



Year 11 Newsletter

Issue: 6 Date: Friday 22nd May 2026

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

The exams are in full swing and we are full of praise for the way in which our Year 11 students have conducted themselves. There have been high numbers of students taking up the opportunity to come and have breakfast in the canteen. It has been reassuring to watch students support each other and navigate their nerves as they sit down with a pastry and their friends. Students have been able to receive lots of reassurance and last minute tips from teachers, enabling them to feel bolstered when they open those exam papers.

This is the final Year 11 newsletter for the academic year so we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck for the remaining exams and all the very best for their next steps! It was a pleasure to celebrate the students' 5 years at Downend School this morning, at their Leavers' Assembly.

We must say a huge thank you to students, parents and carers for ensuring that the Year 11s are equipped for exams. This has vastly improved since the mock exams. Please ensure that the correct equipment continues to come in for each exam:

- Black pen plus a spare
- Pencil plus a spare
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Highlighter
- Calculator (the Casio FX-85GTX model is recommended by the Maths Department)
- Other specific equipment in a **clear pencil case or plastic bag**.

Study Leave

Study leave begins on Monday 1st June, meaning that from this date students need only attend school for exams and can go straight home afterwards. Students will need to sign in and out at main reception if they are invited to revision sessions by individual teachers.

Morning exam breakfasts

Free breakfasts in the canteen continue for all morning exams, **including those after half term**. This is a great opportunity for students to meet with friends and teachers for any last minute questions and words of encouragement prior to the exam. The canteen will be open **from 8:15am** on these days.

Confirmation of Post-16 Destinations

Each year, we have a duty to inform the local authority where all of our students intend to go in the September following their GCSEs. Therefore, please can we ask that all students complete [this short Google Form](#) (also in the Yr 11 Google Classroom) to indicate their intended P-16 destination. Please note that **students (not parents) need to log in with their school email address** to complete the form. Thank you.

Wellbeing during the exam season

Stress and anxiety can potentially heighten in the build up to and during exams. Therefore, it is really important that students continue to engage in non-school activities and make time for proper rest and relaxation to keep stress levels to a minimum. Students can seek support from their tutor, Head of House, subject teachers or Miss Allen if they are at all worried. Please do let us know if your child is struggling - the earlier a concern is raised, the more time there is to do something about it. There are a host of online services that offer some great support to both students and parents/carers on a range of issues, such as:

- [Off The Record](#) - see next pages for details of **FREE online sessions for parents and carers** who are supporting children and young people through exams
- [Kooth](#) - see next pages for details of **FREE, confidential exam support** being offered to young people
- [The Mix](#)

Downend Sixth Form Induction Day

The Downend Sixth Form Induction Day will take place on **Wednesday 24th June 9:00am - 3:00pm**. Students will be able to experience a choice of A-Level subjects throughout the course of the day as well as getting a taste of the wider Sixth Form experience. An email has been sent to students with further details. Students need to **sign into their Applicaa account to confirm attendance by Friday 12th June** please. If there are any questions about the day please email DMSixthForm@cset.co.uk.

Results Day: Thursday 20th August 2026

Downend School will be open on Thursday 20th August 9am - 10:30am for in-person collection of GCSE results. Students can come to the main hall via reception to collect their envelopes. If you are unable to come to school in person on this day, results will be sent home later.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale: Donations please!

We know that uniform can be an expensive requirement for families and, with this in mind, we want to help our school community by making good quality pre-loved uniform easily available to everyone. Many items of uniform have a longer life beyond the point when our students no longer use them and could be re-used by someone else. As well as saving families money, re-using uniform also reduces our impact on the environment. To support this sale, we are asking for your donations of any unwanted items of uniform that are in good condition and could be used again. We are collecting donations at main reception, with the pre-loved uniform sale taking place on **Thursday 25th June 4pm - 5:30pm** in school.

Please donate items that are:	Unfortunately, we cannot accept items that are:
✓ In good condition	X Ripped or torn
✓ Clean	X Stained or marked
✓ Branded (e.g school blazer, jumper, tie, PE kits)	X Dirty/unwashed
✓ Non-branded (e.g shirts, trousers, skirts and school shoes)	

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions please contact us via main reception: dow-admin@cset.co.uk or 01454 862 300.

Important Dates

Monday 1st June	Start of term 6: GCSEs continue and students need only attend for exams, in correct uniform
Monday 15th June	GCSE exams finish
Friday 26th June	All students required to be available until this date
Thursday 20th August	GCSE results day



Exams can be tough.

They're supposed to test you, and sometimes that can be overwhelming. But we're here if it ever feels too much.

With free, confidential support, you can talk to a professional, read how others might be feeling the same or take a moment to write down your thoughts.



Visit **Kooth.com** to explore the many ways Kooth can support you.



Providing NHS services

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Date:							
9 – 11am							
11am – 1pm							
1 – 3pm							
3 – 5pm							
5 – 7pm							
7 – 9pm							