The Chantry School

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20th March 2026

Dear Families of our Year 11 pupils

There are **just 7 weeks until Year 11 begin their GCSEs** (and there are some such as DT, Art, Graphics, MFL speaking which happen before then).

As we approach this significant point in your child's education, I wanted to make sure you were well informed about some important details. **Please take the time to read this letter carefully.**

Last day of Year 11 & Study Leave

Current legislation governs that compulsory school age is until the last Friday in June. Nationally, some schools keep pupils in school even when they have completed all the exams for a subject. We're not that cruel!

Year 11's last day will be Friday 22nd May. Until then, pupils need to be in school every day. Please can you ensure that your child comes to school ready for exams, or ready to learn in lessons. It is important that they maintain this habit. We know from experience that keeping pupils in school for as long as possible has a positive influence on their GCSE outcomes. If your child is due to have any appointments, please ensure these happen after Friday 22nd May where possible to ensure attendance remains high. **Any appointments will only be authorised if we see official documentation and could affect their place at the prom.**

'Study Leave' will take place from Monday 1st June. Pupils must come in to school wearing full school uniform for the exams. There **will** be supervised revision rooms where pupils can revise should they prefer to revise in school or have to stay in before or after an exam. Please note, if your child comes into school, they can leave to go home, but they cannot leave the school site and return later as we need to hold a register of who is on the school site.

Internal Appeals for Coursework marks Procedures.

Many pupils have either completed or are coming to the end of completing non-examined assessments or coursework for one or more of the following subjects: PE, Sports Science, Art, Drama, Graphics, Music, 3D Design, and Food. Therefore, teachers are required to share with pupils the **unmoderated** mark achieved (prior to being moderated by the exam board). If pupils want to query their mark with the teacher, they should follow the outlined procedure below:
Once the mark has been shared, pupils have 2 days to consider whether they want to request material to understand how the final mark has been derived. If this is the case, pupils should raise the concern with either me or Dr Stapleton (our exams officer), and we will request the materials from the teacher. If no request for materials is received their mark will be submitted to the awarding body.
Once the materials have been requested, the teacher has 3 days to share this with the pupil.
If the pupil wants to continue with an internal appeal, s/he has 3 calendar days to submit a formal appeal, having requested a form from Dr Stapleton.
Once the form is submitted, we then have 4 calendar days to review the appeal, make the decision, and inform the pupil making the request.

Our deadlines for sharing marks with pupils, so we can send the marks to the exam board by their deadlines are as follows:

GCSE P.E.	20th March, 2026 & 28th April, 2026
AQA GCSE Food	20th April, 2026

GCSE Drama	20th April, 2026
English Spoken Language	24th March, 2026
Sport Science	28th April, 2026
Health &Social Care	28th April, 2026
OCR GCSE Music	28th April, 2026
Art/Graphics/3D Design	mid-April, 2026 (families will be informed once the external moderator has confirmed dates)

Due to rigorous internal moderating procedures, it is a rare occurrence for pupils to be dissatisfied with the mark awarded. The on-going dialogue between pupil, teacher, and families helps mitigate this and, therefore, the final marks awarded are often not a surprise. However, I think it is important for you to know how to respond to the marks your child shares with you, should s/he be unhappy with it.

GCSE Exam timetables

Pupils will be given a paper copy of their personal exam timetable after the Easter break. Timetables will be available for pupils and families on Arbor. This link will take you to an overview of exam dates, times, and topics: Exams - The Chantry School

Revision

The good news is that all subjects have either finished or nearly finished the syllabus, and we're using lessons for revision, retrieval, and exam practice. We're still setting homework/retrieval type homework, and it's being revisited in lessons. We're trying to strike a balance between giving pupils ownership of their own revision but also ensuring they cover the right topics. Pupils should know the topics they are revising for and have received their Personal Learning Checklists in all subjects to ensure that revision is focused and effective. You can access this via the school's website and click on the 'School Life' tab: The Chantry School

This further complements what many staff have already placed on TEAMS or Arbor for pupils to access. As the exams draw closer, there is plenty available to ensure all Y11 go into the exams feeling confident and well prepared. All staff will have set revision tasks to do over the Easter holidays.

Additionally, Easter school went live last week for booking.

Important dates:

Thursday 7th May – GCSE Exams commence. Pupils are still in school and revising with teachers unless they have an exam. Please see below for why pupils are not allowed to go on study leave.
Friday 22nd May - Last day for Year 11 in school
Monday 1st June - Study Leave commences - Y11 only need to be in school when they have an exam. Study rooms will be available for those who prefer to study in school. **School uniform must be worn at all times.**
Wednesday 24th June- GCSE contingency Day. All pupils should be available in the event of an earlier exam having to be rescheduled.
Thursday 2nd July - The Prom.
Thursday 20th August- Exam results. More details to follow about how to collect results.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on dfindlay@chantryschool.com.

Kind regards

Mr Findlay
Assistant Headteacher