



6th May 2022

Dear parents and carers

After many happy years, with friends that most of the students have known since they were five years old, the date when students leave Year 11 is rapidly approaching. This is always a bittersweet moment as it marks a significant stage in each individual's life. The last official day of school for Year 11 students is **Wednesday, 18th May**. After this day, all Year 11 will be on study leave and will only need to come into school for their actual GCSE exams. They cannot be on site at other times because if there is a fire or other emergency we need to know exactly who is in school. Subject specific revision sessions are being held; the revision session timetable for 16 May onwards will be on the website in the Exams section.

On Wednesday, 18th May students will attend their English Exam up until 10.45 and then celebrate their final assembly together. They will leave the school by 12.30 and will need to organise transport home. They will not be able to catch the school buses at the end of the day.

I am delighted that most of the students are returning in September to Newman Sixth. However, we still like to celebrate this milestone in students' lives and say our 'goodbyes' to any who are leaving us. The key events are as follows:

Final Assembly – Wednesday, 18th May, 11.15 – 12.15 in the school hall – however, this can be changed with very little notice given, if deemed necessary by circumstances.

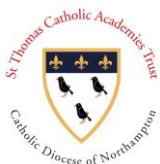
Year 11 Prom – Wednesday 13th July

The exams timetables have been given to each of the students as well as sent home.

Once the GCSE exams are over, there are three other key dates for diaries:

Clearance Day – Wednesday, 29th June between 12.00pm and 3.00pm in the school hall. It is essential that all students report to the hall between these times. If this date clashes with a pre-booked holiday etc, students will require the help of a friend to deputise for them or should at least discuss the issue with their Head of Year before departing for study leave. Items to be returned are: school text books, revision guides, locker key and any other resources from teachers or the librarian. It might be helpful for the students to have a small amount of cash for lost books or keys. The expectation is that lockers will have been cleared before this day. They must also settle any outstanding late library fines or debts they owe the front office or school canteen. All pupils will be issued with a **Leaver's Clearance Certificate** before they depart for Study Leave. **Any pupils who do not hand in a complete clearance form will not be able to obtain their examination results in August.**

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Headteacher Mr Andrew Bull MA

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust Registered Number: 9660515



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Newman Sixth induction days for Year 11 students take place on Monday, 11th July and Tuesday, 12th July. Students are given the opportunity to attend taster lessons of subjects that they have applied to study in the Sixth Form. Students will also receive a detailed presentation on how the Sixth form operates and expectations of students. **It is very important that all applicants for Newman Sixth attend these days with Ms Blackbird.**

GCSE Exam Results Day – Thursday, 25th August. Students can collect their results from school between 09:00 – 11:00 - provided that they have handed in a completed clearance form which shows that they have returned all the school's resources and paid any outstanding debts/fines.

It is important for me to point out well in advance our expectations of students' behaviour throughout study leave and the period of exams. At this point in the letter the school has traditionally given a list of things we do not want students to do! Instead, with the full understanding that the school will take very strong action in the unlikely event of any disruption, I would like to **thank** students for the following:

There is a lovely tradition of signing books and exchanging messages. We thank students for writing respectful comments that promote happy memories for all.

Students like to sign one another's shirt to create a souvenir of their time at Cardinal Newman. We thank students for ensuring that these are messages of kindness, fond memories and support that reflect the values and ethos of the school. Any unwanted uniform, after the exams, can be donated to the Friends of Newman to sell / give to parents of younger students. Please ensure that each of the students brings in a spare shirt to sign on the from Monday 16th May. They are not to sign shirts that they wear into exams.

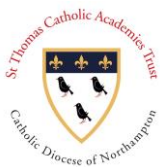
It is a time of celebration. I would like to thank our students for setting the very best example on the bus, on the playground and around the school. We will protect students' right to celebrate without any disruption from those who get over excited.

I would like to thank students in anticipation that they go home promptly at the end of the assembly! We know that students will want to celebrate with friends and family – at home!

Attendance at the Prom is linked with good behaviour throughout the whole of the exam period; from Easter up to the end of the final exam. The school reserves the right to withdraw any student's ticket if they do not meet the above criteria.

We are determined that the students will both work hard and enjoy their final weeks at school. I am afraid the consequences for silly behaviour will be very serious indeed, and if you wish to check what the consequences will be you are free to call me in advance. My hope is that the positive message above is respected in the spirit in which it is given. Once every few years we have one or two who do something daft. Sadly, they can ruin the day for students, staff and themselves too. I have every confidence this will not apply to anyone in the current Year 11 who are a lovely group of students!

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As a final reminder, all students are expected to be in full school uniform for all of their exams. We are delighted with how the whole school has responded (post-COVID) to the maintaining of the high standards that we have, and we expect this to continue.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to see how your sons and daughters have blossomed over the last five years into a truly wonderful group of young Catholic adults. I would like to wish all of them the very best of luck with their examinations and look forward to working with as many as possible in Newman Sixth in September.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bull
Headteacher



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