



Ruskin Road – Crewe – Cheshire – CW2 7JT

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Dear Parent/Carer

As the academic year 2012/13 draws to a close, I am writing to you to give the usual reminders and updates. This time, rather than a long letter, I am trying a newsletter style. Your feedback would be appreciated. If parents/carers prefer the more traditional letter, we can return to that format next time.

This year has flown, but then I always seem to say that! Hopefully, you feel that your sons/daughters have been happy and that they have made good personal and academic progress. The majority of students have worked hard and made themselves a real part of Ruskin and so do congratulate them if their reports have been positive. However, if you are worried or concerned do contact us. Feel free to contact the relevant form tutor who is the best first point of contact. You are also able to contact me direct via email at

brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk

Very best wishes for a dry, sunny break.

E Brett

Head Teacher

• **Uniform**

Please, find below the uniform list for September. There are some additional items that can be purchased for PE. From September, all Year 7 students will wear the clip on tie. Clip on ties have become very popular in many schools and they are much easier for students to manage before and after PE lessons. All Year 7 students will have to wear the clip on version and we will roll this through in subsequent years. However, we will also be insisting that a student in any year group purchases one if we are persistently having to remind them about top buttons or tie lengths. The usual reminders remain regarding hair colour, haircuts/styles, nail varnish and jewellery. A reminder also that students should wear plain, black socks or plain black or flesh coloured tights. We will be particularly vigilant with uniform from September so please be aware. If you are unclear, refer to the list below or contact school during the holidays. Reception is manned throughout the holiday period and advice can be given. We have also enclosed a uniform order form for you.

The wearing of uniform by students contributes greatly to the general orderly atmosphere and discipline within the school. Currently, our school uniform is as follows:

PLEASE WEAR

- School badged blazer
- Black, school style trousers*
- A white school shirt which buttons to the neck
- A school tie, properly fastened (2013 September Intake – clip on tie)
- A plain, navy v-neck jumper, with or without sleeves in a knitted fabric and of a suitable length to be worn with school blazer
- Black, school style shoes (Please refer to the enclosed leaflet)
- Black socks*
- A white craft apron
- Full PE Kit – please see order form

*Girls may wear a school style, **knee length skirt** in a **school fabric** but please note that short skirts, very long skirts and fashion skirts made of stretchy Lycra fabric are not allowed.

*Girls may wear plain black tights in an opaque (non see-through) style.

Holidays in term time

You will be receiving a letter from the Local Authority regarding the national changes regarding holiday authorisation. From September, holidays cannot be authorised for any reason. In addition, any planned absence from school is only likely to be authorised in very special circumstances. This is due to the national rise in authorised absence from schools. Please, ensure that your son/daughter is in school every day and that appointments such as doctors, dentists and so on are arranged outside school time.

Mobile phones and headphones

You will already be aware of the expectations that phones are not seen or used on site. Any emergencies/important messages should be dealt with through the school office. We have noticed that some students are bringing headphones so that they can listen to music. This is not allowed in school. Please, support us with this.

- **Lunch passes**

From September, we will not be issuing lunch passes to students. The only time passes will be authorised if there are religious reasons such as fasting or other absolutely essential reasons. We have really reduced the use of lunch passes over the last few years and now we are taking the decision not to issue them at all. The dining hall serves a wide range of food, and students may also bring their own lunch if they wish. Thanks for your support.

Year Achievement Managers

From September, we are going to be altering the way the team of achievement managers work. We are very lucky to have two very strong intervention co-ordinators in Ms Webster and Mrs Brewin. Their work has developed over the last two years and their focus is now really on supporting personal and academic progress to remove any barriers. Their work includes supporting students who are below target, or who have barriers to learning for a variety of reasons. With this in mind, we are going to make some changes to the role of the Achievement Managers. Therefore, from September Mr Foster will oversee Years 7/ 8, Mrs Whitefoot Years 9/10 and Miss O'Hare will be responsible for Year 11. Miss O'Hare will also manage the transition work with new students. Mr Beveridge will work more intensively with a group of students from each of the year groups where there are behaviour for learning issues. This will strengthen our current system and ensure that every student is monitored and supported by a relevant person. The form tutor will still be the first point of contact for parents.

- **Staffing**

As always, schools say goodbye and thank you to staff at the end of the year, and get ready to welcome new staff in September.

