



**Bexley Grammar School**  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am disappointed to announce that we are having to postpone Speech Day until the autumn term. I am writing to all parents/carers and sixth form students because this affects the school day arrangements for Monday.

**Speech Day** - postponed from Monday 18th July to Monday 12th September.

**Monday 18th July** will now be a normal school day - there will not be an early closure. Apologies for any inconvenience. (The early closure on Wednesday 20th remains.)

If you were invited to Speech Day, please put **Monday 12th September** in your diary instead, when we plan to run an identical event.

There are two main reasons for this change of plan:

Firstly, you will be aware of the extreme temperatures predicted for the weekend and especially for Monday; the news is reporting that the emergency services will be on high alert by reason of the heat expected. (Those of you who have attended this event in the past will be very aware of how warm St John's becomes when full of people on a summer's day - it is not well ventilated. With an outside temperature well into the 30s, the temperature in the building would be likely to approach or exceed 40 degrees!)

Secondly, I understand that an estimated 1 in 25-30 people have Covid at the moment. This proportion is certainly mirrored in our school staff. Squeezing 400 people (a mixture of students, parents, staff, governors and visitors) into a hot, poorly ventilated space two days before the summer break (when students, staff and their families will be taking well-earned holidays, in many cases for the first time in three years) does not seem sensible.

My hope is that on 12th September, both the temperature and covid rates will be lower and we will be able to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students before our outgoing year 13 students head off to university; we will also have our GCSE results to celebrate.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best wishes,

Steve Elphick