



Friday 16th May 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

Year 11 Update

As we reach the end of the first full week of exams, I just wanted to write to you to congratulate Year 11 on their conduct and hard work. They have done themselves proud. The feedback from our invigilation team has been entirely positive, and this is thanks to how almost every student has held themselves to high standards. I feel so proud of them.

Please encourage them to have some down time this weekend, alongside their revision, so that they are raring to go again next week!

Reminders

I just wanted to share with you a few reminders that we have shared with students this week. I would be enormously grateful if you could please reiterate these at home.

- When students are not in an exam or a masterclass, they must be prompt to their regularly scheduled lessons. This includes where they come out of an exam mid-way through a lesson.
- Full academy uniform is expected in all exams. This includes the correct shoes and students always wearing their academy tie.
- Students on early lunch (12.30pm, for exams starting at 1.00pm) must attend the Main Hall. Food will be available to purchase, and packed lunches can also be eaten here before line ups begin. This is to ensure suitable supervision of students, and to maintain the smooth running of lessons happening around the academy.
- When students have finished all exams for a certain subject, they must still attend those timetabled lessons where they will be supervised having independent study time. Please encourage your child to have suitable revision materials with them. They will not be permitted to visit other classrooms during lesson time to collect revision.

TikTok

Every year, we find that TikTok plays a role in the exam season. Please talk to your child about taking everything on TikTok with an enormous pinch of salt. This includes watching revision videos or papers being completed, as the approach or method may not match what is taught in schools, and may be presented by people who are not subject experts or who are not qualified teachers. Please also remind them that the most accurate advice about what they can/ cannot bring into an exam, or do in an exam room, comes directly from us, from the JCQ guidance. Once again, please counsel your child against listening to any advice they may hear about this on TikTok.

JCQ Guidance - Spotlight

Students have been superb at following the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) guidance so far. One particular regulation I wanted to spotlight in this update are the rules around leaving the exam room. Students can only leave the exam room during an exam with permission and when supervised by an adult. Students who leave before the end of the exam, unsupervised, run the risk of malpractice: in other words, they could receive a sanction from the exam board from losing marks for a particular paper, losing all marks for a qualification, through to the most serious sanctions such as a ban from sitting exams for a proscribed period of time. If students need help and support in an exam, the invigilator is there to help: please reiterate to your child that they can put their hand up and receive support when needed, and must not leave the exam room before the end of the exam, unsupervised.

Well done again to all of Year 11: they are living by our values to Aim High, Work Hard, and Be Kind.

Yours sincerely,



Miss A Staniforth
Vice Principal

