

gilesacademy

December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been an extremely busy term for the students especially with the Pre Public Examinations (PPE's) that took place in November. I know from speaking to many pupils that while they may have felt the benefits of all their hard work that this was also a stressful time. I would like to take this opportunity to remind them that the PPE's are unusual in that there is six weeks' worth of exams that take place in the summer crammed into two and a half. Also by the time the summer comes around pupils should be better prepared for the public examinations as they will have revised more and be able to turn to the experience of already having gone through the process before. As I said on the revision evening it is never too early to start revising and I would be encouraging all pupils to be revising on a daily basis.

The Knowledge Organisers (KO's) that were handed out on the revision evening should contain all the key knowledge the pupils need to know for their subject areas. We as a school have rolled out homework that should utilise these KO's. Pupils should be completing half a page in their exercise book every night in accordance with their KO timetable which all pupils have been provided with via their form tutor. The timetable has been designed to cover all the subject areas your child studies. While I can appreciate that your child may already have their own revision schedule the KO based homework will only compliment any work already taking place.

Up until the PPE's in form time we were using some of the time to focus on revision skills. Since then we have been revisiting British Values as part of our SMSC programme. Our latest EPLC lesson focused on democracy and the upcoming election. The result of which is being counted as I write this letter. I know from speaking to form tutors that this did start some interesting discussions about our election process and what the political parties stand for. I would like to encourage the students to keep up with current affairs as it can be very useful for when they enter the work force. They will have a taster of the skills required on the last day of term through the trip organised by Mr Davison, where the National Enterprise Challenge have set up employer set STEM challenges for the pupils to complete in working groups. I hope that the pupils really see the value of this day.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you on Parents Evening on Thursday 9th January 2020.

Yours faithfully



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