

28th April 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

It was a pleasure to welcome students back for the start of the summer term last week. Whilst the weather is not impressing us in terms of being summer-like as yet, the students were impressive in their return to school. This week we have hosted a number of visitors, including senior leaders from other local schools, and they were unanimous in their praise for the way students behaved around schools and how positively students were able to articulate their thoughts about the school.

Industrial action - Tuesday 2nd May 2023

As I wrote last week, the school will be partially closed on Tuesday 2nd May 2023. Only students in Years 11, 12 and 13 should attend school. Students in Years 12 and 13 should follow the provisional timetable (click [here](#) for Year 12 and [here](#) for Year 13). The exact timetable will be confirmed on the morning of both days through Google Classroom. The Sixth Form study rooms will also be available and staffed throughout the day. Year 12 students may be affected as teachers who are not taking industrial action support with Year 11 and 13 lessons; this is in line with local agreements with the NEU.

Students in Year 11 should register in their period 1 classroom as usual. Any changes to their usual timetable will be shared during period 1.

Students who are considered vulnerable and/or are the children of key workers, and where parents have already completed the google form I shared last week, have been contacted about the provision for the day.

All other students should remain at home and I am sorry about the potential disruption to you and your child. As I wrote last week, students should first check their Google Classroom for independent tasks and then use the curriculum map (click [here](#)) to access independent learning activities for all subjects. Students should click on the individual subject title for each subject; this will load up a document with a list of independent learning activities and resources for each subject. Please note, those members of staff taking strike action will not be setting work, as advised by their union.

Parents/guardians of students in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a voucher for lunch on the days affected via email.

Students preparing for Year 10 Citizenship will be able to attend a 'live' Citizenship revision session with Mr Cahill, Head of Year 10/Teacher of Citizenship, on the morning of Tuesday 2nd May 2023 via Google Meet. Mr Cahill will share the details of this lesson, including how to join remotely, via Google Classroom.

School day 2023-24

I wrote to parents/guardians in November 2022 regarding the times of the school day (click [here](#)). As parents/guardians will be aware, the times of the school day changed in September 2020 to allow for social distancing as part of COVID-19 safety measures. I would like to thank parents/guardians who provided feedback to the original proposal and would like to confirm that from September 2023, the times of the school day will change and all students in Years 7-13 will need to arrive at school by 8.30am and will be dismissed at 3pm, Monday to

Friday inclusive. This will mean a slightly longer day for students and will ensure the school is aligned to the government's stipulation that all schools should provide a compulsory school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. Of course, given the extensive extra-curricular offer at the school, available through our Above & Beyond clubs, the majority of students already far exceed this basic figure.

Public transport

I was disappointed this week to receive communication from members of the public who saw Ruislip High School students behaving impolitely when waiting for, and using, public transport over the past week. I know a number of students use local buses to travel to/from school each day and the vast majority behave perfectly. Our reputation in the community is important, and I have spoken to individual students and will continue to remind students to behave appropriately and respectfully, including when using public transport. I would urge parents/guardians of students who use local buses to have a similar conversation.

Medical

I would like to remind parents and guardians that students should have any emergency medical equipment, eg. epipen, insulin, inhaler, they require on their person whilst at school. Should parents/guardians have any questions about your child's medical equipment, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of Mrs Cimino, Office Manager.

Finally, as mentioned above, the ongoing industrial dispute between the NEU and the government has been challenging for everyone concerned and I would like to thank parents/guardians for their continued understanding. There are clearly issues in education around funding and teacher recruitment and retention that need addressing in order for the young people in our care to have the educational experience they deserve.

I would like to wish all members of the school community a peaceful bank holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher