



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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DAI

June 23

Dear Parents / Carers

We have had a number of emails asking why the Y11 Leaver's Ball had to be cancelled. We would like to outline the reasons for the cancellation, and also outline what other possibilities exist at this current time.

We would like to reiterate that the only reason that the Leaver's Ball could not go ahead on 2 July as planned was due to the **National Restrictions** which are currently in force, meaning that the venue (Ramside Hall) is unable to host the event on this date. I know that every parent will understand that this was not a decision that school made, but was the consequence of Central Government policy which affects all parts of society, including schools. We are as disappointed as you are.

We have received some questions from pupils and their families that we would like to respond to:

Could school be the venue for a Leaver's Ball?

Last week schools were informed by DFE/Central Government that at this current time, any event, including a prom, on school premises must comply with all current social distancing regulations. This means that the rule of 6 indoors would need to apply to any school event. Each "bubble" of 6 would **not be able to mingle** with any other bubble of 6. They would need to **maintain a distance of 2m** at all times. Pupils would not be able to interact with anyone else at the event outside of their bubble of 6. So, no social interaction for the year group, no dancing, no mixing, no group photos or mixed photos. With approximately 150 pupils wanting to attend the Leaver's Ball, it would be impossible to do this in school with the current restrictions in place.

Can the prom go ahead after restrictions are lifted?"

The government have said that restrictions must stay in place **until 19 July**, so, unfortunately, we are unable to organise for this to happen. I personally spoke to the Events Manager who indicated that the earliest date that they could accommodate a prom would currently be after July 19, unfortunately we break up for summer on July 16 this year. At this point in time, there is no indication of when the current restrictions will be lifted to allow events such as proms to take place. I am sure that you will understand that school is not able to organise an event such as the Prom during the summer break as staff are not available after July 16th.

Is there any way the Class of 21 could have a Leaver's Ball?

Some parents / carers have indicated that they would like to arrange for a prom in August if restrictions are lifted. **This is an option that is available to parents.** We must point out that **this would not be a school event**, but one organised by you. Once we start the summer holidays, we cease to have any legal responsibility for the pupils, from both a safeguarding and insurance perspective except when they come in to collect their results or certificates.



If other parents were happy for this to take place, then we would certainly be able to support the process to enable it to occur by sharing the lead parent's email address and details (with their express permission) so that everyone could make direct contact. School would be able to send out initial details of any proposed event to all Y11 pupils / parents, as well as the contact details for the parents who were organising the event. The parents would then take on the organisation, planning and finalisation of the event, and any parents who wanted to attend the event or support them would liaise directly. The event could be organised as soon as restrictions are lifted. In theory, the pupils would be able to have their Leaver's Ball/Prom at a date and time that suited them best.


Next Steps

We are in the process of making full refunds to any parents / carers who have paid for the Leavers Ball. These refunds should be completed by the end of this week.

It is very sad that we are unable to have our Leaver's Ball this year, and so we are very grateful that we were able to go ahead with our Leaver's Ceremony earlier this term where we gave our Class of 2021 a great send-off. We have very fond memories of the speeches and shirt-signing and wish all of our Year 11 every success in their future career.

We will continue to keep everyone in our prayers

Yours faithfully



Mr D Airey
Headteacher

