

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

## **Start of term**

Dear KAA Parents,

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing with what will sadly be my final 'Welcome Back' letter ahead of the new term. As you will likely know by now, I am moving on from KAA later this term to take up a new Headship at Mill Hill School in North London. My last day will be Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – the end of the Autumn 1 half term – which feels frighteningly close!

I am, however, delighted that Anna Jordan will be taking over from me as Principal from the start of Autumn 2. As Senior Vice Principal and then Head of School, Anna has been central to everything KAA has done these last ten years. I don't doubt the school will continue to flourish with her at the helm, and with the continued support of our wonderful parent community.

I will send parents another letter before I leave, but for now I should get down to business...

## **Start of term**

Staff have been back this week and are eagerly anticipating the students' return. A reminder that;

- Year 7 and Year 12 students are expected this Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September for their 'Induction Day'
- All students must attend on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September for the start of lessons

KAA is fortunate to be able to provide a delicious, hot breakfast for all students **totally free** each day via our **Breakfast Club**. We serve from **8am**, starting from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, and I would encourage as many families as possible to take us up on this offer. Our **libraries and study areas** are also open to students from 8am. **Students in Years 7-11 must arrive no later than 8.30am for the start of lessons please, and Sixth Formers no later than 9am.**

Please be aware that missing the start of term is not allowed. Aside from the fact that your child will miss key information, holiday during term time is illegal in the UK and may result in your Local Authority issuing a penalty charge notice. KAA has ample school holidays – more than most state schools (including a two-week half term in October) – so please do avoid ever removing your child from school in term time. Thank you.

## Exam results

I'm delighted to share that KAA secured its **best ever GCSE and A Level results** in 'normal' (i.e. non-Covid) times this summer, with outcomes well ahead of national averages. Some highlights include;

- Over a quarter of all grades at A Level were A\* or A
- A quarter of GCSEs were grades 9-7 (the equivalent of the old A\*/A)
- Over 60% of A Levels were graded B or above, and over 60% of students secured a Grade 5 or higher in both English and Maths at GCSE

Parents can read the full details on our [website](#), but the main point to make here is that the results underline the very high educational standards at KAA, which all students will benefit from in their future exams. A very well done to everyone involved – a great start to the new year.

## Parents evenings and keeping in touch

We have two important events coming up – one for **Year 7** parents on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and one for **Year 11** parents on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. All parents should attend please, even if you have older children at KAA and have been before (the information doesn't stay the same each year).

For the Year 7 event, your child's attendance is optional. For Year 11, please ensure they are with you.

Some more general points about keeping in touch are;

- All our Parents' Evenings are listed at the back of this letter, as are the 23/24 term dates. We will give students a print out of these next week as well so you can keep on the fridge – please ask them for it.
- All KAA parents should have the **SIMS App** downloaded to their phone please. It takes a matter of seconds and is an essential tool to keep on top of your child's education. We will send reminder emails as to how to access the app shortly – please look out for these.
- In addition to SIMS app alerts, we will periodically email and text parents with updates. Emails come from our email account at [2074000@sims-communications.co.uk](mailto:2074000@sims-communications.co.uk). Text messages come from [07860095005](tel:07860095005) and our outgoing call number is [0207 313 5800](tel:02073135800). Please save KAA as a contact in your phone so you don't miss anything - thanks.

- As a general rule, we ask parents to look for any information they need on our website or social media channels. We have a dedicated member of staff who keeps these up to date each week. It is hard for us to respond to information requests via phone or email as our staff are very busy throughout the working day, so we ask parents to look for the info they need online instead. Our [Parent A-Z](#) and other web pages have lots of useful information and are easy to navigate, so please do take the time to look. If you need to speak to a teacher the simplest thing to do is to email them and they will aim to respond in 48 hours. Please note we have a zero-tolerance approach to any abuse of KAA staff, either in email or verbally on the phone / in person. Thank you.

### **Free School Meals (FSM)**

It won't surprise parents to hear that over the last 12 months, due to rising inflation, we have seen an increase in FSM applications. What may shock you however is that **tens of thousands of pounds of FSM funding is still going unclaimed** each year in Kensington & Chelsea. This has a double cost – eligible families miss out, and the school receives less funding overall.

If you think you may be eligible for FSM but are *not* currently receiving them, please register at: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk>. If you need help with your application, please contact our registrar Mr Machado at [d.machado@kaa.org.uk](mailto:d.machado@kaa.org.uk) or by calling [0207 313 5813](tel:02073135813).

A final point is that, if you received FSM last year (including at primary) this will automatically roll over and you do not need to reapply.

Thank you, as ever, for taking all this on board and for your continued support for KAA. What this summer's results show – as well as all the other successes last year – is that our students are capable of achieving truly exceptional things, with the right challenge and support. I'm confident this year will see KAA achieve even greater heights.

Intrepidus,



**David Benson**  
**Principal**

## Term Dates 2023-24

### Autumn Term 2023

FIRST DAY OF AUT1 TERM: 4 September 2023 (Y7 & Y12 only), 5 September 2023 (for Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11 & Y13)

HALF TERM: 23 October 2023 – 3 November 2023

FIRST DAY OF AUT2 TERM: 6 November 2023

LAST DAY OF TERM: 21 December 2023 (half day)

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

*Staff Planning Days (school closed to students): 3 November 2022 & 15 December 2023*

*Staff Training Days (school closed to students): 29 August 2023, 30 August 2023, 31 August 2023 & 1 September 2023*

### Spring Term 2024

FIRST DAY OF SPR1 TERM: 9 January 2024

HALF TERM: 12 February 2024 – 16 February 2024

FIRST DAY OF SPR2 TERM: 20 February 2024

LAST DAY OF TERM: 28 March 2024 (half day)

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

*Staff Planning Days (school closed to students): 5 January 2024*

*Staff Training Days (school closed to students): 8 January 2024, 19 February 2024*

### Summer Term 2024

FIRST DAY OF SUM1 TERM: 16 April 2024

HALF TERM: 27 May 2024 – 31 May 2024

FIRST DAY OF SUM2 TERM: 5 June 2024

LAST DAY OF TERM: 18 July 2024 (half day)

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

*Bank holiday (school closed to students & staff): 6 May 2024*

*Staff Planning Days (school closed to students): 22 July 2024, 23 July 2024*

*Staff Training Days (school closed to students): 15 April 2024, 3 June 2024, 4 June 2024, 19 July 2024*

## Parents' Evenings 2023-24

### Year 7

Welcome to Y7 Evening – Thursday 7th September 2023, 6pm-7.30pm

KS3 Keys to Success Coffee Morning – Wednesday 15th November 2023, 9.30am-10.30am  
(optional)

Y7 Progress Meetings – Thursday 18th January 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm

### Year 8

KS3 Keys to Success Coffee Morning – Wednesday 15th November 2023, 9.30am-10.30am  
(optional)

Y8 Progress Meetings – Thursday 7th March 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm

### Year 9

KS3 Keys to Success Coffee Morning – Wednesday 15th November 2023, 9.30am-10.30am  
(optional)

GCSE Options Evening – Thursday 8th February 2024, 5pm-7.30pm

Y9 Progress Meetings – Thursday 25th April 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm

### Year 10

Y10 Progress Meetings – Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm

### Year 11

Y11 Parents' Information Evening – Thursday 14th September 2023, 6pm-7.30pm

Y11 Progress Meetings & Mock Results Evening – Thursday 11th January 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm

Y11 "Crunch Time" Parents' Evening – Tuesday 18th April 2024, 6pm-7.30pm

### Sixth Form

Thursday 16th November 2023 (virtual), 5pm-7.30pm