

7 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

With the planned lifting of Covid restrictions, we are confident that we will be able to have a leavers' ball for Year 11, and are pleased to confirm we have provisionally booked a venue so that the event can go ahead. Should government restrictions mean that the ball cannot take place, all tickets will be refunded in full. However, please be aware that the school is not responsible for refunds for any purchases for outfits or hair appointments that you make personally and these are at your own risk.

The Year 11 leavers' ball is planned to take place on **Wednesday 6 July 2022** at the Lancastrian Suite, Gateshead. Buses will leave school at approximately 6.30pm and will depart the Lancastrian Suite at approximately 11 pm. To ensure the safety of all students, everyone **must** travel to and from the Lancastrian Suite on the buses provided. The venue has asked us to emphasise to all students that alcohol will not be served. If we suspect anyone is under the influence of alcohol upon their arrival at school, we reserve the right to refuse to allow them to attend the ball.

Historically we have had an external photographer who took posed photographs at the ball which were then sold to students at a cost of £5 per picture. This year, two members of staff have offered to take the photographs and provide the images for free with the normal photo fee donated to charity. They will take pictures throughout the night, including staged/formal photographs as the students arrive at QEHS and at the venue. Students will then be given a link where they can download all of the photographs taken on the night by the photographers (we expect this to be in the hundreds), which they can then print at their discretion. There will also be a free selfie photo booth at the venue available throughout the night.

If you do not wish for your son/daughter to be in the photographs please inform us via the online consent form.

Tickets are on sale now, priced £35, which includes a £5 donation for photographs. All money raised from the photographs will go to a named charity to be chosen by the prom committee which is made up of Year 11 students.

Payment can be made in full of £35 by Friday 29 April 2022 or in two instalments of the first being £20 by Friday 25 March 2022 and second £15 by Friday 29 April 2022

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins Head of School: Neil Seaton



As we are now a cashless school, payment for tickets can be made via the School Gateway online secure payment system through the School Gateway website or smart phone app. To enable online payment if you haven't already done so, you will need to activate your School Gateway account using your email address and mobile number that the school holds on record for you:

- **Download the app**: If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android and iPhone). The app shows the same information as the website PLUS it saves the school money when we send you a text message.
- *Visit the website*: <u>www.schoolgateway.com</u> and click on 'New User'. You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log into School Gateway.

If you're having trouble logging in, it may be because the school doesn't have your current email and mobile phone number on record. Please call the school and we'll update your details on our system.

You will need to use the School Gateway website to complete the initial set up for payments using your bank account number and sort code. After this setup, payments can be made on either the website or the app.

In order for your son/daughter to purchase a ticket for the ball, please complete the online consent <u>form</u> and make payment by **Friday 29 April 2022.**

Please note we will require consent with two emergency contact numbers.

The bus places will be allocated when the tickets are collected at a later date, we recommend that your son/daughter collects their ticket at the same time as his/her friends in order to avoid the disappointment of being on different buses. We will give more information about this proves at a later date.

We look forward to what promises to be a wonderful celebration of the end of Year 11.

Yours faithfully

Paul Main Pastoral Leader Year 11

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