



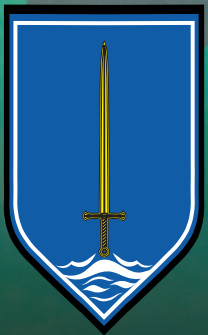
King Arthur's

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

Pride of Somerset

Old Faithful

Athletics Success



King Arthur's
School



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SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

2. Welcome

It is with great sadness that I commence my final newsletter for King Arthur's School. I cannot express how proud I am of all we've achieved together as staff, students, and parents, in my five years as Headteacher. This last term has given me much cause to reflect and be grateful for the varied experiences we have shared and thankful for the trust you placed in me to provide for your children. Thank you, for all you have done in support of our school during this time.

As always, it seems quite incredible that we are now at the end of another academic year. King Arthur's has been its usual bustling self and our extensive array of trips, visits, and opportunities for our young people has exceeded expectations. It has been wonderful to see students succeeding both academically and by taking full advantage of our wider curriculum offer.

Although tinged with a sense of sadness at the departure of our Year 11s, the tangible excitement about their future choices features heavily as the term draws to a close. 2024 saw students outdoing themselves in their commitment to success with their final examinations. Whilst working hard to support students with our extensive revision programme and additional masterclass sessions, it was clear that this year's cohort were prepared to go above and beyond to maximise their chance of success. Our invigilators reported exemplary attitudes and politeness, despite the stress of the sometimes thrice daily exams. Well done to all Year 11s and I look forward to congratulating you on results day. We also look forward to hearing of your future success and know you too will be pleased to share the story of our prom, a feature in this edition. Students and staff enjoyed our celebration at Wincanton Racecourse – our favourite location for this event. There were some fabulous outfits and the employment of some impressive transportation options! This year, we had the thrill of Agnes arriving on a horse, fittingly dressed in a stunning outfit she had fashioned herself. Many congratulations to our crowned prom superstars for 2024: Filip Opalinski and Sasha Graziano did their colleagues proud.

Our extensive ASPIRE programme has seen us travel far and wide again this year. We have been thrilled to visit several theatres to experience a variety of Shakespeare's plays, and some modern classics. At half term we wished our Berlin trip 'sichere Reise' (safe journey), as our budding historians took to exploring the city and its sights in detail. Year 10 have found themselves on academic trips, such as a fieldwork trip to Lyme Regis and enjoying the wonder of work experience. We are especially proud of their efforts this year, impressing a variety of employers, across wide-ranging workplaces. The lower school have also enjoyed an extensive range

of trips, both near and far. Year 8 have had the pleasure of looking to their future with both a trip to Yeovil College and also a whole day in school with Young Enterprise. Year 10 were lucky to have similar days and we are grateful to the Young Enterprise team and the support of Simon Banks to fund these days. With far too many trips to mention here, our only hope is that they have all been enjoyed and all enhanced student learning and experience. We know that it brings us all huge joy to see the students have a chance to apply their theoretical study in real situations.

As a parent myself, I know you will all enjoy reading through the newsletter and seeing all that has been achieved and accomplished this term. We are pleased and proud that at King Arthur's, we can offer such a diverse curriculum offer. The successful mix of in class and out of class school experiences, ensures our students can develop their wider world view and knowledge.

For those with younger children, you may have been invited to one of our many sporting events to see your child(ren) enjoying primary sport days. We have been very pleased to have our local primary schools up to school for the Sports Link festival this month, along with the many sporting events we hold across the school year. We have loved hosting Sports Days for both Wincanton Primary School and Our Ladies School again this summer term and thrilled to share our student Sports Leaders to support the days. This, along with our numerous sporting fixtures for Years 7 – 10, has all been possible thanks to the commitment of our fabulous PE department. Thank you team!

At this point in our term, we have some of our favourite opportunities to look toward the coming academic year. Last Wednesday we invited all our new Year 7s in for their induction day and to welcome them as new members of the KA team for September. This was another wonderful, well-planned day that enabled us to get students ready for the transition to 'big' school. It was equally wonderful to meet their parents and welcome back the students for their induction evening, introducing them to their children's tutors and the KA way of doing things. This was followed by inviting 200 Year 5s over two days for our WOW day events. This is a great chance for them to sample all things KA and start thinking about their future secondary school opportunity.

Always looking to our community, recently, we have been proud to be part of the town's commemorations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Students and staff represented the school and our sentiments of respect and pride in the town parade. We were also proud to take part in the parade and

commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the loss of Old Faithful. This was a suitably sombre event that took time to reflect on the sacrifice of the crew in saving lives of those in our town.

One thing we know to be fundamental to our provision, is ensuring students are prepared for the world they will enter on leaving school. Importantly, we take great pride in providing the very best careers provision. Our enhanced offer is 100% compliant with the government's Gatsby benchmarks, something very few providers can claim. A huge thanks goes to Mrs Huggins for her continued work to ensure our careers provision is top notch. Our students benefit from such an array of opportunities, from work experience for Year 10 to our connections with local industry, colleges, and sixth forms. Our students all experience a flavour of what the world of work is like beyond school and start to prepare for the world of work.

A sad duty is to bid farewell to those staff who are also off to pastures new. We are so proud of our leavers, who all move on to either promotions or adventures that will take them on the next steps of their career. Our leavers this year are as follows:

Mrs. Huggins is leaving for a well-deserved promotion to the position of Assistant Headteacher at the brand new school in Martock, Hill View School. I cannot thank Mrs. Huggins enough for her superb leadership and development of science at our school, along with her comprehensive reinvention of careers provision that has supported so many young people so well. Mrs. Mason also leaves for a promotion to the leadership team in a school closer to home in Dorset. Continuing in a role for which she has a great passion, Mrs. Mason will be leading teaching and learning for a whole new staff body. Her excellence in this area will be sorely missed at KA and I know personally just how lucky her new team at the Dorset Studio School are to receive such fantastic support. We wish Mr. Patterson well and thank him for his extensive support of all things English. We will miss his great leadership of this subject area and support of developments with the curriculum as he moves on to his next adventures outside of education and as he continues his own educational development. We are thankful for our time with Mrs. Gater who has worked to support the progression in our languages provision over the last two years. As she moves to her next adventure at King's School, we wish her well and know she will be a great asset to their team. We thank Mr. Armstrong for his time at KA and supporting us in his role as Cover Supervisor and Reprographics Support. Mr. Armstrong is multi-talented and we have welcomed all he has brought to KA – good luck with your next steps, Mr. A. We wish a fond farewell



Mrs. Jen Jacklin
Headteacher

to Mx. Carey who leaves us to pursue a career in teaching. We are excited to hear of Mx. Carey's training year and share our best wishes for a long and fruitful career as a teacher. Mrs. Bowen joined us to support our strong team of Teaching Assistants and has worked closely with many young people at King Arthur's. As Mrs. Bowen returns to work within the Special Education sector, we share our thanks for her excellent support and guidance with learners. Mrs. Pearce may only have been with us for an academic year, but she has made a big impression on us all. As she rejoins her roots in primary education, we wish Mrs. Pearce well with a move to St Michael's Academy. We cannot thank Mr. Eddey enough for his contribution to all things pastoral. Joining us a year ago, Mr. Eddey completes his planned contract with us and moves to a key role working with young people in deepest Dorset. Ms. Mugford has been a life saver... again! We are thankful that she came to us to support with some short-term work but was able to stay across this academic year. As a former member of permanent staff, we have always loved working with Ms. Mugford and whilst a sad goodbye for us, we wish her well as she will now be able to join her husband and work abroad once more – Buena suerte (good luck)!

To each staff leaver, we offer our huge thanks and admiration for the commitment and support of our mission. You will all be missed and placed very fondly in our King Arthur's School hall of fame.

Sadly, I too now join this list of leavers. As I said at the start of the newsletter, I would like to thank you all. Please know that I will always be rooting for the success of King Arthur's, the staff, and all young people who attend this wonderful school. I look forward to hearing of its continued greatness!

My final wish for all is a safe, happy but adventuresome summer. We wish you all well for the summer holidays and would ask that you take note of the important end of term letter in preparation for the new term. I now hand the baton to Mr. Archibald and wish him well as the incoming headteacher.

Ellie named 'Young Person of the Year' at the Pride of Somerset Awards

Year 11 student Ellie B, was named 'Young Person of the Year' at the Pride of Somerset Youth Awards this term. Ellie faced stiff competition from other amazing young people across the county; from outstanding athletes to dedicated volunteers, from creative artists to courageous leaders, the shortlisted students were truly the pride of Somerset. These extraordinary nominees have made a lasting impact through their dedication, leadership, and inspiring achievements and the evening was a celebration of the young people in the county.

The 'Young Person of the Year' category, sponsored by Bridgwater & Taunton College, celebrates a young person who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement in their chosen field, serves as an inspiration to others through their leadership, initiative, and positive impact and exemplifies the best of what it means to be a young person in Somerset.

Teacher Mrs Huggins nominated Ellie for this award and said "Ellie is quite simply an outstanding young

woman. She puts in maximum effort to everything that she does. Ellie is a very proactive member of King Arthur's School; sitting on the School Council and holding the position of Head of School, representing the student body both formally and informally. She also represents the school and Somerset as an elected member of the Youth Parliament. As part of this she is a member of the British Youth Council and has campaigned for a voice for young people in Somerset, culminating in her speaking at the House of Commons this year, highlighting the disparity of experience between young people in Somerset vs other, less rural areas linked to available opportunities and transport links".

Mrs Jacklin added "We are beyond proud that Ellie was awarded the 'Young Person of the Year' accolade. She has been so dedicated to giving young people a voice and has worked tirelessly to do so alongside her studies, this award is truly deserved, and we know that she has an amazing future ahead of her".

Photo: Ellie Bealing, being presented with her award by Ted Allen, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset



King Arthur's marks the 80th Anniversary of the crash of Old Faithful

King Arthur's School and the Art 4 KA group have commemorated the anniversary of the crash of Old Faithful be creating a piece of art. This anniversary is an important event in the history of Wincanton. It was on the 25th June 1944 that a lone American B17 Flying Fortress was struggling back from a bombing raid on Toulouse in France. The aircraft, badly damaged by German anti-aircraft fire over the target, had successfully flown 900 nautical miles on only three of its four engines, making landfall over Lyme Bay.

Things got worse when one of its remaining engines began to malfunction. It began to lose altitude and the pilot frantically searched for a diversion airfield. Fate took a hand because he chose RAF Zeals, which is on high ground, and the aircraft was rapidly approaching the centre of Wincanton town. Eye witnesses could actually see the crew throwing heavy equipment including radios and machine guns out of the aircraft in a vain attempt to lighten the load. The B17 was perilously close to Wincanton when the pilot, 2ndLt. Peter Mikonis, banked the aircraft away. A horrendous explosion occurred and the stricken plane blew up over Snag Farm on the edge of Wincanton, near Bayford.

The piece of art created reflects the thoughts our pupils have for this anniversary and were proud to have it displayed in the Memorial Hall in Wincanton.



Computing



Year 7 have been getting to grips with programming in Small Basic. The Microsoft language teaches them the structure of programming for written data. Some of Year 7 also attended a course on 3D printing creating name tags.

Year 8 have been working hard on developing HTML skill and understanding the reason and workings of Binary and Hexadecimal language. They will move onto designing their own websites in the next month.

Year 9 have been crunching data with developmental programs that offer an understanding of data analysis. In this course they have been looking at the importance of infographics. They are now embarking on image manipulation with Photoshop and Inkscape.

Year 10 have competed their first course work for the OCR series and submitted it for assessment. They created an IDMP (web design) for a company providing sports facilities. The next phase will introduce graphics and logo design skills for a client.

The Creatives Showcase

During the 3rd – 5th July, the Creatives Department displayed the amazing work that has been created by the current Year 11's this year. A huge range of Photography, Art and Three-Dimensional design work was displayed in the Performance Centre. From large scale pieces of art, dramatic photography and marvellous creative lamp designs, the display was very impactful and the public were very impressed with all their hard work. There was also a photographic display of the high quality food the Hospitality and Catering pupils produced for their practical assessment this year.



BBC Microbits and 3D Printer

King Arthur's School worked hard to receive a grant that allowed us to invest in further technology to help support our pupils.



Hauser and Wirth Year 10 Art Trip

The Year 10 Art GCSE group had a fantastic trip to Hauser and Wirth in Bruton where they had first-hand experience in the work of Phyllida Barlow. This was a great opportunity for them to view one of Britain's most transformative artists with her approach to sculpture. Over a career that spanned six decades, Phyllida Barlow took inspiration from her surroundings to create imposing installations that can be at once menacing and playful. Barlow's restless invented forms stretch the limits of mass, volume and height as they block, straddle and balance precariously. The audience is constantly challenged into a new relationship with the sculptural object, the gallery environment and the world beyond. Our Year 10 artists had the opportunity to reflect on her work and be inspired to create their own work.

"I enjoyed the vastness of the sculptures and the beauty of their deeper meaning. Each sculpture made you think. My favourite one was "The Lump", it has so many interpretations and it is just amazing to look at"
Alastor

"I enjoyed my experience at Hauser&Wirth, I especially liked when we sat down and sketched what we saw in front of us. It was interesting when we got to learn more background information on Phyllida Barlow."
Shelby

"The exhibition gave me a perspective of how it feels to be small. It felt overwhelming whilst in the other room the structures were small 3D models and created a sense of control. My favourite piece was the CCTV cameras hanging down from the ceiling."
Zuzanna

"I found the exhibition unusual and unique. The everyday materials which were light gave an illusion of a solid and heavy three-dimensional structure"
Katie



King Arthur's Scarecrow at Gillingham and Shaftesbury Spring Show

Wet ground would not stop the King Arthur's Scarecrow being displayed at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Spring show. After a delayed event, our Scarecrow – designed and made by a few KS3 pupils – stood proudly in the field ready for lots of admiring spectators.

Year 9 Catering

Year 9 students have been busy testing, making and sampling a variety of around the world dishes as part of their food course. The pupils have been understanding the nutritional information of the dishes to allow them to create their own alternative which has a healthy twist. From waffles to burgers and curries to spring rolls, a variety of dishes have been created – yummy!



DIVERSITY CLUB

The summer term has seen Diversity Club focus its gaze on all things LGBTQ+. We studied and discussed the new guidance given to schools in supporting young people who are questioning their gender and gave feedback to the government on this. We sent Pride cards designed by the awesome Alex Jones to groups in other local schools and made keyrings with Shelley from 2BU. With the general election looming, we also contacted our local candidates, inviting them to share with us their plans to support young people and those in the LGBTQ+ community.



DRAMA

Year 7 have been looking at theatre through the ages. They started learning about Greek theatre then melodrama, and finally silent movies. The pupils had to use their movement and voice skills to interpret characters from these time periods, and were eventually assessed practically using all the techniques and skills they have learnt. Year 7 have developed their confidence and ability to work continuously with different groups to bring their creative ideas to the stage. Well done! A fantastic year, with many performances to be proud of.

Year 8 have been delving into different genres of theatre. They have looked at 'Theatre in Education', 'Physical Theatre' and 'Epic Theatre'. Learning different techniques and ways of structuring, the pupils have used ideas around social and political issues to create an informative performance. Well done Year 8! A sensitive approach to the subject matter being delivered in their performance. Year 8 have grown in confidence and used their creative ability to work efficiently and effectively throughout.

Year 9 have been reading a script called DNA. They have been involved in lots of activities around the themes and characters of this play. Their final assessment will be based on delivering either a practical, where they will

perform a scene from the play or design the set, costume, lighting and sound. DNA is about a group of teenagers who could be described as a 'gang', who think they have accidentally killed one of their classmates. When they realise their terrible mistake, they try to cover it up, but inadvertently implicate an innocent man in the process (a postman with bad teeth). There are times throughout the play that the group could admit to what they did, but instead they weave a darker, more complex set of lies which results in the murder of Adam. A key theme within the play is young people and gangs. It also looks at misconceptions of young people 'hanging out in groups, and generalised assumptions about them.



Sparx Reader

SUMMER UPDATE

1,912 books
this year in Sparx Reader. Well done!

1,194 hours
of careful reading this year in Sparx Reader. Great Effort!

RANK	NAME	YEAR GROUP	SRP EARNT (THIS YEAR)	HOURS OF CAREFUL READING
1	Lily W	Year 8	64,968	108
2	Martha R	Year 8	61,424	102
3	Abel A	Year 7	43,996	73
4	Holly -Louise	Year 9	35,414	59
5	Harley W	Year 7	33,083	55
6	Sivani	Year 10	31,027	52
7	Adam J	Year 8	30,480	51
8	Earlene	Year 10	30,152	50
9	Archie W	Year 7	27,631	46
10	Owen H	Year 9	26,889	45

Step Up Day

The PE department and Freedom Leisure Sports Centre staff ran activities for one part of the KA Step Up Day. The aim of each PE session was to help students realise why physical activity was still so important when embarking on their studies as they progress through the school. Students opted into these different activities, which were away from the normal traditional PE lessons. These were

- **Boxercise**
- **Nutrition in physical activity**
- **Spinning**
- **Problem solving and resilience building**
- **Exercise to music**
- **Lifesaving skills**

The idea behind students choosing activities was to further embed the point that both physical and personal life skills get developed and help form lifelong exercise habits.



Maths

Two Year 7s have been selected to join the latest Maths Student Community recently launched by Exeter Maths School. So far, they have attended one session and here is what they had to say about it.

"On Tuesday 11th June, we visited Exeter Maths School. We enjoyed working as a team and have learnt lots of new skills. We loved having this opportunity and cannot wait to do it again soon!"

George and Jake Year 7

Earlier this month, Malachy participated in the Junior Kangaroo, an event organised by UK Mathematics Trust, for students who scored in the top 8% of all students who sat the Junior Mathematics Challenge back in April. He had 25 fiendish questions to tackle. Some based on pure maths and others on abstract applications. Malachy performed brilliantly and scored a very impressive 91!

We are proud of all our students hard work and engagement with their Sparx Maths home learning. Every week, they are striving to achieve 100% for all their tasks. Well done all!

P.E. & SPORT

ATHLETICS

In June, sixty KA students from Years 7-10 took part in the annual Athletics Competition at Yeovil Athletics track. As expected, the students were once again a credit to the school demonstrating superb effort and a supportive team ethos. This is always a pleasure to see with nine other schools present from around the district. In the sweltering heat students supported each other tremendously well, with some students stepping up a year group to help their peers during the relay events.

Even with the soaring heat there were some stand out performances with many top 3 results. Jacob retained his title 1500m champion title, finishing with a fabulous time of 4 minutes 40 seconds. Lilla came 2nd in her 100m race and ran a strong last leg in the relay team who won the 4x100m relay. This was a whole team effort with an electric first leg by Evie, and Miriam, Emily and Lilia bringing the team home 1st.

Hope won the long jump in Year 10 and ran a superb leg in her 4x100m race. Frankie was ecstatic to win his shot putt in what was a new event for him in Year 7. The Year 10 boys loved their relay performance, losing out on first place by a photo finish. This will be their last performance at this track, and they were pleased to end in style. On the topic of style, Charlie in Year 9 confidently wore the KA running vest and blitzed his way to glory in the 200m in Usain Bolt fashion-slowng and smiling at the finish line with an impressive 24 seconds!

Mr Elloway, Mrs Mabey, Miss Cornish and Mr Eddey would like to compliment the students again on their superb team attitude and positive behaviour displayed throughout. Well done - you were a credit to our school and a pleasure to take away for the day.



Year 10 Rounders Finalists again!

What a team! In Year 8 this team just missed out on the Area Rounders Finals. Both last year and this year they have reached the finals. Huge progress has been made by this team, with three key players not being involved this year, they faced the challenge of a diminished team. Paige and Hope pulled the squad together and recruited some new members. As always Captain Hope has rallied her team and adapted team strategies to reach the Area Finals.

Unfortunately, the team lost to Wadham (last year's champions) in the first game but rose valiantly to conquer Westfield from Yeovil, 15 ½ - 8. It was truly a team effort with Millie picking where she played her backhand to score at ease, whilst Miriam, Mabel and Lilla sprinted around for rounder after rounder. The combination of Lacie, Hope and Paige meant the fielding was slick from bowler to backstop to 2nd post, taking at least 9 outs during the game. Vicki, Isobel and Katy were stand out fielders, preventing the opposition from ever reaching the high score set by KA in bat.

The whole team played their part and thoroughly deserved bronze medal and the happiness you can see! A wonderful group of girls who have really enjoyed their rounders at KA and excelled by listening, knowing the rules, tactics and techniques to reach success in this sport. Well done!

Bouncy Castle Fun and Pizza Party

In May students in Years 7-9 had the opportunity to take part in an hour session of bouncy castle fun as part of the Feb-April 100 score. Students took it upon themselves to organise games of manhunt and enjoy the bouncy castle obstacle course.

Students in Year 10 who qualified for the 100 score enjoyed a pizza party in PE1 at lunch time.



KS2 Annual Cross Country at King Arthurs

On Wednesday 22nd May KA hosted the annual cross-country event with 8 schools participating. This year we were treated to fairer weather and as usual the sports leaders organised and managed a fantastic competition for our feeder primary schools.

KS2 Toplink Festival

KA completed this year's school games calendar with the annual Top Link Festival on Thursday 20th June. Eight schools attended the event and the student leaders from KA did a fantastic job organising athletics events in the morning and a rounders competition in the afternoon.

