

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been an exceptionally busy and productive term to date at Ruislip High School. Last night was our Year 11 parents' evening, and it was excellent to see the majority of Year 11 students and families in attendance. The evening involved the distribution of the Year 11 pre-public examination (PPE) results. We believe it is important that students experience the process of opening a results envelope now, in preparation for doing so for real in August. The crucial difference, of course, is that the contents of the August envelope have not yet been determined; it was particularly pleasing to observe the positive collaboration between staff and parents during the event as we look towards those final exams.

I have no doubt that when school and home work together, students genuinely thrive, and I believe we have that culture here at the school. I would like to thank Mr Joseph, Head of Year 11, the staff who organised the event, and the Year 11 students and families for their support. Whilst I recognise that unavoidable life events can arise, attendance at our one annual parents' evening is a firm expectation at Ruislip High School. These meetings are a critical point of contact to ensure our students remain on track, and your presence is essential in maintaining the strong partnership we pride ourselves on.

Punctuality

As a school, we have noticed a growing number of students arriving after the 8:30am start time, including a small but significant group who are persistently late. Late arrival can prevent students from starting their day in a calm and productive manner, disrupt tutor time and lessons, and contribute to habits that are unhelpful for future learning and employment. A punctual start is essential in supporting students' wellbeing, learning, and long-term success. We understand that there may be rare occasions when families are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these rare occasions, we ask that you email the school office at office@ruisliphigh.org.uk to inform us of the reason for the delay and the student's expected arrival time. If you are experiencing ongoing difficulties with punctuality and would like to discuss this, please contact your child's Head of Year so that we can offer appropriate support.

In line with our behaviour policy, unauthorised late arrivals will result in detentions. Persistent lateness will also lead to further action, including loss of social time, meetings with parents/guardians, additional sessions to recover missed learning, and an escalation of intervention and support. We are currently exploring ways to inform parents every time their child is late in order for us to work together to address this issue.

I would like to reassure parents/guardians that this communication is issued in the interests of maintaining high standards and safeguarding students' learning time. Punctual attendance is a shared responsibility between home and school; your support is essential in reinforcing the importance of punctuality and enabling the school to provide a calm, orderly, and effective learning environment for all.

Mobile phones

This week, the government announced a consultation on 'a safer digital childhood', reflecting growing concern about the impact of smartphones and social media on young people's wellbeing. The Department for Education (DfE) has also further updated its guidance on mobile phones in schools, with even tougher guidance to come.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson stated that the move is necessary as mobile phones have “no place” in schools.

Following the positive impact of our current approach with Year 7, we are opening a consultation today on our proposal to extend this policy to all Key Stage 3 students from September 2026. This would mean that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 would not be permitted to bring smartphones into school.

I attach our revised mobile phone policy [here](#), with the proposed changes highlighted in yellow. We welcome feedback from parents on the Google Form that can be found [here](#). Although we will not provide individual responses, I will write to parents again before the end of the spring term with the outcome of this consultation. I would also note that we intend to launch a similar consultation with staff and students in due course.

Parent Voice meeting (in person) 6pm - 7pm on Tuesday 27th January 2026

I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents/guardians to the Parent Voice meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 27th January 2026. The Parent Voice group usually meets once every half term and is an opportunity for parents/guardians to voice opinions regarding various aspects of school life. We have found that a hybrid model has worked well in recent years, with a combination of online and in-person meetings throughout the year. This meeting is scheduled to be in person and if you would like to attend the meeting, please confirm your attendance by 4pm on Monday 26th January 2026 via the school office: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk, marking the email for the attention of Ms Beasley, PA to the Headteacher. I am hopeful that following the cancellation of the last scheduled meeting due to lack of numbers, we will be able to go ahead as planned next week. I can confirm that I will chair the meeting and will also have Ms Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, with me. Although we usually suggest parents set the agenda, we have taken the liberty of adding the mobile phone policy consultation as one of the agenda items.

Safeguarding feedback

I will always say that the most important aspect of my role as Headteacher of the school is to keep our students safe. Our staff work tirelessly to this end, but I recognise we can always be better. I am grateful to Mr Walthaus, Safeguarding Lead for the Vanguard Learning Trust, for sending out a short survey for parents to complete. I would like to thank those parents who have already taken the time to complete this survey and would like to appeal to anyone with a few minutes to spare to support us to do even better by sharing their thoughts [here](#).

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

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher