

18 March 2011

## **To all Year 12 Parents**

Dear Parents

### **PGS Extend Celebration Evening – Monday 4 April**

On Monday 4 April all Year 12 pupils are required to attend the PGS Extend Evening and I am writing to warmly invite you to accompany your son or daughter to the event. The evening 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.

All A Level pupils in Year 12 will complete a PGS Extend project, which 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 Year 12 A Level pupils next term. Last year we offered this to all pupils across the School but with the expectation that this would be completed by all those in Year 12. We would therefore encourage all those in Year 12 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](mailto: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) .....