

21st October 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write at the end of an action-packed half term and I would like to start by thanking parents and guardians for being so supportive since the start of term. As I have written in previous updates, it has been a delight to invite families back into the school building once again for information evenings and events such as last week's SEND coffee morning and Year 7 open doors evening. Whilst this half term has felt something like pre-pandemic 'normal', I am sure all families recognise that the school continues to experience the effects of the pandemic, and I am privileged to lead a school with such strong partnerships with families and the community.

Performance data

Yesterday the government published performance data for the summer exams for the first time since 2019 (click [here](#)). The outcomes students attained this summer were excellent and I am pleased to share that the data published includes the school's Progress 8 score which, at 0.61, is well above average progress and indicates that students at Ruislip High School, on average, made nearly two-thirds of a grade more progress than students from similar starting points nationally.

There is no progress data for post-16 outcomes because the 2022 cohort received centre-assessed grades in 2020, and the government committed to not using these for accountability purposes, meaning no progress data has been produced for last summer. However, I would point parents to the attainment data for Key Stage 5 that is available on our website and again shows the outstanding achievement of our students.

I would add that the publication of data this week is primarily for the government and Ofsted. The publication does not directly impact students at all and students who sat examinations in summer 2022 received their results in August and I would reiterate my messages at the time; the results truly were testament to the hard work and dedication of students, their families and school staff.

Parents' Evening - request for feedback

I would like to thank the parents of students in Year 9 who attended the virtual parents' evening last night. Feedback has generally been positive although I know some parents are keen to return to in-person parents' evenings. I would like to ask parents/guardians to complete this short form (click [here](#)) to provide your feedback. Whilst I am sure there will be a variety of opinions, your feedback will help the senior team and me to make decisions about parents' evenings going forward.

VLT Maths Challenge

A highlight of this week for me has been the Trust-wide VLT maths challenge which took place on Wednesday 19th November 2022. The event celebrates our cross-phase multi-academy Trust and it was great to be able to welcome Year 6 and Year 7 students from across our Trust back into the school, particularly as the original date for the event was the week after lockdown in March 2020. I would like to thank Mr Ladhani, Director of Maths, for organising the event.

Year 8 drumming workshop

As part of our celebration of Black History Month Ms Nastou, Lead Teacher of Music, organised for the African musician Mohamed Gueye to deliver drumming workshops to all Year 8 classes. The sessions were focused on learning a variety of rhythms using African instruments and it was wonderful to see our Year 8 students actively involved in creating an authentic African performance led by Mohamed.

Year 7 lunch time

For the first half term, students in Year 7 received a slightly extended lunch break to support their transition to secondary school. I would like to confirm that, after the half-term break, students in Year 7 will have lunch at the same time as students in Years 8 and 9: 12.10-12.45pm.

EcoHub

As parents/guardians will be aware, as part of the school's sustainability drive, the old sixth form area has been redeveloped into an EcoHub which will be used in lessons and for extracurricular activities, and made available to schools in the Trust and to the local community. I am pleased to update parents/guardians that the development of this space is well underway. The interior classroom is all ready for use while the outside classroom still needs a helping hand from nature. By Spring 2023, the new natural pond, the wild meadow area and most excitingly, the apiary should all be ready and available for use. We are working closely with the Hillingdon Beekeeping Association on the apiary and hope to train a number of students to become expert beekeepers. I will update parents/guardians in due course.

Finally, I am pleased to share below key dates for the next half term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Ruislip High School families a restful and enjoyable half-term break and happy Diwali to all concerned. I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 31st October 2022.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher

Key dates for next half term

Monday 24th October 2022 - Thursday 27th October 2022: Year 10 & 11 Barcelona trip
Monday 24th October 2022 - Thursday 27th October 2022: Year 10 & 11 Rome trip
Monday 31st October 2022: Half term begins
Wednesday 2nd November 2022: Whole year group photographs (NB: date changed)
Thursday 3rd November 2022: Year 7 tutor evening
Wednesday 9th November 2022: Year 10 BIMA digital day
Thursday 10th November 2022: Year 11 Civic Centre fair trip
Thursday 10th November 2022: Ruislip High School's Presentation Evening
Monday 14th November 2022 - Friday 18th November 2022: Anti-Bullying week
Monday 14th November 2022: Year 11/12 Cambridge University trip
Tuesday 15th November 2022: Year 11 trip to Uxbridge College open day
Wednesday 16th November 2022: Sixth form open evening - 5pm-7:30pm
Thursday 17th November 2022: Year 10, 12 & 13 business/travel trip to Cadbury World
Monday 21st November 2022: Year 10 BTEC information evening - 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Tuesday 22nd November 2022: Parent Voice meeting - 6pm - 7pm
Thursday 24th November 2022 & Friday 25th November 2022: INSET days
Wednesday 30th November 2022 - Thursday 15th December 2022: Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 1st December 2022: Year 12 parents' evening
Monday 5th December 2022: Year 13 travel and tourism controlled research day
Wednesday 7th December 2022: Year 7 Astronomy evening - 4:30pm - 7pm
Thursday 8th December 2022: Year 13 art PPE
Friday 9th December 2022: Year 10 music trip
Tuesday 13th December 2022: Christmas concert - 5:30pm - 7pm
Wednesday 14th December 2022: Sixth form community Christmas event - 4:30pm - 7pm
Friday 16th December 2022: Term ends (leave time from 12pm-12:30pm)