



May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Examination Arrangements**

Further to my letter dated April 2022 regarding the arrangements we have made for you child during the summer examinations series I have received enquiries on the following two points:

- Why are Year 11 pupils not allowed to go on Study Leave and revise from home?
- Why are Year 11 pupils not continuing with lessons up to their examinations?

I appreciate there is a difference of opinion on the arrangements we have put in place which is based on guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) which has previously stated Study Leave is not allowed. I appreciate that for some children, the opportunity to study at home before examinations will help them to focus on the examination in each of their subjects but for others, to have the continued support in school with timetabled lessons, with teachers who have worked with them during Years 10 and 11, as well as having space and resources in school to quietly study, will help them to feel and be as prepared as possible for their examinations.

In addition, there is a safeguarding responsibility to ensure parents/carers who want their child to study from home agree that they need to make arrangements for transport to and from school as well as guarantee their child is at home preparing for examinations. The parents/carers of any Year 11 child who is not in school between 16 May 2022 and 24 June 2022 will receive an absence text from school unless a message is received from parents/carers explaining the absence. The DfE states that any child who is not in school, whether under school arrangements for Study Leave or if parents/carers choose for them to be on Study Leave, will be marked as an absence.

We feel that continuing to provide timetabled lessons and dedicated study rooms, will provide the support our Year 11 pupils need to be prepared for their examinations rather than implementing Study Leave and expecting them to work independently in a space at home. I understand that some pupils will feel anxious about examinations and the programme previously published will help to provide structure and reassurance by having regular contact in school. However, I do appreciate that for some pupils who may be particularly anxious, the opportunity to organise their own study programme with support from their parents/carers may be best for them.

The last two years has been a challenge for all of us and the reinstating of examinations is an additional pressure. We want our Year 11 pupils to know that we will continue to do all we can to support them during the examination period.

### **Letter of April 2022 regarding examination study programme**

The following is the extract from my letter of April 2022 regarding the study programme for examinations with minor alterations to better explain our system of support. Please read this alongside the information provided above:

Your child has been given a personal timetable that details the dates and times for all their examinations. Included with this, is information on the location, seat number and a list of the equipment needed for examinations. This information has also been sent to your child's school email account. We would encourage you to discuss this with your child so as you read through it you can familiarise yourself with the information.

### **Arrangements during the examination period:**

- Usual timetabled lessons will run up to and include Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to support pupils and help them prepare for their examinations; we have this in place as we expect pupils to continue to

attend all lessons for subjects where the final examination has not yet taken place. Registers will be taken as usual, and any absence will be followed up as mentioned above

- When final examinations have taken place for a subject at any point between 16 May 2022 and 24 June 2022, lessons for that subject will cease and pupils are not expected to come into school to attend those lesson times
- Due to safeguarding reasons, we expect parents/carers to provide our Attendance Safeguarding team with an explanation for absence from school if pupils are not intending to access the support in school
- Again, due to safeguarding reasons, pupils cannot sign in and out of school during the school day therefore if pupils arrive in school for a timetabled lesson or for self-study for Periods 1, 2 or 3 and an examination in the afternoon, pupils will be expected to arrive at school for 8.50am and undertake independent study during any periods with no lessons, in designated study areas and attend timetabled lessons as usual for subjects for which there is still an examination
- If a pupil is in school and states they have a medical or dental appointment after an examination in the morning, they will not be allowed to leave without proof of a medical or dental card with the appointment written on by the practice
- If pupils have no timetabled lesson in the morning and are to sit an exam in the afternoon, they may choose to study from home and come into school for their examination; they will need to sign in at Reception prior to the start time
- If pupils have sat an examination in the morning and have no other timetabled lesson during the day, pupils can leave school to study at home or can stay in school in a designated study area

**All pupils who are intending to return in September to join our Denys Salt Sixth Form need to attend all our taster days on 4, 5 and 6 July 2022.**

I trust that reading through this letter/information sheet that all parents/carers will be reassured that we are doing all we can to support your child during this very important time and we are supporting you to provide what is best for your child. Thank you for your help and support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss further any aspect of the summer examinations.

Yours sincerely

**Mr I Morrel**  
**Head teacher**

**Mrs M Oates**  
**Year Leader**

**Mr M Lambley**  
**Assistant Year Leader**