

Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evenings take place in early September. Here, parents and carers are able to attend seminars in which a range of information is given out. This includes any changes to the curriculum or assessment, advice and guidance on supporting young people in Mathematics and English, High Prior Attainers, teaching and learning, student and parent/carers services, attendance and many more.

The meeting with the Head of Year is essential for parents and carers, as at this session they discuss what lies ahead for students as they move into studying for their GCSE's is explained.

Learning and Activity Days

As part of the Raising Aspirations Programme, PSHE (*Personal, Social and Health Education*) and CIAG (*Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance*) students participate in a number of bespoke programmes. 'Future Matters' is a theatre presentation which explains the importance of education, inspires students to set achievable goals and increases motivation, whilst raising aspirations for the future.

University Focus Days

Visits to universities become more focused as students plan and prepare for their post-16 pathways into higher education. Students are offered a range of different opportunities and bespoke sessions, depending on their GCSE options and interests beyond GCSE. Some of the sessions on offer are: science, criminology, sociology, humanities tasters, as well as GCSE revision techniques and English and Mathematics 'raising the grade' days.

Subject Specific Assemblies

The Raising Aspirations Programme aims to enhance student learning by delivering a range of enjoyable assemblies for different subjects. Some of these assemblies are designed to combine with the different topics the students are studying, while some are aimed at raising interest in certain subjects.

Mentoring

Students who are at risk of under-achieving will be mentored their Form Tutor, Assistant Head of Year, Head of Year or a member of the engagement team. Some students may be supported by a Peer Mentor or Prefect. The aim is to identify the individual support they require and work to improve their engagement in learning, through a positive support system.

Specific to Year 10

In this important year, Year 10 students begin their GCSE journey and also start to consider their post-16 career pathways in more depth, from a range of choices including Sixth Form, apprenticeships or training and college. Contact with the careers and pastoral team increases again, as we step up the level of advice and guidance that all students receive in response to their individual need.

The aim of the Raising Aspirations Programme in Year 10 is for students to feel fully prepared to make key decisions when they return in September to start Year 11. The process for this begins in the September of Year 10 and runs through to the end of the spring term of Year 11; a whole year during which students receive a structured programme of support and guidance to enable them to make informed choices.

The meeting with the Head of Year is essential for parents and carers, as at this session they discuss what lies ahead for students as they move into studying for their GCSE's is explained.

Specific to Year 11

Year 11 is demanding for students in terms of workload and examinations, but also due to post-16 option choices they have to make. Contact with our staff remains at a high level, as we continue the support we began in Year 10. By the end of Year 11, all students will have their future pathway in place: Sixth Form, a college, apprenticeship or training.

In the autumn term of Year 11 Students who are not planning to stay on for Sixth Form at The Pingle Academy are invited to attend a meeting with Careers Torch. As the term progresses, there will be those who require further meetings, whom we will work closely with to ensure that all students receive the support that they need. The aim of these meetings is to firm up plans for each student's post-16 education, from a range of choices and to ensure that applications are made on time.

Sixth Form Open Evening

In early November, Year 11 students and parents and carers are invited to the Sixth Form Open Evening, where they can access further information on subject choices (including meeting subject teachers), life in the Sixth Form (with a talk from the Head of Sixth Form) and also gather information on college, apprenticeships and training and higher education.

Many of our Year 11 students apply to stay on for Sixth Form at The Pingle Academy. In addition to completing a formal application form and attending an interview with the Leadership Team/Head of Sixth Form, offers of a place in Sixth Form are dependent upon mock GCSE results, together with a review of previous behaviour and attendance. Applications for Sixth Form are due by the end of the January, interviews take place in February/March and conditional offers of a place in Sixth Form are made in March. Final places in Sixth Form are formalised only when GCSE results are published in August.

University Experiences

In Year 11, students will be invited to participate in programmes with more academic focus. These activities include: GCSE revision techniques, English and Mathematics 'raising the grade' days.

Contact Details

Our aim is for the Raising Aspirations programme to be responsive to the needs of the students in each year group, and we want to work with parents, carers and the wider community to provide the best possible opportunities for the young people of The Pingle Academy.

If you have any questions relating to the programme, or any ideas/suggestions, please contact Mrs Janet Gostick at jgostick.pingle@defererstrust.com

Careers education, information and guidance - Mr D Riley, Assistant Vice Principal:
driley.pingle@deferrerstrust.com

Sixth Form advice - Ms J Wilson, Head of Sixth Form: jwilson.pingle@deferrerstrust.com