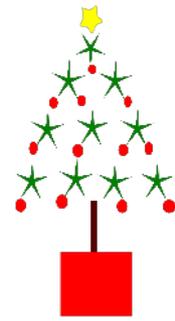




A Knight's Tale

Christmas Edition

2018



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our Christmas edition of A Knight's Tale!

It seems to have been an especially long term and the summer holidays are definitely a distant memory! This term we had 34 new pupils and students join us with 17 children joining the primary phase! In addition we have welcomed 20 new teaching and support staff. So lots of changes but all positive!

Everyone has worked extremely hard this term and I would like to say a huge well done to all the children for their efforts and their happy, cheerful approach to what they have been doing over the last four months!

Thank you of course to the staff, teaching and support for working so hard. There have been so many notable achievements and our recent celebration assemblies were a great way to share these.

In addition, in the last two weeks we have really started to get into the Christmas spirit. The Christmas service at Tewkesbury Abbey was an extraordinary occasion and we were so thrilled that so many family and friends were able to join us. The children did us all proud.

Friday was our Primary Christmas production called 'The Night before Christmas'. It was a really heart-warming occasions with all of our primary children taking part. They were fabulous!

Finally this week, we have a Christmas disco, primary Christmas party, Christmas lunch, Christmas buffet and then to round it all off we have our final assembly and the staff pantomime on Friday before breaking up at 1 pm!

We hope you will enjoy this edition of 'A Knight's Tale' and it helps to show you some of the great achievements and opportunities the pupils and students have enjoyed this term.

Thank you to all of you, for your on-going support across the term, it is vitally important in helping us ensure your children get the very best out of their time at Alderman Knight.

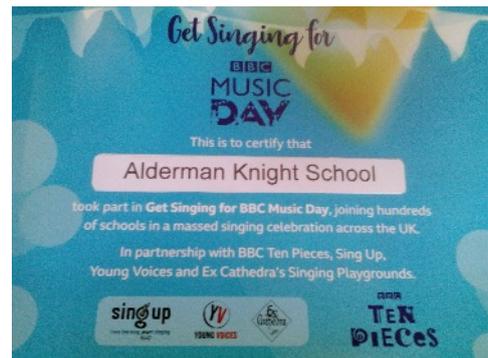
The staff and Governors would like to wish you and your families a happy and relaxing time and best wishes for a wonderful 2019. We are all due back on Monday 7th January.

Mrs Steel

Get Singing for BBC Music Day

Friday 28th September was a very special day for music as it was 'Get singing for BBC Music day' supported by young voices, sing-up and BBC Ten Pieces. This was an exciting initiative aimed at getting as many young people as possible singing to promote the power of singing and the benefits that singing brings, including improving health and well-being. A large group of pupils from all key stages at AKS gathered in the school hall to take part in a very enjoyable sing along which was a great way to end another busy week. The songs we all sang were chosen by the pupils and included 'A Million dreams' from the Greatest Showman musical, 'Count on me' by Bruno Mars and 'Castle on a hill' by Ed Sheeran. We hope to repeat this fun singing session later in the year by popular demand.

By Mrs Butler



Mrs Leech, a Teaching Assistant in 3W, is a talented trumpet and cornet player and she demonstrated her skills in some music lessons in November. After playing a variety of popular tunes including the Star Wars theme tune, James Bond and Lord of the Rings Mrs Leech asked the pupils if they wanted to have a go at playing the cornet. There were lots of willing volunteers who were very enthusiastic and some great sounds were produced! The session ended with a moving performance of the 'Last post' played on the trumpet and the pupils all thanked Mrs Leech for giving them the opportunity to listen to and have a go on these brass instruments.

By Mrs Butler



A moving piece for this time of year by a Key stage 3 pupil

Kindness pledge



Kindness is something that lots of people appreciate.

A simple smile or act of kindness can change somebody's day.

A smile, helping someone pick something up, even something as simple as holding a door open can help somebody more than you realise.

Any act of kindness means so much to people.

And together we can make the whole world kind.

Kindness doesn't just affect other people it affects you too.

Try and remember when the last time someone did an act of kindness toward you.

How did you feel? Did you feel happy after it? Did it affect the way you felt the rest of your day?

Kindness costs no money at all, so why not show somebody kindness?

Remember spread kindness like confetti and see how many people you can make happy.

Try it, because that person you show kindness to could appreciate it more than words can say.

