



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Thursday 25th May 2023

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

Re: Home Study Opportunities

As shared in my update letter on Tuesday, Year 11 have made such an impressive start to their GCSE exams; working within their friendship groups and with staff to settle any nerves someone may have, giving encouragement and mutual support where it is needed. They are a truly awesome group.

As we come to the end of this first fortnight of exams, and with half-term making a nice 'break' for everyone, now is the time to review our provision.

Days with no exams

We have two days coming up where families should be given the opportunity to decide how students make best use of this time.

The days in question are:

- Friday 26th May (tomorrow)
- Tuesday 6th June (first Tuesday after half term)

There are no timetabled exams on these days. We would like to suggest that both days are classed as "Home Study Opportunity Days" – meaning that students can of course attend school as normal, where timetabled lessons will continue as planned OR, with parental agreement, they can choose to remain at home and self-study.

This flexibility allows for personal choice, enabling students to decide which option provides them with the best level of support. Staff have posted a wealth of revision material on Teams; which students should be checking regularly.

Students attending must do so in school uniform, and I suspect numbers will be lower on these days, meaning that lessons may become more personalised, revision sessions as a result.

Students choosing to home-study will be coded as 'S – Study Leave.' We will apply this code to anyone not attending on the 26th May and 6th June unless a different reason for absence is given – however, parents do not need to call to inform us if their child will be at home studying.

There's no doubt that this gives a break in the current structure and an opportunity for students to ensure a work/life balance. Given the mature attitude already shown towards exams and exam preparation, we know that whatever students choose to do on these two days, it will be right for them.



Home Study after half-term

Listening to students, it is clear that there is a growing voice for those that would prefer to study at home, when not in an exam. We only want what is best for students. In this regard, maintaining lessons and revision sessions with their teacher for as long as possible.

All lessons will continue to run as planned for the first two weeks after half term, from Monday 5th June to Friday 16th June. Staff will remain available in classrooms and will deliver lessons/revision sessions to students attending.

During this time, however, where parental agreement is in place (more on that shortly) students have the option to leave the site when not in an exam, in order to complete home study or any other meaningful activity approved by parents, so long as the following conditions are met:

- Students know they can continue to access lessons as normal for the first 2 weeks after half term.
- Parents and students take responsibility for being onsite in good time to complete all exams.
- Parents and students take responsibility for how time for home-study is used.
- Parents are giving consent for the school to allow their child to leave in order to home study.
- Parents and students take responsibility for travel arrangements to and from school, where required.
- Students travelling to and from the school will remain positive role-models and ambassadors of the school to our community.
- A written, parental request to allow a student to leave for home study MUST be submitted BEFORE a student will be allowed to sign out. This is a safeguarding requirement.
- Students MUST sign-in and sign-out at Reception when they arrive and leave each day. This is a safeguarding requirement.
- Students leaving for home-study should not return during the same day – students are either 'in' or 'out.'

A reminder that throughout the exam period, and up until the point a student leaves, school uniform and dress code must be followed.

Students using home study will have their attendance coded as 'S-Study Leave' for periods where they are not on site during the school day, and parental agreement has been given.

Students choosing not to attend without written agreement from a parent will be coded as 'O-Truancy.'

Giving Parental Agreement

If you would like your child to have the option of home study, giving consent for your child to choose whether to remain on site after an exam or leave for home study, and manage how they will make their way home, a written letter should be given to Mr C Jackson, Head of Year 11. This can be an email, but must be signed by someone with parental responsibility, residing at the same address as the child.

Mr Jackson's email address: ccjackson@wadhamschool.co.uk

Your agreement and consent only needs to be given once – this will enable your child to have the flexibility to decide how they structure each day. You can withdraw your agreement and consent at any time – we are happy to maintain provision for anyone expected to attend.

Thank you for getting to the end of a lengthy letter, and I hope you agree that these are positive actions in support of our students at this time.

Wishing everyone a well-deserved half term break, when it gets here.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas
Headteacher