

To: Parents and Carers

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This school year has been like no other, especially for Year 11. The simple fact of not being able to go to school, cancelled exams and the loss of traditional end of school celebrations have been extremely hard on all concerned.

This week saw the official end of the exam season. It is a time when many pupils would have been looking forward to gathering with friends ahead of the summer break. The Covid-19 restrictions have changed all plans.

We share the sadness in the missed opportunities for this year group and their friends.

It is understandable that frustration at the long lockdown led to some young people gathering together recently in numbers far higher than is safe during a pandemic. But while recognising the reasons, it's important that we do all we can to encourage young people not to put themselves or their families at risk in this way.

We will be living alongside Covid-19 until a vaccine is found. We're asking for your help to keep everyone safe during this pandemic. This includes preventing transmission of the virus and avoiding other risks to health, as well as focusing on personal wellbeing and healthy behaviours.

Schools have already sent out information to families about safety and safeguarding as the lockdown eases, including advice from Sussex Police about anti-social behaviour.

The easing in government restrictions on gatherings, the reopening of schools to more pupils, and shops reopening are being managed with careful measures in place which we are all adapting to.

We know most pupils follow the government pandemic guidelines. We'd like your help in supporting young people as new advice is released to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Do:

- Remember that children can meet in small physically distanced groups, [following the government guidance](#). The police will disperse large groups
- Be aware that alcohol and drugs have been reported as being used by some gathering in large groups ([Where to go for](#) offers advice and support for young people about drugs and alcohol)
- Be considerate of local residents and other people using public spaces

Don't:

- Meet up in large groups
- Buy alcohol for anyone underage
- Use antisocial language, drop litter or create mess in public places

We'd like to thank you for all that you've done to support your children in this challenging time. We wish you all a good and safe summer ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Deb Austin,  
Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning.