

THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST
**SIXTH
FORM**
*Don't be anonymous...
...be remarkable*

23rd January 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we are now coming towards the end of January and year 12 students have been with us for approximately five months, it is time for us to review their academic progress. All of year 12 have recently completed a PPE week. You should have already received your child's data sheet which includes their Alps minimum expected grade (MEG), PPE grade and staff professional prediction. These MEGs are a benchmark that staff and students are aiming for, but are certainly not barriers to achievement, and many students will exceed their MEGs, as they did at GCSE. During the coming days, I will be meeting any year 12 students whose PPE results are two or more grades below their MEG and therefore are a concern. As we are now almost half way through the year, I also wanted to draw your attention to some of the events coming up in the second half of the academic year.

Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

A second PPE week will run w/c 30th June 2025. Preparation for these exams should be ongoing and all students should reflect on their feedback following the first set of exams in order to prepare for the next. The results of these exams will provide a more detailed overview of student performance and determine their progression into year 13 (students will be required to secure at least a D grade in all subjects to progress into their final year of A level studies). This PPE week will take place under formal conditions in the New Sports Hall and all students will be on study leave during this time.

Independent Revision

Effective independent revision will impact directly on successful exam performance. We are aware some sixth form students already recognise the importance of revision but we still have some students who are not maintaining an effective revision programme out of school hours. With your help at home, ensuring your child is revising regularly, their chances of success in their examinations increases dramatically. We appreciate your support in this and can offer further advice on revision if required. We suggest students:

- Complete additional / wider reading to broaden subject knowledge (books are available for student use in the supervised study area),
- Purchase relevant revision guides to support and consolidate learning,
- Utilise all non-contact time effectively whilst at school.

EPQ Week/ Work Experience Week

The week commencing Monday 24th February is either EPQ week or Work Experience week for year 12 depending on the pathway they have chosen. All EPQ students will be expected in Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm. Work experience students are expected to attend their organised work placement for the entire week: they have been given guidance to help them secure an experience. If any students are not doing an EPQ and have failed to complete to arrange a work experience, they will be expected in school to study independently.



Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principals: Mrs G Davies & Mrs J Gilbert
Head of Sixth Form: Mr O Russell

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Part Time Employment

With many of our sixth form students now entering the world of part-time employment it is important that there is a clear balance between study and work hours. Whilst we recognise part-time employment can benefit students financially and provide them with invaluable experience it is essential that school work comes first. Research indicates that paid employment during sixth form is negatively associated with A level results. However, this is not the case if students work under 8 hours per week. At 8 hours per week or more the impact of part-time employment on examination results suddenly becomes much more serious. Students who work 8 or more hours a week are, on average, estimated to drop the equivalent of one grade in one A level (for example, getting a C rather than a B). It is imperative our students are aware that excessive involvement in part-time employment will be counter-productive both in the short-term and for career prospects.

Key dates for Year 12:

- Monday 24th – Friday 28th February: EPQ/ Work Experience week
- Wednesday 2nd April: EPQ marketplace event (EPQ students)
- Thursday 3rd April: Peter Rawlings 'Getting into Your Top Choice' Post 18 Seminar (all Year 12 students)
- Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July: Year 12 PPE Week
- Monday 7th July – Friday 11th July: Year 12 Post 18 Destinations Week
- Tuesday 8th July: Year 12 Post 18 Information Evening
- Wednesday 16th July: Year 12 Parent Information Evening

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Rachel Barrett

Head of Year 12



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