

## HEADMASTER: DANIEL BERRY BA (HONS) MA NPQH

DHB/SJP

15 June 2021

## Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing this update with a heavy heart and feel frustrated that the little hope we had of providing some sense of normality and the potential to put back what has been lost has, once again, been removed. The announcement last night did come as a shock as we as a school community have followed the rules and managed to be operational throughout. The disappointment of hearing that lockdown will now continue until 19 July 2021 has left us all totally flat. I can see the difficulties the Government are facing and we must support them both morally and legally. However, I am also a parent and can witness, first hand, the sense of further disappointment experienced by pupils who stand to lose more of what they deserve. Another postponed Ball and transition event cancelled ... the list goes on.

The changes to restrictions are not decisions made by school but ones we must support and, as we have always done, adapt accordingly. Therefore, we have had to postpone a number of events and plan to undertake them during August. We did consider if we could still continue with what we had planned but it is just not possible. Some events have now become remote and others have moved to a later date. We are still doing as much as we can but differently or at different times.

Subsequently, both the Sixth Form Ball and Fifth Year Party have now been postponed and new arrangements and dates have been put in place. Wherever we have tried to put the new dates, there will inevitably be some clashes but we hope as many as possible can make it; full refunds will be available for those who can't. The new dates below will follow the same format as previously agreed:

- Sixth Form Ball Monday 9 August 2021;
- Fifth Year Party Wednesday 11 August 2021.

Other events that we have now had to change in support of recent developments include:

- The J4 Party to be moved to August;
- New Parents' Evening will now be remote alongside Speech Day 1;
- First Year transition event planned will now be rescheduled for 31 August 2021;
- No movement between Senior and Junior School (except for ABSRM exams);
- Junior School Sports Day to have no spectators.

We appreciate your ongoing support and I do hope we have given pupils enough time to rearrange anything due to the announcement made last night. I just hope and pray that Monday 19 July will be the return of normality, even if for a short while.

Yours sincerely

D H Berry BA(Hons) MA NPQH

Headmaster

