



29 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) 2020

The Year 11 PPEs are fast approaching. They are due to begin the first week back after half term and will finish on Monday 9 November. All students will be given a copy of their PPE timetable, with a seating plan. It is very important that they look after this document and it is advisable for them to make a copy of it in their diaries, as this will give them their seat number and the venue that they need to be sat in for each of their examinations.

This year we have made some changes to reflect our risk assessments around Covid 19. This involves using more venues to create greater opportunity for social distancing. To achieve this within the current constraints of the social bubble timetable, requires the use of the Year 11 area and Year 11 teachers to support the larger number of venues. As a result, when students are not in an examination, they will be required to study at home.

For the duration of the week Monday 2 November to Friday 6 November, there will be an AM and PM exam on each day. Students will be expected to arrive in school 15 mins prior to the start time of their AM examination, and will be asked to return home at the end of their PM examination.

For Example:

An AM examination starts at 10:30am, students arrive at 10:15.

The AM examination finishes at 12:00 noon and they have lunch in school until 12:45 when they line up for their PM examination.

The PM examination starts at 1:00pm and finishes at 2:30pm, students will then return home to study for the following day.

On Monday 9 November, the final examination will start at 9:00am, and students will then return back to their normal lessons.

If you feel that your son/daughter is not ready for home study, please contact Miss Nimmo (Head of Year 11) who will be happy to make alternative arrangements with you.

The PPE results will be published to students on Tuesday 1 December and will be available to parents through the **new Sims Parent App/Website** later on the same day

Our experience over the last few years has shown that students benefit greatly from taking examination papers in examination conditions. If this experience is followed up by structured feedback on their performance, guidance on revision work and the chance to retake any papers where they have not done as well as expected, then the impact on their grade is significant.

For the purposes of PPEs, we compare results with benchmarks. This is because the benchmarks are the outcome suggested by a student's starting point. Where a student has a higher target, they should aim for that as this will ensure they perform significantly better than expected. If their target is lower than their benchmark, and they achieve the target but not the benchmark, we will review the target with them to ensure that it is sufficiently challenging.

If a Year 11 student achieves their benchmarks in their PPEs they will receive feedback and opportunities to practise past papers at home, having demonstrated a maturity in their approach to examinations and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

If a student is more than one grade adrift of their benchmark grade in any subject they will be required to undertake the revision work required of them and then to retake the relevant papers in the PPE1B examinations which commence on Monday 4 January. In some cases, students will re-sit only the part of the original paper in which they have fallen short.

As you are already aware the revision and drop in corridor has already started and all subjects are taking part in this. This will continue in the lead up to the PPEs as well as after them.

Finally, as you will be aware we have set up a google classroom for Year 11, please encourage your son/daughter to join this. In here I will be placing any generic and bespoke revision techniques as well as information relating to examinations, throughout the remainder of Year 11. The code for this is: **2zp5rjk**. Some other subjects also have a google classroom code which will have been shared with your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Nimmo

Head of Year 11

