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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020



Bugsy Malone brings the house down!

Oxford Trip

Cyber Security Workshop

King Arthur's School

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Welcome



Sitting to write this newsletter made me realise just how quickly this year is passing! It seems incredible to say that we are already two terms in and wonderful to reflect on how much we have achieved in this short time.

As you will see from all the articles in this edition, it has been another busy term. We are proud and pleased to have created so many opportunities for our young people and thoroughly enjoyed watching them make the most of all that is on offer at KA.

The start to this year certainly went with a bang as we launched the school production. It was a great privilege to see such a huge percentage of our school community get involved in our production of Bugsy Malone. This was a huge treat and I extend my thanks to all who made this fabulous show possible. Well done to those brave souls who shared their talents when treading the boards – you made us all proud!

With so many opportunities on offer, from Maths Challenge to tree planting with our local primary children, there is so much to thank staff for and to praise our young people for getting involved. Enjoy finding out more as you 'read all about it!' in this latest edition. With news breaking and changing so quickly about the potential challenges we are all going to face over the coming months, I want to reassure you that we will do all we can to support the learning lives of our young people and their families. I am sure that we will all find ourselves tested in the coming months but please know that our work together as a team stands us on a firm foundation. Our staff are prepared and ready to deliver education in the best way possible throughout this time and we will keep communicating with support and updates throughout. Most importantly, we know that following the government guidance is the most important thing we can all do to stay safe and save lives.

As a result of this unexpected and unprecedented hiatus in the year, we took the speedy decision to say goodbye and celebrate the journey of our Year 11 students. It is with great affection and the very best wishes that we send them on their way. Whilst their early departure was tinged with sadness, because it came too soon, we are so pleased that we had the chance to arrange a celebration of their time at KA. To our Year 11 leavers, we wish you all the best and do look out for more information about a future celebration. We will make sure we have the chance to see each other again, once this situation has come to an end.

I hope you enjoy reading the latest instalment of our journey at King Arthur's School. I am extremely proud of all we are achieving together at KA and the great aplomb with which our young people set about embracing every chance they are given.

I wish you all well as we move into uncertain times and please rest assured that our school will stay in touch until life returns to normal.

Jen Jacklin, Headteacher

KS4 Drama Trip - Ghost Stories at Theatre Royal, Bath

Yr10 and 11 KS4 Drama students went on their first of a series of theatre trips to Bath, to see the rather scary play 'Ghost Stories'. After a McDonald's tea, the students were quite skeptical at first that a stage show could be quite scary, however, from the opening bars of music and sound, the mood and atmosphere was soon set! It wasn't long before the first few of our students – Megan B and Monica O – were screaming in fright! Set, initially as a lecturer giving an insight into paranormal stories that he'd been told, the play soon moved into the portmanteau of 'stories', with jump scares a plenty. A thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining evening, with students representing the school in an excellent manner.

Bugsy Malone: A Whipped Cream Version of Violence

How many famous actors 'cut their teeth' on the drama school exuberance of musicals such as the hilariously slapstick gangster spoof, Bugsy Malone? This was demonstrated in the production at King Arthur's School as the young cast proved that they could perhaps one day join the ranks of these celebrities!

Set in 1929 in New York during the Prohibition era, smooth-talking penniless boxing promoter Bugsy Malone gets caught in the middle of a turf war between two rival gangs: one led by shifty, pencil-moustached Dandy Dan, owner of the latest must-have weapon, the whipped cream firing 'splurge' gun, the other by Fat Sam, owner of the Grand Slam Speakeasy who fears that his empire will be taken over. As the feud escalates, Bugsy recruits a bunch of 'down and outs' to help settle the dispute, whilst trying to impress aspiring singer and new girl in town, Blousey Brown. However his pursuit of Blousey is somewhat disrupted by temptress Tallulah, Fat Sam's girlfriend who wants him all to herself.

With many of the cast involved in the Musical Director's Youth Theatre, there were some exceptionally polished performances! Standouts included Joanna K as Blousey who captured both the initial timidity of the character, and later an uncharacteristic gutsiness as she tries to shrug off the intimate encounter between Tallulah and Bugsy. Joanna sang with a soulful yearning throughout which not only echoed Blousey's heartache but also her reluctance to be considered a fool. In keeping with Bugsy's suave character, the actor Dylan K exuded self-assurance and ease on stage together with an authentic New York 'mafioso' accent. He almost swaggered on after being effusively introduced by Fat Sam's bedazzling Flapper Girls. Hazel P gave an equally outstanding interpretation of Fizzy, the Speakeasy's Caretaker who, like Blousey, is desperate to make it in show business but is forever being told by Fat Sam to "come back tomorrow". She sang 'Tomorrow' in a sweet angelic voice that conveyed his forlorn disappointment in never being given the chance to audition and so having to accept his lot as Caretaker. Suddenly she bursts into song with outstretched arms, displaying Fizzy's feeling of real liberation when dancing, if only he had his moment in the spotlight!

Tallulah (Ellie H) exuded a provocative talent for luring men into her clutches whilst also giving them confidence and understanding of their formative years, as conveyed in the infectious song 'My Name is Tallulah'.

Great attention to period detail was paid to the set that the students painstakingly helped to build themselves. The Speakeasy with its black and white 'art deco' style design helped the young cast immerse themselves in this significant period of social history.

I found the finale truly up-lifting! As Blousey and Fat Sam's gang return to the Speakeasy they are unaware that Dandy Dan is out for revenge. His mob burst in initiating a huge 'splurge gun' shoot-out, showering everyone with whipped cream. A loud stirring bass note is struck on the piano silencing the battleground and uniting the entire cast for a sprightly rendition of We Could Have Been Anything that We Wanted to Be. From the frothy pandemonium it transpires that Bugsy and Blousey have resolved their differences and peace is restored between the rival gangs. Given the calibre of acting displayed by these students, indeed they really "could have been anything that they wanted to be!"

Alice Glover








Slam





French: Les Choristes

This half term, the Year 9 students have focused on French cultural awareness through film study. We watched a film called Les Choristes. The film is set just after World War II and shows the way schools and women were presented after the war. The film is focused on how music helps discipline and keep children well behaved during school times. Single mums were often seen to be promiscuous at that time and people thought that children needed a father. Just after the war, schools were boarding schools that most people went to, including orphans whose parents died in WW2. Through the film, we learnt that punishment for misbehaving were chores like cleaning and bed making, isolation from the rest of the students and beatings from the teachers, which were legal at the time.

The film was all in French but with English subtitles so we were able to understand and enjoy the story.

Personally, I enjoyed the film as it taught me what school life was like for young boys and different punishments teachers used on students. Another student said they liked the film as it had a good storyline and had a happy conclusion.

Isla L, Year 9







Food Tasting Review

Bonjour, this is Amelia and Eleanor and we are in Year 7. In this topic we were learning about food and the times of day we eat it. This particular activity helped build up our confidence in speaking and in our pronunciation. This also helps us interact with French people in preparation for our trip to France in June. On the menu, there were croissants, pains au chocolat, pains aux raisons, saucissons, fromage, fraises, bonbons and finally escargots. Also, French GCSE Year 10 students visited us and practiced their questioning techniques for their upcoming speaking exam. During this activity the whole class was focused and engaged... especially as it was just before lunch!

Amelia E and Eleanor Y, Year 7









Gardening Club

In January, our KA gardening club were joined by members of Wincanton Primary School Council to take part in a tree planting activity organized by Stokehill Education & Training Ltd. Twenty two saplings of different varieties were donated by The Woodland Trust and Leaf Education and planted on our school site. One Planet Wincanton joined the group as part of their tree planting around Wincanton Town initiative. All the students planted a tree each and took part in an educational activity prior to planting to talk about the importance of the eco system and how trees play their part. Well done guys!

History Castles







Year 10 Aspirations Visit to Oxford University

On Tuesday 21st January, alongside 12 of my classmates, I went to Oxford on an aspirations visit to see what a day in the life of a university student at Jesus College, Oxford would be like. The trip was led by our English teacher Miss Howell who is a former student of Jesus College. Overall, the day was very insightful and informative, giving me a better understanding of how much dedication and hard work has to go into your time at university.

