

18 March 2011

To all Year 10 and 11 Parents

Dear Parents

PGS Extend Celebration Evening – Monday 4 April

I am writing to warmly invite you and your son or daughter to the PGS Extend Evening. The event commences with drinks at 7.00 pm in the Dining Hall, where there will be an opportunity to speak with pupils about their work as well as see and hear the results of their research. The evening continues in the David Russell Theatre at 7.30 pm with poetry and music recitals and presentations given by a selection of pupils who produced the best research. The evening will finish by 9.00 pm.

PGS Extend is a piece of independent research, undertaken over the summer holidays, that leads to a considered and individual project. This is usually an essay, but it can also be a physical project such as a piece of art or design work, a composition or even a blog.

We plan to launch the Extend project to all pupils across the school next term, but with the expectation that this would be completed by all those in Year 12. Many pupils from other year groups have taken the opportunity to carry out a piece of research and have had it formally assessed. We would therefore encourage all those in Years 10 and 11 interested in PGS Extend and their parents to attend the evening to celebrate the achievements of those pupils who have completed their projects.

The PGS Extend celebration evening is an opportunity to hear about the exceptional research carried out by PGS pupils. PGS Extend projects and IB Extended Essays enable pupils to explore areas of personal interest and develop essential research and presentation skills for life beyond school. This year there will be presentations on wide-ranging themes: from salt efflorescences at Fishbourne Roman Palace to the furniture designs of Zaha Hadid and the life of the American academic William H. Prescott.

At the end of the evening one pupil will be awarded the Ithaca prize for 2010 for their PGS Extend project by the High Sheriff for Hampshire, Mr Alan Lovell.

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University admissions tutors are placing a greater emphasis on independent study. Reference to this independent research in personal statements and at interview is well received – it has been particularly pleasing to see that the project has both stretched our pupils academically and that this has also been recognised by the universities where PGS pupils apply.

We would be delighted to see you at this event. It promises to stimulate and provide ideas for future PGS Extend projects and IB Extended Essays.

I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance by completing the form below or by emailing the Sixth Form Secretary at j.williams@pgs.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

N D Gallop
Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)

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To: Mr N D Gallop, The Portsmouth Grammar School

PGS Extend evening – Monday 4 April

Pupil's name Tutor

I/We will be attending the PGS Extend Evening

Parent/Guardian signature Date

Number in party (including pupil)