

Dear Parents and Carers,

27 January 2023

**RE: Year 11 and 13 PPEs from Feb – March**

We are writing to inform you about our second PPE (Pre-Public Exam) series which will run from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. This information has been shared with students in advance and all students have received a personalised exam timetables this week.

The purpose of these exams is for all Year 11 and 13 students to practice sitting full exam papers which will assess their learning throughout KS4 or KS5. The PPE exams are designed around actual past papers and therefore are an accurate indicator of progress. In order to prepare students for their real exams in Summer 2023, we will be following exam hall protocols and provide students and parents/carers with a set of mock results on their next report.

To support students with revision, the school has purchased several textbooks and revision guides and created a comprehensive intervention timetable. In addition, the library remains open until 5pm each day to allow the space for independent revision.

To drive our vision of **transformation for all**, following this set of PPEs, any student who has not made adequate progress will have a meeting with their subject teacher or Progress Leader. It is our duty of care to **ensure all our students** are able to reach their **true potential**, and on some rare occasion this can mean changes in subject choices or provisions to better suit a student's needs. This will be assessed on a case by case basis.

To help families to engage with students during this exam period, we have compiled a list of strategies which you can do at home to support with revision and exam prep. Please refer to the next page.

If you have any questions about exams, or if you would like support with additional resources, please contact your child's subject teacher or Progress Leader.

Year 13 – Miss Hopwood [hopwood@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:hopwood@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk)

Year 11 – Mrs Grey [sgrey@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:sgrey@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk)

We thank all families for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Bhadare  
**Vice Principal – Quality of Education**

## **How To Revise – Top Tips**

1. Start revising early — i.e. not the day before the exam.
2. Plan your revision using a timetable so you can fit in all your subjects - try <https://getadapt.co.uk/>
3. Don't spend too long making your notes look pretty - this is just wasting time. For diagrams, include all the details you need to learn, but don't try to produce a work of art.
4. Set up a nice, tidy study space. You'll need somewhere with good lighting, your pens close by, your phone out of sight and your TV unplugged. Try not to revise on your bed as this can make it difficult to focus or to sleep afterwards. Remember the library is open every day until 5pm.
5. Try a variety of different revision techniques — answering practice questions, writing down notes from memory, using revision guides, YouTube or group revision. Parents, use the revision guide to test your child.
6. Do lots of practice papers and questions. Research shows this is the most effective way to test your learning and transfer it to long term memory. You'll find it far easier to answer questions in the exam if you've tried similar ones at home beforehand. Have a look at your exam board's website for a selection of sample papers and mark schemes.
7. Keep your phone and other distractions away. Phones are great, but they're a one-stop shop for procrastination. Stick it in a drawer while you're revising and don't spend hours on it before you go to bed.
8. Don't just read your notes. You have to write stuff down, practice it and then practice it again. Parents – quiz the students on key terminology.
9. Sleep and eat properly. Sleep is incredibly important — it helps your brain store all the information you've learned throughout the day. Drinking plenty of water and eating healthy foods will also boost your concentration throughout the day.
10. On exam day (or mock exam day), make sure you arrive in plenty of time, nothing adds extra pressure to exam day like the fear of being late. Just make sure you set off at a little earlier than usual.

## **Exam Hall Protocol**

Students should be lined up in the basketball courts at least 10 minutes before the start of their exam. Students should leave all personal items in the boxing gym and put their phone/smart watch in a plastic wallet as they enter the exam hall. Phones on your person can result in disqualification from an exam. Students should enter and leave the exam hall in complete silence and return to normal lessons once their exam is over. Students should bring in all equipment needed for the exam in a clear pencil case. They can have a water bottle on their desk as long as the label has been removed. A full equipment list has been shared with students.