



RUSKIN SPORTS COLLEGE

Our Ref: HTSA/parental ltr/BRE/JOD

Date: 19th October 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

As we head towards half term, I write to thank you for your support. This term, we have got off to a very settled and purposeful start. The vast majority of students are working well, and behaviour is good in lessons and around our building. We have been very impressed with the standard of uniform and with the levels of maturity shown by most of our youngsters. Thank you for your continued support with this. Where we have had issues to deal with, these have been resolved most successfully when parents/carers have worked with us to find solutions. Please, contact us if you are worried about any aspect of your son/daughter's progress, behaviour or attendance so that we can work together.

We welcome some new staff this term:

Mrs Cattell – Business Manager

Miss Doering – Admin Assistant Visitors Reception

Mrs Downes – Teacher of Design & Technology

Miss Gillett – Lab Technician

Miss Halcomb – Teacher of Art

Mr Snape – Teacher of Science

Mr Tomlinson – 2nd in Mathematics Department

I know that they will be very happy at Ruskin.

I would also like to welcome new parents to our school. Our Year 7 students have got off to a very good start and they have brought a new, vibrant feel to the place! They look extremely smart and early indications are that they are working hard and enjoying their new school. We have also admitted a number of other students into Years 8 to 11. Some students have joined us from overseas and others have moved from local schools. We extend a warm welcome to you all.

Ruskin enjoyed success in the recent GCSE results this year. Over 83% of our Year 11 students left with at least 5 A* to C passes, a record for our school and an increase of over 20% on last year. This is a phenomenal achievement and thanks go to students, staff and parents for their support. 43% of students achieved 5A* to C including English and Maths. This measure was affected by the national issues with the marking boundaries in the English examinations. Like many schools, we have lodged an appeal and we await further news. We are fortunate that individuals do not seem to have been affected in terms of their college places, but we still feel that the system of grade boundaries was grossly unfair. For this reason, we intend to do all we can to have this addressed. On a positive note, many of our students achieved exceptional results. There were 46 students who gained at least 1 A*- A grade (35.4%) at GCSE. 15 students gained 5 A*- A grade with their results (11.5%). An amazing 8 students gained 8 A*- A or more and 5 students gained higher than that achieving up to 12 GCSE's A and A*.

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You will be aware that Ruskin is exploring the possibility of Academy status. The benefits of being an academy include additional finance, more control over curriculum choices for our students, the opportunity for our students and community to be part of a rebranding of our school to name a few. We will continue to consult with parents over the process and I will keep you informed.

Our school website is being redesigned and I would urge you to have a look at the new site as it develops. Currently it has basic information for parents on it, along with our new prospectus which can be viewed from the link at the bottom of the website page. We plan to really increase the capacity of our website so that parents and students can access much more information.

We are also developing a new aspect called ParentPay and you will have received information about this recently. ParentPay will enable you to make lunch payments, trip payments, uniform payments and the like from your computer or phone. We will send more information in due course.

As you know, every school has a School Improvement Plan. The plan lists key priorities for the years ahead. So that parents and carers are aware, please find below the main priorities that Ruskin is focusing on this academic year. The Governing Body support our school in ensuring that priorities are identified. We are always looking for new Governors. If you feel able to support us, please contact Mrs Jones, Headteacher's PA at school. We are really keen to recruit some Parent Governors so that the Parent Voice is heard.

To make good use of student prior attainment to inform lesson planning so that all activities meet students needs.

To encourage all learners to develop independently.

To use varied questioning techniques in lessons to check understanding.

To give students quality feedback in order for them to improve their work.

To support and develop students skills in writing and spelling.

Finally, a reminder that Monday 29th October is an INSET day for staff. Students return to school on **Tuesday 30th October**.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



E S Brett
Headteacher