

King Class Term Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome back — we hope you had a lovely break! This overview gives you a snapshot of what your child will be learning this term, along with key information and ways you can support at home.

What your child will be learning

English

This half term, students will be introduced to the Gothic horror genre through a graphic novel adaptation of the classic science-fiction story *Frankenstein*. Students will develop their confidence in reading and following a graphic novel, exploring how the combination of words, illustrations and visual storytelling helps to bring a story to life. Students will read the novel together as a class, taking on different characters and reading parts aloud. They will explore the key features of Gothic horror, including atmosphere, suspense, setting, fear and the supernatural. Students will also examine how the author builds a picture of the characters through their actions, appearance, language and behaviour.

The module will include a range of creative and engaging activities designed to bring the story to life. Students will create wanted posters for Frankenstein, explore the characteristics of monsters and have the opportunity to design and create their own monsters, developing their descriptive vocabulary and creative writing skills along the way.

Maths

students will work on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, focusing on developing a deep, conceptual understanding of the relationships between these different forms. They will learn to convert, compare and order fractions, decimals and percentages before moving on to finding fractions and percentages of amounts. Students will strengthen their mathematical reasoning by applying these skills to a range of calculations and real-life problem-solving questions.

What your child will be learning

Science

This half-term, our Year 8 students are exploring **Tissues and Organs** in biology and **Acids and Alkalis** in chemistry. They will discover how specialized cells work together to form the human body's vital systems, and use colourful indicators during hands-on experiments to investigate everyday chemical reactions. Using clear visual aids, step-by-step routines, and supportive practical work, we are focused on deepening their understanding while building confidence and independence in the lab.

PSHE

Positive change made by others, how positive behaviour affects feelings of wellbeing. Social injustice, inequality, community cohesion and support, multi-culturalism, diversity, race and religion. Stereotypes, prejudice, LGBT+ bullying, child on child abuse, hate crimes. Fear & emotions, stand up to bullying, the golden rule. Organ and blood donation.

Students will focus on positive relationships with themselves and others, including self-esteem, social media, personal space and online etiquette. They will explore bullying, privacy, coercion, power imbalances and sources of support.

Enrichment opportunities

We will bring learning to life through:

- Local trips to practise real-world skills
- Trips linked to curriculum and Heartbeat trips of our own class choice
- Outdoor learning and exploration
- Topic-themed days and celebrations

Supporting learning at home

If you're keen to support your child's learning at home, the best way to do this is to read to or with your child regularly. The children are welcome to borrow books from our library at any point in the year.

Should you wish to do some more with your child at home, please contact the class teacher.

We're here to help

Your child's class teachers are: Charlotte Rourke-Beasley and Vee White

Your child's support staff are: HLTA – Alex Staddon, TAs – Elliot Greenhall and Matthew Ainsley

We're always happy to talk, please call the school if you want to arrange a time to meet or discuss anything

Acorn Park