



Tuesday 21st April 2020

Dear Year 11 students and their families

Year 11 learning in the summer term

Congratulations for everything you have achieved in Year 11 so far. We are conscious that there will be mixed feelings as your GCSE courses have come to an abrupt end. We want you to know that the staff at Parkside have nothing but admiration for the amazing way in which you have responded. We know that many of you have been working hard at the tasks set on Google Classroom so far, but we also understand that motivation can be hard to sustain when these courses have now stopped.

Staff will now be working to submit information to the exam boards to support grades awarded this summer. We hope you will understand that this is something which we won't be able to discuss with you as we work through this process.

We have come to the decision to change our approach to what we will expect from you from now on. We want the focus to be much more upon developing your wider knowledge and preparing for your next steps and future courses.

This is what we expect you to be doing with this time:

- Keeping safe, staying at home, spending time with your family. Follow the Government instructions.
- Post-16 preparation tasks - these will be set by your subject teachers for the subjects you are interested in doing next year, whether here or elsewhere. You will also have the choice of combining this with other preparation tasks set by another provider if you are planning to go to a different college. Our aim is to produce tasks **in the next two weeks** and we will let you know when these are 'live'.
- MOOCs - we expect you to choose and take part in at least three MOOCs over the next five weeks (please see below)
- Extended Essay or Extended Project Qualification preparation work.
- Continued English and Maths GCSE work **if** you were not securely working at a grade 4 or higher in school
- Other personal skills and knowledge development - see below for some ideas!

Daily setting of work on Google Classroom will now stop. Please spend the rest of this week working through some of the suggestions in this letter, choosing a selection of activities which suit your interests and future ambitions. **We will then begin sharing further work to 'bridge' your way to your future courses next week.**

We recommend that you keep a brief online record of what you are working on over these five weeks and share the document with your tutor via Google Drive. We will review this with you after the half-term break.



Led by the United Learning Trust in collaboration with Cambridge Academic Partnership.

Executive Head Teacher: Craig Morrison

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Getting ready for the next stage

Heads of Department and their teams are planning tasks and activities to help you consolidate what you have learned from GCSE as well as introducing some of the new topics, concepts, ideas and skills which you will need to succeed at IB or A-Level. We will let you know when this is available.

All about MOOCs

As well as completing the preparation tasks for next year we would like to challenge all our Year 11 students to enrol in at least three MOOCs across the next five weeks. These could relate to your IB, A-Level or university choices, skills you would like to learn or topics you are interested in.

MOOC stands for Massive Open Online Course - these are courses run by universities which are open access.

There are MOOCs available in any subject that you can study at university. Most MOOCs run for between 2-4 weeks but you can take them at the pace that's right for you.

MOOC providers usually charge a fee for certification - i.e at the end of the course you can pay a fee (this varies but it could be £50 - £60) to receive a certificate of completion. You **don't** need to pay this to study the course and you mustn't feel that you have to do so.

Future Learn	The main hub for online courses from UK universities, run by the Open University.
EdX	A hub for online courses from US universities and around the world.
Coursera	Courses from universities around the world as well as some museums and tech companies.
Harvard University	Harvard has masses of very interesting MOOCs on its site.
MyMooc	A useful MOOC search engine
Udemy	Mainly technical or professional skills-related courses - most courses require a payment.

Here is just a selection of really interesting courses we have found:

[Antiquities trafficking and art crime \(University of Glasgow\)](#)

[Making babies in the 21st century \(UCL\)](#)

[Dangerous questions: why academic freedom matters \(University of Oslo\)](#)

[Understanding English dictionaries \(University of Coventry\)](#)

[Shakespeare's Othello \(Harvard\)](#)

[Youth Mental Health: Helping Young People with Anxiety \(UEA\)](#)

Making an Impact - EtonX course

Eton College have given us access to their [online course on 'Making an Impact'](#) - this looks like a really useful personal development course which will help you to be more assertive and influential and to make your voice and opinions heard. We would like all of our Year 11 students to complete this project to help them to make the most of sixth form. We will send out login details for you all once we have them.

Massolit courses

Another great site to use to develop your knowledge ahead of your College course is [Massolit](#). This site has short video lectures from academics on a massive range of topics in History, Classics, Psychology, Philosophy, Politics and English Literature. I have signed Parkside up for free use of these resources during the lockdown - please make the most of this opportunity and do let us know if you think this is something you have found useful. Please use these login details:

www.massolit.io

Username: jcs010@jconlineresources.org

Password: JCSHypothesis

You will be able to access the wealth of content on the site until May 19th.

Preparing for your Extended Essay or Extended Project Qualification

A core part of the IB is an Extended Essay which must explore a question that engages you, through research. If you go on to study A Level, centres will also give you the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification, which is very similar. We would like to challenge year 11 students to begin the process of thinking, planning and research for the Essay or Project now. Our current Year 12 Extended Essay students are making amazing use of their time at home to read, write and complete research tasks. We will be in touch in a couple of days with details about how to get started on your project.

Radio 4 podcasts

If you haven't yet discovered the amazing wealth of audio podcasts available from the BBC now is the time to try them out. As well as developing your subject knowledge, listening to audio podcasts will help develop your listening and your academic communication skills. This list was borrowed from Guildford High School and reproduced here with thanks!

[In our Time](#) – Discussions on a range of different topics hosted by Melvyn Bragg, generally exploring the history of ideas. Current episodes available include the emancipation of the serfs, democracy in America, the proton and Rosalind Franklin.

[Seriously](#) - This covers a whole range of different topics; it is a programme of 'quirky and curiously interesting documentaries'. The episodes entitled 'the vet with two brains' and 'the mysteries of sleep' should be of interest to Psychology students, the episode on 'the church in crisis' may interest Theology students. There is a whole range of different topics to browse.

[The Moral Maze](#) - Discussions on the ethics of a whole range of different topics including the morality of big data (for potential computer scientists), and the morality of international aid (of interest to those applying for International Relations). If you browse the topic titles, there is probably a title here for everyone!

[Thinking Allowed](#) - This programme explores new research into how society works. Individual episodes should be of interest to anyone considering Law ('Law and Order'), Politics ('The Internet and Democracy' and 'Populism') and Economics ('Universal Basic Income – could it work?'). Lots of episodes should be of interest to anyone considering HSPS, PPE and Sociology.

[Costing the Earth](#) - Of interest to geographers and biologists, as well as others; there are episodes available on the thawing of the permafrost in the Alps, the shifting seasons, green energy and Columbia.

[The Life Scientific](#) - These science podcasts is a must for anyone studying sciences - in each episode a working scientist speaks to Jim Al-Khalili about their working life and research. Currently there are episodes available on Communication in Apes, the Genetics of Flowering, the Genetics of Cancer, Marine Conservation, Nuclear fusion, Saturn, Pluto, and Polymers. For Psychology students there is an episode on how memories are made and an episode on the psychology of crowds.

[Great Lives](#) - Explores and discusses the contributions of different individuals to their particular fields and wider society; if you browse you will find authors, politicians, mathematicians, in addition to better-known historical figures.

[All in the Mind](#) – A fantastic series for anyone interested in Psychology exploring aspects of psychology and mental health.

Developing your skills and being creative

This is a great opportunity to develop some important life skills and to try things out. There are tutorials for all these things on Youtube - but please do ask other people in your household to share their expertise and knowledge too!

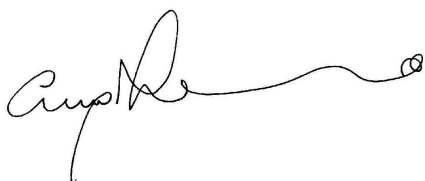
- Learning to cook
- Learning to touch type
- Learning practical skills like DIY or gardening or wiring an electric plug (with supervision please!)
- Learning a language
- Learning a craft (crochet, weaving, carpentry?)
- Writing: journalism, poetry, short stories
- Photography, painting, drawing.

Reading and research

I'm sure I don't need to encourage Parkside students to read but please do make sure you have time in your daily schedule for reading and research. Try to read some books connected with your post-16 choices (your subject teachers will send you suggestions next week) but also include some books to read for escape and for pleasure.

Well done again for everything you have achieved so far. Please remember what I said about this not being the end of your time at Parkside - we will make sure that there are great opportunities to celebrate your time here together and we will be keeping in regular contact. Please do also get in contact with us if you need to.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Morrison', with a long, flowing horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig Morrison

Executive Headteacher