



20 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Year 11 - Preparation for the GCSE examinations**

The second round of core mock exams took place last week and we are now in the final stretch before the actual GCSE exams. The focus and attitude of Year 11 has been exemplary and their consistent hard work is evident in the improvements we have seen throughout the year.

A final GCSE preparation booklet is available on our website: [Soham Village College - Year 11 Revision \(sohamvc.org\)](https://www.sohamvc.org/revision)

Students have only seven weeks until the first exams; students of French, German and art have even fewer. This includes the two weeks at Easter when students can make huge amounts of progress with a good balance between revision and relaxation.

Most subjects will (or soon will) have finished their course content. Lesson emphasis will be shifting from learning new concepts and information to applying knowledge in order to maximise performance in the exams. Teachers have carefully planned sequences of revision lessons to deliver to students. These are based on their accumulated experience of GCSEs and interpretation of the guidance issued by exam boards. They will focus particularly on exam technique and examination nuances that can make a huge difference to overall marks and grades. We firmly believe that there is no better way for students to be ready for their exams than by being in class with their teachers. These lessons will continue until Friday 5 June to ensure all students are expertly prepared for all their subjects. For maximum benefit, all students need to be in school. We recognise some students will want to spend more time at home revising for the exams and, in exceptional circumstances, discretionary study leave may be applied for. Details about how to apply for this will be published nearer to the time.

It is perfectly normal for students to feel worried about the upcoming exams but this should not lead to an unhealthy level of stress with a lack of sleep, a lack of appetite, or illness. If you feel that your child is suffering with increased anxiety, and they have yet to gain any support in or out of the school, please contact us using the following email address; [wellbeing@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@soham-college.org.uk). Alternatively, we have an area on the school website dedicated to student wellbeing; [Soham Village College - Wellbeing \(sohamvc.org\)](https://www.sohamvc.org/wellbeing). Here you will find links to relevant services and websites that you or your child may find useful.

Please check your child knows all the equipment they need for all their exams and has it. It is a unnecessary worry on the day of an exam for them to use something they are not familiar with.



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## **A reminder of the milestones left in year 11:**

### **21 April – Final GCSE exam timetable given to students**

Students will receive their final timetable for the GCSEs during this week. This will include times, locations, tiers and arrangements for any scheduled clashes and will be printed on green paper. If there are any problems or queries, please contact Mrs Botcher, Exams Officer, as soon as possible: [nbotcher@sohamvc.org](mailto:nbotcher@sohamvc.org)

### **23 April – Year 11 Group Photograph**

Students have a whole year group photograph. These will be available to purchase as usual and are a lovely way to remember their time at Soham Village College. The photograph will also be displayed in school along with all the years that have gone before them.

### **24 April – Celebration Day:**

An opportunity to celebrate the past 5 years together and reflect on their journey through secondary school before we focus solely on the GCSEs.

### **8 June – Year 11 formal lessons have finished and all students are on study leave.**

Students can still sign into school and study if they need to be in school. There will be designated classrooms and they will follow their timetable as normal but work independently.

### **24 June – GCSE contingency date**

In the event an exam is rescheduled by the exam board, this is the final date it can be timetabled for. Students **must** be available until this date (JCQ national guidance). It is not a re-sit date, students **cannot** choose to sit an exam on this date if they miss one.

### **26 June – Leavers' Prom!**

This is held in our Performing Arts Centre and is the official final day for your child at Soham Village College.

### **20 August – GCSE Results Day**

Results can be collected from Beechurst hall between 10am and 12 noon.

The students have worked hard for 5 years and have placed themselves in an excellent position as the final exams approach. We are immensely proud of them and will do everything we can to maintain their focus and the high standards they have set. We reserve the right to withdraw the privilege to attend Celebration Day or the Prom if a student's conduct falls below an acceptable level.

Please discuss the contents of this letter with your child. If there is anything more you feel we can do to support your child through their GCSEs, please do not hesitate to contact us. More information about GCSE timetables, Celebration Day, study leave, Prom and Results Day will follow in due course.

Yours faithfully,

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