



27 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter the final weeks before the GCSE examinations, we would like to say how much we value the support that you continue to offer the school in ensuring your child has the best chance of success at this crucial time. In this letter you will find information about how to apply for Exceptional Study Leave.

How to apply for Exceptional Study Leave

As previously stated, we believe the best way for students to prepare for the exams is with the expert guidance of their teachers, who will be delivering a planned programme of revision. This will include exam specific skills, as well as a thorough recap of all relevant material from the course. These lessons will finish and all students will be studying from home from **Monday 8 June**; although students must still attend for all scheduled examinations. On days of examinations, students will know from their timetable the location and start time and should always arrive 15 minutes early. They must be in full school uniform; Class of 2026 leavers' jumpers are considered school uniform.

We recognise that some students think they would study better at home. If you think your child will be able to complete at least 5 hours of high-quality revision between the hours of 8.30 and 3pm, then it is possible that Exceptional Study Leave would suit them. Students who apply for Exceptional Study Leave must be: highly motivated, organised and have a track record of being able to manage their time productively. This will mean their final day of school is **Friday 15 May**. By this date, all students will have had their feedback from their latest English mock for the exam the following week.

Any student who is granted Exceptional Study Leave is welcome to attend lessons after this date but must sign in and out of the site to ensure we have an accurate record for health and safety reasons; they can only do this once per day (e.g. they cannot leave for lunch and then come back later). All students on site are required to be in full school uniform, to follow their normal timetable and attend all scheduled lessons. This includes students who have come in for exams and are waiting to travel home on a school bus.

If you believe that your child meets the criteria outlined above and would benefit from taking Exceptional Study Leave, please email eslingsby@sohamvc.org. You may also wish your child to begin study leave on a date between 15 May and 8 June. If this is the case, then please notify me of the specific date in your email.

A reminder of the milestones left in year 11:

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 timetabled as normal but work independently.

24 June – GCSE contingency date

In the event an exam is rescheduled, this is the final date it can be timetabled for. Students must be available until this date (JCQ national directive).



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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.

If you feel your child needs further support in coping with the pressure of the upcoming GCSE examinations, please contact us using the following email address: wellbeing@soham-college.org.uk. Alternatively, we have an area on the school website dedicated to student wellbeing; <http://www.sohamvc.org/Student-Wellbeing/>. Here you will find links to relevant services and websites that you or your child may find useful.

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 don't hesitate to contact me or Mrs Spain.

Yours faithfully,

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