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THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

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

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Tuesday 25th March 2025

Re: 'The final push': Easter and revision

Dear parent(s) and carer(s)

This morning, I spoke to the Year 13 cohort about the significance of the coming weeks. It is a difficult balancing act, trying to be honest and transparent about the weeks ahead, versus managing individual well-being and stress levels. The most important thing that we stressed is that we are all here to provide support and encouragement in the final weeks. At this important time for your son/daughter, I wanted to share some critical messages:

Year 13 'Assessment Week' feedback

Over the coming nine days, all students will be receiving the feedback from their recent class assessments. The key point of this exercise was to provide clear diagnostic feedback to students. This feedback will provide your son/daughter with a final indication of the skills/knowledge which they need to focus on in their remaining weeks before the A level examinations begin. Please chat to them at home regarding how these assessments went – they should start to get their feedback this week.

Easter holidays

Upon the return to school on Tuesday 22nd April, students will only have 12 days in lessons with their teachers before study leave begins, this brings an added importance to the Easter holiday period. We have been explicit with the Year 13 cohort that the Easter holiday, is unfortunately not a two-week holiday. Whilst all students do need to re-charge and rest, our expectation is that your son/daughter will devote considerable time to revision. Students will be away from school for almost two and a half weeks and students up and down the country will be using this time to complete substantive revision for the A level examinations. Form Tutors will be working with your son/daughter on a revision planner and will be speaking through some of the methodology of how to allocate their time to various subjects. We do not want any students to look back, in the summer, with regrets and we would value your support in reinforcing this message at home.

Unfortunately, due to issues relating to supervision, safeguarding and public liability insurance, the school is closed for all students during the Easter holiday period. Students are only permitted on-site if they are attending sessions organised by teachers and should only remain on site during the time of these sessions.

Study Facilities – after school: 'The Learning Zone'

As you are aware, we have a dedicated study centre available to students from 7:30am until 6pm. This is supervised by Mrs Morse from 9am until 4pm every day and then overseen by pastoral staff after school on an informal basis. Ever since your son/daughter began their 6th Form journey with us in September 2023, we have made our expectations about this area explicit; indeed, all students and parents/carers signed an agreement relating to student behavior in this space. Unfortunately, over the past few weeks we have noticed a very small number of students in Year 13 acting inappropriately in our study centre – particularly after school. Our expectations are:



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- The Learning Zone is a silent study area – students are not permitted to talk
- At break and lunch, the Learning Zone is not a social space - it is not an extension of the Common Room - it is somewhere where students go to work
- Afterschool - the school is not a place where students can stay to socialise.
- All students must leave the school site by 6pm
- In the Learning Zone only water is allowed. Around £32,000 was spent on new IT equipment and new PCs last summer. Students should not be taking food and hot/cold drinks in there.
- Use of mobile phones – whilst we permit them in the Learning Zone for work purposes – their use should be transient (for example, at the start of the study session). All students have access to a PC in the Learning Zone and there should be no reason why your son/daughter needs to use their mobile phone. In order to support self-regulating and excellent study habits we have recently purchased a bank of mobile phone lockers, situated in the Learning Zone
- During the school day, we want all Year 13 students to use their time productively. We do not allow students to sit and socialise on the school field, or play social sport (other than at lunch time).

If students are not respecting these shared and agreed expectations, then they will be given one verbal warning. If they are still unable to modify their behavior, then they will be asked to leave the Learning Zone with immediate effect and we will have to reflect on whether they are allowed further access to the area. This period of time is so important and we are not prepared to allow a small number of individualistic students to detrimentally affect the A level preparations of the wider cohort. Once again, I would appreciate your support with my zero-tolerance approach here.

PSHE lessons

Up until this point, students in Year 13 have taken part in whole school PSHE, once a week. However, from Easter we suspend this programme for Year 13. This decision has been made for two reasons:

1. After a number of years at the school, and having received numerous PSHE inputs during this time, we feel that by the Spring of Year 13 students have received an appropriate level of PSHE education
2. To enable Year 13 to maximise their preparation and study time for the upcoming A Levels

As such, with effect from Tuesday 22nd April, students in Year 13 are not required to attend PSHE – no lessons will take place. Students should instead use the study facilities in the 6th Form Centre to pro-actively revise for the upcoming A levels. All the usual attendance protocols remain; students are expected in school at 8:35am and are not permitted to leave the school site until 12:15pm at the earliest. I am sure you agree that this measure will provide students with some additional preparation time in what is a crucial period in their education.

Last Day and Study Leave

Following on from the letter sent last month, I wanted to reconfirm these details:

Last day of teaching: Thursday 8th May

Farewell celebrations: Friday 9th May

Study Leave: From Monday 12th May



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After Easter, we will write to you with further information about study leave and the last day celebrations we have planned. Further information will also follow about A Level results day.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the school.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Bell
Deputy Head