

2nd October 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 13 Pre Public Exams (PPE) – Starting November 5th

As you are aware, Year 13 students have their PPEs between Tuesday November 5th – 12th November. These examinations will take place under exam conditions in the Hall or Gym. 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 on Monday 7th October.

For all students who take Drama at Emmbrook School please note that their PPE week does not begin until January 2020. Students must still attend their Emmbrook lessons during The Holt PPE week. If an exam clashes with an Emmbrook lesson students are to see Mrs Calliss in the 6th Form office, who will reschedule the exam.

All Y13 students will be attending a Safe Drive conference on Monday 4th November. This is a compulsory event in the afternoon that students from across the Wokingham area attend. Please see the attached letter that was sent out to all Y13 parents in September.

Over the coming weeks, leading up to these exams it is important that your son/daughter starts to plan in revision sessions; if they 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.

Your son/daughter should be revising every evening and for a period of time at weekends as well as completing any home learning set by teachers. We appreciate your support and encouragement with this.

These exams are extremely important as they assess your son/daughter's progress over the A Level course covered to date and will hopefully help to improve their UCAS grade prediction, or grade estimates for apprenticeship or employment applications in the near future.

The students have had sessions in PSHE on how to revise and prepare for the exams, and their personal 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 three stages outlined. The first stage (note taking) is familiar to all students but it is absolutely crucial that they work their way through the other two stages if they are to fulfil their potential at A Level. Students who fail to practise stages 2 (quizzing/self testing) and 3 (practising past papers) are always disappointed with their final PPE grades. The revision grid is attached.

Please find our Study Skills and Revision Guidance booklet on the 6th Form area of Frog. This is a large but easy to use document that takes the students through a number of tried and tested study and revision strategies.

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 Y13 lesson timetable will be suspended from Tuesday 5th November to Tuesday 12th November 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 myself or Mrs Bellis, Head of Sixth Form Pastoral. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Kemp
Head of 6th Form
Teaching & Learning



Mrs J Bellis
Head of 6th Form
Pastoral