

May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the mid-way point of our crucial GCSE examination season, I wanted to write to you to communicate some final reminders and offer you some reassurance in what I am sure will be a very busy few weeks for us all.

We have been really impressed with how well the students have prepared for their examinations so far. I know this level of organisation and preparation doesn't come without your support, thank you for helping your child stay focused by displaying their individual GCSE timetable and helping them prepare equipment, water bottles, calculators etc. each night so they are ready for the demands of each day.

With lots of our examinations taking place in the morning, excellent punctuality continues to be key for all students. Please continue to ensure your child arrives at school by 8:30 each day. Timely arrival allows your child to gather their thoughts, receive vital examination instructions, and ensure that they have all necessary materials, such as exam cards and stationery for a successful day.

We want to ensure that all students feel fully prepared and confident as they approach their exams and good routines in the morning will help us to do this successfully. To support your morning routines, we will continue to run our Breakfast Boost from 8:00am each morning. Our Library Resource Manager will be opening the library from 8:00am and breakfast refreshments will be available. Please encourage your child to attend so they can make the most of this opportunity.

Does my child need to attend school if they don't have an exam?

Yes. Attendance every day throughout the entire exam period is vital. If your child does not have an examination on a specific day, they will be attending timetabled lessons with their regular class teachers. If your child has 'finished' a particular course or subject we have organised additional, revision sessions to support your child's preparation for upcoming exams. For example, if your child studies Animal Care and they have completed their Animal Care exam we will be using their Animal Care lessons to study and prepare for Maths and English examinations etc. As such, full attendance throughout the examination season ensures students don't miss their timetabled lessons or any key information and do feel calm, prepared and confident.

How do we make the most of half term?

During half term school will be offering a range of additional revision sessions and master classes. The full timetable is available on our social media pages and will be shared via class charts. Students do not need to book onto a session; all sessions are open to all year 11 students. Please encourage your child to attend sessions that are relevant to their courses of study. It is also important that students use time wisely over the half term to study for their upcoming exams. We recommend students follow their timetable during the holiday to



ensure they are making the most opportunities to revise whilst also getting some key time to relax and unwind. Remember Mr Westhead's motto: "Revise, Rest, Repeat!" During this busy examination season, maintaining a healthy balance between revision and sufficient rest is vital for your child's well-being and performance. Encouraging good study habits during half term along with adequate downtime will not only benefit your child's academic journey but also support their overall health during this demanding period.

What else are school offering?

In addition to targeted revision lessons, our popular Period 6 lessons, Breakfast Boost and Saturday Study Squad sessions continue throughout the examination period. We firmly believe that these sessions will have a significant impact on student preparedness and confidence so please encourage your child to make the most of all opportunities.

What if my child misses an exam?

Attendance to all examinations is vital. If your child does not arrive at school for an examination there will not be an opportunity to resit or revisit that examination this academic year. Examination dates and times are set by exam boards (not school) and we are not able to change any dates that have been set. Missing examinations can significantly impact your child's GCSE outcomes and can impact the options available to them at college for their Post 16 studies. It is also important to address the financial implications of missing exams, if a student misses an examination without a valid reason, there may be exam fees incurred that parents would be responsible for. It is crucial that students remain committed to attending every scheduled examination in order to avoid any unnecessary financial burden.

Where can I find more information?

Key information relating to exam timetables, information for candidates, wellbeing and revision resources can be found on the Year 11 section of our website. You can access this by clicking on 'School Life' then 'Year 11 Exams Hub'. If you have any queries regarding your child's examinations, please don't hesitate to contact the Year 11 team for further guidance.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration during this important time. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

S Dawber

Mrs S Dawber

Assistant Headteacher

T Hewlett

Mr T Hewlett

Assistant Headteacher