

13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Coronavirus Update 46**

It was about a month ago that we announced we would offer an end of year visit to each of Years 8, 9 and 10. We wanted them to have the possibility of closing their school year on a positive note and in early June it did not seem rash to assume that such activities would be possible.

The last few days have forced us to think again. We have about twenty positive cases in Year 10 and a substantial proportion of the year is in self-isolation. There has also been a confirmed case in Year 9 and it would be rash to assume that our local outbreak will spread no further.

It would not be right to increase the risks of transmission by confining our students on crowded coaches, even though we would require masks to be worn. I have to bear in mind as well that any resulting self-isolation could ruin the holiday plans of an entire family. I have therefore decided that these three visits - to Aztec Water World, to Drayton Manor and to Go Ape- should be cancelled. Any payments that you have made will be refunded through Parent Pay.

Similar concerns could be raised about the Year 11 Prom. There is no avoiding the fact that the safest course would be to cancel it. Attending the Prom increases the risk of becoming infected with Covid 19. Yet our students invest great hopes in the occasion - and often significant sums of money as well - and I am loath to impose a cancellation unless the situation in Year 11 changes for the worse. In the meantime we will respect the decision of any student who decides to withdraw from the Prom and will refund the cost of their ticket.

As I write, the Year 13 Prom planned for 29<sup>th</sup> July will be going ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Waters