



A Knight's Tale

Easter Edition 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our 2019 Easter edition of A Knight's Tale!

Well – it's been quite a term!

It started off fairly slowly and as always the first few weeks after Christmas seemed particularly long due to dark mornings and evenings and the promise of spring still a long way away.

However on the morning of Monday 29th January we were all suddenly awakened and sent into overdrive with the long awaited call from Ofsted and by lunchtime everyone was busy preparing for our two day section 5 Inspection.

As you know, the outcome was everything we had hoped for and we were all delighted to receive a report that highlighted that we are providing an outstanding educational experience for all your children. It's what every school aspires to do and it's always fantastic when it is formally recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectors!

To help celebrate the Ofsted outcome we are taking a bit of time on Friday 5th April to celebrate with a morning of activities followed by a whole school lunch of hot dogs and cup-cakes!

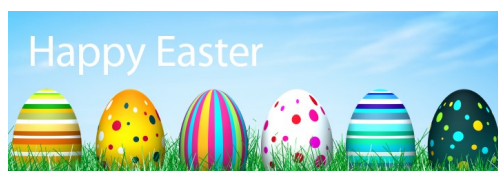
Schools always naively assume that once Ofsted have come and gone that they might get a bit of a 'breather' but it doesn't quite work that way! We did breathe a sigh of relief of course, but the term continued a pace with a wide range of examinations, parents and carer evenings, review meetings, events and activities in addition to the day to day teaching and learning! We also started planning for next September with visits from new pupils and lots of work being done reviewing timetables, budget, staffing and tutor groups!

Thank you, as always, for your on-going support across the term. Following our Ofsted we had so many congratulatory emails, cards and comments from people directly connected to the school as well as people from the local community. We do believe Alderman Knight is a very special place and we all feel privileged to be part of it.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of A Knight's Tale. There are additional photos and reports on the school website so please have a look on there!

The staff and Governors would like to wish you and your families a happy and relaxing Easter break. We are all due back on Tuesday 23rd April.

G Steel



Staff Update

Teaching support

We are delighted to welcome Ms Robson and Mr Ganner to the teaching support team. This term both have had opportunities to work across the school to help get to know us!

Office support

At the end of last half term we were sad to say goodbye to Miss Kane and Mrs Brown, however we are thrilled that Mrs Milner has joined the office team.

Senior team

As you are aware Mr Peplow, Deputy Head, moved to a new job in February.

Mrs Shaw is now Acting Deputy Head and Mr Cameron, Pastoral support co-ordinator, has also joined the senior team.

We are also pleased to say that we have appointed Mr Ceri Jones to the post of School Business Manager. Mr Jones will be joining us in May.



4B and 4H Pantomime trip to Cheltenham Everyman

Miss Price

As part of their Arts Award course, pupils from 4B and 4H visited Cheltenham Everyman theatre, to watch the pantomime "Aladdin." Pupils had a brilliant morning finding out about the Everyman theatre and watching the pantomime which they all really enjoyed! Pupils said their favourite parts of the pantomime were "watching Tweedy the Clown", and singing along to "The greatest showman" songs.



The Staff Pantomime

On the last day of the winter term, pupils enjoyed watching the annual staff pantomime, which this time was "Jack and the beanstalk." This included dancing fairies, a singing beanstalk, and lots of laughter, boos and cheers from the audience!



Chinese New Year

Mrs Butler

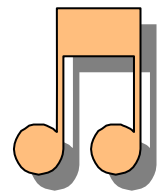
As part of the Chinese New Year celebrations in February pupils from 4B created their own dragon dance in one of the music lessons. Miss Jones, who is the European Baton Twirling Champion and a Teaching Assistant in the class, led the session. She skilfully showed the pupils how to use the pom poms to create the flowing movement of the dragon and encouraged them how to work as a team to produce a really good performance.





Music Lessons

Mrs Butler



This term we invited another musician into our music lessons which was a great success. Mr Hooper came in to show the children the bass guitar, electric guitar and mandolin. After explaining how the instruments work, he played a variety of rhythms and short tunes and then asked for volunteers to have a go. There were lots of very enthusiastic children who had a go at strumming as well as plucking each string, producing some impressive sounds that came out of the amplifier. Mr Hooper finished the lesson by playing a bass guitar accompaniment to the Black-Eyed Peas song 'I've got a feeling' which a lot of the children happily sang along to with a few dance moves included!



Art Trips

Mr Corbett

There have been a number of art trips taking place this term.

3L enjoyed a bright sunny morning at Nature in Art for their Bronze Arts Award, where they saw the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, searched the garden for hidden sculptures and met the artists in residence.



4C spent the morning improving their pottery skills at Eastnor Pottery in Herefordshire with Jon and Sarah Williams and the team. They created coil pots decorated in their own unique style which will then be used towards their art GCSE.



Post 16 visited New Brewery Arts Centre in Cirencester to broaden their experience of art exhibitions and artists. They visited the "Sign" exhibition, which challenged their perception of what can be art and then they visited the arts and crafts studios on site. Some lucky students watched a demonstration of landscape painting live.



Visit to a Mosque



On Thursday 14th March 2G and 2T visited a Mosque in Gloucester. We were met by Imam Hassan who gave us a tour of the Mosque. Pupils had the opportunity to dress up in Muslim clothing and write their names in Arabic, before washing their hands, feet and face and entering the prayer room. An enjoyable and valuable learning experience for all!



Completing GCSE Biology Core Practical

Work at Tewkesbury

Mr Goodchild

Our GCSE Biology class (4D) went over to Tewkesbury School on 12th March this year to set up two of the required Biology core practical assessments. We were investigating how different anti-septics affected the growth of bacteria by placing discs soaked in the antiseptic onto agar plates seeded with safe bacteria. During the practical work pupils learnt about aseptic techniques to ensure that no harmful bacteria were allowed to grow on the agar plates.

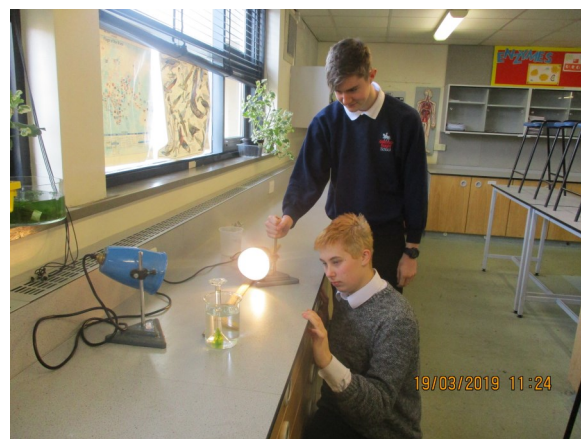
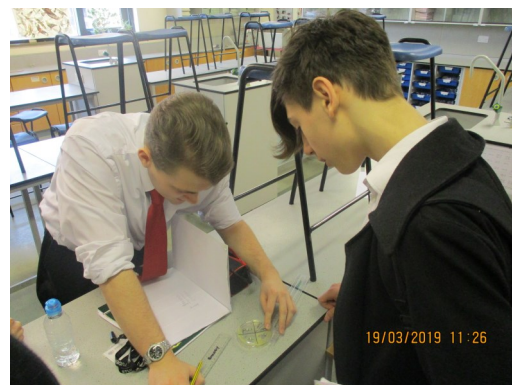
During this visit pupils also set up an experiment to investigate the effect of different temperatures on how quickly milk would decay (go off!) They learnt about how to make the experiment a fair comparison and how pH could be used to measure how much the milk had decayed.

The following week, on Tuesday 19th March we went back to Tewkesbury School to analyse the results of the experiments we had set up and to investigate how light intensity affect the rate of photosynthesis.

The effectiveness of each antiseptic placed on the agar plate was ascertained by measuring the area around each disc where bacterial growth had not occurred. There was a marked difference between each area with the disinfectant proving to be the most effective and the tee tree oil being the least.

The milk was analysed using universal indicator to work out the pH of the milk placed in different temperature conditions. The milk placed in the thirty degree oven proved to have decayed the most as it's pH was the most acidic.

Finally we set up some pond weed in a upturned funnel and measuring cylinder so that the gas it produced could be collected. The light intensity was changed by placing a desk lamp at different distances from the pond weed and the rate of photosynthesis measured by counting the number of bubbles produced in one minute. The results were very successful, showing that as the light intensity decreased the rate of photosynthesis did as well.



Japanese Day

by Colette Hawes P16

On Friday 22nd March I helped at a Japanese Morning that was held for KS3. The first lesson was with 3C, who learnt about Japanese numbers. I can now say Japanese numbers in my head.

Next, it was off to the ICT suite with 3A, who learnt about Japanese games. I played on nice games such as Space Invader, which I found easy and ended up getting about 10000 points.

Finally, I played a game similar to Croquet with 3S. I kept track of all the scores carefully and the game ended with a tie at 5 points for each team. All the children enjoyed the morning.

It felt great to be back in the main school after 9 months away.



The Ship's Graveyard at Purton

By Jordan Simpson and Emily Watkins Post 16

On Friday the 8th of February Post 16 went to Purton ship's graveyard in Berkeley. It was built between 1909 and 1965 when the barges were beached there.

We looked at the ships and we walked alongside the River Severn and the Sharpness canal, the weather was very wet, and we were soaked and cold but it was a good trip.

The riverbank collapsed in 1909 so the barrier between the Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness canal wasn't safe anymore.

They needed something to stop the river flooding into the canal and they used boats because it is cheaper than a wall.

There are 80 barges in total beached there and there are 50 invisible to see because the mud and silt from the Severn has buried them.



Careers News

In March, 4B was invited to Tesco Extra to see behind the scenes of the deli counter and learn how to make pizza. Pupils and staff got to decorate their hat, design a pizza on paper then create it with a wide range of toppings. All pizzas were professionally wrapped and sent home with us. It was a really fun morning and the pizza was delicious! Many thanks to Theresa Fisher and Tesco for having us!

The design stage

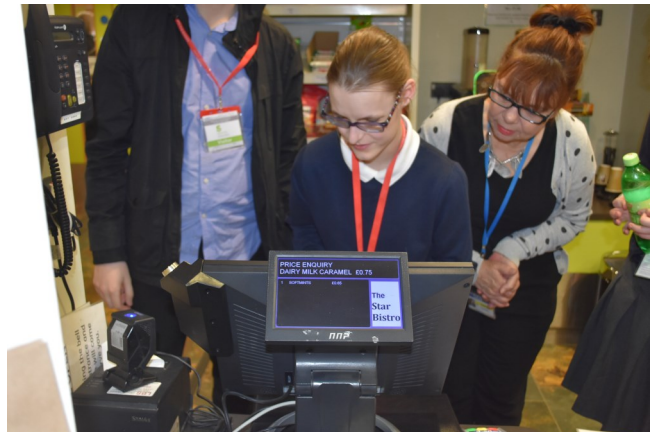


Assembling the pizza



Careers News Continued

In March, year 10 went for a 'skills for work' taster day at the Star College. Pupils got to experience printing a mug, make rocky road cakes, stocking the shop, sorting the mail and answering the phone. It was good to see so many hidden talents among our pupils!



National Careers Week

To mark national careers week, we had a guest speaker to talk about careers in nursing by Matthew Stewart. Pupils asked some very searching and interesting questions



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training Expedition

Mr P Foulkes

Friday 29th - Saturday 30th March 2019, eight members of AKS deployed on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze training expedition across the Malvern hills, Worcestershire. We were blessed with fantastic weather on the Friday, which even resulted in several applications of sun cream. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their first day and made it to the highest point in Worcestershire, the Worcestershire Beacon. Day one was followed by an overnight camp at Rectory Farm, courtesy of Mrs Houldey. Unfortunately, Mrs Houldey forgot to book the warm weather and we all suffered temperatures as low as 2 degrees during the night, which made getting up in the morning a challenge for some. The second day turned out to be warm and clear again and this time the pupils walked over the other side of the Malvern's, making their way to the Herefordshire Beacon and the British Camp. Some keen-eyed map-reading resulted in all groups getting back to the mini-bus earlier than planned, which meant we could all return to base early, satisfied in the knowledge that everyone had comfortably passed the training expedition. A sterling effort from all involved and proof that team-work, really does make the dream-work.



Fundraising

Miss Saunders



Miss Saunders in Pastoral Support is running the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 14th April to raise funds for the Friends of AKS.

She is also running in memory of her friend's daughter Freya, who died suddenly at the age of 19 from an undiagnosed heart condition and hopes to raise additional funds for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)

If you would like to donate to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and/or the Friends of AKS, please go to her fundraising page at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KarenSaunders6>



Important Dates for Your Diary

Date	What	Who to or Where
23 rd April	Term Starts	
23 rd April – 26 th April	Trip to Belgium	P16 students
25 th April	Patoss Talk – 'Dyslexia, Self-Confidence and Motivation' 5:30 – 9:00pm	More details to follow
28 th April	Family and Staff Spring Walk	More details to follow
6 th May	May Day	
9 th May	National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day	
9 th May	Yr9 Transition Parents Evening and displays of KS4 work	
14 th May	Friends of AKS Meeting 7:00pm	
24 th May	Race For Life	
24 th May	Break Up for Half Term	3:00pm
30 th May	NAS Activity Day	More details to follow
3 rd June	Term Starts	
3 rd – 14 th June	Assessment Period	
12 th June	Tewkesbury Rotary Kids Out Day – Cattle Country Adventure Park	3W and 3I
13 th June	KS3 and KS4 Tutor Parents Evening	
18 th June	Yr9 DTP/Men ACWY Immunisations	
18 th June	Pudding Club 5:30pm	More details to follow
18 th June	Primary Parents Evening	
20 th June	Special Schools Music Festival	
21 st June	Modern Foreign Language Topic Day for Yrs 6 – 9	
21 st June	Post 16 RE Day	
22 nd June	School Fete 1:00-3:00	
24 th June	KS4 Activities Week	
25 th June	NAS Talk – Paul Isaacs	
28 th June	KS4 Leavers Day	

Important Dates Continued

2 nd -4 th July	Yr 10 Work Experience	
3 rd July	Real Game Day for Year 9 pupils	
5 th July	Yr 14 Leaver's Celebration	
9 th July	New Tutors Parents Evening	
10 th July	New Tutors day	Main Hall
12 th July	Celebration Assemblies Primary - 10am KS3 and 4 - 1:30pm	
12 th July	Medieval Festival Schools Day	
14 th July	Medieval Festival in Tewkesbury	
15 th July	Sports Day	
17 th July	Yr 6 Graduation	
18 th July	House Fund Raising afternoon	
19 th July	Break up	1:00pm

