



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Year 11 GCSE Examinations**

As the summer examinations approach, we would like to share some essential information which we hope will make the coming months and exam period go as smoothly and successfully as possible for your child/children.

### **Study and Revision**

Now is the time when all students should be fully engaged in revision and preparations for their examinations. Their subject teachers will be giving them valuable advice and resources for each subject, as well as spending classroom time on specific revision activities. Students have also been directed to a Team named **Year 11 Progress and Exams** which is designed as a 'one stop shop' to support their revision. There they will find revision resources and information about the exams; included are examples of revision timetables, resources to support recall and testing, generic mind maps, the presentations that we have given about how to revise and exam board information. There are also individual subject revision folders where our departments have included their own revision topic lists and specific subject revision resources. Revision is also being supported through our PSHE programme.

In addition to this many departments are running drop-in or revision sessions during lunch or after school; the schedule is available in the Progress and Exams Team and was sent to parents/carers before half term. Please encourage your student to attend where needed.

We do, of course, acknowledge that this can be a challenging, stressful and exhausting period for students and parents alike! No one knows your child better than you, and what works for one may not work for another, but we are here to help you and support our students through this intense and busy period, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about preparations for the exams.

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### Arrangements for the examination period

With the exception of practical assessments which are taking place as early as now, the summer exam series for Year 11 commences on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May and the final exam is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. This is a period that encompasses the final two weeks before May half term and most of the following three weeks. It is also important to note that the examination boards have two published exam contingency dates in case of postponement. These are 11<sup>th</sup> June (afternoon only) and 25<sup>th</sup> June (all day). All students must be available to sit exams up to and including the contingency dates. The full GCSE timetable is attached to this letter for your reference. Students have been given their Statement of Entry which shows all the exams they have been entered for; please could we ask you to check this carefully and let us know of any errors by contacting the Exams Officer, [a.brown@staidans.co.uk](mailto:a.brown@staidans.co.uk). Students will receive individual examination timetables soon.

In advance of the examination period, Modern Language speaking tests will take place between the dates 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May. Your child's language teacher will inform them of their specific date and details.

Normal lessons will run for students up to and including Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Some students will have exams on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May but should return to their lesson once they have finished their exam.

From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May Study Leave will commence for all Year 11 students. During this time students will be expected to stay at home to study and to only attend school for their exams. This means they will arrive in time for their morning exam from 8.45am, and at the latest 9am, for a 9.15am start, and leave the school site immediately after the exam. In the afternoon exams start at 1.30pm so students should arrive between 1 and 1.15pm, again, leaving the site after their exam has finished.

However, if students wish to study in school there is a designated, supervised study room available for use throughout the exam period. If your child wishes to make use of this facility a parent/carer must inform school no later than 8am on the day they wish to come in, via the email address [y11attendance@staidans.co.uk](mailto:y11attendance@staidans.co.uk). If you email us to let us know your child is using the on-site revision provision students must remain on site, in the designated rooms for the full day. Students who opt-in to study in school should sign in (8.45am) and out (3.25pm) electronically in Reception using their school identity card. For safeguarding reasons we are not able to manage students coming in and out of school on an ad hoc basis; we must be informed via the above email address that they intend to attend and they must sign in and out

responsibly. Some students may be asked to attend specific revision sessions during the exam period. If this is the case, students should follow the individual instructions given by the specific member of staff.

Whilst students are revising off site parents/carers must ensure the safety of their children. However, please note that students remain on the school role until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June and therefore continue to be the responsibility of the school until this date.

Students who are entitled to a free school meal can collect a packed lunch if they are in school for an exam and do not wish to use the study rooms. Students who have both a morning and afternoon exam can sign in at Reception and stay in school for lunch, using the study rooms during lesson time. Under no circumstances should students be in school without signing as we must be able to account for everyone in school at all times.

All of the above will be explained to the year group in school so that they are clear about the routines during the exam period and the support available to them.

On a lighter note, we are planning an afternoon of celebration for the year group on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May when they will be able to spend some time together with their form tutors and come together as a year group in a final assembly to remember their time in main school, no doubt with the traditional and rousing rendition of "King of Kings" to send them on their way! And of course, they then have the Year 11 Prom and Ardeche trip to look forward to after their exams.

Many thanks for your continuing support of all we do at St Aidan's to help your children flourish. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about any of the information in this letter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C King  
Assistant Head

Ms H Strickland  
Head of Year 11