



To All Year 7 Parents/Carers

Tuesday 7 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 Students: Curriculum, Setting, Assessment and Homework

It was a delight to meet our new Year 7 cohort yesterday and welcome them to The King's Academy for their induction. Please see below for some important academic information about the term ahead.

Curriculum and Setting

All Year 7 students will follow the curriculum set out in the Parent Handbook. It is our usual practice to group students by academic ability to ensure that each student receives teaching focused at the appropriate level for their ability. As you will know, Year 6 SATS did not take place this year so our information on academic ability is from primary school teacher assessments which enables us to differentiate broadly between students.

Rather than more precise setting, we shall therefore teach Year 7 students in 'bands' initially, including for the first half-term. In the majority of subjects, students have been assigned to either band 1 (upper), 2 (middle) or 3 (lower). They may be assigned different bands for different subjects. The classes within each band (lettered a, b, c etc.) have no meaning whatsoever on student ability, being populated randomly, e.g. '07/GG02b' is a Year 7 Geography class in band 2.

From November we intend to re-group students more finely but – in computing, art, drama, engineering, food technology and music which are studied in a 'carousel' that rotates across the school year – students have been assigned to groups that they will remain in for the duration of the academic year to ensure they cover the broad curriculum during the year.

Homework

To support transition to secondary school, and particularly in adjusting to the longer school day, we will introduce homework, being typically 30 minutes per subject, in a phased manner:

- Until Friday 17 September: no homework shall be set.
- From Monday 20 September: students will have homework set in whichever three of the following they are studying at the time: computing, art, drama, engineering, food technology, music.
- From Monday 1 November (next half term), students will then begin to receive homework in French (where studied), geography, history and RE, in addition to the creative arts subjects above.
- From Tuesday 4 January 2022, students will receive a full programme of homework in all subjects.

Assessments

In order to support our teaching and learning, we will be undertaking some assessments during the course of this term. These assessments are *diagnostic* assessments that will help us to identify gaps in knowledge or understanding and allow staff to adapt their teaching to cover these areas in the coming weeks, as well as providing information to inform the set changes to take place in November.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Head of Year, Mr Gilbert, if you have any queries about your child's transition to The King's Academy or any of the matters raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Reader
Senior Vice Principal

David W Dawes BA (Hons), MA, MEng *Principal*

The King's Academy, Stainton Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, TS8 0GA Tel: 01642 577 577 Fax: 01642 590 204
Email: enquiries@thekingsacademy.org.uk www.thekingsacademy.org.uk

Registered Office: Trinity House, Bede Academy, Sixth Form, Sixth Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 2SY Company Registration Number No. 4464331