

GCSE Exam Preparations

14th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first Year 11 mock exams, we would like to congratulate your children on how well they have conducted themselves; adhering to exam expectations throughout. The next step is to draw upon this experience to understand which areas require further work and revision to achieve their best in Summer. The exam calendar begins on **12th May 2025** which is only 26 weeks away! Please see the GCSE calendar published on our website [here](#).

Below, we outline the essential next steps for Year 11 students and how you can support them.

Mock Results and Progress Evening

- Students will find out their mock grades and college predicted grades on the 3rd December.
- Progress evening is also on 3rd December. Here, you can discuss your child's grades and find out bespoke information about your child's individual needs and how you can best support them at home. Please book in the usual way through Parents Booking, <https://parents-booking.co.uk/>

College Applications

- Your child should, by now, have completed the necessary research by attending open events, taster sessions, reading online prospectuses and speaking to our career's advisor. We have also hosted most local colleges to present in seminars and offer Q&A sessions.
- The process for making college applications in Kirklees, this year, has changed. We will continue to support students to make their applications in school. Any applications made outside of school may result in being rejected through not having the necessary information.
- Students will begin to apply for each college in enrichment sessions next week in-line with each college's application deadline. We are in continued contact with the student admissions teams at all local colleges and will keep a log in school of each application so that we can provide all the necessary paperwork.
- Students will need to provide parent contact details (phone and email), year 10 and 11 attendance, punctuality reports, predicted grades and school behaviour reports which again is why these applications need to be made in school.

Period 6 and Revision

- As mentioned, there are 26 weeks until the start of the exams with only 21 weeks in school. To maximise the time your child has with expert and experienced subject specialists, we will be beginning a programme of period 6 revision sessions (3-4pm) from Monday 18th November. Attendance is compulsory. If there is a genuine reason why your child cannot attend a session, please report the absence through the head of year, Mrs K Hallsworth, or by calling the office.
- As you know, we have been selling revision guides at an 80% discount for the bundle. It is essential your child has revision guides for all their subjects as these will be used to set independent learning homework in preparation for the final exams. Please order now if they don't already have them.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance is one of the biggest factors in predicting attainment. Even good attendance (95%) equates to 10 days off (2 weeks).
- Most colleges have a minimum entry requirement of 95% attendance. Some colleges are also using punctuality records to determine whether they will make an offer.
- Apprenticeship providers and employers will not offer positions to students without good attendance and punctuality.
- Any genuine issues relating to attendance will need to be evidenced, e.g. doctor's note, which can be presented to make an appeal to college.
- **Colleges are currently even asking us now for punctuality information!**

Attitude to Learning Expectations

- Student conduct in and out of the classroom continues to be tracked on Classcharts. This informs the school references provided to college.
- We continue to have high expectations of student behaviour and attitude to learning to ensure they achieve their best and allow others to do so. Should any student persistently defy our behaviour policy then sanctions will be in place. These may, unfortunately, include sitting exams at another school, not attending prom and subsequently the risk of losing their chosen college place (as these reports are shared).

Save the Date

- GCSEs start on 12th May 2025 – there will be some exams prior to this, e.g. French speaking exams, NCFE & BTEC exams, art exam etc, which will be communicated directly to students.
- Exciting News! - This year's Prom is on the 19th June at the Arches in Dean Clough Mill, Halifax. A detailed invite will follow.
- GCSE Results Day is on 21st August 2025

Please make sure you read the study pack on our website [here](#) with all the key information on how your child should be revising including period 6 schedule, exam boards and additional study support such as GCSEPod.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L. Morgan

Deputy Headteacher Achievement