

Curriculum Newsletter

Year 10



We would like to introduce you all to our first **KBA Curriculum Newsletter**.

As part of our ongoing aim to ensure you are as informed and involved as possible with your child's education we have put together this year group specific document. Through this you can;

- **read about the topics your child is learning up to the mid-year assessments**
- **have a look at some of the enrichment opportunities available to students**
- **be reminded of some upcoming key dates**
- **be informed about the support we offer students during these assessment windows**

The curriculum at KBA is designed to work around the two assessment points; mid-year and end of year. This varies for students in Year 11 and 13 who have their public examinations in May and June. These year groups have mock examinations at two points leading up to their final examinations. Key dates for these are included here as well as some of the support offered to students to help them achieve the best possible outcomes. We plan to send two newsletters each year to tie in with this delivery model. These testing periods are a real opportunity for students to demonstrate how well they are learning across the school and do form part of wider decisions, such as setting, in some subject areas. Following these assessment points you will receive a school report telling how well your child has done in each area.

The curriculum in lessons focusses on powerful knowledge; those key elements in every subject that need to be in place, and that students can recall, and on which all further learning relies upon. This is carefully thought through by leaders in each department and recall activities take place regularly to ensure this is retained. All the full curriculum planning documents are available to view on the academy website so you can see how this builds year-on-year.

We hope by sharing this information you will be able to encourage and support your child at home and discuss what they are learning. As parents and carers you are a vital link in the chain which will support your child in achieving their full potential during their time here at KBA.



RESPECT DETERMINATION AMBITION

“Subject leaders have comprehensively reviewed the curriculum. They have worked together across the primary and secondary phases to plan the curriculum from Reception Year to the sixth form. These plans show the ‘powerful’ knowledge that pupils need and when they need it.”

OFSTED 2021

Sept '22-Jan '23

ISSUE

RESPECT DETERMINATION AMBITION

ENGLISH

In Term 1 and 2, Year 10 will be studying in English Literature:

- ◆ *An Inspector Calls*, a play by J.B. Priestley that centres on a police inspector's interrogation of middle-class family in 1912, following the death of a young girl called Eva Smith. Are they to blame?
- ◆ *A Christmas Carol*, novella by Charles Dickens first published in 1843.
- ◆ Selected poems by poets such as Robert Browning, Wilfred Owen, Jane Weir, Carol Ann Duffy and Beatrice Garland from the AQA Power and Conflict Anthology.

In Term 1 and 2, Year 10 will be studying in English Language:

- ◆ Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing which is assessed on AQA English Language Paper 1. Students have been looking at how writers craft their narrative with particular focus on openings, setting and character development. Students will then apply this to their own creative writing responses.

As well as Seneca tasks that are set weekly below are some additional links to support independent revision.

[An Inspector Calls - BBC Bitesize](#) [An Inspector Calls - Sparknotes](#)

[Analysing fiction - BBC Bitesize](#) <https://continuityoak.org.uk/lessons>

Extra-curricular for students in Key Stage 4:

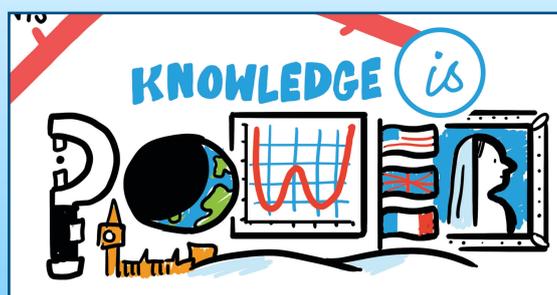
- ◆ We offer a creative writing club every Thursday lunchtime.
- ◆ We will be running the oldest and biggest Mace debate every Thursday after school.

Interested in journalism? We have our Young Reporters programme for years 10-13.

MATHS

Year 10 students have started the year consolidating their **algebra skills** from earlier years and applying them to **re-arranging formulae, linear graphs and working with the equation of line**. They have also learnt about **compound measure such as speed, density and pressure**. They have worked for the formulae as well as **distance time graphs**, linking topics together. It has been a mix of non-calculator and calculator work.

Topics have been consolidated by homework on the **Sparx** website which sets personalised work every week for the students. It gives them questions based on recently taught topics as well as practice on previously taught topics. There are tutorial videos for each question if a student needs support; students are also encouraged to ask their teacher for help prior to the deadline if needed. Students are expected to complete 100% of their compulsory tasks. We are seeing great progress in those students who regularly do this.



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RESPECT DETERMINATION AMBITION

SCIENCE

The topics which students will study in Year 10 prior to the mid-year assessments are:

- ◆ **Electricity (Physics).**
- ◆ **Chemical changes and energy changes (Chemistry).**
- ◆ **Generating Electricity (Physics).**
- ◆ **Quantitative Chemistry (Chemistry).**
- ◆ **Infection and Response (Biology).**

Students also complete required practicals in each topic. These are practicals which students complete in lesson, with the expectation that students can answer questions on them in the exam. For example, students may be asked to write a method for one of these practicals, or analyse given results from a practical.

In Year 10, students are set homework twice per week. The first homework piece is a Seneca task, and the second homework is a quiz. Both the Seneca and quiz assignments will be based on previously studied content to provide students with the opportunity to retrieve previously learnt materials. Each homework should take approximately 20 minutes. To support with the quizzing homework, students are advised to use the knowledge organisers which can be found on the school website, and BBC Bitesize.

GEOGRAPHY

The Year 10 students have started their **GSCE** studying '**Living World**'. A physical geography topic that allows students to develop their understanding of ecosystems and the interactions of humans with the world around them. They focus on two contrasting ecosystems; Tropical Rainforests (Amazon) and Desert Environments (Sahara). The students look at specific climatic characteristics as well as how plants and animals adapt to these environments. Most importantly they look at how human activity is threatening these ecosystems and how they can be protected for the future.

Students then move onto a human geography unit 'Changing Economic World'. This enables them to develop their understanding of the development gap and how this is measured as well as investigate, through case studies the changing economies of both the UK and India. Throughout these units we focus on retrieval of key knowledge and specific geographical vocabulary. Students will have frequent opportunities to apply this knowledge to exam questions, building their confidence and skills in Geography.



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

HISTORY

In their history lessons Year 10 students are currently studying '**Paper 1 – Medicine in Britain, 1250-present**' which they started after Easter in Year 9. This term students have been finding out about how treatment, including surgery, changed over time. They have explored the work and impact of Edward Jenner's smallpox vaccination and John Snow's investigation into cholera. Students have also looked at how methods of preventing illness have changed over time and the role governments have taken to improve public health including their role in helping to reduce the rates of lung cancer.

As well as their **Seneca** account which students already have access to on their Chromebook, please find below useful revision links to support them with their studies.

[OAK Academy lessons](#)
[GCSE Bitesize](#)

FRENCH, GERMAN & SPANISH

In Year 10 each language area have begun learning about their various aspects of **Theme 1: Identity and culture**. This term students have covered:

- ◆ **Relationships.**
- ◆ **Families/ friends and role models.**
- ◆ **Interests.**
- ◆ **Grammar: Using a range of tenses to talk about past/ present/ future.**

Students have developed their knowledge in the above areas through a range of exam style activities linked to reading, listening, speaking, translation. They have also completed two written exam questions under exam conditions to consolidate their knowledge.

***Extracurricular:** There is a foreign languages boardgames club that takes place every Wednesday.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 10 full and short course students have been studying 'Relationships and Families', a religious, philosophical and ethical unit which forms part of the AQA GCSE Religious Studies qualification. This covers a range of topical issues including human sexuality, marriage, divorce, the nature and purpose of families and gender equality.

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 10 are encouraged to attend and participate in Debate Club. Debates this term have included 'Is all life equal?' and 'Is private education fair?'

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Core PE 100 minutes. GCSE and OCR students have been focussing on Athletics as an Individual event. Students have also studied Football and Basketball.

Enrichment: Fitness, Football, Trampolining, Netball, Rugby, Badminton alongside Year 10 fixtures in Football and Netball.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

In year 10 students begin by studying the content for their exam (40% of the GCSE). They cover topics like Food safety, Health & Safety, and Industry job roles. Students also begin cooking more complex dishes as they evolve from KS3 to KS4. These practical's prepare them for their coursework in year 11, where they are required to make a 2-course meal, in 3 hours.

We understand that the cost of living can make purchasing ingredients a challenge and KBA is here to support its students. There will always be spares of each ingredient available to students and if any further support or feedback is needed, please contact the Head of Food, Mr Hounslow.

MUSIC

The topics that Year 10 will be studying in Music before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ **A skills building unit for theory, listening and appraising, performance and composition. Students will learn the art of practising and develop compositional skills from improvisation to composition. A range of listening, composing and performance tasks will be completed in order to practically apply their knowledge and understanding. Students will have composition and performance projects, where they will present and perform their work to the class.**
- ◆ **Music for film; Area of Study 3. Through this area of study students are encouraged to consider how music for film is created, developed and performed, and the impact this has on the audience. Students will have the opportunity to compose and perform film music and are encouraged to use musical technology to create mood and atmosphere through engaging with the story of the film.**

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 10 are **expected** to participate in at least one of the many, exciting enrichment activities we run. These include; KBA Stage School, Rock Band, Music Tech Club, Drumming Club, Ukulele Club and use of the practice rooms. Stage School and Rock Band are currently rehearsing for our production of School of Rock in March 2023. All students in Year 10 are expected to have lessons on a musical instrument. If your child does not yet have instrumental lessons, please contact Mrs Lovell for more information.

FINE ART

Year 10 fine art students have undertaken their practical workshops in art; these workshops have given students the chance to experiment with a variety of techniques and medium. Students will have experimented with both dry and wet medium, including pencil, pen, oil pastel, watercolour, acrylics and printing techniques.

Students will next develop their own work taking a given theme as a starting point. Students will create work inspired by their own chosen artists which link back to their theme. This will culminate in a sustained work produced over a set period.

Students are encouraged to attend local exhibitions, attend online workshops and enter external competitions. The art barn and all its facilities are always open for students to use. All these extra-curricular activities help students to further their skills and thinking in the subject.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 10 photography students have undertaken **practical workshops in photographic skills**, these workshops have ensured students are fully versed in the ability to take **compositionally strong photographs**. Students have had the chance to experiment with a variety of techniques and medium. Students will have experimented with both digital techniques and manual manipulation using a variety of medium.

Students are encouraged to attend local exhibitions, attend online workshops and enter external competitions. The art barn and all its facilities are always open for students to use. All these extra-curricular activities help students to further their skills and thinking in the subject.

TEXTILES

Year 10 Textiles students have been looking at the theme of '**Natural forms**' within their coursework. Students are creating a series of experiments testing out many different techniques such as **embroidery, fabric dyeing, batik and stitching**, working from their own photography. They will be looking at different artists and designers who will inspire them to experiment with the same media and techniques.

Students are encouraged to attend local exhibitions, attend online workshops and enter external competitions. The art barn and all its facilities are always open for students to use. All these extra-curricular activities help students to further their skills and thinking in the subject.

3D ART & DESIGN

Year 10 3D art students have been experimenting with a range of 3D materials such as clay, wire and cardboard to **create structures** that take **influence from natural forms**. They will move onto researching and developing ideas based on architectural structures, using more resistant materials like balsa wood and foam board.

They will later develop their own work from a given theme, utilising, more independently, the skills learnt across term 1 and 2. Students will subsequently create work inspired by their own chosen artists which link back to their theme. This will culminate in a sustained work produced over a set period of time.

Students are encouraged to attend local exhibitions, attend online workshops and enter external competitions. The art barn and all its facilities are always open for students to use. All these extra-curricular activities help students to further their skills and thinking in the subject.



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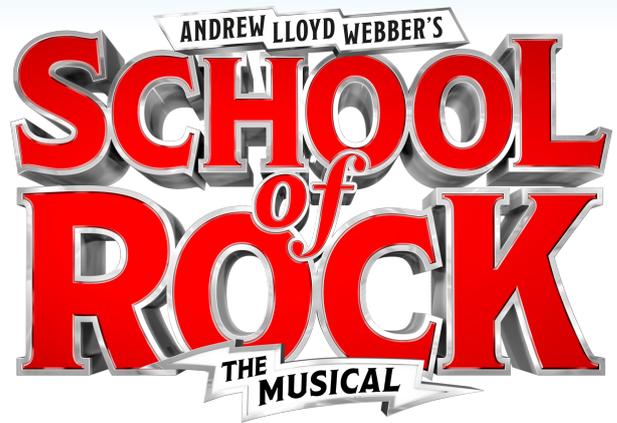
DRAMA

The topics that Year 10 will be studying in Drama before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ Practitioners - Brecht, Artaud, Stanislavski.
- ◆ Presenting and performing texts "*Blood Brothers*".
- ◆ Live theatre and evaluation.
- ◆ Devising.

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 10 are *expected* to participate in at least one of the many, exciting enrichment activities we run. These include; Scratch Theatre and KBA Stage School. Stage School are currently rehearsing for our production of School of Rock in March 2023.

KBA presents...

