

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on important information to support Year 13 students over the coming weeks and months.

### January PPE results

By Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Year 13 January PPE results should appear in the 'Documents' section of Edulink. These show:

- Aspirational and Minimum Target Grades in each subject
- PPE grades for each subject (please be aware that for subjects in which PPEs were not taken, 'current working at grades' have been reported. Please note: results from external BTEC exams taken in January will be published on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023)
- Learning Indicators

Mrs Loughney and I will be meeting with some Year 13 students in the weeks following the February half term holiday to discuss ways in which we can work together to support progress moving forwards. All Year 13 students will also be reflecting on their results and approach to the PPEs in their tutor time activities, and setting individual targets for improvement with their tutors. A reminder that all students are expected to attend tutor time, 8.45am – 9.15am daily.

### Year 13 Parents' Evening

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Year 13 parents' evening (online) will allow all subject staff to reflect on the PPE results with students and parents and to make suggestions for improvement ahead of the next assessments in March. Further details of the parents' evening will be shared after the half term holiday.

### Assessments: w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March

The final formal assessment week for Year 13 ahead of their summer exams will be during the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March. Assessments will take place in-class in usual lesson times, rather than as PPEs in the study centre, as we had originally planned. We have made this change to optimise the contact time students have remaining with staff before the final summer examinations, having consulted Heads of Subject for their views on what form of assessment they felt would be most beneficial at this point. Teachers will communicate with their classes what will be assessed during this period and results from these assessments will be issued when we return from the Easter holidays.

### UCAS/Post-18 pathways

We want to thank all parents and carers for supporting this year's UCAS process; all applications were submitted ahead of UCAS' deadline for equal consideration this week. We wanted to share some information with you about types of offers and the next steps in the process. The key message is that, regardless of what type of offers universities have made, it is imperative that students continue to work to the best of their abilities until the end of their courses. A Level and BTEC grades stay with our students throughout their careers, and are not simply a means to access university upon completion of their school studies. Students may change course or career path later in life and in the future will be glad that they put in every effort they could to ensure their Level 3 qualifications were the best they could be.

- For an explanation of what conditional and unconditional offers are, and their implications, [click here](#)
- For advice on how to make the right choice, once you have received decisions/offers from all universities, [click here](#)
- For advice on responding to offers, [click here](#)
- For information and advice around Student Finance, [click here](#). Year 13 students will also have an assembly, led by the University of Northampton, nearer to the time that applications can be made (March/April). You may also be interested in the following free, online webinars:



The following two sessions this term focus on affording university during a cost of living crisis. The first, on 22nd February, is with the Higher Education Advisory team at UEA together with a speaker from The Student Loans Company. The second is with Elizabeth McCullough, Head of Student Recruitment at Goldsmiths, University of London, on 16th March. These opportunities are ideal for students joining individually or with parents:

- **February 22 @ 16:30 - 17:15** HE Guidance: Student Finance, Scholarships & Budgeting - UEA & SFE (KS5) [Find out more »](#)
- **March 16 @ 17:15 - 18:00** HE Guidance: Student Money – How Does It Add Up? Goldsmiths (KS5) [Find out more »](#)
- For information and advice around Apprenticeships, [click here](#) and [here](#). National Apprenticeships Week is coming up, w/c 6<sup>th</sup> February, and we will be sharing advice and opportunities with students throughout the week. Any students who have chosen not to apply to university will be given support in planning their post-18 pathways. Students who have applied through UCAS may also wish to apply for Apprenticeships in addition.

## Support

We appreciate that this period of Year 13 can be incredibly stressful for students and their families. With post-18 offers or selection processes underway and the prospect of independent living on the horizon, as well as the focus on exams in school, it can be an overwhelming time. Students have a range of ways of accessing support in school, should they need it. Tutors are the initial point of contact for all students and will be able to direct students to the most appropriate member of staff. Subject teachers are also putting in a range of intervention and support for their courses to ensure our Year 13 students' achievements are optimised.

Alongside Mrs Pruden's work on the CALM project focussed on reducing exam anxiety, we also want to remind students of our Mental Health and Wellbeing Google Classroom. Through this, Mrs Nicholson shares a wealth of resources to support student's wellbeing. Mrs Nicholson is also running more 'Wellbeing Workshops' over the coming months – these are small group sessions with a particular wellbeing focus, designed as a safe space for students to talk and gain support. Our Student Leadership Team is also planning a lunchtime wellbeing café event: 'Coffee, Cake and Confidence' on the theme of procrastination; more details will be sent to students via email.



## Year 13 Leavers' Event

We are delighted to have secured a date at Brampton Grange for a Year 13 Leavers' Event: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. We look forward to celebrating with our Year 13 students to mark the end of their school education. More details will follow next term, but, due to the cost of living, we wanted to give parents and carers the option to pay for tickets in instalments. Therefore, from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, payments towards the £40 total ticket price (which includes venue hire, a welcome drink, a DJ and disco, hot dogs/burger meals) will be available via ParentPay. We ask for an initial £15 deposit by 1<sup>st</sup> March, so we can ascertain numbers for this event.

We are doing our best to ensure all students receive the support they need throughout this period and are always inspired by the incredible resilience they have shown throughout their disrupted experience of education over the last few years. We hope that through a combination of effective revision, alongside the support offered both by parents/carers and in school, that the coming months allow our Year 13 students to be as well-prepared as possible for their final exam series so that they reach their undoubted potential.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Claire Green**  
Director of Sixth Form

**Mrs K Loughney**  
Head of Year 13

