

RUSKIN SPORTS COLLEGE

a Community High School

Ruskin Road · Crewe · Cheshire · CW2 7JT
Telephone 01270 560514 · Fax 01270 650248

Headteacher ~ Mrs E S Brett BA(hons) MA(Ed)

Our Ref: HTSA/letters/BRE/JOD

Date: 18th October 2013

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. We have had fewer students in the Support Centre, and whole school attendance is also up on the figure for last year. That is excellent news. 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. As a school, we are currently reviewing our rewards policy and we hope to be able to offer even more incentives to students who work hard, behave well and attend regularly. 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:

Teaching Staff

Mr M Asher – Music
Mrs J Needham – Science
Mrs M Grant-Miller – Humanities

Support Staff

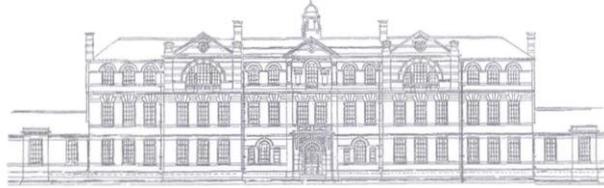
Mr B Binner – Site Staff (evenings)
Mrs P Hamilton – English Support & Intervention
Mrs J Langford – Finance Administrator
Mr T Preece – Laboratory Technician

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 smooth start! They look extremely smart and early indications are that they are generally 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. Again, I would like to stress that parents are welcome to contact school at any time. We do want to encourage you to get to know us.

This year, over 73% of our Year 11 students left with at least 5 A* to C passes. This is an achievement and thanks go to students, staff and parents for their support. The fluctuations in English and Science that have been reported nationally did affect us, and we are currently appealing against some of our English grades because we feel strongly that there has been some real inconsistency in marking. In addition, our school has decided to take a stand following the recent announcement by the Government that only the first English or Maths GCSE exam will count on the national league tables for schools. In other words, the Government are trying to persuade schools only to enter students once for each examination





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subject, rather than allowing them to re-enter students a second time. Where resits happen, schools will have to report on the **first** grade achieved, and not the **best** grade achieved. As a school, our policy is to allow students to resit examinations when we feel that it will mean that they leave with a grade that better reflects their overall ability and so, regardless of the threat to our whole school results, that is what we are going to do. I know parents will support this.

Hopefully, all parents will now be used to logging on to Insight, an information tool for parents. This online resource, which has a username and password, enables you to check attendance and punctuality, homework, achievements and behaviours. Parents can also email teachers directly through this website. Please, use this facility and contact us if you need a reminder of your log in details.

You will be well aware that our most recent Ofsted inspection fell on the final few days of the Summer term! The report has been published and I hope that you have had time to read it. Following on from the report, we have drawn up an Ofsted Action Plan. The key priorities for parents to be aware of are that the school will be:

- Continuing to increase the percentage of good and outstanding teaching
- Continuing to improve rates of attendance
- Continuing to ensure that there is high quality marking and feedback

We hope to be able to invite parents in to give more information about how you can best support your sons/daughters in due course and we will talk more about the Ofsted inspection and our plans then. In the meantime, please would you support us by ensuring that your sons/daughters:

- Attend school every day and on time
- Come equipped to learn
- Come prepared to do as they are asked so that we all work together harmoniously
- Work as hard as they can in lessons
- Complete home learning tasks properly

We will contact you if there are concerns so that your children do as well as they can at school and so that, together, we can give them the best possible start in their future working life. We do appreciate that teenagers can be strong willed, and that it is sometimes easier to back down than tackle issues – please, be honest with us where this is the case so that we can plan a way forward together.

A reminder that we do now have a dedicated school bus. The bus picks up from Leighton right the way through to Ruskin. Additional stop off points can be arranged so that students get picked up as near to the house as possible. Our drivers are very experienced and have developed great relationships with the students already. To try and encourage this service, the school is subsidising the cost and so, currently, the cost is £1 each way. If you are





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interested in the service, please contact the school office for more information, particularly as the nights draw in and the weather worsens.

Finally, as we are approaching the holiday week may I just give the usual reminder about appropriate hairstyles, colours, tattoos and piercings!

As usual, please feel free to email me direct on brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk if you have any suggestions/comments/concerns.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

E S Brett
Headteacher

*** Please note:** the term *parent* will be used to denote *parent/carer* throughout the main body of this letter.

