



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

9 February 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we move into the last couple of terms prior to exams, I wanted to make you aware of the conversations I have had with all A level and GCSE PE students.

Having spoken with a number of you at parents evening or in passing, I am sure you are already aware of the areas covered below, however for reference;

## **Extra Work**

The aerobic studio is available every lunchtime, after school and in free periods in order for students to do extra work (on top of work set), for example past papers or revision notes. This is supervised by myself and the other PE staff, but is really a time for the boys to have planned what they personally need to get on with and use the space and time effectively. There should be a constant level of background work happening in preparation for the summer.

For those in Y12 and Y13 we have a bank of PE Pods written by the examiners. These can be accessed on the Q drive at school, downloaded and taken home by the students. For those that learn well via listening or for commutes, this is an excellent tool to aid revision and learning, especially for tricky topics. They are relevant also to those doing GCSE. Q:\PE\AS Files\AS PE Pods and Q:\PE\A2 Files\A2 PE Pods.

## **Past Papers**

The use of past papers and mark schemes is crucial. These are available in hard copy in the aerobic studio for use by the boys and are also on our website via the following link: <http://www.bws-school.org.uk/Curriculum-Exams/PE/> under student resources.

These should be used to not only practice answering questions, but to guide revision and the highlighting of key points within notes. PE is notoriously hard to score well in and so the boys must be precise in their use of key terms and definitions. Answering questions as set out in the mark schemes will afford the examiner the opportunity to give marks more readily.

## **Long Answer Questions**

The answering of longer questions should be practiced under timed and space limiting conditions. Each mark is generally afforded 2 lines in an exam paper with some extra for long questions, but a 10 mark answer (for AS PE) shouldn't be longer than an A4 side as a measure. The time afforded should be stressed as well with between 20-30 minutes maximum. Practising under these pressures will prepare students for the rigours of the exam. Again the use of past papers should be used in preparation to help structure an answer with correct use of paragraphs and development of points.



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## **Marking of Practice Papers**

Please encourage students to see the PE staff to help them, including to mark past papers if required. Having marked the prelims we have been able to give individual feedback. However without students readdressing these issues and ironing out the weaknesses in proximity to the feedback, its positive impact is potentially lost.

## **Practical**

Boys in Y13 and Y11 should aim to have all practical footage completed by after half term unless already discussed with the relevant member of staff. Those in Y10 who are skiing may wish to collect footage. Those in Y12 using a summer sport should collect footage this coming summer to relieve pressure next year.

I hope this letter finds you well and hopefully this has either highlighted or reinforced what has been said previously. We as a department wish the boys all the best in the next few months as they prepare for their summer exams. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or have any suggestions as to what we may do in addition to support your son.

Kind regards

Richard Demain-Griffiths  
Director of Sport