

3 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Exams and Celebrations

It is with anticipation and excitement that I am writing to you before the GCSE 2024 exam series starts next week on Thursday 9 May. Our Year 11 students are showing great maturity and a focused approach towards their studies at this important time in their lives and we will continue to walk alongside them offering every opportunity to allow them to be successful.

Adjusted Timetables

I would like to thank you for feedback over the last week and we have used this to improve the draft timetables shared last week. I am pleased to share that today, all Year 11 students received their final timetables for the duration of their time at The King's School; please discard any previous draft versions to avoid any confusion. These final timetables are completely personalised and ensure that every student has the opportunity to maximise their time in school, honing their understanding and skills in preparation for the exams with their subject teachers, so that no time is wasted. We are not only aiming to support academic performance but also students' overall wellbeing by extending lunch times before afternoon exams and boosting their confidence by offering key Achieve and booster sessions.

Exams

All exams are clearly indicated on final adjusted timetables which you child has been given a copy of today. Please reach out to me via the normal channels should you require a further copy at any point and I will ensure you receive this. Students have been spoken to about the importance of being in the 'right place at the right time' during the coming weeks. They understand they must be present in school every day throughout the exam period and in all sessions and exams outlined on their final adjusted timetable.

Students must be in school by 8.25am every day. It is also important that you are aware that some exams will finish slightly after 2.35pm. This is due to examination regulations, which prevent any school from starting an exam before 1.00pm. In such instances, this is reflected in your child's adjusted timetable, where the conclusion time of the exam is prominently indicated.

Timings of the School Day

From Tuesday 7 May, Year 11's lunchtime will move to the earlier time of 12.05pm. Students will either return to lessons at 12.35pm following their lunch break, or if they have an exam, will have an extended lunchtime to 12.50pm before afternoon exams start at 1.00pm. I am confident that you will agree that this will benefit your child, especially on days when they also have an exam in the morning.

Expectations

Your continued support in ensuring your child arrives at school on time at 8.25am is greatly appreciated and will allow them to have every chance of success in their exams. Failure to attend school, including timetabled Achieve sessions or an exam, may result in consequences such as exclusion from events like Leavers' Day or the Prom.

End of Year Celebrations

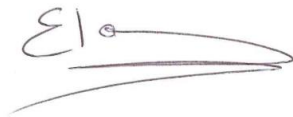
Our Year 11 Leaver's Day will be held on Friday 21 June. Students will only be invited to this event if they have attended all sessions on their adjusted timetable, so we encourage you to support them in being in school every day to avoid disappointment. Invitations, with details of the event, will be given to students during the final week of exams.

Finally, the Prom will be held at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel on Thursday 11 July. This is a rite of passage and prestigious occasion where your child will be able to celebrate the end of their exams and secondary school education with their peers and teachers. Information about how to purchase a ticket will be shared with eligible students via MCAS next week. Students will only be able to purchase a ticket for the Prom if they have maintained high levels of attendance to school and have demonstrated excellent standards of behaviour throughout Year 11. In the unlikely event that a student fails to meet these expectations or misses any exam then they will be unable to attend this event, even after payment. In this situation a member of staff will contact you and the cost of the ticket will be refunded.

We would welcome you to come and watch students arriving at the Prom from no earlier than 6.30pm and ask that you make suitable arrangements for your child's journey home no later than 11.00pm.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024's five years at The King's School and will communicate more details about all leavers' celebrations with you in due course. For now, we continue to focus on working with students to prepare them for their approaching GCSE exams.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E Long', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss E Long
Year 11 Leader