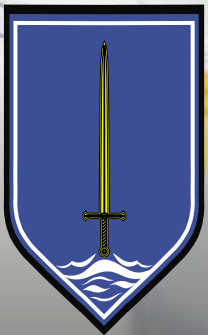




King Arthur's

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

Remembrance
Faraday Challenge
Ellie B speaks in Parliament



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School



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SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Welcome

As the Christmas break fast approaches, it is lovely to have a chance to stop and reflect on the term. It’s definitely been a packed one with so many wonderful events, trips, and opportunities for all our students!

The school community makes me endlessly proud with their commitment to our collective ethos. It is of particular pride that I report how well our students embrace and are always determined to make the best of all that is on offer. Some selected highlights follow below: it is always such a privilege to share the success of our community.

Students in Year 8 enjoyed an opportunity to work with students from Westfield School for the IET Faraday Challenge. This excellent STEM (Science, technology, engineering, maths) opportunity was organised and supported by Mrs Clarke – thank you Mrs C!

We are extremely proud of our Head Girl, Ellie Bealing who has excelled in her public speaking this term. Ellie is a member of the Youth Parliament and in November took a place in speaking in the House of Commons. Her eloquently delivered and politically astute speech was well received by all participants of the event. Ellie also thrilled the audience of the Great Oracy Exhibition in Manchester in early October. Being one of just four students from SAST who took part, Ellie again made best use of her voice at this national event. Well done Ellie!

Remembrance this year was punctuated with our part in creating the human poppy and taking part in the following interview

and report on BBC Points West. As always, we took our place in the Wincanton parade and we were proud to have so many students involved in delivering readings, blessings, and the laying of a wreath.

We have been thrilled with the engagement for Duke of Edinburgh this year, with a record sign up of Year 9 and 10 students. They are now undertaking the Bronze award and enjoying every minute of training and preparing. We were lucky to have the support of the British Heart Foundation who came into school to support our young people in knowing what to do in the event of a medical emergency. The trainers supported our Year 7 and 8 students in knowing what to do should someone become unwell and how to deliver CPR. With our onsite defibrillator and so many well-trained staff and students, we are all left feeling more confident.

Opportunities to reward students are one of the highlights of our week. Every Friday, students who have received the Golden Ticket award have a different reward session with members of the leadership team. Along with the wide array of existing rewards for the very best student conduct and attitudes to learning, we have also introduced new rewards for Sparx Reader success and the demonstration of oracy

skills. Our first trip out of school for rewards took place early in the term with those successfully scoring enjoyed the 100 Club reward trip to Flipout, Bridgwater.

As we approach this time of benevolence, I would like to offer my thanks for your continued support. We very much appreciated the feedback given in our parent survey at the beginning of term and have been busy responding by using your thoughts to inform our future planning. We also surveyed our students and staff at the same time, valuing all stakeholder feedback to ensure our provision provides the very best education. If you attended the most recent Parent Forum, you will have heard the feedback about our stakeholder voice. This information is also on our website for our families to read and see our next steps, informed by the feedback received. Thank you to those who have attended our forums this term. So far we have covered the following topics: Assessment and curriculum, Careers and Work Experience, Home Learning and online learning, Year 11 and 10 revision workshop.

It continues to be my pleasure to read emails and communications from parents who welcome and value how we support our young people. Thank you for your words of encouragement and support.

We are also grateful for your support in making sure our students are always Ready, Respectful, Responsive. The support of our families in ensuring our young people have the correct equipment, right uniform items, their reading books, and that they complete their home learning, enables our students to thrive. Being prepared for every day ensures that students can focus on the main thing at all times: their learning. As always, do get in touch if you need any support in supporting your child.

Whilst I write this for you, I am busy admiring the decorations being put up in and around school in preparation for the Christmas party we will once again host for Wincanton’s elderly. This is a highlight of the year, which sees prefects, student volunteers, and staff come together to serve, feed, and entertain our local community. I am sure it will be another wonderful, fun-filled day and resounding success.

For now, I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break. Enjoy the New Year celebrations and here’s to another successful year at KA! Roll on 2024!

Warmest wishes,
Mrs. Jen Jacklin
Headteacher

Breakfast Club

We were thrilled to open the doors to our Breakfast Club on Monday 20th November. A warm space with lots of delicious food has made the darker, colder autumn mornings a little bit brighter. Everyone loves a bit of toast, and Cheerios have proved a firm favourite with our students! It has been wonderful to see some of our students coming together to share a healthy start to their day and chat with them. Currently this initiative is open to those students who need extra support in the morning, but we are looking forward to extending this beyond invite only.

We are very thankful to Hunt’s Food Group in Sherborne for their support with this latest initiative.



Oliver

A fantastic trip at the start of the year for our Year 8 students to go and see 'Oliver' at Bath Theatre Royal. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience a show delivered by Bath Light Operatic Group. We were so fortunate to see a great show about a young boy who goes on a journey to find his parents. Lionel Bart's most successful musical contains some of the great villains of all-time including Fagin and Bill Sykes. We all enjoyed the wonderful collection of songs such as 'I'd Do Anything', 'Food Glorious Food', 'Consider Yourself', 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two' and 'Oom-Pah-Pah'.

The young cast were incredible, showing off such skills within music, drama and dance. They really were an inspiration to all those who came to watch. The characters Nancy and Fagin were real stand out performances along with the rest of the cast, showing off their passion and enjoyment for the theatrical stage.

The pupils were exceptionally well behaved and very much enjoyed the performance.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A photograph showing a collection of wrapped Christmas gifts and decorations, including red and gold baubles and pine branches.

We've had an amazing response to the Christmas Box appeal, thank you so much to all that took the time to fill a box. There will be some very grateful children (and adults) this Christmas!



We paused today at 11am for 2 minutes silence to mark Remembrance Day. We remembered the fallen and all those involved in conflict. We celebrated the students among us who are in uniformed services and send huge thanks to Mrs Rogers who came into school to play The Last Post.

We also had a fantastic morning at the Remembrance Parade and Service in town. We were thrilled to have been asked to take part in such an important town event and are very proud of our students.



A photograph showing a group of students in school uniforms posing for a photo outdoors. They are standing in front of a brick building.

A photograph showing a group of students in school uniforms sitting on the floor in a classroom, engaged in a discussion or activity.

Macbeth at
The Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Just in time for bonfire night, our Year 9 pupils visited Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, to explore the spooky and murderous world of Macbeth! They spent the morning with professional actors, workshoping some of the infamous witching scenes from the play, before watching an incredible production of Shakespeare's classic tale of ambition, murder and the supernatural, in the stunning Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Thank you to the RSC, our amazing team of staff, and our brilliant pupils who did us proud.

COP 28 at The Gryphon School

This December The Gryphon School is staging a SAST COP 28 conference and King Arthur’s has been asked to take two delegations of students to represent two states (European Union and India) in this mock conference. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to study how current environmental policies are made and negotiated, while also giving them a chance to think about how they would shape environmental policies if they were in the government of a country.

Students are going to be planning, writing and practising a one-minute speech that they will be delivering to the whole conference. They will also need to prepare the policies that they will use to negotiate with other countries and states during the breakout session of the conference.

Delegates from each country will work together looking to resolve problems in these areas:

Energy, Forests and Food, Oceans and Cities. The day will be broken up with speakers including a Marine Biologist from Greenpeace and the Chair of Young People’s Trust for the Environment. Dorset Council and Sherborne Council are also participating.

The students that are going to be joining in on this day have already been briefed and are looking forward to two planning sessions with Mrs Clarke in November ready for the conference in December. They are all passionate about environmental matters and want the chance to have their voices heard on a wider stage. We look forward to sharing more information about the policies drawn up and the negotiations our students held in our next newsletter.



