

20th January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to update parents/guardians regarding a number of important matters. I appreciate that this week was scheduled to be for the parent bulletin but this will now be sent next week as I wanted to address the issues below.

Fire drills

As parents/guardians will be aware, we had an unplanned fire evacuation last Friday and we have had two further unplanned fire evacuations this week, on Tuesday afternoon and again on Wednesday morning. Fire evacuations cause immense disruption to the entire school and I know staff and students want to be in class learning rather than standing outside, particularly given the cold temperatures this week.

I can confirm that the alarm on Tuesday was caused by the accidental triggering of a call point. We have therefore purchased call point covers to avoid this happening in the future. The alarm on Wednesday occurred due to a faulty valve that triggered the fire alarm interface. As a result of having three evacuations so close together we have asked our specialist contractors to review our fire panel interface and they are satisfied that everything is in order. I would like to thank all students who displayed excellent behaviour during the evacuations.

Industrial action

Parents/guardians will be aware that members of the National Education Union (NEU) voted to take strike action in their recent ballot. It is important to note that this is a national issue, not one that is confined to Hillingdon, to our school or our Trust. The decision to strike is never an easy one and it is also worth emphasising that any proposed industrial action is directed towards the Secretary of State's decision on pay and school funding, not at school or trust leaders. I also know from conversations I have had with teaching staff at the school that the decision to strike is not one that they take lightly.

NEU strikes are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1st February 2023
- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

I am currently carrying out risk assessments for the anticipated reduction in staffing. We will be open for vulnerable students and children of key workers and I would ask parents/guardians to complete the short form (click [here](#)) if your child is vulnerable and/or you are a key worker, so that I can plan for this provision should I have to partially close the school. I am also in a position to reassure parents that we will remain open for Year 11 and Year 13 students as a minimum and I will update parents/guardians by Wednesday 25th January 2023 with the final details of what February 1st will look like. As much as I wanted parents to be aware of all the strike days, I will deal with each day on an individual basis as staffing is likely to vary.

The meeting regarding the Year 10 and 11 Berlin trip that was scheduled for Wednesday 1st February 2023 will now take place on Tuesday 31st January 2023; Mr Maud will write to parents of students due to attend this trip in due course.

Year 9 options evening is also likely to move to Wednesday 1st March 2023 and this will be confirmed next week.

Should parents/guardians have any questions or queries at this stage, please contact me via

office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Reward trip

On Friday 3rd February 2023 the winter reward trip will take place. I am delighted that nearly half of all students in Years 7-11 have qualified for the trip, as the criteria includes having fewer than three negative behaviour points, no after-school detentions and no high-level sanctions, as well as having at least 90% attendance. I know that students are looking forward to their trip to the cinema on the Friday afternoon.

Year 11 parents' evening - in person - Thursday 26th January 2023

I would like to remind parents/guardians of students in Year 11 that parents' evening will take place at school next Thursday 26th January 2023. Appointments should be made via school cloud as usual, but all appointments will take place in person. Students will also receive their PPE results at the evening and will receive a Making the Grade booklet, which includes key guidance for students for all subjects to support preparation for the summer examinations.

Year 8 parents' evening - remote - Thursday 9th February 2023 - early finish for all students

I would also like to remind parents/guardians of students in Year 8 that parents' evening will take place remotely on Thursday 9th February 2023. The parents' evening starts at 2.30pm to accommodate as many parents/guardians as possible, due to the number of teachers who teach multiple classes of Year 8 students. Due to this, there is an early finish for students.

Students in Years 10-12 will be dismissed at 1.10pm on Thursday 9th February 2023 and students in Years 7-9 will be dismissed at 1.45pm. Year 13 lessons will take place as usual period 5, and Year 13 students with a timetabled lesson period 5 will therefore be dismissed at 2.45pm.

I would like to wish all members of the school community a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies



Sidmouth Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0BY
T: 01895 464064 F: 01895 675331
E: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk
www.ruisliphigh.com

Headteacher: Gareth Davies BSc (Econ), MA

Headteacher