

October 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Year 11 Passport to Prom

It is a pleasure to announce the date of this year's annual Year 11 Prom: Thursday 20th June 2019, which will be held off site, as explained to Year 11 in a recent assembly. This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 to celebrate the successes of their last five years at Wellsway School and we look forward to it being a fitting culmination of the hard work and efforts shown in school during this academic year.

The Prom is part of our Rewards Programme and a specific reward for Year 11 students who have demonstrated high levels of effort during Year 11. Students can become confident, respectful and successful learners by making the most of every opportunity offered to them, and it is these everyday efforts that we recognise in giving students the opportunity to take part in this special event.

As a result, this year we are again running our Year 11 'Passport to Prom'. We know that Year 11 students who meet these expectations have the best opportunity for success in their examinations next summer and all our Year 11 students are capable of achieving these criteria and our intention is for **all** students to join in the celebrations in June. The criteria have been explained as part of a recent Year 11 assembly, and are linked to:

- Attitude for Learning
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Positive behaviours
- House points

During terms 2 to 4, students will gather evidence that we will attribute to an overall level for that term, ranging from 1 to 4. Students averaging a Level 1 or Level 2 at the end of term 4 are deemed to be working at very high standards, giving them the best opportunity for success in the summer. These students will receive their 'Passport to Prom' at the beginning of term 5.

Any students working at an average Level 3 or Level 4 are not giving themselves the best chance for success and will have specific areas for improvement detailed to them by their tutor at the start of every term. We must be clear that students who do not achieve Level 1 or Level 2 will not earn their Passport to Prom, although other year group awards will be accessible to any students working at a Level 3.

I hope that your child is looking forward to celebrating with us this summer, but before that point, there are some important months ahead and they will currently be focused on their Year 11 studies. To that end, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that research has shown students prepare most effectively for exams when they vary the subjects they study and receive expert help from specialist teachers. Indeed, our analysis from last summer supports this as evidenced by the significant increase in the number of high grades achieved in science this year (with several exams towards the end of the exam season) compared to 2017 when students had considerably more time off-timetable after May half term. For these reasons, we are repeating our 'Study In' programme for the end of Year 11, where students will attend lessons as normal until Friday 24th May, though we may make some small changes to accommodate preparation sessions for specific exams. From the start of term 6 on 3rd June, students will attend the majority of their normal lessons. We will, however, also run some specific support sessions prior to exams involving the whole cohort and will identify some periods when students are not required to be on school site.

Another important event for Year 11 is our **Sixth Form Open Evening** on **Wednesday 10th October** from 6pm to 8pm and we look forward to welcoming you all to this event.

It is clear that enabling our students to reach their potential over the next academic year will be hugely influenced by the strong home-school link that has been created over their time here at Wellsway. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and look forward to working together in this last year of Key Stage 4 studies to ensure that your child does their very best to achieve their potential in the summer.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S. Hill
Assistant Principal: Assessment