

4th May 2023

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. Following the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, this is more important than ever. 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.

- Thursday 11th May 2023 will be the final tutorial period. From Monday 15th May 2023, students will be dismissed at 2.45pm unless they have an examination or compulsory revision session. This begins the process of providing students with time to work independently. Please note that tutors will be available should students prefer to revise in school between 2.45-3.10pm; students should let their tutor know if they intend to use this provision.
- From Monday 15th May to Friday 9th June 2023, 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 1.10-1.20pm. Should students prefer, they can attend their timetabled lessons in the morning. However, students can only arrive at 8.50am or 12.00-12.10pm (if they have a compulsory revision session period 4) or 1.10-1.20pm. This is to ensure that the school can continue to run effectively during this time.
- From the week commencing Monday 12th June 2023 until the final exam on Friday 16th June 2023, 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 8.50am, 1.10-1.20pm 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.

In previous years we have provided bottles of water and snacks before each exam. 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.

I would also like to share with parents/guardians a letter from Jo Saxton, Chief Regulator of Ofqual, the regulator for examinations (click [here](#)). The letter includes details of the support that has been put in place for students in recognition of the disruption that students experienced as a result of the pandemic, and a guide for students and parents on coping with exam pressure.

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

- 16th June 2023, 3.15pm (after the Geography exam)
Year 11 Celebration Assembly. It is also during this time that students will be able to get their shirts signed.
- 29th June 2023
Year 11 prom

Should parents/guardians have any questions, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



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