

A Knight's Tale

Christmas Edition 2019

Dear Parents and 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!

As with every new academic year we had a lot of new children and new staff join the school. We now have 175 pupils and students and 94 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 teaching and support staff for their hard work too. 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. We held our carol service at the wonderful Tewkesbury Abbey. This was again an incredible and magical experience for all of us lucky enough to be there. The children who took part showed enormous talent and courage to perform in front of a packed Abbey and all our other pupils showed huge respect and support for them. We all enjoyed every moment! A special mention goes to Abraham – who sang like an angel! We were so thrilled that so many family and friends were able to join us and the children did us all proud.

Last week we had our Primary Christmas production which, as always, was a joyous occasion.

This week, we have a Christmas disco, a primary Christmas party, the Christmas lunch for Primary and KS3, the Christmas buffet for KS4 and Post 16 and then to round it all off we have our final assembly and the staff pantomime on Friday before breaking up at 1pm!

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 which 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 2020. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th January 2020!

G Steel





Staffing Update

Staff leaving

- **Richard Corbett (Art Teacher)**

After a period of time away from Alderman Knight Mr Corbett has decided not to return. We would like to say a huge thank you for the huge contribution he made in helping so many of our pupils and students develop a real love of Art during his time here. Mr Corbett and his team provided a wealth of experiences and creative learning opportunities for all our young people and helped them really appreciate and value their work. We wish him well for the future!

- **Natalie Kempson (Teaching Assistant)**

After a year at Alderman Knight School, Ms Kempson is moving to work in a primary school closer to home. We wish her well and thank her for her contributions to the school.

Staff joining

- **Ms Tina Postans**

Ms Postans is joining Alderman Knight as a teacher and will be working across the school

- **Mr David Wilkinson**

Mr Wilkinson is joining Alderman Knight as teacher. he will be covering Mrs Silverthorn's teaching groups as well as contributing across the school in a range of different ways.

- **Ms Rebecca Sefton**

Ms Sefton is joining as a teaching assistant

- **Mrs Julie Jones**

Mrs Jones is joining as a teaching assistant

- **Mr Alex Toller**

Mr Toller joined us a few weeks ago as a teaching assistant

Aldi : Eat Fresh Campaign : November 2019



Many thanks to everyone who supported us last term.

We were able to complete two posters which means we can look forward to receiving two free Sports Kits. These will contain lots of goodies to keep our pupils active and will include balls, bibs, cones, egg and spoon kits, batons and more!

We have received a lovely email from Get Set to Eat Fresh:

“We just wanted to say a huge thank you to your school for taking part in **Aldi's Kit for Schools** this year! You've all done an amazing job.

On top of this, your school has been entered into our mega prize draw for 20 chances to win £20,000 to build a health legacy at your school.”

Perhaps we may also be lucky in the £20,000 prize draw when the results are announced in January 2020? Fingers crossed!



Primary Archery Team

On Wednesday 13th November a young team of AKS archers were able to attend Heart of the Forest School to compete against 6 other schools in the county.

Firstly it was the team event, and this is where our 5 young archers had to accumulate points with their 9 arrows. We did struggle in the first round and were unsuccessful in scoring any points; however we were on the scoreboard in the second round with a fantastic shot by Alfie into the blue part of the target.

The third round is where it really changed for the AKS team, a number of our archers scored points in this round and Team AKS scored 17 points in just one round! This was more than any team in the previous rounds. This fantastic achievement and it moved us from last place to finish third in the overall team competition.

A special mention to George in 2W as he was the team's top archer and qualified for the individual event. George played a young man from The Shrubberies School in his semi-final. Unfortunately George was beaten by just 1 point however he was a fantastic sportsman and cheered on his opponent even when competing against him!

All pupils were a credit to the school and have received a bronze certificate for their achievements.

