**16th June 2021**

Dear Parent and Carers,

Unfortunately I am writing with the news we were hoping to avoid but given the latest Government announcement on Monday and the subsequent guidance from the DfE for leavers’ events, we have been forced to cancel our Leaver’s Celebration event.

It is not a decision we have willingly taken and we are deeply disappointed, but we must consider the risks to our community both in school and beyond in all our activities and current circumstances do not permit us to hold a ‘large gathering’ safely.

We had hoped that by moving it outdoors and by scaling it back from the traditional grand affair at Rivington Barn we would still be able to celebrate with our young people. We had deliberately scheduled the event after the expected lifting of Covid restrictions but the Prime Minister’s announcement last Monday has shown that it is just too soon, given the prevalence of cases of the Delta variant both locally and nationally.

The latest guidance states we must avoid large gatherings and whilst there is also mention of considering a ‘school leaver’s celebration or prom’ we would have to do this without any disco or dancing and must avoid mixing of groups. We would be required to ask the young people to sit at tables in groups of six all evening to avoid the need to ask the whole year group to isolate for 10 days should any member test positive following the event. I am sure that you will understand that this would not be in the spirit of the celebration we had planned for.

We will be looking to organise a reunion event as soon as we are allowed to do so, the details of which will be sent out as soon as possible.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and hope you and your family are keeping well.

We will look forward to seeing you on results day in August in what I hope will be much different times for us all.

Take Care and God Bless!

Mr T McCabe