

September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Year 11 - Mathematics PPEs (mock exams)

As your daughter may have informed you, she will be taking two maths PPEs, one in November and one in March. The rationale for this is to help prepare the students as well as we can for the exam next year. The papers used will be set by an outside agency, PiXL, and will be sat by a large number of schools nationally. This means that we can be confident that the grade your daughter achieves reflects where she is truly, and we will get detailed feedback on what we need to do to support her to improve her grade. It will also reduce the number of PPEs sat in January, enabling her to focus more on her maths and other subjects at each time. Last year we found that having an early PPE helped the students to focus on what they needed to do to get to their target grade, without causing them stress through only having a short time to do this. The papers in November will be sat on the 5th, 6th and 7th, and those in March will also be on the 5th, 6th and 7th. All will be first thing in the morning.

Once the papers have been marked, your daughter will be able to use the PiXL Mathsapp (which she was introduced to last year) to work at the areas that she was weak on in the PPE. Every student will be set individual work through this app based on her performance. After the second PPE, these target areas will be updated in preparation for the actual GCSE. It can also be used regularly to improve basic skills and understanding of other topics in the GCSE, and she can target work at particular grades. I would encourage your daughter to try to spend 10-15 minutes every day, where possible, to help consolidate her understanding and knowledge.

The best way for your daughter to revise for a maths exam is to practise by using her textbook and revision books. She should make revision notes and/or cards to help her learn the key concepts as well as practice lots of questions. At the end of each chapter of the textbook there are a set of review exercises which are excellent for revision, as well as revision exercises that look at several topics at once. It is vital that she checks her work with the answers at the back of the textbook and if she is making mistakes to seek feedback from her teacher.

The school shop is stocked with maths revision guides and workbooks. There is a workbook and revision guide for both tiers, which cost £6.25 each. The books can be paid for using your daughter's Wisepay catering account.

I would also like to remind you about MathsWatch. This is a website that your daughter can access to support her revision. She can log on through the website <https://www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk> Each student has an individual login and password for this site. There are video clips explaining concepts, worksheets and answers and quizzes. The resources are organised by higher and foundation and also by exam board, which is Edexcel.

Your daughter should be revising at least 1.5 hours of maths a week in addition to her regular maths home learning; some girls prefer to do 15 mins a day and others prefer to do a 1.5 – 2 hour session in one block. The apps lend themselves to short bursts of revision whereas the textbooks are more conducive to 30mins or more at a time. As your daughter revises, she should make a note of any topic that she finds difficult, or questions that she can't do, so that she can ask her teacher in the next lesson.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely



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