



Padworth College - Summer Term Newsletter

Greetings from the Principal

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." Albert Einstein

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter. Never has this quote from Einstein been truer. This term we have seen phenomenal changes in the education of our students. I have been both stunned and delighted at the resilience and strength of both students and staff in their ability to adapt to new challenges whilst smiling. I have enjoyed walking through the virtual classrooms of Padworth and seeing students in their new world continuing to stretch and challenge their understanding of concepts.



The College's 'Off Timetable Days' have provided a fun and much needed change of direction and I look forward to sharing some of the inspiring and thought-provoking work with you in the next few months. The most important feature of the last three months has been the strength and support within the Padworth community; these things come from mutual respect and tolerance of one another which in the last year, I have been delighted to have seen are the cornerstone of the Padworth ethos and one which is very clearly virus resistant!

Academic Highlights

On Friday 3 April, Ofqual confirmed that GCSE and A Level examination grades will be awarded based on a combination of Centre Assessment Grades and board standardisation:

Centre Assessment: Schools will be asked to provide grades for candidates that are *"fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades that schools and colleges believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams"*, alongside a rank order of students within each grade for each subject.

Standardisation Process: Ofqual has said the model will be expected to include *"evidence such as the expected national outcomes for this year's students, the prior attainment of students at each school and college (at cohort, not individual level) and the results of the school or college in recent years"*.

Importantly, schools were required to provide evidence for their students no earlier than May 29. The College has a wealth of data from which to rank students and plot a grade trajectory. In addition to the mock examinations sat in January, throughout the academic year, all students have been subject to Saturday morning testing (2 x 1 hour tests). In addition, teachers continued to prepare students during the first half of the Summer Term, as if they were going to sit examination papers, with a focus on the development of problem solving skills when answering questions and continued development of an increasingly insightful answering style.

The College has now submitted grades for all students who were due to sit I/GCSEs and A Levels and we look forward to the publication of results in August.

Health and Wellbeing

At Padworth, we understand that the mental health and wellbeing of our students has a direct impact on their ability to reach their academic potential, and this has become even more important during this period of time where students are studying online, away from the close-knit community and college environment at Padworth. Our weekly Pastoral Tutorials have provided a supportive and positive space to discuss a variety of topics relating to students' health, happiness and wellbeing. Students have been encouraged to share their ideas and advice on adapting to online learning, as well as being given advice on mindfulness, coping with stress and anxiety, good sleeping patterns and keeping physically active at home. The concept of 'Exercise Snacking' on Wellbeing Wednesdays has proved popular!

HAVE YOU HEARD OF EXERCISE SNACKING?

Exercise Snacking is essentially bitesized bursts of exercise a few times a day. This can be in many different variations but why not try this...

5 minutes, 3 times a day. Pick 5 moves that you can do and you enjoy doing. Do each one for 30 seconds with 30 seconds rest in between.

Exercises could include:

- Standing knee raises
- Squats
- Skipping
- Lunges
- Jumping Jacks
- Step ups
- Mountain Climbers
- Fast Punches
- Burpees
- Or anything else you can think of!

Why dont you try this in the 15 minute breaks in between your lessons and come back here and tell us how you get on?

WELLBEING WEDNESDAYS

Padworth at Home

Earlier this term, as we settled into our new routines of remote learning from home, the Padworth community came together to produce the College's first 'community video' based on the theme: 'Padworth at Home'. Staff and students were asked to film themselves studying, working or reading at home in an unusual or weird way! The result was both creative and funny and can be viewed here: <https://www.padworth.com/about-us/gallery/#videos>

Lockdown Art

When in College, we seek to provide a holistic education to our students. We want our students to develop not only as academics, but also as individuals. To this end, we provide opportunities for students to try learning some different skills, in a different way and in a different style. The students typically work on a project that is practical and creative, to make something that must be thought about, planned and then brought into being within, as part of what we refer to as an "Off Timetable (OTT) Day".

Earlier this term and as part of the Padworth Online programme, we organised OTT Days at the end of May. The students worked remotely in groups, with different people from those they are with during their classroom lessons. The programme included the usual features of a different type of learning, done in a practical way, and involved a collaborative approach, despite students being physically separated from one another. One of the initiatives was 'Lockdown Art', some of the results of which can be seen here:



Padworth Online - Student Feedback

The transition to online learning has not been without challenges for staff and student alike. We are however delighted with how well our students have adapted to remote learning, despite these challenges. Towards the start of the Summer Term, we asked the students to share their feedback on Padworth Online. Feedback was generally positive, with 75% of the student body reporting that they felt they were progressing at the same rate or a faster rate compared to being enrolled on campus. Students also commented that were enjoying having to manage their own time, having more time for personal research and that their self-motivation had increased.

Masterclass Webinar Programme

In response to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, Padworth College has been hosting a series of webinars or 'masterclasses', focused on informing agents and parents of prospective students about the various routes to top universities in the UK and some of the key areas to focus on in relation to preparing for university entry. Topics covered to date have included:

- Foundation Programmes - A Pathway to Top Universities
- University Admissions - Navigating the UCAS Process
- University Admissions - Perfecting the Personal Statement and Admissions Tests

The materials presented at these seminars are available on the College's website: <https://www.padworth.com/agents/webinars/>

Future scheduled webinars include:

- Thursday 18 June: The Extended Project Qualification
- Thursday 2 July: NCUK International Foundation Year Overview of NCUK Partner

If you would like further details, please contact admissions@padworth.com

Autumn Term 2020 - Readiness for Re-opening

At Padworth, we are planning to re-open, when it is safe to do so. Whilst the situation is continually evolving, we are delighted to share our 'Readiness for Re-opening' brochure, which highlights the steps in place to ensure that the health, safety and well-being of all students and staff will be our priority whilst studying at Padworth College.



The Boarding School Association (BSA) has recently published its Covid-Safe Charter. Padworth College is a member of the BSA and we fully support all of the measures outlined in the Charter. Padworth's Readiness for Re-opening guidelines are consistent with the essential advice and guidance outlined in the BSA's Charter. We will continue to review these guidelines, in light of guidance from the UK Government, the BSA and best practice around the world, as we continue to plan for re-opening in September.

To view and download, please click here:

<https://www.padworth.com/readiness-for-re-opening/>

Online Visits

As it is impossible to welcome agents and families to Padworth College at present we would like to remind you that we would be extremely happy to arrange a 'Virtual Visit' where you can meet key members of staff and have a look around Padworth. We will do these on an individual basis which will give you, and or the families, an opportunity to have a personal visit and see for yourselves how unique and special we really are, so please do get in touch to book a visit admissions@padworth.com

Availability for September 2020 and January 2021

We still have places available across all programmes for September 2020 and January 2021. Whilst we are very much hoping that students will enrol on campus in September, we expect to continue to offer all of our academic programmes online, as part of our Padworth Online provision. For further details, please contact Clare McNally, Registrar at admissions@padworth.com

