



Welcome back to Term 1, and welcome to the first term of our Upper School. It is a real privilege to be Head of Upper school here at King's Oak Academy and to be part of the big changes we are undertaking here.

Over the past week our Upper School students have returned to learning and it is noticeable, and a real credit to families and community, how well they have

approached the return to school and the start of a new academic year. Throughout 2020-21 we have all been living through unprecedented times. As such this has led to teaching and school life being changed remarkably. We all hope that, as we embark on a new school year, some form of relative normality to education will return.

It has been great to welcome our students back into the Academy, seeing the students each morning on the gate with such positivity has been uplifting. Walking around the site students have settled into their classrooms and engaged in their learning from the start. Year 9 have started to consider career pathways and future courses ready to be making GCSE option choices. Year 10 have been adjusting to their newly opted options, while Year 11 have settled into the final year of studies with a real growth mindset for achieving their best self. Whether it be the awesome art painting and drawings seen in Art, the detailed descriptive writing in English or the contextualised practical sessions in Science, the Upper School students have jumped straight back into their learning with an attitude to succeed.

Our focus this academic year and beyond in the Upper School is to build on our professional relationships with students, to listen to and act on feedback from our community, and to ensure that quality teaching is enforced through our school, providing the very best opportunities for each and every one of our students. Our September inset days allowed our staff time to collaborate and share best practice to ensure we do everything we can to provide the education our students deserve. I hope, throughout this year, you all can see this in action.

Along with the teaching element, our strive for high standards and expectations in all our students continues. With that said please can I remind you all on the expectations on uniform and particularly piercings as outlined in our uniform expectations sent out at the beginning of this academic year.

It is a pleasure to be welcoming our students back into King's Oak Upper School and I hope that this year proves to be one of the best for the progress and outcomes for all our students.

Mr A Marshall-Aherne,
Head of Upper School

End of Day Timings

In 2020-21 we worked closely with South Gloucestershire Road Safety Team to explore how we can encourage more students to walk or ride to school to:

- A. promote healthy living in our community
- B. improve pedestrian safety on Brook Road
- C. reduce air pollution and congestion outside the Academy.

Whilst we have made positive steps towards target A and B, there remains a large amount of traffic congestion on Tennis Court Road at the end of each school day and we have received feedback from several parents in our community about this concern.

Furthermore, this year we reached full, all-through status, therefore there will now be up to 1170 students / families arriving and leaving the site each day. As a result, to manage both student safety and traffic congestion leaving the academy site at the end of the school day, we need to stagger the finish time slot for the Lower, Middle and Upper School.

We understand that for some families who have siblings in both the Lower and Middle School, the 10-minute staggered finish might be less convenient and that you would prefer to be able to collect both children at the same time. We hope that you understand the rationale for why the staggered time slot needs to remain in place, however, to support you and your collection arrangements, our Lower School Class Teachers are able to supervise your child until 3.10pm.

To help us know which Lower School children are likely to remain on-site to wait for their sibling to finish school, it would be helpful if you would be able to let your child's class teacher know that you would like to take up this offer so that they are aware of this arrangement.

Have your say

Parent/ carer voice is important to us and we value the feedback that we receive from families. We would really appreciate it if you could complete the following questionnaire to give your views on the academy: <https://forms.office.com/r/mXJeYgq7av>

Teachers are Learners too!

During our recent Inset days and afterschool training sessions, teachers have been practising techniques to enable our students to 'Learn Like a Champion'. So far this term we have focussed on routines to build relationships with students and maximise learning time during lessons. You can learn more about the two techniques 'Threshold' and 'Do Now' in the short clip here by Vice Principal Mr White: <https://youtu.be/dnkVFQIDLsc>



Year 11 working hard in Religious Studies.



News from Year 9

Year 9 have had a fantastic start back to school this term. They have embraced joining the Upper School and I have already noticed a difference in their maturity from last year. They have enjoyed team building exercises in tutor times, demonstrated exemplary behaviour and listening skills during assembly and showed their competitive nature in the weekly tutor challenge, with all tutor groups working hard together in order to have the honour of being in first place. The tutor team and I are currently working hard to develop the rewards system for Year 9 students to ensure they become involved in all aspects of Upper School life and encourage them to be the best version of themselves they can be. I am proud to be Head of this year group and excited by what we can achieve together this year, in their first year of Upper School

News from Year 10

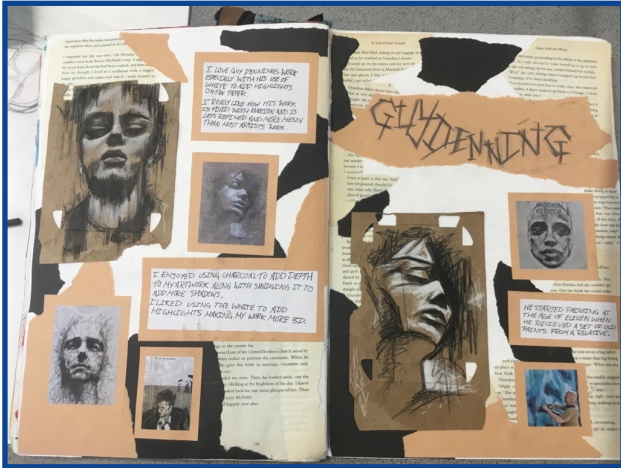
Year 10 have had a fantastic start to their personalised learning journey in the Upper School. All students have embraced the options process and seem fully engaged in their new subjects. During tutor times, students have worked closely with their tutors to build positive relationships that will support them both pastorally and academically. I have been very impressed with their responsible attitude since coming back into the Upper School and the level of engagement they have shown in their lessons this week. I am looking forward to working alongside our Year 10 students this year on their GCSE journey to ensure they continue on the right path to achieve the best possible results they can.

News from Year 11

Year 11 have returned to school and hit the ground running! I have been really pleased with the way they have welcomed their new tutors and are building new relationships to achieve their very best this year. They have worked hard in tutor time, and it has been lovely to pop into a few lessons and see some hard work and discussion about learning.

Moving forwards, tutor times will be used to practise and refine our revision and study skills, as well as thinking ahead to our futures after our King's Oak journey comes to an end. We will shortly receive our Year 10 Mock Exam results as a statement of results and use these to help us set clear goals. And, of course, it may seem a long way off, but we are thinking hard about how we are going to celebrate the end of Year 11. Keep working hard Year 11, we **know** you can do it.

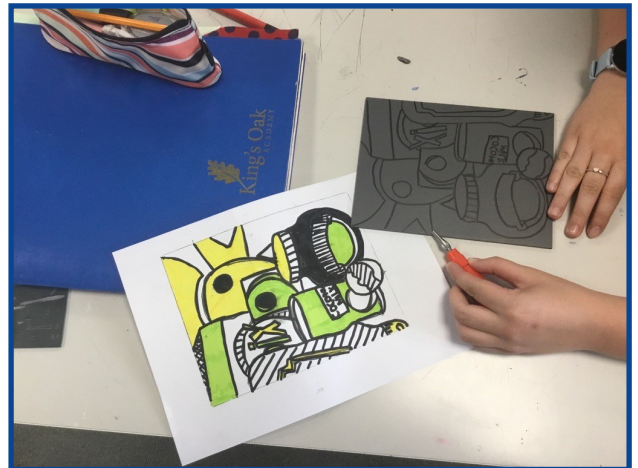
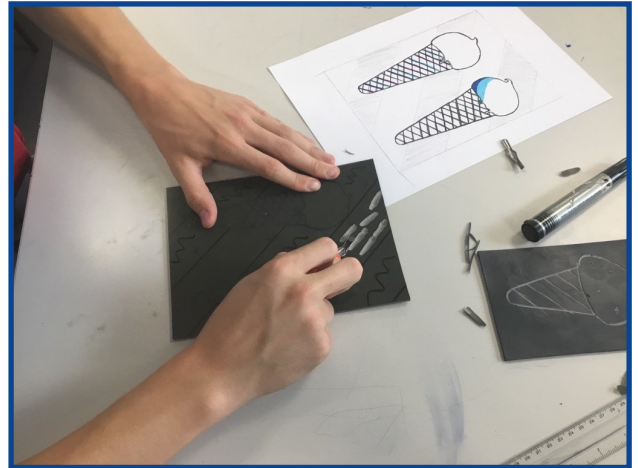
Year 11 Art



Instructions for Sports Clubs

- Bring PE kit to school on the day of your club.
- Come to the PE Department after P5
- Clubs finish 4:00—4:30 pm
- All clubs are free
- Speak to any member of the PE Department if you have any questions.

Year 11 Making Lino cuts in Art



KOA Upper School Sport Clubs (Term 1)

Day	Year Group	Activity (Staff Member)	Location
Monday	9	Rugby (AHH)	Grass
	9/10/11	Footlights Dance (SHY)	Gym1/Gym2
	9/10/11	Couch to 5k fitness (ESE)	Courts
Tuesday	10	Rugby (JCK)	Grass
	9/10/11	Netball (ESE, JKY, LTY)	Courts
	11	BTEC Sport P6 (SHY)	E13
Wednesday		Fixtures – Rugby/Netball/Cross Country	
Thursday	9/10/11	Table Tennis (AWN)	Gym 2
		Fixtures – Rugby/Netball/Cross Country	



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