



# CHAILEY SCHOOL

A Specialist Language and Humanities College

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Key MA (Ed)

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As a leader I believe it is important to listen when situations demand it. This morning I met with a small group of Year 11 students to discuss their feelings about study leave and uniform. I gave them the opportunity to represent the views of themselves and their peers.

I then explained that the English and Maths GCSE exams finish later than ever this year. They are also different exams that cannot be compared to previous GCSEs. The way they are graded means that only a certain percentage of students can achieve a 'good' GCSE pass. As a school, our best resource is our English and Maths teachers who are the experts in the new style of exams. I believe it is important that students use this resource right up until their final English and Maths exams. Rest assured this is not the school chasing exam results but ensuring that students have as many opportunities as possible available to them when they leave school.

Having listened to the students and explained my rationale I have agreed the following clarifications and changes, which I detail below.

## **Supported Revision Programme**

The last day of formal timetabled lessons for Year 11 students will be **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. Whilst the main GCSE programme begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, we are keen to keep our students in school as long as is practical in order to ensure they work as effectively and efficiently as possible in a supported environment. Students will be expected to attend their timetabled lessons up until the 26<sup>th</sup> May and, for those subjects whose exam falls between 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>h</sup> May, the timetabled lessons will take the form of supervised revision. Students must maintain full attendance to all lessons, in their timetabled rooms with their allocated teacher until 26<sup>th</sup> May.

From **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June (after half term)** through to the end of the examinations schedule, different arrangements for Year 11 students will then take effect. We believe it is important to provide the means for our Year 11 students to follow a supported revision programme in school, with subject staff.

The logistical arrangements for Year 11 in relation to the exam period are as follows:

1. Normal lessons will run for all subjects where the final exam has not yet taken place and students are expected to attend.
2. On a day where a student has a morning exam they are expected to remain in school for any lesson they haven't had their final exam in. If this does not apply, they may leave.
3. On a day where a student has an afternoon exam the students may leave the school immediately following the exam. If they have no lessons in the morning for an exam that has not yet taken place, students may remain at home in the morning.
4. There will be opportunities for independent revision in the Y11 Common Room. Students may also choose to go to their timetabled lesson to revise. A teacher will be available to supervise and support them. It is not possible to use the library as this is used as an exam venue for students entitled to special arrangements for public examinations.





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5. If a student has no lessons where an exam is still to take place, this student may choose to study at home or take advantage of our facilities.
6. If students are not in an exam or a supported revision session they will be expected to be either in the Year 11 Common Room or off-site to ensure the smooth running of the rest of the school.

## **Uniform**

We will have a Leavers' Assembly the week before the written exams begin where the students will be given their Leavers' Hoodies. Mr Austin and Mrs Kinderman will be organising this. As the students have been very persuasive about their reasons for being able to wear comfortable clothing, they will be able to come in to school from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May in their own clothes. However, the expectation is that students dress appropriately for school.

I hope that this information has helped to clarify the arrangements for Year 11 and responded to some of the concerns that I have been made aware of. We are only ever acting in the best interests of the students at a time when examinations are getting harder. We understand the "the stress issue" and our intention is to provide a calm and supportive environment during this period of time.

Much more detail about the exact arrangements for exams and study leave will be sent out next term, including ensuring that we give students enough breaks during the school day.

Yours sincerely

Helen Key  
Headteacher

