

Year 11 PPEs – FAQs

PPE EXAMS

- **When are the PPE exams?**

The second set of PPEs in 2026 will be Monday 2nd March to Thursday 12th March (inclusive).

- **Where can I find the PPE timetable?**

It will be available on the Year 11 Exam Information webpage.

- **Are PPEs important?**

Yes. PPEs help teachers identify strengths and areas for improvement, and they help students practise exam routines and expectations. If there were any issues with GCSE exams, they could also be used by teachers to generate contingency grades for the exam boards.

- **Will PPE results affect final GCSE grades?**

PPEs do not directly determine GCSE grades, but they strongly inform predicted grades and the support provided to students. They can also help students inform their revision.

EXAM DAY EXPECTATIONS

- **Does my child still need to attend morning registration?**

Yes. All students must register with their mentor every morning before exams. They will then need to go and line up promptly by the sports hall or their allocated room. Please note that for the sports hall, students will be lining up outside. We were hoping for more clement weather for our March PPEs but given the recent forecast (!), students should make sure that they have a waterproof coat or an umbrella with them so that they remain dry and comfortable when sitting the PPEs.

- **What equipment does my child need?**

Students should bring the required equipment for each subject in a clear pencil case or bag. Teachers will provide information for equipment required for specific subjects.

- **Can my child bring a drink or food into the exam?**

Yes, drinks are allowed in the exams but this must be still water only, contained within a clear unlabelled bottle. This must also have a sports cap to avoid spillages. Opaque, Screw cap bottles, with any writing upon, will not be allowed.

Food is not allowed in the examination – Medical exemptions (e.g. diabetes) will have other arrangements, please check with LS and exam team in this case.

- **Can my child borrow equipment on the day?**

We strongly encourage students to come fully prepared, as equipment cannot always be provided.

- **What are the rules around toilet breaks?**

Students should avoid toilet breaks unless medically necessary. All breaks are logged, and repeated patterns may be investigated by exam boards. Students may often feel like they need the loo towards the start of the exam but this is a normal reaction to nerves and soon dissipates as they start the paper. Please encourage your child to visit the toilet before the exam and discuss with them how to best manage this aspect.

- **Are mobile phones allowed?**

No. Mobile phones, digital devices and all watches are not permitted on the person of any candidate during an exam.

- **What happens if a student accidentally brings a phone or watch into the exam?**

This must be handed in before entering the exam room. If a device is found on a student during the exam, it may be treated as malpractice.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

- **My child has access arrangements. Will these be in place for PPEs?**

Yes. All arrangements have been agreed by Learning Support, communicated to students and parents and planned for. Please contact learning support if unsure.

- **Can access arrangements be changed before the PPEs?**

No. At this stage, changes can only be made in emergency situations (such as a broken arm, for instance).

- **My child has recently been diagnosed with a learning need. Can arrangements be added now?**

Please contact Learning Support, but new arrangements cannot usually be added at this stage unless there are exceptional circumstances.

ATTENDANCE & WELLBEING

- **What should I do if my child is unwell on the day of a PPE?**

Please contact the school as early as possible. We will advise on next steps depending on the nature of the illness.

- **Can my child sit a missed PPE at another time?**

This may be possible in some cases but cannot be guaranteed due to timetable

constraints. Please note that this will NOT be possible for the public exams in May / June.

- **How can I support my child during the PPE period?**

Encourage good routines—sleep, nutrition, revision planning—and reassure them that PPEs are a learning opportunity.

OTHER COMMON QUESTIONS

- **Will students receive study leave during PPEs?**

No, timetabled lessons will continue around PPEs.

- **Are revision sessions being offered before or during the PPE window?**

Revision sessions at lunch and after school continue as normal during the PPE exams .

- **Will teachers go through PPE papers afterwards?**

Yes. Teachers will review papers with students and provide targeted feedback to support progress.

- **Will there be another set of PPEs later in the year?**

No, this is the final opportunity for students to practise exams.