



Your Guided Home Learning Programme for successful transfer to University and life after Croydon High

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 A level 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 amazing Class of 2020 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 Upper Sixth students.

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 is an enrichment programme for our A level students which we believe will give you a renewed sense of purpose and motivation in preparation for the next stage of your life...after Croydon High.

We will do everything we can to support you and to help you realise your dreams and ambitions.

OWN it – Stage 1

On 26 March 2020 Ofqual released a statement describing the processes which will determine the awarding of GCSE and A level grades this year.

This meant we could confirm our plans to ensure your final assessment does justice to your ability and to all the work and effort that you have already put in.

Upper Sixth teaching - The next few weeks

Pupils can now finish their A level courses over the first three weeks of next term, with final lessons on Wednesday, May 6th.

Why are we carrying on teaching?

1. To fully prepare you with the knowledge and skills you will need for the next stage of your education – and your life.
2. To give you a chance to showcase the progress you have made since your mock exams – although you must remember that your grades will be based on your progress throughout the course – not just on the final few weeks.
3. If you make the decision to re-take any exams after the summer in order to try and improve any specific grades, we want to ensure you can maximise the teaching time available to you now.

OWN it – Stage 2

A chance to get ready for Life after Croydon High

Students will enrol on our Upper Sixth **OWN it** course.

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

OWN it is a GDST-wide initiative devised and led by Croydon High. You will be sharing resources and gaining access to some of the most inspiring mentors from across our network.

OWN it will cover four key areas which together will prepare you for your future.

1. UniBook Club

Subject specialist staff will lead regular virtual discussion groups on research linked to your chosen university courses.

Each of you will receive bespoke reading lists to ensure you are academically ready for university study.

You will be encouraged to complete written assignments stimulated by your reading.

You will be interacting with educationalists who are passionate about their subjects and who are ready to share that passion with you.

2. TED or MOOC?

You will have the opportunity to watch recommended **TED** talks and complete **MOOC** (massive open online courses) linked to your chosen university course.

This is a fantastic chance to ‘get ahead’ preparing you for the high levels of self-motivation you will need for University study.

3. Real Life Skills

To help Upper Sixth students prepare for ‘real life’ after Croydon High, we will run a series of life skills sessions via **Google Meet**.

These sessions will include subjects such as:

- **managing your finances**
- **self-defence**
- **cyber security**
- **diet and exercise**
- **car maintenance**

4. Personal Alumna Mentorship

We are already working to link each Upper Sixth pupil with a member of our large alumnae network.

Someone who is working towards or who has already completed a university degree which is similar to the one upon which you are about to embark.

Ideally, someone who is already studying at your first choice Uni – or if this is not possible, we will link you with one ‘academic buddy’ and one ‘uni-buddy’.



We want you to leave Sixth Form with the skills and knowledge you need to lead a happy, healthy and fulfilled life.

We believe that completing the **OWN it** programme will give you a 'head start' when you begin that exciting new stage – be that a university course, a gap year or anything else you decide to do.

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

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

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST