

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your families are well and had a relaxing summer break. We are very much looking forward to meeting our new Year 7 students and welcoming back students over the course of next week. I am writing to update parents with COVID-19 measures and outline the arrangements for the start of this academic year.

### COVID-19 update

Whilst the world has started to open up, COVID-19 is still with us. The health and safety of our community remains of paramount importance. The current government guidance requires us all to remain alert with regards to monitoring our health. Should a student have a new or continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, or high temperature, they must stay at home and book a PCR test, and remain at home until results are received. Please ensure that you contact the office to make us aware if this occurs and inform us of the PCR test result.

Should a student have been a close contact of a positive case they are no longer required to self-isolate but should book a PCR test and closely monitor their health. The latest guidance states that close contacts who have been double vaccinated or who are younger than 18 years and 6 months old no longer need to self-isolate.

Whilst students no longer have to remain in year-group bubbles, they will have social areas (inside and outside seating) designated per year group, and year-group assigned bathrooms. All year groups will have access to either the MUGA (multi-use games area) or the astroturf to allow students to play ball games. Students will also continue to be encouraged to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitiser regularly and there will continue to be increased cleaning of areas such as door handles. We are also introducing a one-way system within the school building as part of our COVID-19 measures. This will be fully explained to students during their first tutorial session.

I am sure many of you will have read that the Department for Education (DfE) is sending carbon dioxide monitors to all schools to support schools in identifying areas with poor ventilation. As the school is a modern building, the school was built in such a way that there is very good ventilation. The school also already has carbon dioxide monitors fitted in a number of locations around the school and we will continue to monitor the air circulation.

### COVID-19 tests

Students will all be tested twice at the start of term (click [here](#) for the details shared in my letter from 23rd July 2021). Following these tests, students should be using lateral flow devices to test twice a week at home; test packs will be given out during tutorial sessions.

### Masks

Students and staff are no longer required to wear face coverings within school. However, some students and staff will feel more comfortable wearing masks in classrooms and/or communal areas and are allowed to do so. Should students choose to wear a face covering, this must be worn properly (covering the mouth and nose) and must be a plain face mask as opposed to other types of face covering.

We will continue to monitor the situation and may make changes depending on rates within the school and the local area. I will write to parents/guardians with any updates over the course of the coming weeks. This will also be the case regarding any planned events that would involve visitors in the school. Whilst I look forward to welcoming back families and visitors, I will make decisions nearer to each event in order to keep our community safe. We all hope that by all of our community continuing to remain vigilant and following the protocols we will not have to revert back to year-group bubbles.

### Start of the academic year

Please click [here](#) to read the information about when students should attend school for their first lateral flow test and the information about the first day for each year group.

We will continue to use the same lesson times as last year and have staggered start and finish times for different key stages. This will enable us to revert back to year-group bubbles during the course of the academic year should the need arise.

Year 7		Year 8 and 9		Year 10, 11, 12 and 13	
Tutor	08:25 - 8.50am	Tutor	08:25 - 8.50am		
Period 1	8.50 - 9.45am	Period 1	8.50 - 9.50am	Period 1	08:50 - 9.50am
Break	9.45 - 10.10am	Break	9.50 - 10.10am	Period 2	9:50 - 10:50am
Period 2	10.10 - 11.10am	Period 2	10.10 - 11.10am	Break	10:50 - 11.10am
Period 3	11.10 - 12.05pm	Period 3	11.10 - 12.10pm	Period 3	11:10 - 12.10pm
Lunch	12.05 - 12.45pm	Lunch	12.10 - 12.45pm	Period 4	12:10 - 1.10pm
Period 4	12.45 - 1.45pm	Period 4	12.45 - 1.45pm	Lunch	1.10 - 1.45pm
Period 5	1:45 - 2:45pm	Period 5	1:45 - 2:45pm	Period 5	1.45 - 2.45pm
Leave at	2.45pm	Leave at	2.45pm	Tutor	2.45 - 3.10pm
				Leave	3.10pm
<b>Fridays - finish at 2:45pm for all</b>					

Should you require your child to attend school earlier than their scheduled start time, or be collected later than their scheduled finish time, please email [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk) for the attention of your child's Head of Year. As the term progresses, we intend to set up clubs both before and after school and more information will be shared with students and families over the coming weeks.

There have been a few changes from last year: all students will use the main school entrance and students should wear full school uniform each day and bring their PE kit to change for their PE lessons.

I would like to remind parents/guardians not to congregate at the school gates during drop-off or pick-up times and not to block the entrance to the nursery opposite the school.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a restful weekend and thank you all for your continued support. I know I speak for all the staff in saying how much we are looking forward to welcoming students back for the new academic year as we hopefully return to more normality.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher