

3rd May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Arrangements for GCSE examination period

I am writing to outline the arrangements for students in Year 11 during the forthcoming GCSE examination period. As you may be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) is clear (click [here](#)) that 'study leave should not be granted by 'default', because the best preparation for the GCSE examinations is the structured and supervised learning environment that the school can provide. However, the DfE does recognise the need to ensure that students have the time 'to develop their independent study', balanced with the knowledge that students do not all 'have the skills, or are not inclined, to make the best use of unsupervised and unstructured revision time'.

The Year 11 timetable will therefore be amended during the examination period in a number of ways, which can be found on the Year 11 exam period timetable (click [here](#)). The key points are detailed below and this information has been shared with students during assembly today.

- From Tuesday 7th May to Friday 24th May 2024, where students have an examination in the afternoon, the school recognises that, provided parents/guardians are in agreement, then home-study for the morning is appropriate. Students who study at home in the morning must arrive at school between 12.30-12.50pm. Should students prefer, they can attend their timetabled lessons in the morning. However, students can only arrive at 8am or 11.05-11.20pm (If they have a compulsory revision session period 3) or 12.30-12.50pm. This is to ensure that the school can continue to run effectively during this time.
- From the week commencing Monday 3rd June 2024 until the final exam on Monday 17th June 2024, students will be expected in school for their examinations and for compulsory revision sessions only. These sessions are highlighted blue on the timetable attached above. Students can only arrive at 8am, 12.30-12.50pm or the start of their revision session and students can only be in an exam, a revision session or a revision room.
- Should students have an examination in the afternoon and require a revision room for the morning, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk and this will be made available.

Students who are not following the school rules during the exam period will not be eligible to attend any celebratory events (end of Year 11 assembly and prom); this includes students arriving with incorrect uniform.

Due to our efforts to improve sustainability we will not be providing bottles of water but there are water fountains where students can fill their bottles (which has to be clear with no labelling), and cereal bars will be available in the morning before exams.

Students have worked exceptionally hard over the last two years and it is important that we maintain this focus until the very last examination. Teachers will continue to provide revision material for students through Google Classroom. It is vital that both our school and home environments work together in partnership to ensure that all students are on track to succeed.

Finally, as a reminder, we have some important dates for your diary:

- 14th June 2024, 3pm (after the physics exam)

Year 11 Celebration Assembly. It is also during this time that students will be able to get their shirts signed.

- 27th June 2024
Year 11 prom

The examination period is always challenging for students and their families, and this has been an exceptionally difficult time for the year group. Should your child have any questions or need support, please encourage your child to speak to Mr Sills, Head of Year, or Ms Stoodley, Pastoral Director. Should you have any concerns about yourself, your child or any member of the school community, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, via the main school office.

Should parents/guardians have any questions about the arrangements for the examination period, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for my attention.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Hankin
Assistant Headteacher
Assessment and Reporting, Examinations and Intervention