



King's Norton Boys' School

HUMANI SEMPER CONTENDIMUS

Core GCSE Transition Booklet



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our approach to teaching and learning supports curriculum knowledge by ensuring that lessons build on prior learning and provide opportunities for guided and prolonged independent practice. At KNBS we are proud that our curriculum is taught by specialist teachers with a deep knowledge and passion for their subject. We want our students to be ambitious and resilient so that they know how to learn for themselves. While teachers encourage, support and guide students, we also expect them to take shared responsibility for their learning and to be able to work both independently and collaboratively, to relish challenges and to persevere when they find things hard.

This 'Core GCSE Transition Booklet' outlines how students can prepare for September 2021 and gives them clear ways to get ahead. It also provides an overview of the topics studied in English, maths, and science, how they are assessed and how your son can best prepare for success. It will also allow you to help them to plan their studies and revision and gives you suggestions on practical ways you can encourage your child outside of school and we hope that you will find this useful.

Although these topics will be covered within our long term-plan planning, students may wish to prepare themselves for the transition to their GCSE studies and we would certainly recommend this as there are well established links between pre-reading and improved outcomes.

A real strength of our school community is our shared desire for our students to do well and we endeavour to provide as much support as we can at this important time. To further aid our students' transition, we will be providing some summer support materials to help our students prepare for Year 10 and we hope they take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity to get ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Ms C Moysi
Senior Assistant Headteacher
Quality of Education





GCSE English @KNBS

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.”

Exam Board:

AQA

Assessment method:

Spoken Language Endorsement

This is a separate qualification, but it must be completed for students to be entered for their English examinations. Students present a speech on a topic of their choice in front of an audience. Students are asked questions that they respond to in as much detail as possible. The marks are pass, merit or distinction.

English Language, Paper One

This contains four questions based on a fiction text. Part A comprises of a series of comprehension questions looking at the use of language and structure. Part B requires students to complete a description or narrative task.

English Language, Paper Two

This contains four questions on two non-fiction texts. Part A comprises of comprehension questions looking at the use of language and it requires students to compare the writers' viewpoints across two texts. Part B requires students to respond to a statement presenting their own viewpoint on the matter.

English Literature, Paper One

This paper assesses students' understanding of 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Macbeth.' Students are given extracts and must make links across the text using the PEA paragraph format.

English Literature, Paper Two

This paper assesses students' understanding of 'Pigeon English', 'Power and Conflict Anthology' and unseen poems. For the poetry comparison question, one poem from the anthology will be given and students must link this to another from the cluster. Students must answer each question using the PEA paragraph format.

How can your son best prepare for success?

- Complete all of the weekly tasks set on Show my Homework
- Using knowledge organisers to learn and revise key vocabulary
- Complete wider reading (this will be set by the teacher in due course and when appropriate)
- Read non-fiction texts like articles, fiction books, blogs by different authors and politicians' speeches
- Examine the use of language in different contexts, its meanings and how it is used to achieve an intended effect
- Learn key quotes from the set texts

Set GCSE texts and topics

- `Christmas Carol` by Charles Dickens (the original text) for Literature Paper One
- `Macbeth` by William Shakespeare (the original text) for Literature Paper One
- `Power and Conflict Anthology` for Literature Paper Two (15 poems)- CPG do a brilliant copy and analysis of these!
- `Pigeon English` by Stephen Kelman for Literature Paper 2
- A response to unseen poetry and an unseen poetry comparison for Literature Paper One

The rest of the term in English

Students will begin studying 'Lord of the Flies' and learning about the post-World War Two period. Students will examine the presentation and use of characters from across the text, developing their PEA paragraph writing skills, while making relevant links to context and examining the writer's ideas.

Please contact your son's English teacher by email should you need anything at all; we are here to help.

Teacher email - firstinitial.surname@knbs.co.uk

Curriculum Leader of English- I.holder@knbs.co.uk

GCSE Science @KNBS

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” – Albert Einstein

Exam Board:

Edexcel Combined Science (Double Award)/Separate Science (Triple Award)

Assessment method: All students complete six examinations to achieve their Science GCSE qualifications. The exams taken by students on the separate award science route are longer than the combined science papers.

Combined Science gives students a science qualification equivalent to 2 GCSE's with a grade that represents a student's performance across the three main science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Separate science adds another GCSE's worth of content for students to study allowing them to achieve separate grades in all three sciences. This qualification is a good choice for our more able science students, in particular those who are already considering continuing to study Science related courses at post 16 level.

Students are selected for separate award science in the final term of Year 9 based upon their own wishes and their suitability based on prior academic performance.

How can your son best prepare for success?

- In Year 9 our curriculum design incorporates topics that overlap between KS3 and KS4, giving your son a clear indication of what they will experience in Science lessons in Year 10 and Year 11.
- The knowledge gained during Year 9 builds a crucial foundation for full GCSE level study in Y10. Please encourage your son to prepare carefully before assessments which are a key part of monitoring how students have grasped this knowledge.
- Whilst a key requirement for success at GCSE is a solid bank of factual knowledge, it is also crucial that students develop the skills of questioning and critical thought. Occasionally reading news articles relating to Science and technology can be an excellent way to encourage these skills.

Science Topics Covered During Year 9

- Energy
- Ecosystem Processes
- The key fundamentals of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Genes and Evolution
- Waves and Communication
- Diseases and Defence Mechanisms
- Separation Techniques

Science for the remainder of this academic year

Covid19 has forced us to deviate from our normal curriculum plan with Year 9 with almost all practical work unable to take place with social distancing rules in force. The practical elements of these plans are still dependant on the expected relaxation of social distancing rules scheduled as part of the Government road map. Please see below for more information regarding practical investigations.

Separation Techniques

Looking at the way different combinations of substances can be safely isolated from one another in both laboratory and real-world conditions.

Practical Investigations

This element of the curriculum has been significantly hampered by Covid19. We are hopeful that students will soon be able to carry out a range of detailed Science practical investigations that were originally planned for earlier in the academic year. These practical investigations allow students to develop some of the key skills to succeed when working.

Please contact your son's science teacher by email should you need further help and guidance. If your query relates to separate award science, please contact the Curriculum Leader of science on the email below.

Teacher email - firstinitial.surname@knbs.co.uk

Curriculum Leader of science – r.hodgetts@knbs.co.uk

GCSE Maths @KNBS

“Success is the product of hard work, determination, persistence and perseverance.”

Exam Board:

Pearson Edexcel 1MA1

Assessment method: All students complete three exams which are equally weighted to achieve their Mathematics GCSE qualification. Each exam is one hour and thirty minutes long, with the first paper being non-calculator and the following two being calculator. Curriculum content can be assessed on any of the three papers.

All pupils are taught in sets according to their prior attainment and teacher judgement informed by assessment data, homework and class response. Minor adjustments may be made to the sets during Year 10 and Year 11. At the beginning of Year 10 each set will be allocated to follow either Foundation or Higher tier. Students in the top Foundation tier sets will be appropriately extended to allow flexibility of tier entry.

Homework will be set weekly and should take around one hour to complete. Homework is usually set via the online platform, Hegarty Maths. Hegarty Maths is a website through which teachers and students can access a wealth of information about your son's knowledge and effort. Completion of homework is essential for maximum success.

How can your son best prepare for success?

- Complete all homework set on Satchel One (Show my homework) and tasks set on Hegarty Maths by your teacher.
- Regularly complete the “memri” and “fix up 5” tasks on the revise tab within Hegarty Maths to revisit previously learned topics regularly to improve retention over time. These questions have links to the exact video explanation needed to help.
- There is a “Student useful resources” tab within Hegarty Maths. Within this you will find “revision resources” which are checklists of tasks for the different tiers of GCSE. The GCSE Foundation checklist one will be useful for all students to ensure solid foundations. The GCSE crossover checklist targets grades 4 and 5. Those expecting or striving to follow Higher tier may benefit from using this and/or the Higher checklist, but please remember that many of these topics are yet to have been taught to your son.
- Bringing the correct equipment to avoid delays to learning in class. It would be useful to always have: Pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, scientific calculator. It would be useful to also own a protractor and a pair of compasses. Teachers will advise students when it is useful to bring these to school. A recommended scientific calculator model is sold through school at a discounted rate and is available over Parentpay all year round.



Maths Topics Covered During Year 9

Number Properties, Decimal Calculations, Indices and Standard Form, Fractions, Expanding, Factorising and Substitution, Forming and Solving Linear Equations, Accuracy and Bounds, Sequences, Ratio and Proportion, Percentages, Probability, Averages and Range, Representing and Interpreting Data, Angles, Linear Graphs, Pythagoras, Trigonometry

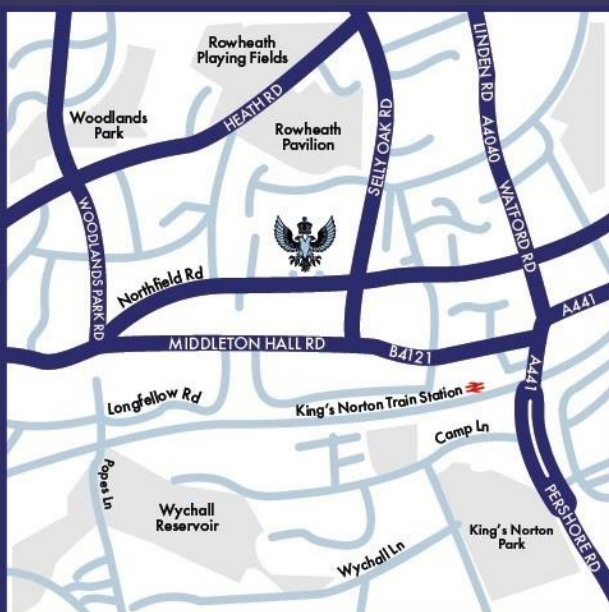
Maths for the rest of the academic year

Transformations, Area and Perimeter, Volume and Surface Area, Compound Measures, Bearings, Constructions and Loci, and Non-linear graphs. Plus Surds, Rearranging formulae and Quadratic expressions and equations for some groups.

Please contact your son's maths teacher by email should you need further help and guidance.

Teacher email - firstinitial.surname@knbs.co.uk

Curriculum Leader of maths – gareth.jones@knbs.co.uk



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