

6th October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Last week saw our annual open evening for families of students in Year 6 and, as ever, the students were an absolute credit to themselves and to the school. It was fantastic to see the number of students who volunteered to support in curriculum areas and to tour families around the school and answer questions from prospective students and parents. I received a number of emails from parents after the event but wanted to share with parents and guardians this email which, for me, sums up what is so great about the Ruislip High community:

'I wanted to write a few words to say how impressive your whole school community was yesterday evening. From the minute we walked in the building we were made to feel welcome and the warmth and enthusiasm from your staff and students was a constant feature all evening. I was struck by how many support staff and not just teachers that we spoke to and whether it was adults or children they all spoke so positively about the school, everyone was just so happy!

I was so pleased to hear you talk about the importance of reading in your talk and could not have been more impressed with the English teachers I spoke with later in the evening. To be honest, I was so impressed with everyone and our young guides were magnificent: they were excellent ambassadors for the school.'

Student absence

As parents and guardians are aware, we believe that student attendance is vital to success and we encourage students to attend school unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend. As we are now in October and entering the season of colds and flus, I would like to remind parents and guardians that the symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to symptoms of colds and flu. Should your child have a high temperature and not feel well enough to attend school, the government advice is that they should try to stay at home. Should your child have mild symptoms such as a sore throat and they feel well enough, they should go to school. Finally, I would like to remind parents and guardians that student absence should be reported via ClassCharts but that we only require a brief description of the reason for absence and do not require photographic evidence.

Panathlon

Yesterday Ruislip High School hosted the panathlon, an annual event promoting inclusive sports. Students in Years 8 and 9 took part in competition with students from other schools in the borough and supported by the Year 10 PE leaders and I would echo the words of one student who said that 'the day was excellent'. I would like to thank Ms Farrell and the PE department, and the learning support department, for their work ensuring the day was such a success.

Safeguarding week

Next week is our annual safeguarding week where we focus on key aspects of safeguarding through a range of tutorial activities and presentations for guest speakers. Please click [here](#) to see details of the week previously shared by Ms Coltman, Deputy Headteacher.

Parent Voice

The first meeting of the parent voice group took place on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, where Ms Coltman and I met with parents and discussed the start of term, homework and safeguarding. Should parents wish to join the parent voice group, please email office@ruisliphigh.org.uk for the attention of Ms Coltman.

Finally, next week is our thank you week which follows yesterday's World Teachers' Day. Should parents/guardians wish to do so, I know staff would be delighted to receive a thank you which can be sent via email to office@ruisliphigh.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher