



## GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, Tel: 01995 603226

Email: [info@garstang.fcat.org.uk](mailto:info@garstang.fcat.org.uk)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as your child approaches their final GCSE examinations. The Easter break will be another key opportunity for your child to reflect on their two most recent mock examinations and to revise in preparation of their final GCSE examinations, as this will aid:

- **Improved Retention:** Revising will help your child to reinforce what they have learned, making it easier to recall information during the exams. When they review content regularly, their brain strengthens the connections, leading to better retention of knowledge.
- **Better Understanding:** Revision allows your child to identify gaps in their knowledge. This gives them the opportunity to revisit difficult topics and gain a deeper understanding, which will help them answer exam questions more confidently and accurately.
- **Boosts Confidence:** The more they revise, the more confident they will feel about tackling exam papers. Confidence plays a significant role in managing exam stress and performing well under pressure.
- **Higher Marks:** More effort during revision usually leads to better results. By revising, students are more likely to achieve higher grades, which will impact their future opportunities, such as college applications, apprenticeships, or job prospects.
- **Time Management Skills:** Revision forces your child to develop time management skills as they plan how to cover all the subjects and topics in time for the exam. This is a valuable life skill that will serve them well beyond their GCSEs.
- **Exam Techniques:** Revising involves practicing past papers, which helps them get familiar with the exam format, question types, and time constraints. This can improve their ability to structure answers efficiently and spot common patterns in exam questions.
- **Reduces Anxiety:** The more prepared your child is, the less likely they are to feel anxious. Revision reduces uncertainty, and when they know they have put in the work, they are more likely to face their exams with a calm, positive mindset.

In short, revision is essential not just for boosting grades, but also for ensuring that your child feels ready and equipped to take on the challenges of their GCSE examinations.

In the approach to the exams, after school revision classes will be available to attend in the following subjects:

Monday - English and History

Tuesday - Maths, Business and Computer Science

Thursday - Science, PE and Sports Studies

Friday – Geography

There may be some alteration to these sessions to fit in with the schedule of examinations during the period between 9<sup>th</sup> May until 6<sup>th</sup> June, but this will be highlighted in the exam window revision session plan, which will be released by the end of April.

### FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



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Practical exams for Art are taking place from April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and French speaking tests are taking place on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The first written paper will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and these take place until Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, although all students need to be available up until the end of the contingency day of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. To accommodate a quiet and purposeful school environment, with no crossover with lunchtimes and exam periods, we will be putting in place an adapted day structure with three morning periods, then lunch, followed by two afternoon sessions from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May until the end of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Study leave will commence at the end of the school day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 up to and including Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This will mean that your child will only attend school, if they have an examination or a pre-arranged revision lesson. Attendance at these classes is voluntary on the student's behalf but worthwhile to gain those extra insights into the preparation for the final papers.

Hard work really does pay off and we would ask that you continue to encourage your child with their revision. Additional information relating to revision classes, which will take place during the study leave period will follow. If you would prefer your child to be in school over the study leave period, please personally contact me with your needs and we will put a plan in place.

**Please be reminded that all students must attend school in full uniform, both for examinations and for revision classes.**

Excellent attendance and punctuality to the exams is vital. Unlike in our mock windows, there is no opportunity to do catch-up exams in the final exams window. Unless medical certificates can be produced, citing medical reasons why any student could not physically sit an exam, which are only sparingly issued by medical professionals, would result in a special considerations process being applied by our Exams Team. Absence from an exam would mean that all marks are lost from that particular part of the course being undertaken. I must emphasise that every effort possible must be made to ensure that your child attends every exam during the summer exams window based on the gravity of the impact of any missed days, on the potential final outcome for your child.

It is also worth noting that exam entries cost the school a significant amount of money, depending on the paper, between £46-£68 per paper. We reserve the right to charge parents/carers (where no medical certification has been submitted) for any non-attendance of a particular exam, where we deem the effort has not been made to do everything possible to get your child to attend. Punctuality is also key. Students must be on site at least 15 minutes before the exam start time, which in most cases is 9am or 1pm. The JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) regulations do not permit any student who is significantly late to an exam to sit that paper, meaning they would receive no marks for that exam. In conclusion, I would like us all to work together to ensure there are no periods of absence during the exams in the summer window. This will ensure that your child has the opportunity to show their potential and achieve the best outcomes for their future.

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There will be a number of '**invitation only**' celebration events that your child may qualify for, including the:

### **Shirt signing event** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Unless informed otherwise, students will be able to sign each other's shirt and be involved in a year group photograph. The event will commence following the Mathematics exam on that day and will conclude at approximately 12pm. At the conclusion of the event, your child will also be able to collect their customised hoodie if they have ordered one. The signed shirts will be kept at home as a memento and will not form part of your child's uniform whilst they engage with their remaining exams.

### **Leavers Assembly** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The Leavers' Assembly will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The assembly will commence at 8:40am and conclude at approximately 9:40am. The leavers' assembly will be led by Mr Millatt, and will be a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate your child's time at Garstang Community Academy with staff and form tutors. Your child is permitted to attend the event (**unless you are informed otherwise**) in suitable non-uniform attire.

### **Year 11 Prom** – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

The Prom will be held at Barton Manor Hotel and we expect invited students to arrive from 6pm and the event will conclude at 10:45pm. Your child will be informed if they are able to attend over the coming weeks, as they have been working towards a criteria related to positive levels of attendance and conduct.

### **GCSE Results' Day**

Results' day this year is on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025**.

Unless otherwise informed, GCSE Results can be collected from school on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025** from **10am until 11:30am**. Results will also be available via the MCAS student portal from 10:30am on that morning for those not attending in person.

### **Uniform Request**

If you are in a position to donate any items of your child's uniform, please ask your child to hand them to Mr Millatt or at the main school office at the start of Leavers' Assembly on June 19th.

We wish your child the best of luck for their GCSE examinations.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr Felvus**  
**Assistant Headteacher**