



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

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Letter ref: Y11SE1/25
9th April 2025

YEAR 11 – SUMMER 2025 GCSE EXAMS

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you of the arrangements for the upcoming GCSE Summer exams, which will commence from Friday, 2nd May and will run until Wednesday, 25th June. As with their December and March trial exams, students will sit all external exams under formal examination conditions, in the school's Sports Hall and our other designated examination venues. Students have become very familiar with the examination conditions they are expected to adhere to during their two trial exam seasons this academic year. Students should feel confident in how the procedures will work, enabling them to fully focus on their exams.

Exams and In-School Revision Sessions

Students will sit one exam on most days. Morning (AM) exams will start at 9:00am and afternoon (PM) exams will start from 1:30pm. **Students must arrive at their exam venue at least 15-minutes before the start-time of their examination.** The later start times will allow students to attend 30-minute revision sessions with their class, or subject, teachers before morning exams, as well as hour-long revision sessions before afternoon exams.

On the day of an AM exam, students should arrive at school for 8:10am, to attend their 30-minute 'Breakfast Revision' session. These are incredibly important, as they are a last opportunity for class teachers to remind students of the tips and tricks they will need to use in their exam.

Research shows that students perform better in exams when they eat and drink something beforehand. Therefore, on the day of every AM exam, **students should collect a free breakfast** from the House of Pi at 8:10, before attending their 'Breakfast Revision' session. We will also provide students with a free bottle of water in each exam. Throughout the exam period, students will still be able to buy food from the Glasshouse, during break and lunch.

We have also arranged revision sessions before PM exams. These will usually take place during period 4. Students will then have a 25-minute window in which to buy lunch in school or eat any food they have brought with them. We strongly recommend that students eat something before any PM exam. At 1:15pm, during lunch, students will be directed to the venue of their PM exam.

Students will receive a timetable of their revision sessions up to the May half-term, before the Easter holiday. **From Monday, 12th May the normal Period 6s will not run.** Instead, students will attend Period 6 revision sessions with their class teachers, for exams taking place the next day. Where students do not have a period 6 revision session for an exam the next day, they should go straight home to continue with their revision for their next exams, independently. To support them with this, their teachers will also set appropriate revision activities for them to complete at home, via SatchelOne and the other platforms which we use.

Up to Friday, 6th June, students will return to their timetabled classes in the main school building, after AM exams, to continue their revision in their timetabled lessons.

From Monday, 9th June students will commence their study leave and will only be required to attend school for their timetabled revision sessions and exams.

To help students plan their long-term revision, a printed copy of their provisional timetable for the summer exams has been shared with them today. This timetable has been determined by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) in conjunction with the exam boards. Individual exam timetables with venue and seat details will be issued to students over the next school week.

As in previous years, JCQ and the exam boards have added a 'contingency day' date to the exam calendar in case of major national or local disruption to exams. Exams may be moved to this date if required. The date that has been designated is Wednesday, 25th June which will be after the end of the scheduled GCSE exams. Please be aware that if the contingency date is used, your child may have one or more exams moved to this day and therefore care should be taken before making arrangements, such as booking holidays, on or before this date.

Summary – Expectations of Students

Even though students will be sitting their exams, Kingsmead School's expectations remain the same:

- Up to Friday, 6th June, on days with no AM exams, students should still arrive at school for no later than 8:30am.
- From Monday, 9th June students only attend school for exams or revision sessions – they are on study leave and should revise independently at home at other times.
- Students must wear their full school uniform at all times, in every exam – including all those after Monday, 9th June.
- Students should go to the toilet before each exam, and they should allow time in their journeys and preparation to do this.
- Students must bring all of the equipment they will need to each exam – *you can find more information in the school's Student Guide to Exams, which is available [here](#)*
- Students should also familiarise themselves with the JCQ Information for Candidates documents – *which are available on the school website ([here](#))*
- After they have been dismissed from their PM exam or revision session, students will be expected to leave the school site and revise independently at home.
- In accordance with the JCQ regulations all electronic devices (mobile phones, mp3/4 players, all watches or potential technological/web enabled sources of information) must be left in the containers outside of the exam venues. Possession of these unauthorised items in an exam will result in disqualification from that, and potentially all other qualifications.

How Can You Help?

It is important that your child continues to revise independently at home throughout their remaining time in Year 11. As parents, you have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting them as they do this.

Your child can revise in many ways. Firstly, they will continue to have access to all the resources in school e.g. flash cards and past papers. They should already be revising independently using any texts books or revision guides they have. They can also use the Blended Learning Platform and online revision resources, such as Revise Online, SENECA, Sparx Maths and BBC Bitesize. You can find a list of the GCSE subjects being taken in Year 11 and the corresponding exam

boards used by Kingsmead, [here](#). This information has been included so you and your child can access more past papers, mark schemes and revision materials online.

We wish all of our Year 11s the very best in their exam preparation. The more time students put into their revision, the more likely they will succeed and achieve their potential.

For questions about the GCSE exam arrangements, please contact Miss. Harding (examqueries@kingsmeadschool.net). If you have any subject specific questions, please contact the class teacher. For general queries, please contact myself (c.hinton@kingsmeadschool.net).

Yours faithfully,



Miss. C. Hinton
Year 11 Progress Leader



Mr. B. Morris
Assistant Head &
Data Manager



Miss. N. Harding
Examination Officer