



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, our year 11 students recently completed their GCSE exams and are now on their summer break until they collect their results in August. Over the past few years, results day has been a very positive time for the overwhelming majority of our students as the hard work put in by themselves, parents and staff really paid off.

One of the reasons that our results for English and Maths were best in County Durham by over 10% and one of the best in the whole of the Northeast was due to the additional work our students and staff do compared to other schools. This isn't just as the exams approach, but all the way through year 11 and even at the end of year 10.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support throughout the year. During the recent year 10 examinations, student behaviour and attitude was exemplary and we were really proud to see so many children giving their best effort in every exam.

As we know, qualifications at GCSE and equivalent examination courses are extremely important. Across the country, students who fail to meet the required standard in exams must continue to take these subjects in college and retake their exams the following year. As we strive to help every student to attend the best university or to pursue their dream career, we know that without a strong set of exam results, achieving this goal is much more difficult and one of the reasons why our students leave school with such good results is the combined efforts of our staff, our students and their parents and carers.

When students enter year 11, we change a number of things to ensure that they have the best chance of success in a year's time. Students no longer have morning and afternoon meetings in the hall together. Instead, they will be in an advisory group being taught additional lessons in the subject where they need the most support. They will be expected to stay for **Get Exam Ready**, which runs from **3.10pm to 4pm** each evening. If your child finds it difficult to work at home, we run our 'Champions Hour' where students can come and work in a supervised

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environment from **4pm until 5pm** each night after school. If students require transport home after this, we run a free mini bus service.

We are very fortunate to have a team of staff who are willing to give an additional hour each day to run our **“Get Exam Ready”** program. This consists of planned after school support for all students. It is proven to help students achieve success. Hard work and thorough preparation do make a difference. The timetable of after school support covers all areas of the curriculum and ensures all students are supported with over 200 hours of revision as we prepare for examination success. This is our minimum expectation. In addition to **“Get Exam Ready”** support, we also expect students to revise and prepare for examinations independently at home. This is essential if students are to achieve higher grades. All subject areas offer study support materials for revision at home through our revision hub.

Rather than waiting until year 11 to get a head start, **we will be starting Get Exam Ready on Monday 29th June and it will last for two weeks.** For any students who normally get a bus home, we will provide transport when they finish at 4pm.

As you will be expecting your child to remain in school until 4.00pm, we don't allow students to leave the site unless a parent/carer has contacted us directly. If your child has an appointment and can't attend Get Exam Ready, please contact us by either ringing the school reception, emailing us at enquiries@tanfieldschool.co.uk or via the Arbor App.

The qualifications our students study demand a great deal of knowledge and a high level of understanding. Thorough preparation for the large number of examinations students must sit during May and June of 2027 is essential. It is vitally important that students prepare well to avoid stress and worry in this key academic year.

If you have any questions or queries, please get in touch and I will be happy to discuss them with you.

Thanks for your support,

Jeff Allan
Assistant Headteacher

