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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you after the recent announcement by Government to delay the final easing of lockdown restrictions in England by four weeks, until 19 July 2021, to speed up the vaccination programme. This announcement will mean that many activities planned at home and at school are no longer permissible within Government guidelines.

In addition to this national context, we have seen a rapid increase in the rate of new cases across the region in the last two weeks and there have been announcements about further enhanced national support being put in place in Greater Manchester. We also know that most of the new cases are in younger age groups, particularly teenagers and younger adults. These increases are driven by the spread of the Delta variant, which is more transmissible, and increased mixing due to lockdown easing in recent weeks. The same control measures are still effective at reducing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 so the system of controls that schools have in place, including risk assessments, bubbles, testing, use of face coverings, is just as important as ever to try to reduce the risk of spread as much as possible and identify cases quickly.

Because of the Government's decision to prolong restrictions on social gatherings, it would not be safe and sensible for Year 11 or Year 13 Proms to take place before the final easing of restrictions, currently scheduled for 19 July 2021, and it would not sit within Government guidelines. As with every other sector in the country, we look forward to when restrictions are lifted and the full range of school experiences, including celebration events, can return.

This will be difficult news to hear for many young people. Our Year 11 and 13 cohorts have had an incredibly challenging two years and deserve better. We wish them all the best going forward and hope that they can come together in the future to celebrate their school careers and look forward to bright futures.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Bowman
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