

8th January 2024

Principal's Spring Term Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and that you and your families enjoyed a restful break over the Christmas holidays. As we begin the Spring Term, and my first full term as Principal, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my thanks for the continued partnership between home and the staff here at KAA. Since we opened 9 years ago, I have always been proud of the students, staff and wider KAA community - but this pride has only grown since taking on this new role. KAA is a very special place and I know I speak for all staff and trustees, when I say how honoured we are to be working in the interests of such incredible young people.

As you will know, we have unapologetically high expectations for our students at KAA. We know this is what they need, deserve and is fundamental to a successful school experience. This means expecting the very best of them in the classroom and matching this with inspirational teaching, together with an unrivalled programme of support. But this doesn't only mean high academic expectations. This also means encouraging our students to participate in all the wider aspects of KAA life; be it extra-curricular sports, Enrichment (see below), Performing and Creative Arts, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Academic Societies and a whole range of other opportunities. Every child's KAA experience should be one of growth and development in a genuinely rounded way – and that means inside and outside the classroom. We, of course, also have high behavior expectations for all KAA students – this allows us to maintain a productive school culture, it allows our fabulous teachers to really teach, but most importantly it allows our young people to develop the confidence and ability to manage and regulate their own conduct going forwards. All of which are essential ingredients for a successful school career.

So please rest assured, the continuity and stability provided by the transition from Mr Benson's leadership to mine, means you can expect KAA to continue being firm with our young people, and insist that they meet those high expectations. But this will always be underpinned with an unfailing compassion, and always with the best interests of our students at its heart.

So, and perhaps it goes without saying, but myself and all of the KAA staff are clearly excited for the term ahead and the progress our young people will make across the rest of this important year. Below are some important updates related to this, ahead of students returning to us tomorrow (**Tuesday 9th January at 8.30am**).

Leadership Staffing Updates

As Year 7 parents will know, Ms Madill has been the sole Director of Learning (DoL) for Year 7 throughout the Autumn term, whereas all other lower school year groups have two co-Directors of Learning. I'm delighted to announce that Mr Hajjaj has been promoted to co-Director of Learning Year 7 alongside Ms Madill. Many of you will know Mr Hajjaj, who has been a Teacher of PE at KAA since 2016, and a Behaviour Manager working alongside the DoL team for several years. He has a wealth of pastoral experience and we are delighted that he will be bringing this extra support to the Year 7 cohort. He can be contacted via email at k.hajjaj@kaa.org.uk, alongside Ms Madill at i.madill@kaa.org.uk.

Our Director of Inclusion, Ms Sullivan, is now on maternity leave and our Head of Grandin Ms Donaldson will be taking over as Director of Inclusion for 2024, whilst Ms Sullivan is out on leave. Ms Donaldson has led our Autism Provision since 2018, working closely alongside Ms Sullivan, so is well placed to cover this important role leading our Grandin and Learning Support teams. Ms Donaldson can be contacted via email at j.donaldson@kaa.org.uk.

Parent Reports and Spring Term Parents' Evenings

The autumn assessment window in December saw students from Year 7 through to Year 12 sitting assessments. Teachers are currently writing reports, and these - alongside the assessment results - will be sent to parents via email no later than Friday 19th January, and ahead of parents' evenings listed below for relevant year groups.

- **Year 11 Mock Results Evening and Progress Meetings** - Thursday 11th January 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm – please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/zxniyjCdxwPtxSiLA> if you haven't already done so.
- **Year 7 Progress Meetings** - Thursday 18th January 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm – further details to follow today from DoLs, please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/QP7sWoR3ZdWQEH3r8>.
- **Year 9 GCSE Options Evening** - Thursday 8th February 2024, 5pm-7.30pm – further details to follow directly from DoLs later in Spring 1.
- **Year 10 Progress Meetings** - Thursday 22nd February 2024, 4.30pm-7.30pm – further details to follow directly from DoLs in Spring 2.

Spring Term Enrichment

Spring Term enrichment programme will start on **Monday 15th January** and finish on **Friday 15th March**. In order to improve our Enrichment sign up process, and in order to encourage even more students to take part in this term, we are making some changes to the systems around this. When Enrichment starts next week, on Monday 15th January, your child should arrive at the Enrichment they wish to attend and they will be added to the register and you will be able to see this on the SIMS App. **There is no sign-up prior to this.** The only exception is for Climbing, Dog Club, Cooking Club and KS4 Photography and Jewellery Making where spaces are limited, to sign-up for these clubs, please complete this [Sign-up Form](#).

We are excited to be offering 38 enrichments either after-school, or - new this term - during lunch time. This week during Form Time, students will have the opportunity to record in their planner which enrichment they would like to attend. The full list of enrichments available for your child can be viewed on our website here <https://kaa.org.uk/spring-term-enrichment/>, please talk to them about what they would like to attend so you know where they will be going.

If you do not yet use the SIMS App, I would strongly encourage you to download it, it allows you to see your child's timetable (including enrichment), their rewards and any detentions in real-time. If you are having trouble accessing the SIMS App, please email simsparent@kaa.org.uk for help and support.

I'll just close by reiterating my thanks for the ongoing support and trust that you place in us to care for and educate your child at KAA. Promoting productive communication between home and school is a big priority for me, so please do let me know if you have questions or feedback that you think it would be helpful to discuss. If that is the case, please don't hesitate to get in touch and my assistant Vashti Turner (v.turner@kaa.org.uk), can schedule a phone call or meeting.

With best wishes,



Anna Jordan
Principal