

9 May 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 11 Students

Arrangements for Year 11

We are very proud of the way our Year 11s have shown resilience, determination and motivation to do their best and make the most of this academic year. Thank you for your support in ensuring they are revising hard and making the most of the final few weeks at The Castle School.

The first external examinations begin on Monday 15 May, so at this point, we will be expecting all Year 11 students to attend lessons in a more bespoke way. We have written a new timetable for the final weeks, so that students will be able to focus on subjects and prioritise in relation to the exam timetable. You should have received a copy of the timetable by email with our plans up until half term. We will issue another version for the weeks after half term once it is finalised. All students will be expected to remain in school, full time, for the duration of the examination period. We absolutely believe that having students in school, with teachers supporting them, is the most effective approach to exam success, this is even more important given the disruption we have faced with the NEU strike action.

We would like to say goodbye to Year 11 in our traditional way. During Lesson 3 on Monday 19 June we will host 'The Castle School Leavers Assembly' – an annual event organised and hosted by the students to celebrate their five years at The Castle School. On this occasion, students wear 'smart clothes' into school, which helps to make it a special event (they will be allowed to wear their smart clothes if they have an exam that morning). Students may use this occasion for 'shirt-signing' and have in the past brought in an old school shirt for this. The Year Books will also be given out at the same time. It is a lovely opportunity to say goodbye to friends and school staff. Please remind your son/daughter to empty their locker in advance of the final day so nothing is left behind. Year 11 will be dismissed from school at around 12.30pm and asked to make their way home.

The School Prom will be held on Wednesday 21 June at Oake Manor Golf Club. We hope that many families will be able to join us to enjoy seeing the students arrive. As we are sure you appreciate, this is a very special and often emotional occasion. A letter giving further information about the Prom and how to buy tickets has been sent already but please contact us if you have any questions.


GCSE Results will be available on Thursday 24 August from 9.00am to 11.00am from Qdos. If your son/daughter is not able to come into school on the day to collect results, they may be collected by somebody else, but we must have written permission from the student for us to release these results to someone else (proof of identity will be required). Any results not collected by 11am on 24 August will be posted to your home address by 2nd class post. If you're unable to collect your results, you can request for them to be sent 1st class post by providing a stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Healy (Exams Officer) in the Exams/Data Office.

Our final school occasion for this cohort will be the Year 11 Presentation Evening in the Autumn Term, for the awarding of their GCSE certificates. The date for this is Wednesday 8 November and you will receive a separate invitation to this nearer the time.

It is always sad when a group of students leaves us, but they will continue to be part of the The Castle School family and we hope they will go on to further their studies post 16 ready for adult life. They have been a great group of young people to work with and we wish them every success. If this is the end of your association with The Castle School, thank you for your support over the last few years. We feel extremely proud of our Year 11 students and the strong relationships that we have with our families.

If you have any queries or questions about any aspect of the final few weeks in school for Year 11, please do get in touch with your child's Tutor, Head of House or one of us.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Lamb', with a large loop at the end.

Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Wordsworth', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr J Wordsworth
Deputy Headteacher