

## Frequently Asked Questions

During the 6 sessions run, a range of questions were posed. I have grouped these into themes and summarised the questions in each group. The exact wording of your question will not be there but your query will hopefully be answered.

Individual questions about children have not been included in this FAQs sheet. If you have individual questions please contact your child's tutor or Year Progress Lead.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to these sessions. I really enjoyed meeting you all.

Mrs Moore  
Executive Principal

### Theme : Lunch times

#### **Why is the lunchtime only 30 minutes?**

The DfE asked schools to ensure that, from September 2022 there were 32.5 hours per week. As KAB has grown, it is now necessary to have different times for lunch for different year groups. To enable this within the times of the current school day without having to end later, the 30 minute lunch break was introduced in September 2022.

[The DfE requirements can be viewed here.](#)

#### **Service at lunch takes a long time. How can this be addressed?**

At the start of the term, lunch service in the canteen was taking at least 20 minutes which is not appropriate for students or staff. Over the first half term, changes have been made to speed up service. There are now more tills working, tills have been moved to enable faster payment and two new staff have joined the catering team. The catering service is contracted, but the company work very closely with us to try to meet student need.

KAB Secondary student council have given feedback and this is being used to make further changes in the secondary canteen.

In KAB Primary another member of staff is now helping with service.

In KAO a second member of staff is working in the kitchen and a member of the KAO team is undertaking training so that they can help with service if this becomes necessary.

By the week ending 21 October 2022 the time taken to serve all students was approximately 8 minutes on most days. On Friday service is slower as the choices on that day are very popular so more students purchase lunch. We are working with the catering company to reduce service time even on a Friday.

#### **Will the 30 minute lunchtime be reviewed?**

Yes. The 30 minute lunchtime will be reviewed once there has been sufficient time for changes to embed so that a fair view of how the new timings are working can be gained. As a result, the review will take place in January, using findings from the Autumn term.

KAB Secondary School council have made some good suggestions about how the 30 minute lunchtime can be addressed. They have been tasked with gathering further

information from their tutor groups to find solutions to problems that will make their ideas work.

**Where can parents/carers see the lunch menu choices and costs? What is a 'meal deal'?**

All menus and prices can be found [here](#). A meal deal is the main meal and a dessert.

## **Theme : KAB6**

**When does KAB6 open?**

KAB6 opens in September 2023.

**How do students apply for a place at KAB6?**

The online application form for KAB6 is available on our website [here](#). Students will wish to wait for their Pre Public Exam results so, the majority of applications are expected in December. However, there is no hard deadline, as external students have the opportunity to apply up to Easter. As a result, the interview process is ongoing and so KAB students can still have an interview after the Christmas holiday as well. However, interviews take time and students will want to have secured their offers and be able to focus on their studies so it is advised they apply before the end of the autumn term.

**Will students receive SEND support at KAB6?**

KAB6 offers an academic curriculum of A Level subjects. If students meet the entry criteria (5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above) and have additional needs that require support to access their studies, the Learning support department will provide some assistance. Individual discussions will be held to address this.

## **Theme : Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

**How can SEND provision better meet student need?**

Each child's SEND needs are dealt with on a case by case basis, we have created an inclusive learning environment where all teachers are teachers of SEND and our SEND learners are completely included within our mainstream mixed ability classes. We deliver a robust programme of intervention that takes place alongside the regular curriculum and ensures that our SEND learners are enabled to participate in all aspects of academy life. SEND resources and funding are limited, so SEND provision is developed on a case by case basis. More information can be found on the SEND page of our website [here](#).

**Will there be more LSAs in the school?**

At the time of writing, we are recruiting for Learning Support Assistants at Primary and Secondary phases. If you know anyone who might be interested in one of these roles, please direct them to the [vacancies page on our website](#).

## Theme : Enrichment

### Will there be any trips this year?

Due to the pandemic there have been very few trips in recent years, however, this year we are planning a number of trips to address this:

#### KAB Secondary

GCSE Drama trip: Jersey Boys, Woking Theatre

GCSE Drama Trip - Woman in Black

Performing Arts Trip: Paris

Snow sports Trip

Year 8: Kew Gardens

GCSE Geography Field Trip

History Trip: Belgian WW1 Battlefields

#### KAB Primary

Year N Building Site Visit

Year R Mobile Planetarium Visit (also theatre visit TBC)

Year 1 Milestones Museum - Toys and Games

Year 2 Milestones Museum - Transport and Travel (this year only- next year Windsor Castle)

Year 3 Pizza Express Workshop and London Zoo

#### KAO

Year R Mobile Planetarium Visit (theatre visit TBC)

Year 1 Milestones Museum - Toys and Games

Year 2 Milestones Museum - Transport and Travel (this year only- next year Windsor Castle)

Year 3 Pizza Express Workshop and London Zoo

Year 4 Runway's End - 2 night residential

Year 5 Silverstone Interactive Museum

Plus multiple Sporting opportunities and currently arranging visits to local places of Worship for all Year Groups.

### What afterschool clubs are available?

There are a range of afterschool clubs. These change during the year.

#### KAB Secondary

[Clubs are on our website here.](#) These include but are not limited to a range of sports clubs, Band, Choir, Drama Club, Tech Club, DofE (yr9 upwards) and Homework Club.

#### KAB Primary and KAO

Enrichment activities take place every Friday afternoon during the academy day. All teachers and support staff offer enrichment that students opt into. Students participate in the enrichment sessions with other students across all year groups. Students will choose different sessions as the year progresses. Sessions include:

STEM

Drama

Social Skills

Environmental Planeteers

Creativity with Loom Bands

Creativity with Hama Beads

Chess

Cross stitch

First Aid  
Music  
How to draw  
Art

In addition, students in KAB/KAO can participate in after school sports activities and match fixtures. Recently we have competed in the Primary netball tournament, girls football match, cricket and rugby skills events and the KAO Year 5 football team have had a match.

We also offer free after school teacher led clubs including: choir, homework, multiskills, Art, Science and STEM.

### **What is Tech Club?**

Tech Club takes place on Wednesdays after school. It gives students the opportunity to explore different technologies and make use of the equipment to pursue projects of their choice.

### **Can Bikeability be offered?**

Bracknell Forest currently only receives funding for these courses to be delivered in primary schools, not secondary. Therefore we will be able to offer this to our Year 5 and 6 students but this is not something we can currently access for secondary age students.

## **Theme : Communications between home and school**

### **How do I contact my child's teacher/tutor?**

All teachers email addresses are available on [the school website here](#).

### **Will there be newsletters this year?**

Newsletters began again just before half term. We have changed the way we do this to have a more succinct newsletter with important information and links to additional/extended items. The aim is to reduce the amount of communications home so that key information can be provided in a way that is quick and easy to read, whilst also providing the richer, more detailed articles, that give an insight into your children's lives at school. Newsletters will now be as follows:

Week A - whole school newsletter - the same newsletter will go to all parents of students in KAB and KAO.

Week B - there will be two separate newsletters, one for Primary parents/carers and one for secondary parents/carers.

We will try this new approach and take feedback by the end of the spring term.

### **There are a lot of important messages from school, can communications be made clearer?**

We are reviewing how we communicate with parents/carers and will publish a new communications policy shortly. At this time we will let you know about changes being made to communications between school and home to try to streamline this process.

## **Theme : Parents Evening, Reports, Grading system**

### **When do parents/carers receive reports on students' progress?**

#### KAB Secondary

##### **Year 7**

Y7 Settling Report - W/B 3rd October 2022 (No attainment data will be provided on this report)

Y7 DD1 - W/B 6th March 2023

Y7 DD2 - W/B 12th June 2023

##### **Year 8**

Y8 DD1 - W/B 16th January 2023

Y8 DD2 - W/B 15th May 2023

##### **Year 9**

Y9 DD1 - W/B 20th February 2023

Y9 DD2 - W/B 3rd July 2023

##### **Year 10**

Y10 DD1 - W/B 2nd January 2023

Y10 DD2 - W/B 24th April 2023

Y10 DD3 - W/B 17th July 2023

##### **Year 11**

Y11 DD1 - W/B 28th November 2022

Y11 DD2 - W/B 20th March 2023

Results Day - Thursday 24th August 2023

#### KAB Primary/KAO

October - Parents Evening Number 1

March - Parents Evening Number 2

July - End of year Report

### **How are students assessed? What is the grading system used at each key stage?**

Because KAB/KAO is an all through school, our curriculum progresses seamlessly from primary to secondary. To support this, the grading system is similar between each key stage until students reach Key Stage 4 when GCSE grades are used. The gradings used at each key stage are as follows:

Throughout primary, the assessment language used is based on the primary national curriculum expectations. Children are assessed as working below (WB), working towards (WT), working at the expected standard (ES) or working at greater depth (GD). Assessment happens daily to ensure children are challenged and supported. Formal testing is used in some years to support overall teacher assessment:

#### Early Years Foundation Stage (Year R)

Children in the Early Years are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs) as 'Expected' or 'Emerging'

Good Level of Development (GLD) is reached if a child has achieved the expected level for the ELGs in the prime areas of learning and the specific areas of mathematics and literacy by the end of reception.

### Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Children in KS1 are regularly assessed in phonics and reading in order to provide support and move learning forward.

Year 1 children will have a phonics screening check in June of their year 1 year. This is a national assessment completed by all children in year 1.

Year 2 children will start to sit formal tests through the year as they prepare for SATS in May. Children are tested in Writing, reading comprehension and maths.

### Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

Children in years 3-5 complete formal tests 3 times a year in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS). Writing is also formally assessed 3 times a year by looking at multiple pieces. These assessments are used to support teacher judgement and to help prepare the children for year 6 SATS.

Children in year 4 complete an online national times table check in June.

In May, year 6 children sit SATS tests in Reading comprehension, maths and grammar punctuation and spelling (GPS). Writing is also assessed.

### Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

For Key Stage 3 we have four grades that we award. These are Emerging, Developing, Secure and Mastered.

These are broadly linked to GCSE grades as shown in the table below.

EDSM	Mastered			Secure		Developing		Emerging	
GCSE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

These grades are awarded holistically on everything that we know that your child knows through our assessments.

As students continue to learn more content these grades will become more accurate due to their holistic nature.

### Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

For Key Stage 4 we grade using the GCSE grading criteria. This means that your son/daughter will be given a numerical grade from 9 to 1. It is considered a pass at GCSE if a child achieves a grade 4, and a strong pass if a child secures a grade 5.

### **When are parents'/carers' evenings?**

All parents'/carers' evening and other events appear on the [online school calendar which can be found here](#).

## **Theme : Homework**

### **My child is worried about getting detentions for not completing homework, how can they be supported?**

There is homework club available to support students with their homework. Students who are interested in participating in this club should speak with their tutor.

If your child is struggling to complete a piece of homework and you believe they have tried their hardest and spent TIME on the work, then please email your child's teacher.

Email addresses can be found on the school [website here](#).

**Can parents see what homework is set?**

Parents can see the homework set through the weekly summary of completed/incomplete homework tasks sent to them from Google Classroom as long as parents have signed up to the service.

**How much homework is expected?**

The Homework Policy is currently under review. Information will come to parents shortly via the newsletter containing information about what types of homework and how much homework should be expected in each subject.

**Theme : Uniform****What are the school uniform rules? What happens if students breach these rules?**

School uniform rules can be found on the [school website here](#).

**What happens if students breach these rules?**

In KAB Secondary, If students fail to comply with the above requirements they will remain with their tutor until their uniform and presentation is correct and in line with Academy standards. Tutors conduct a daily uniform check. Parents will be informed of any issues. In KAB Primary and KAO, parents will be informed of any uniform issues and asked to ensure these are corrected.

**Will there be any changes to the uniform?**

[Government guidelines](#) require the school to examine the uniform policy to ensure that uniforms are affordable. This is particularly important when uniform contracts are due for renewal. The Stevensons uniform contract with KAB/KAO will end on 30/9/22. As a result, we will undertake a full uniform review and tendering process before setting up a new contract which may result in some changes to uniform and its supply. Parents/carers will be kept informed of this as the process progresses.

**Theme : Curriculum Design and Teaching and Learning****How are all students' needs met in mixed ability classes in KAB Secondary?**

At KAB we have created an inclusive learning environment where all learners are completely included in our mainstream mixed ability classes. Our teachers are trained to 'teach to the top' which means that they work with students in lessons to ensure all are pushed to the right level for them. Our teachers have continuing professional development so that they are able to deliver 'quality first teaching', that is, training in the skills needed to provide high quality lessons personalised to students in their classes. Research from a range of sources, including the [Education Endowment Foundation](#) shows that there is no advantage to teaching in sets or in streaming students. In fact, mixed ability groups show greater levels of progress in many subjects. At KAB, teachers are all experts in their subjects, providing high quality teaching and learning for all.

**What languages do students learn?**

From reception, students learn Spanish at KAB/KAO. French is introduced by Year 3. Students continue to study both Spanish and French until the end of year 9 when they

choose their options. At this point students can choose to continue with either Spanish or French or both.

**How much physical activity is designed into the curriculum?**

Students in Key Stage 3 have

**Theme : Anti-bullying**

**What is the school policy on anti-bullying?**

The anti-bullying policy is available on the school website. However, this is currently under review. Following work with students and staff this has been rewritten to provide a staged approach. The new anti bullying policy will be launched in January 2023.

**Can clear guidance be given on sanctions for bullying?**

The new anti-bullying policy will contain guidance on how bullying is managed in the school.

**Theme : Admissions**

**What are the plans for KAO students having a guaranteed place at KAB Secondary?**

No school place can ever be guaranteed, however, admissions criteria can be changed through a consultation process managed by Bracknell Forest Council. The consultation on the KAB Secondary Admissions Policy to name KAO, giving priority to KAO students opened on 7/11/22 and runs until 16/12/22. The independent adjudicator will make a decision on the proposed change to the policy by the end of February. This will be published in April 2023 in time for the application deadline for secondary places at the end of October 2023 to start in Year 7 in September 2024.

**Will a student attending KAB 6 count as a sibling under the admissions criteria for students applying for year 7 places in the future?**

Yes.

**Theme : Behaviour**

**Is the behaviour policy being reviewed?**

Yes, the behaviour policy is currently under review. This is being led by Mrs Taylor, Assistant Principal, and has involved consultation with staff, students and parents. The new behaviour policy has been drafted, further work is being carried out and Governors will ratify this for launch in January 2023 alongside the new Anti-bullying policy. This is needed to address issues that have arisen as the schools grow.

**How do we access pastoral/emotional care for a child who is struggling?**

The first port of call should always be a student's tutor who can provide help and support



and can signpost to other services. The Year Progress Lead (YPL) is the next level of support. KAB and KAO have fully trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistants who can provide programmed support. There is also a student welfare officer and a Safeguarding officer who are available to students as well as the safeguarding team of six staff. The pastoral team are supported by two excellent pastoral support coordinators who are also available to help students and signpost them to further sources of support.

Students who may require additional support can be referred to external agencies by the pastoral team.

Currently, a number of staff are undertaking training to be able to provide additional support for student mental health and well-being. This will be available to students once the training is complete.

The important thing to remember is for your child to speak to any adult they trust, who will make sure that they can access the right services for them. Parents can email their child's tutor to ask for help as well.

## **Theme : Options**

### **When do students choose options for GCSE?**

Students choose options for GCSEs in year 9. The work for this begins in the spring term. Students have careers day, receive a booklet about the choices available to them and there is an options evening that students and parents can attend before option decisions have to be submitted.

### **What subjects do students have to take for GCSE?**

All students at KAB follow the EBacc curriculum required by the government in order to ensure that everyone studies a broad, balance curriculum. This includes the following:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- French or Spanish
- Geography or History

Three additional subject choices from all the other subjects currently studied at Key Stage 3 including Art, Textiles, Resistant Materials, Computer Science, IT, Photography, PE, Music, Dance, Drama, BTEC PE, Religious Education. Students can also choose to use an options slot to take a second language or to choose to study both History and Geography.

In addition to this students also follow some non exam subjects including core PE, PSHE and Religion and World Views and follow the careers curriculum.

## **Theme : Logistics**

### **What is the building being constructed at the front of the school?**

This is not part of the school. Bracknell Forest are creating a COMMUNITY Medical Centre.

**Why is tutor time not in the morning? Can students have more time to go to their lockers?**

To enable a split lunchtime to make the numbers accessing the canteen manageable, tutor time was moved to the middle of the day. Students can come into school from 8.30am to access their locker as tutor time doesn't start until 8.45am.

The timings of the school day will be reviewed and any necessary changes will be made for September 2023.

**What action can be taken to support student safety on the roads?**

The school does not have any influence on decisions taken by those responsible for traffic calming measures. However I am willing to work with the community to present a coherent voice to try to get more safety measure in place.

**Will there be a school bus?**

There are currently no plans for a school bus, however a parent at one of the 'Meet the new Executive Principal' evenings provided some useful contacts (thank you) regarding this which are currently being looked into.