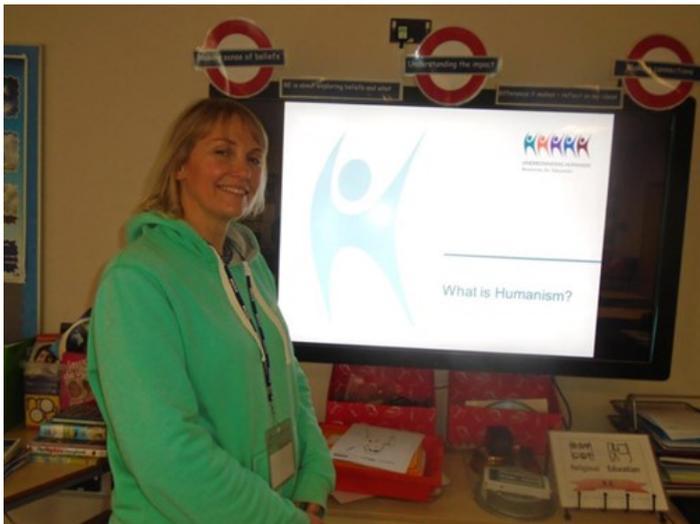


Origami Club

Every Wednesday lunchtime a number of AKS pupils have been attending origami club which is jointly run by Mr Hunt and Bruce in 3H. Bruce is an amazing origami expert and is always finding new items which the group can make. He is also brilliant at instructing his peers on what to do. This term pupils have made a wide range of objects such as various types of planes, fortune tellers, boats, bookmarks, samurai hats, cranes and for our Christmas special a Christmas stocking (pictured). A well done to Thomas (3G), Sam (3i) and those pictured, Edward (3G), John (3H), Bruce (3H), Harrison (3H) and Jessica (3H).



Sarah Pineger: Humanist visitor to RE lessons November 2019



We were very grateful that Sarah Pineger, a representative from Gloucester Humanists and a parent of Michael in Post 16 was able to visit a number of KS3 RE classes to talk about Key Humanist beliefs and what is important to Humanists.

The Gloucestershire RE syllabus includes non-religious views as well as religious ones and it is really helpful to have visitors come into school and share their beliefs and impart first-hand knowledge. She gave pupils a great insight into Humanism and answered a wide range of questions.

Boccia Tournament

On Monday 9th December some members of 3C attended a Boccia Tournament at All Saints Academy School. We entered two teams (AKS 1 and AKS 2) and played against teams from Bettridge School and All Saints Academy. The AKS team one narrowly missed out on a gold medal by 1 point to receive the silver medal and the AKS team 2 achieved a bronze medal. Both teams are going through to play in the County Finals at the end of January!

A huge well done to all the players for their friendly team spirit and for representing the school in a very positive manner.



Visit to SkillZONE 17.12.19 : 3H, 3O, 3L

A thoroughly enjoyable morning was spent at the SkillZONE Centre in Gloucester where pupils experienced a range of scenarios focussed upon keeping themselves safe.

We visited eight scenarios and were supported by a wealth of experienced volunteers.

Pupils learnt about :-

- Paying for and taking a bus ride
- Car journeys and the importance of wearing a seatbelt
- Visiting a train station & how and where to stand on a platform
- How to cross a road safely, following the green-man signal box
- Rail crossing and understanding the signals and barriers
- Recognising dangers in the home and how to minimise accidents
- What you should do when you discover a fire in the home
- Alley way dangers and misconceptions

All of the pupils displayed fantastic behaviour, asked lots of questions and represented AKS well. The overall feedback from pupils and staff was that this was a very positive experience with some important messages to learn.

What was even better was that the entire visit was funded by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

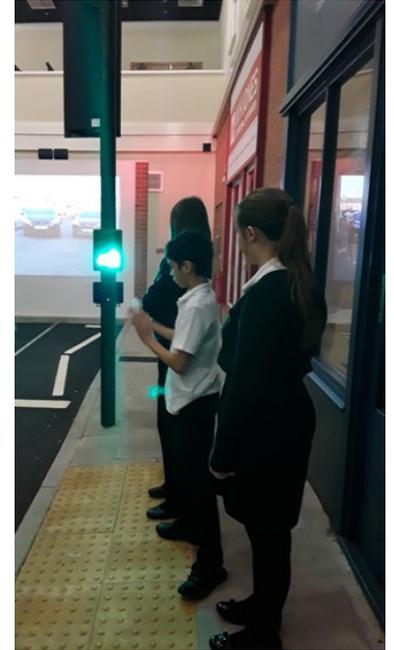
Thanks SkillZONE & thanks GF&RS!



Skillszone, Gloucester (3C)

On Monday 18th November 3C visited the Skillszone in Gloucester, an education centre which is part of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue.

The pupils learnt about staying safe near rivers and at the beach as well as crossing the road and around the home.



Malvern Theatre (3C)

The 'Into Film Festival' offer cinema trips as part of their festival of film. 3C went to the lovely Malvern Theatre to watch 'Wonder Park' an animation about a girl called June and her creative talents in designing theme parks.



