



A MESSAGE TO YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Good Afternoon Year 11,

You will probably already know from my email to parents and carers on Friday that I have reluctantly decided to cancel the Year 11 Prom this year. The decision to cancel such a wonderful event was not taken lightly however it was taken in what I truly believe to be in the best interests of all concerned. As a nation we are in unprecedented times and as Headteacher it is my job to ensure that the students in my care are kept safe. When making decisions about such things I always take advice from the necessary advisors around me and assess the possible risks. If I am not happy with the risk the activity will not go ahead. As a parent and grandparent I also consider “would I be happy for my children or grandchild to be exposed to the risk”, again if the answer is no then however difficult the decision is – the activity will not go ahead. When using both of these measures, I feel, due to the nature of the COVID 19 virus the risks associated with not social distancing are too great even if restrictions on mass gatherings etc were to be lifted.

I have had a number of parents and carers contact me agreeing with my decision and a few who do not, however all have contacted me thinking of you and in your best interest. I appreciate how disappointing this is for you all but also for parents, grandparents and friends who have looked forward to seeing you all at this fantastic occasion which would bring to a close for some, your time at The Whitby High School. It is also bitterly disappointing for all my staff, particularly Form Staff who look forward to sharing the experience with you. As a year group I have seen you grow and mature and at this time it is this maturity that I know you will bring to the fore when dealing with the disappointment. We must protect ourselves, our families and our community at this terrible time.

Once school returns to normality I will look at how we may be able to bring you together one last time as a year group.

Finally, although the school year is technically not over yet I would like to wish you all well and when this terrible situation is over, as it will be, I know that you will all embark on the next stage of your lives with the focus and commitment you have shown here at The Whitby High School. Make the most of your life ahead.

Best wishes and take care.

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher