

19th November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we draw towards the end of autumn, the nights are definitely longer and there is a sense that COVID-19 case rates are not going to be falling as swiftly as we may have hoped. I plan to continue our enhanced measures, including students wearing masks whenever social distancing cannot be maintained, and it is disappointing but I feel that it is unlikely this will change in the short term. Whilst we have a plentiful stock of masks in school, I would like to remind families that students should bring their own mask with them every day. I have also been asked to share this letter (click [here](#)) from the NHS regarding the vaccination of school-aged children. I have also been directly contacted today by the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) who are willing to return to the school in the coming weeks. I know the attached letter highlights a consent form but I would propose that parents/guardians who have now made the decision to go ahead with a vaccination for their child complete the more straightforward google form the school has created and can be found [here](#).

Student safety

The designated safeguarding staff at Ruislip High School are: Mrs Coltman (Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Headteacher); Ms Stoodley (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Pastoral Director); Mr Askin (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Assistant Headteacher); and Ms Read (Assistant Pastoral Director). The safeguarding team takes the lead on issues of child safety at Ruislip High School, and students are regularly reminded of how to keep themselves safe through assemblies, Cultural Studies lessons and tutor periods.

I would like to remind families that, as a preventative strategy to ensure the school remains a safe environment for staff and students, there will be knife arches and drug detection dogs in school at various times throughout the school year. These are undertaken in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police and are used to ensure that students, staff and visitors to the school remain safe. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that all students are informed at the beginning of the year that possession of a weapon or illegal drugs could lead to a permanent exclusion; this is also outlined in the school's positive behaviour policy. The policy also includes the list of items that students are not allowed in school.

I trust parents/guardians appreciate that I am writing this as a reminder to families and that there is no cause for concern.

TikTok

There have been incidents in a number of local schools involving students posting onto the social media platform TikTok photographs and videos of staff from schools, which are in the public domain such as on school websites, adapted with malicious and offensive information.

Please remind your child that this is a criminal offence and that, even if your child chooses to post something about a member of school staff which they consider to be fun, they are committing a criminal offence and are at risk of permanent exclusion and/or prosecution. We have spoken to our safer schools officer who is clear that the police will capture any relevant images or videos, even if they are later taken down by the poster. Please also speak to your child about the importance of not sharing or contributing should other students produce such material. I trust parents/guardians appreciate that such material is upsetting and distressing for staff and students

who choose to engage with any such material are deliberately defying the school ethos. Should your child be aware of any student posting inappropriate material onto social media, please ask them to report this to a member of staff or the police. They can also speak confidentially to Childline or report crime anonymously via the Fearless website.

Sustainability & Transport

I had the pleasure of attending a sustainability conference earlier this week in which students from our local schools presented to leaders, governors and Trustees across the Vanguard Learning Trust on the theme of sustainability. There were a host of presenters and speakers, some of whom had recently returned from COP26, and the overarching message was that there isn't a magic bullet to improve sustainability in schools; we will succeed by pursuing a range of policies that will reduce our carbon footprint and make us a greener and cleaner school. Whilst some of you may wonder if this is the right time to focus on this area, unfortunately the climate emergency isn't going to wait for COVID to lessen its impact upon us and we have to have the same focus on the environment at school as I know many of us have in our homes. The Year 10 Ruislip High School students who presented our plans ([click here](#)) were inspiring and their commitment to making Ruislip High School a more sustainable place was impressive.

I was also struck by a speech delivered by children of a local primary school who started their presentation by putting all of us on the spot asking whether we had driven a car on the day and if we really needed to do so. It did make me think about the traffic situation outside of the school and how we all travel to and from the school site. I have been growing increasingly concerned regarding the amount of congestion on Sidmouth Drive at the beginning and end of the school day and I would urge parents for environmental and safety reasons to consider more sustainable forms of transport if possible.

I would like to thank Year 11 students and families, as well as staff, following our successful Sixth Form Open Event on Wednesday 17th November 2021. Whilst it was disappointing that we were unable to open our school for the event, particularly as we are so keen for parents to see our new facilities, it was a pleasure to see students attending taster lessons after school, and to welcome families to our webinar. Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher, tells me that we have had record numbers of Year 11 students reserving their places for the sixth form and we would welcome any feedback about the event from students and parents/guardians via the office@ruisliphigh.org.uk email.

Finally, I would like to remind parents/guardians that there are two INSET days on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th November. I would like to wish all families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher