

Year 12 PIAG – Wednesday 16th September 2020

Questions & Answers

Q	At the end of the day my child was studying in the study room and was asked to leave by cleaners. Why is this?
A	At approx 2.45pm we have to do a 15 second Covid spray. Students are asked to leave but can come back after 15-20 seconds. They are able to leave their books etc. insitu and are just asked to take electronic equipment with them.
Q	How many students are there in sixth form? What is the average class size?
A	We have 168 students in Y12. Class sizes vary depending on subject. Practical/Science lessons will have less students than classroom lessons. There are generally between 19-22 students in each tutor group.
Q	Do they still do AS Level option for end of Y12?
A	Students studying 4 A levels will sit an AS in the subject they intend to drop at the end of Y12. Other students may sit AS levels, it will depend on their situation. Students who may sit AS's include those who have been identified by their teachers as struggling in their subject, those who are considering leaving Sixth Form to follow a different pathway in Y13. More information will be shared with parents about students sitting AS exams later in the year.
Q	Have the Sports Leaders pupils been chosen and informed? Just checking as my child has not updated me?
A	Yes, everyone should have their core subject on their timetable and lessons commence this week.
Q	How is the EPQ marked and moderated? Internally or externally?
A	The EPQ is marked and moderated internally before a sample is then sent off to the exam board to be moderated externally.
Q	Do Sports Leaders Course give you UCAS points?
A	Yes, Sports Leaders gives you 16 UCAS points.
Q	What is the difference between ind study and free periods?
A	All periods in school where pupils do not have lessons should be thought of as study periods. This is a time for students to complete homework, '6th period' work and further work to get up to the expected 5 hours per subject per week. If students use this time wisely, there shouldn't be the need to spend huge amounts of time working late into the evening or on weekends.
Q	If they are doing 4 subjects now, is there a cut-off for dropping one?
A	Some students will decide to continue with 4 subjects during Y12 and drop one at the end of the year, sitting the AS in that subject. Some students start with 4 subjects as they are unsure which 3 they want to continue with. We aim to get everyone on their chosen 3 subjects by Friday 25th September so would encourage decisions to be made by this time.

Q	What is the fallback scheme if there are Covid infections - all from home? Alternating lessons?
A	We cannot provide specific plans as we do not know how we might be impacted as a Sixth Form and as a school. However, please be reassured that contingency plans have been discussed - and will be under constant review - to ensure that disruption to teaching and learning is minimised under a variety of circumstances.
Q	How have you found the students since returning from lockdown, is there any noticeable effects... eg concentration, tiredness
A	We have generally found students are happy to be back even though things are not entirely as they were when they left. We are able to remain in our Sixth Form bubble, with communal areas open and being used by students. Students are encouraged to socially distance where possible, wash and sanitise their hands regularly, and follow a one way system. They are also strongly encouraged to wear masks in communal areas (not in lessons). Other changes have been put in place, for example split lunches and again, students have generally engaged with these changes and are coping well. Mrs Todd has spoken to some students who have found lockdown and the return overwhelming. As a school we were prepared for this and we have support available should any student need it. If your son/daughter is experiencing any difficulty in school then please encourage them to speak to Mrs Todd or their tutor.
Q	Does the EPC run for one year or both?
A	EPQ is a one year course.
Q	If the students cannot do voluntary work, could alternative types of 'tasks' be found in order to instil the same values? Something that can be done remotely or that would benefit younger students? Or ask them to come up with an idea themselves as a year group?
A	Yes, we are currently looking at enrichment opportunities for students, both within school and programmes / events / training available online. These opportunities will be published to students as the year progresses. We would encourage students to look for opportunities themselves, particularly to develop their interest and understanding of any undergraduate degree or potential career.
Q	What if my child decides Sixth Form really isn't for them?
A	Mrs Brenton is available to help if your son/daughter is unsure whether Sixth Form is the right place for them. She is able to help look at other options. We would also encourage them to speak to Mrs Todd or their tutor as there may be other reasons for them not settling, i.e. unhappy with their subjects, finding the new way of working challenging, friendship issues etc. which we will be able to help with.
Q	Although we appreciate that we are now moving into much more independent study and young people being in control etc, but will we as parents hear early on, if our students are identified as needing support or not meeting deadlines, expectations etc?
A	Yes, you most certainly will. Our Senior Sixth Form team will shortly be gathering feedback from staff on how students have settled into A levels study. If there is cause for concern, the subject teacher or a member of the Senior Sixth Form team will be in contact. At the start of Term 2 (early November), parents will also receive a formal progress report on their child's progress so far.
Q	My child mentioned that the common rooms are packed at break.

A	The common rooms do get busy at break and lunch. However, there are other spaces within Sixth Form that students can use. We have recently brought 7 large picnic tables for students to use outside in our courtyard. Students are also able to utilise classrooms and the study area, and there are seating areas in A Centre foyer (both upstairs and downstairs).
Q	Please can you give us a list of other PIAG dates etc. for this year - this one was a bit of a surprise yesterday!
A	We will provide a full list of dates shortly via email.