

6<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our Year 11 Exam season has now started. Our first whole cohort exam is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May with students sitting the English literature paper 1.

### **Punctuality**

It is vitally important that students arrive to school on time for their exams. Morning exams start at 9am. Afternoon exams start at 1pm. Students will be expected to be at their exam room 15 minutes prior to the start time. Arriving late may result in the student not being able to enter the room and would therefore score 0 for that paper.

### **Exam rules**

Students were shown this 5-minute video this morning [Information for candidates 2025/26](#) regarding rules for exams. These are rules which apply to all schools across the country and are not Smith's Wood rules. We must all abide by these rules. Failure to do so could result in a student scoring 0 for one of more of their papers, which would have a significant impact on their final grade.

### **Masterclass programme**

We have designed a masterclass programme which will see a student being given time with their subject teacher prior to the exam, rather than being in their timetabled lesson. For example, at 9am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, students may sit the RE or Engineering exam. On the day prior to this, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, students will spend period 4 with their RE or Engineering teacher preparing for their exam the following day. They will also have a masterclass with their subject teacher on the morning of their exam. This means that they can arrive to school from 8am for some final revision before the exam starts at 9am. These morning masterclass sessions are not compulsory; however, I would like to think that our students would demonstrate our school value of being ambitious and take up the offer to arrive at 8am to be fully prepared for the upcoming exam.

### **Before and after exams**

Students **must** hand their phones in prior to the exam. They receive their phone back once they have completed their final exam of that day. Depending on when the exam finishes, students will either be asked to return to their lesson, stay in a designated area (the canteen/theatre) or leave the school site.

### Study leave

All students will be on study leave from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This means their final day in timetabled lessons will be Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Expectations during study leave:

- Attend school on days when they have an exam or a masterclass session.
- Dedicate this time at home to focused revision and preparation for their upcoming exams.
- We encourage parents/carers to support their child by creating a conducive study environment at home.

Our Y11 Leavers' assembly will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June after the whole cohort science exam.

If a student's behaviour does not meet our expectations from today until their final exam, they will be placed on immediate study leave. Should this need to happen, they will not be invited to attend the masterclass sessions, and they will also not be allowed to attend events such as the Y11 Prom or Leavers' assembly.

Results day is Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August. We will send further information regarding this day closer to the time.

Finally, we would like to wish all our students the best for the upcoming exam season. Whilst we appreciate this can be a stressful time for both students and their families, we hope that by working hard both in school and at home in the time they have left, they can achieve an excellent set of results which allows them to go on and be successful in their next steps in education and wider life.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Friswell  
Vice Principal