

## Unanswered Q&A questions from Webinar 15/7/2020

Content	Answer
How many points available for EPQ?	Upon successful completion of the EPQ, you will receive a grade from A*-E. Each grade is worth a different number of UCAS points: A*=28, A=24, B=20, C=16, D=12, E=8.
I'm wanting to start my EPQ as I have a lot of spare time, is this sensible?	It is a great idea to start thinking about your EPQ. The first step of your EPQ is to come up with a range of topic ideas and narrow these down to your favourite, so this is something you could start thinking about now. You could also complete some preliminary secondary research into your favourite topic, for example, you could start collecting related news articles. If you want to find out more, or check if your topic idea is viable, then email Mrs Auld (jla@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk).
How will results day work?	You will receive a communication shortly regarding Results Day arrangements.
How many people approx in Yr 12 in Sept?	Currently we have 164 students going into Y13, final numbers for Y12 will not be confirmed until Results Day but we expect the number of Y12 to be similar to that in Y13.
Can you have earphones in, in the silent study room	You can wear earphones in both silent study rooms but other students must not be able to hear what is being played, so we encourage you to have the volume at an appropriate level.
Does doing an EPQ distract you from studying your other subjects? I feel that it may be just another thing to worry about.	In year 12, if you are studying three A Levels, then you will be undertaking one of the three Core options (Core Maths, Extended Project Qualification, or Sports Leadership). Every year, all pupils studying three A Levels complete one of the three options, and so it is perfectly achievable. Many EPQ's are related to the pupil's area of study, and so can complement your studies and extend your appreciation of a subject, whilst completing it. Although, each option requires significant effort, you will have timetabled weekly lessons in the option you chose, and taking an organised approach to all your studies, will help balance your workload. It is worth noting, that the Core options are extremely valuable in terms of supporting university and apprenticeship applications and interviews, and frequently enable pupils to achieve a reduced university grade offer.
Do we still have assemblies in 6th form?	Yes, we have one assembly per year group each week that takes place in place of tutor registration.
What clothing is allowed, piercings and stuff like that etc	Please refer to the Dress Code information in the handbook. If you have any specific queries about any piercings you have, or any clothes you wish to wear, speak to Mrs Todd. You can email her before September if you wish (her email is also in the handbook).
when do we get our timetables?	You will receive your timetable during your Induction day on 4th September.

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<p>Can you study in classrooms when they are not being used (in the sixth form building) ?</p>	<p>Yes, you can use classrooms not in use, but this is for quiet study only, not for socialising. You must leave the room as you found it.</p>
<p>How do tutors work, will we still be with people in our last tutors?</p>	<p>Tutor registration is in the same format as lower school, and takes place each day at 8.30am. You may be with people you were with in Y11 but tutor groups are completely mixed and you will be with new people - it will be a chance to meet other students, both from lower school and also from other schools.</p>
<p>Can we leave the premises as soon as we finish our last lesson of the day. Even if it is before 3?</p>	<p>If, during the school day, you do not have a timetabled lesson, you are expected to complete Guided Study Time (GST). As a result of current guidelines and restrictions, sixth form students may leave the site when not in lessons, making sure that they sign in/out on all occasions.</p>
<p>Can we leave for lunch or free periods?</p>	<p>Yes, sixth form students are permitted to leave the site for lunch. As mentioned above, students must sign in/out on all occasions.</p>
<p>Do we still have to do successful lives?</p>	<p>You will have an 'Aspire' tutor programme. This will have lots of activities to help you with the transition into successful A level students as well as things to help develop you as young adults thinking about their futures. Alongside this will be lots of fun activities to help get to know your new tutor and tutor group.</p>
<p>How will workload differ between 4 A levels and 3 A levels</p>	<p>An extra A-level will mean 5 extra 50 minute taught lessons and with the 50:50 mantra 5 extra 50 minutes of guided study time. If suitable for you a 4th A level can really complement your studies if it doesn't impact on your effort or chances of achieving the best grades possible in your other subjects.</p>
<p>Is it easy to make friends coming from another school?</p>	<p>We have lots of students who join us from other schools, and we can confidently say that the vast majority settle down quickly and make new friends. We ensure that your tutors know that you are new to Hardenhuish, and we will also make sure that you are with at least one other person from your old school. If you are the only person from your old school joining us, we will introduce you to at least one other student who is in the same position as you. Mrs Todd and your tutor will do regular check-ins with you during Term 1 to make sure things are going well. If you are struggling to settle and meet new people, then we would encourage you to speak to Mrs Todd or your tutor. There are lots of things that we can do to support you that have worked successfully in the past. The key thing is to ask for support if you need it.</p>

<p>Is there any purpose in doing an EPQ if you are taking four A levels?</p>	<p>Firstly, it is worth considering whether you wish to take four subjects, as university offers are based on three A Levels. Universities value the undertaking of one of the Core options (Core Maths, Extended Project Qualification, or Sports Leadership), extremely highly, and many will offer lower entrance offers upon successful completion. The Core options also help give useful material for university or apprenticeship applications and interviews, and so are certainly worth undertaking.</p> <p>People studying four A Levels do not have to take a Core option, but they may if they wish and it fits in with their timetable. You will have two periods per week of lessons for EPQ, but would be expected to complete at least two hours per week of additional study, and so most people taking four A Levels do not complete an EPQ. If you decide to study four subjects, but plan to drop one subject in the first month of year 12, then you should chose one of the Core options. If you plan to continue with the four subjects until the end of year 1 and then drop, then you can undertake an EPQ in year 13 alongside your three A Level subjects.</p>
<p>Are we allowed to pick people to go in tutors with?</p>	<p>No, tutor groups are put together to ensure that we have a good mix of students in each tutor group. It is not normal practice to move students once they are given a tutor group, unless there are exceptional reasons. We would not move somebody so that they could be with their friends, for example. In Sixth Form, we encourage you to be resilient, and make new friends/contacts to enhance your time with us.</p>
<p>Are we allowed to change subjects?</p>	<p>You can change subjects up until the end of September. During September, if you are not enjoying a subject, it is very important that you speak to Mr Wiggall to discuss your concerns with him and we can then look at what options are available to you. It is important that you are on the right courses for you. No changes can be made after end September; if you pick up a new subject, it will be your responsibility to catch up with any work missed, and after end September, this will not be possible to do due to the amount of work missed.</p>
<p>Are we allowed to eat in lesson ?</p>	<p>No. You are able to take a drink into your lesson, but no eating is allowed unless there is a medical reason for you to do this.</p>
<p>What food is in the canteens, is it like mars bars or cottage pies?</p>	<p>We offer varied meal options from full dinner service to snacks, and can cater for any special dietary requirements. Mars Bars are also available!</p>
<p>Will students be allowed to take notes on a laptop during lessons or are laptops only allowed during study time?</p>	<p>Yes, students are able to use laptops in lessons to take notes. If a teacher would prefer you to take written notes for some reason, they will make sure you are aware of this.</p>
<p>Can I decorate my lanyard?</p>	<p>Within reason! Some students wear pin badges on their lanyards and as long as they are appropriate this should not be an issue. However, we would encourage you to check with Mrs Todd if you are unsure.</p>

Is there leeway with lateness for new students if they get lost	Don't worry, you will not get lost within Sixth Form! There is lots of signage to point you in the right direction. We are aware that some of our students, especially those who are new to Hardenhuish, travel in from outside of our normal catchment area, and travel in by bus or train. If this applies to you, and you are concerned about arriving on time, please speak to Mrs Todd so that we are aware. Our Study Rooms are open from 8am each day and therefore you can use this space if you do have to get an early bus/train. They are also open until 5pm and again, you are welcome to use this space if you are getting a later bus/train home.
How many people are typically in a tutor?	We normally have about 22-25 students per tutor group, depending on the size of the year group.
If there are too many applicants, will some peoples offer be withdrawn?	No offers will be withdrawn. If you meet the sixth form entry requirements, we look forward to welcoming you into the sixth form.
Do we have to go by our name on the register or can we change it?	We would encourage you to contact Mrs Todd regarding this.
Do we get Homework/detentions?	You most definitely get homework! We would encourage you to read the 50:50 mantra section of the Handbook. We do not have traditional detentions, however if a student is struggling with work motivation/ethic, interventions will be put in place to support that student.
How do I accept my place after results day	For existing Hardenhuish students who have applied to join our sixth form, our expectation is that if you gain the relevant grades, you will take up your place. If you are applying to join our sixth form from another school, please contact Mr Heffernan via e-mail ( <a href="mailto:mmh@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk">mmh@hardenhuish.wilts.sch.uk</a> ) to confirm that you would like to accept your place.