

1st December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Last week was a shorter week for students as staff benefited from two days of INSET, both of which focused on inclusion. Whilst Thursday was a day led by and for Ruislip High staff, Friday saw all the staff from our Trust meet at RHS. Staff heard from speakers on the principles of inclusion and worked collaboratively to consider how to ensure all students are fully supported and included. I am grateful for the support of parents and guardians regarding these two days and to the students from our student leadership team who came to school on Friday to support with the running of the day.

We have had a number of visitors to the school this week including the vast majority of our governing body and an external consultant, who has been reviewing our curriculum. All of our visitors have been impressed with what they have seen in lessons and around school, and particularly impressed when they have had the opportunity to speak to our students both as part of focus groups but also more generally around school. I always say our students are our biggest asset and our visitors this week certainly reinforced this view.

October 2024

Parents and guardians may be aware that the local authority recently changed their dates for the half term during October 2024 in order to align with other local boroughs. As an academy, we do not have to follow local authority holiday dates but we are very aware that a number of parents have younger children at local primary schools. We have therefore made a decision across the Vanguard Learning Trust to move to align with the local authority dates. Please click [here](#) for a letter from Dr Lecky, CEO, which explains the decision in more detail.

Pre-public examinations

Year 11 students start their pre-public examinations (PPEs) in their subjects from Monday and Year 10 Citizenship students have their PPE on Thursday 7th December 2023. Year 13 PPEs start on Tuesday 9th January 2024. Students in Year 10 and 11 have practised the routine for entering the examination hall today and I know they have been working hard in lessons and with revision for their PPEs.

Students must be in school on time for their PPEs; any student who is late will have to sit their PPE after school. This is to ensure that the vast majority of students are not kept waiting before the scheduled start time and to prepare students for the summer examinations where JCQ guidance is clear that students may not be allowed to sit the examination at all if they arrive beyond the scheduled time.

I would like to remind parents and guardians that there is revision material available for students on Google Classroom and advice on supporting your child with revision on our website (click [here](#)). Where a student does not complete particular parts of a PPE paper, the teacher and curriculum leader will organise a time for the student to resit the paper; this is to ensure teachers are able to provide feedback to students to help them to improve before the summer examinations.

Should your child have any concerns about PPEs, please ask them to speak to a member of staff and should parents and guardians have any questions, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Behaviour at social time

I wrote before the half-term break regarding a trial during social time where students who behave inappropriately during social time are taken to Back on Track for the remainder of the day and have a detention set for that afternoon. We have found that this has ensured that the vast majority of our students who do behave appropriately have been able to enjoy their social time and therefore we will continue to follow this strategy.

Metropolitan Police

I have been asked to share an invitation to a New Met for London local update briefing on Thursday 7th December at 6pm at The Claretian Oasis in Hayes. There will be a presentation by a senior officer from Scotland Yard as well as a local senior officer and a chance to ask questions afterwards. Please click [here](#) for full details and to book tickets to attend.

Yr 13 parents' evening

Year 13 parents' evening took place last night and I was delighted that nearly the entire year group attended. I would like to thank the parents and guardians of Year 13 students for their attendance and undoubted support during this important year for students. The feedback on the evening was incredibly positive and is a real example of how school and parents work in partnership to support students to achieve their best.

Christmas events

Now that it is officially December I feel we can start talking about Christmas and I am delighted to share a number of upcoming events. On Thursday 14th December 2023 Cucina will serve Christmas lunch which will include a traditional Christmas lunch with pudding, drink and a cracker. Please click [here](#) for the letter with full details. Please note that the price for Christmas lunch is £3.36 and that there are no alternatives available that day.

On Tuesday 19th December 2023 the school will be hosting a community Christmas event including a performance by our students of 'Little Women' which is open to all; tickets are available via ParentPay. On Wednesday 20th December 2023 we will be hosting our Christmas concert featuring performances from a number of our students. Tickets are also available via ParentPay and I am sure these two events will encapsulate both our community ethos and festive spirit.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher