

24th May 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

As we begin what will be the last full week of the academic year for our Year 11 students, I just wanted to share some important messages. These have been shared with the students today in what was our first assembly with them for almost 16 months!

Well done

I was able to share our congratulations for the excellent way in which the students have conducted themselves and focussed on their work and assessments in recent months. Almost without exception, our staff have been impressed by their resilience and commitment. The level of concentration on display in The Gallery (Year 11 bubble) has been something that recent visitors for job vacancies have commented very favourably on. They are almost done!

Last day arrangements

On Friday afternoon, Year 11 will be finishing at 1.30pm. We are going to get them together in Clare Hall after their final afternoon registration/tutorial and there will be some refreshments there for them to enjoy. This is not a final assembly for them, but it will be a chance to say a few words and we would also encourage them to bring a white shirt that they can have signed by their friends, classmates and staff. We hope this will be an informal and enjoyable chance to mark their last day of compulsory education.

Graduation Assembly

This more formal event is being held on Thursday 1st July at 9am. Although we will not be involving parents this year, our pastoral team including Tutors, Heads of School and Pastoral Support Leaders are looking forward to wishing the students well for the future. School uniform should be worn to this event.

Year 11 Prom

All indications are that this event will be permitted to go ahead as planned on 2nd July. Tickets are selling fast and students are advised to buy theirs before the end of this week. After such a turbulent year, it will be a wonderful sight to see the students arriving at The Sailing Academy looking smart and proud.

6th Form Preparation Days

Mr Henman has spoken to the students and shared our plans for a three day induction event that will help students go into the summer holiday ready to make the step up to their new Post 16 courses. He will be writing to you with the separate details but the dates are 7th, 8th and 9th July, which will enable students to get a feel for their new subjects, be guided on some appropriate holiday reading and preparation. It will be a chance also to get to know new classmates, including those from other schools. We have received an increased number of external applications this year from students at other schools in the Dorchester and Weymouth area. We look forward to welcoming them. This three day event is not compulsory, but we hope that as many students as possible will be able to join us.

Finallya plea!

This is obviously an exciting time for many students. One key message shared with the students today was our wish for them to be able to take part in all of the events and enjoy them. To this end it was explained that excellent conduct is required for the whole of this last week. Regrettably, almost every year there can be a small number of students whose behaviour falls below the required standard. The students have been told that where this is the case, involvement in these end of year events will be blocked. It is always a shame when this happens and students have to miss out. I would be grateful if you could share this message with your child. A moment of silliness is not worth missing the Prom for!

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Thank you for not only your continued support, but for all you have done to help guide your children through this final term, it is much appreciated. I hope that the students all have a really enjoyable final week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Herbert