

Our Ref: HTSA/parental ltr/BRE/JOD
Date: 18th July 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write, we have just completed an extremely busy and rewarding week where students have given an excellent account of themselves through music and dance galas; Primary link events with a Harry Potter theme; Year 10 Work Experience; Key Stage 3 Awards afternoon and a host of other opportunities. This summarises the culmination of a great year which has seen Ruskin Community High School broaden its horizons significantly.

Trips and Visits

One of the things that we have re-established has been the focus on national and international trips, with students having the chance to visit New York and France to name but two. We are able to offer this increasing breadth thanks to the support of our staff who give their time so freely.

Students

Our school would not have its unique ethos if it were not for the students. This year, we have seen students join us from all over Europe and further afield. We are delighted to welcome them and to share with them our high standards.

In addition, we have taken several youngsters from local schools because they 'buy' in to our standards.

In September, we will see around 150 Year 7 students join us – the highest for over 10 years. In our newsletter, you will be able to read about the many successes that individual students have enjoyed this year.

Staffing

At the end of term, we say farewell to Miss R Foster (Science) and Miss K Roebuck (English). Miss Foster is relocating and Miss Roebuck has decided to have a career break to focus on her young family. We thank them and wish them well. Mrs Sharp will be taking maternity leave in the new academic year and we send our best wishes. Mrs Cooper (Admin) is also leaving us.

We welcome the following staff in September:

Mr B Smith	Second in English
Mr A Gregory	Curriculum Leader KS3 Science
Mrs P Woodcock	Curriculum Leader KS4 Science
Miss F Silcock	Science
Miss E Richards	History
Mrs P Westerside-Downes	Technology
Miss K Schorah	RE (Maternity cover)
Mr I Patterson	Teacher trainee English
Mrs J Carter	Office Manager
Mrs I Victor	Receptionist

Recruitment

As our school continues to develop, we are looking to recruit new post holders. I am delighted to say that we are fully staffed for September, but that we are seeking to offer these new opportunities:

- Laboratory Technician: Term time only – 39 wks per year/37hrs/£12,863-13,908
- Slovakian speaking Teaching Assistant: Term time only – 39 wks per year/31hrs/£12,629-14,350

Please, contact school over the summer if you are interested in applying.

Uniform

Please, check uniform guidelines carefully before purchasing. The main items to cause issues are skirts, trousers and shoes. Please do not purchase 'stretchy' skirts or tight legging style trousers. Even though some retailers badge them as school wear, none of the local secondary schools accept them. From September, if a student is given more than one warning about skirt style, they will not be allowed to wear a skirt again for the remainder of the term and will have to wear trousers.

Please, support us. This kind of conflict is totally unnecessary. Please also read the guidelines on hair and other uniform aspects.

Homework

We have had a really positive drive on homework this year and parents have commented on our steps forward. Ideas are available on our website and students should use some of the long break to do some home learning. Thank you for your support.

Behaviour

Last week, we held a Key Stage 3 Awards afternoon with nearly 100 students receiving recognition for their efforts. It was a lovely chance to focus on the children who just get it right all of the time.

Invariably, a minority of children display challenging behaviour. Ruskin has a range of systems and support to address this but, ultimately, where things aren't working we have to impose sanctions.

This year, I have analysed behaviour points and some students have had too many. Therefore, I am giving notice that, where students persistently cause disruption and fail to respond to strategies then thought will be given to asking them to repeat the year. I am giving notice of this and will be sending out individual letters as necessary. Repeating a year may well resolve the issue particularly where a student is, simply, not ready.

School Meal Charges

The standard school meal charge will increase from September to £2.35. If your child is eligible for free school meals please make sure that you check with the Education Office in good time so that our lists are up to date from the first day of term.

Thank you

A big thank you to parents/carers for supporting us this academic year. We find that support from home is essential. If, at any point, you are worried about your child's progress or attendance and behaviour, contact us. We will gladly support.

Academy

As you are aware, Ruskin has been considering a move to a Multi Academy Trust with Sandbach High School (Girls) and Sixth Form College for some time. This plan is now progressing further and I will share information with you as it develops.

On behalf of everyone at Ruskin, I wish you a relaxing, peaceful and safe summer.

Term begins for students on **Tuesday 6th September at 8.50am.**

Yours sincerely



E S Brett
Headteacher