



Parent Briefing

Teaching, Student Work and Parent Support

As a National Teaching School, we are in the forefront of innovation and practice to improve the quality of Learning and Teaching, not only in our school but across the region. This innovation has seen the development of 'Flipped Practice' within our teaching (students prepare for the lesson with advanced learning at home and then develop this in the supporting atmosphere of the classroom).

With the rapid changes now taking place in the examination system and the return to more knowledge based final assessments, it is important that we review how we prepare our students and further strengthen their learning, not simply for examinations but for the following stages of their learning journey and life!

To this end, we have developed a simple guide to learning which we are now embedding as good practice across all year groups. It is based upon a simple catch phrase of 'The 5Ps'. It sets out simply and clearly what is expected of students to support their learning.

The 5Ps —————> **Participate, Perfect, Prepare, Prioritise and Perform.**

1) Participate

Each student must be committed to their learning in lesson time. Without full participation, deep learning will not take place.

This is why we place so much importance upon attendance and attitude grades.

Please ensure full attendance, with your child arriving on time, equipped and prepared for the day.

Also, please encourage them in their school life.

2) Perfect

Each evening, a student should go through the lesson of the day to check their understanding of what they have learnt and that they are secure in this, so as to be ready to 'move on' in the next lesson.

We are encouraging the use of smiley faces for a student to rate how confident they are with each piece of work.

There is always homework in addition to set activities and you can help by asking about the day's lessons and how confident your child is with them.

You could add a smiley and sign it as well.



3) Prepare

We are encouraging every student to reflect each half term or at the end of a module of work by producing a summary note (a sort of revision sheet) so they can be confident of the work covered.

We will be introducing this into every year group and we will teach all students how to produce cards/mind maps so they can choose what suits them as a learning tool.

Again, at home, you can help in the construction of these and use them to check that learning has been embedded.

4) Prioritise

We have talked to all students about their learning being seen as a jigsaw. The aim is to fit all the pieces correctly together with no missing pieces.

If there are 'missing pieces' or elements that are not as secure, then these are the areas to prioritise checking and revision. Simply going over what is already learnt does not help an individual move forward.

At home, look out for an increasing use of 'Personalised Learning Checklists' (PLCs). These will be used to guide each student into knowing their own areas of strengths and what needs to be worked on.

and finally

5) Perform

Each individual needs to learn how to present their learning (and perform) when needed. That may be in a test or examination, but could equally be in lesson activities, homework, practical or presentations. We will teach each student how to do this in the correct way.

You can support this by attending Parent Briefing evenings such as the Year 11 'Shared Learning Event' or the Year 7 'Working Together' Evening. This way, you will be able to support and encourage in a more specific way.

These 5Ps may seem obvious, but we believe by focusing on and emphasising on these, each individual student and their parents will develop a clear understanding of where learning is strong and well embedded and where targeted extra effort will bring about significant further improvement.

Within all this, as a school, we are not losing our focus on the development of the whole student. Educational visits, sports, drama, music and leadership opportunities are all vital in the growth of every young person.

We would also still stress the old Mars Bar advertisement: 'Work, Rest and Play'.

Academic study is key in the life of every student as they grow and prepare for the years ahead. However, a balance including rest and play has never been more important with all the pressures of current life expectations resting on these young, but growing shoulders.