

9 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Graduates' Day and Study Leave

Firstly, thank you for your continued support at this pivotal time in your child's education - they have demonstrated maturity, positivity, and a dedication to their studies as the exams have started this week and please do keep congratulating them for their hard work and commitment.

Graduates' Day - Friday 23 May 8.45am - 2.30pm

Friday 23 May is the last day of timetabled lessons before study leave begins on Monday 2 June. There is an English Language exam on the morning of 23 May. On Friday 23 May we will have ice cream for all students to celebrate their hard work and success followed by a graduates' assembly, with me and their Heads of House, in the school hall to wish them goodbye and good luck on behalf of the school. For this day only, year 11 students may bring a white shirt or polo shirt with their uniform so they can have this signed. In recent years, many students have chosen to decorate these shirts and we are happy for them to do this again, however, if a student arrives with any profanities, offensive material or inappropriate images on their shirt, they will have to change into a polo shirt provided by the school. **Students may not wear their decorated signed shirts into their English exam as this is prohibited by the Joint Council of Qualifications; they can either wear their graduate hoodie over this or they can change into this shirt once they have left the exam.** We will also have a decorating station in the Quad, if students wish to add extra sparkle to their shirts! The timings for Graduates' Day are as follows:

- 9.00am - English Language GCSE Paper 1
- 11.00am - Extended Break into period 3
- Period 3 and 4 in usual lesson
- 12.30pm - Lunch in the E Canteen
- 12.45pm - Quad - Drinks and Ice Creams / Shirt-decorating and signing/Pictures
- 1.15pm - Graduates Assembly in the School Hall
- 2.30pm - Early Finish - Year 11 leave the school site via the Leisure Centre Exit

Please make your own travel arrangements for your child or remind them to walk round to the bus lanes if they need to catch the school buses home.

From **Monday 2 June** onwards, students are only required in school when they have an exam. Please note that school buses will continue to run at the normal times so students will be responsible for making their own way to and from school outside of these times. During study leave, students should be revising throughout the school day, each day. Once they are officially on study leave, year 11 students may wear their own clothes when they come into school to sit their exams and must ensure that they have their ID cards with them at all times. They will need

these when they arrive and sign in at the front reception area and they must be clearly displayed on exam desks in their exam venue.

Study Leave advice and information

Now the exams have started many students will be eager to make the most of the time to revise. I am sure that many of you will also be keen to support them as well as possible. I would suggest that students get up at their normal time (as if for school) and then commit to 2-3 hours of revision each day.

My advice for effective, sustainable revision:

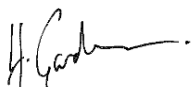
- Start early. If they do this, they will still have the late morning, afternoon and evening to unwind, see friends and enjoy their Easter break.
- Get fully focussed. Revision works best when it is fully focused; no distractions such as a mobile phone, music, TV, computer etc. Put these distractions in a different room.
- Be prepared. All materials and resources should be ready before the timer starts so that your revision time is solid, productive work.
- Chunk revision slots. Break your revision into 40-minute slots (roughly) and have a short break in-between each slot.
- Do practice questions every day.
- Revise downstairs. If this is possible, you will find that there are fewer distractions and you are accountable to others in your house. They will see if you aren't working!
- If you have a desk or dining table to work at, use this.
- Relax and switch off. When you're not revising, do your best to stop thinking about exams. If you've worked hard in the morning, you've earned a rest!

Sign-Out Day - Wednesday 25 June 9.10am - 10.50am

Year 11 students must officially sign out from The Weald and return any equipment borrowed. This will take place in the School Hall on the morning of Wednesday 25 June. Year 11 students will complete a sign-out sheet and return anything they have borrowed from the school, including any chromebooks, library books, music equipment, textbooks or maths equipment, before **swapping their completed sign-out sheet for their Prom 2025 ticket**. Year 11 must attend Sign-Out Day in order to collect their Prom ticket. If you are away on Wednesday 25 June, please let me know as soon as possible.

As we approach the final weeks of Year 11, I wish all of our students the best of luck and hope that their exams go well.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs H Gardner
Head of Year 11