

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware from our recent correspondence and from the news we shared at our revision festival, the GCSE exams are fast approaching. The GCSE exam series starts on Tuesday 7th May (14 days), with the first full cohort exam on Friday 10th May (17 days).

As always, at Outwood Academy Carlton, we 'operate obsessively to attain the highest standards, thereby enhancing children's life-chances.' I am writing to you today to make you aware of our intentions and plans over the coming weeks, and during the exam window, to give students the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential.

On Monday 22nd April we will launch our masterclass timetable with students; we will share a copy of this with you on Tuesday 23rd April. The masterclass timetable will see alterations to student timetables to give them vital access to the subjects with upcoming exams. For example, the day before a Maths exam, we will expose students to Maths revision lessons rather than accessing subjects that would be on their 'normal' timetable. This strategy will see students increase contact time with subject specialists in close proximity to their exam, increase their confidence and remove any apprehensions they may have about a given exam. As I am sure you will understand, re-timetabling a school midway through the year is not an easy task and I know of very few schools that go to this extent, but we remain steadfast in trying to give your children the best chance - we have such high aspirations and ambitions for them and we will do all we can.

I am reaching out to you, as I have done many times this year, to urge us to work together to give your child/children the best shot this summer. It is vital that students are in the academy, and focused, right up to their last examination for us to expose them to these supportive and purposeful revision lessons. Attendance, behaviour and effort are pivotal to the success of the masterclass timetable. With this in mind, we have decided to incentivise these things. On Monday 29th April, Passport to Prom will become double points for all areas. This means that 95% weekly attendance, engagement in after school enrichment and class praise points will all be doubled, increasing the likelihood of students becoming eligible for the Prom and/or securing a free ticket. The table below highlights the new scoring for students.

Choice/Action	Previous Allocated points	From 29th April (Double Points)
Attendance and successful completion of an enrichment session in any subject.	+2	+4
Weekly attendance of 95%	+2	+4
Praise Point	+1	+2
Attainment 8 increase of 5+ points between Praising Stars releases.	+4	+8
Suspension, C6 or urgent placement	-14	-14
C5a/b	-7	-7
C4a/b	-4	-4

I will be writing to you again in the coming weeks to provide you with the final leaving date for Y11 and, until that date, as highlighted in this letter, students need to show up and give it everything they've got. I have welcomed your support all year and I am asking that we 'don't fall at the final hurdle', but that we all pull together to ensure attendance, behaviour and effort are exceptional in the final few weeks.

Yours faithfully

Mr Paul Taylor
Principal