

11th November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been a delight to welcome students back this half term and to welcome parents/guardians into the building for a range of events. Last night's presentation evening was the first since 2019 and it was a real celebration of what has been achieved by our students, with a theme of perseverance and new beginnings. The speeches by our Head and Deputy Head Students and the musical performances, including by the Year 7 choir, were the highlights of the evening, along with the talk by author Alex Wheatle, who reminded students of the importance of reading through his inspiring life story. Please click [here](#) to read the latest parent bulletin which includes details of presentation evening and a range of other recent events at the school.

Remembrance Day

This morning the entire school paused for two minutes to remember those who sacrifice so much for us, including the armed forces and the emergency services and their families, and civilians affected by conflict and acts of terrorism. The students conducted themselves with the utmost respect during this time for silent reflection.

Times of the school day

As parents/guardians will be aware, the times of the school day changed in September 2020 to allow for social distancing as part of COVID-19 safety measures. Now we are returning to a sense of normality, I am proposing changing the times of the school day for September 2023. From September 2023, all students in Years 7-13 would need to arrive at school from 8.30am and would be dismissed at 3pm, Monday to Friday inclusive. This will mean a slightly longer day for students, in line with the guidance from the Department for Education, and this extra time will be as part of the tutorial programme. At Ruislip High School, tutorial is very much seen in the same way as lessons, with a weekly programme including: assembly, reading education and RSE (relationships and sex education), and the slightly longer tutorial will ensure more time for this key part of the day. I would welcome feedback from parents/guardians regarding this proposal via the school office account (office@ruisliphigh.org.uk).

Parents' evenings

I would like to thank parents/guardians of Year 7 students who attended last week's Year 7 tutor evening; feedback has been very positive and the Year 7 cohort have clearly settled in incredibly well.

I would also like to thank parents/guardians who gave feedback on virtual parents' evenings. The feedback has, as expected, been mixed, with some parents expressing strong preferences for virtual parents' evenings and some parents expressing equally strong preferences for in-person parents' evenings. While Year 12 parents' evening on Thursday 1st December 2022 will be virtual, I am working with the senior team and we are considering a hybrid approach, with some year groups having virtual and some year groups having in-person parents' evenings.

Year 11 and Year 10 Citizenship PPEs

Students in Year 11, and Year 10 Citizenship students, are preparing for their pre-public examinations (PPEs) which start at the end of November. These are important both for students to practise the routines for their public examinations in the summer, but also to identify areas that require further revision over the coming months.

Please click [here](#) for the timetable for the PPEs which has been shared with students through Google Classroom. I would also like to remind parents of the revision resources created by curriculum leaders: please click [here](#) for Year 11 revision resources and [here](#) for Year 10 Citizenship resources.

Sixth Form Open Evening

I am looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students and parents/guardians to next week's Sixth Form Open Evening which takes place on Wednesday 16th November starting at 5pm. The evening includes two talks from Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher, and me, one at 5.15pm and again at 6.15pm, along with subject stalls where teachers and current students will be explaining the courses on offer in the Sixth Form. Furthermore, there will be stalls to explain the enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities available in the Sixth Form and information about pastoral support, including support with transition. Please click [here](#) for the letter previously shared with parents/guardians of Year 11 students.

Anti-bullying week and survey

Following assemblies led by Mrs Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, over the past few weeks which focused on anti-bullying, all students will be asked to fill in our anti-bullying survey (click [here](#)). This runs alongside anti-bullying week and students will be learning more about anti-bullying as part of the tutorial programme.

Finally, I am delighted to share that Rhys Porter, 10W has won Scope's Young Campaigner of the Year award. Determined to overcome online trolls, Rhys raised over £20,000 in support of disabled people and their families. Rhys has spoken previously in assemblies about his experiences and he continues to be an inspiration in our community and beyond.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher