

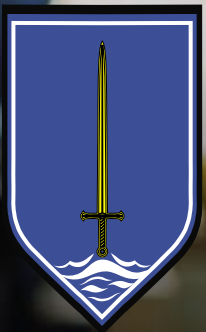
King Arthur's

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

Trip to Berlin

Youth Speaks and TEDx

STEM workshops with Thales



**King Arthur's
School**



@KingArthur'sSch



KingArthur'sSchool

SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Welcome

Unbelievably, we are already two terms into this academic year, and we have had another busy, but exciting term. As always, I'm proud to share this in our Spring newsletter.

With exam season fast approaching, we are busy supporting our Year 11 students in ensuring they are fully prepared for their upcoming GCSE and BTEC exams. Considerable time and effort is being put into extra revision sessions, and along with the work of staff in readying Year 11 with as many revision materials as possible, we are doing our best to guide them to their own success.

Following what has been another busy term of trips, we continue to be proud of our growing offer to all students through our Aspire programme. This year we have been working on oracy as a whole school focus and we are thrilled to share the success of our students in this sphere. Students made us proud with their appearance at TEDx, a platform to present on topical issues and a national and international forum for inspiration. This TEDx Youth event took place in Shaftesbury and followed our students presenting at the Youth Speaks competition. Thank you to Mrs Noyes for so ably supporting these students in their rehearsals and final presentations/competitions. More information follows in the individual articles.

We are grateful to staff who so far this term have already organised and supported day trips to The Eden Project for a world of maths adventure, trips to Bath Forum for both English and Science preparation for GCSE, trips to the theatre, Young Enterprise trips to Street and Yeovil College (the latter being an award winning day for team KA), or the amazing trip to Berlin during half term. We know what a huge difference having these opportunities makes to a young person's life and their learning. We

are proud to offer such a breadth of activity for our children and know it is a crucial part of boosting their academic and personal performance. I must share a huge thank you to our trip team who organised the amazing 6-day trip to Berlin over the half term. This cross-year group trip was a fantastic chance for students to apply their learning across subjects and embrace different cultures, as they made their way through several countries during their travels. I value the passion of staff who gave up their holiday to support our young people.

Whilst much goes on out of school, it's always wonderful to bring learning to life in school too. Last week, we were thrilled to welcome our awesome collaborators from Thales for STEM day. This day saw students and staff working to apply their learning to science, technology, engineering and maths topics and activities. We are thankful to the team from Thales who gave students the chance to experiment with robotics challenges, pitting their skills against each other to win the day.

With the launch of the ski trip in the last week, set to fly out to Bormio, Italy, we know that the range of opportunities keeps expanding. Should you want to find out any more about our Aspire offer, please do not hesitate to contact Hayley.andrews@kingarthurs.org.uk . Miss Andrews is also our parent liaison and is always happy to help, whether it be around our parent forum opportunities or to discuss the latest PSHE offer for students.

All our work to provide wider learning experiences fits seamlessly with our extensive careers provision. As a school

who has secured 100% certification of success across each Gatsby Benchmark – the national standard for careers provision - we feel extremely proud of the offer our young people receive to support them in making decisions about, and actually taking their steps beyond KA. Congratulations to Mrs Huggins who has worked tirelessly to ensure our provision is of the very highest quality and we are proud it has been acknowledged in this way. As I type, Mrs Huggins is working with her team to ensure all of Year 10 students are ready and prepared for their week of work experience this summer term. Yet another fantastic opportunity to support our young people to success.

At this time of year, we often look to say goodbye to colleagues who depart for pastures new. This term, we will say goodbye and thanks to Mr Saget and Mrs Noyes. Both leave us for new personal adventures, and we wish them well in all they do. Importantly, we thank them for their part in our mission to provide the very best education for all our students. News on who will join us to teach and who will take up tutor groups has already been shared in a separate letter from Mrs Mason, AHT for Teaching and Learning. Please do review your emails for a copy of this important information.

As you will know from my recent letter, I have made the difficult decision to move on from my role as headteacher of this wonderful school. I will leave at the end of the summer holiday this year. It has been an absolute privilege and honour to serve as your headteacher for the past five years, and I am incredibly grateful for the support

and dedication of each and every one of you across this time. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together during my time here. From academic achievements to extra-curricular successes, we have worked tirelessly to create a supportive and nurturing environment in which our students can thrive. I have been truly inspired by the hard work and dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm and talent of our students, and the tremendous support of our parents and community members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all and please know that I will cherish the memories we have created together. I am confident that the school is in good hands and will continue to flourish and grow under new leadership. I have every faith that the staff will continue to provide the highest quality education for our students, and that the students will continue to excel in all areas of their academic and personal development.

Further information about the recruitment of a new headteacher will follow and I will keep you updated on news as and when appropriate.

I hope you will all enjoy the many interesting articles in this edition of the newsletter. Have a wonderful, restful, but fun-filled Easter break when it arrives!

Mrs. Jen Jacklin
Headteacher

BERLIN TRIP

This February saw the annual History and Travel & Tourism trip head to Berlin. This has now become a highlight in the King Arthur's calendar and is already provisionally booked for February 2025. The trip saw us embrace all that Berlin has to offer as a very historical city. After a long overnight journey, we unpacked at our hotel and headed out on a 3-hour tour of the city. This included our first visit to the Berlin wall, Checkpoint Charlie, Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the car park which is now above Hitler's bunker. We also had the opportunity to walk through the Jewish memorial which is very emotional and thought-provoking.

After a good night's sleep, we then visited Hohenschonhausen the Stasi Prison in East Berlin which is the focus of our GCSE module 'History Around Us'. This was followed by a visit to the Jewish Museum and then to the East Side Gallery, to see the famous artworks. That evening we visited the Reichstag and climbed the dome to see the city at night.

The following morning, we set off to the 1936 Olympic stadium, where Hitler held his first worldwide event. The afternoon was spent visiting the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum. This was very emotional for all, and we felt privileged to visit such a place. That night we ate at a traditional German restaurant and then went up the TV tower, although it was very foggy, and we could not see much. We all sat and had a fizzy drink and enjoyed the evening.

The next morning after packing up, we walked to The Checkpoint Charlie Museum before having some free time in the Berlin Mall to get souvenirs and keepsakes from a wonderful trip.



Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 31st January, 28 of our finest mathematicians from Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, organised by UKMT. They worked on 25 very challenging and thought-provoking problems. Only the top 50% of all students who enter receive a bronze, silver or gold certificate and we are proud to say that 14 of our students received one of these certificates. A very well done to all who completed the challenge and especially to Lucas, Hollie, Eden, Alex, Jayden, Ben, Victoria, Adrianna and Phoebe for receiving bronze certificates, Ellie, Hazel, Harry and Katie who received silver certificates, and to Flynn for his gold (and best in school) certificate!



Eden Project Trip

Tuesday 5th March saw 57 Year 8 students and 5 staff travel down to the Eden Project in Cornwall for a maths and science trip. Students participated in one of two workshops: Finding Fibonacci or Biodiversity, Bees and Me. Students had to visit the biomes and gardens to work on tasks linked to their workshop. Students and staff then had a lovely time wandering the site and taking copious photographs.

Drama

Well done to our pupils for completing two of the three components for GCSE Drama . Our pupils have had to devise their own pieces working in a team to create an original performance based on their research around a stimulus. They have also had to learn lines from a script to create a believable performance using their movement and voice skills.

In drama there are many transferable skills to be learnt. When you act, you put yourself in another person’s shoes and try to identify with them and their situation. This will develop your empathy towards others, especially when portraying a character that is experiencing feelings and situations that you may not initially understand. This is a key skill that will open your mind and develop your interaction skills. It is also an essential attribute to many careers such as teaching, nursing or caring.



Our fantastic Youth Speaks team entered the prestigious competition, where teams of three speak for 15 minutes arguing for and against an issue. We had been working on it since September and the two teams that entered were amazing! It involved speaking in front of an audience and a panel of judges. They then had to answer questions based on their arguments. The boys team spoke about the pros and cons of the pandemic, and the girls team spoke about changes in education.



WORLD BOOK DAY

To celebrate all things reading, we held a 5-part story across the school day, and a BBC Live Lesson for our Year 7s. Students were also invited to take part in a lucky dip book exchange. Each student gifted a book, wrapped up, with the first sentence of the story written out and stuck on the front - no title or author, just the first line.

On World Book Day, everyone who had donated a book was able to choose another book to take home from the book exchange shelf. Every student who got involved also earned a house point!

We love reading at KA and it was lovely to celebrate all the diverse and powerful benefits of reading for pleasure!



STEM – ScienceLive 2024

Year 9 and Year 10 students were invited to the ScienceLive event at Bath Forum this spring. This event is aimed at GCSE students, increasing their knowledge of science both within the examinations (with a talk from an examiner on achieving highly in assessments) and in a wider context. It was a real privilege to hear from world-renowned scientists about the work that they have done and continue to do. We heard from Professor Robert Winston, a medical doctor and distinguished scientist, particularly in human fertility; he pioneered IVF. Professor Winston talked about supporting couples in getting pregnant as well as working out how an embryo could be tested for the presence of genetic disorders prior to implantation. We also heard from Professor Alice Roberts, a clinical anatomist and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham. Professor Roberts is probably best known for presenting a range of programmes on BBC2, including Coast, Wild Swimming, The Incredible Human Journey, Origins of Us, and Prehistoric Autopsy. She has authored four popular science books about anatomy and human evolution and writes a regular science column for The Observer. Alongside this, we also had talks from Professor Andrea Sella, who wowed us with his practical skills (changing colours of solutions without even touching them!), and Professor Dave Cliff who was so excited about his field of work (computing), talking about being a computer whizz and the best is yet to come!



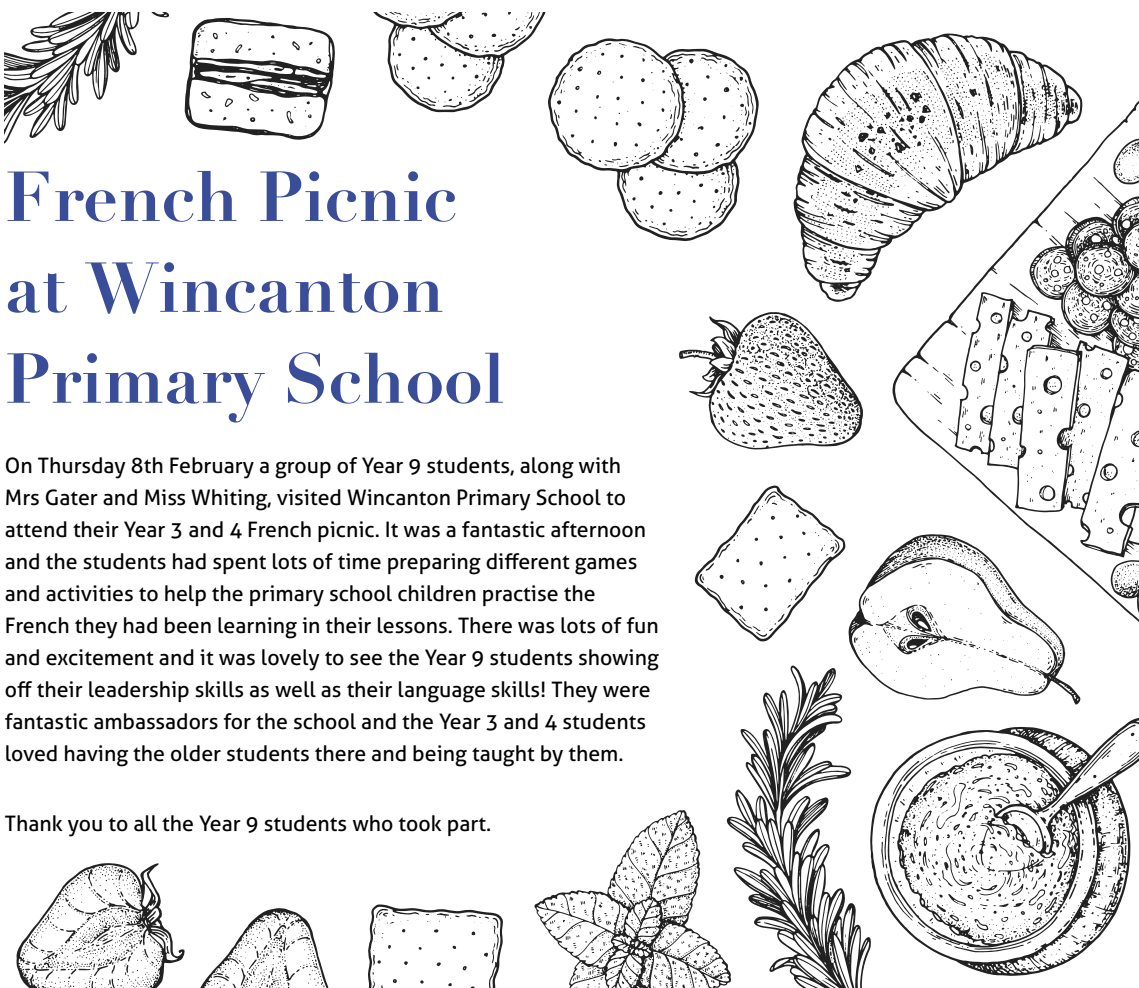
STEM Session with Thales

In March, all of Year 7 attended a fantastic STEM-related session run by Thales. Thales partner with King Arthur’s School to support the development of our students within and around STEM activities, providing activities, resources and funding. In this session, Charlene from Thales led one-hour sessions using their newly acquired SpheroBots (spherical robots) and portable devices. Students heard from Charlene all about Thales as a company (based both locally in Templecombe and across 68 countries) as well as what they do and the apprenticeship routes on offer through the company and in the STEM industry. These are wide-ranging, from mechanical engineering to software engineering (the focus of today’s session). Charlene also talked about the skills needed to be successful as apprentices, such as teamwork, communication and perseverance. Year 7 really enjoyed hearing about Thales and many asked questions to Charlene and the local Thales employees who supported her. They also loved being able to control the SpheroBots using an app, making them change colour, make noises and follow a specific pathway.

French Picnic at Wincanton Primary School

On Thursday 8th February a group of Year 9 students, along with Mrs Gater and Miss Whiting, visited Wincanton Primary School to attend their Year 3 and 4 French picnic. It was a fantastic afternoon and the students had spent lots of time preparing different games and activities to help the primary school children practise the French they had been learning in their lessons. There was lots of fun and excitement and it was lovely to see the Year 9 students showing off their leadership skills as well as their language skills! They were fantastic ambassadors for the school and the Year 3 and 4 students loved having the older students there and being taught by them.

Thank you to all the Year 9 students who took part.



KA speakers at TEDx Shaftesbury Youth

Back for a second time, TEDx Shaftesbury Youth brought together passionate young people from a variety of backgrounds to deliver powerful talks on a range of topics from diversity in education, to why we should all learn sign language, and the creativity crisis, to why we should all love bugs, the day showcased a series of passionate talks of an incredibly high standard.

This year the TEDx Shaftesbury also launched Lightning Talks, a brand-new addition to the TEDx programme, which are talks on a specific topic or idea delivered in a short, sharp, clear, concise, and entertaining manner intended to immediately capture the attention and interest of young audiences. On a separate stage, the Lightning Talks gave the TEDx speakers of tomorrow a chance to talk to a captive audience about a topic and take questions. We were delighted to have two KA students deliver lightning talks.

Summer J delivered a thought-provoking talk about how classrooms in schools haven't changed since Victorian times. She was joined by Leo W, who spoke about the positives of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. Well done Summer and Leo, we're very proud of you!



Art 4KA club - Exciting sculptural piece in progress

The students in our thriving Art4KA club have been tirelessly working on a new and exciting project with the final goal of entering this sculptural piece – the KA Scarecrow -into a competition.

The final version of our KA Scarecrow has developed from a myriad of ideas that our creative students discussed, presented and sketched out. We are absolutely in love with the final version, which is still a work in progress. The addition of a beautifully completed painting which the scarecrow is holding conveys a meaningful message which reads "The world is your canvas"



Creating Photo frames in 3D Design with Year 9

The Year 9 pupils have been busy creating their very distinctive and unique photo frames as part of the 3D Design Curriculum. We have had a huge range of different ideas with a really good quality finish. The pupils were really pleased with their final product and were eager to place a photo in the frame. Well done Year 9, keep up the good work!

Careers

This term our focus has been on next steps with Years 9, 10 and 11. As part of this, we have had talks and group sessions from ASK Apprenticeships so that students have up-to-date information, advice and guidance before they make decisions about applications. All students in Year 11 have seen Aaron, our Level 6 Careers Advisor, at least once since September for support with applications and writing CVs whilst the focus for Year 10 has been setting up their placements ready for our work experience week in July. Lots of students already have confirmed placements which is amazing. Towards the end of the spring term, we have invited a representative from Cambridge University to school to speak to KS4 students about Higher Education and steps post-18 which we are really looking forward to. Year 9 meanwhile have been thinking about their options for GCSE, with work taking place in tutor time researching careers and pathways as well as small group sessions with Aaron prior to the options deadline.

This term Year 7 and Year 8 have had a talk by Kezia from FJ Chalke. Kezia is our Enterprise Advisor, supporting the school in developing our careers provision. Kezia spoke to students about what apprenticeships are as well as the different careers available through working for an employer such as FJ Chalke, with students given time to speak to Kezia individually after her presentation.

Year 7 and 8 have also spent time in one of our extended PSHRE sessions hearing from Peter Littlewood, Director of Young People's Trust for the Environment (a charity based in Yeovil) following the COP 28 event at The Gryphon before Christmas. Peter talked about the impact of climate change on our everyday lives and what we can do on an individual and local level, as well as nationally and internationally. Year 8 then went on to discuss the pros and cons of renewable energy resources, in particular solar panels; we are hoping that King Arthur's School may be able to install solar panels at some point in the future.

King Arthur's School is very proud to have been awarded a certificate for attaining 100% across all eight Gatsby Benchmarks this spring. Louise, our Enterprise Co-ordinator, presented Mrs Huggins with this certificate, which marks the hard work that we have put into ensuring that our students have independent advice, guidance and information about all of their potential routes after they leave us. As part of this we work with and invite in local (and not so local!) representatives from different industries and career sectors as well as further and higher education establishments. Mrs Huggins has also



completed her Level 6 Diploma in Career Guidance and Development which qualifies her as a Careers Advisor.

Coming up: We have an action-packed rest of the academic year planned for students, with taster trips to Strode College, Yeovil College and Sexey's Sixth Form for Year 10, the Year 8 MyFutures event sponsored by Somerset 16-19 partnership (giving hands-on experience of careers across a wide range of sectors), Year 10 work experience and visitors coming in to speak to and work with students across all year groups. Thales will be back in working with students as well as industry experts working with students through the Young Enterprise group. We are also hoping to take more students out on trips and visits, so watch this space!

If you would like to come in to school to speak to students about your career/business, then please get into contact with us.

P.E. & SPORT

BTEC SPORT TECH AWARD

Year 11 students are deep into their revision for the final part of their two-year course with only the final written exam to sit. Many students are now using revision guides and in class resources to aid their final preparations. This is an academic course that is the equivalent to GCSE level. Students have studied everything from how to coach, rules for sports, provision of sport for all ages and anatomy and physiology.

Year 10 students are now sitting their first controlled assessment in BTEC Sport. This element of the course is 30% of their final grade. One assessment section has required to students to plan and deliver their own 3 part warm up for a given scenario released by the exam board. Students have been filmed for 10-15 minutes leading their own sessions. Each session must involve the Pulse Raisers, Mobilizers and Stretches.

As a department we super proud of the effort students have put into this course so far, with many Year 10 students voluntarily attending extra workshop sessions to boost their grades. This is a fantastic attitude to independent learning and work ethic we encourage. Well done Year 10!

Sports Hall Athletics

Our 9 feeder primary schools recently competed in the KS2 Sports hall athletics competition at Wincanton Sports Centre. The day was a huge success with over 20 King Arthurs leaders running the event with Adam Burgess from Sports Hall athletics. St Nicholas Primary won the girls event, Milborne Port Primary won the boys event and Upton Noble won the team event overall.

Swimming

It is great that so many of our Year seven students have already had the opportunity to get into the swimming pool this year! Each swimming group has had a block of five lessons which have catered for all abilities, ranging from complete beginners to more advanced swimmers, covering a range of swimming strokes and aquatic skills.

For the less competent swimmers the focus has been on developing water confidence and learning basic skills such as kicking, aquatic breathing and floating. For more advanced swimmers, sessions have been about refining their strokes and challenging them to complete drills and set distances. A favourite for all our swimmers has been completing obstacle courses in the water, including swimming through hoops, picking up bricks and forward rolls!

Swimming is a great form of fitness that provides an all over body workout. There are numerous health benefits of swimming including maintaining a healthy weight, heart and lungs and also alleviating stress. Many of our students have really enjoyed swimming as an activity this term and have already asked if it will be continuing in September. We hope that this will be an activity that we can continue to grow.

"I love swimming! I particularly enjoyed the obstacle course and races with the bog floats on the final session." (Emily, Y7).

Golden Ticket

Golden ticket continues to be well supported by students who are recognised for going above and beyond during the school week. Students have enjoyed a variety of sports, challenge activities and cooking on a Friday during afternoon registration with Mr Hayes, Mrs Southern and Mrs Stokes. Students have been taking in a variety of balloon and cup challenges, Danish long ball, Kin ball, Bucket ball, pancake and smoothie making.

NETBALL

This netball season we have seen some fantastic performances from all year groups. Students have been committed to improving their netball skills and tactics within after-school training sessions, PE lessons and fixtures. This has contributed to finishing the season with some very close results, strong team dynamics and individuals have now found their strengths in specific positions.

In our most recent Year 7 fixture against Sexeys, our shooters Isabelle J and Cali C displayed some incredibly consistent and accurate shooting which put immense pressure on the opposition. Well done to our Year 8 team who showed amazing versatility during their match against Sexeys and Stanchester, you demonstrated great teamwork and communication. Our Year 9 and Year 10 teams have also shown brilliant determination this term and a special mention to Katie W and Daisy R who have displayed outstanding leadership skills and have shown brilliant netball knowledge when coaching and supporting with training and fixtures.

NETBALL FIXTURES

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR9	YEAR10
Westfield	Sexeys	Westfield	Ansford
Sexeys	Stanchester	Ansford	Stanchester
YEAR 7 TEAM	YEAR 8 TEAM	YEAR 9 TEAM	YEAR 10 TEAM
Isabelle J	Emilia H	Adriana J	Katie W
Cali C	VerityW	Phoebe C	Millie S
Megan M	Mabel K	Poppy D	Hope N
Mads H	Summer J	Daisy R	Amy L W
Tallulah B	Miriam S	Lexie W	Ruby
	Lila P	Molly F	Victoria
	Elsie C	Amelia	Isobel H
	Lucy C	Torri-Anne G	LacieW
	Lily W		

Thank you to our parent and carer community for your support and kindness when dealing with staff at KA. We welcome positive and thoughtful interactions with all staff as we work to support your child and resolve any issues raised. We will not tolerate staff being spoken to rudely and welcome all of our community being respectful and kind when working with the staff at KA. We thank you for your communication and interaction, supporting the best interests of your child.