



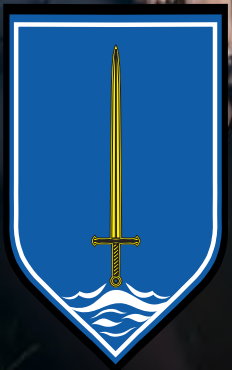
# King Arthur's

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

*Oxford University Trip*

*Skiing in Italy*

*History Trip to Berlin*



**King Arthur's  
School**

 @KingArthursSch

 KingArthursSchool

**SAST**  
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

# Welcome

As we near the end of term and move towards the Easter break, we are excited to share the latest updates and happenings at our school. This Summer term promises to be filled with new learning opportunities, exciting events, and memorable experiences for everyone, including trips to Normandy and Madrid.

Year 11 will move into the formal exam season, we wish them all the best of luck. While King Arthur’s is always looking for ways to improve, we also take time to celebrate its successes. Recognising and rewarding achievements, both big and small, helps to motivate and inspire the entire school community. Celebrations of academic excellence, sporting achievements, and community service projects highlight the diverse talents and contributions of students and staff.

In this edition, you’ll find information about upcoming activities, important dates, and highlights from the past term. We encourage you to stay engaged and participate in the various events planned for the Summer term.

We have had a very busy term here at King Arthur’s. It has been great to see the number of sports fixtures happening in both football, basketball and netball. We had a fantastic trip to Berlin with year 10 visiting the historic sites and experiencing the culture the city has to offer.

We are amazed at how well our students are progressing with their Duke of Edinburgh in both Bronze and Silver (which is a first here at KA). Our DofE groups at Carymoor were recognised by the Lord Lieutenant coming to visit the site to see their work.

We were delighted that our Year 9 Podcast, ‘how to keep safe by becoming an active bystander’ in partnership with East Somerset, came a closely fought second place in the Collaborate Digital regional competition. Our year 10 students produced designs and presentations of a high quality for the Made in Somerset Competition at Clarks Village, we are very proud of their achievements. We are delighted to have hosted the Faraday Challenge for a second year ensuring our budding scientists can put their knowledge into practice.

Careers education plays a vital role within our school and this term year 10 students attended The Gryphon careers fair as well as selection of year 9 and 10 students attending a Creative careers day at Westland Entertainment venue. Year 9 and 10 students had a very successful visit to Oxford University . As always, we are proud of our students both in and outside the classroom. Thank you for your ongoing support and I wish you and your families a safe and relaxing Easter break

Warm regards,  
Jonty Archibald - Headteacher

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

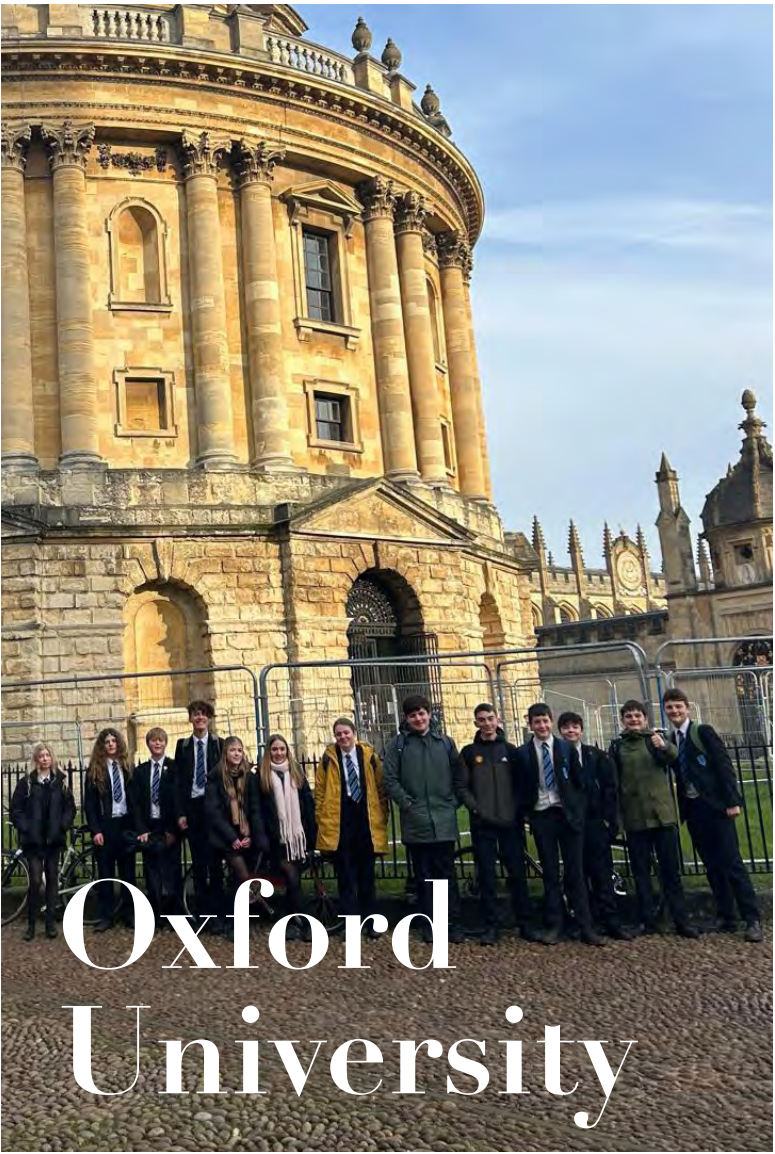
On Wednesday 29th January, twenty-seven of our finest mathematicians from Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, organised by UKMT. They worked on 25 very challenging and thought-provoking problems. Only the top 50% of all students who enter receive a bronze, silver or gold 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 Finley, Harry, Cassian, August, Leo, Toren, Victoria, Jayden, Hope and Holly-Louise for receiving bronze certificates, Malachy, Dylan and Samuel who received silver certificates, and to Flynn for his gold (and best in school) certificate!



# Attendance

Overall school attendance has risen this term, and Mrs Gale gave out nearly 200 donuts to those who’d managed to get through the previous half term without missing a single day. NHS guidance says it’s fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold but keep them at home if they have a temperature. To stop the spread of germs, please encourage your child to bring tissues to school and to wash their hands regularly.

## Year 9 and 10 Aspirations Visit



# Oxford University

On Tuesday 21st January, thirteen Year 9 and 10 students were invited to experience a day at Oxford University, hosted by Exeter College. The scheme, organised by the university outreach programme, is designed to encourage students from the Southwest to consider future study at one of the world’s most prestigious institutions.

After a quick tour around some of Oxford’s most famous sights including the Bodleian Library and Radcliffe Camera, two of the stunning libraries in the city, the students were given a taste of university life through a Q&A session with two current undergraduates. This was followed by a tour of Exeter College and lunch in the stunning dining hall. In the afternoon, our students experienced an academic tutorial with university staff; half the group grappled with the nuances of education law, while the others put their maths skills to the test with a coding activity. The day ended with a trip to Magdalen College to experience a larger college site.

We know that the students were blown away by the historic architecture of the city and we hope that it will ensure our students continue to ‘dream big’ as they embark on their GCSEs in the near future.



# Bormio Ski Trip

After a successful ski trip to Sestriere in 2023, King Arthur’s School again ventured to the Italian ski slopes to sample the wonderful sights, fresh mountain air and of course five days of skiing on the snow!

Twenty-nine students took the opportunity to ski on the slopes of the 2024 World Cup Ski Circuit at Bormio, Italy. The advanced group were able to sample sections of the famous Stelvio slope, one of the stages for the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Olympic Games! The majority of the students however were conquering the slopes for their first time. The trip was lucky enough to have glorious sunshine, with us staying at 2,000m high. The KA Instagram and Facebook had the highlights reel of how much fun was had by the students and fun awards were issued at the end of the week to celebrate the wonderful time we had. One highlight to mention was the opportunity we had to try curling at the Winter Olympics site down in Bormio town centre- Malachy and his team were proud winners!

Skiing really lends itself to developing the life skills of resilience and perseverance whilst learning a new skill in a new environment. It is this aspect of the trip that makes us most proud as teachers as students overcome tiredness, being away from home and yet literally pick themselves up again and again to master a new skill. The trip also developed transferable skills such as teamwork, empathy, organisation, self-reliance and timekeeping! I would like to personally Vicki Cornish and Jen Jacklin who were exceptional as colleagues and who helped students in all sorts of ways from start to finish of the trip.

