



Your Guided Home Learning Programme for successful transfer to A Level

REMEMBER:

It's happening to you now but don't let it
define your future...



The resilience, determination and collegiality each member of your 2020 cohort has shown in the face of disruption to your GCSE examinations has been incredibly impressive.

**Each one of you embodies our school motto:
'May her character and talents inspire others.'**

We all share your sense of disappointment but, as you – our GCSE class – have been reminding each other, the absence of the final examinations does not take away or devalue your learning, your hard work nor the knowledge and skills you have acquired.

THESE WILL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER!



As you look to your future, the message is clear: you should not let the recent events – over which you have no control – define you.

So, to help you with this, we are excited to launch our **OWN it** programme designed specifically for Croydon High's Year 11 pupils.

Read on to find out how this will work and what benefits it will bring you,
both now and in the future.

What is OWN it?

OWN it for Croydon High's GCSE students, is a six-week programme which we believe will give you a renewed sense of purpose and motivation in preparation for your A levels and for sixth form life.

It is important that you know this opportunity is for all Year 11 students.

Whether you are staying with us for sixth form, or are planning to go elsewhere, as far as we are concerned you are a Croydon High pupil for life.

We will do everything we can to support you and to help you progress to the next stage – whatever that is.

OWN it – Stage 1

The first priority is to ensure that we have everything we need to ensure that your final assessment does justice to your ability and to all the work and effort that you have already put in.

We cannot communicate to you exactly what we will need for this until we have more information from the Government.

However, we assure you that this is our top priority.

Once we have clarity on what the grades will be based upon, we will be working with you to ensure everything is in place.

We have already begun collating any information we think will be necessary and those who have finished teaching the course will begin setting past papers for departments to mark.

OWN it – Stage 2

Six Weeks to Step up to Sixth Form

All students – including those of you who are joining us or going to study elsewhere – will enrol on six-week pre-A level courses in the subjects you wish to study at A level.

This means most students will enrol on three different courses.

Guided Home Learning on these courses will start as soon as we are confident we have everything we need for Stage 1.

There will be an assessment period at some point after May half term.

OWN it – Stage 3

Assessment

The purpose of these courses and the subsequent assessments will be three-fold.

- The assessments will confirm entry into our Sixth Form through awarding satisfactory grades in the subjects you have chosen for A level.
- The pre-course and subsequent assessments will help every candidate confirm that their A level subject choices are suitable.
- The assessments will also give you an idea of how you are likely to perform in similar tests once you start your chosen A level programme.



OWN it – five key areas which together will prepare you for your future.

1. VESPA: Study Skills – bringing OWN it together

Throughout the **OWN it** programme, we will introduce and begin to embed the **VESPA** system, which forms the basis of our Sixth Form programme at Croydon High.

VESPA promotes the importance of specialist non-academic skills that improve academic success.

VESPA draws together current thinking from psychology, business and elite performance in sport to inspire, motivate and support each student, ensuring you achieve your full potential.

VESPA focusses on common behaviours and characteristics in five key areas, which all students need to be successful.

Vision	The degree to which you know what you want to achieve
Effort	The number of hours of proactive independent study you are willing to do
Systems	The level to which you organise your learning resources
Practice	The level to which you commit to practising and developing your skills
Attitude	The way you respond constructively to setbacks

2. A level Plus

The courses, run by staff who are passionate about their subjects, will cover material from the A level specifications but may also go beyond these boundaries.

This is how we work towards embedding a lifelong love of your chosen subjects and a love of learning for its own sake.

3. Tutorial-Style Teaching & Learning

Following the model chosen by the elite Russell Group of universities, teaching and learning for the **OWN it** programme will be carried out in small guided home learning groups.

Students will be required to do reading and assignments in preparation for regular tutorials led by the subject-specialist teacher.

Students will also be required to complete project work and peer-to-peer teaching.

4. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Most students will begin to study for **The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**, which is a piece of work which requires careful planning, preparation, research and independent study and takes place over the Lower Sixth.

Importantly, this piece of work can be in the form of a five thousand word research essay or something that the exam board call an artefact – a piece of creative writing, music, drama, art etc.

The **EPQ** gives students the opportunity to research a topic of your own interest; this does not have to be based on a subject that you are studying, but most students choose a topic related to university or employment ambitions.

5. Assessment & Progression

After the May half term, you will have an ‘open book’ assessment (to be carried out virtually if we are still on lockdown) where you are given the opportunity to demonstrate your learning in each six-week course.

You will need to achieve the subject-specific entry requirements set out in our **Sixth Form Course Guide** in order to begin A level study with us in that subject in September.

In addition, all students will be set summer work by each subject which you will need to complete to confirm your A level place in September, especially if you wish to enrol on our **Oxbridge Pathway**.

Importantly, you will have a sense of achievement and recognition, knowing that you rose to this challenge, you seized opportunities and you progressed.

For those moving on, you will have something that demonstrates your commitment and ability to your next school or college; something that shows you are not just any student – you are a Croydon High student!

You OWNED it!

That is something to celebrate and something that we **WILL** celebrate – together – as soon as we possibly can.



Croydon High School

for girls aged 3-18yrs

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST