



Rossall

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

From: Mr Stephen F. Prest
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Wednesday, 23rd June 2021

Dear Parents,

Further to Mr Quartermain's letter of Wednesday 16th June, I am writing to communicate further changes to our end of year celebrations.

On Friday 18th June, all those in England aged 18 and over became eligible to book their vaccinations, with over 700,000 people booking their first dose of the vaccine on that date. As the UK enters the final push to protect the country against Covid-19, we can take great heart that the vaccines are continuing to prove highly effective against the Delta strain of Covid, not only with regard to stopping infection and reducing transmission, but also in severely weakening the link between infection and hospitalisation.

Nonetheless, as we enter the final stages before the return of freedom, we must be mindful that cases of Covid-19 are rising amongst young people, though there are positive signs that this growth is slowing. Whilst this isn't a cause for undue concern, we do need to be cautious. As a community, we will not emerge from the past 15 months unscathed, however, the measures that we have taken to mitigate risk, coupled with a large degree of good fortune, do mean that we have suffered less than would otherwise have been the case.

As the academic year comes to a close, it is important to safeguard that progress which has been made during the last few months, and to continue to mitigate the risks for those in our community. In particular, we are conscious that over 150 of our boarders are due to fly home in the next three weeks. Many of them have not been home in many months and it is incumbent on us to take all reasonable steps to ensure that they are able to return to their loved ones without delay.

With that in mind, and in light of the local context here in the Wyre and Fylde, we have reluctantly decided to make the following alterations to our plans for this week:

- The Commemoration of Benefactors service - due to take place in the school Chapel on the morning of Saturday, 26th June - will not take place. A smaller Prize Giving ceremony will take place, however, only Year 13 and a small number of members of staff will attend. The Prize Giving ceremony will commence at 10:30hrs.



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- The Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students - due to take place in the school Dining Hall on the evening of Saturday, 26th June - will not take place. It will be replaced by a Leavers' BBQ, to take place at school on the evening of Saturday, 26th June. This event will be for Year 13 only. It will start at 18:00hrs in the Hall Garden.
- The Year 11 Prize Day and matriculation afternoon - due to take place on Friday, 25th June in the school Chapel - will now take place on Wednesday, 30th June. The exact format of the event will be communicated in the coming days.
- **The planned early end to the Senior School day on Friday 25th June has been cancelled. The Senior School day will proceed and end as normal.**

We are desperately sorry to be making these changes. In this year of all years we dearly wish to be celebrating the successes of our pupils and students with their loved ones. Not least we wish to be celebrating the incredible resilience and resolve that pupils and students have shown. As we ask members of our wonderful community to exercise these qualities once again, we hope that there is comfort in the fact that we are doing so on behalf of each other, and in particular for those students who have not been able to see their loved ones in many, many months.

We do hope that we will soon be able to reconnect and celebrate, in person, the huge successes achieved by our pupils and students over the past two years. To that end, we are exploring the possibility of events in September and we will communicate these with you as soon as we are able.

Until then, we can only thank you for your continued support and wish you and your loved ones well.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stephen Prest
Deputy Head (External Relations)
Rossall School