This doesn't mean that you have to do the biggest act of kindness anyone has ever seen.

Just a simple little kind deed is enough to be an act of kindness.

I pledge to try and be kind as much as possible.

By Georgia Wootton, 3L



Life through the eye's of a pupil

How does it feel to have a learning disability?

Hello, my name is Sam; I'm 18 years old and have autism. Having autism makes me feel unique; but I also think that I struggle with certain tasks. I'm also slower at completing tasks than others and need people to be clear when giving me instructions. There's not an awful lot I think I can do to improve on this because I was born that way. Despite this, I have improved in various aspects as the years have gone on. This sometimes makes me feel that I'm not very autistic because for someone who has autism, I would consider myself very lucky.

When I was at primary school, the head teacher shouted at a few pupils in my class who weren't singing during choir. Because she mentioned my class as a whole, this made me think that she was furious with me too, even though she knew I was singing and trying my best which upset me. Now, when pupils are misbehaving, I would understand that the teacher isn't angry with me and knows that I'm trying my hardest.

A few years ago, I would refuse to go to a mainstream school or look around a college. Now, I think that I would be fine looking around a college or a mainstream school. Over the years, I think that I have gained more confidence which has helped me to get more independence.

I think that the best thing about me is I'm really hardworking and always willing to give absolutely everything no matter what I'm asked to do. This has helped me achieve really good grades at school. I also passed my driving theory test, first time back in September due to revising and putting in so much effort. I'll be taking my driving test in January.

One of the concerns I still have about myself is that I focus too much on negative comments. I set myself really high expectations, you could give me loads of positive comments, but one negative comment and I'll only focus on that one negative comment which can cause me to be too hard on myself.

My advice to people with autism or learning disabilities is to be grateful for who you are, always believe in yourself and never underestimate your abilities. Remember, just because you might be autistic or have a learning disability, it doesn't mean you can't go on and achieve big things in life and have a really bright future.

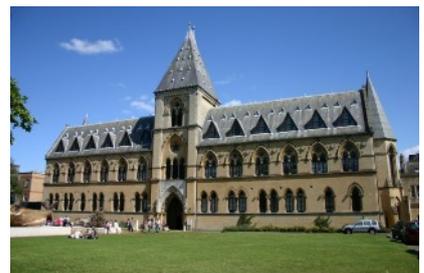
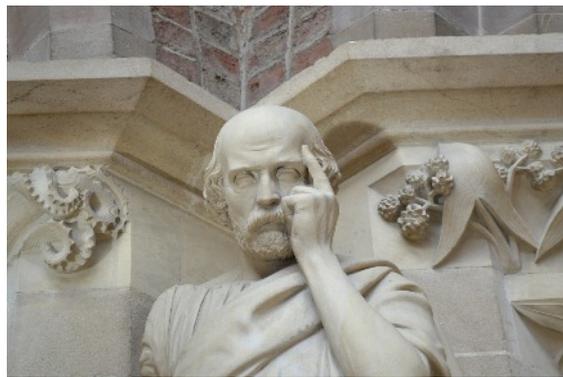
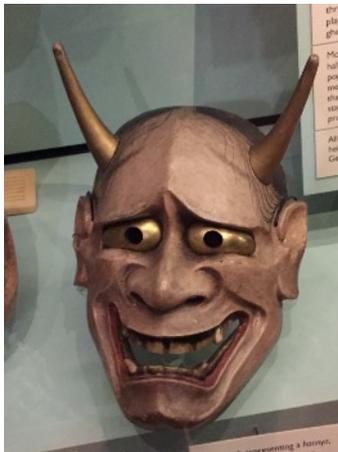
By Sam Worgan Post-16

Art trip to Pitt Rivers

On 4th October Post 16 and KS4 Art and Design students travelled to Oxford to visit the Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum. They photographed the collections of specimens and artefacts to use to inspire their artwork in their lessons. It was a lovely day and enjoyed by all.

Thanks for all your hard work.

By Richard Corbett



School Leavers 2018



Our year 11 leavers 2018 returned to school on Friday 23rd November to receive their certificates from the accreditations that they had worked on during their time in Key Stage 4. It was wonderful for us all staff and pupils to catch up with the leavers and find out what they had been up to since leaving us. A number of them have gone onto college courses either at Pershore, Gloucestershire College Cheltenham or Gloucester, National Star College, some had moved into Alderman Knight Post 16 and even one had started an Apprenticeship in Purslane Restaurant Cheltenham. There were a range of courses that the leavers are following from Media Studies, Foundation Studies, Car Mechanics and Skills for Work to name a few. It was such an uplifting event to share the successes of these young people whilst they were at Alderman Knight as well as their successful transition onto the next stage in their educational career. We all wish them well for the future and hope they come back to keep us updated on what they're doing.

By Mrs Silverthorn

A very special school...

"Alderman Knight special school in Tewkesbury invited me to hand out awards in their Leavers' Assembly. For two hours, I watched home-made videos telling the story of all the children who were leaving and moving onto the next adventure in their lives. These mini-movies were a snap shot of the journey made by children who have challenges but thanks to the love and commitment from their teachers they all have the skills and nurturing to head into the next stage of their lives with confidence and hope."

By Mark Cummings, August 2018

Wrong Trousers Day

Kestrel's second annual Wrong Trousers Day took place on Friday 30th November. Again we had some great looks; pyjamas and slippers, high viz trousers, multi-coloured shorts and a variety of tutus as well. We managed to raise £107.00 so far; thanks for all your support. Teckells Animal Sanctuaries will be very grateful. Post Sixteen also joined in the fun this year and together with all the staff efforts the school was a riot of colour. Thank you all again for supporting Kestrel's Charity this year, I look forward to next year's jamboree!

By Mrs Loveridge, Head of Kestrel





Thank you to all parents for your support towards BBC Children In Need.

Children In Need 16/11/18
We raised **£305.16**



MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

A massive thank you to everyone for your support.

We raised a huge total of £225.05



Saturday 29th September

Race Night at Marina Court

Tuesday 2nd October 2018



With support from Post 16 and Tewkesbury Rotary Club

Careers News

Year 10 and Year 11 have been playing 'The Real Game!' It is a careers programme designed to help young people prepare for the future. They were off timetable for the whole day and supported by members of our local community.

Year 10 were all given an imaginary job and created a wish list of things they would like to have in the future. They then worked out their monthly budget based on their wages and outgoings and had to take a long hard look at the original wish list!

Year 11 were also given a job description and identified their skills and personal qualities. They used this information to prepare a CV which was evaluated by our visitors. I'm pleased to say that based on their CV, they all got the job!

Throughout the day they worked in teams and took part in a quiz which was all about things you need to know as an adult. They came across a lot of unfamiliar vocabulary and engaged in lively debate. Given the intensity of the day, I was really impressed by how well they did.

Thank you to Teresa Hemingway (Keep Safe Scheme) Bashir Khan (Independence Trust) Roger Hare (Carers Glos) Jo Worthy Jones (Glos Wildlife Trust) Caroline Lawrence (Roses Theatre) Chris Walker (Age UK).

By Mrs Dickinson



Year 11 Work Experience

Some of year 11 went out in October for a 4 day placement. All of them got excellent feedback and made us very proud! Thank you to Kingfishers Treasure Seekers, Snowhill Manor, Tewkesbury Primary School, Glos City Farm and Roberts Limbrick. Particular thanks to Dan Philpott for the excellent photography!

By Mrs Dickinson





Visit from Sint-Lodewijk school

In October, some Belgian students from Sint-Lodewijk school in Wetteren came to visit Post 16 as part of an international link.

On Tuesday 16th October, we greeted the Belgian students as they arrived at the Post 16 centre before we played bingo and chatted to them to get to know their names and their personality. After that, we prepared sandwiches and scones for an afternoon tea that we all enjoyed.

On Wednesday 17th October, we visited Stonehenge. Stonehenge is a pre-historic monument located in Wiltshire about a ring of standing stones. The stones were set in the centre of the monument in 2,500 BC.

On Thursday 18th October, we visited Stratford-upon-Avon. First, we went on a boat trip and explored the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the church of the Holy Trinity. Next, we went on a tour to explore the house Shakespeare grew up. After, we had a tour around the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Finally, we all enjoyed a meal to say goodbye to the Belgian students.

Overall, it was an amazing experience and it was really nice to meet some lovely people from a different country.

By Sam Worgan & Emily Watkins



Post 16 and Y11 Historians visit to Gloucester Crown Court

On 02.11.18 some students from Post 16 and year 11 travelled to the Crown Court in Gloucester. We went there to educate ourselves on the modern justice system. Some of us had been learning about 'Crime and Punishment from 1250 to the present' in History.

The High Sheriff of Gloucester was also there, part of his role is to check everything's being done properly in Court. He was able to help us understand some of the workings of the modern day court system. The court was in session for three cases, two of them for burglary and one for robbery, everyone enjoyed the view of the court, but I wish I could say the same about the seats.

The world is full of crimes and it was a privilege to watch those who committed these crimes receive justice for their vile actions. The court we travelled to was filled with people excited and pleased to teach us... not to mention the judges sense of humour about what is usually a dark subject.

Afterwards, we travelled back to school wiser about our justice system and keen to learn more.



By Jacob Elliott

Post-16 Trip to Sherdon's Golf Centre, Tewkesbury

On Friday 28th September some students from year 12, 13 and 14 in the Post 16 centre went on a golf trip to Sherdons golf in Tewkesbury. Everybody had a fun day out and improved their golf skills!

By Amber Gateau



Post-16 Trip to the Skills Show

On Thursday 15th November 2018, I went to the Skills Show with Mr Merry, Mrs Rothwell, Mr Lea and other peers. It was at the Birmingham NEC Arena, which was exactly the same venue that I attended the Autosport Show in Birmingham earlier this year.

I was in a group with Sasha and Nathan. We took turns looking at the things that were around the convention. It included bricklaying, and lots of other industries and careers. I went to see a selection of people talk about technology, in which Nathan went on Kahoot, where he went in the top 5.

The best thing I enjoyed was going on the car simulator by Toyota, and seeing other things to do with cars. The simulator is similar to the Formula 1 simulator I did at the Autosport convention. It is definitely something I want to do again!



Thank you to Rosewood Sawmills for the donation of this year's Christmas Tree.

Forest Green Rovers VS Newport County



FGR REVIEW

On October 6th 2018, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Davies took some students and I to see the Forest Green Rovers vs. Newport County football game. It was an amazing experience, the crowd cheering, chanting songs left and right. Even more came when the players came out from the tunnel. The first whistle blew and it kicked off. FGR player Tahvon Campbell shoots but it hits the crossbar. Then midfielder Dayle Grubb shot from the keepers' far post and it takes a deflection from a Newport Defender.

GOOOOOOAAAAAAAALLLLLLLLLLLLLL!!!!!!

All the fans stood up chanting 'Dayle Grubb! Dayle Grubb!' as they were celebrating. My friend Jack Staite and I were shouting 'RUN FOREST RUN! RUN FOREST RUN!' as we celebrated. In the end it ended 1-1 with a second half goal going to Newport County. It was sad to see but it taught me something in football. I learnt how it felt to hear another team supporters cheering for their side, and I'm happy I learnt it. Very massive thanks to Mr. Williams, Mrs. Davies and Even Smith for the experience.
-Harry Cole





Shakespeare Schools Festivals



On the 14th November 2018, many KS3 and KS4 pupils performed our version of “The Tempest”, as part of Shakespeare Schools Festival at The Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury. We shared the evening with two other Schools, who performed “King Lear” and “Twelfth Night.” It was a fantastic event, and our whole cast played their parts brilliantly. Thank you to everyone who supported this performance and help to make it such a success.

Here’s what some of our pupils said about the show:

In “The Tempest”, I was a backstage member, so my job was to gather props on and off stage, and to make sure people had the correct props and costumes at the right time. Taking part in this show was one of the most amazing experiences I have had, and it was a magical night for me and the pupils acting on-stage.

By Harry in 3L

I played Miranda in “The Tempest”, which is one of the main characters. My favourite scene was Scene 4 because when I said “Father!”, I got to use my loud voice, and this whole scene was very dramatic. Our performance was spectacular, and I enjoyed taking part in this show.

By Ellie in 3L.

I was Caliban’s drummer in our play. I walked across the stage on my own playing the drum, which I really enjoyed. I enjoyed being in “The Tempest” a lot and I thought our play was amazing!

By Lucas in 3C





Mixed Ability Non-Contact Rugby



Thursday's After School

14 Pupils attended from KS3&4

Run by Active Gloucestershire and supported by the Wooden Spoon Charity

Head Coach Rich Steward said: "Bringing people together who can work as a team, learn new skills, feel team camaraderie, enjoy themselves and play their favourite sport is what Mixed Ability Rugby is all about."

Christmas Cheer

Saturday 1st December 2018

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits for our coffee morning.

Thanks to all of your support we have raised a profit of...

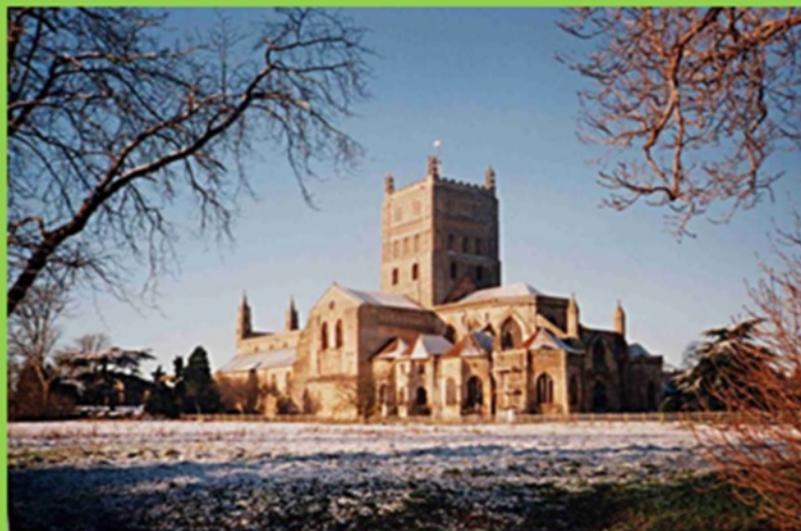
£1500

Christmas Carol Service At Tewkesbury Abbey

Virtually the whole school attended a Christmas Service at Tewkesbury Abbey on the 11th December. We were delighted to see so many parents and carers and friends of Alderman Knight School supporting the event.

It was a huge team effort and many staff were involved in its planning. We were all treated to a super range of musical pieces, hymns and songs with some wonderful performances by pupils and an ex pupil of the school.

The weather was kind to us this year as last year's event was cancelled due to snow.



Details of further Christmas events and services arranged by Tewkesbury Abbey can be found on our website.

Tweedy the Clown Visit

On 30th October 2018, as part of their Arts Award qualification, pupils from 4B and 4H enjoyed a visit from Tweedy the Clown, who performs at Giffords Circus and Cheltenham Everyman Pantomimes. Pupils enjoyed a circus performance from Tweedy, and then asked him lots of questions. Pupils said their favourite parts were meeting Keith, who is Tweedy's pet iron, and watching Tweedy do juggling tricks. Thank you very much Tweedy for visiting our school, pupils really enjoyed it!

By Miss Price





Primary Christmas Production "Twas the Night before Christmas"

Another amazing primary production performed by the primary children of 2G, 2T, 2H, and 2P. The children performed and behaved very well we were all incredibly proud.



Christmas Shopping Causeway Trip 2018 with Tewkesbury School Sixth Formers

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 th January	Term Starts	
9 th January	Primary, +B, +H to Pan lomine @ Everyman	
8 th - 15 th January	Exams for some of KS4 and KS5	
16 th January	RSE Parents Information Evening	6:00-7:30
21 st January	Friends of AKB Meeting	07:00
23 rd January	Numeracy and Literacy Evening	+ 00-6:00
26 th Jan, 2 nd Feb, 16 th Feb, 2 nd Mar, 9 th Mar, 16 th Mar, 23 rd Mar, 30 th Mar, 6 th April	Cheltenham Town Football	10:00-11:00
29 th January	Stroud College Link for some of Yr10	
1 st February	Number Day - non-uniform numbers	
4 th - 8 th February	Children's Mental Health Week	
7 th February	Primary Parents evening KS4 Subject Parents Evening	
15 th February	Break Up for Half Term	3:00pm
25 th February	Back to School	
27 th and 28 th February	Yr11 Gloucestershire College Link	
25 th Feb - 8 th March	Assessment weeks	
1 st March	World Book Day	Whole school
4 th - 8 th March	National Careers Week	
12 th March	Yr 7 and 8 Subject Parents Evening	
11 th March	INSET	
15 th March	Red Nose Day	
19 th March	Stroud College Link yr11 pupils	
19 th March	KS5 Parents Evening	
20 th March	NAS Talk - Dean Beadle	7:00-9:00
22 nd March	Modern Foreign Language Topic Day for Yrs 6 - 9	
23 rd March	AKB Friends Trip to Malvern Splash	5:30 - 6:30
29 th March	Celebration Assemblies Primary - 10am KS3 and 4 - 1:30pm	everyone
5 th April	Break Up for Easter	1:00pm



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.
Have a lovely break.

See you in 2019!