Next year’s ski trip sold out in record time with 40 people signed up to Artesina, Italy. Roll on Easter 2026!



Faraday Challenge 2025

A group of Year 8 students, had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Faraday Challenge in February this year. For the second year in a row, King Arthur’s had the privilege of hosting the event, run by The Institute of Engineering and Technology. The students worked in groups of six and had to design a prototype, following a brief and using a budget, which they then presented at the end of the day. This year the winning group was from Ansford, a well-deserved win, the team showing how to assign the correct jobs to their group members based on their respective skills. The prototype that they designed followed the brief to the letter and was also imaginative and cleverly designed. King Arthur’s is looking forward to hosting the event for a third year in a row in 2025/26 academic year.

French Picnic

In February Year 9 language students went to Wincanton Primary School to take part in their French picnic. Year 3 and 4 students prepared for the event practising their French and writing invitations to the picnic to each other. The afternoons festivities were run by 13 fantastic Year 9 students. Years 3 and 4 were treated to a range of activities from building the Eiffel tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti to learning traditional French songs and games.

Our students were working with 114 Year 3 and 4 students in groups, this is a daunting prospect, but the KA students displayed some incredible leadership skills, fantastic enthusiasm and were a wonderful example to the younger students.

GlosGeog event affiliated to the Geographical Association

WHY SHOULD GEOGRAPHERS CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

The UN definition of climate change states:

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun’s activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures.

The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide. Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane emissions. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.

On Thursday 23rd January 2025 our Year 9 students were lucky enough to be part of an online meeting with 50 other schools discussing the subject of climate change. This session was led by Dr Liam Saddington (University of Cambridge) and they discussed the human geographies of climate change – climate migration, climate justice and adaption.

Our students contributed their ideas and thoughts to the group chat and considered their own impact on climate change and how they could mitigate their impact individually. We are looking forward to the next event!

