

21st December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing at the end of what has been a long term and one where students have shown how much they embody our values, particularly that of perseverance and inspiration. Each and every day our school community works incredibly hard to ensure students achieve their potential and the past few weeks have seen students in Years 10 and 11 undertake their pre-public examinations, with students in Year 13 preparing for their PPEs which take place at the start of the new term, and students in Year 12 preparing for their in-class assessments next month. Staff have been impressed with the diligence students have shown towards assessments and the excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning displayed.

I would like to thank parents/guardians for your support with our '12 days of Christmas' initiative and thank students for their perseverance with attendance during this term. The '12 days of Christmas' was a really positive end to the term and I would like to congratulate the seven students who won the raffle and have received a hamper for themselves and their families ([click here](#)). The whole-school attendance figure is over 1% higher than it was at the same point last year which is excellent as it means that students are in lessons and learning wherever possible.

On top of this, this week has showcased the incredible dramatic and musical skills of our students. On Tuesday we hosted our annual Sixth Form community events which saw our Sixth Form students host a buffet and quiz for members of our community. Following this, the students performed 'Little Women' which was incredibly moving and impressive. At yesterday evening's Christmas concert, students performed a range of pieces from a wide variety of genres, and both these events really showcased the strength of expressive arts in the school. I would like to thank Mr Randall, Curriculum Leader for Drama, and Ms Nastou, Curriculum Leader for Music, as well as the performers and the parents and members of the community who attended and supported the event.

Staffing and timetable changes in January

Today we say goodbye to Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher, who is leaving after over ten years at the school and Mr Amos, Teacher of Citizenship and Politics, who is leaving after nearly five years. Both members of staff are leaving to take up positions of responsibility that allow for career progression and they will be very much missed by the school community.

This does mean that there will be changes to timetables in January and students will receive updated timetables in tutorial on the first day of the new term, Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Food bank donation

I was overwhelmed by the support from all of our community for our food bank donation appeal and I would like to thank parents/guardians for the generous donations ([please click here](#)). The contributions mean that the Hillingdon Food Bank will be able to support local families over the festive period. Furthermore, the tutor groups had decorated the boxes beautifully and creatively, making the judging of the best design very difficult. The six tutor groups who designed the best food boxes enjoyed their reward of breakfast during the last tutorial of the year this morning.

Rewards

Following consultation with the student parliament we are launching a new reward system in January 2024. Students will be able to 'cash in' their reward points on ClassCharts for prizes which include items of stationery, books, vouchers and Cucina food items. Please click [here](#) for a list of current rewards. Parents/guardians can order these rewards for their child on the ClassCharts app or the students can ask their tutors and Heads of Year to order them on their behalf. We will take feedback from all stakeholders later in the academic year regarding the changes to the rewards system.

Newsletters

I am delighted to share the Trust newsletter (click [here](#)) and the Ruislip High School winter newsletter will be shared with parents and guardians separately.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community a restful festive period and I look forward to welcoming back our students on the first day of the new term: Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher

Key dates for next half term

- Monday 8th January 2024: INSET day
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Term begins
- Tuesday 9th January 2024 - Wednesday 17th January 2024: Year 13 PPEs
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 12 government and politics trip
- Tuesday 9th January 2024: Year 9 Build workshops
- Thursday 11th January 2024: Year 7 Astronomy night
- Monday 22nd January 2024 - Friday 26th January 2024: Year 12 in-class assessments
- Tuesday 23rd January 2024: Year 12 post-18 options evening
- Wednesday 24th January 2024: VLT spelling bee
- Friday 26th January 2024: Year 9 - Young Green Briton Challenge
- Wednesday 31st January 2024: Intermediate UKMT maths challenge
- Wednesday 31st January 2024: Music recital 5pm-6:30pm
- Thursday 1st February 2024 - 28th February 2024: LGBTQ+ month
- Thursday 1st February 2024: Year 11 parents' evening
- Friday 2nd February 2024: Winter reward trip
- Monday 5th February 2024 - Wednesday 7th February 2024: Year 11 music exams
- Tuesday 6th February 2024: Safer internet day
- Thursday 8th February 2024: Year 8 parents' evening - 2:30pm-7pm (early finish for students - KS3 students will be dismissed at 1.35pm, KS4 and KS5 students at 1:25pm)
- Friday 9th February 2024: Half term ends