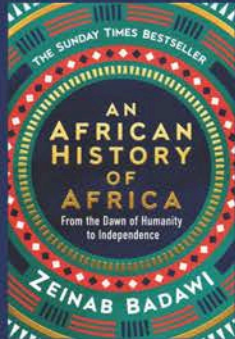
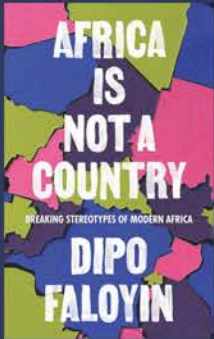
I get ready to break the surface as always.
 But this time,
 I'm alone.

The water rushes around me,
 And suddenly I'm falling up
 To a linoleum blue sky.
 When I finally break the surface
 I breathe.
 It's the first I've taken in a while



RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

Selected Reading



All books available in the Upper School Library

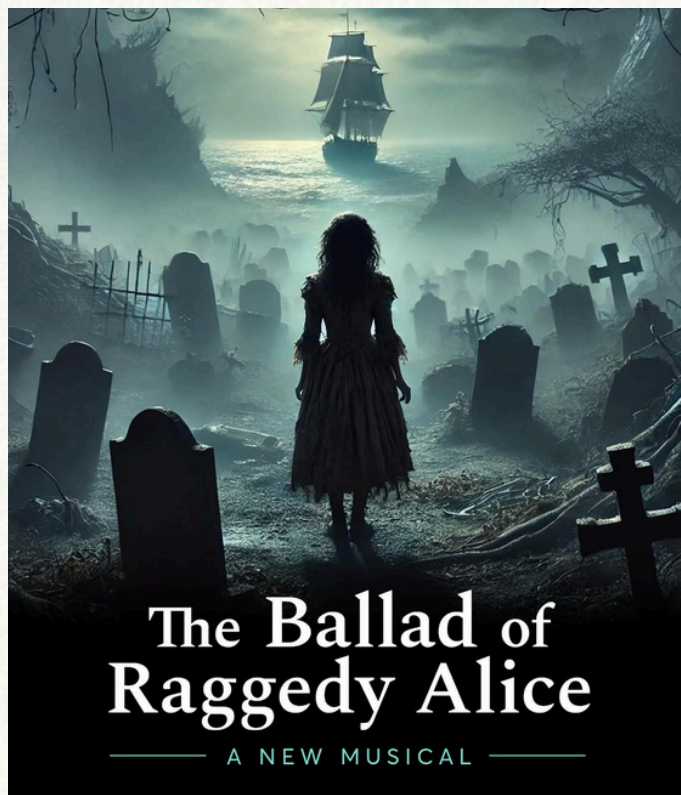
ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

Your invitation to 'The Ballad of Raggedy Alice'

KAS Drama students have spent the term rehearsing for the Upper School show ahead of opening night in November.

The Ballad of Raggedy Alice is a family-friendly musical for anyone who's ever spent too long wondering whether the grass really is greener on the other side. It tells the tale of Alice, who longs to be on one of five lucky villagers selected every year to sail to paradise. But she soon learns that we should be careful what we wish for!

With the School's Phoenix Theatre currently closed for renovation, students will decamp to the Arts Depot in North Finchley to perform the show over two nights. The dates are **Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 November**, both from 7:30pm.



Tickets are now on sale, and we are pleased to invite people from all corners of the KAS community to attend – you can even invite your friends and family along, too! Visit the [Arts Depot website](#) to get yours.

Acting workshop with Anne-Marie Duff

Our Drama Department recently welcomed BAFTA TV Award-winning actor **Anne-Marie Duff** for a workshop with Sixth Formers studying for the **UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performance & Production Arts**.

Anne-Marie worked with students on delivering monologues in preparation for auditions, sharing tips on getting to grips with the character, the physical aspects of performance, and tapping into emotions.



Play time for Year 11

The Old Library and Black Box Studio were the venues for two very different performances by our Year 11 Drama students this term. As part of the **UAL Level 2 Diploma in Drama**, students have to devise, produce and perform their own plays based on stimulus materials.

Drama teacher Lynne explained: "As a stimulus, the groups both saw pictures and testimonies from Windrush immigrants. They then worked together to create short works based on the ideas they took from those materials.

"One group decided to look at it from the viewpoint of asylum seekers and illegal immigration. Their play took the form of a trial in which the audience acted as the jury, deciding on the ending of the play.



"The other group wanted to look at the idea of a journey and what it's like to be removed from your home against your will. They created the story of a teenage girl who is sent to America after being expelled from school in the UK and discovers that she is actually staying with previously unknown family members.

"Both plays were very different, but the casts and crew worked hard to bring them to life and did a great job."



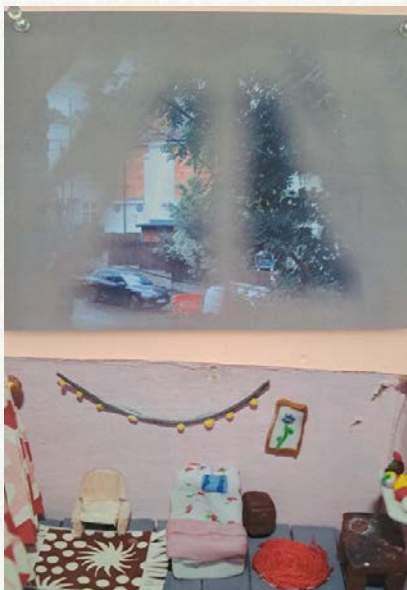
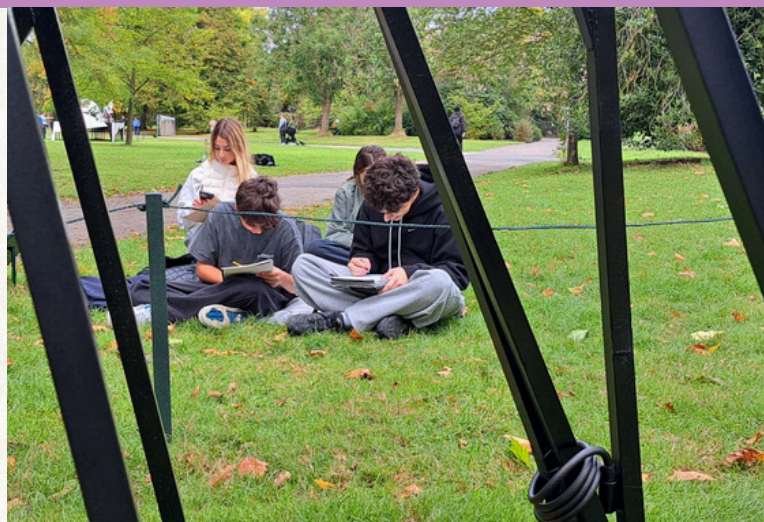
Lighting up Year 10

Year 10 Drama students have made an excellent start to the year. Having attended the theatre to see *The 39 Steps*, students have developed their understanding on how the elements of theatre come together to tell a story and create meaning. Recently they attended a lighting workshop with our **Technical Theatre Manager, Matt**, who took them through the basic principles of lighting design. Students will now use their skills to create shadow puppet shows.



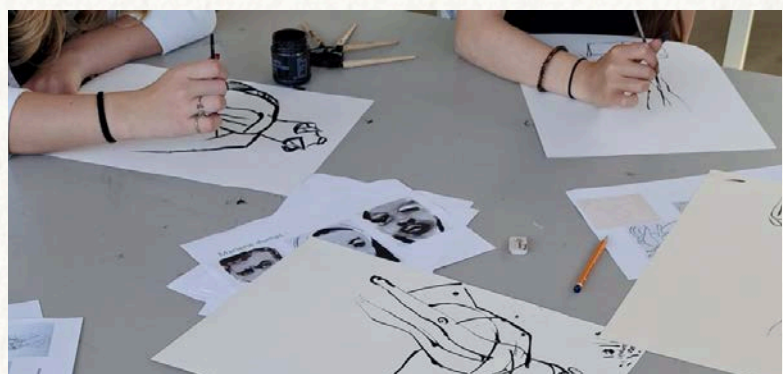
Year 11 Art: sculptures and sketches

As they work up to their final GCSE assessments, Year 11 students have been busy creating and curating. They spent time in Frieze Sculpture Park to take inspiration for their ***Beneath the Surface*** projects before taking over the foyer of the Art Department for an impressive sketchbook show.



Year 12 Art: figure it out

This term our A level students have been looking at 'the figure' in a multitude of different ways. So far they've taken part in life drawing sessions where they looked at measuring and negative space, and thought about the figure and it's surroundings. They got to work creating sculptures inspired by the work of Jimmy Durham and made traditional charcoal sketches of stone busts.



CHOICE, EXPLORATIONS & GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Surviving and thriving

A flicker of flames warmed up a chilly autumn day earlier this term as Year 7 students practised their fire-making skills.

The exercise was part of our latest **Exploration**, which poses the question: how might we not only survive but also thrive on a desert island?

Later in the term, pupils built shelters in the King Alfred woodland. This task required teamwork, good communication and creative thinking. Watering cans were used to put the shelters to the test – mostly successfully!

Students also fashioned clothing out of recycled paper as part of Design Technology, and will draw on Maths and Geography as they learn how to map an island. They'll also experiment with making their own toothpaste and learn how to fillet a fish.

"It's fun to be learning outside whilst doing an activity, rather than just sitting at a desk watching a presentation," said **KAS student Maddie**.



SPORT



MATCH RESULTS



YEAR 7

BOYS FOOTBALL **13** VS **13** NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE CANONBURY
LEAGUE

2ND IN THE SHIELD @ ISA NATIONALS – BOYS FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT

GIRLS NETBALL **9** VS **8** CHRIST'S COLLEGE FINCHLEY
LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL **15** VS **3** CHRIST'S COLLEGE FINCHLEY
FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL **15** VS **3** HENDON
LEAGUE

YEAR 8

BOYS FOOTBALL **15** VS **3** NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE SENIOR
LEAGUE

1ST WINNERS OF THE ISA NATIONALS PLATE – GIRLS FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT

GIRLS NETBALL **12** VS **7** CHRIST'S COLLEGE FINCHLEY
LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL **21** VS **0** CHRIST'S COLLEGE FINCHLEY
FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL **15** VS **0** HENDON
LEAGUE

YEAR 9

BOYS FOOTBALL **4** VS **8** NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE CANONBURY
LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL **8** VS **11** SOUTH HAMPSTEAD
LEAGUE

GIRLS NETBALL **8** VS **18** SOUTH HAMPSTEAD
FRIENDLY

GIRLS NETBALL **8** VS **14** CHRIST'S COLLEGE FINCHLEY
LEAGUE

YEAR 10

BOYS FOOTBALL **3** VS **0** NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE SENIOR
LEAGUE

 MIXED SKIING @ ISA SKI CHAMPIONSHIP – GCSE FOOTAGE
GRADED

YEAR 11

3/5 GAMES WON @ ISA REGIONALS – GIRLS NETBALL
TOURNAMENT

SIXTH FORM

BOYS FOOTBALL **5** VS **2** HIGHGATE
FRIENDLY

CAMPS & TRIPS

Eye-opening experiences in Indonesia

Sixth Formers journeyed to the Indonesian rainforest over the summer, where they conducted ecological research – and learned valuable life lessons, too.

On **Buton Island** they completed biodiversity surveys on flora and fauna including bats, butterflies and birds. Meanwhile, at **Hoga Island Marine Station** they took part in diving trips to assess the ocean's community structure.

Lodgings included army-style tents with camp beds and traditional wooden huts, whilst basic meals included rice and noodles for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

“It was really eye-opening to see how people can live very simply and still be happy,” says **Sixth Former Ella**. “It made me realise that I don't necessarily need lots of stuff to enjoy myself.”

Fellow **Sixth Former Libby** adds: “There was no phone service, so we weren't on our mobiles.

“It was scary to start with, as I couldn't easily contact my parents. But then it forced me to communicate more with others on the trip, which helped us to bond.”

Read the full story and see additional pictures [here](#).





Making memories in Namibia

A group of 16 **Year 11 students** and two KAS teachers undertook a field expedition to Namibia in June – a trip described as “one of the best experiences of my life” by one intrepid attendee.

The School has been making the trip to **Dorob National Park** in north-west Namibia for some 20 years, working with the charity Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA). Students volunteer at a school in a remote village, renovating a building each year so that the local children have a healthy and safe environment to learn in.

They also spend time walking through the desert, learning to read maps, identify animal tracks and many other things to aid their final walk – an 18km independent hike.

Whilst working at the school, students camped in tents on a hillside near the village. However, when walking, the tents were packed away and they slept on a tarp under the stars. “The experience of falling asleep while looking at countless stars and the Milky Way is something indescribable,” shares **KAS student Alex**.

“The memories from the trip will stay with me for life, along with the lessons I learned,” she adds.

Read the full story and see additional pictures [here](#).



Conquering the cold at Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students enjoyed three days of adventure and self-discovery on their trip to the **Norfolk Lakes Activity Centre**.

Indoor activities included wall climbing and fencing, whilst out on the vast (and, according to one student in attendance, "freezing cold!") lake, the group enjoyed paddleboarding, kayaking and canoeing. Students also put their teamwork to the test in a raft building session – rather successfully, as the picture below shows!

Plunging into the cold water was more popular than one might imagine. **Year 7 Alice** says: "It got warmer the more you jumped in, so it actually became lots of fun."

And the worst part of the trip? "When the sweets ran out!"

Read the full story and see additional pictures [here](#).



Bonding, bikes & board games at Year 12 Camp

Our latest Sixth Form intake travelled to the East Anglian coast for three days of fun and adventure in September as part of our annual **Year 12 Camp**.

New **Head of Sixth Form, Eleanor Mitchell-Webb**, reveals what they got up to – and why it is such a special trip:

“The trip was a really great bonding opportunity, especially for students previously at external schools and the existing KAS cohort.

“One highlight was the boat trip we took to go crabbing. It was brilliant to see how 16 and 17 year olds reacted to handling crabs; at first they were squeamish, but after an hour everyone was happily picking them up.

“We also did an amazing bike ride, following a historical route that took in World War II airfields and the oldest church in Britain.

“As a surprise, we arranged for an ice cream van to come to our halls one evening. That drew squeals of delight from everyone!

“Students were without their phones for the entire trip, which they absolutely loved – lots didn't want them back at the end. It meant that evenings were spent playing UNO and Exploding Kittens - it was brilliant to see.”



OLD ALFREDIANS & DEVELOPMENT

OA Reunion Day 2024

OA Reunion Day in September was lovely and bright, and OAs young and old got to enjoy KAS at its best.

There were adventures a-plenty on the grounds, with **Zanna (OA 2001)** visiting her old classroom and playing a bit of 'I Spy' with her daughter, finding the bust of King Alfred in the vines of the Old Library building.

To celebrate their 20-year reunion, the Class of 2004 ventured off to the Drama rooms to relive memories of time spent there. You won't be surprised to learn that a few of the OAs did their own thing and decided to check out the Music rooms (unbeknownst to the rest of us in Drama), and shortly after got locked in the building! We were glad we were able to rescue them and return them to the rest of their classmates safe and sound.

We even had an OA travel to London from California specifically for the occasion. **Yousuf Khan (OA 1995)** was



at KAS in Lower School and travelled all the way from Los Altos, California for the reunion.

Last but not least, OAs from the 1950s and 1960s gathered a lovely group as always. **John Bayes (OA 1962)** brought along an iron bottle opener from Norway that he acquired over the summer – quite the precision piece compared to the handmade bottle openers we made at the Forge 10-year anniversary in June.

Our youngest OAs at the reunion, **Sam Shelemy** and **Ori Marash (OAs 2021)** recounted facing their respective KAS TEDx Talk challenges, while we all enjoyed a fab lunch together.


Thank you Old Alfredians for making OA Reunion Day 2024 such fun!

Latest Alfredian Voices podcast

Join us for episode six of our series, *Alfredian Voices: What I REALLY Learnt at School*.

Did you know **Honey Kinny Ross (OA 2015)** founded the Feminist Society at KAS? Honey credits her time at KAS with instilling confidence in herself and an understanding of the importance of using her voice for change.

This episode beautifully encapsulates the lasting impact of King Alfred's unique educational approach on Honey's life and career. Scan the QR code on the right to listen, or [click here](#).



Episode 6


What I REALLY Learnt at School

Alfredian Voices

Honey Kinny Ross
Class of 2015

Activist, Writer and Podcaster

An accomplished writer, screenwriter, TV personality and spokesperson for body positivity and self-love. Honey hosted body positivity podcast, 'The Body Protest'.



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FIND & UPLOAD JOBS TO THE KAS JOB BOARD



CONNECT WITH OLD ALFREDIANS IN YOUR INDUSTRY



PROVIDE MENTORING & ADVICE



SCAN TO JOIN

Upcoming Events

<u>Title of event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Autumn Half Term	Monday 21 October – Friday 1 November
End of Autumn Term	Friday 13 December <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ivy Wood: 12:15pm• Manor Wood: 12:30pm• Upper School: 12:45pm
KAS Fireworks	Saturday 9 November <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gates open: 4:30pm• Bonfire: 6:30pm• Fireworks: 6:45pm
Upper School show: The Ballad of Raggedy Alice	Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 November, 7:30pm Arts Depot, Finchley
Spring Term	Tuesday 7 January – Friday 4 April
Spring Half Term	Monday 17 – Monday 24 March (staff inset day)
Summer Term	Wednesday 23 April – Thursday 10 July



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North End Road, London NW11 7HY**

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