Berlin

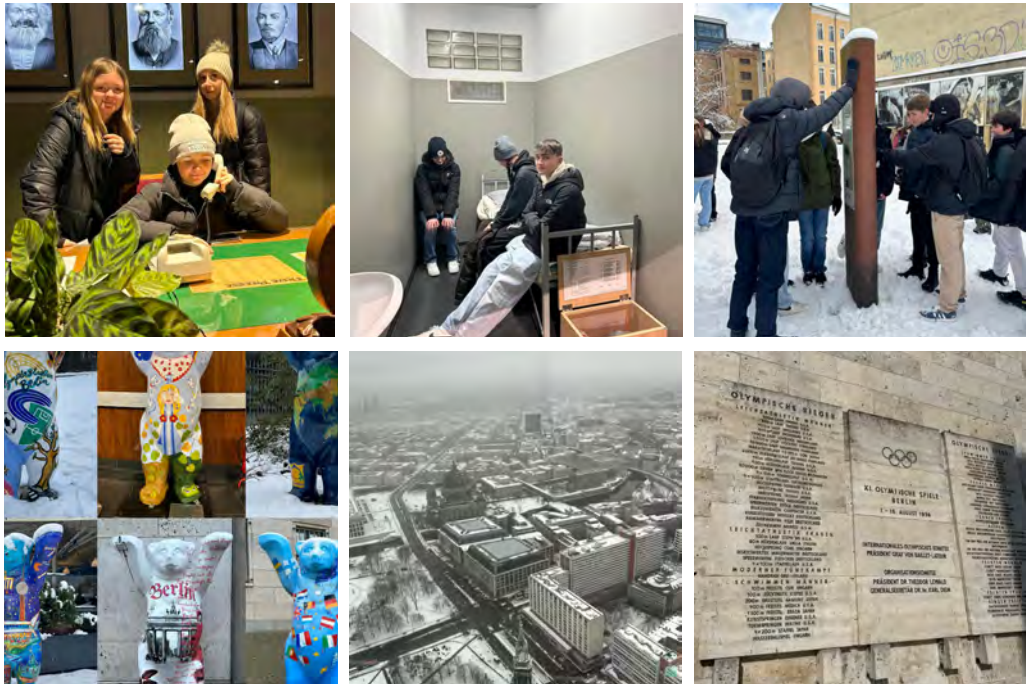


This February, saw our annual trip to Berlin! This year we flew, so it was an early start as we set off to Gatwick airport. For some students it was their first time flying. The trip saw us embrace all that Berlin has to offer as a very historical city. After an early start, we headed out on a 3-hour tour of the city. This included our first visit to the Berlin wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the 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 used public transport to visit the Berlin Wall Memorial, the GDR museum and the museum of Topography. Students were able to see what life had been like during the time of East Germany as well as life under nazi rule. The following day we went up the TV tower to see Germany from the air, it was very picturesque due to the snowy weather. We then set off to the

1936 Olympic stadium, where Hitler held his first worldwide event. This was followed by a visit to Hohenschonhausen, the Stasi Prison in East Berlin which is the focus of our GCSE module on History Around Us. This year one of the groups was lucky enough to be toured by an ex-inmate giving us firsthand knowledge of treatment under the Stasi. The next morning after packing up, we walked to Checkpoint Charlie with some free time to get souvenirs and keepsakes from a wonderful trip. 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. We then headed back to the airport for our return home.

This was a wonderful trip especially since it snowed the whole time. We hope the students will cherish the experiences of the places they visited for their lifetime.



3D Design

The Year 8 pupils have been busy recently creating some amazing jewellery using hot metal working techniques. They have been learning about casting, and by using pewter and melting it in the brazing hearth, have created wonderful ideas. Great skills shown and some really hot work!



VE Day Preparations

The Art 4 KA club are currently working hard to prepare to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. On Victory in Europe (VE) Day, 8th May 1945, Germany unconditionally surrendered its military forces to the Allies, including the United States. Celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe. This year there will be celebrations again in Wincanton and to help, King Arthur’s School are creating a very big ‘80’ decorated in the colours of red, white and blue. This ‘80’ will be displayed in the school before taken to the Memorial Hall to help with celebrations.



PSHRSE

For our extended PSHRSE session we had a range of activities and sessions. Year 7 had a session delivered by Stand Against Violence which powerfully addressed the issues of bullying. Using the true story of Amber, a young girl whose experience was such that she took her own life. This was run as an assembly and focused on: What is bullying and the different types, primary and secondary victims, the bystander effect and how to deal safely with bullying. This was followed by a session in tutor bases focusing on online relationships, both healthy and unhealthy.

Year 8 had a workshop led by Yeovil College focusing on an introduction to Higher Education. To continue the theme of careers preparation they had a session led by Thales focusing on coding. It is never too early for students to think about possible post-16 careers choices and hopefully these opportunities will be valuable to them.

Year 9 had a full day led by Young Enterprise called Launch Pad; this was an enterprise challenge day supported by staff from various local businesses.

Year 10 had a session run by Yeovil College focusing on student life and budgeting. This was then followed by a session on CV writing.

Year 11 had a session in their tutor bases focusing on money management to prepare them for their post-16 lives. This was followed by a session from Stand against Violence focusing on cannabis misuse. It focused on the relationship between brain function and cannabis, and the relationship between drugs and violent crimes. In addition, Years 7-9 had an assembly run by Collaborative Digital sponsored by the Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership and Avon and Somerset Police. The aim was to spread the word to young people about how to keep themselves safe in our town centres. It also touched on how to manage and de-escalate conflict, how to remove yourself from risky situations and explained who to report violence to, and how to do it safely. It was a fantastic opportunity for the voices of Somerset’s young people to be heard, not just by their peers but the wider community.

Thirty Year 9s then took part in a workshop which resulted in them completing a podcast which was entered into a national competition. Our winning team comprising of Year 9 boys Archie, Rory, Blake, Jacek, Ashton and Charlie. We are very proud that they came second in the overall national competition, and we look forward to them receiving their trophy. As always, we hope that our extensive PSHRSE programme ensures our students are fully prepared and equipped for the future to allow them to meet their true potential.

World Book Day

KA was buzzing with excitement during break and lunch on World Book Day, as students tried to complete the ‘Guess the Book’ quiz. Students had to track down the teachers on their sheet and unravel the clues. Can anyone guess Mr Elloway’s book?



