

1st April 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing at the end of another eventful term. Although today marks another step in the government's journey out of the pandemic, COVID-19 is still very much with us and there have been a number of occasions this term when a significant number of staff have been absent with COVID-19. I am grateful that I lead a school where the staff are always prepared to step in and support and that this has meant I have not had to consider sending groups of students home, even when there have been high levels of staff absence. I still look forward to the day when I do not have to mention COVID-19 in my communication. However, there have also been more opportunities this term to engage in events beyond the classroom, and it has been delightful to welcome students back together to celebrate their successes in celebration assemblies this week, and welcome families back into the building for a number of events over the past few weeks.

COVID-19

Today marks the end of free COVID-19 tests for all but specific groups (including NHS staff and eligible patients) as part of the government's Living with Covid plan. The updated guidance advises students who are unwell and have a high temperature to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. Anyone under 18 with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days.

School pantomime - Return to Fairytale Forest

I would like to wish congratulations to all the students and staff who were involved in the school pantomime that was performed on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The show was due to take place in December but had to be delayed due to COVID-19 and the impact of COVID-19 continued right up until this week, with students taking on extra roles the day before the first performance on Wednesday to ensure that the show could go on. It was a highlight of the term for me to see the culmination of all of their hard work over the past two evenings and to be able to welcome families and members of the community back into the school to enjoy their fantastic performances. Please click [here](#) to see pictures from the performance.

Ros Atkins

On Monday 28th March 2022, students in Years 9, 10 and 13 benefited from a virtual talk from Ros Atkins, BBC News Correspondent. Ros talked to students about his life and career, his views on the ever-changing nature of journalism and his take on modern current affairs. I know students found the talk both informative and inspirational and I would like to thank Mr Cahill for organising the event.

STEM event

On Thursday 31st March 2022, all Year 10 students partook in an interactive zoom workshop from Womxn Championing Womxn in Education (WCWE). The aim of the session was to encourage students to consider a variety of different career paths within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Economics and challenge their own assumptions on what particular qualifications can lead to in terms of job roles. The session

was informative and presented a number of positive female role models working in STEM industries. I would like to thank Ms Guillen, Teacher of Science, for organising the event.

Key dates for next half term

- Tuesday 19th April 2022: Summer term begins
- Thursday 28th April 2022: Year 9 Science trip
- Saturday 30th April - Monday 2nd May 2022: Duke of Edinburgh - Silver pre-assessed expedition
- Monday 2nd May 2022: Bank holiday
- Monday 16th May - Friday 20th May 2022: Thank You week
- Saturday 21st May - Sunday 22nd May 2022 Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze pre-assessed expedition
- Friday 27th May 2022: Last day of half term
- Monday 30th May 2022: Half term begins

I am pleased to share with parents and guardians the latest student newsletter (click [here](#)) and Trust newsletter (click [here](#)) which details a number of events that have taken place at the school and across the Trust. I am particularly pleased to announce the winners of the Trust student awards for this term. Students received their reward for demonstrating the Trust's value of community and the winners at Ruislip High School are Aarav for KS3, Faaris for KS4 and Rebecca for KS5. Full details are in the attached newsletter.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our school community a restful and well-earned break over the Easter holidays. I look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher