

# St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School

18 January 2019



Learn  
Love  
Believe

Dear Parents/Carers

Today, Year 11 receive their mock exam results. As you absorb the results of your child's mock exams, I feel it is appropriate to give you further information and timelines for the rest of the this year in preparation for the actual GCSE Exams, and especially looking at the holiday pattern around them.

On Friday, 28 January you will receive the final full school report which will give you a further indication of how your child is progressing in terms of preparation for the GCSE's. On Thursday, 7 February the Year 11 photographs will take place in the afternoon. This is a different date to the original one on the school calendar. On Friday, 15 February school will close for half term thus completing 30 school days since Christmas.

We return on Monday, 25 February. On Tuesday, 5 March and Thursday, 7 March we will be holding the mock interviews in the evenings as a crucial part of your child's careers programme and preparation for future pathways. More information will be available soon.

On Friday, 15 March you will receive the interim 5 final estimate grades for your child and on 21 March we will hold our second and final parents evening to help support your child in the finally 'runup' to the exams. This is a crucial evening, and I do hope you will be able to attend with your child. We close for Easter on Friday, 29 March after 25 days of teaching since half term.

We return from the Easter break on Monday, 15 April, which is Holy Week. During the four days there will be an Easter Liturgy for Year 11, and for the rest of the school. It is important to highlight to you that after the Easter weekend we have another 4 day week, then a five day week from Monday, 29 April to Friday, 3 May. Then we have a four day week as we have the first May Bank Holiday 6 May, and then we start the GCSE Exams on 13 May. Therefore, in order to prioritise in class we have decided not to go ahead with the second mocks. Exam practice, techniques and guidance will take place priority within teaching time.

The holiday pattern can work very much to the advantage of our preparation for the exams and it is essential that we have full attendance on the 17 school days between the Easter holidays and the first exam. Naturally, we hope that your child will use the time at home for independent study as we do have a number of holidays coming up. It is important that your child has a planned revision programme using all the available revision books, on-line support and a variety of study techniques necessary to prepare for the crucial GCSE exams. There is also a massive amount of help and support in school through the teaching staff, SLT and support staff. If you have any worries about the GCSE preparation, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely

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