

30<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I wanted to start by congratulating Yr.11 students on their continued hard work and effort as we approach the summer examination season.

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, we delivered an assembly to all Year 11 students focused on how to make the most of the Easter holidays in preparation for their GCSE exams. We encouraged students to follow their normal school timetable during the break, as this structure enables them to complete around six hours of revision each day while still having time to relax and recharge. We also revisited the key principles of an effective revision programme to ensure they feel confident and well-prepared.

GCSE exams begin on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May which is only 2 ½ weeks after the Easter Break. Therefore, I wanted to explain the arrangements we will have in place when the examinations start.

From Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Yr.11 students will start an Alternative Timetable. This will run from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May until May half-term. There will be a slightly modified version of this running after May half-term, and I will write to you with further details shortly. This Alternative Timetable from 7<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May is where students will be taking part in one of three things throughout each day. These are:

1. Exam warm up sessions prior to each exam.
2. The actual exams themselves.
3. When students are not in exam warmups or the exams they will be in their normal lessons carrying out structured and supported revision with their teachers

We have nearly finalised the Alternative Timetable which all students, parents/carers will receive a copy of after the Easter break. Students will receive their personalised exam timetable in tutorial on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April which provides the dates, time and location of each exam. Copies of the exam dates are available on our website.

It is important to highlight that we ran the Yr.11 Alternative Timetable for a number of years with great success prior to the pandemic and since exams resumed after the pandemic.

Many students found the supported revision sessions invaluable in helping them achieve the grades they wanted. The exam warm up sessions were particularly popular with students in helping settle nerves and reminding them of the key aspects of the paper and supporting students to address the questions to maximise marks.

This approach, I feel, contributed greatly to our fantastic exam success in previous years and I am sure this year will be no different.

When you receive this Alternative Timetable, please discuss it as a family to help your child plan their weeks during the exam season.

Please remember support is available to help students cope with the demands and stresses of the exams. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Yr.11 Pastoral Team if your child needs further help during this time. Please also refer to the Wellbeing section of our website for further information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your faithfully



Steve Wilson  
Headteacher