



# The Kings of Wessex Academy

Getting the best out of everyone

November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 11 Pre-Public Exams - January 2018

I am writing to inform you of some very important pre-public exams (PPEs) that are due to take place for Year 11 students at The Kings of Wessex Academy from 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 inclusive.

PPEs are internal examinations set by subject teachers and the results do not count towards the final grading of qualifications. However, these exams use exam board assessment materials and mark-schemes and give students a very authentic experience of sitting examinations which will be excellent preparation for the public examinations in the summer. These exams also give students and their teachers some really valuable information about their current level of performance, their strengths and those areas which they still need to develop in order to achieve their full potential. Furthermore, in some subject areas, the results from these PPEs will be used to help decide students' tiers of entry for the summer examinations. Where students spend time systematically revising and where they put in their best effort these exams will be fantastic opportunity to build confidence and momentum towards success at the end of Year 11.

I want to ensure that you have clear information to help you support your son / daughter to best prepare for these important assessments. Please find overleaf a timetable which indicates when exams in specific subjects are taking place. Your son/daughter will shortly be issued with an Individual Candidate Exam Timetable, which indicates exactly which papers they are sitting with details given regarding starting times, venues and seat numbers. Until then, should your son/daughter be unaware which option blocks are relevant to them, they can seek further clarification from their subject teachers.

To assist with the revision process, I have asked Subject Leaders to indicate in the table below, which topics Year 11 students will need to focus on in preparing for their PPEs.

Art & Design, and Textiles	<p>On the 1st January 2018 AQA release the GCSE Externally Set Assignment (40% of the overall GCSE mark) therefore the Art/Textiles PPE is not an internal exam - <b><u>it is the real exam!</u></b> We will release the paper to students on the 8th January when we return to start the Spring Term. Students will then have approximately ten weeks to produce a sketchbook of research, experimenting with materials and planning ideas ready for the supervised 10 hour timed piece. The supervised exam time will take place over the course of two days from 24 – 27 April 2018.</p> <p>For the PPE students are required to complete a set amount of research and take a set of personal photographs which must be printed prior to their PPE. In the 5 hour PPE supervised time students will develop their selected exam question in sketchbooks from their printed photos and artist research. Students will work on the following three tasks: artist analysis, samples and photomontage. After the PPE students will continue sketchbook preparation for the actual exam in lesson time and for homework. A detailed checklist will be issued on the 8th January with the exam paper. Students will be informed which group (and date) they are in for the final 10 hour exam by 23 March.</p>
Biology	<p>All GCSE students will be taking a synoptic exam based on what they have covered so far at Kings. Topics to include: Cells, Organisation, Infection and disease, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and Inheritance, Variation and Evolution.</p>

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Business Studies	Students need to refer to their Unit 2 class notes from Year 10 and the work covered this term in Unit 2 which is mainly Finance and Accounts. Practising calculations such as liquidity and profitability ratios would be advisable. Use the key terms sheets provided to recall knowledge and read the top tips provided on how to get maximum marks in the 9 mark questions (application and analysis skills). Practice papers can be downloaded from the AQA website – Business Studies GCSE (2130) Unit 2.
Chemistry	All GCSE students will be taking an exam on the whole of the Combined Science Chemistry content covered in Years 9 and 10 – topics include atomic structure and periodic table, structure and bonding, calculations, energy, acids, bases and salts, electrolysis, crude oil and cracking, water, the atmosphere and reaction rates.
Computer Science	The paper will be split into 2 sections, both of roughly 1 hour's work: <b>Section 1 – Paper 1</b> focus which will cover theory topics such as Computer Systems, Hardware, Software, Data Representation, Problem Solving, Programming and Databases. <b>Section 2 – Paper 2</b> focus which will be questions based on problem solving using algorithms, interpreting and developing pseudocode, flowcharts, trace tables as well as wider programming skills you have been developing over the last 2 years. Please see the Computer Science revision section of Firefly for resources to help prepare effectively.
D&T Product Design	This is a 90 minute exam. There will be a design based question linked to children's nurseries. Students should be able to design a creative solution for a nursery, identify advantages and disadvantages of CAD, identify different types of card and paper and understand the purpose of packaging and point of sale displays. Students must answer questions linked to sustainable issues disposal of products and anthropometrics. These topics will be covered as revision topics in class and additional support material will be placed on Firefly.
English Language	Students will be sitting an AQA English Language GCSE paper 2 exam worth 50% of the total 'English Language' mark when sat at GCSE. The paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and consists of two sections: <b>Section A</b> – students will read two sources and answer questions on them. As this is a test of their reading, students are required to show understanding of the texts, analyse the language used and compare the ideas in the texts. <b>Section B</b> – assesses students' writing. There will be one task set, requiring very tightly crafted and accurate writing to present a viewpoint. In preparation, candidates will need to revise how to read a variety of texts and comment on the content and the features used to present the writers' viewpoints. The English GCSE area on Firefly has a range of information and past papers to aid revision. Teachers will provide further guidance for revision in class.
English Literature	Students will also be sitting an AQA English Literature paper 1 exam. The whole paper will be worth 40% of the total 'English Literature' mark when sat at GCSE. There are two sections to this paper: Section A will ask students to answer a question on 'The Tempest' and Section B will be on 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. Students will be asked to respond to an extract as well as show their knowledge of the whole text in both sections of the exam. There will be marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar, so students should write their answers carefully.  Students should re-read the set texts and use resources on Firefly to revise for this exam. They should ensure that they understand the key themes, characters and settings in each of the texts as well as the contextual influences on them. Teachers will provide further guidance for revision in class.
Food Preparation & Nutrition	Students will sit a one and a half hour written exam testing their theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition. There will be a variety of long and short questions including multiple choice. Students will be taught how to research and prepare for the examination leading up to their PPE. Students will be able to access revision materials available on Firefly. They are also advised to buy the two AQA revision guides that can be purchased from the Academy at £3 each.

French/ German	Students should prepare for the reading, listening and writing examinations by learning topic specific vocabulary and practising the reading, writing and listening tasks, all of which can be found on Firefly in the "Revise" section and by using the "Memrise" link on the Web-links section. Students can also find exam style reading tasks in the challenge section of their work booklets. The topics (at both Higher and Foundation level) will range from: Relationships with family and friends, Marriage/Partnership, Social Media, Mobile technology, Music, Cinema and TV, Food and Eating Out, Sport, Home, town and Local Region, Social issues: charity/voluntary work, healthy and unhealthy living, Global issues: the environment, poverty/homelessness, Travel & Tourism, Current and future study & employment.
Geography	Students will be sitting a one hour examination to test two of the Human Geography units which they studied in Year 10. The units are: 'The Changing Economic World' and 'The Challenge of Resource Management'. Students must therefore revise both of these topics in detail. The exam will be worth 55 marks and students will all sit the same exam paper. The exam will test a range of geographical knowledge and skills through a variety of questions (ranging from multiple choice to extended written answers). Questions will therefore range from 1 mark questions to 9 mark questions. There may be questions in the exam where students will need to use examples or a case study(ies) so it is important they are familiar with any case study content. Students are reminded that appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as clear presentation of answers are required. To ensure they have revised effectively, students should use their exercise books (with 'Topic Overviews' and 'Key Words') and revision guides to prepare for this exam. The relevant revision guide pages will be indicated as a task on Firefly.
History	The two hour exam will be divided into two sections: Section One will focus on Early Elizabethan England which covers the period from 1558-1588 and will include Topic 1: Queen, Government and Religion, Topic 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at Home and Abroad and Topic 3: Elizabethan Society in the Age of Exploration. Section Two of the exam will be focused on the Germany units covered in class since September. Students should revise both the content and how to answer the exam questions. Revision materials are available on firefly and include practice exam questions to complete.
Maths	Students will either be taking the Higher or Foundation calculator and non-calculator papers. These papers cover all the maths on the GCSE exam. Students are aware of the paper they are taking and have been revising for this exam in class. To prepare fully for the exam we recommend that students use the Methodmaths package found at <a href="http://www.methodmaths.com">www.methodmaths.com</a> and complete at least 2 of each type of paper. The Firefly Year 11 revision page also contains printable copies of past papers, mark schemes and worked solutions and links to useful revision resources.
Music	Students should use their anthology scores, notes from their exercise books and recordings (available on YouTube) to prepare for the exam. Revision should cover the 5 set works studied to date, in the four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820, Vocal Music, Music for stage and screen. The exam paper will fall into 2 sections, A & B: The first part of section A will be short answer listening questions based on the set works (26 Marks), this will be followed by a musical dictation question (9 Marks) and a short answer, unfamiliar listening question (10 Marks). Section B is an extended writing question based on an extract from one of the set works and a related but unfamiliar work (12 Marks).
P.E.	The January P.E. exams will be sat by all GCSE P.E. students. Each student will sit 2 one hour papers to replicate the summer exams. In order to prepare for these exams students should focus on all their work since starting the course in Year 9 and what they will have studied up to the end of December in Year 11. This work includes Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training, Social Cultural Issues, Sports Psychology and Health Fitness and Well Being. Students will be supplied with a revision material to help with preparation for this exam. All Power points used in lessons are also available on Firefly. A revision guide is also available to purchase from the Academy.
Physics	All GCSE students will be taking an exam on the whole of Physics covered in Year 9 and Year 10 – topics include Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves and Magnetism & electromagnetism.
Religious Studies	The one hour exam will focus on the Christianity and Judaism components of the GCSE course. Students need to revise using the GCSE RE Christianity and Judaism Firefly pages. It is important that they also use the revision materials provided by their subject teacher and use their Christianity and Judaism exercise books.

I hope that you have found this information useful in providing specific details on what your son / daughter should be revising between now and the January PPE exams. It is essential that Year 11 students are now setting aside a significant amount of time (in the evenings, on the weekends, through attending extra revision sessions at school and over the holidays) to prepare for these exams. Students will need to strike the right balance over the holidays in having time to rest and relax as well as setting aside sufficient time for revision. This will not necessarily be easy but if students put the hard work in now, use the Christmas break wisely and then come back in January ready to do their best, they can be confident about receiving their PPE results in the New Year.

Formal feedback on performance in PPEs will be given in the Year 11 Grade Reports which will be available online in February 2018.

Should you have any further questions regarding these exams, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Subject Leader(s) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Jason Edwards  
Deputy Headteacher

### Timetable for Year 11 PPEs – January 2018

Date	Periods 1 and 2 (8.55-11.05)		Period 4 (11.45-12.45)		Periods 5 and 6 (1.40-3.45)	
Mon (B) 8 Jan	MATHS Paper 1 (non-calculator)	9.00-10.30	FRENCH Reading (F&H)	11.45-12.30/12.45	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	1.40-3.25
Tues 9 Jan	BIOLOGY	9.00-10.15	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	11.45-12.45	<b>Option Block A</b> BUSINESS STUDIES COMPUTER SCIENCE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION FRENCH Writing (F&H) GEOGRAPHY HISTORY	1.40-2.40 1.40-3.40 1.40-3.10 1.40-2.40/2.55 1.40-2.40 1.40-3.40
Wed 10 Jan	<b>Option Block B</b> BUSINESS STUDIES DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH Writing (F&H) GEOGRAPHY GERMAN Writing (F&H) HISTORY P.E. Paper 1	9.00-10.00 9.00-10.30 9.00-10.00/10.15 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00/10.15 9.00-11.00 9.00-10.00	GERMAN Reading (F&H)	11.45-12.30/12.45	MATHS Paper 2 (calculator)	1.40-3.10
Thur 11 Jan	ENGLISH LITERATURE	9.00-10.45	FRENCH Listening (F&H)	11.45-12.20/12.30	CHEMISTRY	1.40-2.55
Fri 12 Jan	MATHS Paper 3 (calculator)	9.00-10.30	GERMAN Listening (F&H)	11.45-12.20/12.30	<b>Option Block C</b> BUSINESS STUDIES DT PRODUCT DESIGN DRAMA FRENCH Writing (F&H) GEOGRAPHY HISTORY	1.40-2.40 1.40-3.10 1.40-3.10 1.40-2.40/2.55 1.40-2.40 1.40-3.40
Mon (A) 15 Jan	PHYSICS	9.00-10.15	READING TEST (Years 9, 10 and 11)	11.45-12.15	<b>Option Block D</b> BUSINESS STUDIES COMPUTER SCIENCE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH Writing (F&H) GEOGRAPHY HISTORY P.E. Paper 1	1.40-2.40 1.40-3.40 1.40-3.10 1.40-3.10 1.40-2.40/2.55 1.40-2.40 1.40-3.40 1.40-2.40
TUES 16 Jan	<b>Option Block E</b> DT PRODUCT DESIGN FRENCH Writing (F&H) GEOGRAPHY GERMAN Writing (F&H) HISTORY	9.00-10.30 9.00-10.00/10.15 9.00-10.00 9.00-10.00/10.15 9.00-11.00	P.E. Paper 2	11.45-12.45	MUSIC	1.40-3.10