We started with a tour around the college from one of the college's own students who talked about his own experience as an undergraduate. Following the tour, we then had a Q&A with the same student and one of the faculty members. I found this very useful as it helped me to get a better outlook on life in Oxford and what it would entail. After this, we had a seminar from one of the lecturers who gave us a small taster of the type of lesson we might expect. He asked us to consider the power of language and how certain words become so influential.

We were then able to have lunch in the dining hall of the college, which held a huge amount of history with its paintings of Queen Elizabeth I and Charles II. After lunch, we got to visit another one of the colleges and see Oxford itself, including some of its many historical buildings and libraries.

The day was very fun and inspiring. It showed us the reality of undergraduate life and other aspects of university, which I look forward to experiencing in the future.

Devon C, Year 10



Safeguarding update

Please be aware that there is a shocking new trend on TikTok, dubbed the 'skull breaker challenge'. Unfortunately the seemingly innocent app is leaving children with serious injuries, with doctors warning that it could be fatal.

The 'skull breaker challenge' started in Spain when two students filmed themselves carrying out the seemingly harmless prank with a third unsuspecting participant. As the three participants jump straight up, the two people on the side kick inwards to knock the person in the middle off his feet and onto his head, causing a variety of injuries to the head, neck and wrist.

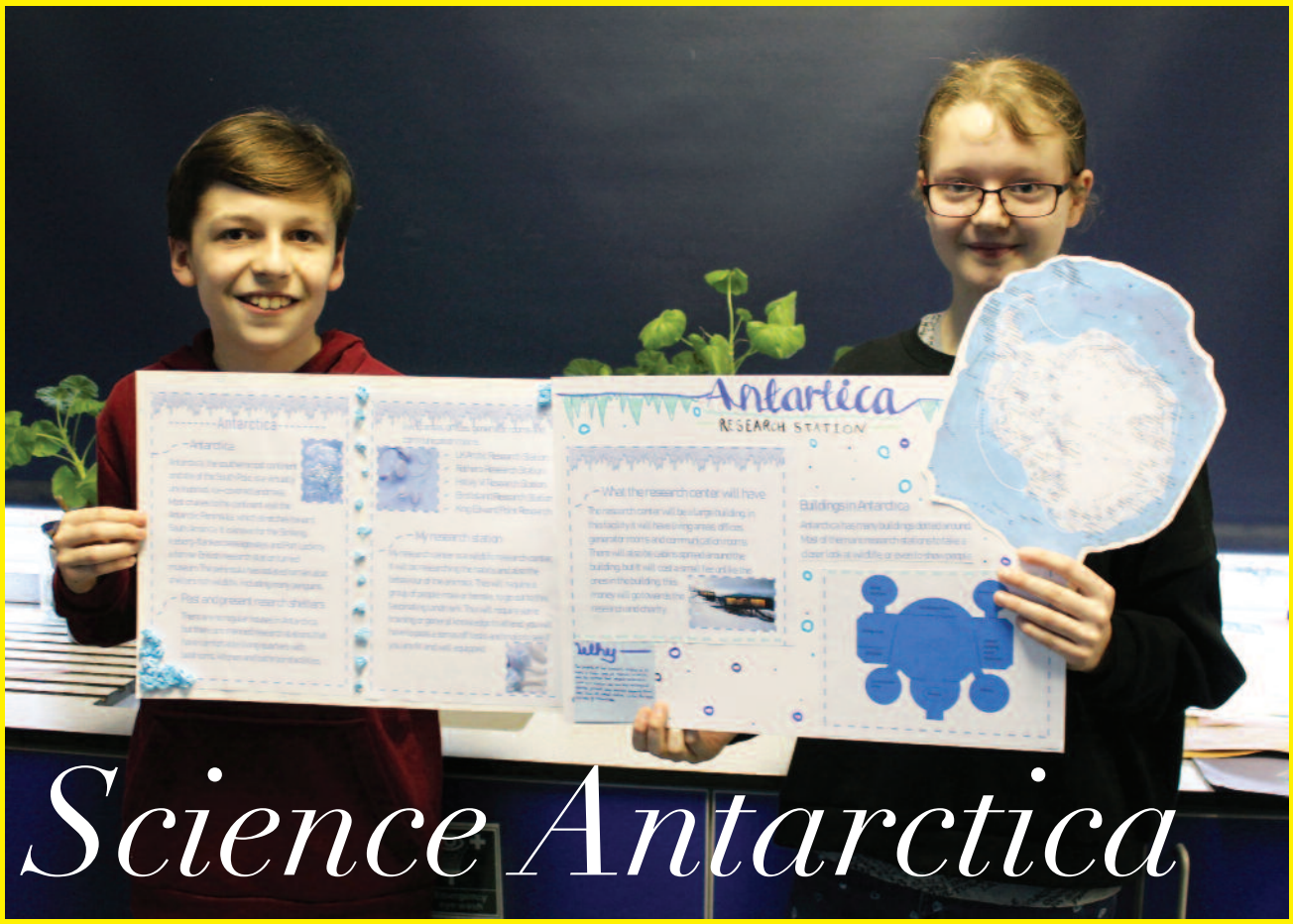
Tik Tok said it is in the process of removing all videos of the challenge, stating that "the safety and well-being of our users is a top priority". As a school, the safety of our students is our priority and will continue to update you on any safeguarding updates.

WARNING for Parents – Monkey App

A video chat app which allows youngsters to match with strangers has led to warnings by experts for parents to closely monitor their child's phone use. The Monkey app, which is pitched at teenagers, lets users talk face-to-face with random people for 15 seconds and add extra time to the call if they both agree.

If you find this app on your child's phone as part of your regular checks, we recommend you delete the app to ensure their safety. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this matter in more detail, please contact Mrs Creed or a member of the Safeguarding team via Reception on 01963 32368. If you are concerned that your child may have been exploited via the Monkey app, please contact the Police.

Please be vigilant when it comes to social media and your child.



Science Antarctica



iMedia Cyber Workshop

GCHQ came to visit Year 7 and 8 last term to talk to them about Cyber Security and looking after their information online. They had to perform several tasks during their lesson highlighting the reasons and the needs of people to keep their online information private. Most were amazed by what could be found out about them and who could "listen in" to chats whilst gaming online. All of our pupils came out of the visit with a far greater knowledge about Cyber Security.

Alumni: Nick Ackland

My name is Nick Ackland and I went to King Arthurs between 1996 – 2001 and currently own and run a children's publishing company based in Bristol called 'i am a bookworm'.

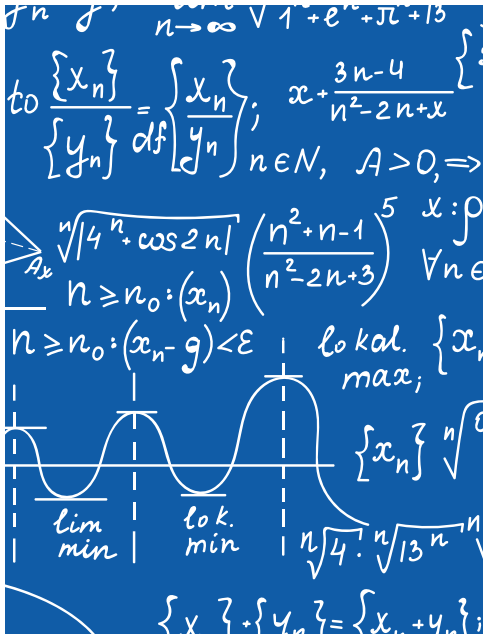


During my time at King Arthur's I optioned Geography, Graphic Design, PE and French and passed my GCSE's with 3 A's, 2 B's and 5C's. I've always had a natural creative flair so enjoyed Graphic Design and Art. I can still remember my final portfolio piece for my Graphic Design GCSE which was to design and build something – I chose to design a skate park which I then modelled using an art board (it was terrible!). I also enjoyed sport and was part of the football and basketball team.

After leaving King Arthur's, I went on to Yeovil College where I did a National Diploma in Graphic Design and an AS level in Business Studies. During my time at college, I had taken the decision not to go to University as I wanted some 'real-world' experience and so set out to try to secure a job in design. After being unsuccessful applying for variety of permanent positions, from a trainee architect to a magazine artworker, I managed to secure a week's unpaid work experience at a children's publishing company. After that week finished, I was invited back and offered a permanent junior position.

