



BONUS PASTOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Winlton Road Bromley Kent BR1 5PZ
Tel: 020 8695 2100 Fax: 020 8695 2105
Website: www.bonuspastor.co.uk
Email: office@bp.lewisham.sch.uk
Principal – Jonathan Ronan BSc (Hons)

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Information, Advice and Guidance for Year 11 Students and Parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this finds you well and that you are keeping safe.

Following guidance from Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), Year 11 will no longer be set work to complete towards their GCSE subjects. Year 11 students should now use this time to themselves for Post 16 study.

Ofqual have issued a message to GCSE candidates which I would encourage you to share with your child, as this will likely answer any questions that that may have regarding how their grades will be formulated.

The message to students can be accessed here -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878854/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Guidance for parents and carers can be accessed here -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf

College, Sixth Form and Apprenticeship Offers

I am keeping in close contact with Post 16 providers, and we will do all that we can to support a smooth transition to Year 12. In order to assist this, please remind your child to submit details of their conditional offers here if they have not already done so:

<https://forms.gle/K9Sc3wNkifRBIugS7>

If you or your child have any questions or queries about the transition to Post 16, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address below.

Preparing for Post 16 Study

There are a number of ways that your child can prepare themselves for Post 16 study – please see below. Details of these initiatives have been, and will continue to be, shared with students via their school email address and Google Classroom, so they should continue to log on to these platforms regularly.

It is vital that they use this time wisely to improve their employability and study skills – this will pay untold dividends for them in the future, and will also support their enrolment should they fall short of fully meeting entry requirements for their chosen courses; students who use this time to upskill themselves will be far more desirable to Post 16 providers and also future employers and Universities.

T H R O U G H F A I T H T O S U C C E S S

Vice Principals: John Ryan BA (Hons) and Caroline Delaney BA (Hons)

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark



In addition to this, subject teachers will upload subject-specific Post 16 preparatory tasks and reading materials for students on Google Classroom. These tasks will help students to begin to immerse themselves in the subjects they wish to study next year.

The VESPA Mindset Home Study Programme

Having the correct mindset for Post 16 study has never been more important. Showcasing and improving student commitment, motivation and productivity will be key over this period, and students now have the opportunity to develop and improve habits which will be vital for a successful transition to Sixth Form, College or Apprenticeships.

The VESPA Home Study Programme provides students with 8 activities to help them structure their time, reflect on their successes and set goals for improving study skills and mindset. During the lockdown period this programme is free and can be accessed here: <https://www.vespamindset.co.uk/courses>

This is a fully guided programme with YouTube tutorials and workbook activities that can be completed at one's own pace.

iDEA – The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award

This international programme will help students to develop key digital, enterprise and employability skills for free. Through a series of online challenges, students earn career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and gain industry-recognised awards to help them stand out from the crowd.

Awards are collated in a central Record of Achievement which can be shared with future employers as proof of skills acquired.

The iDEA courses can be accessed here: <https://idea.org.uk/>

EtonX – Creative Problem Solving Course from Eton College

Eton College are providing students with the opportunity to complete a Creative Problem Solving course for free. This course is designed to help students to develop skills in creative expression, both verbally and visually. Following completion of this course students will be equipped with advanced creative problem solving skills which they will be able to apply to both academic and work contexts in the future.

How to sign up to the EtonX course:

1. Visit the EtonX website and click [Sign up](#).
2. Choose Sign up with Access Code
3. Enter your Access Code - **N0HF14FY**
4. Follow the on-screen instructions. Please sign up with your **school email address**.
5. Congratulations! You can now get started on your course.

Students must sign up to this programme with their school email address. If they try to sign up with a personal email address the access code, which is unique to Year 11 Bonus Pastor Students, will not activate the account and they will be redirected to a payment page.

FutureLearn Online Courses

FutureLearn offer short-online courses which are accredited by a variety of UK University providers. These courses will help students prepare for future study, whilst also allowing them to explore subjects they may not have considered before. Each course requires commitment of around 3 hours work per week, and all course materials are provided online.

Follow this link to find out more: <https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects>

Virtual Careers Talks from Speakers for Schools

It is more important than ever for students to understanding the evolving job market that they will be entering in the not-too-distant future. In order to continue to inform and inspire students about future career opportunities, Speakers for Schools are hosting a programme of virtual careers talks with a range of professionals from different career backgrounds.

Students can view the talks in real-time (10.00am and 2.00pm Monday-Friday) or can stream them retrospectively. Students join anonymously and need not set up an account.

For more information on the programme of talks, and how to access these, please follow this link: <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

Virtual Careers Talks from SpringPod's Learn Lounge

Similar to the offer from Speakers for Schools, SpringPod have launched a series of careers talks from a variety of inspiring professionals which can be accessed here: <https://www.springpod.co.uk/learn-lounge/>

We are also in the process of partnering with BeReady – an online platform who provide accredited employability skills support for students. I will be in touch in due course with log-on information for students for this platform.

Students have also been sent the Bonus Pastor Charter from Home by Mr Lawrence. This has a range of extra-curricular activities that students can engage with, which will simultaneously keep their minds active and look favourable on their CVs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your child has any questions or queries about this, or any part of the transition to Post 16.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Hill

Leader of Information, Advice and Guidance
hillr@bp.lewisham.sch.uk