

20 April 2020

Dear Parents

Year 13 Post Easter Plans

I hope you have all had a wonderful Easter, albeit in unique circumstances. Thank you for the huge amount of positive and constructive feedback we received before the Easter break, it was much appreciated. We are immensely proud of how the school community has come together during this challenging time. With such challenges, opportunities can also arise. This current situation for Year 13 has allowed us the chance to review our usual plans for the summer term. We feel there is an opportunity to think outside the box and to be creative in what we can provide for your young men. With this in mind **after Easter students will continue to study their A Level subjects for two weeks**. In the third week of term, we have prepared for all students to complete an EtonX qualification in Creative Problem Solving.

EtonX (<https://etonx.com/>) creates innovative online courses and software for teenagers to develop the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Its *Future Skills Programme* is a series of short online courses designed to equip young people with the practical, entrepreneurial and transferable skills they need for university entrance and a successful career beyond.

During this period Eton have kindly made their courses freely available for schools. We have been offered one free course for Year 13. The course our students will enrol on is the Creative Problem-Solving Course. We feel this is the most relevant to all members of the year group. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop curiosity for creative problem-solving
- Generate lots of ideas
- Be playful with their ideas
- Refine and develop their ideas
- Take risks and learn from mistakes
- Persist with creative ideas
- Develop their visual and verbal creativity
- Be brave enough to share their creative ideas

I will send out login details shortly. We hope to start the course in Week 3 of this term. It will require 7-10 hours of self-study following the online resources. We would therefore expect students to complete the course during the week.

At the beginning of Week 4 this term we will encourage students to undertake Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs <https://www.mooc.org/>). Below is an extract from their website:

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses available for anyone to enrol. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance your career and deliver quality educational experiences at scale.

Millions of people around the world use MOOCs to learn for a variety of reasons, including career development, changing careers, college preparations, supplemental learning, lifelong learning, corporate eLearning & training, and more.

There are a vast number of courses of varying lengths to choose from. We will encourage your son to follow his passion to greater depths or discover a new passion. This self-study and discipline is important whatever his next steps in life will be. We will ask the students to keep in touch with their Form Tutor to share how they are getting on in their chosen area of study.

Their much-deserved Summer Holiday will begin on Monday 15 June.

We are bitterly disappointed that these young men have not been able to sit their public exams. However, there are great opportunities which we need to make the most of in the coming months. Through the courses above, we have a chance to give your sons a real springboard into next year, whether that is to university, an apprenticeship or employment.

Thank you for all the support you give your sons and the School. We really hope to be in a position this year to have a celebration to mark the end of your great journey with us at The RGS.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster