



11 March 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the GCSE examination period, we would like to share some important information in response to questions that parents have begun to raise. Please be reassured that between now and the start of the exam season there is a great deal taking place in school to support students in securing their expected GCSE grades and, where possible, achieving even higher outcomes.

The official leaving date for Year 11 students is Friday 26 June 2026. However, once a student has completed all of their examinations, there will be no expectation for them to continue attending school. That said, all students must remain available to attend school on Wednesday 24 June 2026, which has been designated as a national exam contingency day. This day would only be used in the event of significant unforeseen circumstances that result in the cancellation of an examination paper nationally. Although introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has remained in place and was almost required in recent years following the widespread leak of an examination paper. For this reason, we ask that families do not arrange holidays before this date.

GCSE examinations are national public examinations and form part of the normal school day. As such, all students are expected to maintain the highest standards of attendance, punctuality, school uniform, and behaviour throughout the examination period. It is important that students approach this time with maturity and responsibility so that the examination environment remains calm, focused, and respectful for everyone involved. Further guidance regarding examination conduct, expectations during exam days, and the procedures students must follow will be shared with both students and parents closer to the start of the examination period.

In the lead-up to the examinations, and throughout the exam period itself, students will have access to an extensive programme of revision and exam preparation sessions. A full timetable will be published nearer the time. These sessions will include both before-school and after-school opportunities, with some pre-exam revision sessions beginning at 8.00am and some after-school sessions running until approximately 4.30pm. Wherever possible, we aim to avoid after-school sessions once the exam period is underway, although there may occasionally be instances where they are necessary. The timetable will also identify points later in the exam season when certain students may not be required in school, depending on the subjects they are studying.

Before leaving school, Year 11 students will also need to ensure that the balance on their dining room accounts is reduced as much as possible. Any remaining credit cannot be refunded; however, where applicable it can be transferred to the account of a sibling currently attending the school.

We would also like to remind you of several important upcoming dates. Results Day will take place on Thursday 20 August 2026, with results available to collect from school from 9.00am.


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The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 25 June. If your son or daughter is eligible to attend, tickets must be purchased by Wednesday 13 May. This deadline is essential to allow us to confirm final numbers with the external venue.

Our final Year 11 celebration afternoon will take place on Friday 22 May. There will be a service at St Michael and All Angels Church in Croston for all Year 11 students, and any parents who wish to attend. Further information about this will follow. This annual event for Year 11s is to mark the end of their formal teaching and learning time, to celebrate and share visual and spoken memories and look ahead to the exam season, allowing time for reflection on what has gone before and pray for support in what is coming next.

Finally, we would like to wish all Year 11 students every success as they approach their examinations. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Winter', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the letters.

Mrs H Winter  
Deputy Headteacher