

24<sup>th</sup> April 2026



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**Principal: Mr S Piggot**

Dear Parent/Carer & Student,

### Summer Exams Update

As you are aware, the main series of GCSE exams begin on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This letter outlines some of the key information so students know what to expect in the exam season. Students were also given their personalised exam timetables including seat numbers, last week.

#### Location

Students should come to the main hall at 8:30 every morning before every exam for a pre-exam briefing. The vast majority of exams will take place in the sports hall. As per the mocks, most students who qualify for extra time will take their exams in the sports hall with other students. Students with other exam concessions will be taking their exams in the bungalow.

#### Timings

Morning exams will start at 9am, afternoon exams will start at 1:15pm. Students must be at the location of their exam 15 minutes before the start time. Students must be silent in the waiting area before entering the exam.

**To accommodate the afternoon exams, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Year 11 will move to have their lunch on our first lunch sitting at 12:15pm instead of their current 1:15pm.**

#### Uniform and personal items

Students must wear correct school uniform to all exams. All personal items other than house keys and bus pass must be left in a bag outside of the exam room. **This includes mobile phones.** Students can take into the exam room a clear bottle containing water; no tinted plastic bottles are permitted.

**Students are not allowed to wear a watch of any kind.**

#### Equipment

Students must come to exams fully equipped. I would advise bringing all equipment to each exam. *Please note that students must **not** take a calculator into a non-calculator paper maths or computing exam- these should remain in their bags.*

- **Compulsory:** Black biro pens, pencil, clear 30cm ruler, **pair of compasses, clear protractor**, rubber, pencil sharpener, **scientific calculator**, and coloured pencils for Design & Technology.
- **Optional:** Pencil case (must be clear), highlighters

**During the mock exams a number of students needed to borrow the items above in bold.** Please ensure your child comes fully prepared.

## Conduct in exams

The school must report to the exam board any conduct by a student that potentially breaches JCQ guidelines, we will remind students again of these rules in assemblies. This is not limited to, but includes the following:

- Completing details on the front of the exam paper before being instructed to do so
- Turning around and communicating with another student, e.g. smiling
- Continuing to write after the instruction to stop writing
- Writing non-exam information on the exam paper, includes doodles, messages to the marker
- Wearing a watch
- Having a phone on their person
- Having paper or other items in pockets.

Full JCQ guidance for students on exam practice can be found here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/knowledge-hub/written-exams-2025-2026/>

## Year 11 timetable

Year 11 students will continue to follow their normal exam timetable when not in an exam. The Year 11 timetable means in most cases students have lessons with their subject teachers the day before, or morning of, key exams. Where this is not the case, where possible we will be arranging revision booster sessions with subject specialist teachers before afternoon exams, or the afternoon before morning exams. These will be:

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2-3 pm Maths
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 11:15-12:15 Sociology
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11:15-12:15 English (Pop A only; Pop B have English lesson 4)
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2-3 pm French
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 11:15-12:15 Business
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2-3 pm Economics
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2-3 pm PE
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 9:50-10:50 Physics (Pop A only; Pop B have Science lesson 3)
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1pm-2pm Pop A Maths; 2pm-3pm Pop B Maths
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 11:15-12:15 Geography
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2-3 pm History and French

We will remind students each day about these. After school revision sessions will continue as usual.

## Study Leave

**Study leave will commence on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** to allow students to focus on the exams they have each day. We have carefully looked at the timing of the GCSE exams this year, compared to our Year 11 timetable, and this date will maximise the support students receive from specialist subject teachers.

During study leave students only need to be on site at Kibworth Mead when they have an exam, or else when they have a lesson in a subject where they have not yet sat the exam. The table below outlines the different formats of the day depending on the number of exams a student has.

Exams On The Day	Action
No exams	Study at home or come in for lesson when they have not yet sat the exam in that subject.
Morning exam only	<b>Attend school at 8:30am</b> to take the exam. Leave site when exam finishes to continue study at home or stay for lesson when they have not yet sat the exam in that subject. <b>Students must sign out at reception when they leave site.</b>
Morning and afternoon exam	<b>Attend school at 8:30am</b> and remain in school until the end of the afternoon exam. <b>Students will not be permitted to leave site between exams.</b> They will be allowed to revise on site for the afternoon exam with their normal teacher on that day. <b>If their afternoon exam finishes before 3pm they must sign out at reception.</b>
Afternoon exam only	<b>Attend school from 12:15pm</b> (or earlier if they have a lesson when they have not yet sat the exam in that subject) <b>and no later than 12:45pm</b> to take the exam. Leave site when the exam finishes. <b>Students must sign in at reception when they arrive at school. If their exam finishes before 3pm they must also sign out at reception.</b>

Once study leave has commenced, we will be offering specialist booster revision sessions the day before the remaining exams to support students' final preparation. Details of this to follow.

### **School Transport**

Students may use their regular school bus to get to school at 8:30am and leave school at 3:10pm. **If an exam is scheduled to finish after this time students must make their own arrangements for getting home.** Should you be experiencing significant difficulties with this please contact us and we will see what support we are able to provide.

If a student is unable to arrange transport home after a morning exam, they are welcome to stay onsite. These students would need to have revision materials with them.

### **Uniform and bag**

As mentioned above students must wear full school uniform and bring a bag with them. When only coming in for exams it is far more likely for a student not to want to bring a bag. They will need a bag to put their phone in; if left in a blazer or hoodie pocket they will be in breach of JCQ guidelines which we would then have to report to the exam board.

### **Breakfast Club**

The refectory will offer a range of breakfast items for purchase from 8am each morning. Year 11 students are welcome to attend to ensure they have a substantial breakfast before their exams commence.

### **Liaising with teachers**

Students are still encouraged to stay in contact with their teachers during study leave. They can still seek support and help. Email is the best form of contact. Teachers may provide extra advice via Satchel:One.

### **Illness**

Students should make every effort to attend all their exams. If a student is severely ill on the day of the exam please contact the school immediately. Medical evidence will be required.

### **Advice for exam days**

The tips below for your child should help them feel in control and less anxious during the exam period.

- Go to bed the night before at a sensible time, 10pm or earlier. The mind needs sleep to re-set and process work from the day.
- Get up early to ensure you have time for breakfast. The body including the mind needs energy to function properly. Have a cup of tea or coffee for caffeine if needed, but do not consume energy drinks prior to an exam.
- Look at key information you know will be on the exam e.g. reminding yourself of the structure of the exam paper. Do not try to cram new information.
- After the exam use the revision timetable you have written to revise for the next day. This should include breaks, not hours of study without a break.

### **Save the date**

Please note that as per exam timetable, the national contingency day for exams is **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**, and students are required to be in the country and available, in the unlikely event of any potential national or significant local disruption to exams.

Year 11 leavers' celebration assembly is scheduled for **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. More information to follow closer to the time.

In addition, KMA awards evening is scheduled for **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** where students are nominated from each year group for awards celebrating their individual success and/or contribution to school. Nominations will be announced at the beginning of July.

You will also be aware of the KMA Prom, scheduled for **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, which is a further opportunity to celebrate our Year 11 cohort.

Finally, GCSE results day is scheduled for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August**. More information on that will follow.

The guidance above will ensure that the students and parents/carers of our Kibworth Mead community go into the 2026 exam season well prepared and with a confidence that enables our young people to achieve results which reflect their potential and crucially, allows them to make positive next steps in their education and future careers. We look forward to your ongoing support during this important time in your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Thompson

Vice Principal