



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

3 December 2020

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations, Sixth Form Applications, Reports and Parent Consultation

Dear Parent/ Carer

Hope this letter finds you well and those close to you also.

I write this letter at an important and busy time for our Year 11 students to help take stock and to look forward to the coming weeks as the first term begins to conclude.

We continue to operate in an incredibly different and uncertain situation and not within the usual parameters. To this end, we have had to change how and when we do our usual processes and accommodate solutions as best we can within the restrictions we find ourselves in. This letter serves to describe and explain various aspects of the coming weeks.

Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) – In class, throughout December & first 2 weeks in January

Usually these would commence at the beginning of this half term with a full suite of formal examination condition assessments in the Sports Hall as a whole cohort with the results released in the next few weeks. Due to lockdown and the “catch-up” assessments, completed in September, the PPEs have been delayed to allow for review of missed lockdown content and to allow for more content and skills to be developed in the interim. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it is not feasible to complete a whole year cohort set of examinations in the Sports Hall over the course of a week, as we usually would. Instead, each subject will complete the necessary assessments in class on designated (published to the students) days under examination conditions within the school timetable over the course of December and the first 2 weeks of January.

Following this we will publish to the students the results in a PPE results day assembly sometime in the New Year. Students should take these examinations seriously and see them as further opportunity to show their progress and potential. We are still uncertain, even after today’s announcements, about the form assessment may take in the Summer 2021. Teacher assessment may still play a part in the eventual grades awarded, so it is important our Year 11 students do their best in these assessments to inform any process required next year. It is far easier to assign a positive grade in the Summer when strong evidence of effort and attainment has already been achieved throughout the year. Equally, work done now in achieving the best grades possible will only serve to improve any examinations undertaken in the Summer. **In short, every opportunity to improve and show progress needs to be taken.**

Sixth Form Applications & Predicted Grades

We are also in the middle of Sixth Form application time. This year, at Hampstead, we are interviewing every member of the Year 11 cohort before Christmas to determine likely subjects and paths open to students if they were to apply to our Sixth Form. As they do so, they will complete the Hampstead Sixth Form application. This meeting will take place with a member of staff and includes a review of predicted grades to determine likely course options open to them. Students may also be applying elsewhere which we will support them with.



The predicted grades were determined by teachers at half term, and they were asked to enter the grade they expect students to get if they were to sit the examination in Summer 2021, just as teachers were asked to do last year to determine final grades at lockdown. After the PPEs and at the next data input in January, teachers will be asked to enter another predicted grade in the same way. This will reflect their efforts in the PPE examinations mentioned above along with their progress in lessons since the last data input. Again, it will clearly help inform both the Sixth Form process and any potential future teacher assessment of final grades.

Reports and review of progress – Parent Consultation Evening (PCE)

Please also find enclosed the latest school report for your Year 11 child. It particularly details the current working grade and some indicators of attitude to learning; our Hampstead Kaizen measures. This would normally inform a 2½-hour Parent Consultation Evening, which due to Covid-19 regulations clearly cannot happen in the usual way with parents invited into school to talk to subject teachers. Instead, we have decided to expect subject teachers to make a telephone call to parents over the course of the remainder of this term and the first 2 weeks of January to discuss:

- current grades
- next steps to improve
- to offer advice on what each student needs to be doing in their subject.

Necessarily, this may mean at times messages are left for parents detailing the above as staff will need to fit in making calls around their other duties. We know this is not ideal, but we feel it is important, even within these current restrictions that contact and discussion about progress and future steps is necessary in this important year. Staff are instructed to make one attempt at calling to either, have a conversation or to leave a message, detailing the above. If, in the latter case you would still like to speak in person to the teacher involved you may well call back and they will endeavour to get back to you. We ask you to please bear with us over this time and appreciate the time and effort this places on teachers on top of their normal duties at this busy time.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in the coming weeks and months. This cohort, more than any other have been majorly affected by this pandemic, as it has fallen within their GCSE years. We continue to provide opportunities to support and improve their learning – not least with a revision timetable taking place after school which will soon be placed on the school website and copies sent to you. This represents the only afterschool extra-curricular provision currently taking place in school. Further opportunities will be detailed in due course.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me or Ms Farr, Head of Year 11 and we shall endeavour to help with your query.

Yours faithfully



Dr Adam Hadley
Assistant Head – Key Stage 4