

Curriculum Newsletter

Year 12



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

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RESPECT DETERMINATION AMBITION

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Our Year 12 students are studying a wide range of love poetry, spanning **Sir Thomas Wyatt to Thomas Hardy**. We seek to understand and explain how love was experienced and expressed over nearly 400 years of poetic work.

They are also studying **F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby'**. The focus here is similar, with a more intense focus on how the text can be understood through a range of literary and societal contexts.

ENGLISH LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

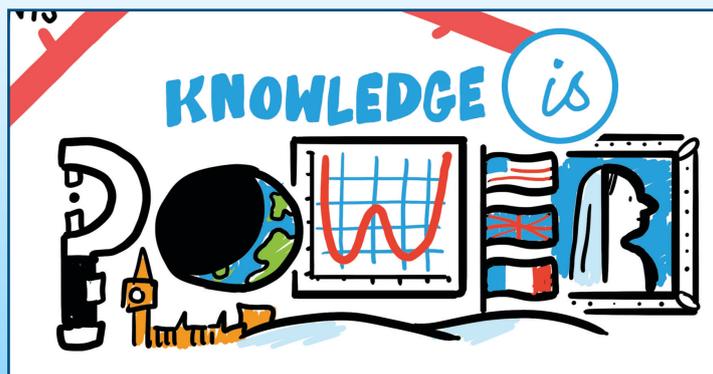
Our Year 12 students are studying an anthology of **poems** by **John Donne**. The particular focus of their study is on the construction of a strong sense of personal perspective. They are also studying **Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale'**. The focus here is on the construction of imaginary worlds. It is essential that our students have a sound understanding of **linguistic strategies** and so they are also doing a course entitled: '**Linguistic Methods for Literary Analysis**'.

MATHS

Students have been working on furthering their knowledge from GCSE mathematics on topics such as Quadratics, Polynomials, Graphs and Transformations and Factor and Remainder Theorems in the Pure Mathematics modules as well as studying topics related to Physics on themes such as Constant Acceleration and Forces. The latter being particularly useful for those studying Physics or wanting to go into some form of Engineering at a later date. They will soon begin studying topics in Statistics and Probability, perhaps more useful to those wanting to get into research, finance, actuary or data analysis.

FURTHER MATHS

Our students study four modules over the two years and so far have been studying topics on Complex Numbers and Argand Diagrams from the compulsory papers, and Graphs, Networks and Linear Programming from the Decision Maths optional module. They will continue with work from the Core Pure Mathematics modules throughout the two years and will shortly start work on the fourth module, Further Mechanics, particularly useful to those who are also studying Physics as one of their A levels.



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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 are now developing 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.

Students are beginning to structure their essay which will link back to their own studio practice. This essay alongside their practical work will form component 1 of the A level.

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.

SPANISH

Year 12 have begun theme 1: **Changes to the Spanish society**. This topic includes:

- ◆ **Changes to the family structure.**
- ◆ **The world of work.**
- ◆ **Grammar: Present tense (regular and irregular)/adjective agreements/ reflexive verbs/ definite and indefinite articles/ interrogatives.**

Students have been developing an understanding of key social issues in Spanish society linked to the themes above. They have also acquired understanding of the language through extended translation, reading and listening tasks. In terms of application students have applied their knowledge to speaking activities in which they verbalise their opinions and also to essay writing questions.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Year 12 Have been exploring the nature of God with Mrs O'Sullivan; exploring different issues surrounding this such as his omnipotence and omnibenevolence.

With Mr Atkinson, they have been exploring different Normative Ethical theories attempting to provide guidance for making moral decisions in the most challenging of hypothetical scenarios. The three they have explored are **Natural Moral Law by Thomas Aquinas, Situation Ethics by Joseph Fletcher and Virtue Ethics by Aristotle.**



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BIOLOGY

In lessons, students have been learning about biological molecules and the structure of cells, which is fundamental knowledge that they will build upon throughout the rest of the year. Students will complete termly assessments which focus on the content covered during that term. In addition, students complete required practicals in lesson time. This term's required practical involves observing dividing root tip cells in the different stages of mitosis.

In Biology, 6-8 hours of independent study is set per week, and it involves a variety of tasks including answering exam questions but also reading journal articles and listening to podcasts to develop students' wider knowledge and to keep them up to date with topical issues in Biology.

Students aspiring to pursue degrees such as Medicine, Veterinary sciences and Dentistry have been strongly encouraged to sign up to Medic Mentor sessions. Details have been emailed to all students, and they should ask their teacher if they require further support with signing up.

CHEMISTRY

In lessons students have been learning about atomic structure and bonding in a bit more depth than GCSE. We have been naming shapes of molecules as well as looking at electronic configurations of atoms with electrons now being present in different orbitals rather than shells. We also have a quantitative Chemistry module which looks at moles and concentrations of solutions. Students will complete termly assessments which focus on the content covered during that term.

Students also complete required practicals in lesson. This term, students have been looking at titrations of an acid and an alkali to work out the unknown concentration of an acid or alkali.

In Chemistry, 6-8 hours of independent study is set per week, and it involves a variety of tasks including answering exam questions but also reading journal articles and listening to podcasts to develop students' wider knowledge and to keep them up to date with topical issues in Chemistry.

Students aspiring to pursue degrees such as medicine, veterinary sciences and dentistry have been strongly encouraged to sign up to Medic Mentor sessions. Details have been emailed to all students, and they should ask their teacher if they require further support with signing up.

PHYSICS

Students in Year 12 Physics have started their course by learning about the exciting world of Quantum Mechanics. This introductory unit is something new to all students and really captures the interest as they learn about sub-atomic particles and fundamental nature of matter.

In the lessons leading up to the mid-year assessment students will learn about the following:

- ◆ **Matter and Radiation.**
- ◆ **Quarks and Leptons.**
- ◆ **Quantum Phenomena.**
- ◆ **Waves and Optics.**

There are many opportunities for wider reading in Physics and students have been recommended to register for Physics World which gives them access to weekly online articles from all areas of Physics.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

OCR P.E

Students are studying Unit 1 and Unit 3 which are the exam elements that they will take in January and June.

Unit 1 involves Exercise Physiology such as the Cardiac System, Respiratory, Skeletal, Nervous, Energy and how these impact on exercise. **Unit 3** involves Sport and Society, looking at the impact on sport with participation, social mobility, youth crime and analysing the impact hosting major sporting event (e.g Olympics) has on a City/Country.

A LEVEL P.E

Students are studying Section A and C of the A level PE specification. Students are covering Skill Acquisition including types of skill, transfer of learning, feedback, practice stages of learning and learning theories for section A. For Section C students are covering Pre-industrial sport in Britain studying the impact of mob football and private schools on modern sport today.

Students are developing their extended writing techniques for the 6 long mark questions per paper and how to access AO1, AO2 and AO3 successfully.

PSYCHOLOGY

Over this term students have been looking at where Psychology began with Wundt's first German laboratory exploring his concept of introspection. Then moving onto how Psychology has developed overtime through different schools of thought as technology and society has evolved. This includes a range of differing approaches to Psychology such as: Pavlov's classical conditioning techniques for behaviourist, social learning ideas relating to Bandura's Bobo doll, exploring internal mental processes using technology, considering whether genetics affect our behaviour, Freud's infamous psychoanalysis of our tri-part personality, and humanistic insights into how much control individuals have over their own behaviour.

We have also started on focusing specifically on Cognitive Psychology. This has allowed students to explore the differences between our short and long-term memories in terms of capacity, duration, and coding, differing models of memory including the multi store and working memory models, explanations of why and how we forget and retain different types of information and how eyewitness testimonies can be improved or manipulated.

Next, we have been exploring how infants and animals form attachments with others and the detrimental impact of failing to form relationships with others especially in our early years of life. We have considered what the purposes of forming strong attachments may be especially between caregivers and babies. We have been exploring differences in child rearing practices across different cultures and the potential negative consequences if these bonds are disrupted either temporarily or permanently.

GEOGRAPHY

Students have started their AQA A Level course with two core units. In their Physical paper they have started looking at the Water and Carbon unit, exploring the interdependence of both cycles on the living world, and the complexities associated with the human interventions in both. In their Human paper they have started to study the Contemporary Urban Environments unit. This unit explores the importance of the urban environment, and the challenges that are faced in key cities globally. The theory of the unit is taught through two key case studies – London and Rio de Janeiro.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

HISTORY

Year 12 have made a fantastic start to the Edexcel A Level course.

With Mr Prudden, students have been exploring the causes of political instability between Crown and Parliament in the years 1625-49. This has involved exploring why Charles I embarked on an eleven-year Personal Rule without parliament from 1629, as well as the reasons why he was forced to recall parliament in 1640, why civil war erupted between the supporters of Crown and parliament in Britain in 1642, and why Charles I was executed in January 1649. Next term, students will explore the tumultuous years of the Republic and the later Stuart kings.

With Miss Holland, Year 12 have been learning about the features of Tsarism and the preconditions in Russia leading up to the accension of Tsar Nicholas II in 1894. Students have spent time developing their source analysis skills and are currently studying the nature of early opposition groups by 1905 and the significance of these for the Tsar. Next term we will begin an enquiry into the 1905 Revolution including the reasons for its failure.

APPLIED BUSINESS

We have two main areas of focus at the moment in Applied Business. The first one, that will continue throughout the year is based upon the study of Merlin Attractions which operate theme parks such as Alton Towers & Thorpe Park. This is an extended piece of coursework that will take a year to complete and looks at their aims and objectives, ownership, recruitment and SWOT analysis to name a few areas. This is worth 33.3% of the overall grade at the end of the year.

The other area is their exam which they will sit on Wednesday 11th January 2023. This is based on financial planning and analysis, and includes topics such as business planning, legal structures of business, how they are financed and using break-even. Again, this is worth 33.3% of their overall grade at AS level.

At the end of the year they will receive a certificate for a Level 3 Certificate in Applied Business which is equivalent to an AS qualification.

BUSINESS STUDIES

We have started the year looking at two main areas: What is business? This involves why businesses exist, the relationship between mission and objectives and the measurement and importance of profit. In this unit, the students will learn about different business forms and why they are suitable for the business. Finally, we will get an overview of how businesses operate within an external environment, looking at some economic conditions that affect businesses.

The other main area is Managers, Leadership and Decision Making. This is similar to the 'What is business?' section in that it underpins a significant amount of the theory that we will learn. Within this section, we will look at what managers do and the different management and leadership styles combined with their effectiveness. Then we look at the value of making decision based on data and intuition. Finally we will investigate stakeholders and their role and importance to a business.

Once we have established this, we move on to the functional areas of operations, finance, human resources and marketing.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

ECONOMICS

The course is split into two distinct areas: **micro** and **macro** economics. Each will be studied individually with the cross over between the two highlighted. Micro is concerned with the study of what is likely to happen when individuals make choices in response to changes in incentives, prices resources and/or methods of production. Macro looks at the study of whole economics and how they interact in economies.

In micro we will consider the basic economic problem looking at scarcity, choice, needs and wants. This underpins a lot of the following topics and we will move onto the allocation of resources. This will allow a solid introduction to the study of microeconomics.

As macroeconomics is the study of broader economics and their interaction, we have looked at the key areas to start off with so that as we study individual concepts we are able to apply them to different settings. We will look at the circular flow of income, aggregate demand and aggregate supply which set the scene for a lot of topics that we will then investigate.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Year 12 Politics students have made an encouraging start to their Edexcel A Level Politics course.

Having completed transitional learning over the summer, students have been critically exploring the key features of UK representative democracy and political participation including voting and turnout in elections, referendums as examples of direct democracy, political party membership, the degree of trust the public has in politicians, the role and purpose of pressure and interest groups and the human and political rights and responsibilities of UK citizens. Students have investigated and evaluated the extent to which there could be said to be a 'participation crisis' in the UK discussing the indicators for political engagement and also considering if, rather, the public is now engaging in politics in new ways (e.g. through social media, technology etc).

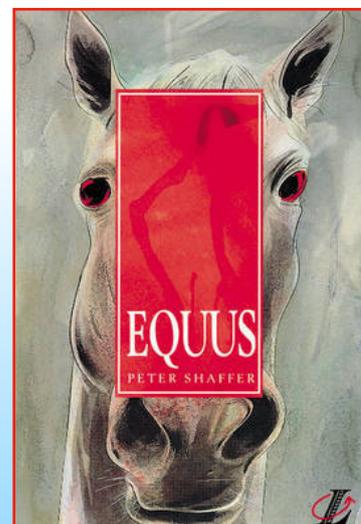
The students will soon begin to explore the essential features and workings of the UK Constitution – the basis for our government and political institutions.

DRAMA

Year 12 A level drama students have spent the first few weeks of their courses exploring drama practitioners who have impacted drama and theatre. These have included established practitioners such as **Brecht**, **Stanislavski**, **Artaud** as well as new theatre practitioners such as **Forced Entertainment**.

Students will begin their first unit of coursework where they will devise an original piece of drama. This will be based on an extract from a published play and include in-depth exploration of one key practitioner.

They will also begin to read through their first examination set text, **"Equus" by Shaffer**, exploring the text from a performer and director's point of view. Students will be required to keep a working record of their practical work which will form the basis of their devised coursework. Weekly assignments linked to the set text will also be set.



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SOCIOLOGY

Year 12 Sociology students have just completed their introduction to Sociology, where they have been learning key sociological concepts and core themes that underpin sociology such as 'culture, socialisation, identity, power, social stratification and social differentiation'. Students have also learnt the key sociological perspectives that we use to explain human behaviour such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionism and Post Modernism. Students have also focused on 'how society is stratified into of class, gender and ethnicity groups and how the structures of society effect these groups and their life chances'. Students have just completed an internal assessment to assess their knowledge and understanding on these topics and have been provided with feedback on areas to develop further.

Students have just started their first examination topic of 'Families and Households', which is part of the AQA A level Sociology Paper two content. In this unit, students will learn about theories of family, social policies and the family, childhood, couples and conjugal roles, demographics and the family and the ever-changing patterns of the family and family diversity. They will develop their essay writing skills to be able to answer examination essay questions.

OCR ICT

In ICT this term students have been covering theory in Units 1 and 2. In Unit 1, they have Hardware and Software, Binary on how computers can communicate. They have learnt compression and encryption. They have also created their own cypher codes. The students have completed two internal assessments.

In unit 2, students have learnt about IT devices, The Internet, Information styles, Quality of Information, Categories of Information and data analysis tools. Students have completed two internal assessments to assess their knowledge and understanding on these topics. The students will be sitting this unit exam on Wednesday 11th January 2023.

CPLD (Children's Play, Learning & Development)

In CPLD this term students have been looking at the key principles of growth and development and how they are applied from birth up to 7 years and 11 months. They will also look at the different areas – physical, cognitive, language, emotional and social development. They will also look at the importance of understanding the links between Maslow's hierarchy of needs and children's development and the nature vs nurture debate. This then develops into the understanding of the theoretical approaches of cognition, language, and communication, including Piaget, Vygotsky, and information processing. Finally, the students will look at the theories of social and emotional development and how this affects children's holistic development. Students will be sitting this unit exam on Friday 20th January 2023.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

In H&S this term students have been looking at the human growth and development through the life stages. They have begun to understand the different life stages and how humans develop physically, emotionally, and socially. This then develops into the different factors that affect human growth and development, focusing on the nature Vs nurture debate as well as the different genetic, environmental, social and economic factors that can affect human development. As the term progresses students will look at the effects of expected and unexpected life events and the physical changes of ageing. The unit exam is on Friday 13th January 2023.

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

APPLIED LAW

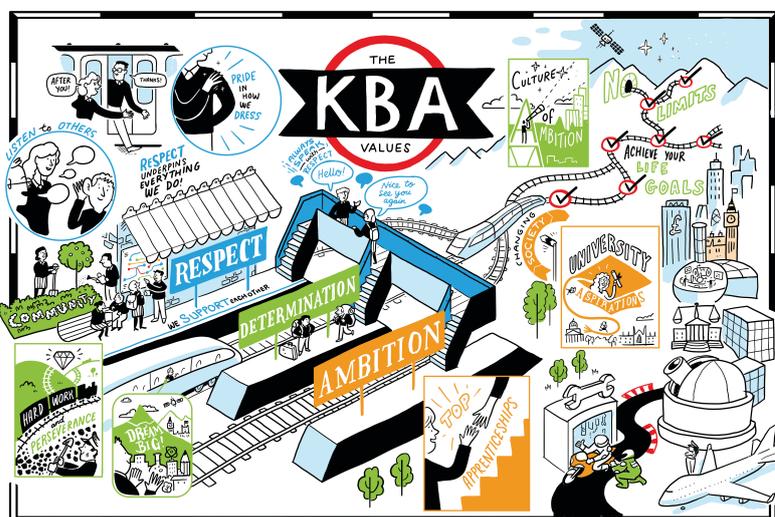
Applied Law Year 12 have had a productive start to the year. They have just completed their introduction to Law, in which they have studied a brief introduction to civil and criminal law, with a specific focus on the case of OJ Simpson in America with a specific focus on the element of double liability. Students worked in teams to create arguments on whether OJ Simpson was guilty or not guilty for the murders as they studied the concepts standard of proof and the burden of proof.

