



From P J Canning MA (Cantab), MTeach, Head of Curriculum and Head of Classics

Pre A-level Curriculum for Year 11

Dear parents of pupils in Year 11

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you've made the most of your Easter break, despite the exceptional circumstances we all find ourselves in.

I know that the announcement of how GCSE grades will be determined for your child has caused anxiety for some. Please be assured that the school feels confident that it can propose to the boards the grades we expected your child to achieve in the summer. The evidence upon which the school will arrive at those grades is very broad and will vary from subject to subject. We are not expecting them to sit any further assessments as we will be making predictions based upon their performance throughout their two years of study and will take into account the expected improvement pupils typically make between their mocks and summer exams.

Since Ofqual made the announcement that summer GCSE outcomes would be decided by centre assessed grades, we have been busy making preparation to provide your child with meaningful learning during the summer term. Unlike any previous cohort they have a unique opportunity, freed from the shackles of external assessments, and are therefore likely to be prepared for A-level better if they take the opportunity on offer. The College has developed a programme which will help pupils in Year 11 to hone their A-level choices and prepare effectively for the jump from GCSE to A-level.

The attached document is directed at pupils but will give you more information about the programme. In outline:

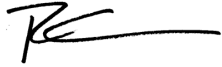
- During week one of term (beginning Wednesday 15 April) pupils will have the opportunity to submit any work done over the holiday to teachers, either via email or MS Teams. All pupils should have contact with their tutor or hsm to select **five** A-level subjects to focus their pre A-level preparation. They should submit these to their hsm and tutor by **6pm on Wednesday 15 April** at the latest. A list of subjects is available in the attached document.
- From week two until half term (Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May), pupils should engage with the programme of study as directed by the departments of their chosen subjects.
- After half term (Monday 1 June to Friday 26 June), pupils may continue to engage with department offerings. Other enrichment opportunities to prepare for the sixth form will be available, including programmes for potential medics, those considering a US university application and those who will take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Throughout the term and starting in week one, a 'Blue Health' programme will support pupils health and wellbeing, alongside provision from the Futures department.

Your daughter or son's tutor or hsm will be responsible for supporting them as they engage with the programme, so please keep in touch with them as the term progresses.

We hope that your daughter or son will find this programme rewarding and valuable in their preparation for the sixth form. I expect that we will find that these pupils are more prepared in many ways as a result of this programme and that they will be clearer about their A-level choices. If you have any questions, please raise them with your child's tutor or hsm in the first instance.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PC' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Philip Canning
Head of Curriculum