

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11,

I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are, as a school, of all our Year 11 students in their preparation for the upcoming GCSE examinations. Their commitment, resilience and attitude to learning have been excellent, and they have worked incredibly hard to reach this point.

To recognise this, we will be holding a *Proud Assembly* on Thursday 7th May, where we will celebrate their efforts and motivate them as they begin the final phase of their exams. During this assembly, students will receive a personalised letter with a good luck message, alongside a final motivational talk from myself and Mr Pinches, focusing on how we will continue to support them over the next couple of months.

In order to ensure that as parents and carers you have everything you need to support your child, please find links below to the full examination timetable and our pre and last drop exam workshop timetable.

- [Full GCSE examination timetable to support you in knowing when your child's exams are scheduled](#)
- [Last Drop, Afterschool and Pre-exam Workshop timetable. This outlines the full programme of support available.](#)

After-school workshops will take place the day before each exam 15:00-16:00. These sessions provide focused, last-minute guidance and strategies that have, in many cases, helped students secure the next grade boundary. During the school day, we will also run Last Drop sessions during Period 3 or R-Time for any afternoon exams. These last drop sessions will provide one final opportunity for students to receive expert guidance immediately before entering the exam. Pre-exam workshops will take place 8:00am–8:30am and will act as a 'warm-up' before the exam. These sessions are not designed to overload students, but instead to sharpen focus, build confidence and ensure they are mentally prepared for the exam ahead.

In addition, we will be operating an '*Exit Timetable*' throughout the examination period. Once a student has completed all exams (and coursework, where applicable) for a subject, their timetabled lessons for that subject will be replaced with additional core subject sessions (English, Maths or Science). For example, if a student completes their Construction GCSE early in the exam period, all future Construction lessons will be reallocated to core subjects. This ensures that students receive maximum teaching time in the subjects that have the greatest impact on their overall outcomes and post 16 opportunities.

We appreciate that during the exam period it may be tempting to keep students at home to revise when they do not have an exam. However, attending school every day is one of the most important things they can do to support their success. Over the next six weeks, we have carefully structured the school day to provide a wide range of targeted support. Students will have multiple opportunities to work directly with subject experts, focusing specifically on the content they will be examined on next. Attendance during this period is essential. Every lesson is purposeful and carefully planned to give students the best possible chance of success.

During the exam period, students are expected to attend school, exams and revision sessions in full school uniform. We also ask that students arrive in school and at exams in good time, so that they are calm, focused and ready to do their best. Students should ensure they bring any additional equipment they may need for their exams, such as a calculator. There will be bottles of water and breakfast bars at the pre-exam workshops as we know how vital it is that students eat before an exam.

As we enter this final stage, we are incredibly proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved so far. This is the last push, and with the right support, attendance and mindset, they are in a strong position to succeed.

We recognise that this can be an intense and stressful time for both students and families, and we want to reassure you that we are here to support your child throughout this period. We have a full section on the school website [KS4 Resources](#) (click to access) with helpful tips to support both students and parents/carers during the exam period. There is also revision on the website along with links to online platforms that students can work on.

During the exams, students should be continuing to aim for 2-3 hours of revision an evening including any sessions afterschool. We would expect them to complete more at the weekend. It really is a fine balance of managing their time and ensuring they do not overwhelm or overload themselves.

Finally, I would like to wish every Year 11 student the very best of luck as they begin their examinations. As a parent who has been through this journey twice myself, I do not underestimate how this period can feel for families as well as for young people. Please be reassured that alongside our high expectations, we place great importance on care, understanding and encouragement. We will continue to support our students every step of the way and are confident that they will approach this challenge with determination and pride. We will communicate to you again before the May half term, as there will be sessions on during the half term week to continue to support students.

If you have any questions, concerns, or if there is anything we can do to support your child during this time, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs H.E Ryles-Dean
Principal

