

19th September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to start this week's update by thanking parents/guardians who have written in since the start of term with positive messages of support, and acknowledge how pleased I am that our new Year 7 cohort, in particular, have made such a positive start to their Ruislip High School 'journey'. I had the pleasure this week of meeting our small cohort of external Year 12 students and am convinced they will be real assets to our school community. Another highlight of my week was interviewing our candidates for Year 11 Head and Deputy Head Prefects. I could not have been more impressed with how confidently and articulately the students spoke, while also displaying a genuine pride in the school. Like so many of our students, they are a credit to the school and to their wider families.

Panathlon

My other highlight of the week occurred yesterday, when Ruislip High School hosted the borough 'Panathlon Challenge' competition, an annual event promoting inclusive sports. Ruislip High School students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 took part in the competition and performed exceptionally well. I would also like to acknowledge how impressed I was with our Year 12 Sport BTEC students, who not only helped run the event, but also encouraged and supported the competitors throughout. The staff running the event and the teachers from other competing schools were absolutely glowing in the praise of our helpers. I would like to thank Ms Farrell, Head of Year 9, the PE Department, and the Learning Support Faculty for their hard work, ensuring the event was such a success.

Open Evening Thursday 25th September 2025 - late start Friday 26th September 2025

Next week sees our annual Open Evening, where we welcome prospective parents and students. I am delighted that a large number of students have volunteered to take families on tours of the school and to support in curriculum areas, and I thank families for their support with this important event.

As previously communicated, there will be a late start following the evening to ensure that the classrooms are ready for lessons after Open Evening. On Friday 26th September 2025, school will open at 11.00am and students must arrive by 11:20am for the start of Period 3. Should you require your child to arrive at the usual time on Friday 26th September 2025, please contact your child's Head of Year via the main school office:

office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Safeguarding

Ms Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, is also the designated safeguarding lead for the school. Over the course of the year, as part of her responsibilities and in line with other schools in Hillingdon, Ms Coltman will organise the use of knife arches and drug detection dogs in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police. I would stress that these are preventative measures and serve as a reminder that the school needs to be free from weapons and illegal drugs. We also practise fire drills and shelter-in-place drills. I would like to reassure families that these are routine measures rather than a response to specific concerns.

During the fire drill which took place earlier today, students' behaviour was exemplary. It is vitally important that both students and staff are clear on the procedures in the unlikely event of such an emergency. Ms Coltman will

be explaining the approaches outlined above to students in assemblies this term. I am also aware that a number of our students suffer from anxiety. Ms Ware, our SENCO, is always available during these events to support any students who may find the experience challenging.

Parent engagement opportunities at RHS

For parents/guardians who are new to the school community, I wanted to make you aware of the upcoming parental engagement opportunities at the school. If you are interested in actively supporting our school events and fundraising activities, the Friends of Ruislip High School, the school's parent association, would welcome additional members. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th October 2025, from 6pm to 7pm. If you would like to join, please do get in touch via the school office: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Additionally, there is a Parent Voice group that meets with me once every half term to discuss issues affecting our school community. Being part of this group is an excellent way to meet with other parents/guardians across all year groups. The meetings alternate between in-person and remote sessions, with the next meeting taking place in person at Ruislip High School on Tuesday 30th September 2025, from 6pm to 7pm. If you would like to join the Parent Voice group and attend the meeting, please confirm your attendance by Friday 26th September 2025, via the school office: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to wish the whole RHS community a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher