

2nd December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Over the past fortnight, staff at the school have benefited from a wide range of high-quality development and training. During the two INSET days last week, staff heard from external speakers who ran sessions on safeguarding and equality, which included training on language and protected characteristics. Teachers spent the whole of Thursday focusing on reading, particularly on using subject-specific language to support reading and supporting students who find reading challenging. All teachers also engaged in workshops delivered by Ruislip High School staff and this process of sharing excellent practice has been a key part of professional development over the past few years.

This week we have also welcomed a number of visitors to the school from within our Trust. On Tuesday we welcomed colleagues from Vyners and Ryefield to review the reading provision at the school, and on Thursday we welcomed a number of our governors into school to allow them to see the school in operation. On both occasions, visitors were extremely impressed with the behaviour of students, both in terms of their attitude to learning in lessons and also the articulate and positive manner with which they spoke about the school.

Parents' evenings

I would like to thank parents/guardians who attended the Year 12 parents' evening which was held virtually yesterday evening. I would also like to thank Mr Elsby, Head of Year 12, for organising the evening. As I have written to parents/guardians previously, there are mixed feelings about virtual and face-to-face parents' evenings, and it is likely that we will move to a hybrid approach with some year groups having virtual and some in-person parents' evenings.

Donations - second hand uniform and books

I would like to make a plea for any second hand uniform and/or books that families may have and be willing to donate. As I have written to parents/guardians before, we are setting up a uniform shop and continue to welcome donations of pre-loved uniform to the school reception.

As I wrote earlier, we have been working with teachers to ensure that every student at the school is supported to read appropriately and to learn subject-specific vocabulary. I am also determined to ensure that every student develops a love of reading. We have a well-stocked LRC at the school that is popular with students and impressed our visitors this week and I would like to complement this with the opportunity to provide students with books to take home and enjoy. I am therefore also making a request for donations of any second hand books that families may have, which we could re-gift to students within the school.

I would like to thank parents/guardians in advance for any support you can provide for these two initiatives.

Christmas events

Our Christmas events are taking place over the next two weeks, with the VLT Christmas concert on 13th December 2022 (click [here](#) for the invitation) and the Ruislip High School Winter Showcase on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December 2022, starting at 5.30pm.

The Winter Showcase is now a free event and more information will be sent next week regarding reserving your free tickets. Parents/guardians who have already paid for tickets should email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk to request a refund and any money not claimed will be donated to the school's nominated charities for the year. Donations towards the school's charities will also be collected during the evening.

Finally, we are always seeking to ensure Ruislip High School is truly a school both in and for our community, and we are currently surveying all students to ascertain their views on school life. Please remind your child to complete the survey (click [here](#)) and please also remember that parents/guardians can share views through Ofsted Parent View (click [here](#)).

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher