

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of yet another academic year, I am writing to thank you, as always, for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter has had a successful three terms at Ruskin. I cannot stress how important it is to have parents who value education and who promote strong attendance, positive attitudes to learning, appropriate behaviour and smart uniform. As we know, these are the key attributes that good employers look for and it is our way of ensuring that our students are best placed to compete for jobs and opportunities.

A huge thanks must also go to my colleagues who have worked exceptionally hard to offer students a wealth of experiences, both in lessons and more widely. I have attended countless events this year where our students and staff have been in the limelight and this all takes time and effort. There have been some stunning music and expressive arts events; some memorable sporting victories; trips and visits ranging from Crewe town centre to France; curriculum based competitions and events. The list is endless and it is appreciated. We know that these opportunities will become fond memories as our students look back on their time at school. In our newsletter, you will get a flavour of the many events that students have been involved in this term. I really hope you enjoy reading it. For that reason, I won't refer to these wider opportunities in the body of this letter.

Once again, we are oversubscribed this year and we are, quickly, becoming full in all year groups. Our school community is diverse and growing. Prospective parents say they are choosing us for our high expectations, traditional ethos and aspirational standards. Being clear and unwavering with our expectations is a strength that I want to continue. Ultimately, it supports us all.

With this in mind, all parents, carers and students will be aware of the amendment to uniform in that we are moving to grey trousers/skirt. As has been widely circulated, the trousers may be purchased in school or in stores. The skirt will only be available from school. More detailed information is given in the uniform lists and in the school newsletter. For reference, it is also enclosed with this letter. Thank you for your support with this.

The Multi Academy Trust plans with Sandbach High School are, regrettably, still stationary. It has not been possible to resolve some land issues which is frustrating. Governors will be meeting to make a final decision regarding the way forward and I will inform you in due course, but it does not look hopeful at this stage. Clearly, both schools were looking to form a Trust to benefit over two thousand students and we hope, at some stage, to be able to find other ways forward.

At this time of year we say farewell to staff – this year, we say thank you and best wishes to the following:

- Zan Critchley-Goodier who leaves us to join an independent all age school in Stoke
- Danielle Sharp who is moving to a school in Liverpool
- Adele Ashworth who is moving abroad to teach English to French students
- Sarah Durose who is moving to a local school to take on a Finance and management role
- Jackie Bevis who is taking early retirement
- Dominic Milne whose temporary contract with us is at an end

Obviously, we will say farewell on Friday but I would like to thank each of these staff for their hard work and for their contribution to life at Ruskin. It is very much appreciated.

In September, we will be welcoming the following staff:

- Sarah Breakwell who joins us from a local High School to lead our Business/ ICT/ Computer Science department
- Chris Taylor who joins the Music department
- Jessica Finney who joins the PE department
- Eleanor Swindells who joins the Geography team
- Tom Harding who joins the RE department
- Chloe Grinnell who joins the Maths department

We have some fantastic colleagues joining us and it is a pleasure to be expanding some departments due to the sharp increase in student numbers.

Over the Summer, please would parents/carers be vigilant over social media and the like. This year, we have dealt with a high number of social media related incidents. Sadly, most of these incidents have occurred out of school and are not directly related to school. Nonetheless, disagreements then filter back in and affect the school day. Please, please monitor social media activity and remind your son/daughter of the impact of writing things and sharing them. Next term, I do not want to be devoting time to sorting out incidents that could easily have been avoided. In addition, please remind students of the dangers (and time lost) in terms of internet and gaming. Thank you for your support with this.

I must make reference to homework at this point in the year. I have been really, really pleased to note that our school wide effort with homework is paying off. More students are doing regular homework and many more students are revising. The vast majority of our young people know how vital regular study is. Over the Summer, there are plenty of ways to support learning and prepare for the new academic year. Please, encourage your son/daughter to spend some time focusing on school work. Enclosed with the letter are a range of websites which students can use to support Summer learning. Whilst these are particularly aimed at upper school students, they are still useful for all.

One of the really positive initiatives we have developed this year has been the more focused approach to mentoring. Over the year, a team of staff and I see every student at least twice for an interview. Some of these have been group interviews but, this term, we have amended our approach and, last week, every Year 10 student had an individual interview. These have been worthwhile and I, certainly, have learnt a lot about each of our students. We have been able to discuss barriers to learning and we have tried to find additional solutions. If any student is struggling, I would urge them to come forward and chat to their form tutor.

Finally, for now, a reminder that school commences for students on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 8.40am**. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a happy, relaxing and sunny Summer. If you wish to contact me regarding any school matter, please email me at [brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk)

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



E S Brett (Mrs)  
Headteacher

<b>Ruskin Community High School SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2018 / 19</b>						
	<b><i>Date of Closing</i></b>			<b><i>Date of Re-Opening</i></b>		
<b>Autumn Term Begins</b>	*****			Tuesday	4	September
<b>Autumn Half-Term</b>	Friday	26	October	Monday	5	November
<b>Christmas 2018/2019</b>	Friday	21	December	Tuesday	8	January
<b>Spring Half-Term</b>	Friday	15	February	Monday	25	February
<b>Easter</b>	Friday	5	April	Tuesday	23	April
<b>May Day</b>	Friday	3	May	Tuesday	7	May
<b>Summer Half-Term</b>	Friday	24	May	Monday	3	June
<b>Summer</b>	Friday	19	July	*****		

**INSET:** Designated staff training/preparation days:  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

*The term 'parent' refers to parent/carer throughout this letter.*