

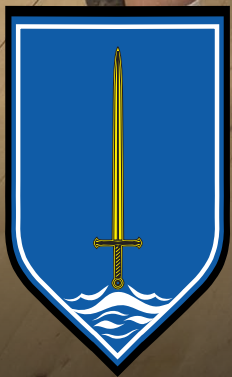


King Arthur's

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025

- *Awards Night*
- *Community Christmas Party*
- *Remembrance*

King Arthur's
School



@KingArthursSch



KingArthursSchool

SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

2.

Welcome

As we reach the end of what has been an exciting and purposeful term at King Arthur's, I want to highlight how proud I am of our school community. Our students have been positive, engaged and consistently showing the values that make our school such a special place to be. Whether in lessons, around the site or out on trips and visits, they have shown curiosity, kindness and a genuine desire to do well.

Across the curriculum, there has been a real buzz for learning. Students have thrown themselves into a wide range of opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom, from outdoor and environmental learning to creative and performance-based experiences, career-focused activities and workshops that help them understand the world in new and exciting ways.

One area I am especially proud of this term is the continued growth of our whole school reading programme. "Readers are Leaders" is becoming embedded across the school, and it is clear to see the difference it is already making. Our students are reading more, reading with greater confidence and talking about their books with genuine enthusiasm. Tutor time reading has become a calm, purposeful routine and the engagement with our monthly reading challenges has been a pleasure to see.

In November, we were delighted to welcome back last year's year 11 cohort to celebrate their fantastic GCSE achievements. It was wonderful to catch up with them and hear all about the wide range of courses they have gone on to study.

This term has shown the very best of King Arthur's, a community that works hard and continually strives to improve. Thank you to our students, staff and families for everything you bring to our school.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Warm regards, Jonty Archibald – Headteacher

WW1 workshop

In October Mrs Frampton ran a workshop on the "Forgotten Armies of World War One" as part of a competition run by the Western Front Association. Selected Year 8 and 9 students were tasked with creating either a wreath or a poem to commemorate the soldiers of the empire who fought in World War One. Students created fantastic pieces of work, and several were chosen to be entered into the Western Front Association competition. Results of the competition have yet to be announced.

This workshop was run in collaboration with Art4KA, with the work of all competition entrants being incorporated into our Remembrance Day display.

Forgotten Forever, by Leah W

*We are the soldiers who fought for the British,
Over their borders, Africans, Indians and many more,
Running through rain and horrendous weather,
Lives were lost as we fought their battles,
Danger was coming but,*

*We were the ones who protected their lives,
Are we remembered? No.
Remember us now, we were forgotten,*

*One after another,
Now we are nothing,
Even though we fought for your country.*

Class of '25 Prize Giving Celebration



On the evening of the 25th November 2025, our school community gathered to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Class of '25 pupils. The prize giving ceremony was a wonderful occasion, recognising not only academic excellence but also commitment, resilience, and contributions to school life.

Families, staff, and students enjoyed an inspiring event filled with pride and applause

as awards were presented across a wide range of subjects and special categories. The evening highlighted the hard work and dedication shown by Year 11 throughout their GCSE year, and we were delighted to honour their successes.

Congratulations to all our award winners – your achievements are truly commendable. We look forward to seeing what you accomplish next!

Celebrating Outstanding GCSE Success

We are incredibly proud to reflect on last year's fantastic GCSE results and the achievements of our wonderful leavers. Their dedication, resilience, and determination were truly inspiring, and it was a joy to celebrate their success with them in their prize giving ceremony.

Among the many highlights were our exceptional performances in vocational subjects. Our results placed us impressively within national rankings:

- **Leisure and Tourism** – top **16%**
- **PE** – top **17%**
- **Childcare** – top **34%**

These outcomes reflect not only the talent and hard work of our students but also the commitment of our staff who continue to provide high-quality, engaging learning experiences.

We were also delighted to see a significant improvement in our core subjects. Both **Maths** and **English** saw a **10% increase** in students achieving a grade 5 or above – a testament to the determination of our learners and the strength of our teaching.

As we celebrate these successes, we are already looking ahead with excitement. Our current Year 11 students are showing great promise. They have been working incredibly hard and taking full advantage of revision sessions and support opportunities. We are confident that, with their continued effort and focus, they will exceed even these impressive results.

We could not be prouder of our students – past and present – and we look forward to another year of achievement and celebration.

School Council

Year 11 Prefects have been busy chairing Council meetings for the representatives of each year group. Fixed item agendas ensure students are discussing the school environment, behaviour, tutor time activities and wider opportunities. Recently requests were taken to Ms Andrews around better placement of seating at break times, repairs needed in toilets, litter picking duties for students, introduction of video games

and pickleball clubs, and the pricing of food in the canteen. Students also discussed the improvement in tutor time activities. Year 11 like the independent study time and Key Stage 3 are enjoying the focus on reading. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to discuss topical issues to improve the environment and practices at their school for the benefit of everyone.



Honouring Remembrance at King Arthur's School

King Arthur's School is always proud to take part in the town's Remembrance events, and this year was no exception. Our school gates were adorned with poppies and soldier silhouettes, creating a poignant tribute to those who served.

In the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday, several of our students volunteered at Morrisons, selling poppies to support the Royal British Legion appeal. They were warmly thanked by serving military personnel and veterans for their efforts.

On Remembrance Sunday, a group of students marched with pride through Wincanton High Street behind the King Arthur's flag and attended the town's Remembrance Service. Some of our students spoke during the service and laid a wreath before a packed congregation – a truly proud moment for our school community.



Our Art and 3D Art departments contributed a stunning piece of artwork focused on flags, accompanied by a heartfelt poem written by Lexi. This display held pride of place in the church alongside artwork from the town's primary schools.

On Tuesday, the whole school observed the two-minute silence at 11am, with speeches from our lead prefects and a moving performance of *The Last Post* by Mrs Rogers, one of our parents. We were also delighted to welcome students who attend uniformed services, wearing their uniforms with pride.

Finally, our School Council representatives attended the town's memorial event at the Memorial Hall on behalf of King Arthur's School, reinforcing our commitment to honouring those who served.



Wincanton Over 70s Christmas Party

On Saturday 6th December we hosted The Wincanton Town Council's Over 70's Christmas party. This is now an annual fixture in the school's calendar, and it was delightful to see so many staff and students helping set up on the Friday night. On Saturday our guests arrived and 18 of our Year 11 students hosted the event. All guests were given the warmest welcome and a delightful Christmas meal. This really is a wonderful event, and it is always our pleasure to welcome our local community.

As part of our work with the local community this year we have joined with 'Wincanton Cares' who, among other things, reach out to people who may be lonely or housebound. With their help, we have sent out over 500 Christmas cards, produced by students at the school, to the local community. We hope this brings them all some festive cheer.



4.



Art 4 KA

The Art 4 KA team have been working hard this term creating a sculpture to help the school remember the Royal Navy as part of the Remembrance Commemorations. The idea of a bow of a ship was thought of with poppies descending into the sea below. The pupils enjoyed creating the idea and it also allowed the pupils to show their respect.



At the end of the last academic year, we updated our annual exhibition in Wincanton Hospital and in the Health Centre where the staff, patients and visitors can admire art and photography work by our students. The display contains a wide range of unique pieces.

We are very proud of our talented students, and it is a pleasure to hear so many positive and encouraging comments from the members of the public praising the work of KA students.



Art in the Community

Readers are Leaders

The King Arthur's values have historically centered around the 3R's – Ready, Respectful, Responsive. In September, we launched a 4th R – Reader – alongside our new whole school reading strategy.

