



Bacon's College
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Friday 1st May 2026

GCSE Examinations

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the start of the GCSE examination period, I am writing to offer some final reminders and advice to help support your child over the coming weeks. This is an important time for our Year 11 students and, with your continued encouragement and guidance, they can approach their exams with confidence and calm.

Preparation and Routine

In the final days before exams begin, it is far more beneficial for students to focus on *consolidation* rather than attempting to learn large amounts of new content. Short, focused revision sessions, regular breaks, and a consistent daily routine can make a significant difference. Encouraging your child to revise according to their upcoming exams, rather than revising everything at once, will help reduce anxiety and improve focus.

Adequate sleep is vital. Tired students find it harder to recall information and manage exam stress, so we strongly recommend maintaining regular bedtimes throughout the examination period.

As we are now entering hay fever season, please ensure that if your child suffers from hay fever, they take any appropriate medication before arriving at school, as this cannot be administered during the exam and symptoms can significantly affect concentration and comfort.

Important JCQ Examination Regulations

We would like to remind parents and students of the **Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations**, which are strictly enforced in all examination centres.

- **Mobile phones, smart watches, earphones, or any electronic devices are not permitted in the examination room**, even if they are switched off or not being used.
- **No paper, notes, revision materials, or unauthorised items may be taken into the exam hall.**
- **Students' pockets must be completely empty** before entering the examination room.

If a student is found to be in possession of a phone, notes, or any unauthorised material in the exam hall, **they risk being disqualified from that exam**, in line with JCQ regulations.



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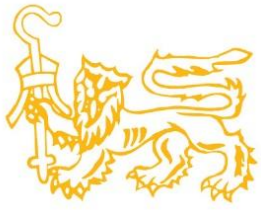
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To avoid any risk or distress, we strongly advise that students:

- Leave phones and revision materials at home where possible, or
- Ensure all items are handed in and pockets are checked before entering the exam hall

Please reinforce these rules with your child so that there are no unintended consequences during this important period.

Attendance, Timetable and Organisation

Please help your child check they are fully prepared for each exam by ensuring they:

- Know the date, time, and location of each exam
- Have the correct equipment ready the night before (pens, pencils, calculator, ruler, etc.) as no spare equipment will be available in the exam hall
- **Arrive at school by 8:15am every day during the examination period**, even if they do not have an exam that morning

Unless students have:

- A scheduled GCSE examination, or
- A timetabled Drop Down session (full details are in the attached timetable),

they are expected to follow their normal school timetable.

Please note that **the intervention timetable will stop from Monday 11th May**. From this date onwards, students will attend exams, Drop Downs, or their usual timetabled lessons as outlined above.

It is also important to stress that, unlike mock examinations, GCSE exams are governed by strict national regulations. Students must sit exams at the scheduled time; there is no opportunity to begin an exam later or to re-sit or “catch up” on another day if they are late or absent without appropriate, documented reason. Punctual attendance is therefore absolutely essential.

Arriving promptly allows students to receive important information, settle calmly, and begin each day feeling organised and prepared.

Uniform Expectations

All students are expected to attend school in full, correct school uniform throughout the examination period, in line with the school's usual expectations. This includes appropriate footwear, jewellery, and general presentation. Maintaining routine and consistency supports a calm, focused examination environment.



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During the Examination Period

Once exams begin, each paper should be treated as a fresh start. If an exam does not go as planned, it is important for students to focus on the next one rather than dwelling on what has already passed. Our staff will be available throughout the examination period to support students both academically and emotionally.

Wellbeing and Mindset

Exams can feel overwhelming, and some nerves are completely normal. Gentle reassurance, positive conversations, and reminders that effort and resilience matter more than perfection can be extremely helpful. Try to avoid last-minute pressure or comparisons with others, as this can increase anxiety.

Encourage your child to eat regular meals, stay hydrated, and take short breaks away from screens and revision. Light physical activity, such as a short walk, can also help manage stress and improve focus.

Support and Communication

If you or your child have any concerns during the examination period, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

If any concerns are exam related, please email Ms Tasmin, Exams & Careers Manager, on

habiba.tasmin@baconcollege.co.uk.

We are committed to supporting every student to achieve their best possible outcome.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are extremely proud of our Year 11 students and wish them every success as they begin their GCSE examinations.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms S Moghal

Assistant Principal



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