



GCSE

A Family

updates

WEEK ENDING 15TH MAY 2026

KEY POINTS

Dear Year 11 Families...

We are now 2 weeks fully into our GCSE season with a range of activities and supportive measures to further enhance and ensure absolute success. With this in mind, I have been closely monitoring how I/we can do even more to support home planning. Each week, I'll be sharing the key points and communicating each week ahead to help ensure we are all fully aware including chunked versions of what is planned for exams and special booster sessions. Overall, students and families have been absolute superstars and have conducted themselves exceptionally well. The highlight of my day is 'high-fiving' students as they enter the exam hall and wishing them all the best. This is absolutely magical. My weekly updates will be blunt, open and honest and share (although the minority) the exceptions to school society in terms of how some may not fully realise the consequences of not fully supporting school and their child in the most important year of their life – for this we are unapologetic and I'll be sharing this in the 'believe it or not' sections. Basically 'calling out' for those less aspirational for their child. 'We' get one chance at this.

Attendance & Punctuality to School

- Legal attendance expectations are the same and any child attendance score is still included as part of their college grade.
- The last thing we want is for any child to have their College offer (and Prom acceptance) removed for poor engagement in these final weeks. Very sadly, there will be some where I might need to write personally to College Principal's about adjusted attitude to Learning and I want to limit this with your support in expectations at home.

Believe it or not...

- A minority of families and students have thought this period is an optional period – even after the 5 sessions through the year informing them of this! Needless to say they didn't attend the array of sessions provided over the year.

GCSE Booster Schedule

- The multi-colored schedule (next page) shows the compulsory adjusted Y11 timetable that is adapted in-line with the GCSE exam schedule. Remember what I have previously gone through and how historically a 2-grade improvement has been shown because of this special schedule.
- Families are to go through this every day and make note of the sessions – including Period 6 each day. Take note of the periods running along the top. (Periods 1 to 6).
- Note that staff are running compulsory revision sessions either at weekends or in the half-term break in addition to the enhanced support students have the luxury of at Newsome.

Believe it or not...

- A minority of families thought they could 'opt out' of this period and had to be contacted by my team to warn of the consequences of their College place, attendance score – and in some cases, changes to their tier of entry.
- I had to make 20 calls to families to remind them to confirm of weekend revision sessions – or get a response.

YOU
ABSOLUTELY
SMASHED IT!
IN WEEK 2

Don't be in the 'believe it or not'
next week.

Unapologetically
EDUCATED

ONE CHANCE | OPEN & HONEST

Exam Timetable – Week 3



		09:00	09:15	09:30	09:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	
Mon	18/05/2026	Combined Science - Chemistry Paper 1 - Foundation/Higher 1 hour 15 minutes												Urdu Listening Paper 1 - Higher 45 minutes			Urdu Reading Paper 3 - Higher 1 hour 5 minutes					
		Chemistry Paper 1 - Foundation/Higher 1 hour 45 minutes																				
Tue	19/05/2026	English Literature Paper 2 2 hour 15 minutes												Food and Cookery 1 hour 30 mins								
Wed	20/05/2026	French Listening Paper 2 - Foundation 45 minutes									Religious Studies Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes											
		French Listening Paper 2 - Higher 1 hour																				
Thu	21/05/2026	English Language Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes																				
Fri	22/05/2026	Arabic Listening Paper 1 - Higher 45 minutes			Arabic Reading Paper 3 - Higher 1 hour 5 minutes									Business and Enterprise 1 hour 30 mins								
		Turkish Writing Paper 4 - Higher 1 hour 25 minutes																				
		Health and Fitness 1 hour 30 mins <i>(Those students doing Business & Enterprise as well will sit Health & Fitness in the morning)</i>												Health and Fitness 1 hour 30 mins								

This is your child's official and legal GCSE exam timetable for next week.

- Charges will be made for any pick-ups, lateness and any unnecessary staff resource for not arriving on-time.
- Charges will be made for exam non-attendance to any exam (except in exceptional circumstances).



You only get one chance at life
and you have to grab it boldly.

Bear Grylls

quote fancy

Unapologetically
EDUCATED