

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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31 March 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

Following the release of IAR3 this week, I am writing to you regarding study leave arrangements for your son's upcoming GCSE examinations. As you will know, the period after the Easter break sees the final preparations before the exams start on Monday 15th May (week 32) and continue up until the start of the May half term holiday on Friday 26th May. GCSEs continue of course, after the half term break, with the final day scheduled to be Wednesday 21st June.

Since your son has achieved 56 points or more in his mock examinations, and congratulations to him on this fabulous achievement, he is entitled to pursue 'pathway A':

PATHWAY A 56 points or more

Your son's mock exam performance suggests that his ability to study and prepare for his examinations is sufficiently skilled and developed, so that his GCSE success will be secure if he prepares at home if he wishes. He only needs to attend school for his examinations. Given the combination of in-school and home learning over his GCSE years, we have taken the decision to maximise your son's time in school before the exams begin. This will allow him to complete structured revision in class until Friday 12th May, with exams beginning on Monday 15th May.

To be absolutely clear, this means that your son's normal timetable will cease after Friday 12th May and he will then be able to prepare for his exams at home if he wishes. We feel that this is a sensible option in view of the GCSE timetable, but also a deserved recognition of your son's ability to study independently, as evidenced by his mock examination performance.

Can I please stress that working at home during the exam period is your son's choice. He may, of course, attend any of his normal lessons if he wishes, and we will shortly be asking him to indicate whether this will be the case.

Your son will have also received his personalised exam timetable this week, showing him when and where his GCSEs will take place. Please go through this carefully with him, ensuring he is absolutely clear on the arrangements and timings for each exam. I would also recommend preparing a revision timetable with him, based on when his examinations fall.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the above, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Groves, Leader of Year 11, or myself.

With best wishes to your son for the coming examination period from all of us in the Key Stage 4 Team,

Lewis Baines
Director of Key Stage 4