Seven years later in 2011, I teamed up with a Bristol based company and we launched 'i am a bookworm'. i am a bookworm creates board books and novelty books for children aged 0-5. We create the original book idea, and work with editors and illustrators to bring our creation to life. From 2011 – 2017 I ran the business single-handedly, before we welcomed our first employee in 2017. We now have four full-time employees and work with three freelance agents and three agencies.

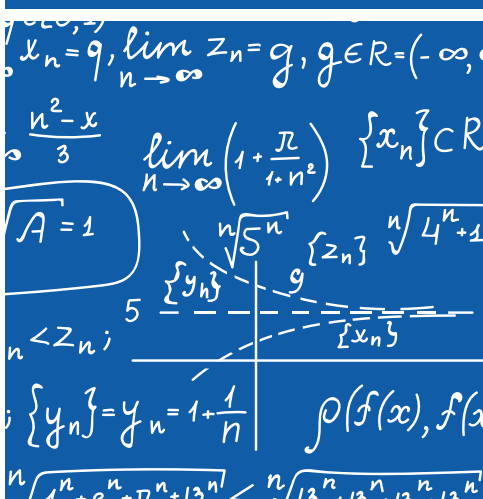
We have now sold more than 4 million books, which have been translated into 31 different languages and sold to 28 countries around the world!



Maths

Our top mathematicians in Years 9-11 took part in the UK Mathematics Challenge in February to demonstrate their mathematical problem solving abilities. Of these students, we had six who gained a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. Congratulations go to Ben M (Year 9), Sophie P (Year 10), Erin B, Megan B, and Charles Kissane (Year 11) who all gained Bronze awards. Daniel S (Year 11) was the only student to gain a Silver award, well done Dan!

The highest achiever in the school was a Gold award gained by Harry C (Year 10), who has qualified to compete in the next round 'The Pink Kangaroo'. This 'invitation only' round is offered to the top scoring students within the UK. Congratulations Harry and good luck on the next round.



SPORT

Sporty Staff!



Bath Half Marathon

Well done to Mr Elloway who ran the Bath Half Marathon in March, and fundraised for Clic Sargent. Thank you to everyone who donated!



London Marathon 2020

Miss Howell is due to run the London Marathon this year – she was busy preparing for the date in April, but due to corona virus the marathon has been postponed until October. She is running in aid of the charity Mind.

Miss Howell says "It was important for me to support this cause because of the incredible work that they do in our local area. Young people today are under pressure like never before. As a teacher, I have seen how social media, exam stress, family circumstances and physical illness can cause struggles with mental health. Worryingly, with CAMHS and other NHS services so stretched and underfunded, children who are in need of support are sometimes not getting what they need in the time that they need it. This is where charities like Mind do their vital and sometimes life-saving work. Whether it's legal advice, local support groups, workshops or over the phone support, Mind help to make sure that every person in need of help gets what they are entitled to.

I am incredibly grateful to all of our students for their support in raising money for Mind on our non-uniform day on 14th February. The students raised a fabulous £280. This is enough money to help someone access 1:1 and group support.

Sport Relief





On Friday 13th March, KA students undertook a number of sporting activities in aid of Sports Relief. Galahad organised a penalty shoot-out competition and lay ups challenge. Gawain organised space hopper bingo and a speed bounce competition. Percivale organised wheel chair races vs teachers and sweet pong. Lastly, Lancelot organised 'Just Dance' in the PEC and a 'keepie-uppiesathon'. All challenges were 10p and raised a fair amount for Sports Relief!

Basketball





The U14 Basketball team have had three games so far this year. Their progress has been led by the South West of England Basketball player and school captain Emily S. Emily is part of the successful Wincanton Wizards Basketball Club based at KA on Friday evenings. She and Freddie S have shaped and molded a squad of Year 7, 8 and 9 players together this season for school.

Their first win came against Holyrood winning by 18-16 points with our star shooter snatching the game winning points with 40 seconds left on the clock! Year 7 have loved their basketball lessons this year and five players have broken into the U14 school squad, competing against players twice their size and two years older in most other school teams.

Shelleys the printers