

# PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Easter break approaches, we want to ensure that our Year 11 and Year 13 students are well-prepared for their upcoming summer exams. During this period, our teachers will be providing tailored revision materials for all academic subjects. These materials will include key topics, practice questions, and model answers, and will be accessible through Google Classroom or as physical copies.

We encourage you to support your child in making the most of these resources by helping them create a balanced study timetable for the Easter holidays. This will ensure they cover all necessary subjects while also allowing time for regular breaks to maintain their wellbeing. It's important that students take time to relax and recharge, as a healthy balance between study and rest is crucial for effective learning and mental health.

Please remind your child of the importance of using the Easter break wisely to revise and consolidate their learning. Encourage them to reach out to their teachers if they have any questions or need further clarification on any topics. We also suggest setting specific goals for each study session and celebrating their achievements along the way to keep them motivated.

We appreciate your continued support and partnership in helping your child succeed. By working together, we can ensure they are well-prepared and confident as they approach their exams.

## Study Leave Arrangements

The Purcell School believes that exam-year students are best supported by maintaining attendance at academic lessons until the Summer half term. This year, we are going to follow the same system for study leave as in previous years. For Year 12 Physics students sitting AS-Level exams, they will be excused from lessons on the morning of their examinations (from break

onwards) for revision purposes but should be in school at all other times.

### **Year 11**

#### **Up until half term:**

- Year 11 students will be required to attend all timetabled classroom lessons until half term. Where exams in any given

subject have finished, the lesson time will be given over to supervised revision.

- Students who have an afternoon examination on any given day are excused attendance from lessons after break on that day.

#### **After half term:**

- After half term, teachers will be on hand in classrooms

during timetabled lessons, such that students can access academic support and supervised, quiet revision spaces.

It is the expectation that independent revision during the taught day takes place inside; in classrooms, practice rooms, the ICT room or in bedrooms (after break only) - where academic resources and support are more readily available, and the formal setting promotes better concentration. All students should be out of the boarding house between breakfast and morning break.

After half term, parents of boarding students may seek permission for their children to be absent from school on study leave (with parents or guardians), in longer gaps between examinations and music commitments. Permission should be sought in the usual way, using the [studentabsence@purcellschool.org](mailto:studentabsence@purcellschool.org) email address **at least two weeks in advance**.

#### **We expect that:**

- Students board in house on the night before a morning exam.
- Students continue to fulfil their musical commitments, including attending scheduled instrumental lessons and rehearsals. As always, good communication is crucial in resolving possible clashes and enabling appropriate absences to be sanctioned.

## **Year 13**

### **Up until half term:**

- Year 13 students are required to attend all timetabled classroom lessons until half term. Where exams in any given subject have finished the lesson time will be given over to supervised revision.
- Students who have an afternoon examination on any given day are excused attendance from lessons after break on that day.

### **After half term:**

- After half term, teachers will be on hand in classrooms during timetabled lessons, such that students can access academic support and supervised, quiet revision spaces.

It is the expectation that independent revision during the taught day takes place inside; in classrooms, practice rooms, the ICT room, Sixth Form CR, or in bedrooms (after break) - where academic resources and support are more readily available, and the formal setting promotes better concentration. All students should be out of the boarding house between breakfast and morning break.

### **We expect that:**

- Students board in house on the night before a morning exam.
- Students continue to fulfil their musical commitments, including

attending scheduled instrumental lessons and rehearsals. As always, good communication is crucial in resolving possible clashes and enabling appropriate absences to be sanctioned.

### **Study leave after half term would thus work as follows:**

- **Academic Lessons**  
Classroom teaching staff will remain available in their timetabled lessons until all examinations in their subject have been completed. Staff can require specific students to attend classes if necessary, or offer general revision/ drop-in sessions.
- **Day Students**  
Day Students would remain at home except for specific examinations or timetabled lessons (including instrumental lessons), or to use the specified study spaces within the school. They must sign in and out as usual, but should not be coming and going over the course of a day (once in they should expect to remain in until they have finished their last commitment of the day).
- **Boarders**  
Boarders who remain in school are required to adhere to the usual school routine (be up and signed in with house staff at 8am, and be out of house until morning break). Study spaces will be made available to boarders who remain in school. Boarders may not leave the school site other than at the usual

times (Monday - Sunday). Boarders who opt to study at home must liaise with their houseparent to ensure the school knows when they will be onsite and when they will be at home. Boarders must

ensure that they sign in and out on each occasion of authorised home study.

A series of musical activities will be arranged for the period following exams, which will include students from both

Year 11 and Year 13. Schedules and list of participants will be discussed with students and advertised in the first half of the summer term.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding issues never seem to be far from the headlines and Netflix drama 'Adolescence' is also shining a light on some of the key challenges facing schools. Many of you will likely have already seen this disturbing Netflix series which reflects the concerns many of us share over the impact of powerful digital technologies on young people and 'toxic masculinity' in particular.

Although 'Adolescence' is fictional, it was inspired by real life events. There has been a growing trend of knife crime, in and around

schools, and a [recent survey](#) showed that almost 1 in 5 secondary teachers have seen pupils in school with a knife. Furthermore, the show also reflects the harm that can result from certain behaviours online and the consequences of a lack of understanding.

The digital landscape is constantly changing and, as anyone who spends any amount of time with young people will know, terminology changes all the time and it can be difficult to understand or recognise what is being said by our young people. We thought it might be useful to share with

you a 'digital dictionary' to help understand some of the language your young people might be using both online and offline when talking to their friends. You can find this 'digital dictionary' [here](#), alongside other Safeguarding factsheets on the Current Parents area of the school website which you might find useful.

As always, if you have any concerns about the Safeguarding of your children or want to know more, you can get in touch with us by email at any time: [safeguarding@purcell-school.org](mailto:safeguarding@purcell-school.org).

With all good wishes



Paul Bambrough  
Principal

