Ruislip High School

Sidmouth Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0BY
T: 01895 464064
E: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk
www.ruisliphigh.com

Headteacher: Gareth Davies BSc (Econ), MA

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardians

As we reach the end of what has been another busy and successful half term at the school, I wanted to once again thank parents and guardians for the outstanding support shown to the school community. Today has certainly seemed a very autumnal end of half term and this week has seen a number of successful events hosted at the school. I was delighted to introduce our 'preparing for success' evening on Tuesday and I think it is testament to the engagement of families with the school that we had put out a significant number of additional chairs due to the number of families who attended. I am convinced that students thrive when home and school are in partnership and both the Year 11 evening and last week's Year 7 tutor evening demonstrated the strong partnership we have at Ruislip High School.

Mobile phone information

I would like to express thanks to the parent community for your support following the implementation of our new mobile phone policy, which prohibits Key Stage 3 students from bringing smartphones into school. The positive response from our community has been encouraging and it is pleasing to see how smoothly our students have adapted to the new procedures.

To ensure the policy is upheld consistently and fairly, we will begin conducting random spot-checks across Key Stage 3 following the half-term break. As a reminder, should a smartphone be found in the possession of a Key Stage 3 student, it will be confiscated and must be collected from the school office by a parent or guardian. I would emphasise that the policy has not only led to a significant reduction in behaviour incidents around friendship groups and bullying, but also sees our students leave our school with their heads held high rather than looking down at a screen and that can only be a good thing.

Single-use plastic donations needed for Sustainable Art Project

As part of our Trust-wide initiative on this year's environmental theme of Single Use & Microplastics, Ruislip High school will be running a series of student activities in November.

One of the projects is a single-use plastic art project aimed at helping students to see how materials can be recycled and repurposed and not just put into landfill. To help supply materials for the project, we would be very grateful for donations of clean single-use plastics including; bottle lids, drinks bottles and shopping bags.
Collection Points:

- Parents & Carers: Items can be dropped off directly at the main school office.
- Students: Items can be handed in at key labelled collection areas in school.

Thank you for your support as Ruislip High continues its efforts to raise environmental awareness and eliminate single-use plastics.

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Parent Voice

As long as I have been headteacher of the school I have always been fortunate to have a strong Parent Voice group who have met with me and a fellow member of the senior leadership team to discuss issues affecting the school community. The group has given me a strong parental perspective regarding prospective new policies we are working on and how certain policies and procedures are implemented across the school. Members are clear that it is not a forum to discuss individual students, but is a place where parents can set the agenda. Our hybrid meeting structure includes both on-site and remote meetings, and the schedule for the 2026-2027 academic year can be found here. Our next meeting will be held online on Tuesday 1st December 2026 from 6pm-7pm. Should parents wish to join the group, please contact Ms Beasley, PA to the Headteacher, via the school office email: office@ruisliphigh.com. I would also add that I am keen that the agenda from the meeting is led by parents and would urge parents to write in to the above address with any items they would like added to our next agenda.

Service family coffee morning

On Tuesday 29th September our school community gathered for our second Service Children's family coffee morning. The event provided an opportunity for service families to connect, share experiences, and build supportive networks within our school environment.

We were delighted to welcome several key local representatives dedicated to supporting service families including Velma Simeon, Family Support Worker, and Edlynn Zakers, Community Development Officer for RAF Northolt. Events like these play a vital role in ensuring our service children and their families feel fully integrated, understood, and supported throughout their educational journey.

Remembrance Day – Cadet Uniforms

In recognition of Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11th November, pupils who are members of any cadet organisation, including Army, Sea, Air or Marine Cadets, are welcome to wear their formal dress uniform to school for the day. This was a suggestion that came from one of our students and it represents a wonderful opportunity to show respect for those who have served and sacrificed for our country. This is of course entirely voluntary but we will look forward to seeing our pupils proudly representing their cadet organisations as we commemorate this important occasion.

Price increases in the canteen

It has unfortunately been necessary to increase canteen prices from the start of next half term.

Vanguard Learning Trust has worked hard with our caterers, Cucina, to keep this increase as low as possible. While food inflation is currently running at 3.7%—with projections reaching up to 9% by the end of the year—and our valued canteen staff have received a mandatory national minimum wage increase of 4.1%, we have limited our average price increase to just **2.7%**.

Crucially, this increase is not being applied across all items. There will be **no price increase on healthier options**, such as fresh fruit and salad. Furthermore, the **Free School Meal allowance will remain at £3.02**, which continues to cover the cost of the standard 'main meal deal'.

The school cannot afford to run the canteen at a loss, which is why we have had to pass a portion of these rising

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costs on to parents. We appreciate your understanding as we balance financial stability with providing healthy, affordable meals for our students.

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Friends of Ruislip High AGM - Wednesday 3rd November

As well as a parent voice group I am fortunate as a Secondary School headteacher to also have a thriving PTA in the form of the 'Friends of Ruislip High School'. The annual general meeting for the Friends team will take place on Tuesday 3rd November. If you are interested in attending the meeting and joining the Friends team to help support our students and raise funds for the school, please contact the Friends team through email: friendsofrhs@ruisliphigh.org.uk. There are important positions to fill on the team for this year such as Chairperson and Treasurer. I will write to acknowledge the tremendous job the current post holders have done when their term of office formally expires. The full details of the AGM can be found here.

Website security update

You may have seen recent news regarding a global security update affecting websites worldwide that use PHP software. We want to reassure parents/guardians that our website provider and server host have already applied protective patches to secure our platform. Our website only holds public information and does not store personal, financial, or sensitive data. The site remains safe, secure, and fully operational.

Vanguard Learning Trust update

Ruislip High School continues to be proud members of the Vanguard Learning Trust. We are a cross phased multi academy Trust made up of six partner schools. I am delighted to share with parents the half term update from the Trust's CEO, Dr Martina Lecky, that can be read here.

Safety information from Police

As we approach a half term holiday, I am writing to share two important safeguarding updates provided by our local Police Community Sergeant, Allyson Easton:

1. E-Scooters and E-Bicycles
We are continuing to see young people using E-scooters and E-bicycles. Whilst we recognise their popularity, many of these vehicles are illegal to use in public places unless they meet specific legal requirements. In addition, we are

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seeing an increasing number of robberies involving these items. Their desirability and value make them attractive targets for those involved in criminality. Attached here is an information letter for parents and carers which explains the legal restrictions and provides guidance. We are asking schools to circulate this letter to help raise awareness to help reduce both offending and victimisation.

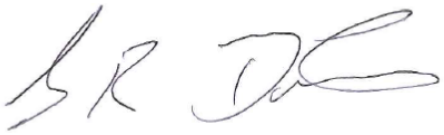
2. Mobile Phone Safety

With the imminent release of the new iPhone, we are keen to reinforce personal safety messages relating to mobile phones.

Attached here is a Mobile Phone Safety leaflet which provides practical advice to help young people keep themselves and their devices safe. We would be grateful if you could Include the leaflet within newsletters and parent communications, display the leaflet on school noticeboards and other prominent locations and remind the students about personal safety where appropriate. Our aim is to help prevent an increase in thefts and robberies involving mobile phones and other high-value electronic devices.

Finally, I would like to wish the whole Ruislip High School community a restful half term. I suspect the next half term will be equally busy at the school, but have no doubt the whole community will work together to continue to make the school a great and safe place for all.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher

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Key dates for next half term

Monday 2nd November 2026: Half term begins
Tuesday 3rd November 2026: Year 11 Composition music day
Wednesday 4th November 2026: Year group photos
Wednesday 4th November 2026: Presentation evening
Thursday 5th November 2026 - Friday 6th November 2026: Year 11 art PPE
Wednesday 11th November 2026: Sixth form open evening- 4:30pm-7pm
Thursday 12th November 2026: Year 12 & 13 theatre trip - 4:30pm-11pm
Monday 16th November 2026 - Wednesday 18th November 2026: Environmental sustainability week
Thursday 19th November 2026 & Friday 20th November 2026: INSET days (school closed to students)
Monday 23rd November 2026: Occasional day (school closed)
Monday 30th November 2026 - Wednesday 9th December 2026: Year 11 PPEs
Monday 30th November 2026: Years 10, 12 & 13 Old Vic Theatre trip - 4:30pm-10:30pm
Tuesday 1st December 2026: Parent Voice meeting (remote)
Thursday 3rd December 2026: Year 13 parents' evening 4:30pm -7pm
Monday 7th December 2026: Years 7, 8 & 9 Bayeux Tapestry trip
Tuesday 8th December 2026: All years catch-up flu vaccination
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Thursday 10th December 2026: Year 13 Art PPE
Thursday 10th December 2026: Sixth form community Christmas event - 3:45pm -5:30pm
Thursday 10th December 2026: Winter concert - 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Monday 14th December 2026: Year 11 MFL speaking PPEs
Tuesday 15th December 2026: Year 11 trip
Friday 18th December 2026: Term ends - All students will be dismissed at 12pm

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