



## 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 GCSE students, is a 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

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.

### Year 11 teaching – The next few weeks

Pupils can now finish their GCSE or 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

### Step up to Sixth Form

After finishing your GCSE courses on Wednesday 6 May, all students – including those joining us at Croydon High and those going to study elsewhere – will enrol on pre-A level courses in the subjects they wish to study in sixth form.

For most students this will involve three different courses and Guided Home Learning will let you experience the very different sort of teaching and learning you will enjoy in sixth form helping you prepare for a smooth transition.

## OWN it – Stage 3

### Subject and Self-Assessment

At the end of these courses, there will be an opportunity for assessment – by the teachers and, importantly, by you.

Informal ‘end of unit’ tests, run by each department, will give you the chance to demonstrate how and what you have learned.

There will also be an opportunity for you to reflect on the subject choices you have made and if they are right for you.

These assessments will NOT confirm entry into our Sixth Form which will still be gained through achieving satisfactory grades in the subjects you have chosen for A level.

But of course, on GCSE results day, as we do each year, we will meet with any pupils and their parents for whom this poses a concern.



**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 cultivate the necessary skills and possibly study for **The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**. This 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.

Early planning for this will be a real benefit in terms of balancing work priorities in September.

### 5. Assessment & Progression

After the May half term, you will have an informal assessment where you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your learning in each course.

There will be opportunities for you to reflect upon – and discuss with teachers – your subject choices.



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