



8th September 2025

THE GAINSBOROUGH ACADEMY

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs R Skelton

Dear Parent/Carer

As your child enters their final year of secondary education, we wanted to provide some key information to help you support your child throughout the year. We will be providing regular updates on key events, how to support your child revise and when there are key post 16 option evenings.

Your son/daughter will have been provided with their timetable this week. Please talk to them about their timetable and support them in ensuring that they have the correct equipment for each day.

This week your son/daughter will have been provided with a homework diary. Students will be getting homework set in all subjects this year. This could take a range of forms including work on our online platforms such as SENECA, exam questions, tasks to support current classwork or revision tasks. These tasks will support them in preparing for the end of year exams. It is important that your son/daughter has a space in which to work at home where they will be able to study. We appreciate that family homes can also be busy places so students will be able to access a quiet study room in school during second break.

There are key dates in the calendar which will support you and your child with their studies this year:

23rd October	Year 11 Targeted Parents Evening
24th - 28th November	Mock speaking exams for French and Spanish
21st November	Year 11 Careers fair
1st - 19th December	Year 11 Mock exams
29th January	Parents evening
9th - 13th February	Mock speaking exams for French and Spanish
24th February - 14th March	Year 11 Mock Exams
27th April - 1st May	Speaking exams (final) for French and Spanish
5th May - 26th June	GCSE Exams

Please take particular note of the key exam dates. If your son/daughter misses a final GCSE exam they will not be able to take this at a later time during the exam season and the missed paper will have a significant impact on the final grade achieved. You will also be charged for the exam which is missed unless there are extenuating circumstances (Currently this charge is £60 per paper).

To further support your child in preparing for their exams students will have intervention during registration in the morning. This will be targeted towards the subjects and areas which they specifically need to work on. Their morning intervention will change throughout the year based on information from teaching staff and assessment data. You will also shortly receive a letter which will show the after-school booster sessions which they will be expected to attend. These sessions will enable students to receive support in a wider range of subject areas. It is essential that your son/daughter attends these.

It is essential that your son/daughter attends school on time every day. There are key deadlines, particularly for vocational subjects, throughout the year which are set by the exam board. These deadlines cannot be extended. Where possible please therefore avoid making appointments during the school day. As intervention sessions take place during registration punctuality to school is essential if they are to maximise the impact of these on their attainment.

If you need support regarding your child's attendance please contact the attendance team on attendance@gainsboroughacademy.com or Miss Smoothy on ismoothey@gainsboroughacademy.com. If your child's attendance becomes a concern, you will be invited into a meeting to discuss this.

To enable your son/daughter to have the support needed to reach their full potential this year it is essential that school and home work together. I therefore ask that if you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's experience at school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Skelton'.

Rachael Skelton
Headteacher