

Dear Parents and Carers,

February 2026

Year 11 Study Leave – Important Information

I am writing to outline our approach to Year 11 study leave and exam preparation for this year, and to explain the thinking behind the decisions we have made. I have already shared this information with Year 11 earlier this week.

Before the pandemic, it was common for Year 11 students to begin study leave in May. Last year, the Department for Education provided new guidance for schools to follow. Specifically reiterating that:

- Year 11 students remain of compulsory school age until the last Friday in June, and full daily attendance is expected at least until the May half-term.
- Study leave is not a legal entitlement for any student.
- Study leave should be used sparingly to ensure students have maximum contact time with their teachers.

National guidance recommends that Year 11 students stay in school full-time until the May half-term break, and last year 94% of schools followed this approach. We will be doing the same at Thomas Keble this year. This means Year 11 will be in school up to the May half-term, and study leave will officially begin on Monday 1 June.

From this date, students may choose to:

- Study at home or
- Study in school—in a supervised private study room or with subject specialists or
- A combination of both.

Keeping students in school for longer gives them continued access to valuable teaching, guidance, and feedback in the run-up to their exams. During the exam period, we will adjust timetables to include well-timed private study sessions, and students should bring their own revision materials for these.

School offers structure and focused support, with teachers on hand to answer questions, explain difficult topics, and run targeted revision sessions. Once students have completed the exams for a subject, they will move to supervised independent study.

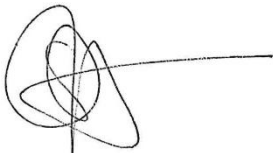
On Friday 1 May, students will receive advice on how to prepare for the exam period, enjoy a final assembly, and have the chance to sign shirts if they wish.

If, after talking with your child, you feel they would benefit from beginning study leave at home from Thursday 7 May, schools can use their discretion to approve this in certain cases. At Thomas Keble, early study leave will only be considered for a small number of students who meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Parents/carers confirm in writing that their child is organised, independent, and able to study reliably at home while attending all exams.
- The student is working at or above their target grades in most subjects.
- The student has shown maturity and independence throughout the year, with no significant homework concerns in their most recent progress review.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Working together, we can ensure the very best preparation, outcomes, and wellbeing for our students.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Shaw
Headteacher