

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Welcome to Year 8

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to Ruislip High School for the start of the new academic year following the summer holidays. Year 8 promises to be another exciting year in your child's journey at Ruislip High School and I am writing to provide you with key dates, expectations for the year and other important information.

Year 8 marks the next step in your child's education journey, as they continue towards developing their skills and knowledge across all their subjects, as well as establishing good habits and routines so that your child has the solid foundations for the years to come. As a result, it is important that every student meets our expectations in order to reach their full potential. My expectations for the year group are:

- Students should aspire to achieve 100% attendance every week
- All students try their best, even when facing challenges
- Respect each other and all members of staff at school
- Take on new opportunities beyond the classroom

The Year 8 and pastoral team will be working closely with students to ensure that every student reaches their potential at Ruislip High School. In order to help your child reach their potential please find the link attached that outlines the curriculum for every subject in Year 8. Please click [here](#) for the link to the Year 8 curriculum map which includes details of how your child will be assessed and how they can support their learning outside of the classroom.

Fundamental to every student at Ruislip High School is attendance. For a student to reach their full potential means that every student needs to attend school every day and to be in every lesson. It is important to recognise that we may not feel our best all of the time but students should strive to have the self-discipline and resilience to ensure that they are in school and learning. We expect students to have an attendance record of at least 95% across the year. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend school, we ask that you send a message on ClassCharts each day that they are absent so that we are able to have an understanding of the wellbeing of our students.

As in previous years, ClassCharts will be our main method of communicating with parents. With the ClassCharts app you can see what rewards or sanctions your child has received during the day as well as their attendance percentage. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any issues with the app.

Ruislip High School prides itself on behaviour and expectations will be higher for all students in Year 8 as they are no longer new to the school. In order for them to achieve their full potential they need to fully apply themselves in every lesson. Behaviour that does not meet our expectations or is having a detrimental impact upon the learning of the other students will be sanctioned accordingly and this could mean your child being out of circulation, missing out on being taught by a specialist teacher in that subject.

Another area that I would like to highlight is school uniform. All students are expected to wear the correct school uniform every day along with appropriate school shoes. This includes skirts being worn to the knee and not being rolled or tied at the back. Students are allowed to have one small stud in the bottom of each ear lobe; these should be a small plain silver or gold stud. No rings, bracelets or necklaces are permitted. Make-up, including colour in eyebrows, tinted/false eyelashes, tinted moisturiser, fake tan or concealer are not allowed. I would also like to bring to your attention that, if wearing socks, students are to wear plain black or white socks without logos.

I also want to take this opportunity to stress the importance that your child goes straight home once the school day has finished. This year the school day ends at 15:00 and therefore could you remind your child that they should make their way straight home and not to meet up with students from other schools. Students who do not go straight home or meet up with other students could face sanctions.

At Ruislip High School we like to reward students who embody the school values. We run two reward trips every year which students are always keen to go on. The criteria for the trips are: minimum 90% attendance, fewer than five warnings on Classcharts, and no higher level sanctions. I am sure we will have a high number of students eligible for the reward trips this year.

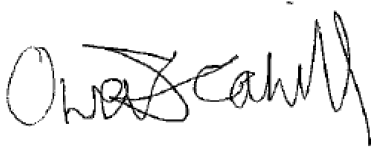
We run a number of events across the academic year and will send more information about individual events throughout the year. I have included some key events for Year 8 and dates below so that you can get them into your calendars early.

Thursday 8th February 2024: Year 8 Parents Evening 2.30pm-7pm

Wednesday 22nd March 2024: Year 7 and Year 8 Spring festival 4.30pm-7pm

I am excited about what this year will bring as students continue their Ruislip High School journey and am delighted to be the Head of Year for such a fantastic group of students.

Yours sincerely



Mr Cahill
Head of Year 8