Dear Parents/Carers

As we begin the 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.

**What can I do now?**

As GCSE exams commence and the demands on your child’s time increases, organisation will be key to success. Please make sure you have your child’s individual GCSE timetable displayed prominently at home and help your child to prepare for upcoming exams the night before (packing equipment, water bottles, calculators etc. into their bag). Punctuality will also be key during this period; please 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, teacher led, 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 key pieces of revision, don’t miss key information and do feel calm, prepared and confident.

**What else are school offering?**

To further support our students, we are pleased to announce that opportunities for targeted additional support will also be provided throughout the exam period. This will include revision sessions and study support tailored to meet student needs. In addition to targeted support in lessons, our popular Period 6 lessons, Breakfast Boost and Saturday Study Squad sessions will also run throughout the examination period. Look out for subject specific Saturday Study sessions over the next couple of weeks too. As you can see, lots of support is still available. We firmly believe that this support 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.

Finally, I would like to remind both students and parents of our 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 along with adequate downtime will not only benefit your child’s academic journey but also support their overall health during this demanding period.

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 ......

Mrs S Dawber Mr T Hewlett

Assistant Headteacher Assistant Headteacher