

10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been wonderful to welcome students back for the start of the academic year over the course of this week. Whilst some of the preventative measures in place last academic year are no longer mandatory, such as the wearing of face coverings or the bubbles for year groups, we do still have to remember that COVID-19 has not gone away. Students and staff are still following good hygiene practices and the wearing of face coverings is permitted in any area of the school. We have introduced a one-way system around the school and students have continued to impress us with how well they are adapting to the changes we make to keep our community safe. Please continue to let the school know if your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or if your child or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19. As I have written before, I hope that we will not have to revert to the way we were last year but I will make decisions based on the government guidance and the rates within the school and local community.

### Uniform

I would like to remind parents/guardians that students should be wearing their school uniform every day, and bringing their PE kit in to change into on days when students have timetabled PE lessons. When we asked for feedback at the end of last year, the feedback was split, with just as many responses asking to keep the wearing of PE kit as asking to return to students changing for PE lessons. We have opened a new, more spacious PE changing room and we will continue to monitor the situation.

I know we had a brief return to the summer earlier this week with two days of hot weather on Tuesday and Wednesday. We have always had, and are known for having, high standards for our uniform, and students must wear their uniform correctly, including on the way to and from school. However, I would like to remind families that students may ask permission to remove their blazers in lessons and in social areas. We do also operate a summer uniform policy during extended hot weather, when students are not required to wear blazers or ties, and I will let students and families know in advance if we are lucky enough to have another heatwave.

### Communication - IT

I wrote to families of Year 7 students earlier this week regarding school apps and I wanted to remind all parents/guardians that there are two important apps that all parents and guardians should download. **School Gateway** is the app that ensures all communication from the school is sent directly to you, including my updates to parents and guardians. The second app is **ClassCharts** and your child will have been given a letter which contains your log on details. Both apps are available on Android Play Store and the Apple App Store. I appreciate some parents may have had issues registering prior to the start of term but with the new timetable in operation these issues should now be resolved. Should parents/guardians have any questions about either of the apps, please email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) marked for the attention of the IT Department.

### Open Evening for prospective parents

We are currently organising our annual open evening for prospective parents which is due to take place on Thursday 30th September 2021. In previous years we have had over 1200 visitors on such an evening and I am therefore keen to reduce numbers as much as possible in order to keep our community safe. Our intention is to

open on a smaller scale and have a more virtual open evening. Should parents/guardians have a child at the school already and have a younger child in Year 6, I would ask that you use the virtual aspects of the open evening in order to help reduce numbers in the school building and play our part in keeping all members of the community safe.

### Roadworks

There is currently extensive work being undertaken at the corner of Sidmouth Drive and West End Road. This has meant that there is more traffic than usual around that area and yesterday students had to walk in the road as the pavement was completely closed. I have spoken to the highways team at the local authority and had extra staff on duty at that area before and after school but please speak to your child if they use that corner to walk to or from school.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our school community a peaceful weekend when it arrives.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher