



30 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the start of the GCSE examination period, I am writing to outline key information and expectations to help support your child during this important time.

Whilst examinations and assessments have already begun in some subjects, the first full cohort examination will take place on Monday 11 May (English Literature), and the final examination is scheduled for 15 June. All students are expected to attend school full-time for the entire duration of the exam series, whether or not they have an exam on a particular day. This ensures they can access the structured revision and support sessions we have in place.

To help students prepare effectively, we will be providing targeted intervention sessions as follows:

- **Morning exams:**
Students will attend a Period 5 revision session on *the day before* each exam. On the day of the exam, there will be a compulsory pre-exam meeting starting at 8:45am. For English and Maths exams, there will also be an additional breakfast revision session beginning at 8:00am.
- **Afternoon exams:**
Students will attend a revision session during Period 3 on the day of the exam.
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These sessions are designed to maximise students' confidence and readiness, and attendance is essential.

We would also like to highlight the range of **revision resources** available on our website. These can be found using the following link <https://www.gps.hlt.academy/academy-life/year-11/subject-resources> or the QR code (below). These materials include subject-specific revision guides, practice questions, and key topic summaries. Students should use these resources to structure their independent study, focusing on areas of weakness, regularly testing themselves using practice questions, and revisiting key content over time to strengthen long-term retention.

The full **GCSE examination timetable** can be accessed here:

<https://www.gps.hlt.academy/academy-life/year-11/exam-timetable>. We recommend that both students and parents review this carefully to ensure all exam dates and times are clearly understood.

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We also recognise that this can be a **stressful time for students** and encourage families to make use of the guidance available here: <https://www.gps.hlt.academy/academy-life/year-11/managing-exam-pressure>. This page offers practical advice on managing exam stress, including creating structured revision plans, maintaining a balance between study and rest, and using simple techniques such as regular breaks and positive routines to support wellbeing.

Please note that the **GCSE contingency day is scheduled for Wednesday 24 June**. This day is designated by the exam boards and is used only in the event of national or significant disruption to the exam schedule (for example, extreme weather or other unforeseen circumstances). All students must remain available up to and including this date, and should not make any plans that would prevent them from attending an exam if required.

We would also like to remind you that **full school uniform is expected at all times** throughout the examination period, including adherence to our policies on jewellery and make up. Maintaining our usual high standards helps to promote a focused and purposeful environment.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child attends all sessions punctually, is well-prepared, and makes the most of the support available to them.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Groak
Trust Vice Principal