House Dodgeball

On the afternoon of Friday 13th December, a group of sports leaders organised and successfully ran a key stage three and four house dodgeball tournament. One team from each house entered and the tournament was run on a round-robin basis. Each team played a number of six games and the tournament was played in the greatest spirit. All pupils conducted themselves in the correct manner demonstrating excellent sportsmanship.

The contest itself was an extremely close affair between Falcon, Hawk and Kestrel. Osprey struggled with only having six out of the possible eight players on their team; however they were able to win their last game of the tournament, convincingly beating Falcon. The other three teams all won four of their games and lost two. Falcon managed to receive a bonus point when they eliminated all of Kestrel's players without losing a player of their own! This meant that Falcon were the overall winners. Hawk came second on player difference (similar to goal difference) and Kestrel finished third.

A massive well done to all participants and a special mention to our sports leaders who planned, organised and led a fantastic tournament to finish the term! Well done!



Be Real Game Day

In November, 4B and 4L took part in the 'Be Real Game' day. This is a follow-up to the 'Real Game' in Year 9 and is supported by people from the local community.

It can be hard for year 11 to imagine being anywhere other than school so this is one of many events to help them to prepare for adulthood.



We spent the day role-playing being older and looking for our first job. Pupils looked for a vacancy and wrote up a CV. The visitors went through the CVs and gave them feedback.

Probably the highlight of the day was hearing from the visitors and learning about what they did when they first left school and how they got their jobs.

Our Enterprise Adviser, Mark Woodward had even brought along his old uniform for anyone to try on!

We'd like to thank Mark plus Lauren Greening, Anne Bartholomew and Teresa Hemingway for giving up their time to support us.

Year 11 Work Experience October

Year 11 enjoyed getting out of the classroom and into the world of work in October.



Many thanks to our employers who gave them this valuable opportunity. See if you can match the photo to the employer. Thank you to Bengeworth Academy, Kevin Mace Butchers, Treasure Seekers Hub, Miss Muffet's Deli, the Tewkesbury School Site Team, the Porsche Centre and the AKS Art Teaching team.



Kestrel House Fundraising The Wrong Trousers Day

Here at AKS we love nothing more than a good dress-up day. Friday 29th November was no exception when Kestrel House held their annual 'Wrong Trousers Day' to raise funds for The Children's Society.

Pyjama bottoms were very in vogue this year: comfy and warm! The tutu was well represented this year too.

Although it was wrong 'Trousers' day some students went the whole hog with top hats and three piece suits.

Thanks to everyone who donated a pound towards this good cause: we have raised over £130.50 so far.

Marion Loveridge

Mrs M Loveridge

Head of Kestrel House



Christmas Shopping at Cribbs Causeway 2019 With Tewkesbury School 6th Formers



On Thursday 12th December a group of KS4 and KS5 students and Tewkesbury school Sixth form students spent the evening at the Mall at Cribbs Causeway, Bristol.

They all had tea together before going off in groups to do some Christmas shopping.

They all enjoyed seeing the Christmas lights and being part of the whole Christmas atmosphere.



Children in Need Friday 15th November



Once again the whole school took part in raising money for BBC Children in Need. Students dressed up in spotty, striped or yellow clothes. Some of the fund raising activities included a cake sale, a sweets lucky dip, a duck race and a guess the number of sweets in the jar competition. The school raised a grand total of £275.60. Well done to all!



Poppy Appeal 2019

This year we managed to raise £68.10 for the Poppy appeal. We not only sold Poppies but also wristbands, zip pulls and reflective tags.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



POPPY APPEAL

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

THANK YOU
for helping the 2019
Poppy Appeal in Tewkesbury

£68.10

was collected at

Alderman Knight's

The total raised in the Tewkesbury area since 1st October 2019 is over

£26,000



Registered No. 219279 under the Charities Act, 1960

Christmas Cheer 2019

The last day of November was a lovely bright sunny but cold day, just perfect for a Christmas Cheer.

The annual Christmas Cheer here at AKS was a great success this year. Kestrel House hosted a Lucky Dip stall with myriad prizes to be won. After a hectic but fun two hours we discovered we had raised £48.50 to go towards The Children's Society Charity; Thanks for all who took part, I hope you enjoyed your surprise.

Marion Loveridge

Head of Kestrel House



Tewkesbury Town Band Christmas Concert

Some pupils from the school choir attended the Tewkesbury Town Band Christmas Concert in the Watson Hall. They achieved high praise for their patience (it was a long wait) and their performance brought the house down with clapping and cheering at the end. Well done everyone.

