

11th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 Prom to be held at the Maltings, Ely on 3rd September 2021

Following a series of discussions that took place over the weekend and in light of the continuing complexities of easing the COVID restrictions I have taken the decision that we will be unable to hold a college disco on the evening of 28th May. Our planning was based upon the premise that if we held the event very close to the end of half term, we could mitigate the risk of a number of students gathering indoors. We could also insist on a negative LFT test on the 27th and the group would be the same Year 11 bubble that operates during lunch times every day in the college. However, this is not a view shared by other leaders, whose views I respect, and it is clear that such a gathering in the evening would be in breach of the current guidelines. Indeed, the news yesterday that weddings are still restricted to 30 guests indoors and no dancing permitted starkly shows that an event on the 28th just cannot take place. The worst-case scenario for this disco would be that a chain of infection is spread during the evening that results in a number of students needing to self-isolate over the half term holiday and beyond. I am sure that many of you are looking to get some time away during half term and any period of self-isolation would make that impossible – this is a risk scenario that I am deeply uncomfortable with.

I know that there has been a chain of discussion on the Facebook forum about this event and that there will be some frustration about this letter. I have been surprised by the speed in which rumours have spread and the determination shown by parents and students to have a Prom event. We have confirmed with The Maltings that we can hold a Prom on 3rd September 2021. This is set with the obvious caveat that we will be subject to the COVID restrictions that may be in place at that time. Mrs Mustill will write to you by the end of next week to confirm timings and ticket sales. I hope that you understand the need to delay this until next week – we are still in the midst of supporting Year 11 students through their assessments and coordinating teacher assessed grades and this must take priority at the moment.

We are disappointed that we are unable to hold an event on the evening of Friday 28th May. Our optimistic approach just couldn't overcome all the barriers that Covid restrictions present us with. However, we would like to give you more details of Year 11's last day on Friday 28th May. The plan is for periods 1 and 2 to run as usual and then after first break, they will remain in Needhams Hall for a short assembly. Students will then be asked to leave the site at approximately 12pm.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal