



Christmas seems but a distant memory and Easter some time away, although the shelves are filling up with chocolate, we are now entering the final weeks of Term 3 in the run up to half term.

It has been another challenging term with Covid and unfortunate student year group closures, but once again upper school students have continued to be fantastic in

engaging with their learning, whether face to face or remotely, and striving to achieve their best. Year 10s have faced the challenges of their first round of mock examinations, and results have now gone home. As a cohort we are incredibly proud of the way in which they conducted themselves in these exams and the grades that they achieved, so thank you and well done to all Year 10 students.

Year 9s have been engaged in a range of intervention programmes with links to Bristol Bears, Youth Networks and Lloyds Banking group. It has been lovely to see students so engaged in different activities to support their wider learning and their ongoing life skills. Year 11s have continued to impress us with their commitment to their learning both in class and through the range of extra-curricular revision sessions designed to push themselves in the run up to their second mock assessments and on to the summer exams starting in as little as **52 school days**.

This term our pastoral focus has been centred around overcoming adversity. We have looked at the Winter Olympic Games and how countries had to overcome huge adversity and barriers to make it to the Winter Olympics in their chosen field, including the first Jamaican bobsleigh team. Tutors have taken this back to the classroom to continue to build on student self-belief and perseverance and linking this with confidence and attitude. We would like to encourage you to continue these conversations at home and to build on student self belief in their personal challenges and commitments and to encourage students to overcome any barriers put in their way, "**Aim High and Dream Big**".

I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your continued family support over this difficult time and the encouragement given to our students both in terms of getting in to school and with the positive attitude to learning. Thank you for working with us.

February half term starts on Monday 21 February, and we hope you have a relaxing week when it arrives, but until then stay safe and look after each other.

Kind regards.

Mr A Marshall-Aherne, Head of Upper School

Rewards

We are really pleased to be able to share the new badges for our **Work Hard | Be Kind** award. Starting from this term, students who gain 50 achievement points will be awarded their Bronze badge and certificate, 100 points for Silver and 150 for Gold. We will also be running a termly 'Tutor Award' for the group with the most achievement points - watch this space for pictures of the trophies when they arrive!



Covid-19 Vaccinations

Second dose Covid-19 vaccinations are now available for 12 to 15 year olds in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. You can book an appointment at a dedicated GP clinic or Vaccination Centre clinic using the online [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119. They currently have lots of availability.

Your child is eligible for their second dose 3 months (90 days) after their first dose. If they catch Covid-19 after their first vaccination, they must wait 3 months after their positive test before having their second dose of the vaccine. For more information, please visit www.grabajab.net.

We would be grateful if you would you share this information on any school WhatsApp groups you are in, to help inform as many parents as possible.

Exams

Please find below key dates for exams. Please note that AM sessions start at 9am and PM sessions start at 1:30pm, exams can start 30 minutes either side of this time at our discretion.

February

7 Feb - Enterprise - PM - External (resit Friday 13th May PM)
9 Feb - Health & Social Care - AM - External (resit Wednesday 11th May AM)
29 Feb - 11th March - Year 11 Mocks

Summer 2022

English Literature

25 May - AM
8 June - AM

English Language

18 May - AM
10 June - AM

Maths

20 May - AM
7 June - AM
13 June - AM

Combined Science

Chemistry - 27 May AM, 20 June AM
Biology - 17 May AM, 15 June AM
Physics - 9 June PM, 23 June AM

Triple Science

Chemistry - 27 May AM, 20 June AM
Biology - 17 May AM, 15 June AM
Physics - 9 June PM, 23 June AM

Geography

23 May AM
7 June PM
14 June AM

History

19 May AM
9 June AM
16 June AM
21 June AM

RS

16 May AM
26 May AM
8 June PM

French

Speaking endorsement to be submitted by 23 May
Listening/Reading - 24 May AM
Writing 16 June PM

DT

15 June PM

Art

Portfolio to be submitted by 31 May

Performing Arts

Responding to a Brief to be submitted by 12 May 2022

Music - FOR YEAR 10 ONLY

17 May 2022 PM

Hospitality & Catering - FOR YEAR 10 ONLY (plus any Year 11 resists)

21 June PM

Year 10 Mocks - 27 June - 7 July

Once I have made the exam entries for Summer 2022, all students will have a bespoke timetable that I will post on Insight.

If any Year 11 students have not yet collected their revision guides, they are in my office. Guides will be offered to Year 10 after the half term.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to Exams please email me Zoe.Side@clf.uk

English


It's 12 school weeks until Year 11 face their first official GCSE paper so we've been in full swing in preparation for those and are currently revising 'Love and Relationships' poetry and the novel 'A Christmas Carol' for their mocks after the half term break. Seneca is being used to support your child's revision to ensure their success in English. Please encourage your child to do this as it covers the essential content for Literature and skills for Language.

Year 10 covered five more poems from the 'Power and Conflict' cluster in January before embarking on the unparalleled joy and gut-wrenching despair involved in any good love story in reading *Romeo and Juliet* which will take them to Easter. We'll also be focussing on developing students' vocabulary and ability to write for purpose.

Year 9 have completed their final core task for *A View from the Bridge* - we had been looking to increase students' ability to be empathetic readers so they can really understand people's motivations, thoughts and feelings. There was a focus on gender roles and how the society we grow up in shapes our future identities. We've just started a poetry unit on Identity which follows on nicely from the topics discussed in the previous unit.

Science



Year 11 Revision  3.10-4pm

**Monday-Biology- Dr Kelly (Foundation) D21
and Miss Cleaves (Higher) D23**

Tuesday-Chemistry- Mr Gribble DG2

Thursday-Physics- Mrs Phillips D14

**Friday-Exam Practice- Mr Marshall-Aherne
DG3 (starts at 3.20pm)**

Music

Congratulations to all **Year 9** students who have been doing so well this term studying and enjoying their practice and performance of REGGAE music.

'Fingers crossed' that the intended visit of a well known Reggae star takes place in the final week of term (pictures to follow!) as this will be an excellent conclusion to this topic.

Year 10 are working well and continuing to discover more about the many different roles and aspects of the music industry. Ask your son/daughter about the advantages and disadvantages of being a FREELANCE musician!

They are also continuing with their performances. At the end of each term they are required to perform and record a new piece. Have you heard them practising?

In **Year 11** both Music groups are planning and preparing Talent Shows as part of their BTEC Music course.

Miss Sibley's class (11C1) have just finished auditioning several students from the middle school. Well done to all those who took part and auditioned. Fingers crossed they have been accepted to go forward and perform in the **MIDDLE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW** on **9 MARCH**. All profits raised from the Middle school Talent show will be going to JIA (Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis)

Mr Warren's group (11D1) are completing auditions for the **UPPER SCHOOL TALENT SHOW** during the final week of term. In aid of Breast cancer research, the show they are planning and preparing for takes place on **17 MARCH**.

At both of these events we would like to hold a raffle. If you have any 'prizes' you would be able to donate please hand them into the office marked FAO Mr Warren/Miss Sibley.

Further information about tickets, etc will be made available shortly and we look forward to you joining us to see the many talented students of KOA at either, or both, shows.

There are some vacancies for instrumental tuition from next term. If you are in Year 9 and considering taking music as an option, it would be a good idea to speak to Mr Warren or Miss Sibley about these opportunities.

Year 9

Year 9 have had a positive start to 2022. The Tutor Challenge continues with students working on wordsearches, current affairs quizzes, word problems and their knowledge of music and songs. Each Thursday during tutor time they complete the Challenge and email me their answers so I can keep a running total. In third place this term we have 9.3 – JPI, in second place we have 9.1 – HSy and in the top spot we currently have 9.2 – OPm.

In other tutor sessions we have carried on with our Options/careers sessions. Each week students watch two videos of different option subjects we offer at KOA so they can gather more information and have a more informed choice. I have also held an assembly earlier this term outlining the options process to all Year 9 students so they are aware of the choices they have to make and how we can support them in doing this. To further support this we have a virtual Year 9 parents' evening next Thursday 10 February and on Tuesday 13 March we have an options evening to ensure that both parents/carers and students are aware of the options process and what needs to be done and when.

In other news, the Duke of Edinburgh Award has continued for the Year 9 students, and some are now finishing their physical section and staff are filling out assessor reports on this.

The Year 9 football team attended a local football tournament this week and won all their games making them the overall winners.

The Bristol Bears Project – Bear in Mind has also been introduced with a group of Year 9 students this term. These students have enjoyed sessions based on teamwork and resilience working in both the classroom and in a more practical sense on the astro.

Students have also had the opportunity to take part in a 'Bossing It' project which works on confidence and self-esteem and encourages them to make positive choices.

Keep up the good work Year 9!

Mrs Holtby. Head of Year 9

Year 10

BTEC Sport students in Year 10 were the first to receive official exam grades from their December tests. For most students, this was a positive experience as they achieved grades that represented the hard work that they had put in during their time on the course since September. Well done to all of those involved and keep it up with the coursework elements.

In Year 10 tutor sessions we have again been focusing on careers, with sessions on work experience, interviews and building a CV. Students have also spent time on computers doing further research into their potential career by understanding qualifications, personal qualities, and the experiences that they will need. On Wednesday 16 February, Year 10 students will participate in a careers event with ten different business organisations. This will give them a further opportunity to speak to professionals across different backgrounds regarding potential future careers.

In tutor sessions, we have also continued our Friday tutor challenges. Currently in the lead we have Miss Cleaves's group with all still to play for with only two challenges remaining.

The Year 10 boys football team played their first fixture in almost two years with a home tournament against teams from Mangotsfield, John Cabot and Hanham. Well done to those who represented the Academy in a very positive way and we look forwards to the upcoming 11 a side games against the same opposition. Training takes place on a Thursday after school usually on the AstroTurf.

Alex Heath, Head of Year 10

Year 11

Year 11 are having a busy Term 3, preparing for the final set of mocks, as well as real exams happening next week!

Revision continues to be a big priority, but we are looking forward to receiving an exam-stress coping assembly very soon!

We were also really lucky to have NCS (National Citizenship Service) visit us twice, to discuss hope, gratitude and resilience, focussing on our positives, and equally telling us about the amazing summer residential opportunities they have for Year 11 students. Students had fun visiting their pop-up stand a week later and winning some prizes too.

For more information, visit <https://wearencs.com/>.



Tutor League Table

current:

SWT – 39

BGE – 35

HCL – 33

LTY – 27

RPB/GLW – 22

In other news, our Tutor League Table is getting competitive again, with fortnightly competitions (admittedly, in the cold weather - a fair few quizzes!).



I have to say though, before Christmas I had some lovely Christmas decorations made, and we sent some very nice home-made cards to our neighbours in the care home.

Unfortunately, due to the recent Public Health Guidance, we are unable to run our Parent and Student Information evening before the next set of mocks. However, I will upload lots of information and advice on Insight within the next few days, so keep your eyes peeled.

Looking ahead, remember that there is a letter on Insight about the final prom payment. I should have some hoody and Year Book information before the end of term too!

Term 3 awards are also on the horizon - so let's see if you can get your name in lights.

Keep working hard Year 11, it will be over before you know it, seize every opportunity and make yourselves proud.

Miss Pearch, Head of Year 11

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