

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

14 February 2025

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Thank you all for engaging in the Year 11 Parents' Evening earlier this term. I hope that the advice given provides a focus for revision as we move into the final stretch.

My Senior Leadership Team have started the second round of Year 11 interviews, the first round having occurred last October. These interviews will focus on those students who need the greatest support, providing an opportunity to congratulate students on their achievements to-date and confirm post-16 destinations. We are also holding additional interviews with selected students and their parents. These appointments will be selective so that we can discuss any extra support and guidance students may require.

Whilst I would never want a youngster to be defined by examination grades, they are nonetheless the golden tickets that provide students with choices in the future. All subjects are important and there is no soft option at GCSE, however as I am sure you will appreciate, achieving good passes in the core subjects of Maths and English provides the necessary foundation for future success.

Such is the importance of English and Maths, students who do not achieve higher passes have to often continue these GCSEs for a re-sit at their post-16 providers. Therefore, it is vital that over the next few months, Year 11 students see GCSEs as their 'full-time 'job'. Attendance at school accounts for about 25 hours of this; they should then aim for another 12-15 hours, completing a combination of homework, revision or attending revision sessions in school. Many students have spoken to me about the improvement they have made between the Year 10 and Year 11 exams and put this down to robust revision.

Revision Workshops

I am very grateful for the generosity and commitment of my colleagues in giving up their time to organise extra revision classes. This is not part of the day job! Mr Bamford has circulated on Year 11 Teams a file of revision opportunities listed day-by-day from now until when the Year 11 students leave; this will also be displayed in Year 11 tutor rooms. A link to these revision classes can be found here [Year 11 Revision/Exams - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#). Some departments have already finished teaching the subject content and have ample time to complete thorough revision in class, so these do not feature in this additional revision schedule - or not at least in its first iteration.

Exam Contingency Sessions:

Wednesday 11 June 2025 (pm) and Wednesday 25 June 2025 (all day)

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Exam Contingency Days. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the examination period until Wednesday 25th June 2025 inclusive. In addition to the 25th June, the afternoon of Wednesday 11th June 2025 has also been designated a contingency afternoon. Students should also ensure that they are available on this afternoon. These dates are not a school decision and apply to all candidates in all schools. The contingency sessions may be required in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom.

Information for All Candidates

All public examinations are regulated by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). They provide information for students and parents including information on appeals and malpractice. Please see their [website](#) for more information.

For ease I have extracted information on [examination regulations](#).

An essential guide to examination equipment can be found by following [this link](#).

Year 11 Last Day

The last day for full-time attendance for Year 11 will be Friday 23rd May. By then examinations will have started and these will be interleaved between lessons and revision sessions. Student exams will then continue after the Whitsun holiday. I will write to you again nearer the time to provide more detail.

Year 11 Leavers' Events

At the end of Year 11, there are a number of Oaklands traditions which enable our students to celebrate their time in school. These include a Leavers' Mass and farewell celebrations just before the May holiday, a final celebration assembly and, of course, the Year 11 Prom on Thursday 3rd July. All of these events are an important part of what we are as a community; however, I would like to emphasise that attendance at any of these events is at the discretion of the school and is entirely dependent on a students' positive attendance, effort and behaviour until the end of the examination period. Any outstanding debts to the school will also have to be settled before a Prom ticket is released.

Assessment, Examination and Reporting

A reminder of the key dates for Year 11:

English, Maths, Science, RE Mock Exams	17 – 21 March 2025
Final Predicted Grades and Tutor Reports	Week commencing 31 March 2025
Start of Main Exam Season	8 May 2025
Exam Contingency Day	25 June 2025
Year 11 Leavers' Mass and Last Day	23 May 2025
Year 11 Prom	3 July 2025
GCSE Results Day	21 August 2025

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Over, Head of Year 11.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher