

Our Ref: HTSAparental/BRE/JOD

Date: 29th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the Easter break, sincere thanks for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter has had a settled and successful term here at Ruskin. We rely on the input of parents/carers in terms of attitudes to learning, attendance, appropriate behaviour and uniform.

Thank you, also, to my colleagues who have worked exceptionally hard to offer students not only a range of learning opportunities during lesson time, but also a wealth of options during extra curricular time. I cannot underestimate the time given by staff to lunchtime clubs and also to evening events. These are all unpaid, and place demands on the personal lives of staff. Sincere thanks to all staff for this. As an example, I would like to mention the absolutely amazing dance performance of our students at the Lyceum Theatre on Monday 26th March. It was a real privilege to watch their performance and I felt incredibly proud. Events like this enhance the experience of the students and they also promote our reputation within the local area. Although I have highlighted this as the example, events like this are happening all the time.

I continue to receive positive comments from local neighbours, schools and businesses about the smart uniform that we wear. It does make a difference and it sets our students apart. The vast majority of students uphold the uniform expectations and I appreciate that. However, a very small minority continue to try and flout the standards and this cannot be tolerated. I must give fair warning now that students who return after Easter in inappropriate attire will need to be sent home. This is not an ideal situation but we need to maintain the standard. A reminder about uniform is given at the end of this letter. I have had to rewrite the expectations for absolute clarity.

I am delighted to inform parents/carers that our new Year 7 intake for September 2018 is full again this year. Our traditional ethos and high standards are sought after, and we look forward to welcoming new students to our school in September. Being part of an oversubscribed school is a positive asset for students and staff alike. Success breeds success.

At this time of year, our Year 11 students will be heavily into their revision programmes as they approach the GCSE examination series for 2018. We wish them well as they reach the most important point in their education so far. With exams being critical now, and with standards being raised even further, it is important that students complete homework and revision tasks regularly, regardless of the year group that they are in. To be able to do justice in the final exams, students will need to revisit and revise work regularly, from Year 7 onwards. Please, encourage your son/daughter to do some revision over the Easter break. It is important to remember that, if students do not achieve the expected standard in English and Maths, that they now have to continue to study (and resit) these subjects when they move to Sixth Form. The homework monitoring and support at Ruskin is excellent. Clubs run to support those who find homework or personal organisation a challenge. Please, ensure that your son/daughter takes advantage of this.

On occasions this term, we have found ourselves dealing with antisocial behaviour incidents that have occurred after school, late in the evening or at weekends. Whilst we always strive to ensure that our students are dealt with if they are involved in antisocial behaviour, I would also ask that parents/carers stress the importance of community minded behaviour. Too much time is being taken at school dealing with things that have happened out of school.

cont...

Finally for now, here are just a few of the events that you can look forward to reading about in future school newsletters: World Book Day; History visit to London; Singfest; Year 8 football cup final review; Drones visit. The list is endless!

I would like to wish you all a relaxing Easter break. If you need to contact me regarding any school matters, then my email is brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



E S Brett (Mrs)
Headteacher

Reminder about uniform:

- Skirt lengths, fabric and style should be appropriate. **No** stretchy material is allowed and skirts should be a sensible length. Fabric should be the same as boys' trousers.
- Trousers – girls' trousers need to be the same fabric as boys' trousers and the same width/fit around the lower leg.
- Hair styles and cuts should not be extreme.

Please note: School will be closed on **Monday 16th April, 2018** for staff training (INSET). Students return on **Tuesday 17th April** – Week 1 of the timetable.