



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

**Re: Year 11 GCSE Public Examinations**

Further to the previous communication at the start of April, your child will continue their public exams after the May half term on blended learning. Following the English Language Paper 1 exam on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**, students will be dismissed home, from 10.30am. Your child will only be expected to be in school to attend exams and to participate in blended learning for the remainder of the exam series. Blended learning will involve your child revising from home with the expectation to attend face to face support sessions, Walking Talking Mocks and Breakfast revision, please refer to the attached student support timetable.

In order to facilitate GCSE public exam start times, morning exams will continue to start at 8.45am and afternoon exams will start at **1.10pm**. After the exams, your child will be dismissed directly from the exam venue to go home, via the front gate, at the end of their exam throughout the exam period. Students cannot leave the school site between exams if they have a second exam. For morning exams students will need to attend Form time from **8.25am** with their Form tutor so they are registered before the exam. For afternoon exams, students must be on the school site by 12.55pm. **Your child must attend all exams on time and without fail.** Unfortunately, there are no provisions for resits or catch-up sessions for a missed or late exam. Your child will not receive a grade if they are too late or miss an exam. Please note that misreading the timetable will not be accepted as a satisfactory explanation of absence. If there are any issues or problems during the examination, please inform the school at the earliest possible point so we can help or advise, by informing the Exams Officer, Mrs Cumming, Mr Deale, Assistant Principal, and Miss Foley, Head of Year 11 without delay.

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June (PM only) and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June as 'contingency days' for examinations. Therefore, we must remind candidates that they must remain available until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Students will be supervised to complete independent revision during any period where there is a gap between exams in the library, or if there is no scheduled Walking Talking Mocks. In addition to this, if you would like your child to be in school during the whole exam window, please contact Miss Foley and arrangements will be made so that your child can complete supervised revision in school.

**Support:**

Understandably, some students may feel anxious about these exams, but please remember they have a strong support system here at WHS. The teachers and Tutors will continue to guide students in how to structure revision, and Tutors are available to address any concerns or provide additional support. In addition to the pastoral support available, please see below an outline of the additional academic support available to students after the May half term:

- May half term Masterclasses.
- Pre-exam briefings
- Support in the library
- 'Walking Talking Mocks' (WTM)
- Breakfast revision

## Revision:

We highly recommend that students undertake their revision using a balanced and healthy approach, which includes regular rest breaks. With this in mind, we have asked the curriculum leaders of all subjects to provide key revision information for this preparation. The information will be on Class Charts (or Microsoft Teams for their individual classes as well as the 'Year 11 student team'. This is to support students to maintain focus and to inform parents on key tools and sources of revision, so you can support accordingly. We have also asked all subject teachers to ensure any homework set is revision only.

## Uniform and Exam Conduct Exam Expectations

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and maturity Year 11 have shown during their exams so far. To support all students in performing to the best of their ability, we ask for your help in ensuring the following expectations are met:

- **Uniform:** Students must arrive in perfect school uniform, including their blazer and correct school shoes. They should not be wearing any jewellery or piercings. This helps to maintain a sense of formality and focus.
- **Arrival and Dismissal:** Students must enter and leave the examination rooms calmly and quietly.
- **Phones, watches, smart watches and smart glasses:** These items are **strictly prohibited** in exam rooms. Possession of a mobile phone or any of the above, even if switched off, could result in disqualification and loss of marks, potentially compromising a student's GCSE results.

## Equipment Checklist

Please ensure your child arrives fully equipped each day. The required items include:

- Black pens (at least two)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator (for Maths and Science exams)
- Protractor (for Maths)
- Clear pencil case
- Clear water bottle (labels removed)

Being fully equipped avoids unnecessary stress and ensures students can focus solely on doing their best.

If you would like to donate your child's uniform, please contact the PTFA to arrange a donation at [ptfa@woodcotehigh.com](mailto:ptfa@woodcotehigh.com) or this can be dropped at the general office.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns with either Miss Foley or Mr Deale. We are looking forward to celebrating your child's successes and achievements that come from all their hard work.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Foley  
Head of Year 11  
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Mr Deale  
Assistant Principal  
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