

## **DCHS & DCGS Discos – background information for incoming Year 7 parents**

DCHS collaborates with the boys' school for four discos each year, with two held at the girls and two at the boys' school for either Years 7&8 or Years 8&9. The Parents Association handle the ticket sales for the girls for all discos. We are limited to 400 tickets due to the hall capacity and our need to comply with health and safety regulations; therefore, we split the allocation evenly between the schools (200 per school).

All discos are supervised by members of the respective school: PA/Friends, parents' volunteers and male and female teachers – there is always a trained first aider present.

The girls apply for tickets by returning the application form attached to a ParentMail communication, your signature gives permission for your daughter to attend the Disco. The tickets are not transferrable as the ticket purchased provides permission for that pupil only.

The allocation of these tickets has long been a discussion point, originally tickets were sold at lunch time on a first come first served basis however it was chaotic and unevenly distributed the tickets. If parents hadn't opened emails or had forgotten to send in the application slip on the first possible return date their daughter could be very disappointed.

Our current tried and tested ticket allocation gives the girls a period of time to get their ticket requests in and we allocate 20 tickets per class. If a class is over allocated the excess are picked at random; any girl who is not successful in getting a ticket goes on a waiting list for returned tickets, unsold tickets from the boys' school and, if unsuccessful, gets priority for the next disco. Every effort is made to ensure all those who want a ticket get one. It should be noted that discos are not always to everyone's taste and over the last 2 years following this process all ticket applications made within the deadline have been successful.

We are fully aware of the potential disappointment a girls feel if they don't get a ticket, however, this method seems fairest. We take feedback from the girls School Forum which democratically covers the views of all year groups and have agreed the current format with them.

We have considered discos for one year group only but have discarded this as it would mean only one disco per year group, per year and would lack atmosphere with just over half the usual number. Although discussed in the past we decided not to allocate a preference to new year 7 at the first disco as current year 8's were bound by the same process the current Year 7's are going through for tickets. When the girls move to year 8 they will benefit from having an extra disco and although the Disco's remain popular right through to year 9 the girls understand the process. This ballot system is used throughout the school where limited tickets are available for school trips, sporting fixtures etc.

2011/2012 Disco dates:

14 October 2011	Years 8 & 9 @ DCHS
2 December 2011	Years 7 & 8 @ DCHS
3 February 2012	Years 7 & 8 @ DCGS
20 April 2012	Years 7 & 8 @ DCGS