



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

Year 11 Exams update 16/5/25

Dear Parent/Carer,

This morning we had our first full year group exam – English Literature. As a team we were incredibly proud of how year 11 threw themselves into the paper and were delighted with the positivity they felt when they left. Attendance was outstanding, punctuality was brilliant, and students seem to be giving the exams their very best – in other words, as it stands, we couldn't ask for more. I know that as parents you will also be putting an enormous amount of work in at home to support the students to give their all, so a massive thanks on behalf of all the staff and students here for the part you have played in making it a great start to the exam season.

The key now is maintaining these levels of effort and motivation as the weeks move on. The vast majority of our students will have in excess of 20 exams which is a significant undertaking. As such this period has to be a marathon and not a sprint, we have to ensure we do all we can to collectively limit the potential for burnout and keep them feeling positive about themselves as the weeks tick by.

As we move closer towards the half term break, as has always been the case for students in year 11, one or two try to test the boundaries regarding uniform during exams. For clarity, our uniform expectations are absolutely the same as always with the exception that students are allowed (should they wish given the warmth) to wear their leavers hoodie. Whilst we will never ever refuse to admit a student into their exam due to uniform, it is something we would look to pick up with the student and parents after the exam session and a refusal to follow our reasonable expectations could impact on their attendance to the leaver's day event later in the term.


With regards the last day, students will be invited back after their final exams on Thursday 19th June at 8:45am to enjoy some time with their form tutor, some time together collectively on the back field for a BBQ (weather permitting...) and the annual leavers day assembly in the Sports Hall. The event will finish later that morning at approximately 12.00pm whereby students will be free to leave the site.

As is the case with the prom, the event will be one that students are *invited* to – and it remains our intention to invite every single student to attend wherever possible. I see the leavers day as a rite of passage that everyone should have the opportunity to attend, it is a fantastic moment where people should be able to celebrate their time with us. However, if we have concerns that students will not approach the day in the correct manner or if they have behaved in a manner that has impacted on the smooth running of our school in such a key period for all students in

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year 11 – in other words, if they have already or in the coming weeks choose to let themselves, you or us down, they will forfeit that opportunity to attend.

Before half term the key stage team will also send correspondence out to students who are eligible for the Prom which will take place on **Thursday, 26th June 2025**, from **6:00 pm to 10:30 pm** at Wychwood Park in the Cheshire Suite. We shared the clear list of criteria for accessing the prom earlier this year and it can be seen below as a reminder:


- No more than **20 periods** of lesson monitor grades 3/4/6
- No more than **10 periods** of unauthorised absence
- No more than **5 after-school detentions**
- No more than **60 minutes** of lateness to lessons
- No more than **2 periods** of red card/reset
- No more than **1 period** of temporary suspension

Naturally, as is the case with any situation where criteria for attendance at an event is put in place, this has meant some students have not been able to access the Prom. Whilst this is regrettable, the expectations we put in place were entirely reasonable, allowed students to make mistakes and still attend, but also gave them something to aim for to keep them focussed towards achieving their end goal of successful exam results.

A reminder that we hit a natural break point in the exam season at half term (Friday May 23rd) where a significant number of exams will be complete. It is at this point that students can opt to take study leave or attend school to join in our drop-down revision sessions. A timetable for sessions after the half term break will follow in the next fortnight so you have a clear picture of when exams are taking place and when support will be offered after half term. Remember that if as a family you decide your student would be best served at this point revising at home, please email ks4@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk to let them know that you give permission for your child to leave after an exam if they have no more exams that day. Students taking up this offer would then have to sign out – we would not be able to allow them to exit unless you have given permission. We remain more than happy for students to choose to leave on some days and stay in for our revision sessions on others – in other words they can do what fits best for them daily after the 23rd.

It is also worth reminding everyone that the national date for GCSE results is Thursday, August 21st. We will share more details about how the day will work soon, but as you would expect we will be there on the morning to give out results and help students sign up for Malbank Sixth Form.

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As I noted at the start of the email, this should be a period where the years of hard work come together in a final push to achieve everything a young person is capable of. What I have seen in the last few days has made me really proud of Y11 and I hope you have similar feelings of hope and pride based on what you have seen your child do at home to contribute towards their own success.

As always, if we can help in any way or if you have any queries or concerns about the forthcoming exams, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours,

John Harrison
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