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# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA (Hons), PGDip, NPQH, NPQEL

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Tuesday 21st November 2023

## Re: Year 12 Study Update

Dear Parents(s)/Carer(s)

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I would like to take a moment to commend our Year 12 students for the exceptional progress they have made since transitioning from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 study with us at Coopers Company and Coborn School this year.

As we progress further through the academic year, our students will be delving deeper into their subjects, culminating in larger assessments. At Coopers, we recognise the individual differences and demands of each subject, so assessments will look different in each subject based on the curriculum planning and mapping of our subject specialist teams. At this stage you may have seen some 'Progress Checks' taking place with percentage scores given. These are often end of topic tests on what students have recently covered. In the coming weeks, they will encounter more comprehensive assessments designed to gauge their understanding and knowledge of larger areas of their curriculums so far covered. After each assessment, feedback will be provided in class, and these sessions will be instrumental in facilitating improvements as part of Year 12's continuous learning journey towards the end of Year 13. Continued specification coverage will build towards significant Year 12 Mocks that begin on Monday 22nd April.

This strategy will lead to you receiving an indication of their progress against A-Level grade criteria from May onwards. As Mr. Bell explained at the parent/carer evening in September, all marks up to this point will be shown as a percentage. Providing A-Level grades against such small coverage of the specification would be misleading and lack validity. The nature of two year linear A-Level courses means that specific grades against valid mark schemes and grade boundaries will only be provided at appropriate times.

This week we have asked staff to input data on how well Year 12 students have coped with their new courses and to identify if there are any causes for concerns; whether that be linked to attainment (low scores in progress checks), homework (poor quality or incomplete), or concerns regarding attitude and focus. This will lead to analysis from the sixth form team, and follow up conversations with the sixth form team looking at how they can be supported and what they can do to improve. If there are concerns in multiple subjects the sixth form team will be in contact.

We would like to re-emphasise the importance of student's independent study outside of the lesson time with a teacher. You may have been aware that students have increased their study periods during the school day in recent weeks to support with this. This is a vital component to sixth form success and please continue to support good study habits at home.

With A-Level study the basic principle of "I don't have any work to do!" unfortunately does not exist.



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Although you may not be able to help your son/daughter with all of the complexities in every A-Level you can still support them in ensuring they are doing the 'right things'. Below is a list of activities that they should be completing both in their studies, and at home:

## Recommended Study Methods:

1. Assessment
2. Exam Practice
3. NEA
4. Specific Project Work
5. Directed Wider Reading

## \*Details

1. Complete whole or part of past exams from their exam board website under exam conditions in complete silence. Then go through mark scheme and exam commentaries on the websites and see where their gaps are.
2. Complete questions or planning of model answers to specific parts of their specification. Examples could be, specific past paper practice/ Preparation essay for next lesson/ Detailed essay plan for next lesson/ Mind maps and revision cards from mark schemes, or using resources to write model answers to exam questions.
3. Complete specific sections of coursework as required for the needs of specific course.
4. Specific case study work. E.g. Research of key topic/ area that needs greater independent research than can take place in lesson, or students can focus on individual research area.
5. Specific articles/ literature to enhance holistic understanding of topic (Masolit., specific magazines, Seneca)

We recommend checking the Go4Schools platform, where assessment scores and progress checks will be inputted when completed.

Should you have any concerns or queries, or anything you feel we can do to support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support

Mr. Edwards

Deputy Headteacher

Mr. Bell

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Marshall

Head of Year 12