



New Mills School

1st May 2026

Dear students, parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you that **all Year 11 students will remain in school full time until Friday 5th June.** Following the English Language Paper 2 which takes place in the morning, Year 11 will not be required to be in school during lessons for which there is no further assessment. However, lessons will continue for subjects that still have exams remaining.

There have been a few parents who have been getting in touch to request that their child be allowed to take 'study leave' and to leave site between or after exams to 'study independently' at home. While every student has different needs and parents might feel this is best for their child, the evidence suggest that students are better served remaining in school. When they are in school students have regular contact with subject experts - their teachers - who can guide them through the exam period and identify and address gaps in knowledge. Also, students benefit from the support and added motivation of being with their peers who are preparing for the same exams. Additionally, being in school until this date means that we (the school staff and parents) can ensure that there are at least five-hours per-day when they are not distracted by their mobile phones. It is for these reasons that, until this point, we are not able to authorise the absence of students who are not in school.

From Friday 5th June, apart from for exams that take place in the morning, whenever students are attending school, they should arrive and leave via the main reception and sign in and out. If students have a morning exam, they should arrive in school by 8:45am at the very latest. For exams in the afternoon, they should arrive by 12:45pm.

Students are required to be in full school uniform whenever they are in school.

If a student wishes to remain in school for any reason, either to study independently, or because they do not have sufficient time to leave and return later in the day, they should speak to Mrs Nield (Year 11 Year Manager), and we will make provision for them to study in school. If a student receives a free school meal, this provision will remain in place.

Once the exam period is complete, there are two important dates to be aware of where students will have the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and achievements together:

- Thursday 18th June - Year 11 Prom at Shrigley Hall (6.30pm -11.00pm)
- Thursday 20th August - GCSE results day

Can I take this opportunity to wish all our students the very best of luck with their exams.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Halls
Deputy Headteacher