



Dear Parents/Carers and Students

WGS Year 11 Newsletter (49) 17/06/2021

Leavers' Assembly and Prom

Following the Government announcement on Monday evening that extended the period of national restrictions beyond the June 21st date, it is with great sadness that we are writing to you to cancel both the live Leavers' Assembly on Friday 25th June and the Prom on Monday 28th June.

It is not a decision that we wanted to make but feel it is necessary and responsible to do so. Along with other school events planned for the summer term, they have had to be either cancelled or changed significantly. We do not see a way we can plan either event that ensures students, staff and the wider Witney community are safe, that fits in with the current guidelines and that we can be 100% certain will go ahead. The guidance given to schools still states we cannot host large gatherings inside, even for students in the same bubble, which is why we are still not holding any assemblies or similar events for any year group. With no guarantee of the weather we also do not want to commit to an outdoor event which could potentially need cancelling last minute and cause more disruption.

We have had initial conversations about the possibility of holding the Prom in September. Even though some students will have moved on to new places, we still hope that we can gather the year for a proper celebration that you all deserve. Of course, we also have no certainty that by September we will be able to host an event, but delaying gives it more chance. We cannot commit to an event after July 19th this term, as there is no certainty that this will be possible and we feel there has been too much disappointment. We will continue to monitor the national situation and, as soon as we know that we can definitely run a September event, we will contact you with details.

Given that some students are leaving Wood Green and will no longer have a ParentPay account, we will refund the Prom ticket money for all students, so that payment will be returned to you. Please do contact the finance office directly (finance@wgs-witney.org.uk) if you haven't received that refund by the end of next week (Friday 2nd July 2021).

We hope to write out again before the summer holidays with better news for September.

Virtual Leavers' Assembly

Even though we cannot run an assembly in school, we would still like to host a short virtual Leavers' Assembly at 2pm on Friday 25th June. This will still serve as a chance to say "Goodbye and Good Luck", to celebrate some of the achievements of our Year 11 such as the Wood Green School Baccalaureate Awards and Drama, Music and Sports Colours. We also hope to launch the world premiere of the Year 11 Leavers' Video.

We will write out to you early next week with confirmation of the links to join that assembly and the final details.

Yearbooks, Year 11 Photos, Leavers' Card and Certificates

A huge number of students have ordered Yearbooks and Year Group Photos which will serve as a memento of their time at Wood Green. The orders for these close today, Thursday 17th June, so please do place an order via ParentPay should you wish one.

Our plan will be to bundle together for each student any: Wood Green School Baccalaureate certificates and badges earned this year, a Leaver's Certificate for all of our Year 11, a leaver's card written by myself and their tutor, and a Yearbook and/or Year 11 Photo if it has been ordered.

We will let students know when they are available to come and collect. We will communicate all of that as soon as we can definitively do so, but students will definitely be able to collect these before the summer.

These are not the types of decisions that we want to make but our hand has been forced, unfortunately. We as a school and myself personally, are really disappointed to not be able to celebrate the end of Year 11 with our students formally this summer in the way we had hoped. This was not the end to 4 years as Head of Year to this group of fantastic young people I had in mind back in 2017, when I joined them.

Best wishes,
Mr A Gosnell (Head of Year 11)
Wood Green School