

Year 11 - Virtual Information Evening – January 2022

Please find below a summary of the parental questions raised from the evening and our responses.

Question	Response
When will students finish for study leave?	The external examination season commences on Monday 16 th May and finishes on Wednesday 29 th June. We believe that as a school we can support our students and help them prepare for these examinations more effectively if the students remain at school for as long as practicably possible. As such we have not as yet confirmed the official study leave for students as this will depend on the finalised examination schedule. However we can confirm that it will not be before the May Half Term and all students will be expected to attend school as per the normal school day up until the end of Friday 27 th May. We will make adjustments to students' timetables during the examination weeks to ensure that we can fully support students with their revision and exam preparation during this period.
When will revision sessions take place?	Students will be invited to attend academic intervention sessions where a specific knowledge gap or area for development has been identified from our assessments. In addition to these we will also provide wider general revision and support in each subject area. This revision will take many forms, including support and direction provided on Microsoft Teams, sessions during the school day as well as sessions provided after the school day. We will communicate our wider academic intervention and revision schedule in due course.
When will students complete the courses in each of their qualifications?	Part of the challenge for all schools over the last two years has been ensuring that students have covered the entire course content whilst also allowing time for revisiting content from earlier in the course that was potentially disrupted due to school closures. Over the last 12 months, students have been learning new content at the same time as revisiting earlier learning to ensure this knowledge was embedded. As such our schemes of learning for Year 11 indicate that students will finish all of their courses by the end of March at the very latest.
When will the external examination timetable be published?	The GCSE and Level 2 Vocational external examination series for summer 2022 is available online for students and parent/carers to access. However, we will publish this including only those subjects that are offered at Helsby High School after February half term, as well as

	students' entries for each qualification for students and parents/carers to check.
When are the Sixth Form Interviews for year 11 students taking place?	All students in Year 11 will have an interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team or a member of the Senior Leadership Team over the fortnight commencing Monday 31 st January. These interviews will provide an opportunity for all students to discuss what their intentions are for their education, training or employment beyond Year 11, and allow us to offer advice and guidance to support their next steps.
How many hours revision should a student be doing each day?	This is a very difficult question to answer as it is important to get a balance between ensuring students spend an appropriate time revising as well as time for them to relax, unwind and socialise. This latter part is equally important at this time to support students' physical and mental health during this exam season. It is important that the revision students do is focussed and has a clear purpose. If students start revision for their examinations early, then a couple of hours each day over a longer period of time will not only reduce the pressure they feel as the exams approach, but also consolidate and embed knowledge into their long term memory.
Will parents/carers receive a copy of the adaptations to GCSE and Level 2 Vocational examination content and assessment on 7 th February?	We will share the qualification level adjustments to all students and their parents/carers as soon as we are in receipt of this information from the examination awarding bodies and how this will impact students' PPEs as well as their external examinations in summer.
Are there any plans for students to have a celebratory event such as a Prom?	It is our intention to coordinate an evening of celebration in the form of a school prom to allow students the opportunity to celebrate with their peers and congratulate them for all their hard work and determination in what has been a very challenging few years. Throughout the pandemic we have been very mindful to ensure all our plans and activities for students adhere to the national guidelines and are respectful of the circumstances at the time. As such we will communicate our plans for such an event as soon as we are able.