

14th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing at the end of a busy and positive first full week back at school this year. I would like to thank students for continuing to follow our COVID-19 safety measures and thank everyone in the community for dealing with the disruption caused by the investigatory works on West End Road and subsequent closure of Sidmouth Drive this week. I am grateful to parents/guardians who have avoided driving to the school and would suggest that, from both a safety perspective and an environmental point of view, this is something to consider continuing with after the roadworks have been completed.

Bus Stops

As school numbers continue to rise each year it is becoming increasingly apparent that the bus stops along West End Road are unable to cope with this increasing number of students. This has become more evident since the beginning of the HS2 works along West End Road and Sidmouth Drive. We also expect that these works will start for longer periods of time during the second half of the spring term and into the summer term.

In order to ensure there is less congestion at the bus stops and when students try to get on the bus, and to make the footpaths easier for other students and members of the community to navigate, we are going to trial assigning bus stops to different year groups at the end of the school day. We will trial this from Monday 17th January 2022 for two weeks and monitor the impact on student safety.

During the trial, the bus stops closest to school (stops C and D on the map [here](#)) will be assigned to Year 7 and 8 students at the Key Stage 3 finishing time, and to Year 11 students at the Key Stage 4 finishing time. Students in Year 9 and Year 10 should use the bus stops slightly further along (stops A, B, E and F on the map [here](#)).

Should parents/guardians believe that these changes will be an issue for your child for any reason, please contact Mr Askin, Assistant Headteacher, via: office@ruisliphigh.org.uk

COVID-19 update

Parents/guardians may be aware of a change in government guidance regarding self-isolation periods. From Monday 17th January 2022, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after five full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day five and day six, and if they do not have a temperature. Should students test negative on the morning of day five and the morning of day six, they can return to school immediately on day six. If the result of either test is positive, self-isolation should continue until negative results are received on two LFD tests on consecutive days, or until ten full days of self-isolation have been completed, whichever is earlier. Please click [here](#) to read the guidance in full and please continue to inform the school if your child is self-isolating.

I have been asked to share with families that 12-15 year olds are able to visit the vaccine hub on Pinewood Ward at Hillingdon Hospital from 8am-8pm seven days a week. Appointments can be booked using the national booking app (click [here](#)) and walk in appointments are also available. Anyone attending must bring ID and, ideally, their NHS number (click [here](#)).

Assessments and examinations

I would like to particularly thank all students in Years 7 and 8, and students sitting vocational examinations this week, and their families. The external vocational examination series continues next week and students have been impressive in their attitude and behaviour towards their examinations. Year 7 and 8 students sitting internal assessments have been equally impressive and a number of staff have commented on the excellent atmosphere seen when assessments are being conducted.

Finally, I would like to end my update this week with a real sense of positivity, and not just because the sun is shining and the days are getting longer. The number of staff self-isolating with COVID-19 has reduced significantly over the first two weeks of term, meaning that the school is able to run much more like usual. It has been a real achievement that Above and Beyond clubs have still been running during this period and I would like to thank the staff who run these, the students who attend each week and the families who support our extracurricular provision. I hope that, provided case numbers continue to fall, we will be able to offer more opportunities for events later on this term. On that hopeful note, I wish all of our families a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher