

1st July 2024

End of Year Principal's Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well. As we edge towards the end of this academic year there is lots happening at KAA, so I'm writing with several relevant bits of information. Please excuse the long letter, but it felt sensible to inform parents of everything in one go, rather than sending you lots of separate emails.

Firstly, there are some senior staff changes next year, that I wanted to inform you of now. Secondly an update on our exciting building project. Then thirdly, lots of important dates and guidance on the end of term trips and activities that students are taking part in over the next few weeks.

Senior Leadership Team Changes

The wonderful Mr Clayton (Vice Principal) is leaving us at the end of this school year, in order to take up a role closer to his home. I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done at KAA over the past 8 years, and I know you will join me in wishing him all the best with his new role and for the future. As a result of this, and my permanent appointment to Principal, there have also been some other changes to SLT. The following staff will therefore be taking on new roles within the Senior Leadership Team next academic year and will be a fantastic addition to this already incredibly strong team:

- Amy Gurnell – Vice Principal – Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- James Waller – Vice Principal – Teaching & Learning
- Lisa Blount – Assistant Principal – Teacher Development
- Clare Kitteringham – Assistant Principal – Curriculum
- Rob Davies – Assistant Principal - Timetable

Director of Learning (DoL) Updates

Similarly, Mr Omer (DoL Y9) is also moving on from KAA at end the end of this academic year, and Mr Hajjaj has decided to step down from the DoL role. This combined with Dr Davies promotion to Assistant Principal and the return of Ms Cockell and Mrs Dewes from maternity leave, mean there are a few changes to our DoL team. The arrangements for **next** year will therefore be as follows:

- Year 7 - Ms Rudkin & Ms Gogarty
- Year 8 - Ms Madill & Mrs Dewes
- Year 9 - Ms Chauhan & Mr Gibbins
- Year 10 - Ms Cockell & Ms Kruk
- Year 11 - Mr Abubaker & Ms Nix
- Year 12 - Mr Whitlock (Assistant Principal – Sixth Form, who will be looking after this year group during their important transition period)
- Year 13 – Mr Jones

Again, we are blessed to have such a talented and committed set of staff doing such important jobs.

Building Works Update

I am delighted to say that our 3rd floor building project is due to start very soon – bringing students and staff much needed additional classroom space. The plans for this look really exciting (see below) and additional capacity will benefit all of us the following year. Work is due to start on 19th July, with most of the major structural works taking place in the summer holidays. When students return in September there will be some scaffolding running along the front of the building, as well as internal hoarding on the 3rd floor separating off the construction site, but the works shouldn't interrupt the normal running of the school day, nor distract students from their lessons or other important KAA activities.



KAA DNA

I'm sure parents are aware of the ongoing 'KAA DNA' theme that has been threaded through the course of this Summer2 half term. In addition to working hard on their end of year exams, each week students have been focusing on one of KAA's core values - with resilience, creativity and excellence covered in recent weeks. I wanted to now make you aware of several activities taking place during citizenship week this week, 'our future' the following week, and 'Intrepidus week' in the final week of term. Please see below for further details.

Y7 TimeGivers Volunteering – Tuesday 2nd July

A reminder that as a part of citizenship week, all Year 7 students will be taking part in a charity afternoon this Tuesday, led by the organisation [TimeGivers](#). This will take place on **Tuesday 2nd July**, during **lesson 5 and 6** of the school day. Students have been grouped into different activities; the details of your child's activity are listed in the email sent last Friday from v.turner@kaa.org.uk. All activities will be supported by KAA staff, and students will be escorted to the activity and back to school for dismissal. Please confirm that your child is able to take part and if you give media consent using the [TimeGivers Consent Form](#), if you have not already done so.

Year 10 Work Experience – Monday 8th July to Friday 12th July

As parents will be aware by now, our Year 10 students will be off school for Work Experience Week from Monday 8th to Friday 12th July. If you have any questions at all about your child's work experience placement, please contact the Directors of Learning for Year 10 Ms Nix or Mr Abubaker at e.nix@kaa.org.uk or h.abubaker@kaa.org.uk.

Y8 KAA6 for a Day – Tuesday 9th July

On Tuesday 9th July, as part of "our future" week, Year 8 students will be spending the day experiencing KAA Sixth Form. The purpose of the day is to develop students' sense of, **curiosity**, **purpose** and **destiny**, encouraging them to think about how being a younger student at KAA actually fits into a longer-term journey, and how their choices now will affect destinations later.

During the day, there will be a range of exciting activities and opportunities for students, including an introduction which focuses on how KAA6 feels different to the main school; taster sessions in a variety of subjects not offered to students lower down the school, such as politics and psychology; and opportunities to meet and hear from current sixth form students about their own ambitions and academic journeys.

Students will need to arrive at their normal start time on Tuesday 9th July. They should bring their bag and pencil case, but do not need to bring their school books. **Students have the option to wear either their KAA school uniform or clothing which meets the KAA Sixth Form dress code.** Sixth form students are permitted to wear more formal business wear, suits, shirts/blouses, trousers, ties, plain socks, formal plain shoes, smart v-neck jumpers or waistcoats, and formal skirts. **Please note that hoodies, tracksuits, sportswear, leggings, and trainers are not permitted and students will be sent home to change if they are wearing these items (as would be the case with a sixth former with incorrect clothing).**

Y9 Kew Gardens Trip – Tuesday 9th July

A reminder that Year 9 students will be visiting Kew Gardens during 'our future week'. The trip will be free for all students and will take place on **Tuesday 9th July**. All students should arrive to school at the **usual time of 8:30am in full school uniform**. We will be travelling to and from Kew Gardens by coach. Students should bring a packed lunch with them, but students eligible for Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch on the morning of the trip. The coaches will be returning back to school and students will be dismissed between 3:00pm and 3:30pm. Further details about the trip were emailed to parents on 19th June, but if you haven't yet completed the [consent form](#) for your child, please do so by Friday 5th July.

Careers Festival – Wednesday 10th July

On Wednesday 10th July, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will enjoy a Careers Festival during the normal school day. Students should arrive at school for the usual time in full school uniform, but will experience a range of careers-focused activities, including careers linked subject lessons, a lecture on post-16 options, and a careers panel with special guests. Students can also participate in the **Dragon's Den** house competition at lunch time – students should register with their form tutor if they would like to enter a business or product idea!

Sports Day – Thursday 11th July

I am delighted to inform you that the KAA Sports Day for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 will take place on **Thursday 11th July 2024** at **Linford Christie Athletics Stadium, Linford Christie Rd, London, W12 0DF** from 8.30am-2pm.

As in previous years, we are asking for the support of parents in either allowing students to make their own way to and from the stadium, or by dropping them off there in the morning. We would like to reassure parents that KAA staff will be stewards on local streets ensuring students are safe on their journey to and from the stadium. Students must arrive at the stadium by **8:30am** for registration; arrival after 8:45am will result in a detention for lateness. It is anticipated that the event will finish at **2:00pm**. Students will be dismissed from the stadium to make **their own way home**. If the event overruns a little, dismissal will be delayed. The timings at the end of the day have been designed to ensure KAA students do not overlap with students being dismissed from other local schools.

Students are required to wear the correct school PE kit both to and from the stadium. If any student fails to wear the appropriate PE kit, they will be given some spare kit that they will be expected to change into and they will also be given an S3 detention. Non-participants must also wear a full school PE kit and provide a medical note explaining why they are not able to participate in their planner.

All students who are entitled to free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch, which they can collect at the stadium. All other students must bring a packed lunch and a reusable water bottle. It is hard to predict the weather at this stage, we therefore advise that students come with a raincoat and sun cream. Pupils on prescribed medication are responsible for bringing it with them, together with inhalers/epipens, if appropriate.

In the unlikely event that the weather is very wet on the morning of Sports Day, and we unfortunately have to cancel it, we will text parents by 8.15am and the school day will start at 9.00am in the usual KAA building. Pupils would in this instance need to bring in their normal books and equipment for lessons on a Thursday. If the events have to be abandoned at the stadium part of the way through then we shall allow pupils to make their own way home. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents to Sports Day for safeguarding reasons. If you have any further questions related to sports day, please email our Head of PE, Miss Kennedy, at m.kennedy@kaa.org.uk.

Culture Day – Friday 12th July

On Friday 12th July we will be having Culture Day at KAA for all year groups. **We are inviting all students to come to school in either their cultural dress**, or in school uniform as normal. You may be aware that we held a very successful Sixth Form Culture Day earlier this year as part of Black History Month. However, in response to a well-organised proposal from our Student Council, we would now like to extend this celebration to students in all year groups. Students will attend lessons as normal, then in their lesson after lunch, spend some time talking about what their culture means to them and celebrating the vibrant and diverse community we have at KAA.

Oliver! School Production – Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July

Our summer production of Oliver takes place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 16th July and Wednesday 17th July and parents can now buy tickets for the evening performances via ParentPay. Tech and dress rehearsals for the cast will take place during the school day on Friday 12th and Monday 15th July, as well as there being a weekend rehearsal on Sunday 14th July. Students in Year 7 will also have the chance to see the matinees on either Tuesday 16th July or Wednesday 17th July during lesson 5 and 6, alongside students from our local primary schools.

End of Year Assembly – Thursday 18th July

Our annual end of year assembly will take place during lesson 3 on the final day of term, where students will come together to celebrate their achievements this year and meet our new prefect team, including our new Head Prefects. Students will be dismissed at 12.30pm.

Parent Reports – Friday 26th July

Following the end of year exams, form tutors will be writing end of year reports, and these will be finalised and sent out to parents after term ends. Parents should receive these via email by Friday 26th July.

Parent Survey – closing Monday 8th July

A huge thank you to everyone who has completed this already – this feedback is incredibly important. A reminder if you haven't yet done so to use this link here: [Parent Survey](#). The survey will close at 5pm on Monday 8th July.

I think you will agree, students are set for a busy and exciting end to the school year, and I hope that these updates help parents feel informed and clear on all of the details. I will write again ahead of the new academic year, but for now I want to say an enormous thank you for all the support and engagement you have shown this year. KAA continues to make me and the rest of the staff, very proud - and a big part of that is down to the important partnership we have with parents, carers and families, so thank you.

Best wishes,



Anna Jordan
Principal