



KHD/jm

16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

## Year 11 Celebration Assembly Clarification / Year 11 Prom

We have been very impressed at the way our students have responded to our increased focus on achievement over recent weeks, despite the very challenging circumstances that we find ourselves in due to Covid-19. We know that the past weeks have been a challenge for them, as we have insisted on the completion of all examination work and coursework before granting them their summer timetable, but they have approached this work with resilience and commitment. It has been wonderful to see how positive and engaged they are as they complete the work to the highest of standards.

The hard work is almost over for this year and we have therefore organised a **Year 11 Celebration Assembly for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, to allow students to come together to mark the formal end of Year 11. As so many of our students are planning to return to Sixth Form, we can no longer call this a Leavers' Assembly, but we do acknowledge that there will be a chance to say farewell to some of those who are moving on to new destinations.

Our Celebration Assembly **starts at 1.15pm** and we ask that students arrive at the main reception to meet up with fellow students from **1.00pm**. We are not asking students to wear school uniform, but instead we ask them to **"Dress to Impress"**; i.e. **smart clothing with no jeans or trainers**. We will be taking lots of photographs on the day and know that everyone will want to look their best! Our assembly will **finish by 2.50 pm**, allowing time for students to be together, sign school shirts if they wish and say their goodbyes for the summer, before returning home using normal transport. Students will not be required to attend school on this date, and only need to attend for their Celebration Assembly.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021** and celebrating the end of this stage of their educational career with them.

Following the latest Government announcements about National Covid-19 restrictions being extended until 17<sup>th</sup> July, and advice from both Public Health England and Bedfordshire County Council, we have decided that we can no longer go ahead with the Year 11 Prom that was scheduled for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July. The extended restrictions mean that the event would have to be outside, with a maximum number of 30 people, including staff and that dancing would not be allowed.

We have looked at all of the advice available, and carefully considered the risks and benefits of allowing this event to take place. At present, with national and local Covid-19 incidents rising, we feel that the risks are too great, especially when you consider that over half of you would be unable to attend.

We are as disappointed as you are, if not more so. The event was ready to go – all we had needed was confirmation that you wanted to attend, the tickets paid for to cover costs, and for the national restrictions to be lifted on 21<sup>st</sup> June, as originally planned. It is a genuine shame that we cannot meet one last time to celebrate your time with us, but your health and safety, and the health of your families and friends must take precedence.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Hayward  
Executive Principal

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