

10th May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

The sun has shone this week and it has started to feel more like summer. I appreciate that the past few days have been warmer and would remind parents and guardians that our expectations for uniform remain the same. Should the weather reach high temperatures for a sustained period of time, I will make adjustments to the school uniform as I have done in previous years and will notify parents/guardians in advance should we be fortunate enough to have such weather in the coming weeks.

Year 11 - examinations and alternative curriculum

Year 11 had their first whole-cohort examination this morning and I was impressed with students' conduct as they lined up for the examination and their clear determination to succeed. Some students have asked for more clarity in terms of the alternative curriculum we are running and I wanted to clarify the following:

- Until May half term, students should attend school every day, although some lessons will be adjusted to provide revision support before the examination in that subject. Click [here](#) for the full details of the timetable for the next few weeks.
- Should students have an examination in the afternoon, and parents/guardians feel it is appropriate, students can revise at home in the morning, but must be on site between 12.30-12.50pm for their afternoon examination.
- After May half term, students should only attend school for their examinations and compulsory revision sessions. Students can only arrive at 8am, 12.30-12.50pm or the start of a revision session (eg. 11.25am for a period 3 revision).

I am aware that other local schools operate differently; our approach has been the same for the past few years and provides students with the balance of structured revision time with their subject-experts, and independent study time that has ensured students have achieved strong outcomes. Our approach is also in line with government expectations. Should parents/guardians have any questions about the structure for Year 11 at this time or feel that their child requires a different arrangement, please contact, Dr Hill, Senior Deputy Headteacher, via the main school office.

ClassCharts - student phones

It was brought to my attention this week that some parents have added ClassCharts to their child's phone. This means that students are able to send messages to the school which school staff would believe was from the parent or guardian. Clearly this could lead to safeguarding issues, for example if a student reported an absence of which their parent was not aware. Please ensure that your child does not have access to your ClassCharts account or have the app for your account on their phone.

Sextortion

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion').

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a prepaid gift card. Victims of any age and gender can be targets; however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18. A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

The advice from the National Crime Agency is to have frequent, open and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Click [here](#) for some tips about how to approach these conversations with your child. More information is available on CEOP Education's parents and carers website (click [here](#)).

Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week and students will be involved in a number of tutorials and activities on the week's theme of movement: moving more for our mental health. This includes assemblies and discrete lessons focusing on both our physical and mental health.

Finally, I was delighted to receive an email from a local resident praising students from Ruislip High School who had helped a lady on the E7 bus. The resident was keen to praise our students for being polite and courteous and, as ever, I remain immensely proud of our students who are a real credit to themselves, their families and the school. I would like to wish the whole Ruislip High School community a restful weekend and do hope you manage to enjoy the warm weather.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies
Headteacher