

12th February 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing at the end of the first half term of the calendar year, and it has been a busy and successful period at the school. An undoubted highlight of the term for me was to receive a communication from the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson, regarding Ruislip High School's attainment for students identified as disadvantaged, noting, '*Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement!*' At Ruislip High School, we will always stress the importance of high expectations for all our students; seeing the hard work of our students from disadvantaged backgrounds reflected in such strong national results is a proud moment for the school. This achievement is a direct result of the collaboration that exists between students, staff and home that ensures that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to 'reach for the sky'.

Online Safety

As part of our ongoing work to support student wellbeing, we have this week been marking Online Safety Week. All students have taken part in age-appropriate online safety tutorials, with Year 7 students also receiving a dedicated session delivered by the Breck Foundation. These important messages will be reinforced later in the term through an additional online safety assembly for students.

As well as delivering an online safety message to students, I wanted to share with the community that the school will be welcoming a speaker from the Breck Bednar Foundation on Tuesday 24th February 2026, from 6pm to 7pm to deliver a talk to parents/guardians. The Breck Bednar Foundation is a nationally recognised organisation specialising in online safety and child protection. The presentation will focus on how parents can effectively support and protect their children in the online world; it is based on the real-life story of a teenager who tragically lost his life as a result of online grooming, powerfully highlighting the warning signs, risks, and practical steps parents can take to keep their children safe. I include Ms Coltman's original letter [here](#) and I can also confirm that there are still places available. If you would like to attend the evening please fill out the Google Form linked [here](#) to secure your ticket as soon as possible.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

I am sure that we are all aware of the increased use of AI within all aspects of life. Whilst AI can bring many positives to society, as with all technology, there is a negative side. Recent research has shown a dramatic increase in the use of AI chatbots by young people aged 9 - 17. AI chatbots are computer programs that aim to act like humans; they answer questions and engage in conversation with a young person. Whilst this may seem beneficial, recent research has shown that these chatbots bring an array of negative factors associated with their use. To help you support your child in using these technologies safely, we have compiled a guidance document specifically aimed at supporting parents/guardians. Please click [here](#) to access the document.

Students travel to and from school

We have had reports from local residents about students crossing the roads in the vicinity of the school without paying full attention. Sidmouth Drive, in particular, can be very busy at the start and end of the day, and I would like to ask parents/guardians to reiterate this important safety message to their children. Please could I also ask parents/guardians who drive their children to and from school not to use either the front or rear staff car parks to drop off children or to turn around, as this again can lead to traffic congestion and a potentially unsafe environment. School staff patrol this area and I have asked them to politely remind drivers not to access the

vicinity of the school car park. Should parents/guardians need to drop students at school, please park in the public car park opposite the school. With a school of over 1,300 students, the more students who arrive on foot, the better.

Complaints guide for parents

A new guide, which aims to help parents work with schools to address complaints in a positive and respectful way, has been published by the Department for Education (DfE), in collaboration with Ofsted and other education bodies ([click here](#)). As a school, we will always try to resolve concerns parents raise by working in partnership, and I am pleased that the DfE has provided more clarity on the complaints process. The guidance sets out a five-step process to help parents raise concerns respectfully and at the appropriate level, from classroom issues to whole-school matters. It encourages families to reflect on whether an issue is feedback, a concern, or a formal complaint. It also discourages the use of AI to generate complaints. In light of this, an update has been made to the Trust's complaints policy, in particular the use of AI ([click here](#)) as well as linking the aforementioned DfE's parent guide. Whilst it recognises that parents/guardians may use AI to draft communications, it is important that these remains authentic and focused on the specific issues.

Trust update letter

The message regarding the complaints guide for parents can also be seen in our half termly Trust update from our CEO, Dr Martina Lecky. The update can be found [here](#) and shows just how much goes on across our Trust community over a half term.

Shelter in place

Mr Gould, Assistant Headteacher, has been delivering safeguarding assemblies this week, focusing on why we practice fire drills and shelter-in-place drills. I would like to reassure families that these are routine measures rather than a response to genuine concerns. As headteacher, I feel strongly that my primary consideration has to be to keep the whole community safe, and it is vitally important that students and staff are clear on the procedures in the unlikely event of any such emergency. With this in mind, we will hold drills for both fire and shelter-in-place next half term. I will work closely with Ms Ware, SENCO, to ensure any students who may find the change in routine challenging will be supported.

Ramadan

As the holy month of Ramadan begins next week, I would like to extend warm wishes of Ramadan Mubarak to all members of our school community who will be observing this special time. Ramadan is a period of spiritual reflection, fasting, and community, and we recognise the commitment of our Muslim students and families throughout the month. We wish everyone peace and fulfilment, and as always, we value the diversity and mutual respect that make our school such a welcoming place. The school has also produced an information booklet with more information about Ramadan, which can be found [here](#). I also wanted to highlight that the school's prayer room will be open to parents and students during the Year 9 options evening on Wednesday 26th February 2026 and the Year 10 parents' evening on Thursday 12th March 2026. For those students and families who wish to break their fast whilst at school, bottles of water and dates will be made available.

Calendar change

I wanted to highlight to the community that we have made an amendment that will specifically affect Year 7 parents/guardians. Due to the previously scheduled Year 7 parents' evening coinciding with Eid, the date has been moved from Thursday 19th March 2026 to Thursday 23rd April 2026. I am grateful to the members of the community who made the school aware of this clash.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a restful half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming the student community back on Monday 23rd February 2026 for what I have no doubt will be another action-packed half term.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher

Key dates for next half term

- Monday 23rd February 2026: Half term begins
- Tuesday 24th February 2026: Year 12 University of Southampton trip
- Tuesday 24th February - Wednesday 25th February 2026: Year 10 Fine Art PPE
- Tuesday 24th February 2026: Breck Foundation parents' session - 6pm - 7pm
- Thursday 26th February 2026: Year 9 textiles workshop
- Thursday 26th February 2026: Year 9 options evening - 4:30pm - 7pm
- Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March 2026: Year 11 core subject PPEs
- Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March 2026: World book week
- Wednesday 4th March 2026: Sixth form interview day
- Wednesday 4th March 2026: VLT netball competition
- Thursday 5th March 2026 : World book day
- Tuesday 10th March 2026: Years 11, 12 & 13 drama trip - 5:30pm - 11:30pm
- Tuesday 10th March 2026: Parent Voice meeting (remote)
- Thursday 12th March 2026: Years 12 and 13 careers fair
- Thursday 12th March 2026: Year 10 parents' evening
- Monday 16th March - Friday 20th March 2026: Neurodiversity celebration week
- Monday 16th March - Friday 20th March 2026: Thank you week
- Tuesday 17th March - Wednesday 18th March 2026: Year 12 art PPE
- Tuesday 17th March 2026: Game 24 event
- Wednesday 18th March 2026: VLT Year 7 science challenge
- Thursday 19th March 2026: Year 7 parents' evening
- Monday 23rd March - Friday 27th March 2026: Year 10 PPEs
- Monday 23rd March 2026: Year 12 UCAS Exhibition trip
- Thursday 26th March 2026: Year 12 post-18 information evening
- Friday 27th March 2026: Term ends - All students will be dismissed at 12pm
- Friday 27th March 2026: Year 9 Battlefields trip leaves
- Monday 30th March 2026: Year 9 Battlefields trip returns

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