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Year 13 Pre-public Exams

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers

I am writing to you in advance of the forthcoming ***pre-public exams which will take place from Wednesday 25th November to Friday 4th December 2020.*** The timetable for these assessments is also attached.

Students will be expected to be revising between their PPEs. Although students do not have to be in school when they have no exam, designated 6th Form study areas will be available if students wish to come into school; if students are using these areas, the expectation is silent study.

The PPEs give students a good indication of the level at which they are working, and where support needs to be put in place in order for them to succeed next summer. Their revision programme should be well under way by now with some serious work having been done during half term with teachers via online revision sessions.

For those studying BTEC qualifications, controlled coursework deadlines and formal exams are also imminent. It is therefore critical that students have adequately prepared for their exams, or have completed coursework to the best of their ability.

What can you do as students to prepare for A-levels?

It should come as no surprise that the better prepared you are, the more likely you are to pass your exams. Following receipt of your pre-public exam results, you should speak with your teachers about areas of concern and methods for improvement. Bearing in mind that your A-level examinations will have a huge influence on your future choices – whether this is university/college, an apprenticeship or training programme, it is essential that you dedicate time to them and prepare properly. Use the results of the December and March PPE's to plan rigorous and focused revision.

What can you do as parents and carers?

Exam pressure is immense and your support is invaluable as part of our triangulated approach to education in the Sixth Form. Ensure you know when exams/coursework deadlines will take place or are due. Email subject staff if you need clarity (details can be found on the school website). Create an area for your child to study quietly. Make sure they have the resources they need. They may not seem grateful at the time, but students often welcome a chance to chat about how they are getting on.



These suggestions might seem obvious, but are often overlooked. From a Sixth Form perspective, we will support students fully in order to secure the best possible future for them. However, this can only be done if students are attending every single lesson from now until the start of their exams. For such an important time in their education, ***non-attendance is unacceptable***. Attendance should be, at the very least, 95%. As with GCSEs, it is clear that those students with poor attendance do less well than those whose attendance is good. If a student is retaking Maths/English GCSE this is even more important – no matter what qualifications you achieve, you will not be in a position to accept any university offers unless these are passed. ***If a student's attendance falls below an acceptable level and we do not feel confident of their ability to pass their A Levels, they could potentially be withdrawn from their examinations.***

As ever, students can speak to their teachers or any member of the Sixth Form Team to provide support and assistance during what is a stressful time. As a parent or carer, please also feel free to discuss with us any concerns that you may have. Contact details can be found on the Sixth Form area of the school website.

Finally, congratulations to those students who have completed their UCAS applications and have already received some amazing offers. This is exactly the incentive needed to work hard to get grades commensurate with their ability.

Yours faithfully,



Graham McNamara
Director of Sixth Form