



27th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Key dates and information from subjects

As we get closer to the GCSE examinations, I thought I would share some information about what students can expect over the next months, and you can support them with their revision.

Firstly, I wanted to pass on a huge thank you for their conduct in the mock examinations last half term. Multiple members of staff praised their attitude, effort, and how they approached the examinations, they need to have the same mindset for the GCSE examinations.

The only thing that was noticed was we had many students who did not have the necessary equipment, this is including a calculator for Maths and Science exams. Please could you encourage them to bring the correct equipment with them each day, this will help them get in the routine for their examinations. We do support students who may find this a challenge. Please contact the pastoral team if you need support with equipment - pastoraladmin@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk Tutors will be checking if students have equipment each morning.

The students are now in a position where they will be receiving feedback from their mocks and their outcomes. It is important that they approach this in the same manner as the advice they receive from teachers on how to make further progress could be crucial for attainment. Students might be disappointed with how they have performed in the recent mocks, but it is not too late for them to turn it around and make improvements. It could be that students have done well in the mocks, but it is vitally important at this stage that they do not become complacent. The same advice applies to both, regardless of whether they have under achieved or done extremely well, they need to use the time they have left to prepare the best they can.

I have included some of the information from the previous letter about preparation for the mocks, as the same messages are relevant. It is important that students look after themselves, as when it comes to preparing for their GCSE examinations, students sometimes prioritise revising to the point it impacts their health and wellbeing.

Please encourage students to still do the following:

- Have a healthy breakfast to set them up for the day.
- Have a balanced diet throughout the day.
- No revising in the early hours! Go to bed at their normal time and get plenty of rest.
- Make time for family and friends.
- Take breaks from revision.
- Don't give up all your hobbies.

If students do not do the above, the revision they do will not be productive and it won't lead to the outcomes they want. It is important that students strike a balance with their revision, they can do this by sticking to a revision schedule. I have attached a GCSE revision guide to this letter. Please feel free to adapt it and encourage your child to stick to it. It does help make students realise that they have plenty of time to revise, helps strike a balance, and gives them a routine which helps their revision become more organised.

Study Support

There will be a separate letter send out about the Easter revision sessions that members of staff are offering. Students will be completing a form to sign up for the sessions they would like to attend.

There is information on every subject (specification, topic lists and revision tips) in the Countdown to Success guide on our website: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/countdown-to-success/>

Please encourage students to attend revision sessions at school, these run at lunchtimes and after school. Students have already received a copy of the revision schedule, and one is attached to this letter.

There are other opportunities to revise at school, especially during form times. Every Wednesday, students receive guidance on how to revise by watching videos suggesting different revision strategies which has been organised by Mr Walker. Then, every Thursday, Curriculum leaders share with students' guidance on how to prepare for the exams in their subject.

Students have also been informed about the 'Challenge 40' revision task. Every time students complete a revision activity independently, for example producing a revision resource or completing a past paper, they can bring it to school and show their form tutor what they have created. If the tutor is happy with the quality of work produced, they will sign a box on the 'Challenge 40' handout (attached to this letter). We have already had one winner but there will more prizes for those who complete them!

Now students have received feedback to their mocks, it is vital they act upon this. They can still seek further advice from staff, whether it is getting practice papers marked, asking how to revise certain topic areas, or attending revision sessions. However, the further guidance teachers can provide will be more limited if students don't revise. If students have not done well in previous examinations, there is still plenty of time for improvement! Teachers could tell students of the countless times they have witnessed students performing below their capabilities and underperformed in the mocks, but to turn it around and achieve amazing results in the Summer. However, they would all tell them, that the hard work starts now!

Key Dates

GCSE Examinations

The first exam is **Thursday 8th May** which is a Drama. The last exam is **Wednesday 18h June** which is Further Maths. All other subject exams will happen between these two dates. Students are also advised to keep **Wednesday 25th June** free, because this is a contingency day, which the exam boards will use if for reason an exam needs to be rescheduled.

More information about the GCSE examinations will be released closer to the time, including a GCSE examination timetable.

Year 11 Leavers Assembly and Year 11 Leavers BBQ

There has been a change of date for these celebrations. The Year 11 Leavers assembly is a chance for Year 11 students to celebrate their achievements and reflect on their experiences during their time at QEGS. This will now be on **Wednesday 11th June** and the Year 11 BBQ will be the same day. Mr Garrity will be flipping burgers, students can catch up with their friends, and staff will be there to congratulate them for all the hard work they have put into their subjects over the last year. Students will receive their hoodie at the BBQ and more information will be released closer to the time.

Year 11 Prom- Wednesday 2nd July

This is in the 1907 suite at Uttoxeter Racecourse. More information will be released about this event closer to the time.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions about any of the above, please let me know - hamer@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Hamer
Head of Year 11