



16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to begin by congratulating Year 11 on the calm, focused and mature way they have approached the start of the exam season. Students have been engaging positively with both their exams and their preparation — showing real commitment, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose. We've been particularly impressed by the way they are supporting each other, fostering a sense of community and encouragement during this demanding time. It's been fantastic to see, and we are incredibly proud of how they've risen to the challenge so far.

We also want to thank families for the support you are providing at home. We understand that this can be a demanding and high-pressure time, and we truly value the role you play in helping students manage both their revision and wellbeing. We recognise that many of you are making what can feel like difficult decisions as you try to balance the needs of your individual child. Our aim is always to work with you in a collaborative and supportive way, so if there are specific steps we can take to ease the pressure or strengthen the support we are offering in school, please don't hesitate to let us know.

At this point in the exam season, our strong view is that the most effective and supportive place for students to prepare is in school. We've carefully structured the day to ensure they have access to the right support at the right time. This includes subject-specific booster sessions delivered immediately before each exam by specialist teachers, focused on final reminders, key strategies, and calm, structured preparation to help students enter the exam hall with confidence.

In addition to these boosters, timetabled lessons are continuing and have been carefully adapted by teachers to focus on revision and exam preparation. This subject-specific support is delivered by teachers who know both their subjects and the demands of the exam specifications in detail. Mr Foster, our Headteacher, has visited a number of Year 11 classrooms to see this in action. Students have been working purposefully on a range of activities: completing past papers, reviewing model answers, undertaking retrieval tasks, and receiving personalised feedback to fine-tune their performance.

We also know that maintaining consistency and routine during this period has a positive impact on students' wellbeing. A calm, purposeful structure can help reduce anxiety, build confidence, and sustain focus — all of which are vital to academic success. Our pastoral team remains on hand to support students throughout the day, and we continue to adapt our provision in response to their needs.

The week ahead includes a number of exams in both core and option subjects, and our timetable of lessons and boosters will continue to support this. For now, remaining in school allows us to provide the consistency, structure and support that we know make a real difference to both academic progress and emotional wellbeing.

Following half term, however, we recognise that students' exam timetables become more varied, and some subjects will have completed their assessments. For this reason, **Year 11 study leave will begin on Friday 23rd May, following the English Literature exam in the morning.**

As such, students are expected to attend school each day this week, and we are not able to authorise absence for revision at home until after the half term break.

We're also looking forward to a celebration assembly and shirt-signing event for all Year 11 students later this week. This will be a chance for us to come together as a year group to recognise and celebrate their achievements over the past five years. It promises to be a memorable and positive occasion, and we will be in touch with further details about the arrangements shortly.

Thank you again for your continued support. We remain fully committed to working in partnership with families throughout this period and want to ensure that every student feels confident, supported, and well prepared.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'L. Watts', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Leonie Watts
Deputy Headteacher