

15th May 2024

Dear High Storrs families,

Y11 attendance during exam period

In the past week, we have been delighted with the engagement of the majority of Y11 students with their lessons, exams and additional revision booster sessions. This letter has been written regarding the school's expectations about attendance during the period of GCSE examinations.

Following our letter sent on April 19th, we confirmed that all Y11 students are expected to attend all lessons until Friday 24th May 2024 (the start of May half-term). From the return after May half-term (Monday 3rd June), Y11 students are only expected to attend lessons where they still have an examination (subject to permission being granted from parent/carer). We would remind families of the high-quality revision booster programme being provided also.

Attendance at school is shown to be closely aligned with outcomes at GCSE. In view of this, we have worked hard at High Storrs to ensure that students continue to access a high-quality curriculum throughout the entire exam period. Teaching staff at High Storrs school are highly skilled in supporting students to achieve excellent outcomes and have developed a robust programme of support which will benefit students, so please do continue to encourage your child to attend all lessons as planned.

For students and/or families struggling with some of the associated challenges of this time of year, there is lots of support available to students and families:

- A guide on coping with exam pressure has been shared by Ofqual. It can be accessed here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- Some advice on exam stress management from student minds:
https://www.studentminds.org.uk/examstress.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- Understanding the signs of stress can help with managing them. This helpful guide gives some information on what kind of things to keep an eye out for:
https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/factors-that-impact-mental-health/school-based-risk-factors/academic-and-exam-stress/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- Parent/carers worrying about your young person and their exams can access advice from the NHS on beating exam stress: https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

It is essential that Y11 students continue to maintain great study habits throughout this period. For morning exams, students are expected to be at school for 08:40am so ensuring students have a routine around good sleep hygiene is essential.

As with any absence from school, families should follow the school's absence reporting procedures: <https://highstorrs.co.uk/our-school/attendance> Attendance at school is one of the criteria on which attendance at the Y11 Prom is decided.

If you feel unable to support the school with this and you think your child no longer wishes to attend any lessons or revision booster sessions for any of the forthcoming exams and only attend their timetabled exam sessions, please contact school as soon as possible. In addition, it should be noted that we are unable to support students who wish to attend some lessons and not others.

We recognise that this time of year is challenging for students and their families and would encourage anyone with concerns or worries to contact the school through the enquiries address – hssenquiries@highstorrs-mlt.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Mr T Highnett

Assistant headteacher and Director of KS4