

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

As another new academic year begins I am delighted to welcome back our Year 9 students. I hope you all had a lovely summer break, despite the weather not being too great. The students have made an impressive start to the academic year and they have been receiving lots for praise from a variety of teachers. The students look very smart and so far students have displayed a mature attitude towards their studies.

This is the most important academic year your child has yet to face. In Year 9 students must build upon knowledge and achievements gained in Year 7 and 8 and must also prepare for their GCSE choices. Students must be looking forward to and focusing on their option choices; further communication about this will be sent to parents later in the year. To help you support your child in their studies this year, please read the Year 9 Curriculum Map [here](#) which outlines what the students will be studying each term, how they will be assessed and how students can develop their learning beyond the classroom.

At Ruislip High School, we believe that education is truly successful when school and families work together, and I look forward to working closely with you and your child's form tutor and teachers, to ensure that your child takes advantage of all that Ruislip High School has to offer. In order to achieve this it is vital that we focus on the following:

- Maintaining good attendance and punctuality
- Continuing the excellent standards of school uniform
- Ensuring homework is completed and handed in on time
- Maintaining good communication between school and home
- Benefitting from the wide range of activities from our Above & Beyond Clubs

A reminder that your child's first port of call in school is their form tutor. Year 9 will be supported by a fantastic team of tutors, listed below, as well as myself (Mr Joseph) as Head of Year, and Mr McLoughlin-Wilden as Assistant Head of Year.

9A	Mr McLoughlin-Wilden	9F	Mr J Tibbey
9B	Mrs G Coffey	9S	Miss C Walkinshaw
9C	Miss R Forde	9W	Mrs M Niedzielska
9D	Miss L Hide		

Please be reminded that when a student's attendance is below 95% it is a cause for concern. Even at 95% attendance, nearly 50 hours of learning is lost plus all of the benefits of socialising and interacting with peers.

Ensuring attendance at school is a parent/guardian's legal obligation and we are keen to support parents with this, not least because of the huge amount of national data that proves the correlation between good attendance and academic progress.

Study Club will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3pm-4pm. This is dedicated time for students to catch up on any missed homework or coursework. It is also a supervised study space and is open to all Year 9 students who wish to attend.

At Ruislip High School we are keen to reward students for 'getting it right', and I am pleased to confirm we will be offering eligible students the opportunity to attend a reward trip at the end of the autumn term. More details will follow, but I wanted to highlight the criteria students need to meet in order to be invited. Students must have above 90% attendance, fewer than five negative points on ClassCharts and no higher level sanctions (including after-school detentions, internal exclusions and fixed term suspensions). I am optimistic that we will be able to invite the vast majority of Year 9 to the winter reward trip this year.

We are looking forward to an exciting academic year with lots of trips and activities including special trips to France and Belgium.

Important dates this year:

- Friday 29th September 2023: Late start 11:25am after Open Evening
- Monday 9th October 2023 - Friday 13th October 2023: Safeguarding week
- Thursday 19th October: Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Monday 13th November - Friday 17th November: Anti-Bullying Week
- Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th November: Inset Days
- Thursday 14th December : Year 9 Theatre Trip
- Thursday 29th February : Year 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 28th - Sunday 31st March: Battlefields Trip
- Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th May: Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Mr Joseph
Head of Year 9