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You've been looking forward to it all year, perhaps longer, your Prom night. Forget the exams; this is what you've been working for all these years. So to make it the best possible night to remember you'd better get planning.

Here's a 2012 prom checklist:

Your Prom Outfit

Months before the "day", you want to be scouring through the Fashion magazines and web sites to get an idea of what this year's styles are going to be. Perhaps make a scrapbook of the styles that suit you, colours that you like. Share your ideas with friends and family you can rely on to get their opinion. Remember, it's not just about the latest style; it's about what will suit you the best. There's no point in getting the latest prom dress if it doesn't suit you. A prom dress is there to show you off, not the other way around.

When you've pinpointed the style and colour, time to start shopping. Remember the online prom shops, they will be a lot cheaper than your local shops and have a wider variety of prom outfits. Also remember that you'll need appropriate underwear, shoes, jewellery etc.

Make sure that you have everything ready, tried on, and altered, at least 2 weeks before the day.

Your First Prom

What do you expect from your first prom? Yes, it's going to be a special evening, exciting, and fun. But, it's also just one evening out of thousands that you'll enjoy, so don't set your expectation so high that they are unreachable.

How are you getting there, how are you getting home? Are you going alone, or with some friends? Is a parent taking you, or are you going to club together to hire a limousine. All these details need arranging well in advance. There may be other proms on the same evening, so you may need to organise vehicle hire months in advance, after all, there are only a certain number of limos for hire in any given area.

Have you discussed with your parents what is going to happen? Keep them in the loop. After all, they may have contributed to this evening, and it's only fair that you keep them informed. Are you going to an after prom party? Let them know.

Have you a back-up plan? The limo breaks down and can't pick you up? A heel breaks on one of your shoes? There's a great saying, failing to plan means planning to fail. Be prepared in case something should go wrong.

Follow these simple guidelines, and you'll be sure to have a great night. Enjoy your prom!

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