



Sent via Email

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Wednesday, 16th June, 2021

Dear Parents,

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced on Monday evening that the previously planned easing of restrictions on Monday 21st June has now been postponed until July 19th. Vaccinations are proving highly effective against the Delta strain of Covid but it is still the case that a significant proportion of the adult population remains vulnerable because they have yet to receive the two doses which are required to provide effective protection. Consequently, this delay in the lifting of restrictions is designed to ensure that we move irreversibly towards total freedom ahead of the state school summer holidays.

In accordance with the announcement, face masks and social distancing will remain in place within School. Similarly, boarding and year group bubbles will need to be retained and departmental subject teaching areas will not now be reinstated before the beginning of the Michaelmas Term in September. Of course, this is frustrating but it is important to safeguard the very real progress that has been made during the last few months. For the main part, the announcement will have surprisingly little impact upon day-to-day life in School, partly because we have adapted so well to living with these lighter restrictions.

It is really important that we continue to lateral flow test regularly in the last remaining weeks of term. Do remember that you can order additional home testing kits from school.

Inevitably, yesterday's announcement has meant that we have had to rethink arrangements for the end of term.

### **Changes to plans for Prize Day (Saturday, 26th June 2021)**

We intend to do everything within our power to ensure that our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have an opportunity to celebrate. For those who will be leaving us, it is important for us to recognise their achievements. We are incredibly proud of them and we know just how much they have had to sacrifice over recent times. However, we have had to make the difficult decision to make significant changes to the proposed schedule in order to adhere to the guidance and regulations currently in place.

Some elements of the day will proceed as planned but without parents or guests.



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In particular, please find below the key alterations:

- To minimise risk, the Commemoration of Benefactors service and the Prize Giving ceremony will now be live streamed, although Year 13 students will still be able to attend in person.
- The Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students will now take place in the school Dining Hall on the evening of Saturday, 26th June. All Year 13 students will be able to attend but, sadly, we will be unable to host guests (family members and/or friends). However, we will be opening up the event to our Year 12 students given that the two year groups constitute a Key Stage bubble in School and Year 12 have also had a difficult year.
- The Year 11 will have their own Prize Day and matriculation afternoon on Friday 25th June. Further details will be communicated early next week and all Year 11 are expected to attend. Prize winners will be announced on the day.
- **In order to accommodate the change in plans the Senior School day will end at 1.30pm (after lunch) on Friday 25th June. Please look out for further details in due course.**

We regret the need to make these changes as we want nothing more than to celebrate the end of a challenging but highly successful year with all of our students and their families. However, these adjustments have been made with a view to protecting all members of our extended Rossall community and we will work to ensure that it is still a special and memorable day for all the students involved.

We thank all of our parents very much for their ongoing support and we are touched by the incredible love that you demonstrate for our wonderful School. We hope that very soon we will all be able to reconnect and rejoice in each others' company in person.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Quartermain  
Headmaster

