



BOD/DAW

23rd March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Easter School, Arrangements for the Summer Term and Transport to the Dinner and Dance

At the end of the spring term, I am now able to write with a reminder of Easter School, the arrangements for the start of the summer term and with details of the organisation of the Prom on the 4th May.

Easter School

This is running from Tuesday 3rd April until Friday 6th April, inclusive. Students have returned their forms and we are looking forward to welcoming them in for this key revision opportunity. Sessions on each day will follow this format:

Session 1	9.00am until 10.30am
Session 2	10.45am until 12.15pm
Session 3	12.30pm until 2.00pm

If students have a gap during one of the days, they can “drop-in” to study using the computers in the language lab, which will be supervised throughout.

Uniform need not be worn. Staff will take a register for each session and reception will be manned throughout should you need to contact us. Buses are not running and the canteen is not open, so students will need to make their own arrangements for transport and food. Please note that, for safety reasons, students must **not**, under any circumstances, attempt to cross the A40 to visit the food outlets there.

Arrangements for the Summer Term

We return to school on Monday 16th April, with the formal exams beginning 4 weeks later on Monday 14th May. Before then, however, there are examinations taking place:

- GCSE Fine Art & 3D Art & Design on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th May
- There are individual MFL speaking exams on the following dates (students will know which date their exam is on):
 - French on 19th, 20th & 23rd April
 - Spanish on 24th April, 1st & 3rd May
 - German on 25th, 26th & 27th April

I will write again after Easter with details of the arrangements for the exams timetabled from the 14th May.

Year 11 Dinner and Dance, 4th May

We know that the arrival at the Prom is a key part of the evening for many students but the Chase Hotel can no longer allow public access to their grounds to watch students arrive. There is no entry past the main gates to anyone who is not a dinner and dance guest.

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In order to preserve the ceremonial aspect of the evening, we have, again, organised the hire of vintage buses and these will take students from the school to the venue via town. The school will meet the cost of these and I think they will provide a memorable and enjoyable start to the evening. They certainly did last year!

This will allow students to do their “arrivals” here at school, and parents to take photographs, before we move off through town to the hotel.

When arranging transport to the school please help us to keep students and their audience safe by:

- Not using commercial or agricultural vehicles
- Ensuring all transport is roadworthy, not overloaded and legal to use on the public roads
- Noting that we cannot accommodate any airborne arrivals, nor can we allow animal transport, e.g. horses
- Following the directions of staff and police

If you are considering an unusual mode of transport, please consult with me *first* – we want students to have a memorable evening but we must put safety as our highest priority. To that end, we would much prefer students to arrive in cars, which could include limousines, for example.

As last year, students arriving will be directed through the school gates and up the drive to alight on the red carpet. Vehicles will then loop through the lower school area and back to the gate. We must be sure that vehicles will fit through the gates and be able to safely get up the drive and make the turn at the end.

*If students arrive in a vehicle which is too large, or about which we have not been notified, **we will refuse entry through the gates.** Please work with us and let me know if you wish to arrive in anything other than a car.*

Onlookers are welcome but must remain behind the safety barriers.

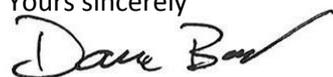
Please also note these points:

- Students are welcome to arrive from **5.30pm** onwards, not before, please. Staff and the police will be on hand to direct traffic – please follow their instructions, as the safety of students and visitors is absolutely paramount.
- Please ensure that students arrive *no later* than **6.15pm**. Buses will depart for the Chase Hotel shortly afterwards.
- Should students wish to go directly to the Chase rather than travel on the buses they may, of course, do so. Please bear in mind that there is no access to the Chase grounds for anyone who is not a guest of the Prom (and no access at all for vehicles) and we need to ensure that Gloucester Road is kept free for passing traffic.
- Please help us to keep the evening safe and enjoyable by following the directions of staff, keeping to pedestrian and vehicular areas as appropriate, and arriving in sensible transport.

The Prom will begin formally at the Chase at 7.00pm and end at 10.30pm. Students who wish to leave earlier may do so but there is no readmittance to the event once they have left the hotel. This is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the year group, a once-in-a-lifetime event, and I trust that students will behave with their usual respect and enthusiasm. We are proud of the fact that we can hold our Year 11 Prom in our own town, unlike many schools, and this is a tribute to the school, parents, carers and the students themselves.

Please contact me with any questions and I look forward to seeing you on the evening of the 4th May.

Yours sincerely



Dave Boyd
Deputy Headteacher