Students were also invited to create a Lit-Spud and we had some fantastic entries. Our final winner was Megan who won a box of chocolates and a book token to spend at our Book Fair on 2nd-3rd April. Our teacher winner was Mrs Moynihan!

Here are some of our entries:



1st place

2nd place



3rd place

4th place

Alongside this, students were read a short story, by Anthony Horowitz, called ‘Howard’s End, over the course of five lessons.

We also launched our KA Creative Writing Competition; the closing date is on National Writing Day, which is the 25th June.

# Year Team Round up

As we come to the end of our Spring Term, we have seen what a caring community King Arthur’s School is. Students regularly communicate concerns and worries that they have for each other through the 'Be Kind' button on their portal and support each other in times of difficulty. Our Youth Worker has been working hard with groups of students relating the KA values to the wider context of life and ensuring students have another friendly ear to talk to. Our link with the Balsam Centre has continued with Claire Bailey delivering Lego therapy to some students and the therapeutic gardening groups have started to replant ready for the summer. Students continue to volunteer to be involved in activities and initiatives around the school engaging with the opportunities on offer. Assemblies on next steps have been delivered throughout the school, whether looking at option choices, post-16 or understanding the local company opportunities available.



We have also enjoyed watching our Year 11 pupils take on their PPEs with such drive and commitment over the past few weeks. It was lovely to reward their efforts with a lovely breakfast spread and see the improvements made since the previous mock exams.

Our plans to relocate our Reset Room to the C1 Base are underway and students will continue to be supported by staff to reflect on choices made in terms of behaviour and learning. We are regularly hitting our target of awarding over 5,000 house points a week and Galahad are just in the lead with these.

Our 100 club ensures that students are rewarded at the end of the half term for consistency; consistency in attendance, home learning, achievement points and attitude to learning; we have a cinema trip booked and the summer term will bring more fun and engaging events.



## CHILDREN’S

## MENTAL

## HEALTH WEEK

To mark Children’s Mental Health Week 2025, KA students learnt about the science of happiness. They were encouraged to think about how they can create their own “happy hormones”.

We were also proud to give them the opportunity to join Teddy, KA’s very own therapy dog in the library at lunchtimes.

Petting an animal releases oxytocin, which makes us feel calm and secure. Teddy is in the library at lunchtime weekly now for cuddles, helping with colouring, and listening to children read.



## House Competitions

The House Captains have been busy this term organising regular competitions. Below are the results from the welly wanging, paper aeroplane and cream cracker eating competitions.

### Paper Aeroplane Competition

Noah T. winner with 13m.  
First place - Gawain 104pts  
Second place - Percivale 47pts  
Third place - Lancelot 20pts  
Fourth place - Galahad 4pts

### Welly Wanging Competition

Furthest thrower was Owen H. with 29m, just 50 cm short of the current record.  
First place - Percivale with 754 points  
Second place - Galahad with 368 points  
Joint Third place - Lancelot and Gawain with 270 points

### Cream Cracker Eating House Competition

First place - Percivale 90pts  
Second place - Galahad 70pts  
Third place - Lancelot 50pts  
Fourth place - Gawain 40pts

## Year 11 INSET Day

Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for their final set of mock exams (PPEs) before the real GCSEs begin. As part of this, they completed a whole day of exam preparation on Friday 24th January. Each of the core subjects, English, Maths and Science, put on a 'walking talking mock' in the most challenging sections of their respective exams. Teachers sat the exams with the students, modelling their thinking and problem solving to support the Year 11s with understanding how to approach tricky questions and maximise their marks. We were so proud of all the learners and their mature, focused approach to this important step in their preparations.

# MADE IN SOMERSET

A group of Year 10s recently had an excellent opportunity to develop their business and presentation skills.

Landsec are the company that own Clarks village in Street amongst many other businesses and invited pupils from a large range of school to compete against each other in a competition.

The pupils had to create an business that could fill an empty plot at Clarks village. The brief was that the business had to be suitable for the location and to be sustainable.

