

30th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to update you on the additional support we are providing for your child as they continue their studies in Year 11.

As previously communicated, we have begun the school year with Year 11 tutor-time intervention sessions. In addition, some subjects have already started offering lunchtime and after-school intervention sessions. Class teachers will invite students to attend specific sessions and will contact parents and carers to seek permission where sessions take place after school.

As the year progresses, further support will be introduced, including a comprehensive programme of revision sessions during the February half-term and Easter holidays, as well as two Parents' Evenings. The first Parents' Evening will take place on **Wednesday 7th October**.

We have carefully considered how best to prepare pupils for their GCSE examinations and to replicate, as closely as possible, the experience they will encounter during the summer examination series. Our aim is not only to ensure that pupils possess the knowledge required to achieve success, but also to develop the essential examination skills needed to perform confidently. This includes effective time management, appropriate exam technique, and reducing any anxiety associated with unfamiliar aspects of the examination process, such as seating arrangements and examination procedures.

Following the success of this approach over recent years, we have decided to utilise the PSHE lesson on Monday afternoons, together with any additional time available, to enable pupils to complete full examination papers. This provides pupils with valuable experience of working through an entire paper, something that is often not possible within the constraints of a normal lesson. Through this process, pupils will further develop the skills and confidence required to perform at their very best. We believe that increased exposure to full examination papers will help pupils gain a better understanding of examination demands, build their confidence and resilience, and support them in achieving their full potential.

Attached is the schedule for the first few weeks, including the duration of each examination paper and the estimated finishing time. Please note that finishing times may vary slightly depending on the exact start time on the day. Pupils who receive examination access arrangements, such as extra time or the support of a reader, will continue to receive these adjustments.

We would encourage parents and carers of pupils who have access arrangements, particularly extra time, to reinforce the importance of using this entitlement fully during practice examinations. These sessions provide an invaluable opportunity for pupils to become accustomed to working for the additional time available to them in their GCSE examinations and to develop effective routines for checking and improving their responses. Experience shows that pupils who regularly practise using their full allocation of extra time

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"Therefore, learn as if to live forever; live as if to die tomorrow"
St Edmund of Abingdon



are better prepared to use this arrangement effectively and maximise its benefit during the summer examination series.

The ongoing schedule will be published and regularly updated on the school website. In addition, reminders will be sent to parents and carers each Monday via Arbor.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure that every pupil is fully prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs G Parsons

Headteacher



Miss J Aslett

Assistant Headteacher

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Date	Department	Paper Title	Length of Paper	Estimated Finish Time	Estimated Finish Time (25% Extra Time)
05/10/2026	English Literature	Paper 2: <i>An Inspector Calls</i>	1 hour	3.00 pm	3.15 pm
12/10/2026	Maths	Paper 1: Non-Calculator	1 hour 30 minutes	3.30 pm	3.53 pm
19/10/2026	Science	Biology Paper 1	1 hour 15 minutes	3.15 pm	3.34 pm

