



# Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

## Northern Lights Learning Trust



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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

CEO: Jo Heaton OBE

JRE / HJO

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Year 11 Leavers' Ball will take place on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at the **Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham**. This is a fabulous event where we can celebrate your child's journey through secondary education with us.

So that we can estimate numbers for the Summer Ball, we would be grateful if parents could indicate on the parent mail form if your child is interested in attending.

"Invitations" to prom will be allocated week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and tickets will go on sale from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, at a price of **£34.50**. Payments are to be made via ParentMail.

Pupils can "cash in" their Class Charts points, which they have accumulated this academic year for their positive behaviour and conduct in school, to help pay for their Summer Ball ticket. Pupils can purchase a £10 off voucher for every 3500 points accrued. Pupils will be allowed to buy more than one voucher if they have enough points! The outstanding balance due, after the application of vouchers, will show on ParentMail.

As I am sure you will understand, attendance to the Leavers Ball is open to those pupils who have upheld the school vision, and values and as such the allocation of a ticket is dependent upon this. We would like all Pupils in Year 11 to be able to attend the Prom; however, invitations are based on the continued good conduct of our pupils throughout this academic year, as well as during the GCSE exams. We reserve the right to withdraw invitations to the Summer Ball at any time, should any pupil display behaviours which fail to follow our expectations. We would naturally make you aware of any emerging issues and there would be the opportunity to discuss these together. We appreciate that families can incur a substantial outlay for their children when they attend the Summer Ball. School will not be liable for these costs if for any reason a pupil is not able to attend.

A copy of the dinner menu is included with this letter. Any pupil who would like to eat the vegetarian option must indicate this on the attached electronic form. If you need to discuss any other dietary requirements, please contact Mrs Pallas in the first instance.

We want the Summer Ball to be as enjoyable as possible and so we encourage pupils to sit in friendship groups. Group size is a maximum of ten pupils (a full table). Requests for grouped seating should be made on the seating request sheets available from the School Office, and returned no later than 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. We cannot guarantee that everyone will be seated in their preferred groups, but we will try our best. It is more likely that we will be able to accommodate seating requests if pupils have the maximum permitted number per table in their group. We will



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personally discuss seating arrangements with individual pupils where they cannot be accommodated. It could be that combinations of pupils are seated together to maximise spaces.

We have booked a photographer to attend the Leavers Ball, so there is the opportunity for a professional portrait of either individuals or groups of pupils. We have asked that the photographer is available between 6.15 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. A single individual portrait is priced at £8.00. This can be paid for on the evening in cash or by cheque made payable to "Phototronics". Multiple copies of photographs are available to order from the photographer.

The Leavers' Ball will formally open and pupils take their seats from 7.00 p.m. Dinner will be served from 7.30 pm. The last dance will take place at 10.30 p.m. and the event closes no later than 11.00 p.m.

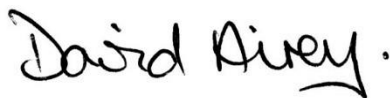
The Leavers' Ball is a very special and memorable occasion. We are more than happy for family and friends to come along to the venue to see their children before the official start. All we ask is that parents leave the venue before the ball starts so that the pupils can enjoy the Leavers' Ball in its entirety.

The Ramside Hall Hotel operates a strict no alcohol policy to under 18's. Although we do not imagine that we would have to do any of the following, please note that we reserve the right to deny entry if pupils are suspected to be under the influence of any substance. Please make sure that school has an up-to-date contact number by completing the reply slip below, just in case your child becomes unwell during the evening as well as for the reasons outlined above.

Formal dress is requested for the Ball. An example of this would usually be a suit/ jacket and tie for the boys and a dress or ball gown for the girls. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of what your son/daughter would like to wear, it would be best to speak to me in person. All conversations will be held in the strictest confidence.

May I personally take this opportunity to thank you for supporting school and your child during the time that we have spent together; we will certainly miss our Year 11. If you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Airey**  
**Headteacher**



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