

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

8 February 2024

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Thank you all for engaging in the Year 11 Parents' Evening earlier this month. As part of the teacher feedback process, students were encouraged to record improvement targets for each subject, and these should provide 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 will also be holding additional interviews with selected students and their parents at an after-school meeting. These appointments will be selective so that we can discuss any extra support and guidance students may require. We will contact those parents and carers concerned before Easter.

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 hard 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. This document was emailed to you on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. A link to these revision classes can be found [here](#). 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 – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Exam Contingency Day - the date that has been set aside as the contingency day should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2024 examination series. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the examination period until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 inclusive. In addition to the 26<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June have also been designated contingency afternoons. Students should also ensure that they are available on these afternoons. These dates are not a school decision and apply to all candidates in all schools. The decision to introduce exam contingency sessions follows the tragic events in the last few years, namely the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. The Joint Council for Qualifications decided that they need the option to postpone an exam in the event of an incident and rearrange for a later date to allow all students a fair and equal chance.

### **Information for All Candidates**

Important information is provided every year by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) and a copy is attached to this letter. This document contains regulations, instructions and information for all students taking examinations.

A copy of this document, together with an **Exam Equipment List** can be found on our website via both the following links:

[\*\*Year 11 Revision/Exams - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College\*\*](#)

[\*\*Examinations - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College\*\*](#)

### **Year 11 Last Day**

The last day for full-time attendance for Year 11 will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 to the end of the examination period.

## Assessment, Examination and Reporting

A reminder of the key dates for Year 11:

English, Maths, Science, RE Mock Exams	11 – 15 March 2024
Final Predicted Grades and Tutor Reports	27 - 28 March 2024
Start of Main Exam Season	9 May 2024
Exam Contingency Day	26 June 2024
Year 11 Leavers' Mass and Last Day	24 May 2024
Year 11 Prom	4 July 2024
GCSE Results Day	22 August 2024

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mitchell, Head of Year 11 – [19hoy@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:19hoy@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**