**OCR ENTERPRISE & MARKETING**

We have started learning for both the exam in Year 11 and the coursework which counts towards 30% of their overall grade. The students have been tasked with 'Design a Business Proposal'. They have started work for a company called Baslow Bags Ltd in the marketing department, reporting to the Marketing Director. They are looking to expand their business. The brief is to investigate the rucksack market and decide where there is a gap in the market; then develop a rucksack. The students will also have to look at whether it will make a profit and whether it is worth pursuing. They have made a superb start to their coursework to date.

OCR PE

Students have been studying Sport and the media which is a coursework unit (R1085). This involves analysing Sport, the Media and their relationship. It looks at evaluating the positive and negative effects the media has on sport including their effect on participation.

Please see the KBA enrichment app, available to students on their Chrome books, for details of all the extra-curricular sporting opportunities on offer.

GCSE PE

Students have been studying Unit 1; exploring the effect exercise has on health (physical, mental and social). This is leading onto components of fitness, fitness testing and methods of training (AO1) which link to performance in sport (AO2).

Please see the KBA enrichment app, available to students on their Chrome books, for details of all the extra-curricular sporting opportunities on offer.

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SOCIOLOGY

Year 10 Sociology students are currently completing their introduction to Sociology. This term they have been learning key sociological concepts that underpin sociology such as 'culture, socialisation and social processes'. Students have also learnt the key sociological perspectives that we use to explain human behaviour such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and Interactionism. Students will then be focusing on how society is stratified into class, gender and ethnicity groups and how the structures of society effect these groups and their life chances.

After half term students will move on to 'how sociologists research society' and cover a range of research methods and evaluating the strengths and limitations of using them to study society. All content learnt in the first term will be covered in the midterm assessment point.

Finally, students have started their independent research tasks into a particular culture of their choice. Each week, for homework students have researched key concepts we have learnt and applied them to their chosen culture. At the end of the project students will have an opportunity to present their research findings to their peers. Students will also be given a second research project for 'research methods', where they will be expected to use different research methods and evaluate their usefulness.

ICT

The Year 10 students have started practicing their GCSE coursework which is named 'R060 Data manipulation using spreadsheets'.

In this unit they will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client's requirements. They will be able to evaluate their solution based on the user requirements.

Topics include:

- ◆ **Planning and designing the spreadsheet solution.**
- ◆ **Testing the spreadsheet solution.**
- ◆ **Creating the spreadsheet solution.**
- ◆ **Evaluating the spreadsheet solution.**

Once they have practiced all of these topics, they will then complete the set assignment which is provided by the exam board. Throughout this unit, students will also focus on retrieval of key knowledge and specific ICT vocabulary.

OCR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The new OCR child development course has started with students understanding how to create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years of age. It includes looking at different early years environments, for example a nursery and how to keep the children safe by using a range of different equipment. Students will then look at the current dietary recommendations for healthy eating.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

HEAD OF YEAR

Year 10 have had a fantastic start to the year. All students have settled incredibly well into their GCSE's and are making excellent progress in their academic studies. We have loved getting to know you all and your individual characteristics. We have been extremely proud of the way you represent yourselves around the academy, being fantastic role models to the younger years. We are continuing to run our careers programme this academic year which includes students receiving 1 to 1 impartial careers guidance from Prospects, Form Time Activities such as Votes 4 Schools, Unifrog, Careers and Life Lessons. Additionally, Year 10 have enjoyed taking part in numerous extra-curricular activities, sports fixtures and House Championship competitions with successes in football and the rugby 7s tournament. The students represented KBA well with their success on the pitch and off the pitch with their behaviour and respect.

If you do require any support, please do not hesitate to contact the KS4 team.

Jennifer McKay

Head of Year 10

EXAM INFORMATION

It has been a fantastic start to the year for our students. For students in Year 7, 10 and 12 they are starting new courses and for others, they are continuing with their studies.

Year 10 have started the next stage in their education and are showing great effort and resilience. All students in Key Stage 3 and 4, are making full use of their Chromebook and access our online programs and resources regularly to ensure they continue to expand their understanding.

During the next two terms, staff at KBA will be ensuring our students are fully preparing for the upcoming Mid-Year Assessments. Can I take this opportunity to draw your attention to these important dates:

◆ **Monday 9th January to Thursday 26th January - Mid Year Assessments Year 7 to 10**

To support our students with these assessments, they will be provided with:

- ◆ **Assemblies to ensure they are fully aware of when/where exams are.**
- ◆ **Homework tasks specific to their assessments/mocks.**
- ◆ **Additional resources for which will be available on their class Teams channels.**
- ◆ **Planned lesson, which will support their own revision at home.**