

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to start this update by thanking parents/guardians for your continued support with our COVID-19 safety measures. Whilst I am sure we all look forward to the time when wearing masks is no longer necessary, it is reassuring to see that the rates of COVID-19 within the school have reduced over the past few weeks, and I know that this is due to the entire community playing their part. I would also like to remind parents/guardians who have not yet done so, and who wish your child to have a COVID-19 vaccination this month, to complete the google form (click [here](#)) to provide consent for the School-Age Immunisation Service (SAIS).

Safeguarding

Earlier today I made the decision to instigate a partial lockdown due to concerns regarding a community incident. This impacted on some Sixth Form students who were kept on site, and the PE department, who were temporarily unable to use the local fields. I am pleased to report that the police were quickly satisfied that there was no risk to the school community and the partial lockdown was lifted. It is my understanding that a minority of Sixth Form students contacted parents/guardians during this incident which led to phone calls to the school office. I would like to remind parents/guardians that these decisions are not made lightly, and that during any full or partial lockdown students must remain on site and parents/guardians must trust school staff to deal with the matter.

Yesterday morning the school conducted searches of students with the support of the Metropolitan Police as part of our safeguarding measures. I know I have written about these measures previously and I would like to remind families that these are preventative measures to ensure the safety of our school community.

I have been asked by our safer schools officer to make parents/guardians aware that a London-wide 'Squid Games' is being advertised on social media, especially on Snapchat. It has been reported that young people are being instructed to send money to random bank accounts in order to participate in challenges. These challenges usually involve some form of fighting or violence and young people are potentially being exploited financially and becoming involved in violence. Please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of Mrs Stoodley, Pastoral Director, with any questions or concerns.

Reporting student absence

From Monday 6th December 2021, all student absence should be reported via Class Charts, rather than by calling the school office. Please click [here](#) for instructions on how to use Class Charts for this purpose. Next week, parents/guardians can continue to call the school office to report student absence but this is part of a transition process, and from the start of next term there will be no option to leave a message to report student absence on the school phoneline.

PE

It is a joy to see so many students taking part in PE clubs before school each day. I would like to thank families of students taking part for your support with these clubs, and remind parents/guardians that students should not arrive for PE clubs before 7.30am. We have recently had some cold weather in the mornings and students should not be arriving before 7.30am as there is no access to the school building at this time.

I would also like to remind parents/guardians to ensure all PE kit is clearly labelled to help ensure students do not lose any of their kit.

Bus stop

I would like to remind families of students using the bus to travel to or from school of the importance of following the rules regarding masks. I was disappointed this afternoon that I had to remind a number of students to wear masks before they embarked on their journey. It was also disappointing to see that some students were not allowing members of the public onto the bus before them.

School events

Last week was a shorter week for students as staff took part in two INSET days. On Thursday all Ruislip High School staff focused on strategies to continue to improve teaching and learning. Friday saw staff from all five schools in the Vanguard Learning Trust meeting virtually to consider the Trust's vision for ensuring outstanding, inclusive education.

I would like to thank staff and parents/guardians of Year 12 students who attended the Year 12 parents' evening yesterday. Please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of Mr Peacock, Head of Year 12, with any feedback about the event.

I would like to remind parents/guardians of Year 11 students, and Year 10 Citizenship students, that pre-public examinations (PPEs) start on Wednesday 8th December 2021. I know that students are working hard in preparation for these important exams. Year 7 and Year 8 students will sit assessments after the Christmas break and more information will be sent to parents/guardians of Year 7 and Year 8 students before the end of term.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many families at our Christmas community event this evening; I am looking forward to hearing Christmas songs and seeing many members of our community enjoying the Christmas bingo.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher