



TRUE LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Saturday, 09 May 2026

GCSE Exam Series: Guidance and Updates for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

The written GCSE exams have commenced, with the first papers taken in school on Friday 8 May. From now on students will be very busy, as exams are scheduled almost every day. I hope that they experience a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment each time they complete an exam. We ask only that students put in their best efforts, both in revision and during the exams themselves. Hard work at this stage ensures they can look forward to a well-deserved summer break, knowing they have earned it.

Students will continue attending lessons until Friday, 22 May. After half term, they will only come into school for their exams. Subjects will provide intervention sessions, both in school and online, scheduled around the exam timetable. Students will be informed about these arrangements.

Avoiding Malpractice

Our students are familiar with the formal exam procedures and aware of the rules, but I would like to reiterate the importance of avoiding malpractice. Exam boards have identified the most common malpractice incident as students having a mobile phone on their person during the exam. Students often reported no intention to use the phone; however, simply possessing it, regardless of use, results in a total loss of marks for that paper. Attempting to use a phone will lead to disqualification. Students are not allowed to have any type of watch during exams, including smart watches, digital watches, health tracker watches, and traditional analogue watches. Smart glasses, AirPods, earphones, earbuds, or any smart device are also prohibited. Please remind your child to turn off all devices and leave them in their bags before entering the exam room. If they do not have a bag, encourage them to leave devices at home or hand them in to a trusted adult before the exam.

Once students are seated in the exam room, invigilators will give them a final opportunity to check for unauthorised items. This is the last chance for students to hand in items without penalty. After this, any unauthorised items found must be reported to the exam boards. If an invigilator suspects a student possesses a phone or other prohibited item during the exam, the student will be asked to empty their pockets.

Revision Advice

By now, students should be well-versed in effective revision strategies and I have been impressed by the methods many students are using. However, it is possible for students to slip into less productive habits during exam season, such as simply reading revision guides rather than engaging in active revision. This may create an illusion of productivity but is unlikely to be helpful. At this stage,

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@poyntonhigh.org.uk

students should regularly test their memory, for example by planning answers to past paper questions, creating mind maps or notes from memory, or testing themselves in other ways. If you require further advice on supporting revision and a full list of exam boards, please consult our guides for students at <https://www.poyntonhigh.org.uk/parents/helping-your-child-with-learning>. Past papers are available on all exam board websites and are invaluable for practice. Useful online resources include Seneca and BBC Bitesize, but active revision with past papers and students' own notes is most effective.

Be aware that there have been national reports of 'exam influencers' on TikTok and YouTube claiming they can predict exam questions. There is no way to predict questions, so such claims are misleading and potentially harmful. Students should revise all material on the exam specification and avoid relying on these influencers.

Ofqual Guidance for Students

Ofqual has published helpful guidance for students regarding the 2026 summer exam series, available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofqual-student-guide-to-exams-and-assessments-in-2026>. Ofqual is the exams regulator, responsible for overseeing the systems and processes of individual exam boards.

Contingency Date

Please note that 24th June is a national exam contingency day, in case any exam needs to be rescheduled. This date should already be marked in students' exam calendars. It is essential that students are available on this day and refrain from booking holidays during this period, even if their last scheduled exam has already taken place. It is hoped this date will not be required, but if it is and students are unable to attend due to holiday, they will not receive any marks for that paper.

Leavers' Assembly and Prom

As previously communicated, these events will take place on 26 June. We look forward to celebrating with students at these occasions.

Exam Results

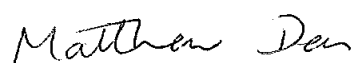
Results will be available to students in school on Thursday, 20 August at 9:00. Further information about results day will be provided closer to the date. Students will also have access to the Education Record App this year and we will ensure that they are set up on this prior to them leaving school.

Student Support

If you require any additional support during the exam series or wish to inform us of any issues your child is facing, however minor, that may affect their exams or revision please contact Miss Dovey hdovey@poyntonhigh.org.uk or Mrs Mahoney smahoney@poyntonhigh.org.uk at school.

I am proud of our students and wish them the very best of luck with the rest of their exams.

With best wishes,



Matthew Dean
Headteacher