

26 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 2026 Exam Season

We have now entered the GCSE/BTEC exam season and I am pleased to report that the first, practical exams in Food Technology went extremely well. Mandarin Speaking Exams will begin the first week back after Easter and Art the second week. From Friday 1 May students will begin sitting exams in all other subjects with the final exam taking place on Monday 15 June.

Student attendance in these final weeks is vital. **Please count every day now as part of the exam season. The aim should be 100% attendance.**

Revision

On Friday 27 March, students will leave school with their yellow revision folder, a revision timetable and specific revision goals. During the Easter holiday, please use this [revision guide](#) to help them to **actively** revise. They ought to be looking at the digital resources and then creating paper based resources, or making digital resources for printing. This will ensure that they build up their Yellow folder with their own notes and diagrams, which is the best way to revise all of the knowledge needed for success in the final run of exams, and to help with last minute revision.

We would strongly encourage you to print the English and maths knowledge organisers and have them up on walls at home, so you can talk about the contents, quiz your child and really help them to be ready for these core exams. [Knowledge Organisers](#)

Study Leave

There is no law giving students a right to study leave. Guidance from the Department for Education says:

- Study leave is optional
- Schools should only allow it if it benefits the student

In my experience, and as supported by research, students benefit the most from structured revision opportunities in school. Therefore, all students will remain in school following their timetable (except when in an exam or booster session), until close of school on Wednesday 10 June. The usual attendance codes will apply during this time.

After Wednesday 10 June, all students not required for exams on Thursday 11, Friday 12 and Monday 15 June will be coded Y and others who are expected, coded S. **Effectively, this means study leave begins from Thursday 11 June, 2026.**

Booster Sessions/Final Recaps

We have created a timetable of additional booster sessions which will take place just ahead of each exam and will share this with you after the Easter break.

In addition, on specific days a free breakfast of hot and cold food will be offered and available from **7.45-8am**. Students may then go into the Main Hall at **8.00am** for a final recap delivered by the Curriculum Leader/Other Subject specialists or be supported in other ways. This helps to ensure that exam technique knowledge is firmly in students' working memory.

We would ask parents to support in getting students to school early in order to give them this valuable, last minute confidence for exam success.

Exam Stress Workshop

The MHST Exam Stress Workshop for Year 11 students has been rescheduled for Monday 20 April. Any students that are in the Art exam on that day are invited to a session with Mrs Peckham on Thursday 16 April during tutor time.

Carisbrooke Exams Google Site

This site provides essential information for students preparing for examinations. It includes detailed exam protocols and rules to ensure all candidates understand expectations and procedures. Students can access the Exam Office Information for Candidates (2025/26), which outlines key guidance on exam day arrangements and responsibilities.

The site also contains important rules and regulations, along with official guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), helping students stay informed about exam conduct and requirements. An up-to-date exam timetable is available to support effective planning and preparation. In addition, a blank revision timetable is provided for students to fill in, allowing them to create and manage their own personalised revision schedule.

[Carisbrooke Exam Site](#)

Prom Points

Following the successful launch of 'Prom Points' last year, we have been running this again. Points will be turned into money off the ticket price for the prom - in essence, the more points earned, the cheaper the ticket for the prom. Or students can earn money off the hoodie or be awarded Amazon vouchers.

There is no automatic right to attend the prom. If your child has an unacceptable level of behaviour points between now and the date of the prom, they will not be invited to attend.

Students will be awarded x10 Prom Points for returning from the Easter holiday with evidence of having revised effectively during the break, building up their resources and tackling past papers.

Key Contacts:

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- Head of Centre: Natalie Sheppard natalie.sheppard@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk

Timeline


Date	Session
23 February - 6 March	Second set of Year 11 Trial Exams
Thursday 26 March	Second Year 11 Parents’ Evening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trial exam results / final predicted grades - Help your child revise support + circulation of revision guide - Communication with teachers for precise final steps for exam readiness
Friday 27 March	Tutor Time: 8.45-9.15am <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make Easter Revision Timetable 2. Set 3 Revision goals for each subject 3. Take Yellow Revision folder with highlighters and flash cards home, ready to build up paper resources during the Easter holiday
Tuesday 31 March Thursday 2 April Wednesday 8 April	Easter Holiday Additional sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French 9.30 - 12.30 pm ● Health and Social Care 10.00 am - 11.30 pm ● Child Development 11.30 am - 1.00 pm ● French 9.30 am - 12.30 pm <p>Please create a revision timetable for your child for the two weeks at home and monitor their creation of revision resources.</p>
Monday 13 April	Welcome back / Celebration of Spring term + final timeline
Tuesday 14 April	Final Year 11 assembly led by Headteacher/Exams Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expectations ○ Conduct ○ Consequences of malpractice ○ Personalised timetable with roomings issued
Friday 17 April	Distribute Booster / Breakfast recap Timetable
Monday 20 April	Final Practical Exams begin
Friday 1 May	Final written exams begin Exam Timetable
Thursday 11 June	Study leave begins
Monday 15 June	Final exam
Friday 19 June	Leavers Event: Students arrive for registration at 8.45am in uniform (ready for shirt signing) Students will be released at 11.45am
Wednesday 24 June	Exam Contingency Day
Thursday 25 June	Prom

Monday 29 June	Statutory Leaving Date for Year 11s in 2026
Thursday 16 July	End of Year Awards Ceremony
Thursday 20 August	GCSE Results Day

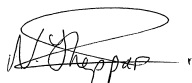
Finally, I am planning to join in with an important new service from the Department for Education called The Education Record.

The Education Record gives young people secure, digital access to their own education data. Put simply, it places their information in their pocket, ready to use, share, and rely on as they move into further education, apprenticeships, or employment. Instead of requesting records from schools, waiting for paper documents, or navigating multiple systems, pupils will have a single, trusted source of their verified information that they can control. This shift empowers them and reduces friction in their transitions.

The video below describes the use and benefits of the Education Record for Year 11. Further information will follow.

 [Education records explained](#)

Yours faithfully



Natalie Sheppard
Headteacher