

21st March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

Re: Start of GCSE Examinations and end of school year

We are now 8 weeks away from the start of the formal written GCSE exams. We are very pleased to see how well prepared most students in the year group are preparing for these exams and how seriously they are taking their studies. This follows the successful completion of mock exams in December.

Here at Northumberland PRU we wish them every luck in their forthcoming exams and are keen to support students as they take the exams that they have been working towards since they arrived here with us.

For this reason, we will be keeping our Year 11 students in school full-time until the last core GCSE and will not be granting any study leave.

We feel The approach we have used for supporting students to be academically successful is underpinned from knowing that a routine of getting up to attend to school each morning, with access to subject specialist teachers, as well as having some social interaction with their peers supports their learning.

The DfE guidance on study leave is that it should not be granted by default and should be used sparingly, only granted during the public examinations. As such, many schools adopt the same approach that we are intending to use, particularly as students have access to experienced subject specialist teaching staff (some who have been/are also examiners in their subject) to work closely with. As study leave is unsupervised, it is marked as absence in school attendance records.

We have provisionally made plans for a Year 11 celebration meal, so as not to interfere with the GCSE revision timetable, which will take place on Monday 16th June 2025. This will be fully paid for by the school.

Following the final examination, our intention is for all students to continue to attend school full-time until the end of the day on Friday 18th July where a bespoke timetable of curriculum lessons focusing on health and lifeskills will be followed by students, as well as providing additional careers advice to

ensure that all pupils have next steps secured for September 2026 after leaving school.
As with all areas of life, there are exceptional circumstances. Should you feel there are instances where exceptional circumstances apply to your child and they may not be able to attend school for any specific period following the exams then please contact us here at school.

Should there be need for us to review our plans, we shall contact you to communicate any changes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R Carr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'C'.

Richard Carr
Headteacher