



Year 7 Curriculum and Attendance

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are really looking forward to working with you and we hope that your son/daughter is also looking forward to their progression to King Charles I School. Year 7 marks the beginning of a special journey through to Year 11, and hopefully Sixth Form too, and serves as the foundation for future progress and accomplishments.

Curriculum

Year 7 students benefit from a curriculum that is broad and balanced and affords our students the opportunity to learn arts and technology-based subjects alongside the core curriculum offer. National curriculum content has been carefully tracked to ensure that our students have covered all the necessary content by the end of Year 9, ahead of selecting subject preferences to continue in Years 10 and 11 when they progress to their GCSE's. Your son/daughter will have the following subjects on their two-week cycle timetable allocated by the number of hours:

Art	2	Geography	4	Music	2	Reading	1
Computing	2	History	4	PE	3	Science	6
D&T	3	Mathematics	7	Ethics	3		
English	7	MFL	6				

All subjects promote a knowledge approach across each year group. Students in years 7-11 will receive a black document folder to store their 100% sheets, which provide the core knowledge that students are to learn throughout the year. 100% sheets will include key facts, spellings and definitions and will be used in class and alongside homework tasks. Students have also been supplied with an academic planner to help them stay organised.

At King Charles I School, we will continually assess students' knowledge in subject lessons through checking for understanding activities. Students will use their 100% sheets as a support in retaining the key knowledge. During the year, we will issue two reports informing parents/carers of students' results at each assessment point. We will include the class average, year group average and the best mark in the year group for comparison.

At King Charles I we firmly believe that improving students' reading, building their vocabulary and their knowledge of language is a prerequisite of success. Literacy is therefore a focus across our Year 7 curriculum, being promoted in all subjects as well as explicitly during tutorials and timetabled reading lessons. Do engage in conversations with your son/daughter about what they are reading, as we know they will enjoy telling you all about the range of texts and your interest will spur them on to engage further.

The Character Academy is an initiative which began in 2021 and is being developed across the three schools currently within the Four Stones family. Year 7 students will benefit greatly from this programme as the provision seeks to develop resilience, teamwork, leadership and create positive challenges. This year at King Charles I School, the Character Academy consists of three core elements:

- Extra-curricular clubs and societies that take place before, at lunch or afterschool;
- House Events that foster a spirit of identity, teamwork, healthy competition and charity;
- Enrichment which afford our students opportunities to explore, discover and grow beyond the classroom or school gates.

We would like all of our Year 7 students to be actively participating in at least one extra-curricular club. All Year 7 students will be assigned to a House (Blounts/Chads/Queens) and there will be lots of competitions to get involved with. Students' personal and social development is also supported through our 'Ethics' programme through lessons, as well as tutorials and assemblies.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality throughout Year 7 will be key to your son/daughter making the most of what we have to offer both in and outside the classroom. We know from experience that the students who are supported by parent/carers to create excellent habits now, are those who give themselves the greatest chance to succeed in their academic studies and as a result enjoy coming to school. It is self-fulfilling. To give some perspective, the academic year has 190 days for students to attend. There are a further 175 days per year when your son/daughter does not have to attend school! That's plenty of time to spend quality family time together, go on holiday, go shopping or attend routine appointments. Unfortunately, the biggest victim of a laissez-faire attitude to attendance will be your son/daughter's bright future. The research from the Department for Education is clear; students who attend school regularly (96%+) and are in lessons, learning and achieve better than their peers who miss out through irregular attendance.

Finally, a nod to the future. As the raising of participation age (RPA) is now established, there is an expectation that all students remain in education or training until they turn 18. This could be full time study in our Sixth Form or a College, an apprenticeship or employment with training. Whatever the choice of destination, all young people are required to achieve *at least* a grade 4 in English and mathematics. If this is not secured by the end of Year 11 then young people will have to continue to study one or both subjects, in order to ensure that they subsequently do so. Of course, we very much hope that none of our Year 7 students would find themselves in this situation in 5 years time and that they make the most of the wonderful knowledge-rich learning opportunities provided to them to support a successful future.

I hope you have found this information useful, and your son/daughter makes an excellent start at King Charles I School.

Yours sincerely,

James Wilkinson
Assistant headteacher

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