Mrs Sipek



Christmas Sprout Peeling

Miss Kuzma and Mrs Hook joined in with the AKS Christmas spirit by helping to peel the sprouts for the Christmas dinner!



A Christmas Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who supported the AKS Christmas Cheer on Saturday 30th November. We made an amazing total of £1570.00!



A big thank you to Tewkesbury Rotary Club for bringing Father Christmas to see the students on Wednesday 18th December



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

Fundraising



The craft stalls at Childswickham and the Tewkesbury Lights switch on event raised a total of £153.85.

Christmas jumper day raised over £161.00 for Save the Children

A big thank you to the following attractions and businesses that donated towards the Christmas lunch raffle and the Christmas cheer:

Cotswold Farm Park
Cattle Country
Cotswold Wildlife Park
Carousel Tewkesbury
Roses Theatre
Avon Valley Railway
Dean Forest Railway
Tewkesbury Leisure Centre
Gloucestershire County Cricket Club
Puckrup Hall
Worcester Rugby Club
Cheltenham Racecourse
Superdry
The Photo Studio
West Midlands Safari Park
Rosado Lounge
Perrygrove Railway
Cheltenham Town Football Club
Slimbridge
Wychwood Brewery
Prescott Hill Climb
Tewkesbury Park Hotel
Brickhampton Golf Club
Forest Green Rovers
Cotswold Motor Museum
Cheltenham Leisure Centre
Birdland

Hawk house raised over £146 for the Pied Piper Appeal by creating and producing their own joke book.

The Christmas Lunch Raffle raised a whopping £621.00!

A big thank you to Ecclesiastical Insurance for their kind donation of £250.00

We have been the chosen charity for Tewkesbury Running Club this year and we were delighted to receive a cheque for £750.00.

The Friends of Alderman Knight School have been able to provide help over Christmas with the following:

- Transport for the Abbey Service
- Transport for the Cribbs Causeway trip
- The Christmas Disco
- The Primary School Gifts



The Christmas Carol Service at Tewkesbury Abbey

Virtually the whole school attended the annual Christmas service at Tewkesbury Abbey on Tuesday 10th December. It was a wonderful turnout and we were delighted to see so many parents, carers and friends of Alderman Knight supporting the event.



We were treated to some lovely readings as well as some superb singing by the choir and the playing of the hand bells by 3A. There was a beautiful piano solo by Georgia who played Hallelujah and Abraham treated us to an outstanding singing solo of Walking in the Air.

Everyone at Alderman Knight would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and restful holiday and best wishes for 2020.

Second Hand Uniform

We are looking to increase the availability of second hand uniform at Alderman Knight School. We need good quality donations along with some volunteers to help sort, put out or pack away the items at events such as assemblies, parents evenings and coffee mornings.

All items will be sold on a donation basis with people giving what they feel the items are worth and what they can afford to pay. 100% of the funds raised from the second hand uniform sales will go to Alderman Knight School.

Please send your donations into school and provide your contact details to Christine Beale if you would like to help. Email office@aldermanknight.gloucs.sch.uk or call 01684 295639

We will accept the following good quality items in all sizes for primary and secondary

White shirts and polo shirts

Grey and black trousers and shorts for boys and girls

Grey skirts, pinafores, culottes

Red and white gingham dresses

Cherry red sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans with or without school logo

Navy sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans with or without the school logo.

Navy PE shorts and skorts

White PE tee shirts with our without logo

Navy tracksuits or jogging bottoms

Cycling shorts

PE bags

Swimwear – must be in very good condition

Any items with AKS logo – hats, book bags, jackets



A clothes rail and coat hangers have been kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Keys



Important Dates



Date	What	Who to or Where
20th December	Break up for Christmas	1.00pm
6th January	Return to School	
8th January	Pantomime at The Everyman Theatre	Primary, 4B & 4H
16th January	Family Support Drop Off Coffee Morning	8.40—9.40am
21st January	Y7 Subject Parents Evening	
28th January	Yong Voices, Birmingham	
4th February	Friends of AKS Meeting	7.00pm
10th February	Visit to Cadbury World	2H/2W
13th February	Y11 Subject Parents Evening	
14th February	Y8 HPV Immunisations	Boys and Girls
14th February	Break Up For Half Term	3.00pm
24th February	Return to school	

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Christmas edition of A Knight's Tale. Have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you in 2020!

