

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our mufti day in aid of Children in Need. By asking you to use ParentPay, we generated donations of more than the requested £1 from some families and raised nearly £1,800 for this fantastic charity. We are fortunate to be supported by such a generous community.

Wearing of masks

It is vitally important that students wear face masks in communal areas around school, apart from in lessons (unless instructed to do so by the teacher). This includes outside. Students can pull down their masks while eating, but **must not eat while walking down the busy corridors**. They have breaks of 30 and 45 minutes so do not need to eat while walking. Unfortunately, we have seen many year 11 students not wearing masks over the past week. We have staff and students who are extremely vulnerable, and we must protect them. I have also reminded students that by wearing a mask they are protecting themselves, other students, members of staff and their families. We have a zero-tolerance policy, and we will record a behaviour point for any student found not wearing a mask, or with it under their chin, with further sanctions where necessary. I will also give you a quick call to ask you to remind your son/daughter to wear a mask. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

PPE timetable

As explained last week, 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 PPEs taking place before and after these dates, during lessons**, where subjects have more than one exam paper. These exam dates are being arranged by the teacher and as such I do not have a definitive timetable; however, I have given some information below. Your son/daughter will have been told by now of any such exams.

- MFL – Students took their writing PPE this week. Reading and Listening exams will be taken in the exam window. Please note Ofqual abolished the speaking exam this year, to allow time to catch up with the 3 other skills after lockdown. Students will receive a speaking endorsement to the GCSE of pass, merit or distinction which will be teacher assessed.
- Visual art - Stephen Walker, head of faculty, sent a letter to parents last week with full details of their PPEs.
- Geography – There will be a 3rd PPE in February or March during lesson time, which will mean students will then have taken every paper.
- History – There will be another PPE in February or March during lesson time. This will be another unit added to the one covered in the early November PPE. Please note,

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there is no History PPE during the forthcoming window, as it was taken in early November.

The PPE timetable was uploaded to Insight two weeks ago and your son/daughter was notified. Last week I 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. However, **students are welcome to come into school to use a revision room** if they wish. I will post the room timetable on the year 11 Team. This will be a silent room.

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 2.15pm, or use a revision room.

If the exam finishes before the end of the lesson time, students can bring revision notes/books to revise after the exam has finished. They will not be allowed to leave the room until the end of lesson time.

PPE equipment

Students must remember to bring all their equipment; black pens, calculators, rulers etc. **We will not be lending out equipment**, as per public health guidelines. Students should not bring mobile phones into school on exam days, or must hand them in before the exam. They will be returned when the exam time has finished.

Exam stress and anxiety

I have posted details on the year 11 Team of some useful apps dealing with stress and anxiety. These have been recommended by our school counsellors. Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers, myself or Mrs Wittich-Jackson about any anxieties or concerns; our door is always open, both literally and metaphorically if students would rather contact us via a message on Teams. It's good to talk!

Revision/support sessions

Just a reminder of our revision/support sessions; please find a copy of our timetable on the following page. They will continue throughout the PPEs. As mentioned last week, targeted intervention in science and maths, using Covid catch-up funding, will be starting soon; with English intervention already in place. I will keep you updated on this.

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		
Music 3.30-4.30pm MU1 & MU2	English 3.15-4.15pm Lower D Block		

High Performance Learning



‘The ability to use connection from past experiences to seek possible generalisations’

The High Performance Learning focus for next week is ‘Linking,’ in particular ‘Connection Finding.’ This tests students' ability to link new information and learning with prior knowledge and experiences and make those connections; putting the various pieces together in order to complete the jigsaw! Encouraging them to draw connections between past and present learning helps them towards building a bigger picture that they don't yet know. Questions that may help in your support of them:

'What does this remind you of?'

'What did you do about it?'

'Where have you seen this before, and what happened/what was the process?'

Student and parent questionnaires

We are always trying to improve the experience of our students, and with that in mind, this week we sent out a link to a questionnaire to both students and parents. We would be most grateful if you could spare a few moments to complete it and encourage your son/daughter to do the same.

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The student questionnaire was emailed to them and posted on the year 11 Team, and you can access the parent questionnaire here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-RwkYclZfkOajLIVMVszGU7g0glpnHdPtKtTWIZY411UQ1g0TFhUQzgxMTNEWVA5TDBVNUdPSzVQMC4u>

Photographs

In this era of selfie filters and air-brushing, I'm sure your sons and daughters were delighted to be issued with proofs of their school photographs this week! Please follow the instructions on the proof to place your order; after all it's their last one in school uniform (where did that 12 years go?) and deserves a place on the mantelpiece!

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