

29 September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

Re: Year 11 – Preparation for GCSE Exams Summer 2024

Following on from the letter sent in June, we continue to prepare your child for their exams this year and through to Summer 2024.

Staff have been spending these first few weeks setting out expectations for students, assessing their current knowledge, and teaching new content. Moving forward closer to the first set of PPE examinations starting in October 2023, we will be looking to ensure progress and attainment for all our Year 11 cohort. We are all looking forward to supporting our students to ensure they make maximum progress and informed decisions about their journey after CoPA.

Attendance

There is a clear link between poor attendance in students and lower academic achievement. The Department for Education research (2012) on improving attendance at school found that:

Of pupils with absence over 50%, only 3% manage to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C including Math and English, whereas 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C.*

All students are expected to have at least 95% attendance.

Punctuality

Year 11 students will be starting lessons at 8.35am every morning. To maximise their learning and to minimise disruption, students must be in their lessons and ready to learn at this time. Students' tutorial time has moved back to the first session of the day, a pivotal part of the day where students will receive vital guidance through our PSHE, post 16, and careers provision.

Independent Study

Extensive research of student outcomes has shown that homework and independent study are essential to students achieving the grades they are capable of. The best way of completing homework is to ensure a routine is established and time is set aside in the evening or weekend to complete this.

If your child would prefer to complete homework in school, a quiet study area has been made available between 8.15am – 9.00am, Monday – Friday (in the Year 11 study area). We anticipate that this provision will continue throughout Year 11.

Post 16/ Key to Success Evening

We invite all our Year 11 students, along with parent/ carers, to attend our forthcoming Post 16 Event taking place on Wednesday 4 October between 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

The evening will welcome a wide range of Post 16 providers from local sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeship providers, and Universities - with guest speakers and educational experts to help students through their GCSE's. Faculty staff will also be available to answer any questions students or parents may have about their respective subject(s). We encourage every single student to attend across both year groups whether that be to cement what they wish to pursue post year 11 or just to gauge ideas.

With over 30 external providers already confirming their attendance it is an event that should not be missed!

UniFrog

Year 11 have started using UniFrog this half-term to help them with their Post-16 Options. Students can log onto UniFrog at home and within school to explore all the different options available to them once they leave the City of Peterborough Academy. Ideally, students will be using UniFrog to create a 'shortlist' of Post-16 options in the local area. Students can explore local sixth forms, colleges, and apprenticeship options, and fully understand all the different routes that are available to them. It would be encouraged that students access UniFrog at home to do some of the 'Personality Quizzes' and begin shortlisting their options for Post-16.

Mr Maudsley, our Careers Advisor, will be sending out a help sheet with information about how the students can create their shortlist in the coming weeks. If anyone ever needs any support with UniFrog please contact Mr Maudsley (smaudsley@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org) and he will be able to help you with your query.

Year 11 Pre-Public Examination (PPE) Series October/ November 2023

To provide students with experience of a full exam series, and to give students, parents, and the Academy staff knowledge of a student's current progress across their subjects, we are holding a Pre-Public Examination series between Wednesday 11 October 2023 - Friday 10 November 2023.

The written exams, starting on Monday 16 October 2023, will be held in the gym under exam conditions and will run over 10 school days (with half term in the middle). The timetable is shown below:

Monday 9 Oct Normal lessons	Tuesday 10 Oct Normal lessons	Wednesday 11 Oct Spanish speaking exams Times tbc	Thursday 12 Oct Spanish speaking exams Times tbc	Friday 13 Oct Spanish speaking exams Times tbc
Monday 16 Oct 8:50-10:35 English Language 1h45m	Tuesday 17 Oct 8:50-10:20 Maths paper 1 1h30m	Wednesday 18 Oct 8.50 – 10:35 English Literature 1h45m	Thursday 19 Oct 8.50 – 10.05/10.35 Combined/Separate Science Biology 1h15m/1h45m	Friday 20 Oct 8:50 -10:20 Maths paper 2 1h30m
13.00 – 14.15 History paper 1 1h15m	13:00 – 14:05/14:20 Spanish writing F1h05m/H1h20m	13:00 – 14:30 Geography paper 1 1h30m	13.00 – 14:30 Music A11 1h30m	13.00 – 14:00 History paper 2 1hr
Monday 30 Oct 8:50-10:05/10:35 Combined/Separate Science Chemistry 1h15m/1h45m	Tuesday 31 Oct 8:50-10:20 Maths paper 3 1h30m	Wednesday 1 Nov 8.50- 10.05/10.35 Combined/Separate Science Physics 1h15m/1h45m	Thursday 2 Nov 8:50- 10:30/10:55 Spanish Listening and Reading FL35m/HL45m FR1h05m/HR1h20m	Friday 3 Nov 8:50-10:20 Catch-ups
13.00 – 14:20 History paper 3 1h20m (86)	13.00-14:00 Geography paper 2 1h	13:00 – 14:30 Statistics 1h30m	13:00 – 14:30 Catch-ups	13:00-14:30 Catch-ups
Monday 6 Nov Art (PCO) Photography (RPA) 5hrs each	Tuesday 7 Nov Art (PCO) & (CTU) Photography (RPA) 5hrs each	Wednesday 8 Nov Art (CTU) 5hrs	Thursday 9 Nov Dance practical Periods 4&5 2hrs Dance Studio	Friday 10 Nov Drama practical Periods 1&2 2hrs A81

Subject Booster Sessions

Every subject area will be running extra sessions to support Year 11 students. The sessions are listed below:

Subject	Date and Time	Staff	Room
Maths Foundation Paper (<i>invite only</i>)	Wednesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	ANA	B20
Statistics Higher	Wednesday 3.00pm - 3.45pm	MBU	B21
English	Tuesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	SRO, HST, TAH	B09
Separate Sciences (<i>invite only</i>)	Thursday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	FMU	B47
Spanish	Tuesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	MKO	B29
Food Technology (11FNC/Fn)	Wednesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	AHA	B11
Food Technology (11FNB/Fn)	Thursday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	AHA	B11
Enterprise and Marketing (<i>invite only</i>)	Thursday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	AHU, JHO	B07, B09
BTEC Art	Thursday 3.15pm - 4.15pm	NGU	A34
OCR Sport Studies (<i>invite only</i>)	Tuesday 3.15pm - 4.15pm	JMO	A34
Child Development (<i>invite only</i>)	Tuesday 3:00pm - 4.00pm	NKO	A82
Health and Social Care (<i>invite only</i>)	Wednesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	NKO	A82
Geography (<i>invite only</i>)	Tuesday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	VSI	A96

NB: Where students have been invited specifically (*'invite only'* subjects), invitation letters will be sent to parents detailing this.

Throughout the academic year, further subject sessions will be added. One of our main aims currently is to ensure coursework deadlines are met early, with work completed to a high standard, to enable our students to then solely focus on their final examinations later in the year.

In addition to tasks set above all students have access to GCSEpod, BBC Bitesize, The Oak Academy, and Quizlet which offer revision and self-marked tasks for a full range of subjects. Regular use of these tools is proven to help in achieving potential.

Key Dates for Year 11: Term 1

Wednesday 4 October:	Year 11 Success Evening/ Post 16 Information
Monday 16 October – Friday 20 October:	PPE1 (mock exams) – Week 1
Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October:	Half Term
Monday 30 October – Friday 6 November:	PPE1 (mock exams) – Week 2
Friday 24 November:	Year 11 Report
Wednesday 29 November:	Year 11 Parents Evening
Monday 11 December – Friday 15 December:	Vocational Subjects Drop Down Week

Exam Board Information

In the Spring Term we provided all students with a revision guide for core subjects (Math and English). If you are looking to purchase revision guides for other subjects, it is important you purchase the guide for the correct exam board. These are outlined below and in a subject summary booklet which has been supplied to all students:

Subject	Exam Board Studied	Recommended Revision Guide
English	AQA	CGP AQA GCSE (9-1)
Mathematics	OCR	CGP OCR GCSE (9-1)
Science	AQA	CGP AQA GCSE (9-1) Trilogy Combined Science
History	Edexcel	CGP Edexcel GCSE (9-1)
Geography	WJEC	WJEC GCSE Geography GCSE (9-1)
Spanish	AQA	CGP Spanish AQA 9-1 Translation book
Enterprise and Marketing	OCR	Clear Revise OCR Nationals Enterprise and Marketing
Sports Science	OCR vocational	CGP Sports Studies
Music	OCR	CGP GCSE OCR Music
Dance	AQA	CGP AQA Dance (9-1)

Drama	AQA	CGP AQA Drama (9-1)
Child development	OCR vocational	Provided by Academy
Health and Social Care	OCR Vocational	Provided by Academy
Food and nutrition	WJEC	WJEC GCSE Food and Nutrition
Art	AQA	CGP GCSE Art
Photography	AQA	CGP GCSE Photography

Year 11 Area on Website

We now have a designated area on our website where we have put together as much useful GCSE information as we can, which we will update regularly. Here you will find electronic copies of presentations, booklets, revision techniques, exam timetables and practice exam papers for all subjects. You can access this by clicking [here](#).

If you would like further information on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Key Contacts:

Mrs M Budner, Senior Assistant Principal – mbudner@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org

Mr F Vaughan (Head of Year 11) – fvaughan@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Budner
Senior Assistant Principal



Mr F Vaughan
Associate Assistant Principal/ Head of Year 11