

5th October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about your son/daughter's upcoming Pre-Public Exam (PPE) in French speaking. These PPEs will take place for all students taking GCSE French between Monday 6th and Friday 17th November, and I am writing to keep you informed and to give you the opportunity to support your son or daughter as they prepare. The exam will be a valuable opportunity for the students to experience a full GCSE speaking exam; something that they have not done before, and which will form 25% of their full Year 11 PPE grade.

Organisation of these exams will be as follows:

Each student will be given a time to attend, during the fortnight specified above. It is essential that all students attend at the correct time because in the PPE, as in the actual GCSE, students must attend in a pre-specified sequence. They will come out of their normal timetabled lessons to attend their speaking exam, and will return to class immediately afterwards.

On arrival at the exam room, candidates will be given a period of time to prepare, according to the tier (Foundation or Higher) of exam that they are taking. They will then enter the exam room, where the PPE will be conducted face-to-face by their normal class teacher.

All candidates need to be prepared to complete:

- a Photo-card task
- a Rôle-play task
- a 'General Conversation' task

For the photo-card and rôle-play tasks, students will be briefed at the start of their preparation time. The task will be printed on a card, and they will have time allocated to think about what they might say, drawing on language they have learned and practised in class. For the general conversation they need to revise in advance, using the answers they have prepared over the GCSE course so far. Your son/daughter's teacher is currently working with them to ensure that this preparation has been done, and will make revision materials available for students to use. However, over the coming month, including half-term week, all students are expected to practise and revise regularly for this task.

In order for them to be adequately prepared, I would suggest that students should aim to study for around 20 minutes per day, on average, between now and the exam. If your son/daughter requires additional support to prepare, there are two Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) every week to provide this support. These run in TA92 on Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm, and on Friday lunchtimes from 12:45-1:15.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of your son/daughter's studies, and to wish them all the very best as they prepare for their PPEs, and subsequent GCSE examinations.

Yours Faithfully,

Ms L Findlay
Key Stage 4 Leader for French