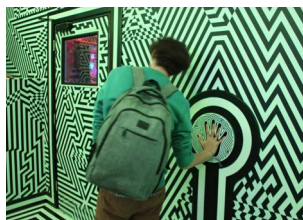
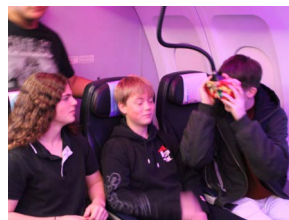
The ability to read fluently and accurately is imperative to students, not just in terms of their exam results and test scores, but in terms of their likelihood to be successful in wider life. Studies show that students who read regularly, outperform their peers in all subjects including Maths and also demonstrate higher cognitive performance. At King Arthur's, we are working hard to ensure that every child leaves us with the ability to read to a level of fluency that will enable them to access the job market and thrive in our modern society.



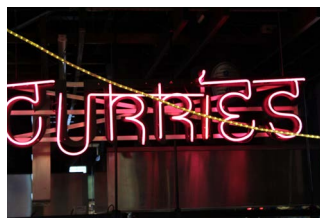
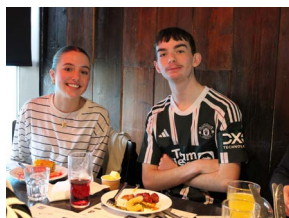
In KS3, it has been a pleasure to see our children embrace the new tutor time reading programme with enthusiasm and commitment. Twice per week, our tutor groups share the reading of a book together with their tutor, tracking the reading using a KA reading ruler to support with their comprehension, fluency and to enhance their vocabulary. By mid-November, 1/3 of our KS3 students had completed at least one reading book, and students had received a combined total of around 7,000 reader house points. These recognise those students who are reading aloud in class and actively engaging with the reading in tutor times.

Alongside this, we have also launched our monthly Reading Challenges where students aim to read a book on a particular theme in the month. Congratulations to Year 7s Bryony and Pippa who were our September and October winners, receiving a £10 book token each for their efforts.

We look forward to sharing more of our reading successes with you throughout the rest of the year.



WAKE THE TIGER AND ZAZA BAZAR YEAR 10 TRIP



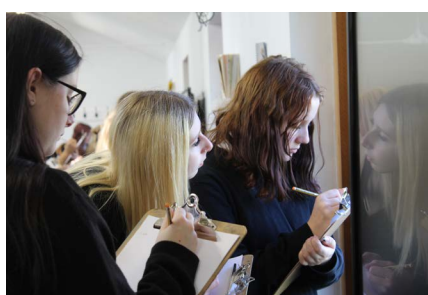
Year 11 Art trip to Hauser & Wirth in Bruton

As part of our project titled "Structures" we took our students to view an exhibition at Hauser & Wirth.

Students were able to see large sculptural pieces by Niki De Saint Phalle and Jean Tinguely. All students participated in creative activities led by the educational team at Hauser & Wirth. The whole gallery was closed and available just for our students to explore the artworks, ask questions and enjoy individual and collaborative activities. All students were an absolute credit to the school and participated with enthusiasm and good cooperation.

Completed artwork will be presented in their sketchbooks together with the photographs from the day and will form part of their GCSE Portfolio.

This educational opportunity was invaluable for our students to generate their ideas in an inspiring way about how ordinary resources could be used to create sculptural forms.



Comic Masterclass .5

On Friday 7th November, all of Year 8 participated in a Comic Masterclass ran by Kev F Sutherland. Kev F Sutherland has been writing and drawing comics for everyone from Beano to Marvel, Doctor Who, Red Dwarf to The Dandy and lots in between, for many years. He has three graphic novels, 'Findlay Macbeth', 'The Prince of Denmark Street', and 'The Midsummer Night's Dream Team' which were published in 2020, followed by 'Comic Tales from The Bible' in 2022. His latest, 'Richard the Third', came out in 2023.

Kev took the pupils through a Comic Masterclass where they learnt lots of new skills. All the pupils came up with amazing cartoon characters and converted them into their own comic strip. Hilarious titles were thought of, and it was a really enjoyable session with lots of pace and energy.



