

15th April 2026

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are well and that you had a good Easter break. Thank you for supporting your child with their revision over the holiday. I am writing with some further information regarding the final weeks of study for Year 11 as they approach final GCSE exams and the exam period. Please take a moment to read it carefully to ensure that you are prepared to support your child/children through this crucial time in their education.

Final weeks of study and study 'leave' before half term

There are now just three school weeks until the start of GCSE exams on 8th May. Every lesson really counts at this stage; thank you for your continued support as regards your child's attendance. **Please note that we will not grant study leave at all before the May half term break.** This approach is in line with all other state secondaries in Brighton and Hove. Students are expected in school full time until the May half term break and will attend lessons and final revision sessions when not in exams. Please be clear with your child that this is the approach we follow. Every year we have multiple requests from parents to grant study leave before the May half term break which creates significant additional workload for staff and is detrimental to students settling into the exam period. You can really support us to support your child by not requesting study leave ahead of the May half term break. Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance during exams and the Exam Timetable

- After the half term break students will be given study leave, meaning that they only need to attend for their exams. They must sign in and out at reception on entry and exit. However, we will have a schedule of final revision sessions for afternoon exams, starting at 11:50am each day, which students are strongly encouraged to attend. Staff will also be offering 'Period 7' intervention sessions after school each day as final revision sessions ahead of exams the following morning. Again, students are strongly encouraged to attend these.
- The exam timetable is available on our website here: [2026 GCSE TT for Web.pdf](#). We would recommend that you print a copy to put up at home somewhere; the kitchen fridge is a popular choice!
- It goes without saying that attendance during the exam period is vital. **Students must attend for all exams.** If they do not attend, they will be given a zero mark for that paper. Special consideration for illness only applies in certain circumstances and will in any event not secure them the grade they are capable of. If a student is really too unwell to sit an exam, please notify

us well before 8:30am on the morning of the exam so that we do not delay the start of the exam for them.

- The final GCSE exams are on 17th June when the GCSE exam period ends.

Wellbeing during exams

We will ensure that we support students' wellbeing during exams in school. Breakfast items are provided before whole cohort exams, and we lay on some catering 'treats' after the larger exams! Teaching and pastoral staff will be very alert and responsive to Year 11 students in need of support. Please do what you can to encourage them to look after themselves at home through the exam period to lower the risk of illness and to prevent stress affecting their performance. Students should ensure that they get plenty of sleep through the exam period, hydrate well, eat well (especially before morning exams) and take regular exercise. Looking after their wellbeing will make the exam period much more manageable and will result in much better outcomes.

Leavers' Day and Prom

We will mark Leavers' Day on Friday 1st May this year, which is the last Friday before the start of exams. More information will be forthcoming on this in due course but please note that students will be dismissed early on this day, at around 12:30pm. We are looking forward to Prom at the Pangdean Barn on Thursday 9th July.

GCSE Results' Day

GCSE results' day is on Thursday 20th August this year. Again, further information will be forthcoming on this in due course. Students will be invited onto site to collect their results in the morning on this date. An email system will be in place for students who are going to be abroad, or otherwise unavailable.

Thank you for helping us to support your child/children through the coming months of GCSE exams.

With best wishes,

Mrs S Price
Headteacher