



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to give you an update of our revised plans for the Fryer Project Qualification, which all Year 8 students are working on at the moment.

The Fryer Project Qualification (FPQ) is the culmination of the two-year Approaches to Learning (ATL) course, a key element of our curriculum at Leighton Park, which is followed by all students in Years 7 and 8. All students in Year 8 complete an independent project, normally a dissertation of 1000 words, to answer a unique research question devised entirely by the student in an area of their own interest. As you are probably aware, all Year 8 students commenced work on their Fryer Project Qualification in February, and we have been delighted by the enthusiasm and energy that students have devoted to their project development and research.

With the move to Guided Distance Learning, we feel it is sensible to modify the expectations and time frame against which students are working. In previous years we have aimed to complete the FPQ by June and to celebrate the students' research and achievements in an EXPO event that month. However, this year, we will continue to support students to write their dissertations during the two periods per fortnight allocated to our Approaches to Learning Course. With five lessons remaining before the end of the year, and nearly all dissertations well underway, we hope that this will provide sufficient time for all Year 8 students to complete a full draft of their FPQ before the summer holiday.

Students have clear guidance, exemplars and research logs available to them so that if they wish to work on their FPQ in their own time, they are most welcome to do so. There is no expectation to do so, however, and we anticipate ATL class time being sufficient, if used effectively, for most students to be able to complete their FPQ in those sessions, with teacher support available through Google Meet.

Our hope is then to finalise the process when we return to school after the summer, and to have the opportunity for students to share their research at an FPQ EXPO in the early autumn. The FPQ EXPO is always one of the highlights of the academic calendar and we look forward to coming together to celebrate the work of the year group at that point.

We hope that this communication will relieve any pressure that students may have been feeling surrounding their FPQ, whilst maintaining a clear positive expectation that all students should be able to produce a final outcome of which they can be proud.

Thank you for your support. If you have any queries, please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Powlesland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical mark below the first letter 'J'.

Jenny Powlesland
Head of Teaching & Learning