



@King Arthur's

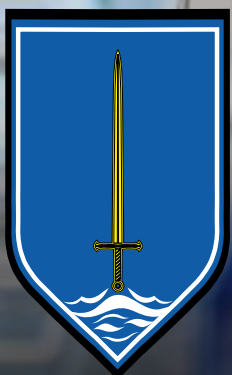
SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

“I have enjoyed this experience because it tests your skills on sculpting human anatomy.”

Berlin Trip

Science Live!

Careers Fair



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SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the King Arthur's School Newsletter! As we step into a new season of energy, creativity, and discovery, we're delighted to share just some of the amazing things our students have been experiencing this term.

From inspiring workshops and artistic exploration to unforgettable learning beyond the classroom, it's been a vibrant and enriching few months. Our students have travelled across Europe to immerse themselves in Berlin's powerful history, dived into the world of cutting edge science at the Science Live event, experimented with new creative techniques alongside our Artist in Residence, and taken to the stage in a celebration of performing arts that showcased the confidence and talent of our school community.

This edition highlights not just what our students have achieved, but who they are becoming: curious thinkers, expressive artists, reflective historians, and enthusiastic learners ready to take on new challenges.

At this time of year, we also say both temporary and permanent goodbyes. We would like to wish Vicki Vowles all the very best as she begins her maternity leave. We hope she enjoys a very special time with her new baby girl, and we look forward to welcoming her back in the future.

We also extend a heartfelt thank you and a warm farewell to one of our science team, Amy Clarke, who will be moving on to new opportunities. Amy has made a valued contribution to our school, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in the next chapter of her journey

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being part of the King Arthur's School community. We hope you enjoy reading these stories as much as the students enjoyed living them.

*Happy Spring — and happy reading,
Jonty Archibald – Headteacher*

Attendance

King Arthur's staff remain incredibly proud that attendance continues to sit above the national average. To celebrate those with 100% attendance for the first half of the spring term we held a valentines themed assembly and had great fun trying out the Whitney Houston TikTok drum challenge.



Year 10 Students Excel at the 'Made in Somerset' Competition

On Tuesday 10 March, two teams of Year 10 students represented the school at the Made in Somerset competition, sponsored by Landsec and hosted at Clarks Village. The event brought together schools from across the region, giving students the opportunity to present their business concepts to a panel of national judges.

Our teams — Team Scented (Leo, Roscoe, Malachy, Lilla, Verity, Emilia and Darcy) and Team Tug (Cassian, John Mark, Henry and Isaac) — delivered highly professional and well researched presentations. Both groups

demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and confidence in communicating their ideas.

We are delighted to announce that Team Scented were named overall winners of the competition. They will now progress to the virtual regional finals in April, where they will compete against schools from across the South West.

The school is extremely proud of all the students involved for their hard work, dedication and exemplary conduct throughout the event.



World Book Day Readathon

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE READATHON DAY!

Our school community came together in fantastic style to celebrate World Book Day. A huge thank you to all students and staff for your enthusiasm and effort—this year's Readathon has truly been one to remember.

Across the day, **103 students** took part by visiting the library, collectively reading more than **3,600 pages**. The engagement from every year group was outstanding, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils embracing the joy of reading. Together, we are showing our young people that **Readers Are Leaders**.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the **20 members of staff** who generously gave up their free time to read alongside students. Your involvement helped create a warm, supportive, and inspiring atmosphere throughout the day.

LEADERBOARD RESULTS

First Place: Year 8 and Lancelot

Congratulations on your fantastic participation and enthusiasm.

Special Recognition: Year 7

Year 7 was the only year group to have a student reading continuously from 8:30am to 3:00pm, including break and lunch. This is an exceptional demonstration of commitment and love for reading.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Readathon such a positive celebration of reading. Let's keep this momentum going and continue to foster a strong reading culture across our school. **#ReadersareLeaders**



A Journey Through History, Reflection, and Discovery

This term, students from King Arthur's School embarked on an unforgettable trip to the vibrant and historic city of Berlin. Departing on 12th February, the group set out not just to explore a European capital, but to step directly into the stories that have shaped the modern world.

From the very start, the trip was packed with meaningful experiences. One of the first visits took students to Hohenschönhausen Memorial, the former Stasi prison. The atmosphere was intense and eye-opening, offering a stark insight into life under surveillance in East Germany. Despite the weight of the experience, spirits remained high - teachers reassured everyone that all students made it safely back to the hotel!

That evening, the group headed up the iconic Berlin TV Tower. Although the view was slightly obscured by fog, it only added to the atmosphere, creating a memorable skyline moment above the city. Getting around Berlin quickly became second nature, thanks to

the efficient Berlin U-Bahn. Special mention goes to Miss Jessup, who expertly guided the group across the city like a seasoned local.

A particularly powerful morning was spent at the Jewish Museum Berlin. Students described the experience as deeply moving—one that left hearts heavier but minds more aware. The museum doesn't just present history; it holds it. Every photograph, artefact, and quiet corner told stories of resilience, loss, courage, and humanity. It was thought-provoking, emotional, and undeniably necessary.

The group then stepped into the political heart of Germany at the Reichstag Building, climbing its famous glass dome. From above, Berlin stretched out beneath them, offering a powerful and reflective view of a city where past and present intertwine.

History continued to unfold at Checkpoint Charlie, where students stood at one of the most famous crossing points of the Cold War.

The sense of division that once defined the city still lingered in the stories shared there. As dusk fell, the group visited the Topography of Terror. The fading light cast long shadows over this site, which documents the atrocities of the Nazi regime. The experience was atmospheric, sobering, and unforgettable—another reminder that Berlin doesn't just show history; it immerses you in it.

The final day was one of the most emotional. Students visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, where the silence spoke volumes. Walking through the camp was deeply sobering, with many reflecting on the immense suffering experienced there. Tears were shed as students confronted the reality of humanity at its worst.

The group also visited Platform 17 Grunewald, where Jewish families were deported to concentration camps. Dates etched into metal plates marked each transport, reducing lives to numbers—

an incredibly powerful and humbling experience. It was truly a day of remembrance and reflection. Later, the mood shifted as students explored life behind the Berlin Wall at the DDR Museum. Unlike traditional museums, this one invited interaction—students opened drawers, explored reconstructed apartments, and even tried a Trabant driving simulator. It was an engaging, hands-on way to understand everyday life in former East Germany: informative, immersive, and genuinely enjoyable.

Overall, the Berlin trip was far more than a school excursion. It was a journey through some of the most significant and challenging chapters of history. Students returned not only with memories, but with deeper perspectives, greater empathy, and a stronger understanding of the world around them.

Berlin didn't just teach them history—it made them feel it.



Art4KA

The Art4KA club has been buzzing with activity recently, as more and more students are joining to express their creativity and try out new artistic techniques. The growing number of members has brought fresh ideas and plenty of inspiration to each session.

Students have been experimenting with a variety of materials and equipment—mixing paints, exploring collage, and testing their skills with different textures and tools. The club provides a friendly, relaxed space where imagination thrives, and everyone is encouraged to explore their own unique style.

This term, members have also been busy designing and decorating beautiful Mother’s Day cards, each one a one-of-a-kind piece full of care and creativity.



James Lake Workshop

Year 10 pupils were very fortunate to be able to take part in a workshop run by professional artist James Lake. Much of James’ work uses cardboard as a sculptural material due to its immediacy, ease of availability, reasonable cost and low environmental impact. His intention is to produce sculptures that echo the detail and depth found within traditional sculpting materials at a time of great global economic and environmental upheaval. His work is a search for a common truth and to find a sense of quiet humanity in the small details that are sometimes drowned out by the noise and brightness of contemporary culture.

The pupils created head sculptures focusing on detail and accuracy.



Artist in residence visit

We were delighted to welcome Artist in Residence, Hannah Fowler to work with our Year 10 students. During the workshop, students had the opportunity to experiment with new artistic media, including chalk and charcoal. The session was both inspirational and thought-provoking, encouraging creativity and confidence in exploring different techniques. Students were highly engaged throughout and produced some wonderful work, leaving the workshop feeling inspired and enthusiastic about their art. Thank you very much Hannah Fowler!



Photography comp winners

January Photography Competition

Congratulations

The winner is Mrs Stokes/Lancelot



The theme for January was Journeys

Runners up:
2nd place: Leo M Year 9, Lancelot
and Roscoe H Year 10 Percival
3rd place: Zak D Year 9, Percival

February Photography Competition

Congratulations

The winner is Harry B Year 10, Gawain



The theme for February was Focus

Runners up:
2nd place: Zak H Year 10, Galahad
3rd place: Tania, staff

MFL Visit



On Wednesday 4th February, a group of 13 Year 8 and 9 students visited Wincanton Primary School to take part in a series of French activities with Year 3 and 4 children.

Our students led a range of different games, activities and sing-a-longs in a carousel style event where they delivered their activity to multiple classes. These included; singing ‘Alouette Gentil Alouette’ run by Vinci, Paige and Bella; locating some mains cities and towns on a French map, run by Savanah and Oli; a parachute activity involving the colours in French run by Henry and Frankie; 1,2,3 Soleil run by Mbalenhle, Madison and Inola; and Eiffel tower making with spaghetti and marshmallows run by Megan, Lily and Renn.

Our students showed super leadership, teamworking and communication skills, and all had the confidence and determination to present and deliver their activity to each class. The primary children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and had great fun working with our KS3 students. We would like to thank the staff at Wincanton Primary for welcoming us and we look forward to more joint language events in the future.



Mr Saget & Mrs Barclay-Triniman

Science Live



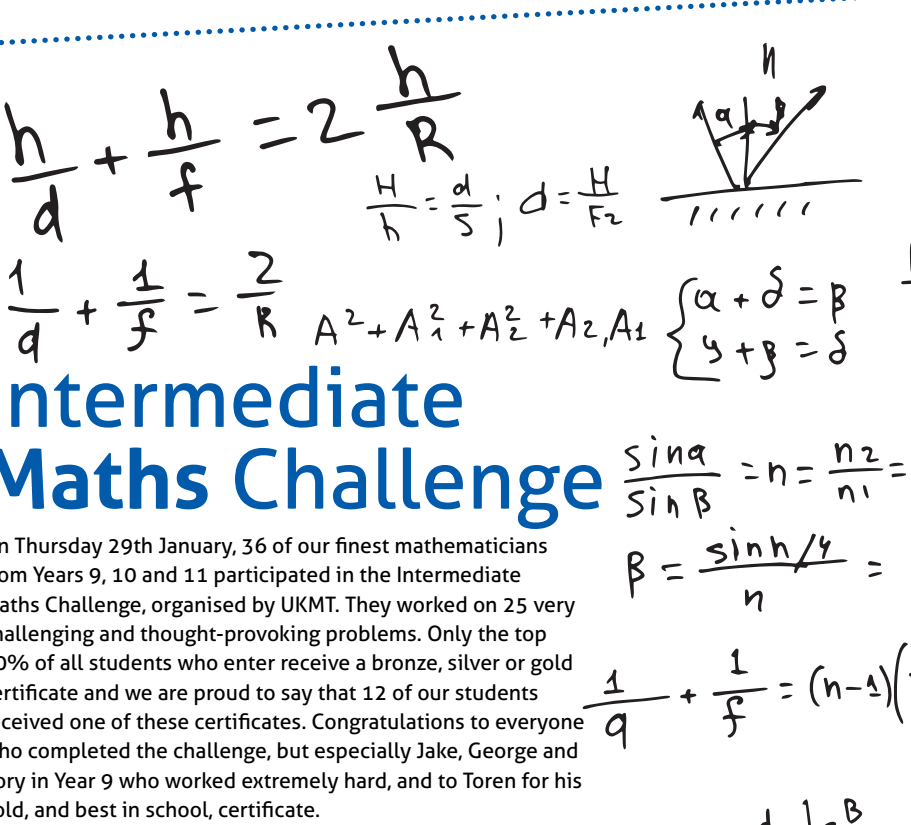
Year 9 and Year 10 students were invited to the Science Live event at Bristol Beacon Theatre in February. This event is aimed at GCSE students, increasing their knowledge of science both within the examinations (with a talk from an examiner on achieving highly in assessments) and in a wider context. 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 Jim Al-Khalili, an author of several books, presenter of many documentaries, host of BBC Radio 4 series Life Scientific, he also appeared on Channel 4’s Genius of Britain. Professor Al-Khalili spoke about the possibilities of time travel, and the more practical application of time being different on the Earth’s surface in comparison with orbiting satellites.

