

1st May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the start of the written public examinations, I am writing to you about how your child can best manage their time, the support available at school and what happens once the examinations have been completed.

Written public examinations

The summer examination series starts on Thursday, 7th May and extends for a total of five school weeks, plus the half term holiday. Even though the examinations will start soon, there is still time for your child to make a difference to their learning and examination performance. Whilst pupils have now covered all of the course content needed for their examinations, subject staff are spending lesson time recapping key topics and going over examination techniques. Pupils will also be reminded of the revision materials available and given guidance on how to use them. Pupils are not “just revising” in lessons; teachers prepare pupils for their examinations year after year and have developed subject specific ways of doing this that have a proven track record.

Examination timetables have been shared; please ensure that your child has checked their examination timetable carefully and has read the candidate information sheet so that they are aware of what is and is not allowed. Before most morning examinations, your child will be able to speak with subject specialists who will provide last minute reminders and tips. It is important that pupils continue to arrive punctually for school both now and once examinations have started; rushing to school and then entering an examination venue late can cause unnecessary stress and disturb those around them.

At home, pupils should now be following a robust after school revision programme. This will look different for each child as they work out how best to manage their workload, but they should be completing a substantial amount of work each day after school as well as at the weekend. The examination period is lengthy and can be tiring so we would encourage all students to look after themselves during this time. This includes eating sensibly, keeping to a regular sleep schedule and factoring in rest breaks and relaxation time. If they or you have any worries or concerns, then please contact your child’s Form Tutor or a member of the pastoral team.

Lessons once public examinations have started

Lessons will continue as usual after the start of the public examination session. We are always asked by pupils and by parents/carers about ‘study leave’ and we always explain that schools are not able

to grant absence from school for this reason. Our usual attendance/absence procedures continue to apply. We recognise that by now pupils have their own preferred way of working, but it is important that for as long as possible pupils continue with their usual routine and have access to their teachers for supported revision and examination practice in school. We are aiming to organise sessions with specialist subject teachers prior to each examination so that pupils can seek any last minute support. A timetable for this will be shared with all pupils. Once examinations start, all pupils are encouraged to have with them revision materials in school for their upcoming examinations.

Alongside this, it is important to recognise why we are choosing to maintain pupils' usual routines during the examination period. Young people work best when the structure around them remains predictable and familiar. Doing familiar things with familiar people - attending lessons, seeing their teachers each day, following the same timetable - helps pupils feel grounded at a time that can otherwise feel uncertain. These routines reduce anxiety, provide a focus and ensure that pupils do not have to expend unnecessary energy adjusting to new patterns or expectations.

Now is not the time to remove the habits and structures that have supported pupils to be successful so far. Keeping to established routines allows teachers to continue guiding pupils through targeted revision, reinforces good study habits and ensures that pupils have regular access to subject specialists who know them well. It also helps pupils maintain a healthy balance between work, rest and daily life, which is essential during a long and demanding examination series. By keeping school life as consistent as possible, we aim to provide pupils with the stability they need to perform at their best, both academically and emotionally, throughout the weeks ahead.

Future dates

Thursday, 7th May 2026 – Start of written examinations

Friday, 19th June 2026 – Book Return Day, Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Year 11 Prom

Tuesday, 23rd June 2026 – Year 12 Orientation

Thursday, 20th August 2026 – GCSE results day with details about enrolment into the Sixth Form shared later this term.

Yours sincerely

Ms Wilson-Hooper

Deputy Head Teacher