

22nd November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to start my update with a reminder that the school will be closed to all students for the next two days as staff engage in INSET. The theme over the two days is inclusive practice and on Friday 24th November all staff from all schools in the Vanguard Learning Trust will come together for the second day of professional learning. I would like to thank parents and guardians for your understanding and support before what I know will be two excellent days of professional development.

### **Forthcoming pre-public examinations (PPEs)**

PPEs begin for students in Year 11 on Monday 4th December 2023 and students in Year 10 will also sit their PPE in Citizenship on Wednesday 13th December 2023, with Year 13 students sitting PPEs next term. I know students are working hard to prepare for the PPEs and this morning I spoke to Year 11 in assembly and asked Mr Karimi, Lead Practitioner and Teacher of Psychology, to remind students of the best ways they can prepare for their forthcoming examinations. Please click [here](#) for the information Mr Karimi shared in assembly, click [here](#) to see the revision resources for Year 11 previously shared with parents and students and click [here](#) to see guidance and resources regarding revision. I would also encourage students and parents/guardians to read the Ofqual student guide (click [here](#)) which provides useful information about arrangements for public examinations this year.

I am well aware that any examination is stressful and it is natural to feel some stress around PPEs and public examinations. I would like to remind parents and guardians that the PPEs serve to support students with practising the routine of public examinations and to identify the key areas teachers and students need to focus on before next summer. Should your child have any concerns, please encourage them to speak to a member of staff and parents/guardians should email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) for further advice.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Last week saw our annual Sixth Form Open Evening and it was fantastic to see the overwhelming majority of our Year 11 students in attendance, as well as a significant number of students from other local schools. I am delighted that two-thirds of Year 11 have applied to the Sixth Form already and would remind parents/guardians that the full details of the application process and form to apply are available on our website (click [here](#)).

Should your child be concerned about any aspect of their post-16 choices, please encourage them to speak to their tutor or Mr Sills, Head of Year 11, or Ms Horton, Assistant Headteacher.

### **Google Classroom**

All students have access to Google Classroom and parents/guardians should receive summaries of their child's work via email. Please email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) should you have any questions or concerns about Google Classroom. Students can contact their teachers to ask for advice or seek clarification via Google Classroom but parents/guardians should email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) marked for the attention of the teacher.

I would also like to remind parents/guardians that, should a student be absent from school because they are unwell, they should not contact their teacher on Google Classroom to ask for missed work. If students are too

unwell to attend school, they should focus on getting better and catch up on any missed work upon their return. In a case where a student is likely to be absent for an extended period, parents/guardians should contact the student's Head of Year.

### Safeguarding

We take safeguarding incredibly seriously and, like other local schools, we use knife arches and drug detection dogs, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, as preventative measures and to remind students that the school needs to be free from weapons and illegal drugs. I would like to reassure parents and guardians that these are routine measures to ensure the safety of all of our community and thank you for your support with this.

### Student Parliament

The undoubted highlight of my week has been the hour I spent this afternoon meeting with our Student Parliament. We reformed the structure of the Parliament this year with a larger group meeting with Mr Askin, Assistant Headteacher, in the first instance and then a smaller group meeting with me. We covered a number of issues from recycling to rewards, as well as an interesting discussion on cultural awareness and the environment. I found the student feedback invaluable and I am confident that we can implement a number of changes based on the important points that were raised. The Parliament also provides me and other school leaders with the opportunity to explain to students the rationale behind school policies on issues such as uniform and the behaviour policy.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of the school community a peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher