



Framwellgate School Durham
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September 2026

Dear Parent or Carer

As your child enters Year 11, they are beginning the final and most critical stage of their Key Stage 4 journey. With the GCSE examinations quickly approaching, every single day counts. We have high ambitions for every student and want to ensure they achieve the grades required to transition into their chosen post-16 college courses, apprenticeships, or sixth-form destinations.

To ensure they achieve their full potential, we need our young people to adhere to the following:

- **Have Excellent Attendance:** Every day missed is a lost opportunity to grasp vital exam knowledge and skills
- **Punctuality & Readiness:** Arrive on time, in full school uniform, equipped with the resources they need for the day (e.g. school issued pencil case and calculator)
- **Engagement:** Show complete focus in every lesson and actively participate in lunchtime and after-school raising achievement sessions (RAS).
- **Independent Study:** Complete all homework and consistently revisit previous topics independently at home.

Your partnership is more important this year than ever before. You can support your child by:

- Discussing their daily learning and revision goals with them.
- Ensuring they have a quiet, dedicated space at home to study.
- Helping them maintain healthy routines e.g. ensuring they get adequate sleep.
- Ensuring they arrive at school on time

Raising Achievement Sessions (RAS)

These are targeted sessions designed to intervene where students struggle with key concepts and/or have knowledge gaps. If students have been selected by their teachers to attend a session it will appear on their Class Charts timetable and you will be able to see if they have attended or not. Students may be selected to attend up to 3/4 sessions a week and most of the sessions take place at lunchtime, after your child has had a break and time to eat. Some sessions occur after school. Your support in getting your child to these sessions is paramount and much appreciated, thank you; last year there was a correlation between attendance at RAS and GCSE success.

There will also be an Easter holiday study programme in the run up to the GCSE exam period.

Summer 2027 Exams – Contingency Day

All students taking **GCSE, AS, or A-level examinations in summer 2027** must be available **up to and including Wednesday 23rd June 2027**. This date is known as the contingency day. It is set nationally by the exam boards and the Department for Education as a safeguard.

The contingency day is only used if there is a major disruption that prevents an examination from taking place as scheduled. This could include events such as:

- severe weather
- widespread transport disruption
- a national emergency

If such a disruption occurs, affected examinations may be rescheduled to this contingency date.

Students should therefore **avoid making travel or other commitments** that would prevent them from being available on this date.

Key Dates:

Date	Event
RAS 1	28th Sept – 13th Nov
Progress Evening (face-to-face)	15 th Oct
Mock French Speaking exams start	19 th Oct
Mock exams	16 th – 27 th Nov
Photography mock exams	7 th – 11 th Dec
Art mock exams	14 th – 15 th Dec
RAS 2	11 th Jan – 12 th Feb
GCSE Food exams	25 th Jan – 5 th Feb
Sixth Form Interviews	1 st Feb – 12 th Feb
Progress Evening (face-to-face)	4 th Feb
Mock exams	22 nd Feb – 5 th March
RAS 3	12 th April – 7 th May
Study leave and leavers assembly	28 th May
Contingency Day	23 rd June
Sixth Form Induction Week	21 st – 24 th June
Prom	1 st July
GCSE Results Day (Sjøvoll Centre)	19 th August

We firmly believe that by working together, your child will receive the best support possible throughout this year and gain their true potential. If you have any questions or require support at any stage, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team.

Thank you for your continued support.

A. Fenwick

Mrs Fenwick
Head of Year 11