



18th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the GCSE exam season, I am writing to emphasise the importance of attendance over the coming weeks. There are now only 23 school days remaining before the first exam, and every single day will make a meaningful difference to your child's preparation, progress, and confidence.

During this period, teachers will be revisiting key content, refining exam techniques and supporting students through focused practice. Often, it is the small tips, strategies, and moments of clarity from these lessons that provide the vital edge between one grade and the next.

Attendance alone is not enough; punctuality is equally important. Lessons begin promptly at 08:30, and arriving on time ensures students benefit fully from the high-quality teaching and support available. When students arrive after 9:00am, not only have they missed a significant portion of a core lesson such as Maths or English, but this also results in a U-coded unauthorised absence. These codes form part of their formal attendance record and will be shared with post-16 providers, colleges, apprenticeships, or employers, all of whom place high value on reliability, organisation and commitment.

I would also like to remind families, as in previous years, there will be no study leave. Students are expected to attend school every day until their final exam. During the exam period, we will adapt the timetable so that students can attend exam-day workshops for the subjects they are sitting that day, as well as last-drop revision sessions the day before an exam. A full exit timetable outlining these arrangements will be shared with you nearer the time.

The external GCSE exam timetable can be found on the school website or by clicking the link below.

[Summer External GCSE Exam Timetable](#)

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives punctually will make a direct and positive impact on their preparation and on the opportunities available to them after Year 11. If you require any support in encouraging your child to attend school in these final months, please do reach out to the Head of Year 11.

Kind Regards



Mrs H Ryles-Dean
Principal