We say goodbye to:

- Jonny Abbott – Moving to peripatetic music teaching
- Dave Brewin
- Esther King – Moving to a school in North Wales
- Cath Bull
- Margaret Cerretti
- Lyndsay Harrison
- Emma Reilly – Moving to a school in Manchester
- Gavin Tomlinson – Moving to Winsford Academy

We welcome the following staff in September:

- Jennifer Needham - Science
- Maureen Grant-Miller - Humanities
- Tom Preece – Lab technician
- Matthew Asher – Music

Particular thanks go to Dave Brewin, who is featured in our most recent newsletter. We wish Dave well as he retires from full time teaching and we thank him for his outstanding contribution to our school over the years.

- **Timings of the day**

You will see the new timings of the day listed in our glossy newsletter. However, just a reminder that the timings of the day will be as follows from September:

MONDAY - THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
REGISTRATION	8:50 – 9:10	REGISTRATION	8:50 – 9:10
PERIOD 1	9:10 – 10:10	PERIOD 1	9:10 – 10:05
PERIOD 2	10:10 – 11:10	PERIOD 2	10:05 – 11:00
BREAK	11:10 – 11:25	BREAK	11:00 – 11:15
PERIOD 3	11:25 – 12:25	PERIOD 3	11:15 – 12:10
LUNCH	12:25 – 1:05	LUNCH	12:10 – 12:50
REGISTRATION	1:05 – 1:15	REGISTRATION	12:50 – 1:00
PERIOD 4	1:15 – 2:15	PERIOD 4	1:00 – 1:55
PERIOD 5	2:15 – 3:15	PERIOD 5	1:55 – 2:50

- **School bus**

I am really delighted to let you know that, from September, we will be running a dedicated Ruskin bus from the Leighton end of town through Crewe and to Ruskin. The bus will bring students into the school car park in the morning and will collect them in the same place at the end of the day. We are trialling this service and so the cost is currently being subsidised to £1 per journey, payable to the driver. The route is shown below for your information. Please, contact us if you would like further details. We have contacted parents who live on or near the route.

Morning Journey

It is anticipated that the journey will commence at 7.40am from Warmingham Road and take the following route:

- Warmingham Road
- Parkers Road
- Minshull New Road
- Badger Avenue
- Underwood Lane
- Bradfield Road
- Broad Street
- Badger Avenue
- Middlewich Street
- Lime Tree Avenue
- Queen Street
- Macon Way
- Nantwich Road
- Ruskin Road

Return Journey

It is anticipated that the bus will leave the school at approximately 3.30pm Monday to Thursday and 3pm on a Friday and the route will be reversed from above.

The bus will stop at the normal service bus stops and the pickup/drop off points will be reviewed regularly. Any changes will be notified to parents/carers and communicated via the school website.

Website: <http://www.ruskinhighschool.co.uk>

Book in a bag

Just a reminder that we expect students to bring a reading book to school each day. We like to enable them to have some quiet reading time in lessons when it is appropriate, and we also make use of them on our ERIC (Everyone Reads in Class) days.



As you will be aware, we have installed Insight so that parents can log on and see a great deal of information relating to their children. Insight will allow you to check attendance, view timetables, see set homework, view lunch choices and lots more. Every parent has been issued with a log in. Please find attached to this letter a reminder about your log in details. If you need any help at all, contact us. This is a really excellent addition to our communication so please do use it.

- **Open Events at Ruskin**

A reminder to prospective parents that we have an Open Evening and some Open Mornings in September. We would encourage any prospective parent to come to one of the events. The mornings are especially good for giving a true flavour of school life at Ruskin. In addition, any current parent is also welcome to come to one of these events.

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|---|----------------------------|
| - 24 th September 2013 | Year 6 Activities Evening |
| - 24 th September 2013 | Open Evening |
| - 25 th September 2013 / 26 th September 2013 | Open Morning / Afternoon |
| - 27 th September 2013 | Open Morning |
| - 4 th March 2014 | Year 5 Activities Evening |
| - 24 th June 2014 | Year 6 Parent's Evening |
| - 4 th July 2014 | Year 6 Induction Day |
| - 9 th July 2014 / 10 th July 2014 | Year 5 Taster Days |
| - 15 th July 2014 / 16 th July 2014 | Year 6 Parents' Interviews |

- **Aspirations for the new academic year**

As we look forward to September, would you please remind your son/daughter of the following so that we have an even better year next year:

- The importance of 100% attendance and punctuality.
- The obvious reasons for producing work and homework of the highest possible standard
- The importance of respect and good manners in school
- The importance of behaviour and uniform on the way to and from school and the reputation it creates
- The opportunities students have to participate in lessons and in extra-curricular activities

Breakfast club

Please, be aware that we have a daily breakfast club. Students can purchase breakfast items from the dining hall from 8am onwards.

SCHOOL STARTS AT 8.50am on TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2013