



29<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
EWH/JWI3

Dear Parent / Carer

## Year 11 study leave during the exam season

I am writing to let you know about the exam season that lies ahead for Year 11 students this summer. We are continually looking for ways to maximise the impact of the work we do and this letter lays out the approach we will implement. Your child has been told about this in assembly this week.

Exams begin on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. From this date your child's Year 11 timetable will take on a different look. The details of this are laid out below. **All students will be required to be in school and attend their lessons for the full duration of their exams.**

We decided to make a change from traditional 'study leave' several years ago after consulting with other outstanding schools in the region about what they were doing to best prepare their students for exams. We also received feedback from parents and students from previous exam cohorts to support the change from sending students home to revise on their own. All of the findings pointed to the limited success of the old-fashioned 'study leave' and that our current strategy of a supportive approach within school will improve chances of success and bring greater rewards on results day for our students. The strategy outlined here applies until **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**. After this date students will no longer be required to attend school. However, please be aware of the following events that occur after this date:

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Thorpe Park Rewards Trip (for those students who meet the criteria)
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Sixth Form Induction Days (for those students returning to our Sixth Form in September)
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11 Prom

During each and every period throughout the exam weeks, students will be either -

- sitting an exam
- attending a 'drop-down' timetabled revision lesson\*
- or
- in a lesson with their usual teacher, carrying out private revision\*\*.

\* The 'drop-down' sessions will be timetabled so that they fall immediately before one of your child's exams. For example, if there is a Spanish exam in the afternoon then students will spend the morning with Spanish teaching staff preparing them for the exam. If an exam falls in the morning, the previous afternoon will be spent in the same way. These sessions are designed to be focussed, supportive and constructive in providing last-minute information and covering important knowledge and skills. This will give a much-needed boost to students when they enter the exam room soon after. We will send out a copy of the 'drop-down' timetable in the next few weeks.

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\*\*Where a student has no exam to sit or there is not a relevant drop-down session for them to attend, they will be required to follow their usual, existing timetable to attend classes. During these hours students will be able to carry out private revision on a subject of their choosing or access support from the supervising teacher if they wish. These will not be formal, teacher-led lessons (unless the students attending would like them to be so) but rather sessions in which students can lead their own learning and revision. Normal expectations of classroom behaviour for learning will remain. Students should attend **all** of their lessons, even if their timetable directs them to a classroom for which they have already finished their exams in that subject. The expectation is the students use this time to revise for any other subjects for which they still have exams to sit and they will be supervised by their teacher in doing this.

On **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, there will be a Leavers' Assembly. Please note the timings for this:

10.15am	Students to arrive in school
10.15am – 11.00am	Students will receive their Yearbooks and have time to take photos and sign shirts, say goodbyes etc
11.00am – 11.20am	Break time (a doughnut will be provided)
11.20am – 11.30am	Students make their way to the Main School Hall for their Leavers' Assembly
11.30am – 12.15pm	Leavers' Assembly
12.15pm	Students to leave site

After the Leavers' Assembly students are then expected to be in school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

As a school we look forward to your continued support in ensuring your child maintains a proactive work ethos and excellent attendance and behaviour during their remaining weeks as a Year 11 student.

Yours faithfully

*L White*



**Liz White**  
Head of Year 11

and

**Claudia Follano**  
Head of Key Stage 4