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 Sophie Scott who is Deputy Director of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience (and occasional stand-up comedian) on the Science of Laughter. The fifth session was on functional materials and quantum engineering by Dr Jessica Wade who also campaigns for the recognition of female scientists, for which she received the British Empire Medal.



Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Thursday 29th January, 36 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 12 of our students received one of these certificates. Congratulations to everyone who completed the challenge, but especially Jake, George and Rory in Year 9 who worked extremely hard, and to Toren for his gold, and best in school, certificate.



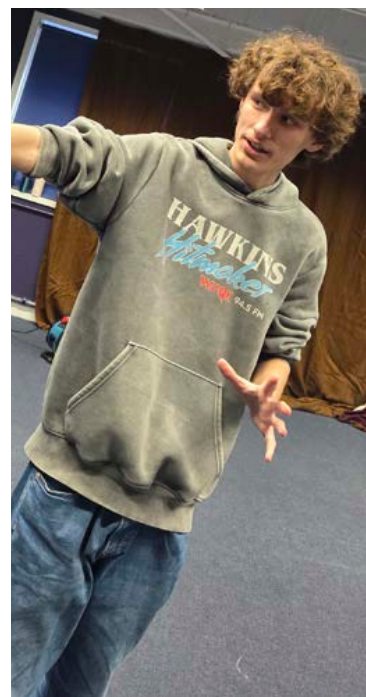


Drama

We are having a fantastic year in drama so far with pupils experiencing and celebrating the wonderful world of performing arts. Year 7 went to see the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' at Westlands entertainment centre; they thoroughly enjoyed the immersive experience and were fabulous from curtain up to curtain close.

Another highlight was the performances from all year groups in the King Arthur's Got Talent contest. Hosted by two Year 11 students Owen and Adriana, we were thoroughly entertained by the diverse acts. The atmosphere, confidence and talent was incredible.

Finally, Year 10 drama students got to experience two workshops with the 'Wise Theatre Company' and see their live theatre production of 'A Christmas in Wales' at the Lucky Chance Theatre in Frome. This is the second time the students have worked with this inspiring company, and they were professional throughout demonstrating their skills and always improving their confidence. Thank you to Jenny Lowe who continues to support the Arts Engagement and Outreach for Education across Somerset.



100 Club Reward Cinema Trip

60 students took up the opportunity of seeing the latest Avatar movie at Cineworld in Yeovil as a 100 Club Reward. Students who received 90+ for their score were invited to attend the trip, the score encompasses Attendance, Achievement, Behaviour, Home Learning & Attitude to Learning.

Each term the scores are reset, and students strive to get a score out of 20 for each area focussing on consistency across all 5 competencies. Students and staff had a great time with enough sweets & popcorn to enjoy the third Avatar film which lasted for over 3 hours!



Year Update

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Year 11 students have had an incredibly positive and productive term, showing both maturity and determination as they continue their journey towards their final exams. We are extremely proud of the whole year group for the attitude they have demonstrated in lessons and around the school.

The recent mock examinations were approached with real focus and commitment. Students handled the experience very well, showing maturity and resilience throughout the process. Their preparation and conduct during this important stage have been fantastic, and it has been great to see so many students taking their studies seriously as they prepare for the months ahead.