Great Oracy Exhibition

Four remarkable SAST students made a significant impact at the Great Oracy Exhibition held in Manchester earlier this term, and we were delighted that one of them was our very own Ellie B. The Great Oracy Exhibition is the UK’s largest oracy event, bringing together teachers and senior leaders, academics, policymakers and educators.

Ellie said “Attending the Great Oracy Exhibition is high on my list of achievements during my time at KA. After lots of preparation of my speech with Ms Howell - I made the long but worthwhile journey to Manchester. My topic of choice was the privilege of having a voice - showing why young people need to be empowered to keep speaking out. It was a brilliant opportunity to represent KA on a national scale, and show just how passionate the children of the South West can be. The response of the audience was incredibly heartwarming, and I was glad that all of the nerves and hard work paid off. Hopefully this will inspire more teachers across the country to give their pupils the opportunity to share their passions and believe that they can make a difference through their words”.



Youth Parliament Debate in the House of Commons

Our very own Ellie B in Year 11 spoke in the House of Commons this term as part of a Youth Parliament debate. We are all very proud of her achievements and her commitment to being a voice for the young people of Somerset.



COMPUTING

Year 7 students have been looking in details at systems, networks and how the internet works. They are picking apart the phrases we commonly use about computers and making sure they are used in the right places. Year 8 are building apps for their mobile phones with 'App Lab'. This innovative software lets them compose applications in real time working on both the design, and programming, to understand the process and how it all works together.

Year 9 have been looking at the world of cybersecurity. Hacking, phishing and blagging are sadly a part of modern-day life. Students are preparing an arsenal of understanding to help combat the problem.

Year 10 are finalising their first submission for the R097 unit. They are creating an interactive media product to understand the way in which design and development go hand in hand in the world of digital media. Year 11 are now finalising their unit for submission. They are creating websites for their projects, and we are very pleased with how well they are working on this piece of coursework.

ART CLUB

Our Art4KA club is flourishing! It is lovely to see many students across Years 7, 8 and 9 enjoying creative fun and learning new art techniques while having engaging conversations and getting to know each other every Thursday lunchtime.

This term we have been creating a large mixed media artwork depicting our school and involving the whole school community. We have included messages and wishes for 2024 from all students and staff at KA.



The Creatives Department

Phew! What a busy term it is with so much going on in the Creatives Department.

In Art, amazing work is being created with the Year 7’s learning about colour theory and using these skills to produce amazing, sweet drawings with such a depth of colour. Year 8’s have been researching natural forms and are being inspired to create their own tonal drawings. The artist Chris O’Fili has been inspiring the Year 9’s with his meaningful and impactful work.

The Year 10 artists have been really showing off their skills with incredible still life drawings using a range of different mediums and the Year 11’s have been hard at work completing their portfolios with astonishing results. Some really moving pieces of art ready to be displayed in the summer.

In 3D Design, Year 7 pupils have been learning new skills in creating acrylic keyrings using techniques and processes they have never tried before. The Year 8’s have been developing their woodworking techniques producing really creative wooden animal toys, and the Year 9’s have been showing off intricate skills making finger joints.

Year 10 students have been looking at incredible designers such as Alessi and Memphis and being inspired by their work. It is crunch time for the Year 11’s with the due date for their portfolio fast approaching. The work being produced is astonishing though with some spectacular lamps being created.

In Food, fantastic dishes have been produced with the Year 7’s practicing their cutting skills, creating succulent fruit salads, vegetable cous cous & Dorset apple cake. The Year 8’s have been busy making mouth-watering crumbles and toad in the hole, traditional British dishes, as part of their assessment. The Year 9’s have been researching takeaway foods from around the world, looking at their nutritional value and making their healthier versions.

Students in Year 10 have been donning their Chef’s whites and practicing making high quality cuisine with beautiful garnishes focussing on fruit and vegetables. The Year 11’s have been really put under pressure cooking a 2-course meal for parents and toddlers from scratch with a time limit. Eat your heart out MasterChef!

I am so amazed when I walk around my department with the quality of work that comes out of it and how so creative our pupils are. Well done to the teachers for allowing our pupils to show off this creativity!

I am really proud at the moment of the Year 11’s who are stepping up to the plate and producing outstanding work. I am really looking forward to displaying it all in the summer in the Creatives Display. This will be a great event – listen out for more information to come about it!

Keep up this amazing work KA!

Mr Chapple



YEAR 9 SOMERSET

RURAL LIFE MUSEUM TRIP

35 year 9 pupils had an amazing experience seeing an artist in action at the Somerset Rural Life Museum.

Simon Hitchens is an artist who graduated in Fine Art from the University of the West of England in 1990 and his work has been exhibited around the world ever since. He frequently exhibits in solo and group exhibitions, undertaking private commissions and numerous large-scale public commissions. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Sculptors in 1998 and is an RWA Academician. 'Parallels' explores time and transience – the interconnected nature of what we share with the world. For three weeks, spanning the autumn equinox of 2019, Simon travelled the length of the British Isles, from latitude 50 in Cornwall to latitude 60 in Shetland. He was looking for rocks from eleven different geological time periods and to make drawings of the shadow lines cast by each rock at each of the eleven lines of latitude. Shadows cast from a twelfth object, a discarded lump of plastic, were drawn on a landfill site near London. Shadow sculptures complement the drawings. Pupils saw a large concrete sculpture, 'Bearing Witness to Things Unseen', which was on display in the museum’s Abbey Barn.

The pupils were able to speak to the artist and also took part in a range of drawing and sculpting workshops run by Simon Hitchens. These were a fascinating insight into what Simon does and the way he works. It allowed pupils to use his technique of using light to create shadows and casting rocks.



Faraday Challenge

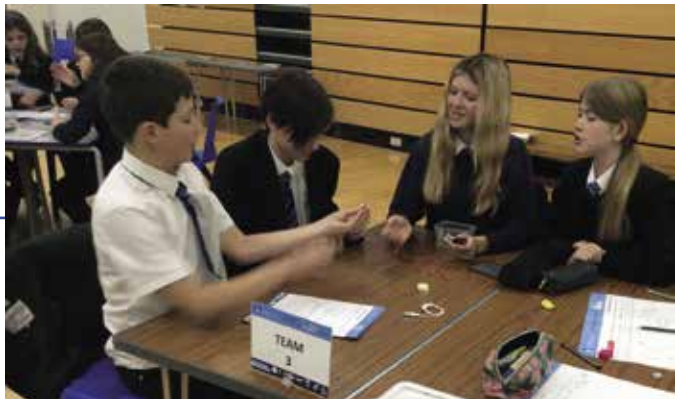
A group of students were recently involved in the Faraday Challenge, run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Every one of them was focussed and involved in the task that they were presented with by the IET, clearly showing the values of ready, respectful, and responsive that we expect from KA students. The students in each group had to manage a budget as well as produce a design and a prototype of their idea. They then pitched their ideas in a

presentation to the IET leaders and the rest of the students, including two groups from Westfield School in Yeovil, at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, I am not allowed to share with you what they were as this is a national competition that runs into the Spring of 2024. Once the competition is over, I will be able to share more information and the entries.

It shows the resilience of the students involved as one of our groups won



GCHQ NATIONAL LANGUAGES COMPETITION

On Tuesday 7th November, a group of Year 9 and 10 French students took part in the GCHQ National Languages Competition. They had to work in teams to solve as many languages related challenges as they could. These challenges were not just in French but a variety of languages from across the world, and even some made up languages! They used their knowledge of how languages work to spot patterns and solve each of the problems. It was fantastic to see how students approached these challenging tasks and worked together to figure out the answers. We were so pleased to see some of these students continue to work on the challenges outside of school time and dedicate many hours to this competition.

