

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

20th September 2024

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 regarding activities the school has run over the summer and at the beginning of term. I recognise that we are all more likely to write when something is not as it should be, and I very much encourage parents to do so at the school. However, I cannot overstate how much the positive messages of support have meant to the staff who have received them. Thank you.

I also want to take the opportunity to again acknowledge how impressed I have been with how our students have approached the start of term. They are true ambassadors of our community and a credit to both the school and their parents/guardians.

Open Evening Thursday 26th September 2024 - late start Friday 27th September 2024

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 thank families for your support with this important event.

There will be a late start following the evening to ensure that the classrooms are ready for lessons after Open Evening. On Friday 27th September 2024, school will open at 11.10am and students must arrive before 11:25am for the start of Period 3. Should parents/guardians require support with the late start, please email <u>office@ruisliphigh.org.uk</u> for the attention of Mrs Ware, SENCO, as we are able to offer supervision in school for a small number of students.

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 this week, 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 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









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additional members. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th September 2024, 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 1st October 2024, from 6pm to 7pm. If you would like to join the Parent Voice group and attend the meeting, please confirm your attendance by Friday 27th September 2024, via the school office: <u>office@ruisliphigh.org.uk</u>.

Panathlon

Yesterday, Ruislip High School hosted the borough 'Panathlon Challenge' competition, an annual event promoting inclusive sports. Ruislip High School Students in Years 8 and 9 took part in the competition and performed exceptionally well, achieving silver medals. I would also like to acknowledge how impressed both I and the teachers from other schools were with our Year 10 sports leaders, who not only helped run the event but also encouraged and supported the competitors throughout. I would like to thank Ms Farrell, Head of Year 8, the PE Department, and the Learning Support Faculty for their hard work ensuring the event was such a success.

Home-school communication protocol

I would like to take this opportunity at the start of term to share our updated <u>home-school communication</u> <u>protocol</u> with parents. I believe that young people thrive in education when home and school work together, and I do hope you find this document useful in setting out the protocols we believe will make our partnership both strong and successful.

One addition to my updates this year will be a link to any <u>VLT staff vacancies</u> that are currently open. As a family of schools committed to 'outstanding, inclusive education,' I recognise that parents/guardians may welcome the opportunity to work at one of our Trust schools, and will update this link on a regular basis.

Finally, I'd like to wish the whole Ruislip High School community a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Davies Headteacher









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