



June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you at the start of this new half term to share what the coming few months will look like for year 12, the support will be putting in place for them and what they need to prioritise in order to be ready to start year 13 in September. You will also receive a letter detailing appointments for academic review meetings in the next few days. As our provision evolves in a new Covid 19 era, some of these decisions are subject to change, but here I aim to communicate our plan for this half term.

Assessment

Over the coming months, your son / daughter will be assessed in two main ways. I share this with you as we recognise that students will find it a challenge to prepare for this at home and may need your support.

Closing the Gap Week - Week commencing 22nd June 2020

Across this week students will be set home learning assessments in all subjects, addressing content and skills taught during the lockdown period. The aim of these assessments is to allow students to reflect on their learning and react to any gaps which are identified. It will also allow teachers to respond with appropriate resources and support in the subsequent weeks. We recognise that home learning has presented challenges to many students and want to be able to support them with addressing any gaps in their knowledge and understanding promptly. We will then be providing an Attitude to Learning Report to parents which will share how students have engaged with work during the lockdown.

Year 12-13 Transition PPEs - Week commencing 14th September 2020

I have previously written to you to explain that this exam period will replace the exams which were scheduled for the beginning of May. This will be a formal set of exams which will be followed with a parent report. Exams will assess material covered from the beginning to end of year 12. We will ensure the exams will take place in a socially distanced manner. As students embark on revision, it is important to emphasize that these exams will be an important piece of evidence (used in combination with previous assessments) in us determining students' predicted grades for university and apprenticeship applications next academic year.





Revision

In light of these two assessment periods, year 12 students need to put a plan in place for their revision.

Please follow this link to a video created by Ms Larkin and myself which offers support and advice to students on these assessment periods and reminders about revision. We will be sharing this with them via email today:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjNpE67A-DE&feature=youtu.be>

Our recommendation is that students follow an interleaved timetable which is explained in the video and will best support them to prepare for their exams in September. Resources to support revision timetables and strategies can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1b_ONZ0b0VvemfFg8gdPjQFIIDTmvo9D5

Beyond 18 Week - commencing 29th June 2020

This half term, students would have had a drop down day which focused on making plans for after sixth form. We now intend to run this day virtually so students can still access the same expertise and advice. Throughout this week, I encourage students to engage with information about universities and applying to the world of work as many will change their opinions about their future plans in the coming months. We will offer the following sessions across this week for students to engage with:

- Applying to university - the UCAS process, student finance and accommodation
- Writing a personal statement, CV or covering letter
- Choosing and applying for your future career
- ASK apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships
- A webinar for students with the sixth form team to answer any questions students might have at the end of the day. This will take place with Ms Wheaton, Mrs Mason, Miss Sellears and Mr Mammen.

I will be writing to you nearer the time with more details about this and we will share all materials with you as Beyond 18 week progresses so you can share in the research and preparation your son / daughter is completing.

Careers Meetings

This week, Mrs Mason has emailed students with a time for a careers meeting. At this time of year, Mrs Mason would normally be meeting with all students face to face for this support, however these meetings will now be held over the phone. Mrs Mason will make contact using a withheld number and will call the priority parent number listed on our systems. If a student would like to be contacted on a different



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number (because for example, that parent has returned to work), they should email Mrs Mason to make this arrangement.

Part time work

Your son/ daughter's part time work may have been affected by lockdown, they may have decided to take a step away from work due to the risks of Covid 19 or they may have stepped into a key worker role. We recognise the value of part time work for sixth form students, however did want to take this opportunity to recognise that students will be struggling to complete their school work, revision and beyond 18 planning if they are undertaking significant amounts of part time work. Our standard recommendation for students has always been that they can undertake a maximum of 8 hours of work a week and this recommendation remains in place for those students who continue to have a part time job. This amount teaches students transferable skills and provides them with some financial independence. Studies have shown however that undertaking more than this can have a significant detrimental effect on their studies. I wanted to highlight this, as we are aware that these circumstances have changed for many students.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at awheaton@rodingvalley.net or the sixth form team at sixthformoffice@rodingvalley.net.

Yours faithfully

Ms A Wheaton
Assistant Headteacher: Director of Sixth Form

Mr R Mammen
Deputy Headteacher

