



22 days to go now and it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

As we head ever closer to the end of Term 2, I think we will all agree that it has been a long and tiring first two terms back. Students across the upper school have responded positively to everything that has come at them this term, from mock exams to off timetable events and the bringing

back of some covid control measures, so I want to pass on a massive thank you to them all for their maturity and continued commitment to their learning, thank you.

Last Christmas was a less than ordinary one, with lockdowns and isolation, testing and face masks, it was a difficult time for everyone. On top of that, over the past year, many of us will have been affected by friends or family members that are unfortunately not able to be with us this Christmas, and so across upper school we have focussed a lot on the meaning of Christmas and the need to be grateful and courteous to everyone. We have asked students to really think about the materialistic side of Christmas and to change our thoughts to being grateful for having family and friends around and the idea of being able to be with each other again this Christmas. We have also been completing a lot of work around how we talk to and interact with people at this time and how, for some, Christmas is far from an easy time. And so, as the festive events set in and the big day draws nearer, I hope our students can reflect on the small things that make Christmas so special and continue to be kind and courteous to everyone in and out of the academy community.

Term 2 has had a real focus on assessments with Year 11s completing nearly three weeks of mock exams and Year 9s completing in-class assessments. We now draw our attention to Year 10s who are embarking on a two week assessment window with a hybrid of formal exam settings and in-class based assessments which I hope will give them all the confidence moving forward to know where their knowledge is and what we need to do to keep progressing forward. It is therefore even more important that over the Christmas period we all ensure that we stop, rest and give some time back to our mental health and wellbeing. So please take time to stop and enjoy the time together with family and friends and reflect on 2021, with the hope that 2022 will be a better year for everyone.

We will return to school on Wednesday 5 January 2022, and so for now I wish each and every one of you an enjoyable and restful Christmas together with family and friends, and here's to 2022.

Mr A Marshall-Aherne,
Head of Upper School

English

Mocks are completed for Year 11 and well done to the vast majority who behaved impeccably in their approach to them. We'll be using the data to target selecting students for additional support in the coming weeks and months. We'll also be using an online platform called Seneca to roll out revision for all students. All classes are now revising *A Christmas Carol* and working on their narrative and descriptive writing for Language.

Year 10 are also working their way through *A Christmas Carol* and have just completed their first assessment in examination conditions. Thinking about how Christmas is presented and how the characters show the message of Christmas is an important (and topical) discussion starter!

Year 9 have begun to read the play, *A View from the Bridge*. Set in post-war New York, the narrative follows the stories of people of Italian decent in 1950s New York and is framed by themes of love, honour and justice.

Maths

The Upper School Mathematics teachers want to express their appreciation of the efforts and achievements of the Year 11 students who managed to successfully sit all three of their mathematics GCSE mock examinations. The papers will support teaching and revision between now and the February mocks. Students have also been given a document outlining their marks scored per question alongside CorbettMaths and HegartyMaths video codes to support revision of the topics that they did not achieve full marks in, these can also be shared digitally with parents on request. Students who start their revision now will have a higher chance of improving their results in the Summer.

It is also important that all students have the correct equipment for every lesson and their exams, which includes a Scientific calculator (we recommend a Casio fx series), protractor, ruler, pencil, pen, and pair of compasses; all of which would be an excellent stocking filler for a Year 11 (or 10) student.

Happy Holidays, KOA Maths!

Exams

Huge congratulations to Year 11 on fantastic mock results. Our next set of Year 11 mocks start on Monday 28 February 2022. The mocks were a great opportunity to identify the areas that we need to work on in readiness for the summer, revisions guides are available from Mrs Side.

Year 10 are about to embark on their assessment opportunity which will allow our students to experience exam settings. This opportunity will also provide key information on where our students are sitting in terms of grading. The results will be discussed with you on Parents Evening in January.

Both Year 10 and Year 11 BTEC Sport classes will be sitting the external exam element of their course on 10th (Year 10) and 15th (Year 11) December.

When we return after Christmas there will be subject specific mock exams for Enterprise and Health & Social Care to prepare our Year 11 students for external exams in February.

I wish all our students and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Mrs Side

Religious Studies

Year 11 Religious Studies students have been working exceptionally hard in the last few weeks studying 'Issues of Good and Evil'. They have been researching case studies about the use of the Death Penalty. Students took part in an excellent debate about whether or not the death penalty should be legal, with students arguing for and against, reference to case studies and religious points of view. The students conducted themselves very professionally, in a formal debate format, and showed incredible oracy skills. Very well done to them all.

Timings for the last day of term – 17 December.

Upper School:

0850 - 0950: Period 1

0950 - 1050: Period 2

1050 - 1110: Break

1110 - 1210: Tutor Time

1210: Gates Open

Kindertransport School Play 2021

Kindertransport depicts the agony of separating a child from parents and wrestles with the consequences of that choice, an act of sacrifice that also wreaks devastating results.

Kindertransport
by Diane Samuels

Tuesday 23rd, and Friday 26th November 2021 at 7:00 pm
Hexagon Theatre, King's Oak Academy

King's Oak ACADEMY
2021 School Play
12+ Mature themes
Amateur production
by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

Adults £3 Students £2
Parents/Carers of KOA students please pay using SCOPAY.
Tickets can also be purchased on the door.

A massive thank you to the cast and crew of Kindertransport who did an absolutely amazing job performing in front of rapt audiences for both nights of the play. It was wonderful seeing the students work together as a theatre ensemble to produce a thought-provoking and engaging performance.

Theatre is essentially about storytelling and they did this so well. The audience commented how impressed they were that the Year 11 students had learnt so many lines, concentrated for so long and had told the story of the Jewish Kindertransport in such a sensitive and mature way.

