

## Dear Parents/Guardians

The [ball/dance] for Year 9 and 10 students is being held at the [location] on [date]. This is an official [school name] function starting at [time] and finishing at [time]. The [ball/dance] will be fully supervised by members of staff from [time] to [time]. Tickets cost [price] per person.

Please be prompt on arrival and pick up times.

Students who do not abide by the school rules e.g. no smoking, drinking, drugs or overly affectionate behaviour will be sent home.

We are aware that this year there may have been an 'after party' organized. The [school name] does not sanction such parties and any such parties are unapproved and non-school functions. I strongly advise against allowing your son or daughter to attend any 'after party'. They detract from the [ball/dance] as they can sometimes become the main focus of the night. A number of years ago alcohol was a serious problem at an after [ball/dance] party.

**Are you aware of the ethical,  
legal and moral  
considerations regarding alcohol and student parties?**

All parents need to be aware that supervising such parties can at best be problematic. If alcohol is present at these parties those supervising could be making themselves liable for serious legal consequences:

- If underage children consume alcohol it could be a breach of the Liquor Act.
- If a student is injured as a result of alcohol consumption the parent host of the party could open himself or herself to an action for damages for negligence.
- Such parties have the capacity to attract large numbers of 'gate crashers' leading to major security problems and the risk of injury.
- Experience has shown that the likelihood of consensual and non-consensual sexual misconduct is increased at poorly supervised parties where alcohol is served. This may expose both the parent hosts and sometimes even attendee students to serious civil and even criminal consequences.
- There may be no public liability insurance coverage of the premises/persons for parties where alcohol is served to students. The associated financial consequences for parent hosts/organizers if a student was injured could be enormous.

Friday is a normal school day and all students are expected to be in attendance on this day. As was the situation last year any student missing school on the Friday will not normally be expected to attend the [ball/dance].

We want our young people to attend the [ball/dance] and for it to be an enjoyable time. I ask parents to be ethically, morally and legally aware of their responsibilities in relation to alcohol and parties. We urge parents of all students attending the [ball/dance] to be vigilant about their children's plans for Friday evening.

*The [school name] cannot accept responsibility for students once they have left the [ball/dance] and any after party is clearly an unapproved and non-school function.*

Yours sincerely

*Principal*

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**ALL STUDENTS MUST RETURN THIS SECTION TO THE BURSAR'S OFFICE TO PURCHASE A TICKET. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD WITHOUT THIS SECTION BEING RETURNED.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (parent / guardian) have read the attached letter and understand that any after party is clearly *an unapproved and non-school function and that [school name] accepts no responsibility for any student who may attend such a function after the [ball/dance]*. I also understand that [school name] has advised parents against students attending such parties.

Signature: (Parent / Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_