Congratulations to all students who were selected to take part and especially to our top three teams:

1st place

sensible stormy catfish
(Harry V-L, Daisy R, Holly P-W, Sivani P-S)

2nd place

gorgeous blue crab
(Toren M, Myles L, Lilly H, Isobel H)

3rd place

superb fuzzy butterfly
(Lewis W, Edward W, Payton W)

Sparx Science

The Science Department are really pleased to be working with the developers of Sparx Science on a new home learning platform for the subject. Students will be familiar with Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader; Sparx Science is a new branch which

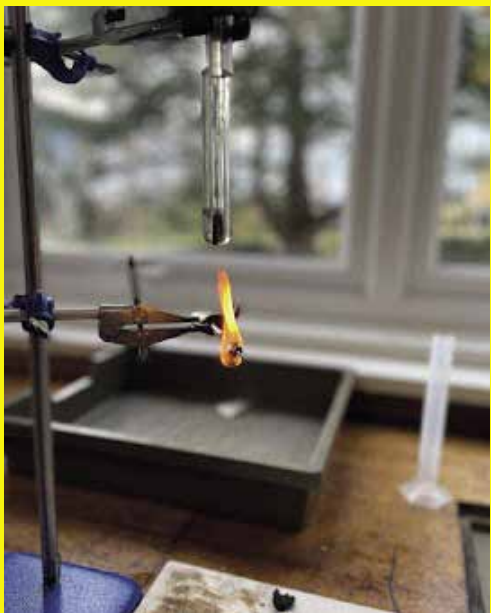
is currently under development. We are fortunate to be one of the schools selected for the trial launch of this platform and look forward to running it for home learning after Christmas for all year groups - watch this space!

Year 7 Science

We have been learning about states of matter in science this term – solids, liquids and gases. We have been using Bunsen burners, lighting them with a splint, and seeing how long it takes for the liquid to separate into salt and water (evaporation). There are many cool experiments that we have done. The other day we used a

Bunsen burner and lit food on fire to see what temperature the food would heat the water to in a test tube (to find out how much energy is in the food). We have been learning how much fat and other food groups are in food.

Cali – 7HG



Careers

Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the South Somerset Careers Fair at Westlands Entertainment Venue in October. This event showcased post-16 and post-18 providers in the local and wider area as well as employers from across the UK. A highlight was finding out about the vast array of apprenticeship opportunities in the local area. Students came out of the event with lots of reading material and ideas, ready for their 1:1 sessions with our careers advisor and discussions with parents and carers about what they might want to do in the future.

Year 11 are immersing themselves in their next steps decisions this term, with assemblies held with all of our local post-16 providers and a trip to Yeovil and Strobe Colleges for taster days. Each college offered a tour and a vast array of taster sessions across a number of subjects and qualifications, from A levels to apprenticeships, T levels to Level 2 qualifications. Students had a great day and came back full of ideas and understanding of what post-16 study could look like. They are now completing their online applications, with some already having interviews lined up which is really exciting!

Work experience was launched to Year 10 earlier this year, with Miss Andrews speaking to students in assembly about the purpose of work experience as well as the steps they need to take to secure a placement. We are using a database run by Somerset County Council, who ensure that all placement providers abide by strict health and safety protocols, ensuring that our students are safe when on their work experience week.

We had our first careers-focused parent forum of the year in October, led by Mrs Huggins and Miss Andrews. This was a very popular session, with over 100 parents, carers and students in attendance. During the forum, parents were able to meet and talk to some of our post-16 providers about what they offer and pathways available to our students. Mrs Huggins then spoke about the different levels of qualification including Level 3 and Level 2 options (A levels, BTECs, T levels, apprenticeships and post-18 options including university and degree level apprenticeships). After this the focus was work experience and, for parents of Year 9 students, Mrs Mason talked about the options process. It was a fantastic evening with a real buzz about it - thank you to all who attended.

Mrs Huggins and Miss Andrews are proud to announce that we have achieved 100% across all of the Gatsby Benchmarks this term. The eight benchmarks provide a clear framework for organising the careers provision at schools and colleges; it was adopted as statutory guidance by the Government in 2018. We have worked, and continue to work, tirelessly to promote and support personal development at King Arthur's School, ensuring that our students leave us with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be successful in the world of work and beyond. Gaining 100% across all benchmarks is a fantastic achievement.



8. P.E. & SPORT



Year 11 BTEC SPORT

With PPEs in full flow this half term, the BTEC SPORT students have been producing significant amounts of work that are assessed and count towards their BTEC qualification. Three large written assignments have been produced; students have also been graded on their practical leadership skills and match play in their chosen sport. The Year 11 boys' football team produced a fine performance against a very strong Bucklers Mead Academy. Goals coming from Ethan, Ben and Fabien. The Year 11 BTEC sport students have now banked 60% of their course grade and have one final written exam in May 2024.

Year 7 PE

Year 7 students have been working hard this term on their "Employable ME" life skills. The PE team are extremely excited to have swimming back on the curriculum with all Year 7 student now having it as part of their provision. The students have also been engaging in new activities such as field hockey and problem solving. In the recent outdoor adventures unit students had to navigate their way around the map to locate the control points and collect the information (numbers) from around the football pitch. Once they had been to all of the control points and got all their numbers, they had to total all these together and check their score against the teachers answer sheet. This is always a great activity which uses many life skills such as:

- numeracy
- literacy
- resilience
- collaboration
- leadership

Hockey

The Year 8 hockey team have again excelled themselves winning all games in their group stages to qualify for the finals. Along the way the team have beaten local schools such as Ansford, Bucklers Mead and Sexeys. The girls have all been amazing and their performance is proof of what can be done with committed training and passion for their favourite sport.

In the area finals on 23rd November the Year 8 girls did KA proud. The girls had to overcome a few barriers before even starting the semi-finals. A key defender was out with a broken arm and another two students were absent on the day! These challenges did not faze the girls who recruited three new players in to help. Thank you, Darcy, Evie-Rae and Evie who did an amazing job.

KA beat Westfield 4-2 in the semi-final and just lost out to Holyrood in the final. Some students played 1 hour and 20 minutes of hockey in the evening and were exhausted having given it their all. A super proud Mr Elloway, well done!

Year 7 had their first taste of hockey and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. With away fixtures to Sexeys and Ansford the students loved the adventure of a minibus ride as much as the hockey itself! New friendships have been formed and a love for a new sport that they had little experience of prior to KA.



House Competitions



Tug of War

This term we started the house competitions with the Tug of War contest. This event is always well supported with staff and students stepping up to pull on the rope or cheer from the side lines.

Results

First Place = Lancelot

Second Place = Galahad

Third Place = Gawain

Fourth Place = Percivale



European Day of Languages 'Bake Off'

The second house competition encouraged students to bake a cake that was judged as part of European day of languages. Winners from this year's entries are: -

First Place - Lily M (Year 9) 100 points

Second Place - Dylan W (Year 8) 50 points

Third Place - Olivier R (Year 7) 25 points

Children in Need

Our House Captains organised fundraising activities during the lunch break with all challenges costing 10p. The challenges included cup stacking, keepy uppies, crossy roads, archery and many more.

The winners of the challenges are: -

Winner of Number Generator is Owen H

Winner of the Name the Bear competition is Megan J

Winner of the most keepy uppies is Kai H

Winner of the darts competition is Archie H

Winner of cup stacking is Katherine B

Winner of Crossy Roads is Harry V-L

Winner of Archery is Jack J

Joint winner of sweets in a jar is Max W and Memphis C

Flip Out Reward Trip

Students in Years 8-11 got the opportunity to attend the 'Flip Out' rewards trip as part of their '100 Club' score accrued at the end of the summer term. Students enjoyed a two-hour session at Flip Out in Wellington where the Laser Quest was a big hit.