



Date: 28 April 2026

RE: Year 11 and Exams

Dear Year 11 Parents,

With just 12 days left until the first of the GCSE exams, we would like to celebrate just how unbelievably resilient and committed our Year 11 students have been in their final year of school. It is no secret that Oakbank has undergone a significant transformation in the last year, with year 11s at the forefront of that change. As we go into exams we will continue to support and celebrate our students to work hard up until the very last day.

Exam Timetable

Year 11 students have been given their own personalised exam timetables and assessment manifests which tell them exactly what they need to revise. Senior staff have been coaching Year 11 on the relevant revision techniques and all students have been given a blank revision schedule to fill in. Homework will continue to be mandatory until the exams start, when we will then move to allowing students to choose their own revision based on their subjects - though homework will still be set. A copy of the exam timetable is at the end of this letter.

During the exam period, the school day starts at **8am for Y11 if the student has a morning exam**. Students should come to school at 7:50am at the latest so they can receive a Warm Up session from teachers, who will give the students final guidance and support for the exam. For afternoon exams, this will take place in school during lunchtime, so Year 11s with afternoon exams will have lunch slightly earlier during period 4.

Finally, when a student has finished a certain subject they will not be placed on study leave, but will have additional timetabled lessons aimed at supporting the exams they have yet to take.

Breakfast

Once exams begin, all Year 11 students will be offered a free breakfast every day from 7.30am. **In order to have breakfast at school, students should come to the car park gate by the Sports Hub between 7.30-7.50am**, where they will be able to have breakfast in the dining hall. Well nourished and well rested students perform significantly better in exams than others, so we hope that your child makes the most of this opportunity.

Mr Rob Gerrard, Headteacher

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

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Half Term School

We are delighted to announce that Half Term School will return during the May Holiday on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May, taught by senior staff. We are fortunate to have support from experienced educators from Hartland High School to support Maths. Free lunch is provided.

Please sign up using the below which has also been emailed to you. While we will try to include students who turn up on the day without signing up, we cannot guarantee availability for either lunch or the lessons.

Students should arrive at 9.25am at the school gate and will leave school at 2.00pm should they stay for all lessons, though students are free to only attend some or all of the day. Students should come equipped as for an ordinary day at school, but do not need to come in uniform.

[Booking Form](#)

	Wednesday 27 May		Thursday 28 May	
P1 9.30-10.30	English Language Paper 2	Miss E Doyle	English Language Paper 2 / Maths Foundation	Dr G Mills Ms Rabiya Naqvi (Hartland High School)
P2 10.30-11.30	Maths (Higher)/Maths Foundation	Miss K Reggler and Miss A Korporovic	Physics Combined (Foundation) / Maths (Foundation)	Mr A Arregbigbola Ms Rabiya Naqvi (Hartland High School)
Break				
P3 12-1	PE/DT/HIST	Mr P Lant and Mr R Samuel	Maths (Foundation)	Miss J Hupe (Hartland High School)
P4-1-2	History	Miss N Shaughnesey	Maths (Foundation)	Miss J Hupe (Hartland High School)
Pizza				

Revision

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Successful revision depends on mental effort rather than just time spent at a desk. We recommend two hours on weekdays, four hours on weekends, and up to eight hours during holidays. The key is moving from passive reading to active retrieval. Research confirms that learning happens best when students practice pulling information out of their brains. Our Oakbank revision booklets and Assessment Manifests provide the specific topic breakdowns needed to guide this process.

To help your child maximize their potential, encourage these high-impact methods:

- Leitner System Flashcards: Students review difficult cards more frequently than mastered ones to target weak spots.
- Memory-First Mind Maps: Your child should sketch everything they know about a topic from memory before checking their notes.
- Blurting: Have them read a page, close the book, and write down every remembered detail. They then use a different colored pen to add missing facts.
- Past Papers: This is the best way to learn exam language and manage time effectively.

These active strategies prevent common traps like mindless textbook copying or long study sessions without breaks. We suggest a structured two-hour block: thirty minutes of "warm-up" retrieval, sixty minutes of timed practice papers, and thirty minutes of marking and review - with breaks in between.

Your support at home is the foundation for their success. You can assist by ensuring they have a quiet workspace free from phones and a full set of equipment each morning. Attendance is vital, as missing lessons misses revision opportunities. We also suggest displaying their revision timetable and asking them to explain topics back to you.

Hoodies

As we approach the end of the academic year, we want to celebrate our Year 11 students' hard work and time at Oakbank school. To mark this milestone, we are excited to offer the official Class of 2026 Leavers' Hoodies.

These hoodies serve as a wonderful memento for the students as they prepare for their next chapters. Hoodies cost £25 and include an embroidered nickname.

Deadlines & Collection

- Final Order Date: Sunday, 1st June (at the very latest).
- Collection Date: Monday, 15th June.

The hoodies will be distributed on the 15th June, which marks the official final day for Year 11.

Orders can be placed via the link below. We look forward to seeing the "Class of 2026" celebrating their achievements in style!

<https://shop.teamhoodies.co.uk/oakbankprimary26>

Prom

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RE: Year 11 Prom

We are thrilled to announce that prom has been booked for the Year 11 cohort and will be happening on Wednesday 17th June 6:30-11pm at Warbrook House Heritage Hotel in Eversley, Hook. Tickets to the event are subsidised at £45 per person, which will include a welcome mocktail reception, a buffet, photo booth, dessert & pick 'n' mix station, DJ, disco, dance floor, and other activities.

Earning Prom Points through high attendance, doing homework, completing additional practice papers, and attending extra sessions such as Champions Hour, Working Lunch and holiday school, is the only way to be able to attend prom. 200 Prom Points are needed for an invitation although many of our students have already reached this milestone. This target is achievable for all students.

Additionally, getting more than 200 points will enable students to qualify for discounts and vouchers towards prom. The top 50% of students will be entered into a raffle for a 3 x £50 voucher towards something for their prom. The top 10% will receive 25% off their ticket and the top 5% will get 50% off. The student with the most prom points in the year group will receive a free ticket to prom!

We will be encouraging as many students as possible to attend this special event. It will be the last opportunity for the Year 11 cohort to be together and a chance for them to celebrate all the hard work they have put into their GCSEs. As anyone from the last few years will tell you, Oakbank Prom is one to remember (our venue last year told us it was the best prom they had ever seen) and our Prom Planning Team are so excited to make this one even better.

If your child would like to attend Prom, please make payment via My Child at School (MCAS) by Wednesday 3rd June 2026. To do this, select the "Products" option on the left-hand side of the MCAS system.

If your child has not yet reached 200 Prom Points, their ticket will be issued once this milestone has been achieved.

If you have any questions, please email contact@oakbankschool.co.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Gareth Mills
Assistant Headteacher
Teaching and Learning & RSL

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	Monday 4th	Tuesday 5th	Wednesday 6th	Thursday 7th	Friday 8th
Week beg 4th May	09:00am 13:30pm			French Speaking Exams	
Week beg 11th May	Monday 11th English Literature Paper 1 1h-45m	Tuesday 12th RE Paper 1 1hr 45m Biology Paper 1H 1h 45m Combined Bio Paper 1 F/H 1hr 15m	Wednesday 13th Geography Paper 1 1h 30m	Thursday 14th Maths Paper 1F/H 1h 30m	Friday 15th History Paper 1 2h
	Monday 18th Chemistry Paper 1H 1h 45m Combined Chem 1 F/H 1hr 15m	Tuesday 19th English Literature Paper 2 1hr 45m	Wednesday 20th French: Listening F 45m/ H 1h	Thursday 21st English Language Paper 1 1hr 45m	Friday 22nd PE Paper 1 1h 15m
Week beg 18th May	09:00am 13:30pm	Monday Bank Holiday	Wednesday RE Paper 2 1h 45m	Thursday Half Term School	Friday Half Term School
Half Term Week beg 25th May		Half Term School	Half Term School	Half Term School	Half Term School
Week beg 1st June	Monday 1st PE Paper 2 1h 15m	Tuesday 2nd Physics Paper 1H 1h 45m Combined Phy Paper 1 F/H 1hr 15m	Wednesday 3rd Maths Paper 2 F/H 1hr 30m	Thursday 4th History Paper 2 2h	Friday 5th English Language Paper 2 1hr 45m
	Monday 8th Biology Paper 2H 1h 45m Combined Bio Paper 2 F/H 1hr 15m	Tuesday 9th Statistics Paper 1 1h-45m Polish: Listening 45m Polish: Reading 1h	Wednesday 10th Geography Paper 2 1h 30m	Thursday 11th French: Reading F 45m/ H 1h	Friday 12th Chemistry Paper 2H 1h 45m Combined Chem 2 F/H 1hr 15m
Week beg 8th June	09:00am				
Week beg 15th June	Monday 15th Physics Paper 2H 1h 45m Combined Phy Paper 2 F/H 1hr 15m	Tuesday 16th	Wednesday 17th DT 2hr	Thursday 18th	Friday Hospitality & Catering 1h 20m Statistics Paper 1 1h-45m Polish: Writing 1h 15m
	Monday 22nd Further Maths Paper 1 1h-45m French Writing F 1h 15m/ H 1h 20m	Tuesday 23rd Further Maths Paper 2 1h-45m	Wednesday 30th PROM	Thursday 31st	Friday 1st