

May 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Re: Year 12 Pre Public Exams (PPE) – Starting June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Year 12 students will have their second set of PPEs from June 20<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>. These examinations will take place under exam conditions in the Hall or Gym. An exam timetable has been attached for your information. Please ask your son/daughter to check their personal exam timetable carefully so that they know when each exam takes place. This will be sent to them via Frog closer to the time.

For those students who take a subject at Emmbrook School please note that their PPE week begins on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Students must still attend their Emmbrook lessons during The Holt PPE week. If an exam clashes with an Emmbrook lesson please see Mrs Gale in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form office, who will reschedule the exam.

These exams are extremely important as they assess the students' progress over the first year of their A Level course and help us to ascertain UCAS predicted grades. These grades will be needed by your son/daughter for their UCAS, apprenticeship or employment applications in the first term of Year 13. Please encourage your son/daughter to take these exams very seriously, as they could be a deciding factor in their future studies.

In order to enrol for Year 13 studies, students must successfully achieve a pass in all of their subjects. If your son/daughter receives a U grade result in their June PPE they will have to re-sit the exam on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The exam will be marked immediately and the result communicated within 48 hours. If the student receives another U grade result it strongly suggests that the student is unable to cope with the demands of the A Level and we believe that it may not be in their best interest to stay on the course. We shall invite both parents and students for a meeting in the last few days of the summer term to discuss alternative options.

Over the weeks, leading up to these exams it is important that your son/daughter starts to plan in revision sessions; if they start now and plan their time carefully, they should feel in control and well prepared. Please encourage your son/daughter to plan a revision timetable which is realistic so that they are able to stick to it. This will help them to organise themselves and ensure that they cover all the necessary material in plenty of time.

The students have had sessions in PSHE on how to revise and prepare for the exams, and their tutor and class teachers will be reminding them of the strategies over the coming weeks. As you may remember, the 'revision grid' has been presented to the students frequently and the students must refer to this to ensure that they cover all the 3 stages outlined. The revision grid is attached. You will see from the grid that there are three stages to good A Level revision. The first stage is familiar to most students from GCSE but it is absolutely crucial that the students work their way through the other two stages if they are to achieve their very best at A Level. Students who fail to practise stages 2 and 3 are always disappointed with their final PPE grades.

Please find attached the study skills and revision guidance booklet that can also be found on Frog <https://froglearn.holt.wokingham.sch.uk/app/os> - go to Year Groups/Sixth Form/Revision & Study Skills to download it. This is a large but easy to use document that takes the students through a number of tried and tested study and revision strategies. We do hope you are able to review this together to help support your son/daughter in making the most of their revision and preparation for their PPEs.

It is perfectly natural for students to feel more stress and anxiety in the build up to exams, in fact a bit of stress is very good for their motivation to revise. Our mental health colleagues often remind us that avoidance feeds anxiety – where the risk is that students may leave their revision too late and thus feel overwhelmed. From experience the students that cope best are those who pace out their revision; they plan a schedule, are focused in the set times for revision and relax at other times. Cramming is not recommended...it is much better to go for the steady long-term approach to revision with the new linear A Level exams.

The normal Y12 lesson timetable will be suspended from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June inclusive for A Level subjects. Students need only attend school if they have an exam.

If you have any questions regarding the exams, or wish to discuss further support or strategies to help your son/daughter please do not hesitate to contact either of us. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Kemp  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Teaching & Learning**



Mrs J Bellis  
**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Pastoral**