

10th February 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we draw to the end of an exceptionally busy half term, I would like to start by thanking all members of our community for their continued support. On Monday, I met with representatives from each year group from the Year Team Council. It was fascinating to discuss how teachers give feedback from a student perspective. It was clear that students value teacher feedback greatly, while it was also great to witness first hand how articulate our students are and how passionately they feel about their education.

As well as the student voice, I also attended our half-termly Parent Voice meeting on Tuesday evening and this term has seen the return of our first in-person parents' evening since the pandemic. Year 11 parents' evening emphasised to me the importance of building strong in-person relationships between school and home. I am conscious that there are arguments for in-person and remote parents' evenings and I would welcome parental feedback on the google survey that can be found [here](#). I have asked teachers for similar feedback and will discuss the results with the senior team early next half term.

### **Year 10 pre-public examinations**

Year 10 will sit their pre-public examinations (PPEs) the week commencing Monday 27th March 2023. Teachers will be preparing students for these examinations in lessons after the half-term break. Please click [here](#) for a booklet which includes the PPE timetable and revision activities to support students' preparations for their PPEs.

### **Sustainability**

I am delighted that the Vanguard Learning Trust is hosting its first ever Sustainability Week early next half term. As Ruislip High School has its own Eco-Hub, we will host a number of the exciting events planned for the week. More information on the plans for Sustainability Week can be found on the VLT website (click [here](#)).

As part of Sustainability Week, Cucina, our catering provider, will be offering sustainable catering options, including meat-free dishes (click [here](#) for more information). Furthermore, after February half-term, Cucina will no longer provide plastic cups; we are therefore advising students to bring a reusable bottle to school each day for the purchase of Generation Juice or to use the water fountains located around the school. This is a decision that our caterers have taken for all of their schools nationally.

### **Safety in the community**

With the half-term break approaching, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of staying safe in the local community. Please follow this link to find [information from the Metropolitan Police about staying safe and street crime](#).

I continue to be concerned regarding the amount of traffic on both Sidmouth Drive and West End Road at the beginning and end of the school day and would again encourage all students, where possible, to walk or cycle to school. I would also ask all parents/guardians to drive carefully and considerately in the vicinity of the school should they need to pick up their children.



## Apprenticeships

To coincide with National Apprenticeship Week, Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education Robert Halfon has written to students and parents about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people, and encouraging them to consider apprenticeships when they are thinking about career choices. Please click [here](#) for his letter to students, and [here](#) for his letter to parents/guardians.

## Safer internet week

This week, students have taken part in a range of activities as part of safer internet week, including assemblies from the student digital leaders stressing the importance of all of us talking about being safe online. Safer internet day itself was on Tuesday and I had the privilege of listening to our digital student leaders explain the importance of listening to the voices of young people and putting this at the heart of the day while encouraging students to shape the online safety support that they receive. Online safety is such an important issue and I am committed to working with parents in supporting the young people in our care to be as safe as possible online. I would like to thank Mrs Carstens and Mrs Poddar for organising the activities, and the students who led the assemblies. Should parents want further information about online safety there is a comprehensive section on the school website that can be found [here](#).

Finally, as you can see from the comprehensive list below, the next half term promises to be just as action packed as this one. I would like to wish all of the community a peaceful half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 20th February 2023.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher

## Key dates for next half term

Monday 20th February 2023: Half term begins  
Wednesday 22nd February 2023: NYC MUNGA trip parent meeting - 6pm - 7pm  
Thursday 23rd February 2023: Year 10 Art PPE  
Friday 24th February 2023: Student Leadership Team applications close  
Friday 24th February 2023: Year 9 theatre trip - 5:30pm - 10:15pm  
Monday 27th February 2023 - Friday 3rd March 2023: Sustainability week  
Tuesday 28th February 2023: Year 11 & Year 13 art trip  
Wednesday 1st March 2023: Year 13 PPE results day  
Wednesday 1st March 2023: Year 9 options evening - 4:30pm - 7pm  
Friday 3rd March 2023: World Book Day celebration  
Monday 6th March 2023: Friday 10th March 2023: Languages week

Monday 6th March 2023: KS3/Year 10 French play  
Thursday 9th March 2023 - Friday 10th March 2023: Year 12 Art PPE  
Thursday 9th March 2023: Year 13 parents' evening - 4:30pm - 7pm  
Monday 13th March 2023 - Friday 17th March 2023: STEM week  
Monday 13th March 2023: Hillingdon 24 game  
Tuesday 14th March 2023: Sixth form NYC MUNGA trip leaves  
Wednesday 15th March 2023: Year 8 Young Green Briton Challenge  
Tuesday 21st March 2023: Year 12 post-18 options evening  
Wednesday 22nd March 2023: Year 7 & Year 8 spring festival  
Thursday 23rd March 2023: Adaptive ski trip  
Monday 27th March 2023 - Friday 31st March 2023: Safeguarding week  
Monday 27th March 2023 - Friday 31st March 2023: Year 10 PPE week  
Monday 27th March 2023: Easter egg hunt  
Tuesday 28th March 2023: Year 9 Brunel University STEM trip  
Wednesday 29th March 2023: Friends of Ruislip High School meeting - 5pm - 6pm  
Friday 31st March 2023: Term ends - All students will be dismissed at 12:10pm  
Saturday 1st April 2023 - Tuesday 4th April 2023: Year 9 Battlefields trip