

Dear Parents/carers,

Over the last 2 weeks many of our students have completed practical GCSE exams in French speaking, Fine Art, 3D Art, Graphics and Drama. They have done fantastically well. Today, our GCSE exam series began with Health and Social Care. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and inform you of what to expect over the next 6 weeks of GCSE exams. Historically, our students have achieved incredibly well in their GCSEs and we are determined to continue that trend, helping your child achieve this summer. We know the systems we use are effective at improving the life chances of our students. They give students the best possible opportunity at getting the results they need to get into college and progress in their careers. Please support us in making sure your child follows our systems in school alongside revising effectively at home. Your child has been given a revision timetable, and they should now be following this through their exam period to ensure success.

Exam timetable

You have been sent a personalised exam timetable for your child via the MCAS app. This includes their exact seat for each of the exams that they will sit. If you would like to access a generic GCSE exam timetable please go to our website, select 'For Parents and Carers' and click on the 'Examinations link'. Here you will be able to download a copy of the 2025 GCSE exam series.

Masterclasses

You have also been sent a copy of your child's masterclass schedule. Your child has also been given a hard copy of this, and students can view them on our Y11 exam board on the veranda. A masterclass is a final revision session lead by one of our teachers. These are one of the most important strategies to GCSE success that we have. Each masterclass has been carefully designed by our curriculum leaders. There will be a masterclass for every exam your child sits, and it will include vital information on how to be successful in that subject area. Each year, our curriculum leaders successfully predict content and questions that come up in their actual GCSEs. Masterclasses are compulsory. It is a fact that students who attend all masterclasses will achieve higher GCSE grades than those who do not. Please ensure your child is at every single masterclass.

Final day arrangements

The final day for all Y11 students to be in school will be Monday 16th June. We will provide on update about the timings for this final day in the coming weeks. There is a Physics exam that morning and a Music exam that afternoon. After this date, students who have a GCSE exam will come in for their GCSE exam and masterclasses only. After Monday 16th June, if your child has no exam they will not need to be in school.

It is compulsory that all students are in school as normal until Monday 16th June. We will not accept any medical appointments without evidence. No student will be allowed to leave our site for an appointment without evidence during the GCSE exam period. Legally, our Y11 students are in school until Friday July 18th however, we have made the decision to finish much earlier on Monday 16th June.

Prom and rewards

On Friday 9th May, we will hold our final assembly in which we will hold our final Y11 Golden Ticket Draw. We look forward to rewarding the hard work of our students with some brilliant prizes.

Our Prom follows the final exams and is on Friday 20th June at the Spa. Mrs Day has been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to create a fantastic celebratory evening for our class of 2025. Tickets are priced at £45 which includes hire of the venue, food, entertainment and security. Prom tickets have now been added to your parent pay account. We booked our Prom date as close to the end of the GCSE exams as possible as we know many of you want to make plans with your child to reward them for their hard work during the GCSE exam period. We cannot wait to celebrate with them.

On Thursday 1st May, we rewarded the top 100 students who engaged in GCSE Pod by getting an Ice Cream truck to come to Y11 English enrichment after school. The top 5 students also got to soak me in the stocks. Other students also joined in to get their own back! It was a fantastic afternoon in the sun, and a good reward for the hard work of our students.

GCSE Results Day

The GCSE results day is on Thursday 21st August 2025. This will be where students receive their GCSE exam certificates and will happen on our school site. Students are invited to collect their results at 8:30am on this date. If you know that your child will not be able to collect their GCSE exam certificate on this date, please contact us.

We are incredibly proud of our Y11 students, and we wish them all the very best in their upcoming GCSE exams. If you have any further questions, please contact us and we will support wherever we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Philliskirk

Assistant Headteacher – Raising Achievement and Standards

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