

October 2022



UXBRIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

Dear parent/carer

I am writing to you to provide some important updates for all Year 11 students.

### **Period 6 for Year 11 students**

This is a timetabled lesson that has been created for students to receive support and intervention in preparation for exams. The lessons run from 3pm until 4pm and students will be asked to stay for specific sessions.

On **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October** online tutoring sessions start with “My Tutor” in English, maths and science and will be available for 90 students in total. These sessions will run in school in computer rooms from 3pm on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the week before half-term and in the week after half-term. The sessions will cover revision of key topics prior to the start of the PPE exams on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Selected students will receive an email link allowing them to log in to the sessions. Please also find attached to this email a flyer outlining the service provided by “My Tutor”.

Period 6 sessions are also being used by curriculum areas to provide targeted support to students. Selected students will be expected to stay for these sessions in order to bridge any gaps in their understanding and application of knowledge. Other sessions will be “drop-in” sessions which will be voluntary for students who would like the extra support to help build their confidence. We hope that all students benefit from these sessions, which will continue to run during and after the first set of PPE exams.

### **Study skills session 31<sup>st</sup> October**

We have organised a special study skills session with an external speaker to take place during period 5 on the first Monday after half-term. The aim of the session is to provide strategies for students that will help them to feel better prepared for exams. Students will be asked to stay during period 6 to review their revision timetable and ensure they prioritize the key areas before their PPE exams. Students have already completed some sessions on study skills in tutor time and should already have a revision timetable in place. I have included some tips on exam study skills in the PPE exam section below.

### **Post-16 Open Evening Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 5.30pm**

All Year 11 students and their parents are invited to attend this event, which will begin with a “**Steps to Success**” talk at 5.30pm, before going to see different subject areas of their choice. We would like to ensure that all students are fully aware of the entry requirements for post-16 study at Uxbridge High School and, even more importantly, know the best route to meet those entry requirements and achieve the best grades possible.

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## **PPE exams Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

The Year 11 cohort has made an excellent start to this crucial academic year, and this is their chance to shine and show that they are on course to be successful. I would like to request that all parents support their children with their preparation and revision. Students must find time to rest and recharge their batteries when half-term arrives but must also allocate some time to doing some effective revision. Students will have been set specific learning or practice questions in some subjects, and this should form part of their revision time. You can support your child by ensuring that they have a quiet place to study and only have access to the device that they need for working. Students should also have access to index cards, flashcards or post-it notes, as summarising the most important information and terminology and referring to it regularly significantly aids retention and understanding. Some students like to place post-it notes on certain parts of the house (such as on the fridge, on their bedroom wall or on the back of the bathroom door). If this is the case in your house, I would definitely encourage it!

I would advise everyone to remember these FIVE key points when preparing for exams:

- **Small manageable chunks avoid cognitive overload.** If revising for a two-hour period, spending half an hour on 4 different subjects is much more effective than sticking to the same subject for 2 hours.
- **Do not just read your notes and highlight** – it won't work!
- **Retrieval practice is key** – practice, test yourself and ask someone to test you!
- **Dig deeper** – aim to seek a full understanding of the areas you are less sure of. If you can answer the "how?" and "why?" questions, you will have a much better understanding!
- **Ask for help** – you may well need this to help with the point above! Who are you going to ask? Whatever you do, ask someone!

## **Parents' Evening Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

The first Year 11 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and this will be an opportunity for all parents to receive up-to-date exam grades in all subjects and specific targets for further improvement. All parents will receive further details of this event in November, along with the window for booking all appointments.

Yours sincerely

**C Smith**  
**Head of Learning – Year 11**