



April 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the GCSE exam period, we would like to inform you of procedures and other matters over this important time. We can assure you that between now and the end of the exam season there is plenty happening in school to either secure the expected GCSE targets, or to push our students to get even higher grades and to offer as much well-being and mental health support as we can.

During the exam period students are to be in school as normal and in full school uniform. All students are expected in school by 8.55am and must be registered by their tutor unless they have an exam. If they have no examination at any given time, they will either be doing private revision in their normal timetabled lessons/classrooms or they will be in designated revision sessions. This will be up to and including Friday 24 May. The official leaving day for Year 11 students is Friday 28 June 2024, but once a student has finished all of their exams then there will be no expectation to attend school. However, all students must be available to attend school up until Wednesday 26 June 2024 as this is an exam contingency period. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, this contingency period will be used to sit any exams that did not go ahead on the scheduled date.

During the exam season, there will be an extensive programme of revision sessions on offer and these will often specifically focus on valuable last-minute advice for the imminent exam. When revision sessions are taking place in the school day, students may choose to do their own private revision, unless their presence has been stipulated by their subject teacher. The revision schedule will be shared with students and parents in the coming weeks. Students will follow their normal timetabled class when not in an exam, and may revise if they wish.

In addition, there will be a number of revision sessions before school, starting at 8.00am, for pre-exam revision. There will be no after school sessions, and all Year 11 students will leave school at the end of the school day as normal. As you are fully aware, these GCSEs are national public examinations in school and part of a normal school day, which means that attendance, punctuality, behaviour and student uniform during the exam season must always be of the highest standard. In the week prior to the start of the GCSEs Mr Rawlinson and Mrs Gaskell will go through with all Year 11s the expectations during the exams and how we are able to offer support if it is needed. Naturally, we have every faith in the fact that all of our young people will conduct themselves well and follow what is very important guidance.

Following May half-term (from 3 June onwards) students will not be expected to be in school every day, if that is what you and they feel is the best preparation for their remaining GCSEs. Students can be in school all day and every day or they can leave school after their morning exam if they have no further exams that day. They can come into school later if they have an exam in the afternoon but not in the morning, if they wish and if they have no exams on a particular day they can revise at home instead.

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We will continue to be running revision classes during this fortnight, and we encourage students to attend. Some students will be expected to attend these sessions as they have been identified as in need of as much support as can be given in this subject area. We are able to allow students to work from home, in the understanding that where they are expected in school they attend. Details of these sessions will be shared in the coming weeks.

Moving on to celebrations and marking the departure of our Year 11 students, on the morning of Friday 24 May there will be a more informal in-school celebration for them, a time to stop and draw breath after the intensity of the first few weeks of GCSEs, reflect on their time here at Bishop Rawstone and enjoy the fun of shirt-signing, which has always been a much-enjoyed part of leaving Bishop Rawstone.

On the afternoon of Friday 24 May at 1.45pm there will be a service at St Michael and All Angels Church in the village for all Year 11 students, and any parents who may wish to attend. 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 start of the exam season, allowing time for reflection on what has gone before and pray for support in what is coming next. We expect all students to attend both of these events.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of a couple of key dates. The Prom takes place this year on Wednesday 19 June 2024 and if your child is able to attend then tickets must be **purchased by 20 May**. This cut-off date is vital for forward planning as the Prom is at an external venue and firm numbers have to be advised in advance. Results' Day this year is on **Thursday 22 August 2024**, results will be emailed home from 9.00am and additionally, students may come into school to collect them. We understand that some students may prefer to receive their results in their own quiet and private space.

Prior to leaving school, Year 11 students will need to 'run down' their balances on their accounts for the dining room. If any balances are in credit when they leave, they cannot be refunded, but can be transferred to the account of a sibling in the school where applicable.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and offer your child every success in the coming months and their onward journey. If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Rawlinson
Deputy Headteacher



Mr T Sixsmith
Head of Year 11