



By Email: 20/05/2021

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers

WGS Year 11 Newsletter (20th May 2021)

After nearly 5 years for most of you we are nearing the end of your compulsory education at Wood Green School. For me it has been 4 years since I began as your Head of Year at the start of Year 8 and some of the most enjoyable, challenging and rewarding years of my career to date. It has been a great privilege to watch you grow as students and people and I look forward to hearing all about what you get up to from September onwards.

You have now completed the majority of your assessments for this stage of your education. Given the hand you were dealt, with everything that has gone on globally since last March we are all incredibly proud of what you have managed to achieve. For a huge number of reasons, and more than normal, you will be a Year Group that will never be forgotten by me, your tutors and all of the staff at Wood Green School.

All of that brings us to the final few events we hope to be able to hold to officially conclude your Year 11. Please see the relevant sections below for more details on: Leavers' Hoodies, Year Books, Year Group Photo, Leavers' Assembly and Prom.

Leavers' Hoodies

A large number of students ordered Leavers' Hoodies. We hope to have them in in time to hand out at the conclusion of the Biology KATs on Friday 21st May. I will write to students to confirm later this week when they arrive, but I will hopefully be stationed outside the Sports Hall on the Hard Court Area ready to distribute.

If they don't arrive in time, then I will contact students again to give a slot next week where students can come and collect them. Please do not come to school to try to collect them before I contact you, as they won't have arrived in school yet.

Yearbook

We have been busily collecting photos from throughout your time at Wood Green, including: Sports Days, School Trips (right back to when you were very young Year 7s at Cornbury Park!), Lower School Festival, friendship photos that you have sent in and some from your final day on Friday 14th May with your shirt signing and flour fight. This will also include the recent tutor group photos that we took.

These are now available to purchase through Parent Pay and will cost £4. We will get them printed and distribute them on Friday 25th June at the Leavers' Assembly – please see later section for more details on the assembly. If you are unable to attend the assembly you will be able to collect from the main school office from Monday 28th June onwards. The deadline for payments is Thursday 17th June.

Year Group Photo

We also now have a whole Year Group Photo. We have contacted an external company to print these for us professionally and they are available to purchase at £2.55 for a print through Parent Pay. The deadline for payments is Thursday 17th June. Again, we will get them printed and distribute them on Friday 25th June at the Leavers' Assembly – please see later section for more details on the assembly, if you are unable to attend the assembly you will be able to collect from the main school office from Monday 28th June.

Leavers' Assembly – Friday 25th June 1:50pm arrival for 2:00pm start in the Main Hall

We would like to invite all of Year 11 in on Friday 25th June to formally bring an end to their GCSEs. For those students who are looking to join our 6th Form, this is the Friday at the end of that induction week and Mr Armstrong has ensured there are no timetabled sessions that clash with this event. In this assembly, we will be recognising students' achievements in the Wood Green Baccalaureate, looking back over their time at Wood Green School and formally wishing them well wherever their paths will take them next.

We would like that event to be semi-formal so would like to ask students to dress in clothing that isn't tracksuit/jogger type material. Jeans, chinos and trainers are all fine. Normally this event would be on the last school day so students would be in uniform but we absolutely recognise that this year needs to be slightly different.

Prom

The decision taken a few months ago to not hold a prom was never one we wanted to make but felt, along with most schools nationally, was the most prudent decision. We didn't feel there was enough certainty around the June 21st end point of the national Covid Restrictions to be confident enough to organise an event, much as we wanted to.

We have been looking for a number of weeks now at how feasible an event will be to hold, as we were feeling more confident that the June 21st date would be as scheduled. We have therefore decided we want to prepare a date to host a Year 11 Prom, albeit with some changes due to the limited time frame for both school and families to get prepared and still being conscious of hosting mass events.

All of the following is subject to the national government guidance and roadmap remaining as it currently is. If that changes we will consider our position as soon as possible and keep in contact with students and families. Please bear that in mind with any purchases or bookings you make. Wood Green School cannot be responsible if the event has to be cancelled. We would of course refund you for the cost of the ticket for Prom.

Date: Monday 28th June 2021
Time: 7-9pm
Location: Wood Green School
Dresscode: Formal Evening Wear (please see note below)
Transport: None (please see note below)
Cost: £25 (We will contact you before half term to let you know that this is set up on ParentPay).

Dress Code

We want the event to be a formal event, however, I want to please ask families to be sensible. We know that some families would still be able to organise, purchase or buy whatever attire they like, but some very understandably will not be able to. Given the short turn-around, I am asking all students and families to both be sensible for themselves but also be socially conscious for their peers. The important part of this event is the Year Group being together to let their hair down and be with each other. I know no student would want one of their friends or peers to arrive to the event and feel (even accidentally so) embarrassed or self-conscious of their outfit.

If you are looking at suits and buying one, then think about buying one that you would be able to wear again to weddings, interviews etc. Rentals obviously don't have that issue. For dresses we are encouraging students not to buy big elaborate prom dresses. Evening or cocktail dresses would be appropriate, again, try to pick something that you could wear again to formal events like weddings.

I know some families may have already bought a dress, or borrowed one from a family member for example. If you have already done that then please don't feel you need to change that plan. If you are at all unsure then please do contact Mr Gosnell directly.

Transport

We have taken the decision to not have any students arriving in the traditional range of vehicles to the event. Again this is a really fun part of the event in normal times, but for the cost, and attracting larger crowds before the event we have decided that will not happen. We will be asking students to be dropped off at the front of school and we will have a photographer taking pictures of them as they arrive. We will also not allow any crowds or non-Wood Green students onto the school site on that evening to watch students arrive so please don't come to school expecting to be able to do that.

We appreciate there is a short turn around for this event and there are some costs involved for families. If you are struggling financially for any reason that would mean your child cannot attend the Prom then please contact Mr Gosnell directly to discuss and we will do what we can to support, as we want all of the students to be a part of the event.

That is a lot of information but hopefully a lot of exciting and "normal" information for this time of Year 11.

If you have any questions then please do contact me directly at a.gosnell@wgsnitney.org.uk

Take care,
Mr A Gosnell
Head of Year 11