Creative Careers Day

Year 9 students took part in a Creative Careers Day held at Westlands Entertainment Venue. It was a fantastic opportunity to find out about the Performing Arts industry and the many different jobs that are available.

Students were able to gain an insight into the different careers and work alongside professionals showing them how it's done. They took part in practical hands-

on sessions to learn about different jobs; including technical (lighting, sound and stage management), directing, producing and marketing.

The students engaged fully and demonstrated an abundance of confidence on stage and using all the technical equipment.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Cohort of 2025

On 11th November, we opened our doors to the parents and successful students who completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards last summer. Together we celebrated their successes, including a total of 2,496 hours dedicated of their own free time to their extra pursuits. Our students undertook a variety of different activities, from swimming and football, to art, design, and stage management. For many of our students, it was a chance to develop their skills in an area that they already had a passion for, and that their time and dedication was recognised.

For each student it was also a chance to see their achievements in hard statistics. Each Bronze student walked a total of 45.86km (28.5 miles) to achieve their award. For each Silver participant, 79.14km (49 miles). This not only showed the physical nature of the award but allowed students to see just how they had pushed themselves. For many, this was something that at times they did not think



was possible, but through sheer grit they pushed onwards and went beyond their own expectations of themselves.

For us as a school, this was also an incredibly special year, as our Silver Award winners were the first ever in the school's history to complete this award. This was a tremendous success and achievement, with all the cohort passing, and we are incredibly proud that they are the first of many to achieve this award.

It was also important to thank the parents and carers of the students; without them it would be near impossible to complete the award!



Carymoor

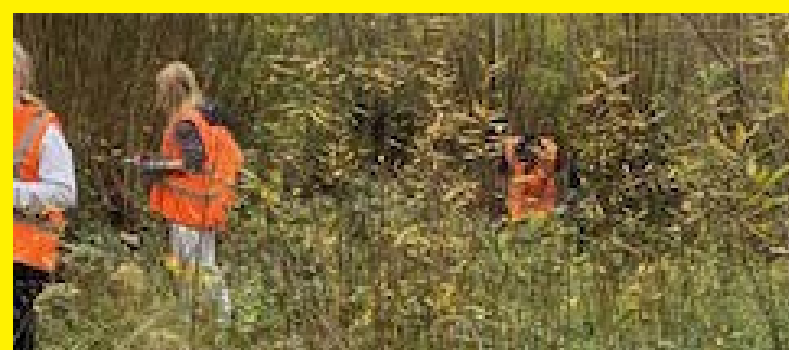
Duke of Edinburgh Groups

This term, two groups of students were lucky enough to start working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at Carymoor Environmental Centre. This amazing opportunity allows the pupils to complete the three sections of the award: volunteering, skills, and practical, away from school whilst helping the environment and gaining knowledge and skills from qualified instructors.

This half term the students have worked on their orienteering skills, with varying levels of success; learning how to read a map, use a compass and travel across different landscapes at speed. The competition became quite fierce at times! They have also learnt many different natural craft skills; including weaving willow, clay, and composting.

Within their volunteering time, students have completed a variety of tasks including reed raking, bramble clearance, coppicing trees and creating a new fire hearth.

Sometimes these activities have challenged both groups, but all students have pushed through, found new skills, and realised an amazing sense of achievement and pride.



PSHRE & Careers Fair

In our September PSHRE session, Year 8 had a session from the charity "Prison Me No Way!" as part of our coverage of Crime and the law. They also watched an online theatre production called "How are you?" which focused on student's wellbeing and resilience. They were presented with an assembly focused on violence against women and girls. This programme was initiated by Avon and Somerset Police and delivered by their partners Collaborate Digital Ltd. Year 9 had an assembly focusing on violence against women and girls. 30 students spent time with the company working on a podcast to enter a national competition. Last year KA came second in Somerset so we are excited to see what this year's students produce. The voting for this will take place in the new year. Year 10 had a session led by Yeovil College University centre focusing on student life and budgeting. They were also learning about the importance of work experience and how to arrange it. Year 11 started their preparation for post-16, drafting personal statements and looking at post-16 options. Throughout this term they have received assemblies from all local post 16 providers helping them make choices and then applications for their next steps.

In October, Year 9 and 10 students attended the South Somerset Careers Fair - this was a great opportunity for them to experience post-16 options as well as discussing future career paths with employers.

In November year 11 attended a taster day at Strode College. This enabled them to see what it would be like for them to attend the college. Sessions includes traditional A levels, hair and beauty and the construction industry.

In December we had our second PSHRE day. Year 7 took part in a session run by Thales on robotics which enabled them to look at career paths on offer as well as working as a team and improving their resilience. They also had a session from Stand Against Violence, the focus of this was on anti-bullying, using the true story of Amber, a young girl whose experience was such that she took her own life.

Year 8 had a session run by Yeovil College University Centre which focused on planning their futures. Year 9 had a session led by Young Enterprise called Launch Pad; this is an enterprise challenge activity and alongside KA staff, they were supported by staff from various local businesses.

Year 10 had a session led by the charity Escapeline. Escapeline help young people to stay safe by educating them about how child exploitation and grooming works in their local area and teaching them protective strategies. Year 11 had a session run by the Mental Health in Schools Team. This focused on coping with exams. They also had a tutor based session looking at work based behaviours.



P.E. & SPORT



KS2 Primary School Sport

We started the primary school sports calendar with the KS2 Tag Rugby Festival. We were treated to glorious weather at Wincanton Racecourse as well as some fantastic rugby by the primary schools that attended.



The KS2 Netball Tournament was the second competition that took place, with Bruton Primary School winning overall. It was great to play 7-a-side netball and show off our recently resurfaced and painted netball and tennis courts.

Basketball Fixtures

Year 9, 10 and 11 boys' basketball have been celebrating recent successes with some closely fought victories with Gillingham School this term. So far, we are 3-0 up with the first round of fixtures and look forward to the remaining three games in the New Year.

Well done the newly formed Year 9 team who played recently with a 25-21pt win.

House Competition

The first house competition of the year was the annual tug of war competition with both staff and students competing for their houses. The overall winners were Lancelot house.



First Place = Lancelot

Second Place = Percivale

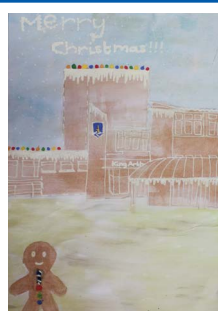
Third Place = Galahad

Fourth Place = Gawain

Students were also encouraged to get festive for Halloween and design a pumpkin carving creation and have their carved pumpkin judged.



The most recent house competition is the annual Christmas Card design as part of Art home learning at KS3. Congratulations to the winner and two runners up who will all be featured on the official Christmas card this year: Archie B, Molly F and Rory VL.



1st Molly F year 9
Percival

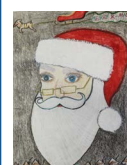


2nd Rory VL year 9
Percival



3rd Archee B year 9
Gawain

Runners up:



Bella Marlayna year 8
Percival



Melissa B year 8
Galahad



Noah W year 7
Lancelot



Fern S F year 8
Percival

Shortlisted:

Isla B, year 8
Izzy B, year 9
Jenson J, year 8
Louie P year 7
Paige J, year 8
Marley B, year 7
Megan J, year 9
Annalise B
Pippa D, year 7
Sienna R, year 7
Guilia G, year 9
Josh H, year 9
Charlie P, year 7
Mckenzie, year 7
Felicity G, year 8
Thomas E, year 8
Millie P, year 8
Megan M, year 9
Beth S, year 9
Jake B, year 9
George P, year 9
Lily L, year 8

