11th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Preparing Year 11 for their GCSE Exams - Super 6**

We are always reviewing the ways we can best serve Year 11 pupils as they enter this crucial phase of preparation for the final GCSE exams, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the initiatives we have in place at Rivers to support your child.

We are inviting all Year 11 students to our “Get SET” (Successful Exam Technique) session on Tuesday 25th February at 3.20pm. The aim of this session is to educate students about the skill of revision in its own right, through a combination of speakers and practical examples of how to revise. We hope that your child will embrace this opportunity and use the advice to devise their own personalised revision programme. This material should be accessed independently by your child throughout Year 11 and follow up mentor period sessions and assemblies will continue to raise the profile of this essential skill.

Parent Revision Workshop on Tuesday 25th February 6pm-7pm. We will be introducing the “Get SET” material to parents so that you can gain an insight into how your child is being supported to set up and follow their revision programme. In addition, the core departments of English, Maths and Science will be running workshops to give practical advice about revising in their subject. We very much look forward to welcoming you to this event.  It is not necessary for your child to attend, although they are welcome if they wish to.

PPE Exams 2nd to 13th March.  There are mock exams scheduled for March. This is an opportunity to help refine exam technique in an individual subject, and receive valuable advice from a subject teacher. A pupil can use the mock exams to set specific goals, target areas of weakness and develop confidence in their ability. Replicating the challenge of sitting multiple exams during a condensed period of time is also valuable.

Super 6.  Period 6 revision sessions are being run in English (Monday) , Maths (Tuesday) , Science (Wednesday) , Humanities and French (Thursday),  and Open subjects (Friday). These are working on a rolling basis with subject leaders coordinating and managing their intervention so pupils are not being overwhelmed. We will also be holding drop in revision sessions on  Wednesday and Thursday for those students that would like to work independently. Every Thursday we will also be launching a “Get SET” session supporting students each week on revision techniques, to help them to get the most from their revision.

AM and PM Mentor sessions.  Over the coming weeks, your child will have the opportunity to attend a short revision session during mentor time.  These sessions are being run mainly by the Senior Leadership Team and Lead Practitioners.

Holiday revision sessions.  During the February half term, staff will be running sessions to support your child. Please see attached for more information on these sessions. Staff will also be running sessions during the Easter break and May half term, so where possible attendance would be advantageous.

The school also have access to an online podcast revision tool where students can download and stream a range of podcasts for a variety of subjects. To access this service  simply go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com), and click on ‘login in’. Students can then set up their own account by typing in their name and the name of the school. If there are any issues logging in students should see Mrs Wells.

To collate all this information together we have designed an App for you and your child with all of the information in one place to support them. We will go through this with you at the parent information evening on 25th February. <https://orasuper6.glideapp.io>

Support for pupils suffering from Exam anxiety.  The realisation of the challenge ahead in Year 11 can be overwhelming for some and we are very proud of our well-established and highly successful support programme that is run by our pastoral team. Some students refer themselves through the SSA or Well-being Warrior team and others are referred by subject teachers or mentors . If you have any concerns about how your child is coping with Year 11 and you would like to refer them, please do get in touch and we will ensure that we support them in any way we can. Mrs Wells is also running a drop-in session to support students further on a Friday afternoon at 2:00pm in Room 6E.

Students can access the following services independently:

Young Minds which is a texting service students can use by texting ‘young minds’ to 85258 where a counsellor will available 24/7 to listen and talk to them about any worries or concerns.

School nurse appointments are available upon request from the SSAs, or she runs a drop in session on a Tuesday lunchtime.

We understand that Year 11 can be as challenging for family life as it is for the pupils themselves and it is our sincere aim to support you and your child in any way we can through this demanding but also exciting time.

In assembly next week we will be launching all the above initiatives with students.  For every session your child is able to attend, they will be rewarded with points which will go towards a celebration event which we will discuss further at the parent information evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Baker

Principal

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