



**BOOTHAM
SCHOOL**
AGES 3-18

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January 2024

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN UPPER SENIOR

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are writing to confirm the study leave arrangements for Upper Senior students.

After the Easter holiday, before they go on study leave, Upper Senior day students may depart at 4.00 p.m. provided they have no prior school commitments. Alternatively, if they wish or need to be in school, there will be a prep session available to them.

Study leave for the GCSE exams begins at **12.25pm on Saturday 4 May**. During study leave, most students will have the choice to either revise at home, or to access support and guidance from their subject teachers who will be available in the teaching rooms according to your son or daughter's normal timetable. This is to give students the flexibility to make informed choices about how they will revise most effectively. If students do choose to come into school to revise with the support of their teachers, they need to come prepared with questions, completed work, or a clear idea of what they would like to work on. Students should only come into school to attend sessions with their teachers as per their regular timetable; there are no general study spaces available to Upper Seniors in school. Therefore, if your child does not wish to attend sessions with their teacher, they should revise independently at home. However, your child can choose to attend some or all of their lessons on any given day; they should discuss this with you in advance. We ask that if students come into school, they **must sign in and out at Reception** to comply with fire regulations.

Most boarders will have the same flexibility as most day students and can choose whether to attend study sessions in line with their normal timetable, or to study independently in their boarding house. The boarding houses will be supervised during the school day to allow for this.

For certain students, it may be more beneficial for them to remain in school, and revise with their teachers, until Thursday 23 May. If we believe this to be the case for your son or daughter, we will contact you shortly to discuss this option, and make this decision together.

Once we return from the half term holiday on Monday 3 June, teachers will no longer routinely wait in their classrooms for students to attend revision sessions. However, teachers will still be available to support students with their revision; your child just needs to arrange this with their teacher.

Students will be sent individual exam timetables nearer the time. However, this year the exams will take place over a longer period of time with the exams more spread out than in previous years.

Parents and students also need to be aware that for the Summer 2024 exam series, '**contingency exam days**' have been arranged by the examination awarding bodies. These 'contingency days' for GCSE and/or A Level examinations has been put in place '*In the highly unlikely event that there is national disruption to a day of examinations in summer 2024*'. The Joint Council for Qualifications have decided that they need the option to postpone an exam and rearrange for a later date, up to and including the contingency day, to allow all students a fair and equal chance.

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The dates that have been set aside as the contingency days are the afternoons of 6 and 13 June and **Wednesday 26 June 2024**. This means that ALL candidates must be available to sit exams from the date of their first exam until Wednesday 26 June 2023. When booking flights in the summer, all students, but particularly boarders, need to be aware of this contingency date and preferably book flights for after this date. Students who book flights for before 26 June do so on the understanding that they may have to come back to the UK in the event of an exam having to take place on that day.

Many of the End of Term events listed in the Notes below are optional, but we expect all Upper Senior students to attend **Parents' Day**. More details/ timings will be sent in due course. A further date for your diary is the Upper Senior End of Year Celebration taking place on the afternoon of **Monday 24 June**. This event, in formal dress, will be an opportunity for the students to celebrate together all of their achievements and success over their time in Bootham. Students are also invited to join us for the Bootham Challenge awards presentations on the evening of Monday 24 June. Details of these and all other events will be sent nearer the time, including details of how to sign up for the events on 2, 3 and 4 July. It would be wonderful if as many students as possible could attend.

Best wishes

MADELEINE BOWLEY
Deputy Head (Academic)

KITTY WILSON and CAROLYN BLOXWICH
Heads of Seniors

NOTES:

1. Examinations will be held in various locations in school and a seating plan will be provided. Students should check carefully the information at Reception which is updated daily. Start times are 9.10 a.m. or 1.45 p.m. **Students should arrive at the correct venue at least 10 minutes before the start of the exam.**
2. During the summer term, Upper Senior day students may leave school at 4.00 p.m. each day before exam leave commences, unless they have a prior school commitment.
3. Normal school dress regulations apply at all times when a student is in school during exam leave. This is equally the case when attending for examinations, coming into school to see a teacher, staying in school for lunch, etc. Please make sure your son or daughter is appropriately dressed. These regulations also apply to boarders.
4. Students are expected to fulfil all school commitments and fixtures.
5. Many of the End of Term events listed below are optional, but we expect Upper Senior students to attend Parents' Day on Saturday 29 June.

Dates for the Diary

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| Mon 24 June | Upper Senior Celebrations and Bootham Challenge awards presentation Bootham Challenge awards presentations on the evening |
| Tues 25 June: | Sports' Day during the afternoon |
| Wed 26 June: | Exam Contingency Day |
| Fri 28 June: | Celebration Meeting for Worship during the morning 7.00 p.m. Leavers' Concert |
| Sat 29 June: | Parents' Day - all Upper Senior students are expected to be in school today |
| Tues 2 July: | Wellbeing Day including Staff v Reeves matches) |
| Wed 3 July: | Expeditions' Day 1 |
| Thu 4 July: | Expeditions' Day 2 |
| Fri 5 July: | End of Year Meeting for Worship |