

18th October 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing this update on the penultimate week of the first half term and it has led me to reflect on what a busy and successful period it has been. Last night saw Year 9 parents' evening take place, and I would like to thank parents/guardians of Year 9 students for attending and Mr Cahill, Head of Year 9, for organising the evening. I talk often of Ruislip High being a school both in, and for, the community and I really do believe in-person parents' evenings are vital in giving parents the opportunity to come into school and speak with teachers regarding academic progress.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite parents/guardians into the school on Wednesday 27th November 2024, for a fun-filled evening event the school is hosting in conjunction with the Friends of Ruislip High School. We are planning a Bingo night that we hope will see staff and parents having a great time and I am reliably informed that if Mr Gould wasn't a first-rate physics teacher, he could be an equally successful 'Bingo caller'.

Communication

Last night's parents' evening really did emphasise the incredibly positive relationships that exist between staff and parents at the school. However, I would like to remind parents/guardians that our school community is built on mutual respect and positive communication. As a parent myself I recognise that we can all become emotive when an issue concerns our children, but I would stress that it is important that all conversations with staff are conducted politely and respectfully. Our staff are fully committed to supporting your children's education, and I would only ask that all interactions reflect this shared value. As ever, I am grateful for the understanding and support of the vast majority of our parent body.

Prospective parents

I have had the pleasure over the past two weeks of meeting prospective parents as they have been toured around the school building by our Year 9 ambassadors. As I wrote after our open evening in September, our students are our greatest asset, and it has been a delight to hear them speak about their school experience. The prospective parents have been impressed with students' attitudes to learning and the purposeful atmosphere of the school.

PE Kit

In line with the latest guidance from the Football Association, the school would like to ask that all students who are playing football as part of their core PE studies bring shin pads as part of their kit. This is not something we have insisted upon previously, but given the updated guidance and the importance we place on student safety at the school, we plan to implement this change after half term. The school will purchase additional shin pads, as we would not usually make a change in uniform in the middle of the academic year, but parental support would be greatly appreciated.

I would also like to ask all parents/guardians to do everything possible to ensure their children leave for school with their PE kit on the days they have PE. We are a school of nearly 1,300 students and PE kits being dropped off in the middle of the day can place real stress on our front office team who are already exceptionally busy. Although we will always endeavour to ensure dropped-off PE kit is delivered to students, we cannot always

guarantee this will happen, and I would again ask for parental support in encouraging our young people to be organised and ready for the day ahead.

Vaping

I have become increasingly concerned over the course of the half term that a small minority of the student body have been caught with vapes in the school. I believe Ruislip High School should be a safe place for all stakeholders, and the presence of these vapes not only damages that belief, but also risks real health concerns to the students who are experimenting with these devices. I wanted to clarify that after half term, any student who brings a vape into school will be issued with a fixed-term suspension in the first instance, and this sanction will escalate quickly should the issues persist. I would also add that students who are caught in possession of such items will face additional random searches. I will be speaking to all year groups in assemblies next week to ensure this message is conveyed to the entire student body.


Community notices

I am delighted to announce that our second Trust-wide environmental sustainability week is fast approaching, and would like to share [this](#) information flyer with parents. I would also like to share the latest vacancies that exist at the Vanguard Learning Trust, and these can be found [here](#).

Here at Ruislip High School, attendance is a key priority for us, and I am pleased that the local authority shares our concerns regarding persistent absenteeism. I have been asked to share this latest message from the London Borough of Hillingdon education department regarding a committee review of persistent absenteeism, which can be found [here](#). On a more positive note, I have also been asked to share information about a local firework display that is being hosted at McGovern Park, and I include a link to the display that can be found [here](#). I am told that a 10% discount off tickets is available with the code SECRET10.

As this is my last update of the half term, with the parent bulletin being published next week, I also include a list of key dates for next half term. I would like to wish the whole RHS community a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher

Key dates for next half term

Monday 4th November 2024: Half term begins
 Tuesday 5th November 2024: Year 11 & Year 12 visit to the University of Cambridge
 Tuesday 5th November 2024: Year 12 space masterclass
 Tuesday 5th November 2024: Year 11 art PPE
 Tuesday 5th November 2024: Year 8 Paris trip parent meeting - 5:30pm - 6:30pm
 Thursday 7th November 2024: Year 13 parents' evening - 4:30pm - 7pm
 Monday 11th November 2024 - Friday 15th November 2024 : Environmental sustainability week
 Monday 11th November 2024: Year 11 - An Inspector Calls workshop
 Tuesday 12th November 2024: Year 10 drama GCSE theatre trip - 5:30pm - 10:15pm
 Wednesday 13th November 2024: Sixth form open evening - 4:30pm-7pm
 Wednesday 13th November 2024: Year 10 BIMA digital day
 Thursday 14th November 2024: Year 12 music trip
 Tuesday 19th November 2024: Years 10-13 IMAX trip
 Wednesday 20th November 2024: GCSE music trip to Royal Festival Hall
 Wednesday 20th November 2024: KS5 careers fair
 Thursday 21st November 2024: Presentation evening
 Monday 25th November 2024: Year 11 SEND trip to Uxbridge College
 Monday 25th November 2024: Year 11 drama theatre trip
 Wednesday 27th November 2024: Friends of Ruislip High School quiz - 5:30pm - 7:30pm
 Thursday 28th November 2024 & Friday 29th November 2024: INSET days
 Monday 2nd December 2024 - Wednesday 11th December 2024: Year 11 PPEs
 Tuesday 3rd December 2024: Parent Voice meeting (remote)
 Thursday 5th December 2024: Year 8 Paris trip leaves
 Monday 9th December 2024 - 13th December 2024: Thank you week
 Tuesday 10th December 2024: Year 11 Uxbridge College talk - 6pm - 7pm
 Wednesday 11th December 2024: Vanguard Learning Trust winter concert - 5pm - 6pm
 Thursday 12th December 2024 - Friday 13th December 2024: Year 13 art PPE
 Thursday 12th December 2024 - Wednesday 18th December 2024: MFL speaking PPEs
 Friday 13th December 2024: Year 12 & Year 13 media trip
 Tuesday 17th December 2024 & Wednesday 18th December 2024: Christmas production - 5:30pm - 7:30pm
 Thursday 18th December 2024: Year 11 London trip
 Friday 20th December 2024: Term ends - All students will be dismissed at 12pm