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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

November 2017

Year 11 Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

From 4th to 17th January 2018 your son/daughter will be sitting Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) in their subjects. These mirror the real GCSE papers and are vital as part of their preparation for their final public examinations in the summer. These exams will take place in the sports hall/main hall in the same conditions that all our exams follow. We want all students to fulfil their full potential and strive to perform as well as they can in these important assessments. Every part of our PPE strategy is based on high expectations for all, stretching every child, including the most able, to reach their full potential.

Focused revision now will impact positively on attainment and progress. It is therefore imperative that all students prepare thoroughly for these exams. As a staff, we do not want students to become unduly stressed and the best way to avoid this is for every child to be well prepared.

All departments have been working constantly to ensure that students are fully supported for these exams and to help them achieve their potential. We will be delivering Walking Talking Mocks in the next few weeks to further support the students' knowledge and exam technique. Walking Talking Mocks are where class teachers carefully go through with students how to approach real GCSE questions with an aim of improving their confidence and performance in their examinations.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the PPE Timetable. Revision will work best for students if they space their learning and compile a schedule that is both realistic but also well managed. I would again just like to reiterate a few important points before their PPEs. Your continued support with this is very much appreciated:

- Staying motivated can be one of the biggest obstacles to studying and revising. Students must set scheduled breaks alongside their revision plan. Distractions should be removed. I would recommend that students deactivate gaming or social accounts and turn off their phone when revising. As a reward, they can access these once they have completed a period of focussed revision.
- Students should be creating their own revision lists that have been recorded using personal learning checklists. These are the topics that students need to focus on further. Students will be aware of these and should build these into the plan for each subject.
- Students should also be looking to their family calendar to ensure that they have considered other commitments.



- Students are encouraged to reflect on revision strategies that they have completed in the past for tests and examinations. What techniques have they found useful and what has not worked so well? What are the obstacles that students face when it comes to revision? Aspects such as these will need to be considered before a plan is put in place.
- All students should use a range of revision techniques such as mind maps, cue cards, visual reminders, verbal memory recall and practice questions. In class, students will be using a range of these techniques, but they can also be employed in revision at home.
- Students must attend all intervention sessions after school in the lead up to the PPEs. Teachers give up their own time to work with students during these sessions and therefore if your child is invited, they are expected to attend. As always your support with this is very much valued.

We will be running a Study Skills Day for Year 11 on **Thursday 7th December** to support their planning and preparation further.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mammen', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr R Mammen
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Student Progress