

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Executive Headteacher: Richard Cunningham BA (Jt Hons), PGCE (Cantab), MSc, CMgr, FCMI, NPQEL  
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11 February 2026

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.

The Senior Leadership Team will soon start 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 young person to be defined by examination grades, they are nonetheless the ticket that provides students with the greatest 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 often have to continue these GCSEs and re-sit the exams 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 Timetables

Your child has recently been issued with their provisional examination timetable. It is essential that the details on here are fully checked, particularly the name which will be printed on certificates. Please note that this is the student's legal name, which we hold in our records. If you have any queries, please email Mrs Colley, our Examinations Officer [c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

## Exam Contingency Session: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (all day)

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Exam Contingency Day. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the examination period until Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 inclusive. This date is not a school decision and applies to all candidates in all schools. The contingency session 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 [JCQ Information for Candidates](#) and [JCQ Instructions for Conducting Exams](#).

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

## Year 11 Last Day: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

The last day for full-time attendance for Year 11 will be Friday 22<sup>nd</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 2<sup>nd</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 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.

## GCSE Exam Results

Some of you may have seen in the media that there are plans underway to enable students to view their GCSE results online for the first time this summer. According to the DfE, the initial collection of results will still happen face-to-face at school, and results will later become available on the new app. We will share more details with you later in the year.

## Assessment, Examination and Reporting

A reminder of the key dates for Year 11:

English, Maths, Science, RE Mock Exams	16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Final Predicted Grades and Tutor Reports	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Start of Main Exam Season	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Exam Contingency Day	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Year 11 Leavers' Mass and Last Day	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
Year 11 Prom	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026
GCSE Results Day	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2026

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor in the first instance, or Mrs Cunningham, Head of Year 11.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Bonnington  
**Head of School**