

ALL DRESSED UP AND FINALLY, THEY HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GO

Schools bring back the ball

Bethany Hiatt

SEPTEMBER is shaping as the new ball season for many WA schools forced to postpone the Year 12 rite of passage because of COVID-19.

In what is already a stressful stage of their lives, the class of 2020 has also had to deal with a lockdown and learning disruptions.

The shift to Phase 4 coronavirus restrictions means schools unable to hold balls in the past four months are now able to confirm their rescheduled functions. Many have settled on dates near the end of Term 3 in September or October.

Year 12s from Fremantle College are happy they will finally get the chance to party, six months after their ball was called off just two days before its original date on March 20. Students found out this week their ball would go ahead at the Hyatt Regency on September 24.

"It's been a bit of a buzz," deputy principal Emma Walker said. "The excitement is building."

Some schools had set their ball date early enough to

miss restrictions, with the celebration at Leeming Senior High, Santa Maria College, Corpus Christi and Kennedy Baptist College done and dusted by February.

Melville Senior High is targeting October and All Saints College even later in December.

Other local schools had not yet confirmed revised dates and plans.

Ms Walker said the last few months of the year were busy for Year 12s, with exams and graduation ceremonies, so finding dates for events could be difficult.

But Fremantle College had

been determined its ball would occur because it celebrated such an important rite of passage for teens making the transition to young adults.

"The ball really wraps up this celebration of what they've been through in 12 years of school," Ms Walker said.

Nastasha Oosthuizen and Amy Ciccosto, pictured trying on designer frocks from Dress Hire Perth, said knowing the date of the ball gave them something to look forward to in what had been a tough year.

"I think everyone was pretty concerned it wasn't going to go ahead," said.

Jo Wymer, from Dress Hire Perth, said many students had rescheduled their dress bookings.

