



27 April 2023

Dear Parents,

As the summer exams approach I am writing to confirm the arrangements for that period.

The normal school timetable will continue for Year 11 until the afternoon of **Friday 12 May**. On that afternoon during period 5 (2.25-3.25pm) there will be a Year 11 Leavers' Service and Exam Blessing in the main hall. This will allow the year group to gather together with key staff for some reflection time before the exam season gets into full swing the following week. I would like to offer my congratulations to those students who have already been involved in formal assessments in practical subjects. They have set an impressive tone and I am sure that will continue throughout the summer.

From **Monday 15 May** students will enter a personalised flexible timetable. The exam period lasts largely for a five-week period with a week's holiday after two weeks. It is worth noting that there is no national entitlement to 'study leave' for Year 11 students. Some exams take place well into June and no contact with teachers from 12 May has been proven not to be conducive to the best outcome for students.

Therefore, beginning on **Monday 15 May** students will be expected to attend school as normal wearing their school uniform. They will find, once in school that their normal timetable does not always run due to final preparation for their exams and the exams themselves. Students will clearly miss lessons whilst sitting their external exams. Additionally, many of the faculties will run sessions immediately preceding the exam in their subject. For example, when there is a Maths exam in the morning, then the afternoon before that Mr. Bell will co-ordinate the time with his staff to maximise the support for the students. It is important to note here for both students and parents that not all students will be in the same place doing the same thing during this exam period. It will be personalised, as not all students need the same support and not all students take the same subjects. Therefore, students should come to school each day with their own revision materials too as there will be times when staff supervised private revision sessions will run. Absence from these lessons will be followed-up. These arrangements will be in place up to and including **Friday 16 June**. After that date students are not expected to be in school, unless they are required by staff or sitting exams, as there are some exams on Monday 19 June and Wednesday 21 June. A gentle reminder too that students can access a wide range of on-line support for their revision when at home and that prioritising revision time over other commitments in the next two months will benefit them.

Staff are always here to help and offer advice and want to continue to do so throughout the exam period. It is of course our desire to help every student achieve their potential this summer and these arrangements support that.

On the days when there are exams, Year 11 will be able to use the main hall as a base from when they arrive in the morning. There will be a light breakfast provided by school for those students who

wish to have it. Pastoral and subject staff will be on hand to support students at this time, to offer some encouragement and be a friendly face. All the staff recognise that it is an important time for our students and any student feeling they need some extra help, should speak with a member of staff.

Can I remind students (and parents!) to ensure that exam timetables are carefully checked and that arrival for any exam is in good time. Students arriving late for exams will not automatically be allowed to sit the exam, so punctuality is very important. Exam timetables have been given to all students. Please check this together and ensure your son or daughter knows exactly what date and time their exams are, as it is their responsibility to be there. Any queries about this please contact Mr Tindall (Exams Officer) or Mrs Hurworth (Assistant Head) via the post@eskdale-school.co.uk email or students can see them in person.

I would like to close by wishing your son or daughter a successful exam period in the coming months. We are all proud of their endeavours – to do their best is all anyone can ask. Now it is time for them to show the exam boards all that hard work! All the staff look forward to supporting them through the exam season and celebrating their success in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



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