

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 10 Post PPE Week 11th-15th May**

We have had a few emails from parents this morning to ask why Year 10 are not being set work this week.

In the original letter about the PPE exams dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, we mentioned that teachers would not set work for the duration of the exams or for the week after i.e. this week. However, I apologise for not sending out a letter last week to remind you of this and the reasons for our decision, which are:

- The vast majority of students have worked hard on their revision from the beginning of March, before school closed and during the Easter Holidays - all this on top of being set class work and coping with the lockdown situation. We honestly felt that they deserved some time to relax.
- Staff have adapted and set papers online and need time to mark the papers – marking a paper online is new and will take much longer. By not setting work and marking it for their Year 10 classes, time is available for teachers to mark the PPE papers. They are still setting work for all the other year groups. We are aiming for all the PPEs to be marked by the end of the week so we can turn around the summer reviews for Year 10 by half term.
- Sadly, Year 10 will not be going on work experience so we gain a week of teaching in July. In addition, as there are no end of term events, further teaching time is gained.

Your daughters have been brilliant during the PPEs – they have taken them seriously and with little fuss. We are also grateful to you for your support in helping them prepare for the PPEs and setting the right conditions at home. Giving them this week off from set work was a gesture to support their wellbeing and to acknowledge the juggling that staff have to manage in meeting the needs of their students and families as well as marking the PPEs. We are really glad that we decided to set PPEs for Year 10. We cannot underestimate the learning process from revision and the exams and the benefits your daughter will reap from the last few weeks when she moves on in to Year 11. Staff are exciting about cracking on with new content next week, after giving feedback from the PPEs – another online challenge.

We are hoping that your daughter will use this week to relax and try out new things such as reading for pleasure, cooking, going for bike rides and walks and maybe watching iconic films and so on. Miss Shephard wrote to them on Friday to encourage and motivate in preparation for this week.

We will set up the following today for your daughter to try out:

- Mrs Hart, Careers Lead, will be sending out some information about how to register with 'Start U Explore' which is a careers package to help KS4 students consider possible careers and they can then explore further in the package to find out subjects they should be considering to study after their GCSES. She will send out an email this afternoon or tomorrow.

- Mrs Dakovic, Head of Social Sciences, will send out an email today to your daughter about a package that Nebula learning has launched. Students can complete this free Home Study Finance Course independently. The course is aimed at students from Years 10-13 and covers the foundations of economics, personal finance and long-term investment. We have had positive feedback from Year 11 and Year 13 parents to say that the course is worthwhile and helpful.

Finally, Mrs Williams has sent out information about the Year 10 prefect application process and this week your daughter is welcome to write a short letter of application on why she would make a good Year10/11 house prefect and send it to Mrs Williams by Friday.

I hope that I have reassured you that we decided not to set work this week for the best of intentions and we are not worried about the lost learning for this week – your daughter has worked really hard over the last term.

Please do not hesitate to contact [homestudy@holt.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:homestudy@holt.wokingham.sch.uk) if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Anne Kennedy  
Co-Headteacher