



1st September 2026

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 throughout the 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:

7th September	Morning and afterschool interventions begin
24th September	Year 11 Core Parents Evening
5th October	English literature mock exams
12th-16th October	Mini mocks - core subjects only
20th November	Year 11 Careers fair
30th November - 16th December	Year 11 Mock exams (all subjects)
28th January	Parents evening
22nd February - 10th March	Year 11 Mock Exams (all subjects)
27th April - 1st May	Speaking exams (final) for French and Spanish
10th May - 24th 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). Prior to the final exam period there will also be exam dates for speaking exams, art and photography.

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 to attend both the morning and afterschool intervention sessions if they are to



secure the best grades possible. Throughout the year additional revision sessions will also be offered in the school holidays. We encourage students to attend as many of these as possible.

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 can not 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 Mrs Bradshaw (abradshaw@gainsboroughacademy.com). If your child's attendance becomes a concern you will be invited into a meeting to discuss this.

Year 11 is a busy and at times stressful year. The pastoral and safeguarding teams in school will be working alongside the teaching staff to ensure that we monitor the wellbeing of all students. However, if you think your son/daughter needs some extra support please contact as soon as possible so that we can work together to support your child,

I am sure whilst we are only just starting the year your son/daughter will also be looking forward to the end of year celebrations including prom. Students will need to secure enough prom points to enable them to be invited to attend prom. These points are based on attendance, punctuality to schools and lessons and behaviour. Further information and regular updates will be shared by the key stage 4 team

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,



Rachael Skelton
Headteacher