



BOD/GWR

4th April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the spring term, I wanted to remind you about Easter School and let you know about the arrangements for the examination season and the organisation for the Dinner Dance on the 12th May.

Easter School

Easter School runs from Monday 10th April until Thursday 13th April inclusive. There are three sessions per day and the timings are:

- Session 1:** 9.00am – 10.30am
- Session 2:** 10.45am – 12.15pm
- Session 3:** 12.30pm – 2.00pm

School transport is *not* running and the canteen is *not* open, so students will need to bring lunch. The food outlets on the A40 bypass must not be accessed for road safety reasons. School uniform need not be worn. We believe there is a clear link between attendance at Easter School and examination success in the summer, please encourage students to attend as many sessions as they can.

Arrangements for the Examination Season

The first written GCSE exam is RE and takes place on Monday 15th May. ***Lessons will continue as normal up to and including Friday 26th May.*** Staff will be able to work with students on revision right up to and throughout the exams. In core PE lessons, staff will offer the choice of supervised revision or taking part in sport – there is a lot to be said for taking advantage of the chance for some exercise as a way of refreshing the brain!

Should students have lessons in subjects which have already completed their exams, they can use that supervised time to prepare for their remaining papers.

After half-term, in the week beginning Monday June 5th, lessons will continue in those subjects where exams are still to take place. Students may study at home from 5th June if they have days or part days where they have no exam or lessons whose exams have already passed. If students travel by bus, or are staying for a whole day because they have some revision lessons, then those students will go to their timetabled lessons for independent study.

Students must register at 8.45am and 1pm. ***Registration takes place in front of the Sports Hall,*** where the bulk of the exams will be taken.

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National Support School
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and Children's Services



I will write to you every week through the exam period with details of the exams coming up and any other news.

We understand that this is a busy, pressurised time for students (and parents and carers!). Please be assured that we do this every year and there is nothing coming up that good preparation, determination and communication between home and school cannot solve. Please contact us, via Mr Croad or Tutors, if you have any concerns or if anything is unclear.

Arrangements for the Dinner Dance, 12th May

The Dinner Dance begins here at school, with vintage buses taking the students down to the Chase Hotel. Please remember the following points:

- Arrivals are welcome from 5.30pm onwards, not before, please.
- If students are arriving in vehicles these must be road-legal.
- Please don't use commercial, agricultural, military or steam-powered (yes, really!) vehicles. Please see the note below.
- We cannot accommodate aircraft!
- There will be an arrivals point, complete with red carpet, where Mr Croad will greet students.
- Last arrivals should be by 6.15pm.
- A photographer will be in attendance and photos will be available to buy afterwards.
- Should you wish to stay once you have dropped students off you will be able to make your way into the school car park. Staff will be on hand to assist with this.
- A one-way system will operate in front of the school to allow everyone to access safely, please follow the directions of staff.
- Finally, we must put safety as the main priority. Spectators must stay behind the barriers and follow the directions of staff.

*If you wish to arrive in something other than a car, this must be with prior agreement. **Large vehicles which arrive without this agreement will not be admitted to the event.** Please telephone or email me at the school to discuss any arrivals which are less conventional! We don't wish to spoil the occasion for anyone but the safety of the student guests, families and the large numbers who come to watch is paramount and **we will turn away any vehicles** which do not have prior agreement.*

Once all students have arrived there will be further photo opportunities in front of the buses for parents before we board them and travel down to the Chase. Should students prefer to go directly to the hotel they may do so, but there is no access for vehicles or for anyone who is not a Dinner Dance guest.

The Dinner begins formally at 7pm and ends at 11pm. Please make sure arrangements have been made for students to travel home promptly. Students who wish to leave the event before 11pm may do so but there is no re-admittance.

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Year after year, we are proud of the way our students conduct themselves at the Dinner Dance and I am sure this year will be no exception. It is a rite of passage, a “once in a lifetime” event and we want students to remember it for positive reasons, not negative. I’m sure Year 11 will rise to the occasion but please be aware that we will ask you to collect any students whose standard of behaviour falls below that which is merited.

Many photographs will be taken over the course of the evening, including a large, formal one at the hotel before students go in. These will be used in school and perhaps in the press. ***If students do not wish their image to be published they should not take part in the photos.***

This week all Year 11 students have been issued with their *Passport to the Prom*. This is an initiative we have been running for several years which utilises *Gold, Silver and Bronze* levels of qualification in areas such as overall percentage attendance, attitude to learning and attendance at after school revision sessions. Students need to qualify at *Bronze* level to attend the Dinner Dance, those attaining *Silver* can attend at a discount and those who reach *Gold* will go for free! Please speak with your son or daughter about the Passport and the level they might achieve.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for your steadfast support of the students and the school throughout Year 11 and I look forward to seeing you on the evening of the 12th May at the Dinner Dance arrivals.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Dave Boyd
Deputy Headteacher

Davidboyd@jkhs.org.uk