

22nd April 2026

Final Preparations for GCSEs: Attendance Expectations for Year 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final stages before the GCSE examination period, I am writing to clarify our expectations regarding attendance for all Year 11 pupils.

Attendance at school remains compulsory, and pupils are not permitted to take study leave at this time. We will, of course, write to parents again to confirm the arrangements and plans for when Year 11 pupils formally leave school. While we understand that this is an important and potentially pressured period, it is essential that pupils continue to attend school every day, for the full school day to access all of the support in place for them.

The work taking place in lessons now is carefully planned and highly focused. Over time, we have refined our approach to ensure that teaching centres on the most high-leverage content, particularly the types of questions and topics that are currently appearing and carrying significant marks in examinations. This targeted preparation is difficult to replicate through independent study alone and is a key reason why attendance is so important.

In addition to lessons, we are providing pupils with regular updates and guidance about their examinations, including timetables, expectations, and strategies to support their success. We are also offering a range of intervention sessions and booster classes, designed to address individual gaps and strengthen confidence across subjects. These sessions form a vital part of our support programme and pupils are expected to attend as directed.

Quite simply, pupils give themselves the very best chance of success by being present in school, fully engaged, every day.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school punctually and consistently during this crucial time. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

The Attendance Team