

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Study Leave?

A: Study leave is a period of just under five school weeks from Monday, 15th May until Wednesday, 21st June. During this time there will be GCSE exams on most days. The normal timetabled lessons will have finished and the subject course content will have been taught before Study Leave starts. We have arranged specific revision sessions for all subjects to be delivered by subject specialists during this time.

Q: Why do we have Study Leave?

A: You will want to spend your time in the days and hours before each subject exam revising intently for that paper. You will not want to be attending a normal lesson in, say, Maths, when you have an English exam in the afternoon. You will naturally want to allocate your time to focus on English. Study Leave supports you in doing this.

Q: What are revision sessions?

A: Revision sessions are provided to give you the opportunity to revise for each subject at the right time prior to a paper, in a structured way, with specialist teachers giving you guidance and advice. A revision session typically lasts for two periods of the school day. You may be with your normal teacher for that subject, or you may have another specialist leading the session. You will usually be in the group you are used to from your normal timetabled lessons during the year. You will be told the rooms that the revision sessions will be taking place in each day, when you sign in at school. The information will be held in the South Undercroft opposite the Bistro.

Q: Do I have to attend?

A: You MUST attend your exams as published on your exam timetable: if you don't your parents/carers may be liable for the examination fees and you will fail in that subject. You MUST attend the revision sessions which we have planned for you. They are designed to maximise your chances of reaching your potential in each subject. In exceptional circumstances parents / carers can contact Mr Armstrong or Mr Kneeshaw at the school to discuss non-attendance at a revision session, for example if the parent / carer feels very strongly that their son will revise more productively at home. You do not need to be at school when there are no exams or revision sessions programmed for you. At these times, which we call Private Study, you should be revising at home.

Q: When do I officially leave school?

A: The national school leaving date, is Friday, 30th June. You must then do one of the following until you are 18:

- Stay in full time education or 6th Form or college
- Start an apprenticeship
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education.

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Until this date you are still on roll at school and therefore you are a member of the school community with all the same rules and responsibilities. So, for example, you will still be held accountable for your actions on the school site and off the school site throughout Study Leave and right up until the end of June.

Q: Can I leave the building during the day?

A: Yes and no. Whenever you have finished an exam or a revision session and **there is nothing else planned for you that day**, you are free to go home. However, if you have finished an exam or study session in the morning and there is a revision session planned for you later in the day, **you must stay on the school site**: a typical example of this would be an early exam starting at 9.00 am and finishing at 10.30 am which is followed by a revision session at 11.35 am. For the time in between, you must stay on site. If you have an exam in the morning followed by an exam in the afternoon and no scheduled revision session in-between, you can choose to either stay on site to do Private Study or go home in-between the examinations. There will be rooms set aside for Private Study; we will open the Bistro early for you for food and drink; and you can enjoy the normal school break. We need to avoid a circumstance where 220 Y11 boys leave school, walk around the local area and then return an hour later. We must be mindful of our neighbours and your safety.

Q: What are Private Study rooms?

A: Depending on the daily demand, we will identify rooms where you can sit quietly studying for your next exam. Rooms will be listed each day and will be overseen by members of staff.

Q: Why do I need to sign in and out?

A: We are still responsible for your safety. We can only do that if we know whether you are on the school premises or not. In this case, if you are coming onsite outside your revision sessions or exams we want you to follow the example of the Sixth Form and sign in and out using the scanner system.

Q: Do I need to be registered?

A: You will be registered in your exams and your revision sessions as a matter of course. You are not expected to attend a registration in your form room. The signing in and out system is also part of registering during the day.

Q: Can I stay at school even when there are no planned revision sessions?

A: Yes. If you have no further exams or revision sessions on a particular day, then we would normally expect you to go home. However, if you cannot revise or you find revision difficult to undertake at home, then we will accommodate you in a Private Study room.