Personally I was so proud of them all. Once the performance started they were completely on their own, there was nothing I could do to help them. There was no need for me to worry though, as they took complete ownership of the performance to produce a professional, slick production that both entertained and challenged the audience.

Well done Year 11 Drama! Your dedication, resilience and professionalism paid off as you produced two wonderful evenings of stimulating theatre, that thoroughly engaged the audience.

Graham Low

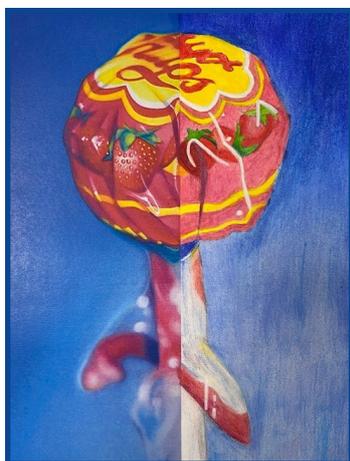
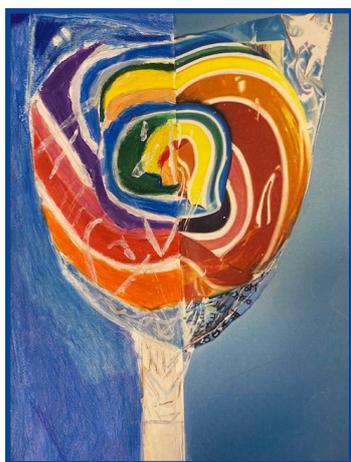
Art—Year 9

Year 9 paintings are progressing well. Some students have finished so here are a couple for you to admire! Students were learning about the characteristics of Roy Lichtenstein and the using these features to develop their own compositions inspired by modern adverts. Fantastic creativity Year 9!



Art—Year 10

We continue to be so impressed with the standard of work produced by Y10 as part of their current 'Food' project. This term we have been learning about the work of the photo realist artist, Sarah Graham. Students had to complete the missing half of the picture. It's hard to tell which half is the students own work!



Year 9

Year 9 have been busy this month raising money for Children in Need, completing the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and researching potential careers in their careers/options session in tutor time. The Year 9 students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award have started to complete their volunteering section with students volunteering in the local community and also in our lower school. Students have been working with pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2 with sports and in after school club, been fundraising for the British Heart Foundation, working with younger students with St. John Ambulance, helping with local park runs, litter picking, sports coaching in the community and working in the school library.

During tutor time sessions students have been using Career Pilot, an online programme to research different jobs to understand what qualifications they need and how much money they can earn. The students have found this incredibly interesting and it will help them when we start the options process next term.

Individual student success:

Ella S has been watched by the FA over the past year and has been accepted on the FA Regional Talent Pathway. This means she can attend training days and has been recognised as future talent for England and has the potential to be called up to the official squad.

Ella has also been nominated by Gloucester schools to trial for England schools. She has got through two trials so far and is in the last trial which takes place at Lilleshaw on 21 December. Ella will be representing the South who are playing the North that day. From the two teams a squad will be picked to represent England schools. This is a fantastic achievement for Ella and I wish her every success on the 12th.

Rheo L and Connor M have both shown a real talent in rugby and been nominated for the Bristol Bears Aspire programme. This is a development centre run by Bristol Bears to feed into their main academy. It enables these students to develop their game play and reach their potential in this sport.

Keep up the good work Year 9!

Year 10

In November, Year 10 have continued to take part in career based sessions during tutor time. They have further explored jobs and opportunities and as part of an assembly have been spoken to about options in The Army and at Lloyds Bank. In this assembly, forms for work experience were distributed encouraging students to start thinking about their placements later in the year.

Mock exams were unfortunately delayed and have been pushed back a week. It is important that students revise for these exams and try their best to ensure that teachers are able to effectively see where gaps in knowledge and misconceptions have occurred to ensure that lessons and content within these have the greatest positive impact.

We have also this month, seen an increased Year 10 attendance at our sports clubs with a new group of students attending the weekly table tennis club and an informal Friday football training. This will move to more formal training and the opportunity (should Covid allow) to play against other schools again.

The Tutor Challenge continues. Currently 10.5 (Mr Wilkinson's) group are in the lead by a single point ahead of 10.1. There will be a prize for the winning tutor group in the last week of term. It is still all to play for!

Mr A Heath, Head of Year 10



Tutor group 10.5 spent a lovely Friday mindfulness session colouring in some festive pics and listening to Christmas tunes to make our room and each other feel a little more festive.

Mr A Wilkinson, Tutor 10.5

Year 11

It's been another busy few weeks in Year 11. We've finished our mock exams, and we have all reflected on what went well and how we can improve for our next mocks in February.

We also celebrated the end of mocks with a reward event, and each tutor group got to spend an hour with some fun inflatables and popcorn. Thanks to Mr Marshall-Aherne for this.

Whilst it is time to



push on with working hard, we are not forgetting to look after ourselves. In tutor time we have looked at how to help our own mental health, and how to feed our bodies properly to give our brains the best chance of success!

We've also focused massively on Disability History Month, including an assembly on this year's theme - Invisible Disabilities.

Looking to the next few weeks:

We've had a Sexual Health Circus visit us to explain how to look after ourselves.

The Triple Science group spent Thursday at the Natural History Museum in London.

We've got some exams coming up for Sports Studies.

On top of this we have mock interviews, which are a really valuable opportunity to gain experience and develop our transferable and employability skills.

Miss Pearch, Head of Year 11

LGBTQ+ and Ally group

Thursdays. 3.10. C16
Biscuits provided – but
not Pride Oreos!



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