

4th February 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

### COVID-19 update

I look forward to a time when we talk far less frequently about COVID-19 but unfortunately I fear that is not in the near future. This week, whilst case numbers amongst students have reduced, we had a significant number of staff absent which means that your child is likely to have had a lesson covered by someone other than their usual teacher over the past few days. I am grateful that those who are testing positive for COVID-19 are typically finding their symptoms to be mild but it does remind us that we must all play our part in reducing the spread of the virus.

Whilst face coverings are no longer mandatory in school, students and staff are able to wear a face mask if they feel more comfortable doing so. Face masks are available on entry to school or from the main school office and must be worn appropriately, covering the nose and mouth, if they are worn.

I have been asked to share with families that, in line with the government guidelines, all children aged 12-15 years of age are being offered two doses of vaccine as part of the school-based COVID-19 vaccination programme. Students aged 12-15 will be able to receive their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination at school on Friday 4th March 2022. Any parent/guardian who wishes for their child to receive either dose will be required to complete a new consent form for each child receiving their vaccination and I will provide more information about this in due course. 12-15 year olds are also able to access the vaccine outside of school; please click [here](#) to book at a vaccination or walk-in centre.

### Year 8 parents' evening Thursday 10th February 2022 - early finish for all students

Year 8 parents' evening will take place remotely on Thursday 10th February 2022 2.30-7pm. The earlier start for this parents' evening is to allow teachers who have multiple Year 8 classes the opportunity to meet with more parents of Year 8 students.

In order to accommodate this, as previously outlined, school will finish after period 4 for all students except students in Years 11 and 13 who will still have their timetabled lesson period 5. Students in Years 7-9 will finish at 1.45pm, students in Years 10 and 12 at 1.10pm and students in Years 11 and 13 at 2.45pm.

### Examinations 2022

On Monday 7th February 2022, JCQ and the awarding bodies will release advanced information before the examinations this summer. This information will be shared in lessons and through a Making the Grade booklet that will be shared this month, that will provide details of the advanced information and a centralised point for revision.

Please note that the JCQ contingency period for exams (as they are currently planned) is up to and including 29th June 2022, so parents/guardians should not book holidays until after that date if their child is sitting public exams in the summer.

## Bus stops

I wrote last month regarding the bus stops along West End Road and the school has trialled allocating bus stops to particular year groups. The bus stops nearest the school were not designed to accommodate the increasing numbers of students and this leads to congestion on the pavements and students not being able to board the bus. There are clearly some families who have strong feelings about students using the nearest bus stop to school and I, of course, fully respect these concerns. I am in contact with Transport for London to see if they can provide more frequent buses during the time students finish school. However, I would urge parents/guardians to encourage students to either walk home or, for students in older year groups, to walk to bus stops further along West End Road to help with this issue.

## Localised disruption - HS2

I have been advised that there will be further disruption in the vicinity of the school later this month. Between 14th and 25th February 2022, temporary traffic lights will be required on Station Approach/Long Drive from Great Central Avenue to just beyond the railway bridge (please click [here](#) for more information). The outcome of the earlier works is still being determined but I have been assured I will be kept updated with this and any future works.

## Safer internet week

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally on 8th February 2022 and next week students will have a range of activities throughout the week, including: external speakers from the company BeSecureOnline; assemblies from the student digital leadership team; safer internet Computer Science lessons; and activities during tutor time.

On Tuesday 8th February 2022 BeSecureOnline will be leading a parent webinar from 6-7pm, focusing on social media, online reputation and 'sexting'. To join the webinar, which will be held on Zoom, please click [here](#) (**meeting ID: 818 2516 1545, passcode: 277644**).

## Safeguarding

Parents/guardians may be aware that last year Ofsted was asked by the government to carry out a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges, which revealed how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for young people. At Ruislip High School we are committed to safeguarding our students and we recognise, and take seriously, the role that we play in setting a culture of mutual respect for all and remain committed to ensuring that every child benefits from a calm, respectful climate for learning.

We place high value on the views of our students and would like to seek their opinion on this subject via an anonymous questionnaire shared through tutor group Google Classrooms. The purpose of this questionnaire is to help us understand how sexual harassment affects the lives of students at Ruislip High School and help us understand what we can do to make sure that anyone facing sexual harassment feels able to report it and knows where to find help and support. In addition, the safeguarding team will be holding half termly focus group meetings for each year group to discuss the views of students on a range of safeguarding topics.

Should parents/guardians have any questions about safeguarding or the questionnaire, please contact Mrs Coltman, Deputy Headteacher, via the main school office.

I would like to remind parents/guardians that students should not arrange to meet friends from other schools directly after school closing time. I would also like to remind families of the importance of notifying school staff of any concerns regarding behaviour before or after school. I am aware of an individual who was seen in the vicinity of the school last week and I would like to reassure parents/guardians that we keep in regular contact with the police and update them with any concerns. I would also like to remind families that mobile phones are not allowed in school. Should staff see or hear a student's phone, it will be confiscated in line with the school's policy.

### Apprenticeships

I have been asked to share with families information about apprenticeships as part of next week's National Apprenticeships Week. Please click [here](#) to read the letter to students, and [here](#) to read the letter for parents/guardians, which include information about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people.

Finally, yesterday evening saw the first Year 7 astronomy experience at the school, and it was a joy to see the students reaching for the stars using telescopes and virtual headsets. I hope all members of the community are able to enjoy a similarly inspiring weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher