

12th May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

The start of the summer term has been disjointed with the additional public holiday on Monday and the impact of industrial action. However, the students have approached these changes with maturity and continue to display excellent attitudes to learning. Parents/guardians will be aware from the letter from Dr Lecky, CEO of the Vanguard Learning Trust shared last week (click [here](#)) that Oak Farm Primary School has joined our Trust as an associate school member. I had the pleasure of touring Catherine Veale, Headteacher of Oak Farm around the school this week and was particularly pleased to hear that the excellent reputation of Ruislip High School had been one of the factors that had encouraged the school to join our Trust. Mrs Veale was incredibly complimentary about how calm the school was and how polite and courteous the students were during her visit.

Examinations

Next week sees the start of the written GCSE and A-level examinations and I know students in examination groups have been working hard, supported by school staff and by their families, to prepare as they embark on the coming weeks of examinations. There have been practical and spoken examinations taking place over the past few weeks and I was impressed with the high quality of the artwork students produced for their examined component over the past two weeks. I am conscious that examinations are a time of anxiety for our young people, and I would like to remind families that school staff are here to provide support, and that students should feel confident that they have been fully prepared by their teachers for their qualifications.

Careers

We welcomed staff from Build Construction to the school this week, as they ran a number of vocational workshops for students in Year 10. I know the students found the sessions useful and enjoyable and I received an email from one of the Build staff who complimented our “terrific” students and said they are now “huge Ruislip High School fans”.

I would also like to make families aware of a free careers event: Step Up Expo, designed to provide practical advice and support for parents and students on key educational choices including: GCSE options; 16+ school/college choices, subject and qualification choices; employment and training; 18+ education, apprenticeships & career options; and gap years. The Step Up Expo is taking place on Saturday 1st July at Olympia London. The event is free for both adults and students, with tickets being available to book [here](#). Should parents/guardians have any questions about the ‘Step Up Expo’, please contact Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher, via office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Travelling to/from school

I wrote previously about the behaviour of a minority of students on public transport. The bus stops closest to the school were built before there was a school of over 1250 students and they are not designed to accommodate the numbers of students using the bus stops each day. I appreciate this is problematic and I have contacted the local bus companies and senior staff will continue to monitor the bus stops after school. I would urge families to discuss whether it is necessary to use the bus or whether it would be possible to either walk home or walk to the larger bus stops near Ruislip Gardens station.

Communication

I would like to remind parents/guardians that all absences, including any medical appointments, can be communicated to the school via ClassCharts.

Parent governor elections

I am also pleased to share that elections for parent governors will be taking place this term. Parent governors are valuable members of our governing body and support school leaders with understanding parents' views as we work together to best support our students. I will share further information in due course.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community a peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher