



Ruskin Community High School
Ruskin Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7JT

Tel: 01270 560514
Fax: 01270 650248
Email: enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk
Web: www.ruskinhighschool.co.uk

@RuskinHigh
Ruskin Community High School

Our Ref: AdminSA: Pastoral/BRE/BEN
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Dear Parent /Carer

As we approach the end of what has been a really busy and focused term, I write to thank you for your support. This term has been filled with positive learning and wider opportunities, and the vast majority of students have taken full advantage.

This term, we say farewell to Mr Taylor (Music teacher), Mrs Carter (Teaching Assistant) and Miss Macey (Behaviour Support). All are going on to new career paths and we wish them all the best as they pursue new challenges.

Miss John also starts her maternity leave, and we send Miss John and her family our very best wishes.

I hope you will enjoy reading our school newsletter: it is full of articles, showcasing some of our work and our opportunities.

Below are updates from each of our Year Achievement Managers.

Year 11 Update

In November, Year 11 students sat mock exams, under exam conditions, in order to help them prepare further for their GCSEs. It is proven that trial exams improve students' chances of increasing their overall grades and Year 11 students approached their mock examinations with great maturity and, overall, were very well prepared.

Lesson 6 has proved successful with students appreciating the extra support they are receiving in English, Maths and Science. During Enrichment time, intervention is arranged for all other subjects alongside independent revision time.

As soon as we return in January the external exams begin, with ICT, Music and PE during the first week. It is vital students use their time during the break wisely and devote time to preparing for these exams. All Year 11 students have received a revision pack for completion over the holiday.

Year 10 Update

It has been a successful term for Year 10, with a particular highlight being GCSE Poetry Live where we took 90 students to the event at Stoller Hall in Manchester. The students were impeccably behaved and benefitted greatly from the experience. All students have enjoyed a term of enrichment activities combining sport, fundraising, revision and study skills. Activities involving off-site agencies have included: Thai boxing, Kick boxing, Barclays Life Skills, Yoga, Camm St Gym and fitness sessions at Everybody Sport Gym.

Our Year 10 Student Council members have also been organising fund raising events including a cake sale for Children in Need and helping with the Alder Hey Hospital appeal for new toys, games, books & selection boxes. Items are being collected in school and will be delivered to the children on Christmas morning.

I would like to turn your attention to Year 10 Parents' Evening which will take place on Monday 27th January 2020. It is a vital opportunity for you to discuss your child's recent Short Report with their teachers. It goes without saying that students have reached a stage of their high school life where progress is of the utmost importance. Conversations with class teachers are valuable for both yourself and your child to understand what he/she must do to achieve his/her full potential.



Year 9 Update

Year 9 have had a busy first term back at Ruskin and have started to manage their transition to GCSE subjects with maturity and commitment. We have placed a real emphasis on the step up from Year 8 to Year 9 and the response to more challenging classwork, homework and improved organisation has been very positive. In particular, there has been a sharp focus on approaching lessons with the correct attitude to, and behaviour for, learning. As the new Year Achievement Manager, I have been very impressed by the majority of the year group.

This term, students have embarked on a weekly programme of enrichment activities including outdoor education, yoga, gymnastics, trips to the leisure centre and organising events such as the Rudolph Run. Students have also taken part in Higher Horizons activities such as the Exotic Zoo, visits to Keele University and the Bikeability Level 3 course.

There have been many opportunities for students to achieve non-uniform days as a reward for excellent behaviour, progress, homework and attendance. Finally, thank you to all of the students who participate in wider activities around the school; it really is appreciated.

Year 8 Update

Year 8 have had a busy first term back at Ruskin. Firstly, Support Week took place from Monday 14th October – Friday 18th October focusing on future career options. Students thought of some job opportunities they might be interested in and found out how different subjects would benefit. Secondly, Year 8 have been having their Options Assemblies which are designed to help the students understand what is involved in each GCSE course, and to give them an idea of what they may wish to opt for. In addition to this we have been focusing on homework and have seen a huge improvement in the quality of work produced and a decrease in the number of homeworks missed. Every Wednesday, Year 8 has the opportunity to attend Homework Club at lunch and after school; it is fantastic to see so many students attending and taking pride in their work. Year 8 has achieved an incredible 12,874 positive points on Class Charts this term which is fantastic! Thank you for your continued support at home with checking Class Charts and homework. I would like to congratulate Year 8 on a positive start back. I wish them, and yourselves, a Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Year 7 Update

Students in Year 7 have settled into their new high school environment extremely well, and it has been fantastic to see them grow in confidence and successfully make the transition from primary to secondary school. Year 7 are all proud to be students at Ruskin which is lovely to see and is clearly reflected in their positive behaviour and attitudes. Year 7 Support Week was successful with most students achieving their independently set targets in all of their subjects, and receiving a reward for their efforts. The students clearly want to succeed, have responded well to all of their subjects so far this year, and are keen to amass as many positive points on Classcharts as they can. This level of enthusiasm is impressive to see, and I am proud of how Year 7 students have developed new friendships and embraced their new experiences in such a positive manner. The level of attendance for Year 7 is currently very good and I expect this to improve as we progress throughout the year. There has been such a high level of achievement across many areas in Year 7 and I have been extremely proud of students who have really applied themselves and represented the school at the many different events that have already taken place this year. This has included sporting events, such as: athletics, football, netball, shooting, and also musical events including the Christmas Festival. Students are also attending a variety of clubs including Art Club and Science Club.



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HIGH STANDARDS HIGH ACHIEVERS



If you ever have any concerns please feel free to contact Form Tutors or YAMs via the school office and we will be happy to call you back or arrange a meeting with you; alternatively Ms Webster will be available for Parent Drop-in sessions on a Monday afternoon between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.

On behalf of all of us, I wish you a happy and restful Christmas. I hope that 2020 will be a positive year for us all.

Yours sincerely

-E. S. Brett

E S Brett
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary 2020

School reopens after Christmas: Tuesday 7th January (Week 2 of the timetable)
Year 11 Group & Individual Photographs: Friday 24th January
Year 10 Parents' Evening: Monday 27th January
Year 11 Long Report to parents: Thursday 6th February
February Half-Term: Monday 17th - Friday 21st inc
Year 8 Options & Parents' Evening: Monday 2nd March
Year 8&10 Short Report to parents: Friday 3rd April
School re-opens after Easter: Tuesday 21st April
Year 7 Long Report to parents: Friday 24th April
Year 9 Parents' Evening: Monday 27th April
Year 7/8/9 Short Report to parents: Friday 3rd July
Year 10 Long Report to Parents: Wednesday 15th July

Please note: The term 'parent' refers to parent/carer throughout this letter.