Year 11 GCSE Period – Parent FAQ

Why does my child need to attend school when they don't have an exam that day?

Even on non-exam days, pupils take part in **structured revision sessions** that are directly linked to upcoming GCSE exams. These sessions are planned carefully and are an important part of exam preparation.

What is the day-by-day revision timetable for?

The day-by-day timetable shows:

- Which **GCSE exams** are taking place each day
- What the **main revision focus in school** will be
- What **after school revision** will be

It helps pupils understand what they are revising each day and allows parents to see how school time is being used to support exams.

Are normal lessons still happening?

Yes, pupils follow their normal timetable, but **all GCSE lessons are revision-focused**. Core PE lessons will continue. New content is not taught during this period. Instead, lessons focus on:

- Key knowledge
- Exam technique
- Subject-specific support

Why might my child be taught by a different teacher or in a different group?

At times, classes may be **merged or reorganised** to allow specialist teachers to deliver targeted revision. This helps ensure pupils receive the **best possible support at the right time**, particularly close to exams.

What equipment does my child need each day?

Pupils should bring:

- Pens, pencils, ruler, calculator
- Any subject-specific equipment

- Revision materials if requested

Pupils are expected to arrive prepared, as they are **not allowed to leave lessons to collect equipment or resources**.

What happens once my child finishes all their exams?

Once a pupil has completed **their final GCSE exam**, arrangements are in place for them to leave school earlier on that day. Pupils and families will be clearly informed when this applies.

What happens if my child is ill on the day of the exam?

If you child **is too ill to attend the exam** you need to ring the school immediately and let us know. Mr Young (examinations officer) will ask you to complete a form for the exam board explaining the nature of the illness they have. You are not required to get a doctor's note. The exam board will then decide whether to award a substitution grade for that pupil. We at GTS have no say in that decision.

If you child is **ill but decided to attend the exam,** please inform Mr Young on exams@gts.devon.sch.uk. We can then put support in place to ensure that they are as comfortable as they can be. We can also apply for "special consideration" to be awarded by the exam board. This entitles the pupil to up to an additional 5% added to their final mark.

What happens if my child's bus is late or we are running late?

No pupil will be penalised for a late bus. If a pupil or group of pupils are late **before 10am**, we will delay the start of the exam for them. They will be entitled to all the time they are allowed for that paper.

Pupils will still be able to get their **breakfast** if the bus arrives before 9am.

If a pupil is going to arrive after **10am (morning exam) or 2pm (afternoon exam)** contact the school immediately. This is after the **national exam start time cut off** and we will have to make an appeal to the exam boards. A very late start will only be allowed by the exam boards in **exceptional circumstances.**

How is the school supporting pupil wellbeing during the exams?

We recognise this can be a stressful time and have designed this structure to:

- Maintain routines and structure
- Reduce uncertainty by clearly linking lessons to exams
- Ensure pupils are supervised and supported throughout the school day
- Provide breakfast before each examination
- Keeping core PE lessons in place

Staff are on hand throughout to offer guidance, reassurance, and encouragement.