Alongside their academic efforts, Year 11 students have also made a wonderful contribution to the wider school community. Our prefect team recently organised a charity bingo event which proved to be a huge success. Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the prefects, the event raised over £2,000 in total—a brilliant achievement that

reflects the generosity and teamwork of our students. Half of this amount will go to the charity 'School in a Bag' helping provide students around the world with equipment for studies and education, the other half will be put towards creating a fantastic Prom.

There is also plenty of excitement building for the Year 11 Prom, which will take place later this year with a masquerade theme. Students are already looking forward to celebrating the end of their GCSE journey together in style.

As the exam season approaches, students will continue their preparations before breaking up for study leave on 5th June. This will give them valuable time to focus on revision and their upcoming examinations. Revision sessions will be running throughout the Easter Holidays and May half-term.

Overall, the attitude to learning across Year 11 has been wonderful, and staff are incredibly proud of the commitment, positivity and maturity shown by the entire year group. We wish them every success as they move forward into their final exams and the exciting celebrations that will follow.

Year 10 Careers Fair

Students in Year 10 were given the opportunity to attend a careers fair in February, generously organised by The Gryphon School. This provided a valuable chance to discuss future employment and further education options with employers and providers in an informal setting. Our Year 10s visited stands set up by the Army, Navy, NHS, The Newt, and local law firms, as well as universities such as Falmouth, Plymouth and Bath.

It was a pleasure to see many students come to the session prepared with questions that they wanted these providers to answer, a clear sign that they had carefully considered their options and how to maximise the afternoon visit. We were also delighted to see several KA alumni in attendance, either as part of their apprenticeships at Thales, or those who are now studying in Sixth Form at The Gryphon.



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Bath University Sports Visit

26 students from Year 10 visited The University of Bath in early March. Students participated in a range of fitness tests linked with their BTEC Sport and GCSE PE courses. These included sprint tests with timing gates, inverted Y balance tests and power tests to name a few. A real eye opener was when the Applied Sports Scientist conducted higher level testing on our students. He had recently worked with Winter Olympic Gold medallists and elite rugby players from the university! He tested our students on VO2 max and power Wingate tests analysing oxygen consumption as they were pushed to their limits and compared them to national data.

The highlight for many students was the tour of the multi-million pound sports venue, seeing the 50m pool, extensive fitness suite, athletics track and double hockey astro turf. Students got to see elite athletes in training and see those past greats that had trained at the facility such as Mark Foster – former swimming world champion, and gold medallist Jason Gardiner. The PE staff would like to commend the students for a great attitude in the day and hope that students have been inspired to pursue their love of sport at university level.



Year 8 Football

Over 20 players have attended football club after school on a Monday or represented the school in one of the three fixtures that we have had this term.

The first match against Wadham was played in atrocious weather conditions and, despite acquitting themselves well, the team unfortunately lost. The second match saw a very spirited performance which we narrowly lost to Westfield, in truth the result could have gone either way, but the players were buoyed by their near miss.

The final match of the term saw us take on Ansford, it was clear before the game that the team were determined to build on the improvements seen in the second game and not suffer further disappointment. What we witnessed was the team taking their collective performances up a further level, resulting in a very deserved 5-1 win. Well done.

Netball

Our netball teams have been back in action this spring term with more Year 7s attending Netball Club each week. Whilst some of the results didn't go our way, the performances on the court have been very promising. Year 10s have embedded new students into their squad and have shown a significant improvement in their decision making and vision this year. It has been great to see players who are clearly growing in confidence each match. It is fantastic to see many more of our students looking to join clubs outside of school ready for the start of next season.

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

Football

After many years, the reintroduction of full-sided girls fixture in our South Somerset Schools has proved to be a success, particularly for KA. We compete in two age groups, U13 and U16, with our U13 team winning one game in their group and the U16 winning three. This was particularly impressive as they were made up of Year 9 and 10 and playing against some Year 11s! In addition, some of our younger girls have gone on to represent the school playing with the boys in their fixtures which has been awesome to see. Thank you to Dylan in Year 10 for refereeing some of our games. We are really looking forward to building on this success next year and hope to see more students getting involved.

#TeamKA