Students have begun working towards their first exam which will take place in January. This is Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law. This has involved the students learning about the structure of the civil courts to inform their understanding of the civil legal process. Students have also learnt about the different judges involved in the civil legal process, and the different subjects that each judge oversees. Leading on from this, students have also studied the roles of solicitors, barristers and legal executives. This has inspired several in the class to consider their own future career paths and begin to delve deeper into the possibilities Law opens up. Students have also begun to develop their writing skills for their exam, which involves them writing a letter and a case note. They have submitted their first letters which show great promise. This is working towards their mock exam in November.

A LEVEL LAW

A-Level Law Year 12 have had a productive start to the year. They have just completed their introduction to Law, in which they have studied a brief introduction to civil and criminal law, with a specific focus on the case of OJ Simpson in America with a specific focus on the element of double liability. Students worked in teams to create arguments on whether OJ Simpson was guilty or not guilty for the murders as they studied the concepts standard of proof and the burden of proof.

Students have now started studying their content for their exam. This has started with a focus on the civil court structure to give them understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of people using courts to solve disputes, which led students to learning about Alternative Dispute Resolution. This focused on negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration, with a separate focus on employment tribunals. This has led students to writing their first essays in A-Level Law, having to describe the process of arbitration. Students have also looked at judicial independence and Montesquieu's theory of the Separation of Powers; looking in-depth at the role of the judiciary in cases and allegations of sexism within it. We are planning to finish teaching of the first half of Paper 1 by Christmas, where we will study the role of solicitors; barristers; legal personnel; and lay people.



"We Believe All Students Can Achieve"

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AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

HEAD OF YEAR

Year 12 have had a great first term and have lived up to the expectation that we are the hardest working students in Northamptonshire. We have been to a UCAS fair in Leicester with the intention of finding inspirational places to study or work after Sixth Form. There have been some very impressive dishes made in our Cookery sessions on Fridays whilst the rest of the year group joined Global Learning sessions. I am very proud of the start that Year 12 have made.

Nick Hall

Head of year 12

EXAM INFORMATION

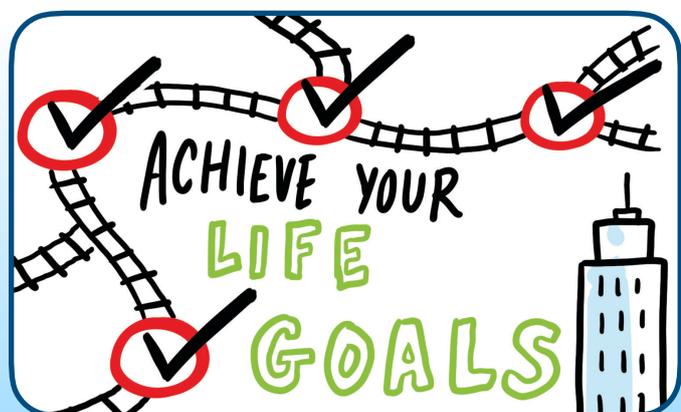
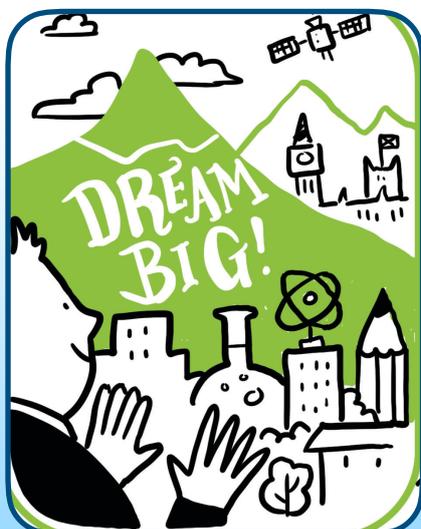
It has been a fantastic start to the year for our students. For students in Year 12 they are starting new courses and have started the next stage in their education and are showing great effort and resilience.

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.

◆ **Wednesday 4th January to Friday 13th January - Year 12 Assessment Point**

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 teams channel.**
- ◆ **Planned lesson, which will support their own revision at home.**



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