

20th May 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

This week has seen the start of the main examination season with students in Years 10-13 starting to sit their external qualifications and I would like to remind parents of the information shared regarding examinations last week (click [here](#)). Returning to externally assessed examinations for the first time in three years is undoubtedly challenging, and I know I speak for all staff when I say how proud we are with how maturely students are preparing for their examinations and following the routines at the start and end of each examination. Teachers have repeatedly commented that, both during lessons for all students, and during the revision sessions that form part of the Year 11 timetable, students' attitudes for learning have been impressive. I would like to thank students for their approach and parents/guardians for supporting your child during this time. Having witnessed many cohorts at this time of year, the current examination groups do strike me as being focused and ready for the examinations; this is quite an achievement given everything they have been through.

I know students use a range of resources to revise at home, including online material, but I would remind students, and parents/guardians, that the best advice is from the teachers who know your child and we cannot verify the accuracy of all of the material available online.

### Warmer weather

It has been lovely to enjoy some warmer weather this week and see the sun shine. I would like to remind parents and guardians that students must wear the school uniform in full at all times, unless they are in a lesson when they can ask to remove their blazer. Should the weather look set to be particularly hot over a period of time, I will notify parents and guardians that we will move to our warmer weather policy, and students will not be required to wear blazers or ties, and will be permitted to undo the top button of shirts. Staff will also notify students should this change be made. Unfortunately, the weather today suggests that summer may be on pause for the time being.

I have also asked tutors to remind students that they should fill up their water bottles during break and lunch times and not ask to leave lessons for more water. I trust parents and guardians appreciate that students should be in lessons learning and using time before school, or at break or lunch, to fill up their water bottles.

### RSE policy

Please click [here](#) to read the school's relationship and sex education (RSE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE) policy. The policy includes details on these important areas of the curriculum and we would welcome feedback from parents and guardians. Please contact Ms Brown, Head of Cultural Studies, with feedback via [office@ruisliphigh.org.uk](mailto:office@ruisliphigh.org.uk).

### Bus stop

Earlier this week a member of the public was waiting at the bus stop on West End Road and acting in an erratic manner. I would like to thank the students who notified staff on duty immediately and followed staff instructions exemplarily, allowing staff to deal with the situation. I know this delayed some students on their way home and I trust parents and guardians recognise the need to safeguard our students.

## Guided cycle rides

I have been asked to share with families information about family guided cycle rides taking place in Hillingdon over the summer. I understand that none of the rides are a race so you can take them at your own pace. All routes will be fun, safe and interesting with the distance, duration and terrain of the ride varying according to the type of ride. Please click [here](#) for the full details.

Finally, I would like to share with parents and guardians the tree of thanks that Year 11 created in our staffroom. The students had asked for a way to show their thanks for the help all of our staff have given them over the past five years. Students wrote individual messages of thanks on the leaves and attached them to the tree. Students were keen to thank so many members of staff that the final image (click [here](#)) is clear that we should have made a bigger tree! It is a lovely idea and gesture and I know staff have really appreciated the kind messages. I would like to thank Mr Ladhani for overseeing the concept, Miss Hill for creating the tree display and all of the Year 11 students for their thank you messages.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher