



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

25 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students,

Arrangements for Exam Leave for Year 11

We are now entering the final few weeks before public examinations commence. As we continue to work together to support all our students to achieve the best outcomes possible in their upcoming examinations, I am writing about some key events that will round off our drive to success at the end of this academic year.

As you will be aware, GCSE examinations begin on **Thursday 7 May and end on Wednesday 17 June**. Exam timetables have been released by the exam boards and individual student examination timetables have already been issued by our Exams team. Each awarding body's timetables are available via the links below and you can view your child's individual timetable via the Arbor App in due course. Please note you may see clashes appear on this timetable as exam boards do not necessarily communicate with each other. We are always aware and plan for this. Please also note that coursework deadlines will appear on this timetable – these are not exam dates.

- [Edexcel Exam Timetable](#)
- [AQA Exam Timetable](#)
- [Eduqas Exam Timetable](#)
- [WJEC Exam Timetable](#)

You may also wish to look at [Ofqual student guide to exams and assessments in 2026 - GOV.UK](#) on this year's approach to exams. The Joint Qualifications Council have issued their guidance for candidates, and this has been shared with students. Copies of the documents can be found [here](#). Please may I take this time to remind you that students must attend their exams in full school uniform (no hoodies). Being early to exams is essential. All students must arrive 15 minutes prior to the examination for the JCQ examination pretalk either outside the Sports Hall or the Sixth Form entrance. Students must be fully equipped for their examination. If for any reason a student is running late, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication that our students have shown throughout the year. Their commitment to their studies has been commendable, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements thus far. **Students are required to attend lessons up until the last day of full-time education**. For Year 11 this will be **Wednesday 6 May**. Until this date, our teachers will be teaching and revising key exam content. It is important for students to know that being in the classroom with our experts is invaluable. There is no

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reason that working at home would be better than receiving direct support and guidance from their expert teachers. Students are also welcome to come in and use the library for preparation and revision between 7.30am and 5pm on all school days until the end of the exams. If students are coming into school, they are expected to attend in full uniform and sign in and out via Main Reception.

Wednesday 24 June is the last day that a public examination may be sat and is referred to as a 'contingency day'. This means that in the unlikely event that an examination needs to be rescheduled during the series, it will be sat on this day. **Students should not book holidays before the final contingency day and are asked to keep this day free.**

English and Science Revision Day

This will take place Period 1-4 on Wednesday 15 April. Specific details will be shared with students.

Final Day Arrangements – Wednesday 6 May

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- **AM Registration** – All students to attend in form rooms as usual.
- **Period 1 – Tutor time and locker clearance** – Students will remain in their form rooms for a final check-in with tutors. This is a time for final messages and goodbyes with tutors. Students should also empty and clean their lockers, taking all books and resources at home.
- **Period 2 – Shirt Signing and photos in the Gym** – Tutors will take students to the Gym for shirt signing and photographs.
- **Period 3 – Final Year 11 Assembly** – A final celebration in the Main Hall to reflect on students' achievements throughout their time at Newstead Wood School.
- **Period 4 – Dismissal** – Students will be dismissed directly from the assembly. They must leave the site promptly and will not return to lockers or form rooms afterwards.

GCSE Revision Drop-Ins During Exam Leave

To support students further we have timetabled GCSE Drop-Ins each subject during the exam period. These sessions are for students to come and meet with subject specialists to ask questions, go through specific information and have work checked, which will hopefully boost confidence, reinforce key content, and ensure students are fully prepared. More information will be provided next term.

Prom Tickets reminder – now available to purchase on WisePay

We are also looking forward to celebrating with students at the Year 11 Prom on Friday 19 June. This will be a lovely opportunity for the students to celebrate the completion of the summer term and a wonderful way to mark the end of their GCSE journey and public exams. We ask that you book as early as possible to assist with final planning and arrangements.

Uniform and Textbooks

Once examinations are completed, if you no longer require your school uniform, please consider donating this to the second-hand uniform store at school. Many thanks in advance if you choose to do this. Donations can be bagged up and left in Reception.

Any textbooks that have been borrowed need to be returned as soon as the last examination in the relevant subject has been completed.

Sixth Form Induction Days

These will be on **Tuesday 30 June and Wednesday 1 July**. More information will be sent out by the Sixth Form team next term.

GCSE Results Day

This will be on **Thursday 20 August**. Results will be available from 8.30am. Further details will be provided in due course.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this important year. If you have any questions regarding the end-of-term arrangements, exams, revision sessions, or the Prom, please do not hesitate to get in touch at ameader@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A E Meader". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mrs A E Meader
Head of Year 11