26 April 2024

Dear Parent(s)/ Carers(s)

Year 11 Leavers' Day, Exam Arrangements and Official School Leaving Date 2024

We are writing to clarify some important details for the coming weeks for our Year 11 students.

Leavers' Day
The last day of normal school will be **Wednesday 8th May.** We have made some changes to this day this year in order to give the students a very special celebration together before they start their GCSE exams on Thursday 9th May.

Students should attend school in non-uniform at the normal time of **08:50** for an extended form time in tutor rooms. This will be followed by the traditional Leavers' Assembly at **09:15**, featuring speeches, awards, performances and photographs which will finish at approximately **10:30.** After this, the students will move to a different part of the school site where we will be holding the Year 11 Leavers' party. We have hired bouncy castles and an assault course, organised a photo booth and there will be music. A range of food packages are being provided by an external caterer so the students will not go hungry! The choices are:

- **Option 1:** Gourmet burger + crepe/waffle + ice cream
- **Option 2:** American hot dog + crepe/waffle + ice cream
- **Option 3:** Loaded nachos + crepe/waffle + ice cream

All activities will be free for the students; however, they will need to pay £10 in advance if they wish to have a food package. Full details of this are on **Wisepay** under **Ticket Sales**, where payments must be made by **Thursday May 2nd.** We cannot accept any payments after this date. If your son/daughter is entitled to free school meals they do not need to pay for food but should email their choice of food to wisepay@fallibroome.org.uk by the same deadline of **Thursday 2nd May.**

The party will end at **12:15,** at which time the students will need to leave the school site immediately and should make their way home.

We hope this will give an enjoyable and special end to Year 11 for the students and as staff we look forward to celebrating with them. It goes without saying that we expect the normal high standards of behaviour at all times during this day. If any student does not meet these standards, then they will be sent straight home and will put the sitting of their GCSE exams at risk.

Examination Period Arrangements
The main exam period commences on **Thursday 9th May.** On this date, students will move onto a new timetable which will consist of their GCSE exams, organised subject revision sessions and some study leave at home. Students will continue to be supported by school during the examination period, as described below. We hope that these arrangements strike the right balance between giving students the opportunity to direct and manage their own studies while at the same time providing additional support and guidance from subject staff in school.

Exams Routines
This information has been delivered to the students by the exams team in an assembly earlier this term.

We expect all students to arrive at their exam room at least 15 minutes before the start time of each exam. Please can you check carefully their exam timetable and ensure that they arrive punctually. If you need a copy of the general GCSE exam timetable, this can be found on the school website GCSE Hub (https://fallibroome.academy/gcse-hub/) under **General Information** then **Exam Timetables.** We recommend printing a copy of this and posting it clearly in your house, so that the information can be easily checked.
It is critical that all students attend for all their exam papers. If for any reason your son/daughter is ill, or running late for an exam, please contact the Pastoral office to notify us (01625 627257). Please also check well in advance that your son/daughter has all the correct equipment that they need for their exams.

Contingency dates
There are three dates that have been identified as 'contingency dates' in case exams are disrupted and have to be moved, for any reason. These dates are 6th June, 13th June, 26th June. All students **must** be available for these dates, so please avoid making any other plans for these dates.

Exam Results
GCSE exam results can be collected by students from school between **09:30 and 10:30 on Thursday 22nd August.** If someone is collecting results on a student's behalf, then the exams team will need an email in advance to authorise the collection (kui@fallibroome.org.uk). The nominated person will also need to bring with them photo ID on the day for verification purposes. We regret that results cannot be given over the telephone, however we will email **all** students with their results at 10:30.

Subject Revision Sessions
We will be running a programme of subject-based revision sessions that will be scheduled around the exams. These have proved to be highly valuable to the large numbers of students who attended them in previous years and we expect your son/daughter to attend all that are relevant to them. Just before the students leave, we will publish the dates and content of these revision sessions. A copy of this programme will also be sent out to all parents.

Independent Study in School
When not in an exam or a revision session, some students will want to revise in school, as they know they will be more productive here than if they were working at home. To facilitate this, we will designate our Dining Hall during the school day and E3/E4 every lunchtime as Year 11 study spaces. These spaces will be supervised by staff so that students will be able to work in a productive, focused way and they are open to all Year 11 students.

Students who have routinely achieved Attitude to Learning grades of A0 or B0 are likely to have well-developed study habits and will make good decisions about whether they are more productive revising at home or in school. There will be students, however, who we know will benefit from a more structured approach to their work and we know will be more productive working in school with staff supervision throughout this period. We will be contacting families on an individual basis where we believe this is the case and recommending that they revise in school with staff supervision.

Official School Leaving Date
Once students have completed their final exam, they no longer need to attend school. Please bear in mind, however:

- they must keep **Wednesday 26th June** free, as this is the Exams Contingency Day. This is a day that is used to sit any papers that have had to be moved or cancelled at the last minute.
- they will remain on roll until the date set by the government as the official school leaving date. This year this is **Friday 28th June 2024.** This will mean that your son/daughter will be required to remain on the school roll until this date and cannot take up full-time employment until after this date.

If you have any queries regarding any of these arrangements, please contact me via gsk@fallibroome.org.uk

Finally, we would like to say again how proud we are of each and every one of our Year 11 students. They have worked incredibly throughout KS4, have battled through the issues generated by the pandemic, and have been really prepared for their GCSE exams. They deserve every success in their forthcoming GCSE exams and we wish them all the very best.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. J Gaskell
(Head of Year 11)



Mr R. Martland
(Deputy Headteacher)