

Dear Parent/Carers,

Year 11 last few weeks at Stoke Damerel Community College

We are fast approaching the start of the final GCSE Exam series for 2025 and we have been preparing the students through assemblies with some important information regarding the exam season. The more familiar they can be with the routines, the more they become second nature and the more they can concentrate on their subject preparation, instead of worrying about procedures. Your help reinforcing this at home would be very beneficial to them.

How can you help?

1. The exam season is a stressful time for pupils, and they are likely to be feeling under pressure. You can really support your child by ensuring that they **eat properly and at regular intervals**, get some **early nights** and have a **quiet area at home to revise**.
2. You can support revision by asking questions from their revision material, providing encouragement and, if you feel able, the odd incentive to maintain motivation. For example, in English they have been practising their 'cold-write'. Provide a picture and ask them to write their cold write story around this stimulus - this will help them practise.
3. Ensure they have a **revision schedule**. Students have been taught how to prepare one, and have the materials to do so. Use the **resources** on the website which shows them how to write a revision schedule. Ask them to share it with you. They should try and keep to it, but this is not always easy - work with them to adjust it as they go, ensure it's manageable - reduce it if they are working too hard, motivate them if they are not doing enough.

Exam timetable

All students have been given an exam timetable. If they lose it, they need to ask for a replacement.

Exam warm ups

Before every exam we will have an exam warm up where we will reassure the students and go over any last minute tips or key points to help focus them so they are as best prepared for the exams as possible. This runs from **8am - 8.30am**. Students need to report to reception by 8am and they will be directed by members of staff where they need to go. There will be a **cut off at 8.05am** to minimise disruption. At 'exam warm-up' students have access to breakfast snacks and a drink (toast, bagels, hot chocolate).

ALL students will then have a final warm up and preparation checks from 8.35-8.45am.

Anita Frier, Headteacher

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Afternoon 'exam warm up' will take place during period 3. Students then go into early lunch on that day as exams start at 1.15pm. Students will be given information where they need to go on a daily basis by their tutors for these warm ups.

Study leave requests

We do not offer students study leave and all students remain on site as normal. This is good for students to keep in good routines, support their studies and access to their teachers. It also allows us to have a constant check on students to help support them during this very stressful period.

Exam expectations

Students will be provided with all the equipment they need in the exam hall, although it is helpful to have a black pen for example. Nothing can be taken into the exam hall, which includes water bottles with labels, no mobile phones or smart watches. Please follow this presentation regarding the expectations and the exam routines [HERE](#).

Students are expected to adhere to the [full uniform policy](#) for all examinations - this includes correct trousers, correct footwear, and our standards regarding jewellery, make-up, hair colour and cut, nails, lashes and piercings. **We will turn away any student that does not follow these expectations, or they may be sent home to change, making them late or miss the exam.**

May Half Term Private Study

Students should be spending the May Half Term revising for their post break exams. We have listened to student feedback and many would either like to revise at home or attend private study sessions in school. The study sessions are taking place over three days: Tuesday 27th May to Thursday 29th May, and will be a morning session (9.50am until 12.00) and an afternoon session (12.00 until 2.00pm). Students would work independently and have access to chrome books and revision materials.

Key Information:

- **Arrival Time:** If students choose to attend they must arrive promptly for AM session or PM session, and report to Main Reception for registration.
- **Dress Code:** School uniform is not required.
- **Site Expectations:** Students are required to remain on-site for the duration of their scheduled sessions and will be signed out at the end of the session.

We are pleased to offer a revision programme during the May half term. These sessions are designed to support students in their preparation for the upcoming examinations.

Targeted Subject Revision sessions

May Half term

Some students have been invited by their teacher to attend a targeted revision session. These students will receive a separate letter regarding the subject they have been invited to attend. These targeted sessions will focus on exam technique and content review and have been designed by subject teachers.

[MAY HALF TERM PROGRAMME HERE](#) and all other information [click here](#)

Leaving date and arrangements

Pupils will officially leave school on [Friday 27 June](#) having finished their final GCSE exam, and they must remain available up until and including this day in case exams have to be rearranged.

[End of Year Assembly](#) to celebrate the end of the GCSE exam series which will be held after the final exam. If your son/daughter would like to ask friends to sign a school shirt on that day, they need to bring a spare shirt so that they have a shirt for any remaining exams. More details will be shared with students nearer this date.

Prom

We are relying on all students to maintain their high standards of work ethic and behaviour right up until the end of exams, and as such would like to invite them to the [Year 11 Prom at Crowne Plaza on Thursday 3rd July](#).

Whilst a majority of students have been invited to attend the prom, nevertheless the school reserves the right to withdraw this invitation if your child does not or has not presented appropriate behaviour and or attitude during the year and during the exam period. *If your child is currently at risk of losing their invitation you will be contacted by school, and we recommend you do not yet buy or book any items that will leave you out of pocket if the invitation is withdrawn. The final decision about those pupils at risk attending the prom will be made by Mr Gill immediately after the last exam.*

Year 11 GCSE Results Day – Thursday 21 August 2025

GCSE results can be collected from the school sports hall on [Thursday 21 August 2025 between 10.00am and 11.30am](#). There will be staff present on the day to direct pupils to their collection point.

Pupils must collect their results in person. However, if they would like us to give their results to a parent or other family member, the pupil must give them a signed letter giving their permission. The collecting adult will also need to present some form of identification such as a driving licence or passport which matches the name on the letter.


Sixth Form Induction

Those students that are intending to stay onto the Sixth Form at either Stoke Damerel or Scott College are invited to the year 12 induction days in June. Further details, including an offer letter will be provided by Mr Tinkler and Mrs Hefford, our Heads of Sixth Form in due course.

And finally,

We would like to commend our Year 11 pupils on the fantastic contribution they have made to Stoke Damerel. They have been a real credit to themselves and their families. We would also like to thank you as parents/carers for your constant support during the last 5 years. We hope they achieve all that they deserve in the GCSE exams so that they are able to take their next steps with confidence and optimism.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Frier". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Anita Frier
Headteacher