

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Year 8



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 8 will be studying in English before the mid-year exams are:

**Term 1 – The Gothic. Term 2 – The Tempest**

Students are learning in depth the convention of genre and also studying how Shakespeare crafted his final play. For writing, students are learning a combination of non-fictional tasks such as letters and speeches.

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 8 students have been consolidating number knowledge in Term 1 in preparation for applying these skills to a range of Algebra and Shape topics later in the year. They have been working with **powers and roots, prime factorisation, rounding, fractions and negative numbers.**

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

**SCIENCE**

For the mid-year assessments, students will be assessed on:

- ◆ **Digestion and Nutrition**
- ◆ **The Periodic Table**
- ◆ **Ecology**
- ◆ **Light and Space**
- ◆ **The assessment is synoptic, so will also revisit content studied in year 7.**

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!

# AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

## GEOGRAPHY

The topics that Year 8 will be studying in Geography this term include:

- ◆ **Natural Hazards**
- ◆ **Population and Migration**

In year 8, students have commenced the year by learning about Natural hazards such as **earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis along with their impacts**. They will then continue with a unit focussed on **Population & Migration**, exploring the changing global demographic trends, in a world that is today home to almost 8 billion people.

## HISTORY

Well done to Year 8 who have been learning some complicated historical events and developments this term.

The topics that Year 8 have been studying in History this term include:

- ◆ **The Reformation across Europe.**
- ◆ **The beginnings of the British Empire and its impact.**

Students have been working hard to develop their written explanations of the past and have been explaining the reasons why Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church.

## FRENCH

Year 8 have been learning about how to talk about media in French. This topic includes:

- ◆ **TV and films.**
- ◆ **Using the internet.**
- ◆ **Grammar: Present tense (avoir and être) and past tense structures.**

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.



Sept '22-Jan '23

# ISSUE

## AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

**GERMAN**

Year 8 have been learning about how to talk about past holidays in German. This topic includes:

- ◆ **Saying where you went and what you did.**
- ◆ **Describing the weather.**
- ◆ **Grammar: Using the Past (war, hatte, es gab), perfect tense with haben/sein.**

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 8 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 8 have started their study of Islam. They have been learning about **pre-Islamic Arabia**, the **Prophet Muhammad** and the **Qur'an**, the **Hijrah** and **Conquest of Mecca**, and **The Final Sermon**.

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 8 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**

Students are working on mastering basic skills and starting to apply advanced 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](http://enrichment.kba.uk)) which students should log each time they attend. Opportunities currently are Gym, Badminton, Rugby, Football, Netball and Trampolining.



AMBITION DETERMINATION RESPECT

**ART & DT**

The topics that year 8 will be studying in art are:

- ◆ **Circles in Nature:** The project takes the starting point of abstraction and the natural world to create a series of outcomes inspired by artists.
- ◆ **Locality:** The project looks at our local architecture. Students will use these buildings as sources of inspiration to create art which teaches students about the place they live.

The topics that year 8 will be studying in Design technology are:

- ◆ **Textiles:** Looking at Ghanaian culture to design and make a wall hanging. Students will use a variety of techniques including tie dying, poly printing and sewing.
- ◆ **Graphics:** Students will design a book cover for a Gothic novel. Students will use both traditional and digital techniques for this.
- ◆ **3D Design:** Students will look at the tradition of mask making before taking on a design brief to plan and make a mask for a client.

In addition to curricular lesson, students in year 8 are encouraged to use the art barn to help develop and further their skills in art.

**DRAMA**

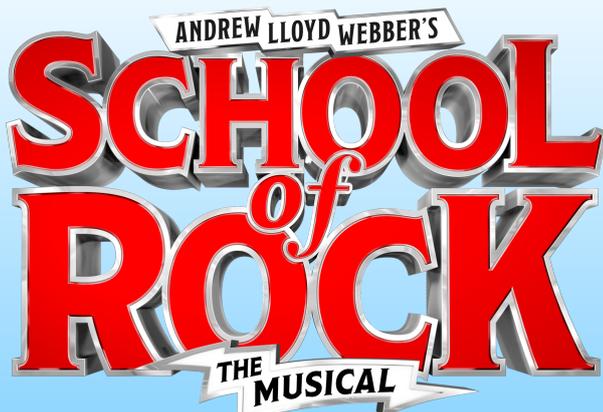
The topics that Year 8 will be studying in Drama before the mid-year exams are:

- ◆ **Melodrama and Silent Movies**
- ◆ **Script work - "The Stones"**

In addition to curriculum lessons, students in Year 8 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**

**I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our returning Year 8 cohort.** They have settled back into the swing of things incredibly well with over 80 House points being gained and over 1800 merits! Please could I ask that you support your child with their homework to ensure completion as they have had to adapt to a new system over the course of Term 1. Currently, Year 8 are managing themselves well but if there are any issues, please ask your child to speak with their Form Tutor and Class teacher before the deadline.

To support with this KBA will be running a homework club which 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. Finally, it has been great to see so many Year 8 students taking part in the various extra-curricular and enrichment activities provided by the school. Please encourage your child to sign up and attend and not to forget to add these sessions on to their enrichment app.

**Jonathan Knight**

**Head of Year 8**

**EXAM INFORMATION**

**It has been a fantastic start to the year for our students.** 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 9<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.**