



Our ref: MEN/EFR  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Year 11 Christmas Newsletter**

Firstly, I would like to start by saying a big well done to all our Year 11 students. The autumn term is very challenging in Year 11, in particular with the trial exams, and our students have coped incredibly well. What has stood out most has been the attitude students have shown towards their studies, their positivity throughout and their desire to be successful.

At the same time, I would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for the support they have offered our students throughout the term.

### **Trial Exams**

All Year 11 students received their trial exam results last Friday. Students opened envelopes to reveal their results as a mock up to the real results day in August. The results themselves were encouraging and I was pleased to see so many happy faces. In the cases where the results were not as hoped it is important that students spend time over Christmas reflecting on this and making plans as to how to improve in the spring term. There is still work to do to get the students the best grades they are capable of but they have made good progress so far and we are looking forward to working with them all in the final push towards the GCSE exams in May and June.

### **Parents Evening/Year 11 Revision Evening**

Both the Year 11 Parents Evening and the Year 11 Revision Evening are essential events for parents in the New Year. The parents evening will be held on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. As always parents/carers are asked to make appointments through the online booking system which can be accessed through the school website.

The Year 11 Revision Evening will be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**. On this evening there will be information about effective revision but there will also be workshops with the Maths and English departments and students will receive lots of revision resources to support them.

I would like to ask that all parents/carers make both evenings a priority given the importance of the next 6 months.

### **Post-16**

All Year 11 students have had a Post-16 interview to discuss their options. All students by now should have begun to make decisions and started to make applications.

At Pudsey Grange we are extremely proud of our Sixth Form provision, in particular the percentage of students that achieve the highest grades in the facilitating subjects (the subjects most desired by universities). At PGS the percentage of students achieving AAB in at least two facilitating subjects is 20%, outperforming other local Post-16 providers (Notre Dame 8.1%, Elliot Hudson 8.5%) and better than local (12%) and national results (17%).



## Maths Revision Resources/Year 11 Resources

Following the trial exams, the maths department have been asking students to complete reflection tasks on their papers. Students have been using videos that guide them through the solutions to questions on the trial exams whilst also offering guidance for future questions on these topics. Students have been correcting their exam papers in red, helping them to understand where they made mistakes. These videos will be available all year for students to use as and when required.

The videos are accessed through the Year 11 resources section on the school website. This area is full of supporting resources for all subjects and I would highly recommend that students visit this site regularly as part of their revision processes.

## Students' Well-being/Holidays

As a school we recognise the increasing demands made of our Year 11 students. We take many steps to ensure that the year has a balance between the pressures of exams and the moments to relax. Because of this we are purposefully asking that students relax and enjoy the Christmas break and do not do any homework. For those students who have exams in January there will need to be some revision, but there will be no other demands made by staff on students. This should help to ensure that students are refreshed in January ready to push on towards the final exams.

Whilst deliberately ensuring the students treat Christmas as a complete opportunity to relax, we recognise that the Spring term is the key one in which students make significant progress. It is important that students do not treat the February half term and Easter holiday as 'normal' holidays. Both of these periods are valuable revision time and whilst we will be supporting students to maintain a healthy work/relaxation balance during these holidays, we will also be expecting them to do a significant amount of focussed revision supported by our holiday revision sessions. We find that the small number of students who do not do any revision during these holidays, always return to school further behind as they have forgotten skills which they had nearly grasped prior to the break. This can cause anxiety as the exams are only a matter of weeks after Easter in particular.

## Key Dates

To help with your planning in the New Year, here are the important upcoming dates;

| <b>January Exams</b><br>(students have received their exam timetables) |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Health and Social Care</b>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019 (Morning)               |
| <b>Business BTEC</b>   | (Date TBC – Online Exam)                              |
| <b>Media</b>   | 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 (Morning)                |
| <b>Sports Studies</b>  | 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 (Afternoon)             |
| Year 11 Parents Evening  | 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                         |
| February half term<br>(In school revision available)                   | 16 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2019    |
| Year 11 Revision Evening   | 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019                        |
| Trial Exams (Core Subjects Only)                                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2019                            |
| Easter Break<br>(Revision sessions in all subjects)                    | 30 <sup>th</sup> March to 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 |



|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Final GCSE Exams Start</b> | <b>13<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b> |
| Year 11 Leaver's Assembly     | 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2019      |
| Year 11 Prom                  | 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019      |

Finally, I would like to say thank you again for your support so far and I hope your support continues throughout this incredibly important year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Eaton  
**Associate Assistant Principal**