

8 May 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Update for Year 11 Families

I can hardly believe that we are now only one week away from the beginning of the final GCSE examinations. Students have been extremely busy in school completing their GCSE Speaking Exams for languages, their GCSE music performances, final coursework submissions for engineering and construction and much more. Students have received their PPE results and had one-to-one discussions with a member of staff thinking about how they can achieve even more success in the final series of exams. Timetables have been distributed (a copy is attached) and from Monday 16 May students will benefit from targeted revision sessions in addition to their usual lessons where staff will be taking every opportunity to practise exam technique. Please be aware that 'study leave' no longer exists; students are expected to attend all lessons on their timetable and there will be opportunities to complete revision for other subjects once their examinations for particular subjects are over.

I would encourage every student to create a revision timetable to ensure that adequate coverage is given to every subject and to allow students to gain a sense of achievement for revision which has been completed. You can find a free template here: <https://revisionworld.com/create-revision-timetable> or students can pick up paper copies of revision timetables in school.

As we approach the final exams, it is natural that students may feel stressed or anxious. A certain amount of stress is useful and entirely natural – it helps us perform at our peak and shows that we want to succeed. If your child is stressed, you can find some useful hints and tips here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zsvqghv>

As you may be aware, since the return to school after the Easter holidays, we have been working hard to reinforce our expectations for all aspects of the school's behaviour policy. In the first of our 'fortnightly focus' periods on uniform and equipment, we have seen a huge increase in the number of students wearing the correct uniform and footwear and therefore meeting our guidelines, as well as students bringing vital equipment which means that the start to lessons is not delayed and progress can be maximised. I would like to ask for your continued support in ensuring that students have the full, correct uniform as we expect that students wear their full uniform for all formal examinations.

Our next fortnightly focus begins tomorrow, with a drive on attendance and punctuality –both of which are vital for the examination period. As new guidance suggests we need to learn to live with Coronavirus, and absences relating to this are necessary solely for students who are unwell with a high temperature, we would like to support our students to achieve their attendance targets. We have

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noticed a significant increase in the numbers of students who arrive late to school and this must be avoided at all costs. Pre-exam presentations take place during tutor time and students must be **in tutor time by 8.40am**. Please remind your child to arrive at school and go **through the school gates by 8.35am**. Formal examinations must begin on time and students who arrive late risk disturbing other students so I would like to ask for your support in ensuring your child arrives to school on time each day.

Parent voice is extremely important to us and we are working hard in school to improve in this area. As you may recall, we recently held an election for the position of Parent Governor on our Local Governing Committee. I am delighted to let you know that the position has been filled and Mr Darren Leppington has been elected to the Committee. We are continually looking for ways to improve the home-school partnership and if you have children in younger year groups, you may be interested in attending the next GPS Parents' Forum or providing feedback about your experiences of Parents' Evening – links are in the letters for Years 7 – 10.

Whilst the focus now must remain entirely on GCSE revision and exam success, thoughts do of course turn to leavers' events. Please note that the official school leaving date for Year 11 students is the final Friday in June but students **must** be available up to and including the national contingency dates for exams until **Wednesday 29 June**. These dates will be used in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations. Our Leavers' Celebration is planned for **Friday 1 July** and we are looking forward to a fabulous evening at which all students are welcome. Links for hoodies and their accompanying vouchers have been sent and our Finance Officer is working hard to generate these as swiftly as possible. Links will shortly arrive for photo permission for a yearbook so please do ensure that you check your emails regularly.

As ever, I would like to thank you for your support of our school community. We are striving for success on behalf of all our students and when home, school and students work together, we can achieve even more.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal

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