

1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

### Open Evening

Yesterday evening we held our open evening for families of Year 6 students. Whilst the evening was rather different from previous years, with families booking tickets online before attending, and fewer numbers of students on site than usual, it was an incredibly positive night. I would like to thank the Year 7 and Sixth Form students who attended to support the evening; I could not have been prouder to receive feedback from visiting families, who commented on the amazing atmosphere and incredible students. The evening is complemented by a range of online resources, which are all available on our website (click [here](#)).

### GCSE, AS and A Levels summer 2022

Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) announced yesterday the response to the consultation on qualifications for summer 2022. Please click [here](#) for the full details. Whilst the intention is for examinations to run next year, there will be some changes, including reduced topics in some subjects and advanced information about the focus of the content of the examinations in other subjects. I will continue to update parents/guardians, and ensure students are informed through lessons and assemblies, about these changes.

Ofqual has also launched a consultation on contingency plans should examinations not be able to run next summer. Please click [here](#) to complete the consultation which closes on Wednesday 13th October 2021. Part of the contingency plans would involve the potential use of teacher assessed grades (TAGs) as took place in summer 2021. I will update parents/guardians and students once further information is released but I would like to provide reassurance that students should not feel that every piece of work they complete this academic year could be used as part of evidence should examinations be cancelled. Students will be told before any assessment if their performance in that assessment could be used to inform their TAG if examinations were cancelled. Such assessments are likely to be any non-examination assessment (NEA or coursework), and pre-public examinations (PPEs).

### COVID-19

I know that many students catch colds or other bugs during this time of year. I would like to remind parents/guardians that the main symptoms of COVID-19 are: a high temperature (feeling hot to touch on the chest/back); a new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours); a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Should your child develop any of these symptoms, even if you feel that it is due to a cold or other illness, your child must self-isolate and request a PCR test immediately (click [here](#) to book a PCR test). Please indicate when you contact the school to inform us of your child's absence if they have one of these symptoms, and please share with us the PCR result.

The Department of Health and Social Care has also announced that all 16 and 17 year olds can now book their first COVID-19 vaccination appointment online. Click [here](#) for the full information including how to book an appointment and how to find a walk-in vaccination site or call 119 free of charge to find out more information. I

will write to parents/guardians early next week with further details regarding the onsite vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds that will be run by the School Age Immunisation Service (SIAS).

### Organisation

We have recently had a number of families, particularly of Year 7 students, dropping items students have forgotten for the day into reception. Now that we are over a month into the academic year, we would expect all students to have settled in and organised themselves for their timetabled lessons each day. I trust parents/guardians appreciate that we have over 1200 students and I do not want staff being asked to spend time delivering items for lessons, such as homework or PE kit, to students. The only items that should be delivered to school during the school day are any essential items, such as medicine.

### Morning clubs

I know that some families need to drop off at school before the start time of 8.25am (for students in Years 7-9) and 8.50am (for students in Years 10-13). We are setting up breakfast clubs to support with this and, should this apply to you, please complete the short expression of interest form (click [here](#)) before Friday 8th October 2021.

I would also like to remind parents/guardians that morning PE clubs start at 7.30am; please ensure your child does not arrive at school before this time.

Finally, Tuesday 5th October 2021 is World Teacher Day, in recognition of the hard work of all school staff. Should parents/guardians like to thank a particular member of staff, please email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk).

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher