

6 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### Year 11 – End of Year Event

Thank you for the correspondence relating to the possibility of the school organising the traditional Prom for our Year 11 leavers this year.

As you appreciate, this is a hugely sensitive and emotive issue and one the Governors have spent a considerable amount of time discussing in order to reach a decision which reflects their responsibilities and understanding of the situation in which our whole school community finds itself.

You will recall the letter that Ms Spivey sent out last October in which it was made very clear that the school would not be organising a formal Prom in this academic year and parents and carers were respectfully advised not to invest in garments for such an occasion.

The letter also confirmed that we would look again at holding an informal event in the summer term, if that looked possible as restrictions eased and to ensure that we were not adding to any financial or other pressures that the last year had imposed.

The Governors and I are extremely conscious of how important an end of year event is to the students who leave our school and were particularly upset by not being able to hold anything for our Class of 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

We remain of the view that holding a formal Prom is not in line with Government expectations, nor is it responsible to ask staff and students to mix in an off-site social setting. We believe that our approach to celebrating your children's time at Springfield must follow a safe, cautious and appropriate line.

To this end, I am enormously impressed that the staff team are able to organise the on-site event planned for the afternoon of Friday 18 June. The details of the informal gathering, to be held immediately after the students leaving assembly, are contained in the letter that was widely distributed to parents and carers yesterday. Needless to say, this social gathering, hopefully outside if weather permits, will give the opportunity for the students to say their goodbyes to staff and fellow pupils as many would wish to do.

I also commend to you the 'never before offered' plans being made for the Class of 2021 to enjoy two further weeks of engagement with the school at the end of their term. Again, the details are contained in my other letter, co-signed with Ms Spivey, but a week of 'Springfield Sixth Form' followed up with a week of virtual work experience is another way we are recognising the challenging times your children have experienced and come through, and supporting them with their ongoing education.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our collective disappointment as Governors to not being able to approve the holding of a formal Prom this year. My colleagues and I absolutely respect the opinions of those that have voiced their disagreement and regret that our in-school event is not what some people wish the school to offer.



However, we are all relieved to have come through this last year as a stronger school community and I'm pleased that we are able to give the Class of 2021 a unique send off, unlike the previous year group, marking their highly successful and memorable 5 years at Springfield.

Thank you again for letting me know your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cufley', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alan Cufley  
Chair of Governors