

30th September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Yesterday evening we hosted our Open Evening for prospective students and their families. It was a fantastic event, with hundreds of Year 5 and Year 6 students and their families visiting to tour the school and take part in activities across the curriculum. As always, our students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, and I would like to thank all students who supported the event, both as tour guides and within subject areas. I received a lovely email following the event which sums my feelings up entirely, as a visitor commented that they found all the students: *“engaging, knowledgeable, polite and, most importantly of all, genuinely happy at the school.”*

I would also like to thank all families for the support with the early finish for Year 10-13 students yesterday and the late start this morning. I am very aware that this can inconvenience some families and I appreciate the understanding and support.

Examinations 2023

You may have seen headlines this week regarding decisions that have been made regarding examinations in summer 2023. The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed that, at a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This was always likely to be the case this year, after a one-year transition year when exams returned in 2022. However, there will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019, meaning that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade A* or C at A Level, or a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019. Exams in vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile. Furthermore, formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations. However, advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will not be provided this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal.

The exam boards are currently consulting on the exam timetable. They are also consulting on what contingency arrangements to take this year in case exams are cancelled in summer 2023.

I will, of course, update parents/guardians once further announcements have been made. I would stress that the best preparation students can complete is to attend school, complete all class and homework to the best of their ability and act on all feedback from teachers. Should parents/guardians have any questions or concerns about next year's examinations,

Reminders

As we come to the end of the first few weeks of the academic year, I would like to remind families that communication must go through the school office, either by calling the school or emailing office@ruisliphigh.org.uk. I trust parents/guardians appreciate that teachers may be teaching all day and have clubs or meetings after school and therefore will respond to calls and emails within 48 hours. Google Classroom is the platform for teachers to set homework and send messages to students; should students have questions for teachers they are able to message teachers via Google Classroom. However, I would ask students and parents/guardians to be mindful that teachers are not expected to reply instantly nor during evenings and

weekends, and that Google Classroom is not the platform for parents/guardians to contact teachers. Should parents/guardians have any questions or concerns regarding communication, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

I would also like to remind parents/guardians that students should not be sharing lockers. Should your child have issues with their locker, please direct them to Mrs Stoodley, Pastoral Director. I would also remind parents/guardians that students should ideally check their ParentPay balance online rather than using the tills or the machine in the atrium.

Parent Voice and Friends of RHS

We hosted our first parent voice of this academic year earlier this week and it was a delight to host 20 parents to discuss a range of topics including extracurricular opportunities and the school's catering provider. Many parents expressed an interest in joining the school's Friends, and I would like to open the invitation to all parents. Should parents/guardians wish to join either the Parent Voice group or support the Friends, please contact Ms Ohana, Assistant Headteacher, via office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Duke Of Edinburgh

I spoke at last night's open evening about how proud I was that here at Ruislip High School we offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and how a number of our students in recent years have visited Buckingham Palace to be presented with their award from a member of the Royal Family. That journey began this week for over 80 of our Year 9 students who attended a talk on Monday evening. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a challenging but extremely rewarding experience and I am delighted that so many of our students recognise its importance and are keen to sign up.

Finally, I would like to remind parents that there is still time to complete the questionnaire (click [here](#)) about the school's equality provision, in order to support our work with EqualiTeach CIC to further promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher