



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

2nd April 2020

Dear Year 11 students

I hope this letter finds you well. Now that the Easter break is underway, we thought it would be helpful to provide further guidance on how you should be spending your time. We have also provided some answers to questions that you may be asking at this time as you begin to think about the Summer Term at Leighton Park.

What should I be doing now?

It is really important to try and stick to a routine each day with exercise and non-screen time included. Whilst you will all have your own preferred ways of working, we recommend that you aim to follow a normal school working day as far as possible. This means getting up at a reasonable time, eating proper meals and taking regular breaks. You should also go to bed at a sensible time. If you can stick to a daily routine in terms of your studying it will give you a structure to the day. This will support you educationally and benefit your mental health.

Take a look at the free VESPA Home Study Programme which offers lots of good advice about how to become a more effective learner. The link to the programme is [here](#).

Please also spend some time on the Elevate Education website, which is available [here](#). You will find study tips, online planners, as well as subject specific material. There are also recommendations for apps that can help you be a more organised and effective learner, as well as information on dealing with stress.

What work should I be doing over the Easter break?

Please make sure you are prioritising the completion of all non-exam assessment (coursework) during the Easter break. The final date to submit coursework for most subjects is **Friday 24th April** and even though we are in unusual times this date will not be extended. Please note there are separate deadlines for Music and BTEC Creative Media Production. If you are uncertain about what you need to do then please contact your subject teacher and ask for advice.

For subjects where there is no coursework it is important that you continue to consolidate your knowledge over the Easter break. The ways in which you can do this are:

- Review your end of term report. This will contain valuable advice on areas that you need to be focusing on.
- Make sure that your notes are well organised, completed (ie no gaps) and that you understand the content.
- Revisit your notes regularly and ensure that as much as possible is learnt.
- Complete a variety of practice questions, focusing on topics that you find more challenging. This will ensure you get the maximum benefit from your efforts.

By doing all of the above, you will be well prepared for any further teacher assignments that may take place when you return to the Guided Distance Learning programme after the Easter break.

How do I organise my time effectively over the Easter break?

Once you have signed up to the free online VESPA course, you will have access to a range of useful activities. As a minimum we recommend you complete the following three exercises which will help you become more effective independent learners:

- 'The Bottom Left' - an activity that gets you thinking about each of your subjects and helps you prioritise your efforts.
- 'The Revision Questionnaire' - an activity that allows you to critically assess your own revision techniques and discover new ways of working to achieve greater rewards.
- 'Three Types of Attention' - sequence your work so that you do the right activities at the right time of day.

What will happen in the Summer term?

Your subject teachers will continue to teach you next term. Where the GCSE course content has not yet been fully covered, your teacher will make sure that this will be completed by the time when you would have normally gone on study leave.

Teachers may require you to complete assignments to help build a picture of the progress you are making whilst we are following the Guided Distance Learning programme. This may help inform predicted grades and other information that the exam boards may require.

As you are probably aware, the government has said that students will have the opportunity to sit an exam when schools reopen or next summer, if they wish. This is another reason for giving maximum effort to your studies over Easter and during next term.

How will my grade be awarded this summer?

The government has said that it is not awarding students their predicted grades. Instead, Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, will develop a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence. The government will publish more detailed guidelines on this on Tuesday 7th April. It is likely that schools will be asked to consider a range of evidence to support their decisions. This is likely to include non-exam assessments (coursework), mock results, and teacher assignments and assessments. The aim is to provide information to the exam boards about the grade that teachers believe their students would have achieved if exams had gone ahead. **All this information will then be used by Ofqual to arrive at a 'calculated grade' for each student for each subject.** More information can be found [here](#).

When will I get my results?

The government has said that its aim is to publish calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the calculated grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. Ofqual will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that your cohort is not at a disadvantage because of these extraordinary circumstances.

What if I am not happy with the calculated grade I am awarded?

If you feel that the calculated grades that you receive do not reflect your performance, then there will be an opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible, after schools reopen and in Summer 2021.

What if I didn't do as well as I hoped in the mocks?

The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results. If you did not get the grade or mark you were hoping for in the mocks, remember this is only one piece of information amongst many that will inform any decision about your final grade that might be awarded. Teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data when awarding grades to the exam board. In addition, the exam board will combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, to ensure that final calculated grade decisions are fair. More information can be found [here](#).

Won't I just be awarded my predicted grades?

The government has said that Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, will be using a process that is more sophisticated than simply awarding predicted grades. Instead, Ofqual, will develop a fair and robust calculated grade process that takes into account a broad range of evidence, including teacher assessment and prior attainment. Ofqual will make every effort to ensure that the process agreed does not disadvantage any particular group of students. Pupils who do not feel their 'calculated grade' reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again.

Where can I find out more information about the grade award process?

Further information about the grade awarding process can be found [here](#). We will update you if any additional guidance is provided by the government or exam boards.

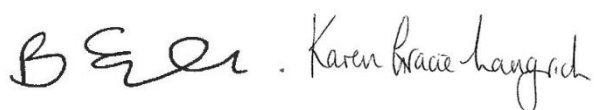
What is going to happen when we would normally have started study leave?

We will move on to a programme of Guided Distance Learning that will prepare you for your Sixth Form studies, whether that is at Leighton Park or elsewhere. More information on the Guided Distance Learning programme for Sixth Form academic pathways will follow early next term.

And finally...

Please stay safe and well. If you need any further support please do contact your tutor, teachers or HM and also use the online support services that can be found [here](#).

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BEER . Karen Gracie-Langrick'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bev Eldridge and Karen Gracie-Langrick