

The King's Chronicles



No.26 Week 30: 3 - 7 May 2021

Routes & Rehearsals

Years 8 and 9: Pathways

As we look ahead to next academic year, we have important work to do with our Year 8 and Year 9 students in selecting option subjects. While we cannot run our usual parents' information evenings this year, we have created a number of resources on the Academy website to help inform students and parents about next year's curriculum, the subjects themselves and the processes that students need to follow in the coming days and weeks. Parents will receive an email with a link to an online pathways form which must be completed by Friday 14 May. For more information, please see the Academy website:

<https://www.thekingsacademy.org.uk/students/pathways/>

Years 10 and 12: Rehearsal Examinations

In just over twelve months, our Year 10 and Year 12 students will be entering the exam hall to sit public examinations for the first time. While this may seem a long way off, we are in fact only around 200 school days away from the start of these examinations. Students will undertake a range of preparations across the year, starting with rehearsal examinations between **Monday 7 June** and **Friday 11 June 2021**. These will help teachers to identify gaps in students' knowledge and understanding and will be useful to students in organising their own revision and preparations for next summer. The schedule for these rehearsal examinations has been shared with students this week.

Mr Reader - Senior Vice Principal

Free After-School Football

From Thursday 20 May, the charity Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation are launching their weekly, "Premier League Kicks" after-school social football programme for boys and girls from the local area at the Academy (including TKA students). Sessions run 5-6pm for age 8-13 and 6-7pm for age 14-18. The events are free and there is no need to sign up in advance – just turn up at the Sports Reception entrance.

Mr McAllister - Business Manager



Key Dates

May

Monday 31 Half Term Holiday

June

Monday 7 School reopens
Start of Years 10 & 12 rehearsals

w/c 14 House Rounders

w/c 21 House Cricket

July

Monday 5 Year 13 Prom, Judges Hotel

Wednesday 7 Year 11 Prom, Wynyard Hall

A Year 10 Retrospective: The Perils of Lockdown

When lockdown first started we were excited to be off school for 2 weeks...

...but after the first month we started to become bored. We spent most of the spare hours in our day face-timing friends. It wasn't that bad.

When lockdown restrictions were lifted it was great being off school as it meant we could meet up with some friends whilst the weather was good. In November, lots of us were sent home to isolate and also the second lockdown was introduced. This was when the boredom and stress really hit us. We could no longer see our friends. We didn't think we would ever be grateful to come back to school- but we were!

Gabby Clark and Isobel Bezance – 10 Fearnley

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Relaunch



It has been great to see the current Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award students continuing to work towards their Awards since returning to school. After already completing their Expedition section with a two-day hike, Year 11 students have been independently completing the final three sections – Physical, Skill and Volunteering.

The Year 10 DofE after-school club has also restarted on a Tuesday, with upcoming training sessions focusing on map skills, navigation, tent building and first aid. We're really looking forward to being able to take groups out into the countryside again; is it too early to start crossing our fingers for dry weather?!

Mr King - Teacher of Chemistry

Highlights of the week

Year 7 - An amazing attitude to learning this week. Students have responded sensibly towards their new breaktime routine.

Year 8 - The Year 8s have enjoyed learning about careers and have responded very positively to the many presentations led by the careers team.

Year 9 - Y9 Computer Science have programmed working Thermometers and Step Counters using a BBC micro:bit this week. Some excellent programming was completed by all.

Year 10 - Year 10 have made an excellent transition from the back of the sports hall to the Astro as their main break area. They have shown how responsible and mature they can be.

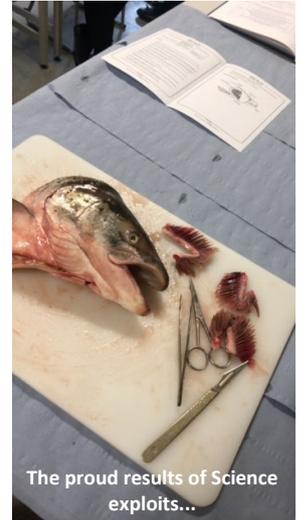
Year 11 - Year 11 GCSE Art and Design students have finally started working on their ceramic vases. This work is part of a project they started back in Year 10, but unfortunately the national lockdown put the project on hold until now. The work is inspired by the ocean and the human impact on the coral reefs.

Sixth Form - We are delighted that Year 12 students Jack Parkes, Francis Sayer and Bibiana Shanks-Davison have been selected for the competitive and prestigious Christ's-King's programme with the University of Cambridge, taking place in May and June. Congratulations!

Focus: Science

Last week the science department saw the Year 12 A level Science students get back into some of the practical work they need for their courses.

In Biology, to help students appreciate the anatomy and physiology of gas exchange systems, students carried out some highly skilled dissection work. This involved carefully removing parts of the gills from fish to observe and draw these structures. The students started with some trepidation but by the end of the lesson were confidently carrying out the task.



The rest of the school were less happy about the smell that was wafting out of the laboratory!

Dr Baird - Head of Science

Local Elections

This week in Years 7-10 assemblies and tutor reflections we have been looking together at the local elections. After being informed about the by-election in Hartlepool and then the mayoral election on Teesside, each tutor group moved on to a discussion of the pros and cons of lowering the voting age to 16. This was prompted by both Scotland and Wales allowing this in elections for their regional Parliaments. Mr Coe had already used his resource with his sixth form classes (resulting in 57% voting against); and it led to each set of students voting on their preference.

The results were fascinating.

If each tutor group were a constituency, we would have had our own 'Parliament' made up of 22 pro-16 MPs (78%) and 6 MPs against, under a First Past the Post system. However, the *individual* votes came out as 62% being pro-16: a proportional approach therefore demonstrating that the pro-16 vote was over-represented under FPTP.

Year 10 were particularly disadvantaged, as 51% actually voted *against* lowering the voting age—even though 4 tutor groups (out of 7) voted for it.

Mr Bulley - Vice Principal