



Spring 2018  
Issue No. 04

# AKEB Newsletter



Welcome to the fourth edition of the AKEB's newsletter for parents with children in secondary school. Our aim is to share insights and provide access to useful resources to help you navigate your way around the education system and make informed decisions with your children at critical times during the academic calendar.

## Did You Know?

Each year in collaboration with its partners, AKDN improves classroom learning for over 1 million students (pre-school to Grade 12) through its School Improvement Programmes.

## 5 Easter break events for all the family to enjoy



### Warwick Castle, Warwick (30 March - 15 April 2018):

Celebrate the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William the Conqueror's motte and bailey castle, climb the Conqueror's Fortress and explore the castle's fascinating founding story. Conquer the Mound and come face to face with William the Conqueror to learn tactical defence skills in the all new Knight's School. An ideal opportunity for budding young historians to discover life in 1068. For prices and booking details: [www.warwick-castle.com](http://www.warwick-castle.com) or tel: 01926 495 421.



### The Natural History Museum, London:

Get up-close with nature, discover fascinating creatures and intriguing science, and enjoy fun, family-friendly activities for curious kids and inquisitive parents. Get a feel for how scientists work by having a go yourself. Explore hundreds of real nature specimens that form the evidence Museum scientists use in their work. Science Educators are on hand to help you look closely at real objects using the many tools provided. An interactive free drop-in session suitable for 6 - 13 years. For details call 020 7942 5000.



### The Observatory Science Centre, Herstmonceux, East Sussex. April 2018:

**Astronaut Academy** - investigate how to be an astronaut with some exciting activities and discover the challenges that astronauts face when they travel to space, live in space and return home. Interactive workshop for children aged 6-8 years.

**Earth & Beyond Twilight** - From the depths of the Earth to the stars! Find out about our own dynamic Earth then, as the night draws in and the Sun disappears, take a look beyond Earth at the fascinating night sky through a giant telescope. Spend an afternoon carrying out some fascinating experiments learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, icebergs and much more. Find out how Albert Einstein proved one of his ground-breaking theories using a telescope that is housed in one of the Observatory's domes. Suitable for children aged 9-11 years.

For further information and bookings call 01323 832731



### Rutland Water Nature Reserve, Egleton, Oakham:

Rutland Water Nature Reserve offers a multitude of activities for wildlife enthusiasts of all ages. From nature detectives to family drop-in days there are plenty of opportunities to learn about wildlife and the natural world in a safe and fun environment.

For details of events and children's workshops visit [www.rutlandwater.org.uk](http://www.rutlandwater.org.uk) or call 01572 770651



## Teacher Mentoring Programme in Khorog, Tajikistan

Are you a teacher looking to make a difference? Do you enjoy travelling and creating new experiences and memories?

In collaboration with AKES Tajikistan, AKEB are locally delivering a series of workshops designed to support the quality of teaching in local Aga Khan Schools in Khorog, Tajikistan.

Exceptional teachers are needed to deliver this project in August 2018.

Interested applicants must be qualified teachers with experience of a local or international mathematics curriculum.

An application form can be obtained by emailing: [akeb@iuk.org](mailto:akeb@iuk.org)

Deadline for applications 31 March 2018.

## GCSEs to A-Levels to University: Let's talk, let's get ahead of the game

Do you have a child who is aspiring to go to university? When should they start looking at university courses? The answer is the earlier the better. It's important to make informed choices as early as Year 9 when GCSE subjects need to be selected. The correct subject choices at this stage will ensure your child is on track for selecting the necessary 'A' level subjects and the correct 'A' level subjects will be the pre-requisites to accessing your child's chosen university course. In order to make the selection process easier, it's good to consider your child's interests and their skill sets. Honing in on what inspires them will certainly help make the right choices with the added bonus that they will enjoy their chosen subject.

As the exam season approaches, conversations about university courses will encourage and motivate your child to revise regularly. Remind them that their best performance at this stage will lead them to their chosen study course at university.

Remember - Start early if you want to get your child on to a course and into a university that is right for them.

## Online Safety Tip: Live Streaming

### What is live streaming?

Simply put, it's the broadcasting of real-time, uncensored live video to a captive audience. In the context of children and young people, the likely means of streaming is via a phone or tablet using one of the many apps that are out there, but anything that can stream (such as a webcam) can be used. Quite often the audience is able to interact with the presenter via chat and sometimes even private chat.

### Why is live streaming so popular with young people?

There will be many reasons: ego, gratification, confidence boost, channel growth and many others. Don't forget, for young adolescents in particular their social lives are incredibly important, from social status to friendships and relationships, this is a significant period in their development stage.

### What are the dangers of live streaming and what can parents do?

The police and organisations such as NSPCC have indicated that live streaming is a growing concern. The risks are numerous but largely fall within the context of:

- **Content** - what the children are seeing.
- **Contact** - who they are speaking to.
- **Conduct** - what they are doing.

There isn't a one-stop-fix-all solution to any of these issues. When taking part in live streaming, children can be challenged, tricked, coaxed, threatened or bullied into doing things, so it's important we have that ongoing conversation about contact with others, healthy relationships and assurance that we are always there to help them regardless of the problem.



## Easter Bonanza: Top 10 Mega Reads

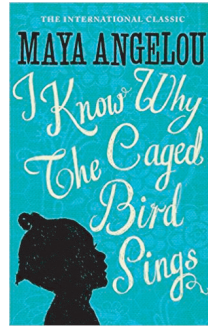
Following on from the article in the last edition of the Newsletter 'How to encourage your child to read', here is our list of top 10 great reads to encourage children to read over the Easter break.



### Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy

Anna Karenina is a classic story about a tragic heroine caught up in many tangled webs: the book explores questions about being content and how to live a fulfilled life.

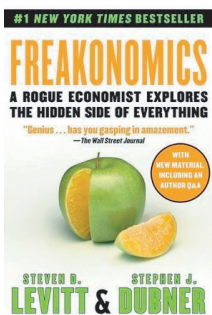
#drama #historical #fiction #russia  
#lovetriangle



### I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou

This book outlines Angelou's years from the ages of three to sixteen when she and her siblings were sent by their mother to live with their grandma in a Southern town. The book touches on themes of racism, abandonment and prejudice.

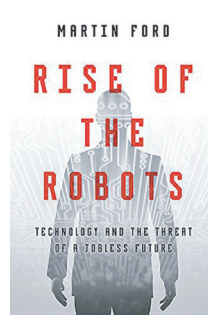
#autobiographical #racism #misogyny



### Freakonomics – Steven D Levitt & Stephen J Dubner

Interested in the economy? This book asks really atypical questions such as; how much do parents really matter? What do school teachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? A really enlightening read!

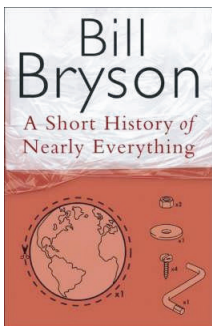
#economics #interesting facts #nonfiction



### Rise of the Robots – Martin Ford

A book about technology and the threat of a jobless future. It's a very informative read about how AI is already making many jobs obsolete. A great read to understand and question how we can prepare for this outcome and what the jobs of the future might be.

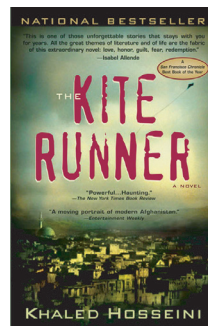
#nonfiction #technology #ai #future



### A Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson

This book, about the scientific origins of our universe including the Big Bang and the evolution, is great for awesome facts: if science is your thing, this book is just the read for you!

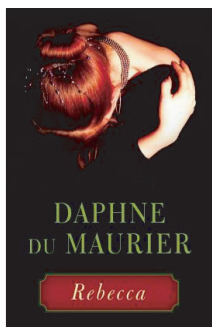
#nonfiction #science #abookabouteverything



### The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Set in war-torn Afghanistan, this is the story about the friendship between a wealthy boy and a servant boy. It's a beautiful story and you'll find out so much about Afghanistan!

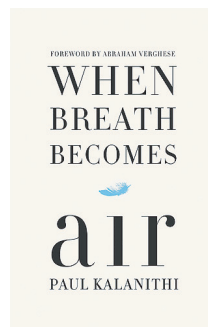
#fiction #family #friendship



### Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier

Rebecca is a classic thriller and so well written that it gives the reader a sense of drama and foreboding from the very beginning. It's a haunting story of love and identity with a lingering evil from beyond the grave.

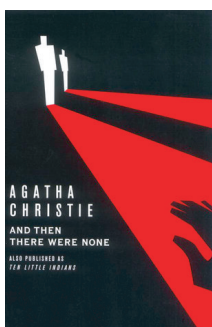
#thriller #drama #fiction



### When Breath Becomes Air – Paul Kalanithi

The memoirs of a neurosurgeon whose life is turned upside down. He is forced to re-evaluate his priorities and reflect on the meaning of life. A sad but inspiring book.

#autobiography #medicine



### And Then There Were None – Agatha Christie

Ten strangers are sent as weekend guests to a private island but one by one each guest is killed in mysterious circumstances. A real page turner; this may be the best detective novel ever written!

#murder #detective #fiction



### Wonder – R.J. Palacio

August Pullman is not an ordinary ten year old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal."

#family #friendship