



25 April 2025

Dear families

Re: Year 11 Exam Season

We are now at the point where Year 11 examinations have started, with the first whole cohort exams starting week beginning 5 May 2025.

Staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that your children have the best possible chance at a great set of qualifications and as a result, the best possible opportunities post-16. We also know our children have been working just as hard. This is a core part of our mission in becoming a great school.

We have used, and improved, strategies that were successful last year and meant we were one of the top three most improved schools in Nottinghamshire for pupil progress.

The plan for Year 11 Exams is detailed, thorough and designed to do everything we can with all the resource we have to help your child.

I want you to know everything we are doing to give your child the best chance ahead of this important time.

Support for Year 11

Flipped Timetable

The same as last year, Year 11 will be prioritised for support before examinations. For example:

- If there is an exam in the afternoon e.g. English, English teachers will be redirected on the morning to help pupils prepare.
- The same is true if pupils have a morning exam. The afternoon before, teachers will be redirected to help pupils prepare for the exam the following day.

An **example** day might look like this:

<i>Period 1 and Period 2</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Period 3</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Booster</i>	<i>Period 6 and Period 7</i>
Revision and Intervention with redirected Maths Teachers		Wellbeing and Support Session with key academic and pastoral staff Whole Year Group quiet revision space Small group and independent work		Final Key Messages Boosters led by Faculty Leaders	Mathematics Exam

Wellbeing Slots

On busy exam days, for example where pupils have an exam in the morning and another in the afternoon, Period 3 is allocated as a wellbeing slot. Pupils will have access to the cafeteria, where we provide snacks, drinks and revision resources with teachers to work quietly together and prepare purposefully as a Year Group. Where an exam has a shorter run time, pupils will use the remainder to complete further revision.

Pupils will also be able to access trusted adults during this time and seek pastoral support.

Counselling Service

During exam season, our on-site counselling service is open to any Year 11 pupil who might need to seek additional support for their mental health and wellbeing. They can seek this support through their Pastoral Team.

Morning Revision

For most examinations, especially in Core Subjects, Senior Leaders and teachers will be in the Academy early in the morning to begin helping pupils prepare before the start of the school day. Timings for any additional sessions like this will be communicated via email each day to families.

Exam Boosters

Before every exam, pupils receive a targeted Booster, usually lasting between 15 and 20 minutes and delivered by the Faculty Leader, focused on exam technique and strategies, marks available, timings and question types. These have been refined over several years to provide excellent last-minute support.

Free Revision Guides

We provided all pupils with free revision guides for all subjects to use at home all year. These should be used at home regularly throughout the exam season.

Resources on the Website

On our Academy website, we have linked additional resources to support your child with their revision and exam preparation at home. These are linked here for you to use: [Year 11 Exams](#)

Daily Email Communication

Each day, Mrs Stanley-Fowkes will email all families with the details of examinations the following day, plans to support your child and any other key information that you need to know. We hope this will reduce any levels of stress or pressure and keep you well-informed and ready for each day.

Dedicated Year 11 Space

We will continue to operate a Year 11 only lunch and break time space, indoors in our foyer area, with dedicated toilet facilities and access to Pastoral staff on duty.

Attendance

It goes without saying that attendance to exams is critical. Our pastoral teams, Miss Knight as Attendance Officer and Mr Snowden as our Senior Leader responsible for attendance will be monitoring attendance closely each morning. Staff will attend the home address of any pupil who does not arrive for an exam and bring them to school.



The following key messages also apply for Year 11 attendance during GCSE exams:

- All Year 11 pupils are expected in the Academy all day, every day during this time as normal.
- No pupil will be authorised to leave the Academy site at any time, unless in the most exceptional circumstances.
- The attendance policy will operate as normal, so if any pupil leaves the Academy, this will almost certainly be unauthorised and recorded as such.

As an Academy, we have worked incredibly hard to do the best we can for your child. Over the next few weeks, I am asking that you work with us to deliver the great results I know our children can achieve.

There are four things you can do to help:

- Ensure your child is in school all day every day during exam season and is supported to attend any additional sessions.
- Ensure that your child attends fully equipped and in full uniform.
- Support your child to revise and prepare quietly at home using the resources provided by their teachers.
- Support your child to have set evening routines, including getting enough rest to be able to do their best.

This time of year does carry a level of pressure, but our plans will make sure that your child is fully supported to achieve their best.

I will write again shortly with an update on Year 11 leaving arrangements, which will be relevant as exam season comes to a close in June.

Kind regards



Mr M Brett
Principal

