

10th January 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to begin by wishing the entire Ruislip High School community a Happy New Year. It has been another extremely positive, if rather cold, start to the new calendar year. I was particularly impressed with how smart the students looked on their return to school on Tuesday as well as their excellent behaviour and purposeful attitudes to learning that were evident from the very start of the first day back. Indeed, I met with our new teaching staff after school yesterday, and all commented on how impressed they had been with the positive behaviour that I believe characterises our school community.

Young Carers

At RHS we are committed to ensuring all students get the support they need. We understand that for some students, factors outside of school can have an impact on this, particularly if they are caring for a member of their family. As a school, we are working with the Carers Trust Hillingdon service which aims to reduce the impact of caring on young people. If you think this may apply to your child, please click [here](#) for further information.

Parent Voice meeting (in person) 6pm - 7pm on Tuesday 28th January 2025

I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents/guardians to the first parent voice meeting of the calendar year on Tuesday 28th January 2025. The Parent Voice group meets once a half term and is an opportunity for parents/guardians to voice opinions regarding various aspects of school life. We have found a hybrid model has worked well in recent years with a combination of online and in person meetings throughout the year. This meeting is scheduled to be in person and if you would like to attend the meeting, please confirm your attendance by Friday 24th January via the school office: office@ruislihigh.org.uk, marking the email for the attention of Ms Beasley. I would like to confirm that I will Chair the meeting and will also have a representative of the senior team with me. We welcome agenda items from parents/guardians but I would stress that the meeting is to discuss school wide issues and not individual children.

Weather conditions

I have been very impressed with how sensibly students have behaved in the extremely cold weather conditions we have endured this week. I have received feedback from parents/guardians regarding students being reluctant to wear coats to school as they are not allowed to wear them during the school day. I wanted to clarify that students can and should retrieve their coats during social time if they choose to spend break/lunch time outside, and then return their coat to their locker before their next lesson. I do feel strongly that coats do not belong in teaching classrooms but would emphasise that it is important that students should dress appropriately for the weather conditions, and that coats should be worn to school when needed. In the unlikely event that the colder weather creates snowy conditions, I will always inform parents/guardians of any changes to the school day before 6.30am.

Examinations

This week has seen the first examinations of 2025, with students sitting BTEC examinations in a couple of subjects over the past three days. Next week Year 13 students sit their pre-public examinations (PPEs) and I know that students have been working hard in preparation for these assessments. I have no doubt that students in Year 13 will use the PPEs as their opportunity to shine before their summer examinations.

I would like to wish all of the school community a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher