



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
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Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

Next Steps for Year 11

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and that your child is feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and extend my best wishes to you and your families for a successful and fulfilling 2025. As we return for the Spring Term, I want to take a moment to update you on the exciting and crucial months ahead in Year 11, as we build towards the GCSE exams.

We are now entering a critical phase of the academic year. There are just 12 teaching weeks left before the start of the GCSE public exams in the summer. The pressure is mounting, but with the right support, focus, and commitment, I have no doubt that our students can rise to the challenge.

The reports you received at the end of last term are an important tool as they enter the final stages of their GCSE preparations. These reports offer a clear reflection of their current progress and should be used to guide their revision priorities. I encourage you to discuss your child's report with them and help them identify areas where they may need additional focus and support. In the upcoming Parents'/Carers' Evening on **Thursday 9 January**, Year 11 teachers will give you specific feedback for your child and ways to improve. By using this feedback, students can tailor their revision to target the areas where improvement is most needed.

Looking ahead, we also have mock exams from 10-21 March. These are an important opportunity for students to simulate the real exam experience and to practice under timed conditions. While the mock exams will provide valuable insights into exam techniques and timing, I would encourage all students to focus their revision efforts on practicing the new content and reinforcing their understanding of key topics during and after every lesson, both at school and at home, over the coming weeks.

With only 12 weeks remaining, time is of the essence, and it's crucial that students schedule their revision effectively. Consistency is key—regular engagement with their revision will allow them to reinforce their knowledge and feel more confident going into the final exams. Please ask your child to show you their updated revision timetable to be used daily. Additionally, I have asked all departments to review their support sessions, and individual invitations have been sent to students. Attending the support sessions they have been invited to will provide further tailored guidance and assistance, ensuring that students receive the help they need in the areas that matter most.

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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Newstead Wood School
Avebury Road
Orpington
Kent

t: 01689 853626

e: office@newsteadwood.co.uk

w: newsteadwood.co.uk



Alongside their academic focus, it is important that students continue to maintain a balanced routine. Adequate sleep, healthy eating, and time for relaxation are all essential for sustaining their energy levels and ensuring they are at their best during both their revision and exams.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind both students and parents about the Sixth Form application process. Please ensure students complete their application on the school website [using this link](#) as soon as possible. After being named *Best Secondary State School of the Year in London* by the Sunday Times, we anticipate sixth form applications to be more competitive than ever, so we encourage our students to take full advantage of the excellent opportunities available in our Sixth Form.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working together to help your child navigate these important months and achieve the best possible results.

Yours sincerely,

Stylianos Koukouvatakis

Mr S Koukouvatakis
Head of Year 11