

Curriculum Newsletter

Year 7



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

The topics that Year 7 will be studying in English before the mid-year exams are:

Term 1 – Myths and Legends

Term 2 – Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Students are learning how to create and craft their own stories as well as studying literature in depth to understand how writers convey key themes and create characters.

Extra-curricular for all students in Key Stage 3:

- ◆ Creative writing club every Thursday lunchtime.
- ◆ The oldest and biggest Mace debate every Thursday after school.
- ◆ Balloon debate competition with Oundle School.

From Term 2, students will be invited to join our BRAND-NEW comic book club on Tuesday lunchtimes!

MATHS

Year 7 students have been consolidating some key number skills and started to apply them to **Algebra topics**. They have been working on order of operations, factors and multiples and then building on this knowledge with basic rules of algebra, **expanding and factorising**.

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 gets stuck, 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 and we are seeing great progress in those students who regularly do this.

SCIENCE

Before the mid-year exams, students will cover the following topics in lessons:

- ◆ **Particles**
- ◆ **Cells, tissues and organs**
- ◆ **Energy**

In lessons, students are also learning practical skills and techniques, and could be assessed on these in the exam. For example, there will be questions about scientific methods, selecting suitable apparatus and displaying results.

Enrichment: We have an Engineering club running every Thursday after school where we will be making model gliders, anemometers, testing the strength of biscuits and constructing model bridges. All are welcome!



Sept '22-Jan '23

ISSUE

AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

GEOGRAPHY

The topics that Year 7 will be studying in Geography before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ **Geographical Skills.**
- ◆ **Development and World of Work.**

Students started their geographical journey by studying the globe, to sharpen their knowledge of various places around the world and develop key skills that will support them in their journey to think geographically. Following this, students learn how inequality is prevalent throughout the world, whilst also exploring strategies used to tackle this global issue.

HISTORY

Well done to Year 7 who have all made an excellent start to their history studies at KBA.

The topics that Year 7 have been studying in History this term are:

- ◆ **What Medieval Constantinople and Baghdad reveal about the medieval world.**
- ◆ **The Norman Conquest of 1066.**

Students have been taught how to structure written explanations about the past and have been explaining why William of Normandy defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings.

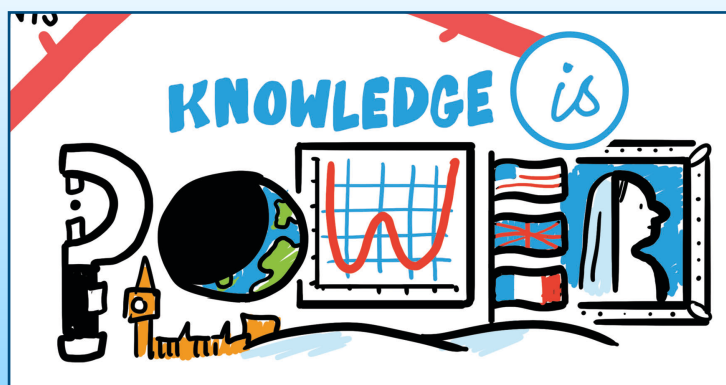
FRENCH

Year 7 have been learning about how to talk about themselves in French. This topic includes:

- ◆ **Likes/dislikes.**
- ◆ **Describing yourself.**
- ◆ **Grammar: Present tense and adjective agreements for masculine and feminine.**

Students have developed their knowledge in the above areas through reading, listening and speaking. They have also completed two written tasks this term to consolidate their knowledge.

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



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

GERMAN

Year 7 have been learning about how to talk about themselves in German. This topic includes:

- ◆ **Introducing yourself/numbers.**
- ◆ **Describing yourself.**
- ◆ **Grammar: How to ask questions and use Sein/Haben.**

Students have developed their knowledge in the above areas through reading, listening and speaking. They have also completed two written tasks this term to consolidate their knowledge.

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

SPANISH

Year 7 have been learning about how to talk about themselves in Spanish. This topic includes:

- ◆ **Describing yourself.**
- ◆ **Talking about your pets and how many siblings you have.**
- ◆ **Grammar: How to use Tener (to have) and adjective agreements for masculine and feminine.**

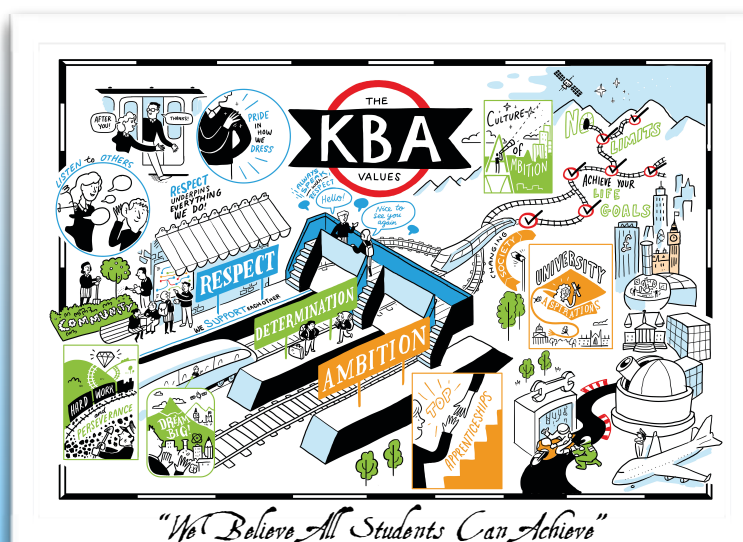
Students have developed their knowledge in the above areas through reading, listening and speaking. They have also completed two written tasks this term to consolidate their knowledge.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 7 have started their study of **Judaism**. They have been learning all about **Jewish beliefs**, including the Jewish scriptures, Orthodox and Reform Judaism, and their places of worship – the Temple and Synagogues.

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 7 are encouraged to attend and participate in Debate Club. Debates this term have included ‘Is all life equal?’ and ‘Is private education fair?’



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are working on applying **basic skills and tactics** in a variety of individual and team activities. There is also a focus on leadership and health alongside performance. Activities included in this 6-week block are **Netball, Lacrosse, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Trampolining, Fitness, Badminton and Table Tennis.**

Enrichment opportunities include all those on the enrichment app (enrichment.kba.uk) which students should log each time they attend. Opportunities currently are Gym, Badminton, Rugby, Football, Netball and Trampolining.

FOOD

During their 6-week Food rotation, students will explore five key topics through a range of engaging theory and practical activities.

Topics:

- ◆ Nutrition
- ◆ Food provenance
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Cooking skill and technique
- ◆ The hospitality and catering industry

Practical's:

- ◆ Fruit salad
- ◆ Breakfast loaf
- ◆ Savoury scones
- ◆ Macaroni cheese

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.

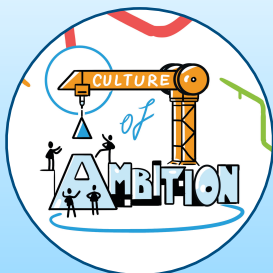
MUSIC

The topics that Year 7 will be studying in Music before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ Singing and the elements
- ◆ Rhythm and pulse

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 7 are encouraged to participate in 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. We also still have space for Drum Kit, Brass, Woodwind and Vocal lessons - if you are interested, please get in touch with Mrs Lovell for more information.



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

ART & DT

The topics that year 7 will be studying in art are:

- ◆ **Formal elements:** Students will be instructed on the fundamental techniques to be able to draw accurately using line, shape and tone. Students will learn colour theory and painting techniques.
- ◆ **Cultures:** Students will explore cultures from around the world and the artists who create this. Students will then use this for inspiration in their own work. Students will build upon the skills term during term 1.

The topics that year 7 will be studying in Design technology are:

- ◆ **Graphics:** Students will be learning about chocolate bar designs and designing their own chocolate bar packaging using both traditional and digital methods
- ◆ **Textiles:** Students will be learning about Mexican textiles and designing and making textiles inspired by their research.
- ◆ **3D Design:** Students will be learning about shoe design, its history, and our own county's importance to this. Students will then, research, plan and design a shoe for a client.

In addition to curricular lesson, students in year 7 are encouraged to use the art barn to help develop and further their skills in art.

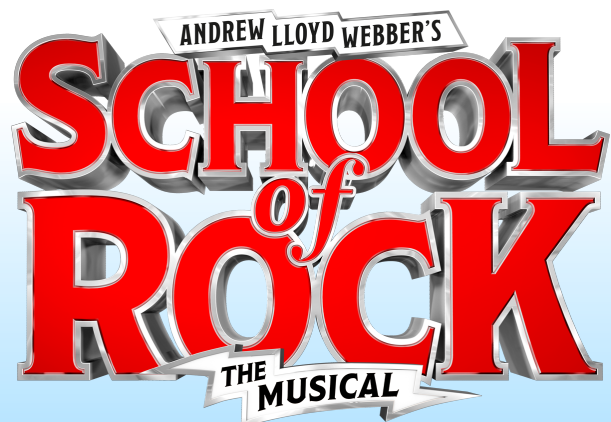
DRAMA

The topics that Year 7 will be studying in Drama before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ **Drama techniques and skills**
- ◆ **Mime**
- ◆ **Improvisation**

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 7 are encouraged to participate in 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...



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

HEAD OF YEAR

Congratulations to our year 7 students who have made a fantastic start to the life at KBA. Students have settled incredibly well into secondary life and have adapted well. I am incredibly proud of how all of our year 7s have managed themselves in school and also adapting to the demands of a new homework system. Please encourage all students to continue to speak to their class teacher, form tutor or myself if they have any concerns regarding the completion of homework. Completion rate is currently very high and we would like to maintain this as we move through the year.

When we return after half term, homework club will be available to students on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 3 and 3.50 in N0.10. Students will also be provided with a drink and a biscuit and will be supported by 2 members of staff.

Caroline Hawthorn

Head of Year 7

EXAM INFORMATION

It has been a fantastic start to the year for our students. Our Year 7 students have found their way around and have a great understanding of the requirements of secondary school. 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 lessons, which will support their own revision at home.

