



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

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THE
HESSLE
ACADEMY

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Dear parent / carer

We are now over two weeks into the heart of the main GCSE exam season; this week alone has been hectic with seven (!) exams taking place in total. I would like to praise the resilience and determination of many students, who have acquitted themselves superbly and we have enjoyed seeing smiling faces leaving English Literature and Biology exams to name but two!

A huge number of hours are currently going into staffing and delivering intervention sessions daily, with a bespoke timetable now running meaning your child can access the subjects they need, at the times they need it most before their exams. It was lovely to hear many students leave the Biology exam on Tuesday stating, "that paper was amazing, we just did that in the pre-exam!".

Unfortunately, a minority of students are not fully appreciating the support that is freely available to them and are demanding to leave school to go home. Some are genuinely ill, but most are not. There remains a legal requirement for students to stay in school, and we have a safeguarding responsibility that students should be in school. Therefore, our expectation is that students will continue to stay in school, following their individual study timetables. To be clear, there is no such thing as 'study leave'.

In school your child can access the expert knowledge of their teachers and pastoral leaders, who have years of experience and understanding of guiding students through this challenging process.

To ensure that students can continue to follow their bespoke study programmes, please note that:

- All absences, unless accompanied with medical evidence, will be treated as unauthorised
- Students will only be permitted to leave school if they are genuinely ill and are **collected in person** by a parent (or named guardian on our system)
- Failure to support this programme will risk a student's attendance at future whole school events such as the Prom and Leavers' Assembly (shirt signing)

We know the exam period is stressful and fraught for all concerned, and we know that at times students can become overwhelmed. However, we know how to deal with this and as we have always said, we firmly believe the best place for your child is in school.

Many thanks for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

Mr V Groak
Headteacher