



# Malbank School & Sixth Form College

*Rejoice in being the best that we can be.*

10.1.25

**RE: Wave 2 Postponement**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you had a restful Christmas break and a positive start to 2025.

I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding the upcoming Wave 2 exams for our Year 11 students. Following a thorough analysis of the results from the Wave 1 exams and a review of our students' progress, we have decided to postpone Wave 2 which was planned to start in the first week of February.

This decision was not made lightly but reflects our belief that our students would benefit more from continued time with their teachers at this stage. We feel this will allow them to deepen their understanding and secure the knowledge they need for success. Our analysis led us to conclude that taking time out for another mock exam series in early February could detract from this vital development.

We are currently finalising a revised plan for how this amended experience will look and we will confirm the new dates and arrangements as soon as possible. At this stage, we anticipate our new format will take place in early March. While we acknowledge that this represents a change to our original plans, we firmly believe it is in the best interests of our students.


We also recognise that for some students, the delay may affect their focus and momentum in revising towards a deadline. It is essential that students understand—and that we collectively reinforce—that the true target for their revision has always been the final exams in May. Effective revision is most successful when it is sustained, deliberate, and builds over time.

To support this approach, we will be working closely with students to establish effective revision timetables and remind them of the various techniques we have taught over the past two years. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

At school, we remain committed to doing all we can to support our students, ensuring they have access to the knowledge and skills required to achieve their potential. However, we must also stress the importance of attendance and independent revision. For some students, inconsistent attendance and limited revision outside of school clearly impacted their Wave 1 performance and whilst we will always strive to help fix problems for our students, they need to play their part at home and take responsibility for their own outcomes.

As I shared in today's assembly, Year 11 is always going to be challenging. Feeling pressure during this time is an inherent part of the journey through the national exam system. This must be balanced with a need to relax and enjoy hobbies that distract students from pressure in order to maintain a healthy physical and mental outlook.

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However, we firmly believe that hard work and dedication lead to success, and this is particularly true in the context of revision and exams, so students and parents must accept that hard work must take place to reap the rewards in August (when students will also be experiencing the longest post exam summer holiday of their lives!). 5 months of determined effort and full attendance to school is nothing in the scheme of their entire life when considering the impact it can have on their future. Looking ahead, we want our Year 11 students to feel proud of the effort they put in, confident that they gave their all to reach their potential, so they have no regrets.

We sincerely appreciate your support as we navigate this critical year together. Working collaboratively will be key to ensuring that our students achieve success, and we are grateful for your partnership in this effort.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Harrison', on a white background.

John Harrison

Headteacher – Malbank School

Headteacher: John D. Harrison B.A. (Hons.)

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