St Cuthbert Mayne

Joint Roman Catholic & Church of England school

Headteacher
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Tuesday 6th May 2025

Dear Parents,

As I am sure you are aware, the formal GCSE and BTEC written examinations start this week! Your child has been given a timetable and handbook for their exams so should know when all their exams are taking place and what to expect. We want to wish your child the very best of luck in these examinations and we will be reminding them that we are here to support them every step of the way. We hope that they get the results they need this summer to enable them to take the next step in education, employment or training.

The exam season runs over the next 6 school weeks. Students are going to need to work as hard as they can during that time both in and out of school. The payoff for this hard work will be the best and longest summer holiday they will have had to date. It is really hard to commit to studying when the weather is so lovely, so they need our support during this time to keep focused.

From today, we have changed the whole school timetable and timings of the school day to give Year 11 students the maximum amount of contact time with their subject teachers in preparation for the exams. Students need to be revising little and often outside of school and we know some of them will need your support to be disciplined at doing this. Students should also be bringing their exercise books home to support their revision and any other exam preparation resources that staff are giving them.

The exam season can be very stressful. It's really important that students get enough sleep, exercise and are eating well. We will be providing a free breakfast for all Year 11 students during the exam season. The Mental Health Support team will be in school every Wednesday and will be available to support students who might be struggling. I have attached a leaflet from them, for your information. If your child is struggling please contact Miss Hawkins - Head of Year 11 or Miss Pocock - Year 11 Pastoral Support Officer.

The best advice we can give your child is:

1. Be in school every day and on time
2. Work on the things your teachers told you at the Year 11 Mock Review Evening
3. Work hard and do what your teachers are telling you to get the grades. They know how to get you the grades you want!
4. Have a revision plan for out of school hours and complete the plan - Little and often!
5. Get to bed early and make sure you are eating well. Don't forget to have breaks and exercise.
6. Practice exam questions in exam conditions at home. Keep practicing!
7. Attend the Period 0/exam warm-up revision every day
8. Attend the Period 6 Power Hour revision session
9. Attend half term revision sessions
10. If you work hard now, anything is possible!

Please support us by reinforcing these key messages at home.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the following key points/dates:

1. All Year 11 students **must** attend school every day up to and including until **Monday 16th June**
2. A short service to mark the celebration of the end of Year 11 will take place after the Physics exam on Monday 16th June. This is when students will be able to sign shirts and leavers books. They should not do this before as it could breach examination rules and they may be refused entry into an exam if they have writing on their shirt.
3. Food & Nutrition and D&T students are expected in school on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th June.
4. The Year 11 Summer Ball is on Friday 27th June at the Livermead Cliff Hotel
5. The GCSE results day is Thursday 21st August

Wishing your child all the very best.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Down
Headteacher