

Dear parents and carers,

I am pleased to start with the news that our additional support programme continues to evolve. The government has provided schools with funding to help students to catch up following the closure of schools earlier this year, and this week we presented our proposals for targeted intervention using this funding to Mr James. English intervention is already in place, with specific students being invited to attend. Maths and science targeted intervention will follow after Christmas. Watch this space for more details!

Revision/support sessions

Our revision/support sessions continue as normal despite the lockdown. English sessions have proved so popular that Miss Upson has had to request use of a further 2 classrooms! I hope students will take full advantage of the range of sessions on offer, especially in preparation for their upcoming PPEs. I will keep you and students informed of any changes and additions to the timetable below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
ICT 3.15-4pm E14	Visual Art 3.15-4.15pm – D9, E2 & E3	GCSE PE Lunch Time 1.30-2.00pm D2	Drama 3.45-4.45pm A block
History Miss Cambio 3.30-4.15pm D8			Geography 3.30-4.15pm D7
Product Design 3.30-4.30pm D1 & D2	History Mr Fisher 3.30-4.15pm - D7		Combined Science (Triple Scientists also welcome) 3.15-4.15pm D16 & D18
Study Club 3.15-4.15pm D7	Study Club 3.15-4.15pm D8		

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Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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High Performance Learning

The High Performance Learning focus for next week is 'Meta-thinking,' in particular 'Self-regulation.'



'The ability to monitor, evaluate and self-correct.'

The students' ability to self-regulate will be particularly evident over the coming weeks as they use past work for their PPE exam revision. Have they corrected their mistakes? Have they acted on teacher feedback on how to improve? How would they write a better answer next time? As a teacher, it is thrilling to witness a student self-correct as it demonstrates such depth of thought and independence.

PPEs

We really sympathise with students who are feeling the pressure of the upcoming PPEs. I just wanted to reiterate that although we are all uncertain as to what will happen with the exams next summer, their entire future does not ride on these PPEs. As a school, we are focussed on the exams taking place in May, June and July, and will continue to do so until we are advised otherwise by the government.

Although the PPE grades will give students and teachers an idea of progress towards GCSE targets, they are primarily an opportunity for both students and teachers to identify areas for development in order to improve in time for the final exams. It is important to note that the centre-assessed grades given to year 11 in August this year were not solely based on their PPE results but also took into consideration performance in other assessments throughout the GCSE course over year 10 and the first half of year 11. PPEs took place in November, but students had been doing assessments right up to lockdown in March and some had even done a second PPE.

PPE timetable

The PPEs take place during the weeks commencing 30th November and 7th December. Art and photography PPEs will take place w/c 14th December. **Please note that for some subjects there will be other PPE exams taking place before and after these dates, during lessons**, where subjects have more than one exam paper.

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These exam dates are being arranged by the teacher and as such I do not have a definitive timetable as yet. Your son/daughter will have been told by now of any such exams.

The PPE timetable was uploaded to Insight last week and your son/daughter was notified. I have attached a generic timetable for your reference.

If your son/daughter does not have an exam at 9.00 he/she can revise at home until the start of the English, maths and science exams at 11.30 each day. **Lessons will run as usual at 2.15pm for period 5 throughout the two weeks.** In the second week, if he/she does not do Spanish on Monday 7th or product design on Wednesday 9th, he/she can revise at home until lessons start as usual at 2pm.

Targets and MEGs

I wanted to clarify the setting of target grades and MEGs. As outlined last week, MEGs are minimum expected grades, and aspirational target grades are often one grade higher. MEGs and targets are not set by subject teachers or indeed the school. They are calculated nationally using students' year 6 SATs results. Of course, with the right work ethic, students can exceed any of their targets! Students should have conversations with their teachers about how to exceed their targets.

Post-16/Careers

Our annual 6th form open evening is traditionally held in late January, however the sixth form team are working to try and launch this (virtually) before Christmas. The application process will then take place in January. Our advice to students in Year 11 is to explore as many options as possible for post-16 education; sixth form, college and apprenticeships. I have shared the Moulton College virtual open day with the students via the Year 11 Team - this is the link if you would like to watch it with your child:

https://www.moulton.ac.uk/virtual-events/open-event-on-demand?utm_source=SchoolLiaison&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=FT2021&utm_content=Parent_Email_Oct2020



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We will of course share other links, such as Northampton College, once we have them. Northampton College have published their virtual open days however:

**VIRTUAL OPEN
EVENTS**

Tuesday, 9 February 2021
5pm- 7.30pm

Saturday, 6 March 2021
10am- 12.30pm

Wednesday, 23 June 2021
5pm- 7.30pm

Free School Meals

We would like to remind parents about the availability of free school meals during these difficult times, should you be in need of financial support. Not only will this ensure that they receive a meal each day in school, but also means that the school receives a small extra pot of money ("pupil premium") that can be directly used to support your child with resources, equipment, trips (when they start happening again!), and so on. You can apply for this directly through the council website using the following link: [https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply for free school meals](https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply%20for%20free%20school%20meals)

As always, if you have any concerns please do contact myself or Mrs Wittich-Jackson so that we can support your son/daughter in any way possible.

Yours faithfully,

Lowri Briggs
Progress Leader for Year 11