

31st March 2021

Hello Year 11,

Firstly I would like to thank all of you for the maturity and commitment you have shown through recent challenges. We know the last few weeks have been difficult for many of you however, you have all been amazing! There is no denying your GCSE years have been a roller coaster and despite all of the uncertainty you have all shown resilience and the ability to adapt and achieve. I hope this email will bring clarity for your assessment preparations, along with news of exciting opportunities and events to look forward to beyond your assessments. I have also copied you parents into this email as I know this information will be of interest for them too.

Assessment Week Timetable - Today, Mr Nonweiler has shared with you a paper copy of your exam timetable. I advise you to take the time to plan a suitable revision plan leading up to these assessments, to ensure you can prepare suitably for all of your subjects. Initially, you could draft this yourself or work through it with your parents. If you need further advice or assistance please let me know. A PDF copy of the Assessment Week Timetable is attached to this email.

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies - Mrs Phipps is currently in the process of organising leavers hoodies at a cost of £14.10 each. Parents can pay for the hoodies through the school website. Details such as sizes, colours and initials (for the front) will be chosen by you (Year 11 students) through a google form which will be shared shortly. Please be aware the transfer design will be in white and therefore darker hoodie colours tend to be more suitable. I would like to thank Mrs Phipps for her support at this busy time.

Year 11 Leavers Day - The Government has only just informed us exactly when Year 11 will be allowed to finish school. We would like to assure you that we intend to provide a leavers day similar to those experienced in previous years. We will update you and your parents when we have more information and are able to set a date for this event. We will keep our fingers crossed there are no further COVID restrictions to interfere with these plans.

Year 11 Prom - I would like to confirm we plan to hold a prom for you on Friday 25th June 2021. The prom will be held at school and be in the form of a garden party on the school field. We will organise music, tables, decorations and more to create a stylish and memorable event for you. With regards to catering, we are suggesting that each group of friends organise a picnic between them to share at their table. For dessert, we plan to arrange for an ice cream van to visit for you to purchase from. While this will not be a normal prom, it still has all the ingredients to make it a special occasion, while still remaining responsible in these COVID times. At this stage we are planning for Year 11 to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00pm and for the event to finish at 9:00pm.

I imagine many of you wondering what the dress code will be. We want you to have the opportunity to experience the glamour and elegance of a prom, and encourage you to investigate options along these lines. We also respect that some of you might be more comfortable wearing smart casual clothing, and we will leave you to discuss this with your friends and parents. As we are planning to organise the event on the field, it is important for you to have shoes which have stable/flat soles suitable for this grassed area, and I realise this may mean a change of shoes for some of you. The plans we have should ensure it is a lovely evening.

We would like you to be able to organise transport to share with your friends and to arrive in the style of your choice, but we ask you to ensure that your transport arrangements can be cancelled if restrictions change for the worse. If using a company I advise for both students and parents to read this link before booking:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-urged-to-check-prom-limo-hire-is-safe-and-legal>

There will be a ticket price for the Prom and the cost of this will be confirmed once arrangements are finalised. It is estimated the cost will be approximately £10 to £12 per person. It would be appreciated if tickets could be purchased quickly once they go on sale. Tickets will be available through the school website and a paper ticket will be issued to the student in school. I will contact all of you again when this happens.

While I want to be able to guarantee what I think will be a great evening for you, there are some details which I must make clear. If the weather is poor we may be forced to move the prom into the school hall. If COVID restrictions change for the worse, we may need to postpone or even cancel the prom. For this reason, I strongly advise that any investment or bookings made for the prom be affordable or refundable.

I hope this information has been useful and that you are excited about these opportunities. In the meantime it is important for you to be organised and continue your preparation for your upcoming assessments, but also to find some time to relax and recuperate. I realise this is not always an easy balance to find, so please include exercise, relaxation and family time into your revision plan. I wish you all a good Easter and look forward to seeing you after the break.

Best wishes

Mr Sinnamon
Head of Year 11