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Dear Parents

As you know, Prize-Giving is one of the key events in the school's calendar; it is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate individual achievement as well as what makes Bishop Wordsworth's a great school.

We anticipate a certain amount of restiveness amongst the boys in an evening event such as this and have sought to encourage appropriate behaviour by offering the boys an incentive: an early finish to the following day. It has always been made clear, though, that this is dependent on impeccable behaviour throughout the event. Sadly, this was not the case last night.

It is clear that a large number of boys from a range of year groups were involved in behaviour that not only risked tarnishing the reputation of the school but was wholly inappropriate for a place of worship.

This is something that cannot be tolerated.

To allow boys to leave early this afternoon would, in this case, send entirely the wrong signal as it would appear to condone such behaviour. Therefore it is with regret that I have to inform you that school will continue as usual and end at 3.50pm for all boys in Years 8-13. Year 7 boys may leave early as originally stated.

This decision has not been made lightly. I understand that this will be an inconvenience for some, and others will feel ill-treated as they were not actively involved. However, we must all recognise that the actions of some boys do have an effect on the whole school. Just as the whole school basked in the glory of the 1st XV's game at Twickenham this year so we must all be ready to shoulder some of the responsibility when we are let down by our peers.

The boys will be informed after lunch.

I hope that this will encourage boys of all ages to reflect on how they conduct themselves in the future.

Yours sincerely

G Lloyd
Deputy Head Master