



29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the final stages of preparation for the Year 11 public examinations, I would like to thank you for your continued support during this important time. It has been a pleasure to see so many students rising to the challenge, demonstrating maturity, determination and growing confidence in their abilities.

Over the coming weeks, students will continue to be supported to work hard both in lessons and independently. Teachers will be delivering carefully targeted lessons to consolidate key knowledge and refine exam technique. The role you play at home—encouraging healthy routines, providing quiet spaces for revision and offering reassurance—is invaluable. These strong partnerships between home and school make a real difference.

This letter explains arrangements for lessons, exams and study leave. It includes detailed information, and for ease of reference a one-page summary of the key points can be found at the end.

### **Start of the exam period**

Many students are already beginning to sit their GCSE examinations, with language speaking exams underway and practical units having been, or soon to be, completed in Food Technology, Art, Photography and Textiles.

Written papers begin in earnest from **Friday 8 May**. Please find attached an overview of the exams taking place.

### **Attendance expectations during the exam period**

With the exception of timetabled exams and the early lunch required for some afternoon papers, Year 11 students are expected to attend all scheduled lessons until the start of study leave. These sessions will continue to provide structured revision and expert guidance, with teachers using every remaining lesson to consolidate content, address misconceptions and build exam confidence.

### **Exam-day booster sessions**

From **Friday 8 May** onwards, subject-specific booster sessions will take place immediately before each exam:

- **Morning exams:** 8.15am–8.45am
- **Afternoon exams:** 12.15pm–12.45pm

These sessions will focus on key reminders, exam strategies and calm, structured preparation. Students will be able to check locations with their subject teachers.

For afternoon exams, students will also be able to eat lunch and take a short comfort break. During this time, they may:

- use a designated set of toilets (reserved for Year 11 and Year 13)
- visit the canteen if they do not have a packed lunch

Wherever possible, we encourage students to bring lunch from home or buy food at breaktime to avoid rushing during this short window.

The vast majority of afternoon exams finish part way through Period 5, or shortly after the school day has ended. As a result, following an afternoon exam, students may be permitted to leave site. This may mean that some students finish slightly earlier than usual. Students who wish to remain in school will be able to study silently in the LRC until the end of the school day.

Students who sit a morning exam only are expected to remain in school for the rest of the day and attend their timetabled lessons as normal.

### **Arrival, equipment and exam logistics**

We ask for your support in ensuring that students arrive at school in good time for their exams. Students should check travel plans in advance—particularly if using public transport—and allow extra time wherever possible.

All students must arrive in full school uniform and with the correct equipment, including black pens, pencils, a ruler, a calculator (if required), a clear pencil case and a clear water bottle with all labels removed. Arriving calm, well prepared and on time makes a significant difference to confidence and helps exams run smoothly.

Students can access their personalised exam timetable and seating plan via **Arbor**. It is essential that they check their seating arrangements in advance so they know where to line up on the day.

Attached to this letter is the **Student Handbook**, which outlines exam procedures and expectations. We kindly ask that you read this together at home so that everything is clear. Familiarity with routines and rules can greatly reduce anxiety.

### **Our approach to in-school support**

Our strong view is that, at this stage, the most effective and supportive place for students to prepare is in school. Evidence and experience show that students perform best when they benefit from structured revision, specialist teaching and consistent routines.

From Friday 8 May onwards, alongside exam-day boosters, timetabled lessons will be carefully adapted for focused revision. Teachers—who know both the students and the exam specifications in depth—will use a range of strategies including past papers, model answers, retrieval practice and personalised feedback. Senior and middle leaders will regularly visit lessons to ensure students are working purposefully and receiving high-quality support.

Maintaining routine also plays an important role in wellbeing. A calm, purposeful structure helps reduce anxiety, build confidence and sustain focus. Our pastoral team remains on hand throughout the day, and we continue to adapt provision in response to students' needs. The exam period from Monday 11 May to Friday 22 May is particularly busy, with nearly all students sitting at least one exam each day, and remaining in school during this time allows us to provide consistent academic and pastoral support.

## Study leave and celebrations

Following half term, exam timetables become more varied and some subjects will have completed their assessments. For this reason, **Year 11 study leave will begin on Friday 22 May**, following the PE exam in the morning.

Students are therefore expected to attend school every day up to and including this date, and we are unable to authorise absence for revision at home before the half-term break.

We are also looking forward to our Year 11 celebration assembly and shirt-signing event on Friday 22 May. This will be an opportunity to recognise students' hard work, encourage them to keep going through the final exams, and celebrate their next steps—whether that is Sixth Form with us or further study elsewhere. Further details will be shared closer to the time.

## Revision at home

To support revision outside school, students have access to a wide range of resources via the **Student Room**, our online learning library, including:

- [video guides and revision strategies](#)
- [subject-specific resources aimed at both grade 4 and grade 7+ outcomes](#)

If students are unsure how best to revise, they should speak to their subject teachers or form tutor for guidance.

## Final message

We know that exam season can be a challenging time for students and families, and we are fully committed to supporting both academic progress and wellbeing. If you have any concerns—about workload, health or anything else—please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, commitment and maturity shown by our Year 11 students, and we wish them every success in their upcoming examinations.

Yours faithfully



Leonie Watts  
Deputy Headteacher

## One-page summary – Key information for Year 11 families

### Exams and school attendance

- Written exams start for most students from **Friday 8 May**.
- Students must attend school every day until **Friday 22 May**.
- This includes days when they have exams.
- We cannot authorise home revision before this date.

### Support in school

- Lessons will focus on revision and exam preparation. Teachers will support students with key topics and exam skills.
- Pastoral support will continue to be available throughout the exam period.

### Exam-day booster sessions

Before each exam, students will have a short booster session. These sessions help students feel calm and ready:

- **Morning exams:** 8.15–8.45am
- **Afternoon exams:** 12.15–12.45pm

### Lunch and going home after exams

- Students with afternoon exams can eat lunch and take a short break alongside their booster sessions.
- Most afternoon exams finish during Period 5 or just after school.
- Students with an afternoon exam may go home early, or stay in school and study quietly in the LRC if they wish.
- Students who only have a morning exam must stay in school until the normal end of the school day.

### What students need each day

- Full school uniform
- Pens, pencils, ruler, calculator (if needed)
- Clear pencil case
- Clear water bottle (no labels)

Exam timetables and seating plans are available on **Arbor**.

### Study leave and celebration

- Study leave starts on Friday 22 May. There will be a Year 11 celebration and shirt signing on the same day. Students will be dismissed at approximately 10.45am.