



## Outwood Academy Portland

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Principal: Mrs Danielle Sheehan

Our ref: DSH/MGR

21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

Dear Year 11 Students,

### **Class of 2026**

As you approach your GCSE examinations, you are now at a pivotal point in your education. The next few weeks are an opportunity to truly squeeze every last drop out of your time at Outwood Academy Portland and ensure you leave us having achieved your very best.

Your attendance and punctuality have never been more important.

Every lesson between now and your final exam has been strategically planned by your teachers, based on the gaps in knowledge identified from your mock examinations. This means that every single lesson, every explanation, and every piece of practice is purposeful and designed to maximise your performance. Quite simply, **every moment counts**.

To support you fully, we have put in place an extensive programme of:

- Targeted intervention sessions, 1-2-1
- Enrichment opportunities- Every night (see the at the end of my letter)
- Online masterclasses (see the link at the end of my letter)
- Lunchtime and breacktime revision sessions (by invite only)

In addition, during the exam period, your timetable will be adjusted so that once you complete an exam, you will have **increased lesson time in subjects you are still studying**. This ensures that no learning time is lost and that you remain fully focused right through to your final paper.

Some students have asked about study leave. At Portland, we do not expect students to take study leave. Being in school, supported by expert teachers, structured revision, and immediate feedback, is far more effective than studying in isolation. The next three weeks are about maximising guided learning, maintaining routine, and ensuring you are fully prepared. This is where the greatest gains are made, so you can be confident in exams and for the best life chances.

Equally important is your wellbeing. We recognise that this can be a demanding time, and it is vital that you look after your mental health. A few simple strategies can make a significant difference:

- Maintain a consistent routine (sleep, meals, study)
- Break revision into manageable chunks
- Use techniques such as deep breathing to stay calm before exams
- Focus on what you can control, your effort and preparation
- Speak to staff if you feel overwhelmed, support is always available

We are committed to ensuring you feel safe, supported, and confident. Please reach out to your teachers, members of the SLT or Mr Hazlehurst if you need help; there is always someone ready to support you.

Alongside your hard work, we are also looking forward to celebrating everything you achieve. We have some important events ahead:

- Shirt Signing Event - Friday 19th June
- Leavers' Assembly – Friday 19th June
- Prom – Friday 26th June

We cannot wait to celebrate with those of you who demonstrate **100% effort, commitment, excellent attendance and resilience** over the coming weeks.

This is your time. Stay focused, attend every day, be on time, and make the most of every opportunity provided. You are closer than ever to success, now is the moment to push through and finish strong.

Please see below the following links:

Year 11 Revision Masterclasses - <https://www.outwood.com/revision-masterclasses>

Portland's Enrichment sessions:

<https://www.portland.outwood.com/enrichment-activities-information>

Yours sincerely,



Danielle Sheehan

Principal