Three teams of five competed on behalf of King Arthur’s and were given a few weeks to prepare and then had to present their idea in front of a formidable group of judges including the manager of Clarks Village, the mayor of Street and a number of business owners in Clarks village.

All the groups did fantastically well and were extremely professional. We had one team – Lilly, Chloe, Ben , Leon and Beth – who presented so well they came a very close second. Well done to all.



## Creative Careers



Year 9 pupils had an opportunity to take part in a creative career's day held at Westlands Entertainment Venue. This was a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into the performing arts industry and the many different jobs that are available.

Pupils took part in practical, hands-on sessions to learn about jobs in areas including technical (lighting, sound & stage management), directing, producing and marketing.

The pupils had spent their lunch times preparing for this opportunity and were fully engaged when presented with the experience. They worked alongside another secondary school and professionals from the performing arts industry.



# Careers Fair

In January, Year 10 students were invited to The Gryphon to attend their careers fair. Students were able to speak to both local employers such as The Newt, and national employers such as Honeywell. Students were also able to speak with post-16 colleges as well as local universities. This was great to ensure that Year 10 are thinking about their next steps after King Arthur’s.

## KPMG WORKSHOP

A group of Year 9 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by KPMG in their stunning Bristol offices. The workshop challenged students to come up with creative solutions to a critical issue - how to get medical attention to people who have suffered a stroke more quickly and efficiently.

Divided into teams, the students worked together to brainstorm innovative ideas, combining their knowledge of technology, healthcare, and creativity. Their solutions were nothing short of impressive, with concepts ranging from advanced robotic systems to improved transportation methods designed to reduce response times for stroke patients. Some even explored the potential for using cutting-edge medical advances to assist in treatment.

After only an hour to prepare, each group presented their ideas to a panel, showcasing their incredible problem-solving abilities and ingenuity. The event not only allowed the students to think critically about real-world issues but also gave them a firsthand look at the inspiring work environment at KPMG. The students were able to tour the company’s state-of-the-art offices, further enhancing their understanding of the exciting career opportunities available in industries like consulting, technology, and healthcare.

It was a truly unforgettable experience, full of learning, creativity, and inspiration!

# P.E. & SPORT

## Basketball Year 7

With one training session under their belts, the Year 7 boys took on Holyrood School, and were chuffed to come away with an 18-10 win. This was a big win against a school more than double KA's size. The boys were very grateful for the help from Harry and Ashley in Year 10 who have been coaching them in after school club on Tuesdays for the last half term. Ashley and Harry play for the Wizards but have been logging volunteering coaching for their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

## Year 7 Rugby

Angus G and Gilbert K recently competed in an U12 club rugby tournament for Castle Cary Rugby Football Club in Salisbury. Both boys competed against teams from large areas such as Oxford, Salisbury and Worcester. The boys were part of a successful team that won the tournament and therefore, tickets to this season's Rugby Premiership Final at Twickenham stadium. Well done Angus and Gilbert and the U12s Castle Cary Rugby Football Club!

## Year 9 and 10 Basketball

The Year 9 and 10 basketball teams have competed in a number of basketball fixtures this term. Year 10 have played Gillingham school, in two closely contested games, winning and losing a match each. Year 10 are playing Gillingham School in a final deciding match on Wednesday 2nd April in Gillingham. Hopefully the boys will play to their full potential and end up as overall winners.

The Year 9 team are into the finals of the Yeovil Area Basketball Cup after beating Bucklers Mead and Preston School. They narrowly lost against Holyrood School who they are due to play in the final. Recently they have played Gillingham School both home and away, and won on both occasions. Fingers crossed that the boys win their finals against Holyrood.

# Netball



All years were entered into the Girls Yeovil and District schools netball league this year, and we have had some highly competitive matches. With several students playing for local netball clubs outside of school, it has been lovely to see these students confidently demonstrate fantastic role model behaviour on and off the netball court. Two of these students,



Isabelle and Ailsa, have performed brilliantly, playing above their age group for the Year 9 and 10 netball teams.

We have had recent successful wins for the Year 10s against Ansford and Sexey's where they demonstrated fantastic skills and teamwork. The team putting in 110% to keep possession



and deliver the ball to the shooters, who were consistently successful throughout the match!

Well done to all who participated and represented the school this term #teamKA

