

Tuesday 20th April, 2021.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since the previous parental information evening the Joint Council for Qualifications have issued further guidance in relation to the process that schools must undertake to award Centre Assessed Grades to Year 11 pupils this year. We're pleased that, in the most part, the process we talked through at the information evening remains unchanged, however there has been important clarification on some specific matters that we think you should be aware of. We will therefore be hosting another live online event on Tuesday 27th of April at 6pm. This will allow us to relay updates to you but also give you a further opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

Of course, parents will be aware that we have Year 11 parents evening on Thursday which provides an opportunity for you to liaise with staff about the aspects that your child should be focusing on during the remaining weeks in school. This dialogue with teaching staff alongside further updates around the process for awarding grades should hopefully provide you with a good base of information to best support our young people and undertake discussions at home.

I do think it's important that we note that staff won't be able to discuss or relay information concerning your child's grades either at parents evening on Thursday or in the coming weeks. Staff in all schools across the country have been directed to not discuss grading with pupils or parents by the awarding bodies. Pupils and parents can only be notified of grades upon their official release on results day, which this year is slightly earlier on the 12th of August, 2021.

I'm sure that a number of parents are wondering what date pupils are able to leave school this year. The official leaving date for pupils is at the end of June but we awaiting further guidance as to whether or not this will change for this academic year. We will, of course, provide parents with an update as soon as we are aware of any changes but for now the official school leaving date remains at the end of June.

Finally, I am aware that some schools have publicly released information relating to scheduled prom event for Year 11 pupils. I think it's important that we treat the next few weeks with caution. The government have outlined a projected roadmap that will hopefully lead to the lifting of all restrictions on the 21st of June. This would mean that, hopefully, events with more than 30 guests could take place – theoretically allowing for schools to have proms. Unfortunately this requires the successful roll out of earlier stages of the road map. Stage 3 of the roadmap isn't due to be implemented until the 17th of May and even though some private events are allowed in this stage, the restrictions on their operation wouldn't allow schools to meet the strict criteria.



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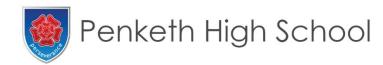












So we remain hopeful and optimistic that we will arrive in a position where the removal of restrictions from the 21st of June allows us to hold a prom event for our Year 11 pupils. We have booked a provisional date with a local hotel; but we also remain cautious as the precarious nature of the pandemic to date might prevent the roadmap following the schedule identified. What we don't want is for pupils to invest a significant amounts of money – as some choose to do – on their plans for arrival, custom made dresses etc only for us to find ourselves in a position where we can't run the event because continued restrictions prevent us from doing so. As the nation progresses through the roadmap and as we get a clearer indication that we're on track to achieve the lifting of restrictions on the 21st of June we'll release further information to pupils and parents.

Yours sincerely,

IAA.

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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