

JFU/ppo
21 May 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 11 Summer Ball Thursday 25th June 2020 at Avisford Park.

As the country continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 virus, our wonderful Year 11 students have been unfortunately impacted more than any other school year. The Summer term would usually present the challenge of the GCSE examinations but also the planned celebrations of the Leavers Assembly and the Summer Ball. Unfortunately, due to enforced restrictions that all elements of our society have faced, we have to amend our planned celebrations for the students.

I spoke with the Avisford Park Hotel yesterday and they confirmed that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the hotel will remain closed at least until July. This unfortunately means that we will not be able to hold the planned Summer Ball. I can appreciate how terribly disappointing this will be for the students but also for parents /carers and staff who also share in this celebration. Refunds will be made via Parentmail for those deposits and tickets that were purchased online. All other refunds will be made via cheque, and we plan that these will be issued in the next 14 days. As there will be no availability this term and our students will be attending other colleges from September this means we are not able to have a Durrington Summer Ball.

However, we remain wholly committed to ensuring that we celebrate the achievements of our fantastic Year 11 students. The exact nature of this and the timings are dependent on the Government's restrictions and the social distancing rules. We continue to monitor this situation very carefully and plan accordingly. Potentially this could mean making the Year 11 celebration evening in November different to former years. We will liaise with the Senior Student Leadership team as we want to fully involve Year 11 in the discussions and obviously over the coming months will know more as restrictions change. In the meantime, we are asking our Year 11's to complete the Google Form, accessed by the link below, to enquire about the demand for leavers hoodies and or a yearbook. Please could you ask your child to submit their views by following the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1n2yq4mx3yk8m2wv0uHsGutx7NHtqqNWzPivrceZ0ydc/edit>

I will contact you with updated information in the coming weeks as the regulations become clearer. Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support at what has been a very challenging time; it is hugely appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Fuller
Deputy Headteacher