

March 2026

Dear parents / carers,

We are now in the final countdown of weeks and lessons until your child's GCSE exams begin. Now that students have successfully finished their final mock exam season, the countdown is on until their final GCSE written exams start, as well as coursework deadlines and practical exams. This week, Yr 11 will be given their individual exam timetables based on the entries we have done for them, and a copy of the final GCSE exam calendar. Hopefully this will be useful in terms of long-term planning for them, and identifying where their revision needs to be focused over the coming weeks.

They will be asked to check their exam timetables and entries for any issues or concerns, but please could you support us in doing this with them. I have attached an electronic copy of the Summer exam timetable which includes all exams, key events and dates, masterclasses and any other information you may need. Some key information and dates are below:

Key dates:

- W/C 20th April – MFL Speaking exams / Photography exam
- W/C 4th May – GCSE exams begin
- Friday 22nd May – Yr 11 Leavers' Mass (12.45pm)
- Tuesday 16th June – final GCSE exam
- Wednesday 24th June – national exam contingency day*
- Thursday 21st August - GCSE results day

*The national exam contingency day is a day put aside, should there be any significant local or national disruption to exams, and exams need to be moved or rearranged. Candidates should remain available until this date, should exams need to be rescheduled. Please can you bear this in mind when making plans or booking holidays in the Summer. Please can I ask that you ensure that no holidays or other events are booked during this time.

Students need to check their exam timetable entries and tiers; please discuss this with me or with class teachers if there are any issues or discrepancies. Are these the exams they're doing, and is it the correct tier (Higher or Foundation)? This is the first draft of the timetable they will receive and will have an updated one once the amendment deadline has passed and seating plans have been completed.

Written GCSE exams begin on **Friday 8th May** (with BTEC resit exams, Art, Photography and MFL Speaking exams during the weeks before). Other examined elements – e.g. coursework, NEAs and practicals will be taking place in the weeks leading up to this. They will be given their marks of internally assessed components (NEA, coursework etc.), prior to submission of these marks.

All morning exams start at 9am and all afternoon exams start at 1pm. It is imperative that students arrive to school by **8.30am** in time for these in the morning. For afternoon exams, some exams are up to 2 hours long, and

some students have 25% extra time. Therefore, if they get a school bus, they may not have finished their exam in time to get the school bus, and will need to arrange transport home. Please check the exam timetable to see if this is applicable to your child.

Students must continue to attend school in full school (Summer) uniform, and attend all lessons – nothing changes during this time.

If, for any unforeseen reason, students are running late to school or for an exam (e.g. A bus is running late), they need to ensure that you or they contact the school. They can do this by calling Mr Preston on 02380 670116, or message me, their Tutor or Mr French on MS Teams.

Students need to attend school as normal, attending all lessons and masterclasses throughout the exam period, up to and including Friday 12th June. After this, they only need to come into school to attend masterclasses and exams, and may need transport to and from school, if they are not using a school bus, or go home before the end of the school day. They don't have 'study leave' up until this date.

Please do not book any holidays or excursions until students' exams are completely finished – please check the attached timetable to be sure of this. Other information regarding exams can be found on our website: [STGCC - Exams](#)

I would also like to draw your attention to **information for candidates sitting exams** from JCQ, which is on the web page above, which informs them of what the expectations are, and their responsibilities. Please could you go through this with them, and it will also be shared on Teams. I will be delivering an assembly during the first week after the Easter Holidays where they are briefed on the expectations of candidates. I will also write to you again in a few weeks' time, outlining the post-results services, and what will be in place for students collecting their results in the Summer.

Just as an early reminder, **GCSE results day for students is Thursday 20th August 2026**. Students will be able to collect their results between 9-11pm on that day. After 12pm, their results will be posted. For those who have the Education Record app and have signed up to this, results should be updated about 11am.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child in Yr 11 in terms of their exams timetable, or anything related to the Summer exam season, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me (jpreston@stgcc.co.uk), Marjorie Aldworth – Exams Officer (maldworth@stgcc.co.uk) or Mr French (hfrench@stgcc.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,

James Preston
Assistant Headteacher

Marjorie Aldworth
Exams Officer