

Ref: NTR/EWA/GCSEpreparation

8 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Year 10 – Preparation for GCSE Exams Summer 2022

I trust you all had a restful half term and this letter finds you well.

Your son/daughter has now reached a crucial period in their education and I am sure you are keen to work with us, in supporting them to reach their potential, in their GCSE exams in Summer 2022. The exams have not yet been confirmed by JCQ, but as a school, we are working to prepare the students for a full set of exam papers.

Following assessments carried out in March when the students returned after lockdown, group changes have already happened for some students and Faculty Leaders have made changes to their curriculum plans to address gaps in learning caused by Lockdowns. In addition to ensuring teaching staff are delivering high quality lessons daily to all students, there are several other aspects, we will be addressing, with Year 10 students this year and moving into Year 11:

Attendance

We are acutely aware that the last 18 months has been very difficult for families and for young people. However, now we are out of lockdown and things are returning closer to normality, students are expected to attend school daily unless illness or enforced Covid 19 isolation prevents them from doing so. There is a clear link between poor attendance in students and lower academic achievement. 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 maths and English, whereas 73% of pupils who have over 95% attendance achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C.

COPA staff will be working hard with families and students currently on less than 95% attendance to ensure support is in place for improvement in this area.

Homework/Self Study

Extensive research of student outcomes has shown that homework and self-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 son/daughter would prefer to complete homework in school, a quiet study area will be made available from 8.30am – 9.30am (Monday – Friday in the Year 10 study area at school) starting after the May Half term. We anticipate that this provision will continue in some form throughout Year 11.

Every subject area has its own strategy for supporting Year 10 students. The EBACC subjects are listed below:

Maths

Breakfast Booster Sessions Thursdays 8.45 – 9.30am B19/20/21
Available to all
Homework set every Monday Due in Wednesday Mathswatch

English

Small Group Sessions tailored to student's needs Lesson time in Term 6

Science

Breakfast Booster Sessions Mondays 8.45 – 9.30am B50
Available to all
Homework set every Tuesday Due in Thursday Educake

Geography

HAP Masterclasses Tuesdays 8.45 -9.30am B48
Identified HAP students

Geography/History

Breakfast Booster (plus Football) Friday 8.45-9.30am TBC
Identified students
Weekly Homework Menu provided for all

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

Thursday 7 October	Year 11 Success Evening/Post 16 Information
Monday 11 October - Friday 15 October	Grab a Grade Week (vocational subjects)
Monday 18 October – Friday 22 October	PPE1 (mock exams) – Week 1
Monday 25 October- Friday 29 October	Half term
Tuesday 2 November – Friday 5 November	PPE1 (mock exams) – Week 1
Tuesday 30 November	PPE Results Day/Year 11 Report/ Year 11 Parents Evening

Science

To date, all students have been taught content which would allow them to follow either the Separate Science route where they would gain 3 GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics or the Trilogy (Combined Science) route where they would gain 2 GCSEs in Science.

The content for the Separate Science route is significantly larger than the Combined and is recommended for students wanting to follow a Science route post 16. Students will be required to achieve a minimum of a grade 77 in their PPE exam in November to be offered the opportunity of studying for the 3 Separate Science GCSEs. They will also be expected to attend extra study sessions in the Spring term of Year 11.

If you require further information regarding Science, please contact

JFletcher@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org

Exam Board Information

We provided all students with a revision guide for Core subjects in the Spring term (maths and English). If you are looking to purchase revision guides for other subjects, it is important your 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:



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Subject	Exam Board Studied	Recommended Revision Guide
English	AQA	Provided by Academy
Mathematics	OCR	Provided by Academy
Science	AQA	CGP AQA GCSE (9-1) Trilogy Combined Science
History	Edexcel	Provided by Faculty
Geography	AQA	Provided by Faculty
Citizenship	AQA	Provided by Faculty
Spanish	AQA	CGP Spanish AQA 9-1 Translation book
PE	AQA	Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Physical Education Revision Guide Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Physical Education Revision Workbook

Motivation and Mentoring

This term, Students will be taking part in workshops delivered by the motivational speaker – Cameron Parker <https://cameron-parker.com/>. We hope this will help to focus students on how to make their “dreams become reality” and provide them with clear goals for the year ahead.

From September all students will benefit from some study skills advice and academic mentoring from their tutor when the tutor time resumes. In addition, some students have been identified who may benefit from regular personal academic mentoring from the year group pastoral team or a member of SLT. This will involve regular communication with you as parents.

Year 11 Area on Website

We now have a designated area on the website where we have put together as much useful GCSE information as we can. This will be updated regularly.

Here you will find electronic copies of presentations, booklets, revision techniques, exam timetables and practice exam papers for all subjects.

The link to the area is below:

<https://bit.ly/3jWO1Rw>

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

Key Contacts

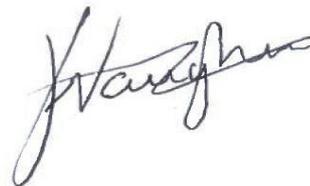
Mrs N Treacy, Deputy Principal – NTreacy@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org

Mr F Vaughan (Head of Year 10) – FVaughan@cityofpeterboroughacademy.org

Kind regards,



Nicola Treacy
Deputy Principal (Quality of Education)



Frazer Vaughan
Head of Year 10



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