



# Brighouse High School

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## Re: Y11 Prom 2021

Dear Parent/arer,

I hope this communication finds you well and carefully looking forward to the lifting of restrictions if possible.

I wanted to outline the school's position regarding the prom this year. We will be speaking with the whole of Y11 tomorrow regarding the final two weeks in school and the opportunities for celebrations, but under the ongoing restrictions our opportunities have once again been limited this year.

I have already spoken to the school captains to outline the position and have to confirm that we are unable to progress with any plans for an official prom celebration once again this year. Last year we attempted to keep plans in place and were left with disappointed students and parents and bills for dresses and suits which were unfortunately unworn. This year we have been clear with the students that we could not plan anything in advance due to the uncertainty regarding the reopening of venues and the lifting of restrictions on mass gatherings.

Unfortunately, the latest data for our area and the surrounding boroughs shows the number of positive COVID cases rising each week once again and there is already national concern about the planned lifting of restrictions on June 21<sup>st</sup>; this has made it even more difficult to look at any possibilities for celebrations.

As I have explained to the students in school, and will do again tomorrow, our jurisdiction alters once the students 'leave' school and that date is only eleven days away. Furthermore, the final Friday in June is the last day that students are officially required to be on roll at school, so after that date our status changes significantly. This means that we cannot organise events out of school and do not have the same authority to safeguard as we do when students are still in school.

I know that some parents have made the decision to organise a celebration for all of the Y11 students who wish to attend and I know this is happening in a number of schools; while we are hopeful that all students will get to celebrate in some way, I have to be clear that any planned celebration is not an official Brighouse High School event and the school is neither part of the organisation nor running of the event.

I know that this ongoing uncertainty and maintaining of restrictions are not what any of us would wish for our children; I have mentioned my own children in communication before and I have one child in Y11 and one in Y13 this year, so I know the disappointment these decisions cause but circumstances have left us with no official options.

All of the students have approached each challenge this year with maturity and a calmness beyond their years and we are all very proud of their achievements so far, I am sure they will continue to move forward with the resilience we have seen and I thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Horsfield  
Headteacher