

20 March 2024

## Letter to All Year 11 Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Re Year 11 Leavers' Events and Study Leave

Following a review of our GCSE examination timetable, I am pleased to confirm the arrangements we have made for pupils in Year 11, including Study Leave and our Year 11 Leavers' Ball on Friday 28 June 2024.

I can confirm that the written **Exams will start on Thursday 9 May 2024. Study Leave will start on Monday 13 May 2024.** In a change from previous years, all Year 11 pupils will be required to continue to wear normal school uniform throughout study leave and the written exams, up to and including their last exam. This change is to ensure that pupils are focused on their exams and not spending unnecessary time and energy worrying about what they are wearing each day. However, Year 11 may wear the optional Leavers' Hoodie as part of their uniform from **Tuesday 7 May 2024.**

It is vital that pupils check their exam timetables carefully, particularly the start times of afternoon exams, and ensure that they arrive in school suitably prepared and with enough time before the start of each exam. Pupils will not be able to sit a scheduled exam at a later date if they fail to turn up. Regrettably, if a pupil fails to attend one or more of their exams, the cost of the entry will be passed on to the parent/carer, unless we have medical evidence that they are unwell.

In addition to the entries on your son/daughter's exam timetable, please be aware that as part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for exams, **Wednesday 26 June 2024 has been set aside as Contingency Day.** This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom.

Pupils are welcome to work in school during study leave. In order for us to provide the appropriate supervision for pupils, they will be required to register via an MS Form to work in school. The link for this will be sent to all pupils via email and SMHW after the Easter holiday. Pupils who wish to be in school to work will have to be present for the whole day – it is not appropriate for them to come into school for a short time, leave and then return.

As a result of the busy exams period, we have decided to have our **traditional celebration of Year 11 on Friday 3 May 2024.** On this day, all pupils in Year 11 will be expected in school as normal in full school uniform. Pupils will spend periods 1 and 2 in lessons. Pupils will then have an opportunity to congregate at the front of school to **sign each other's shirts.** We advise that pupils can bring a white shirt with them on this day should they wish to take part in the shirt signing. Alternatively, pupils can purchase a **Deer Park Autograph Book** for just £3, available via MCAS. Once purchased, the Autograph Books can be collected from Reception, where a range of colours will be available to choose from. Following the shirt signing, pupils are invited to join staff on the front field for a BBQ. We will then reflect on their time at Deer Park and celebrate their achievements in a **final Leavers' Assembly before dismissing them at 1.45pm.**

As advised to pupils through assembly, and mentioned in the weekly email newsletter to parents, **Leavers' Hoodies/Sweatshirts** can be ordered from Prints and Threads in Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, Tel: 01285 640111, via this link [www.deerparkhoodies.co.uk](http://www.deerparkhoodies.co.uk). **Please note the closing date for Hoodie orders is Sunday 7 April 2024.** Hoodie prices start from £18.00. All hoodies ordered will be delivered to school and handed out to pupils before study leave commences. However, please be aware that hoodies will not be released to pupils if they have not returned (or replaced) any borrowed books from the library. Pupils that this concerns will be given a separate letter to make them aware of their outstanding books.

## Page 2

If your child has a **locker**, this will need to be **emptied by Friday 10 May at the latest**. The key needs to be returned to the Administration Office, and on receipt of this, the deposit of £5.00 will be returned directly to the pupil.

Following their final examinations, we look forward to meeting up with our 'Class of 2024' again at their **Leavers' Ball here at the School on Friday 28 June from 7.00pm**. The main hall will be transformed. Tickets for the Ball cost £12.00 (inclusive of VAT) and are available via MCAS, ideally no later than Friday 24 May 2024. This includes non-alcoholic drinks, a buffet/nibbles, music/entertainment and a photo booth where pupils can take their own photographs. This is an occasion for celebration. To aid your planning, a separate guide to the event is attached.

As a souvenir of their time at Deer Park, our 'in house' team are putting together a special Leavers' Booklet. The cost of these is £3. **The deadline for purchasing a Leavers' Booklet is Friday 24 May 2024**. They will be available for collection during the Celebration of Achievement Evening in November.

We would like to encourage all payments for the Leavers' Ball Ticket, Leavers' Booklet or Autograph Book to be made via MCAS, by the deadlines set out in this letter. MCAS can be accessed by clicking on the shopping basket icon in the top right hand corner on the school website ([www.deerparkschool.net](http://www.deerparkschool.net)).

If you have any questions about MCAS, or need a reminder of your login, please contact [MCAS@deerparkschool.net](mailto:MCAS@deerparkschool.net).

Finally, your son/daughter's **exam results will be available from 9.15am on Thursday 22 August 2024**. We look forward to congratulating him/her on his/her achievements when he/she comes to collect them. There will then be an opportunity to formally celebrate the Year group's success at our Celebration of Achievement event in November 2024. Further details will follow in due course.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Clutterbuck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Clutterbuck  
**Headteacher**

Attached: Leavers' Ball Guide