



**Our Ref:** HTSAparent/BRE/JOD

**Date:** April 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Easter break, I am writing to thank you for all your support.

Soon after Easter, you will receive the latest edition of our school newsletter, and you will be able to read about the events that our students and staff have been involved in. I cannot list all of the events here due to the sheer number but I would like to give some examples as follows:

### **Cheshire East Music Competition**

Students from Ruskin entered the competition with a Blue Bins Drum item and also a Soul Band medley. The standard was excellent and we were all extremely proud to be entertained by such a talented group of Ruskin students. Although we didn't get a place in the final, we have been asked to perform at the Cheshire Show in the summer and this shows the standard of our performers!

### **Leighton Academy**

A group of our Polish speaking students visited Leighton Academy to work with 20 young Polish and Bulgarian children, making gifts for Mother's Day. It was a pleasure to see Ruskin students representing our school so positively and a joy to watch thirty young people demonstrating their dual language skills.

### **Year 10 Footballers**

Our Year 10 team played a challenging game against Holmes Chapel in the final of the cup. Although we didn't win, the team were determined, professional and extremely capable and I have high hopes that we will be the winners next time round!

### **Maths**

Each week, youngsters from local Primary schools come to take part in a Gifted and Talented Maths workshop. It is a delight to see so many talented young mathematicians working on quite difficult numeracy concepts and we look forward to welcoming these students to Ruskin in future as Year 7s! On that note, I am pleased to report that the number of children and parents opting for Ruskin in Year 7 has risen dramatically this year. We are hearing that our positive reputation is spreading and that parents rate our school highly in terms of expectations, attitudes to work and behaviour. That is a joint effort, so thanks must go to students, staff, parents and Governors.

I am sure you will agree that, if the examples above are anything to go by, the next newsletter is going to be of a really high quality.

Please, see below and overleaf many of the usual reminders. Thank you, in advance, for your support

### **Exams**

When we return after the Easter holiday, Year 11 students will be on a countdown to their final examinations. We wish all of our students the very best as they prepare for examinations by doing a sensible amount of revision over the holiday weeks. I would urge Year 11 students to spend the mornings revising in sensible chunks, building in time for rest and relaxation in the afternoons. That way, the revision doesn't get overlooked! It is an important part of exam preparation and will certainly increase grades. In addition, I would like to say well done to all students who have been attending revision sessions in school on a regular basis. Attendance at the events has increased, which is positive. Of course, thanks to all staff who have consistently given up lunchtimes or after school slots to deliver these sessions. There are some key sessions taking place over the Easter break and students should already be aware if they are invited to these. (On this note, over the break, we are having some major site works carried out and so students will have to enter and exit the building through the rear of the school via Rook Street. They will need to remain in the building, for health and safety reasons, because heavy machinery and vehicles will be moving around the site at specific times.)

## Insight

A reminder that all parents have access to Insight. Insight gives the following personalised information:

- Personal details
- Timetable
- School notices
- Parentpay
- School dinner choices
- Rewards and behaviours
- Homework

If you do not have your log in details, these can be provided or reset by us at school. Please, contact Ms Jewell (Reception) if you need further assistance.

## Attendance and Punctuality

As usual, I would like to give the same message about the importance of good attendance and punctuality. These are key attributes for working life and we need to ensure that our students develop these skills now. On a very positive note, attendance across all year groups continues to rise and is currently above 95% which is above national average! Thank you to all parents for supporting this.

## Uniform

Here are the usual reminders regarding uniform (including hairstyles, eyebrows and piercings). The expectations regarding uniform are clear and they are in the planner. Students DO know exactly what is allowed. Don't be tempted to allow them to have inappropriate cuts or piercings as we will have to take action on their return from the Easter break. Thanks to the overwhelming majority of parents who support us in our drive to maintain high standards. Parents sometimes ask how uniform impacts on educational standards. Quite simply, it is a school rule and if we allow it to be broken it encourages other rules to be broken. Feeling and looking smart and professional affects how students behave and work. Thank you for your support with this.

## Equipment

It is crucial that students come to school with a school bag, a planner, a reading book and a pencil case with basic items in. After Easter, we are going to be issuing sanctions when students fail to bring equipment. Of course, we all forget things from time to time but, where students persistently arrive in school without the basic items we will be issuing sanctions. Lack of equipment hampers learning. Please, support us by ensuring that your son/daughter replenishes their pencil case over the holiday period.

## Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to those parents who have attended consultation evenings recently. The evenings provide an essential opportunity for a discussion with every subject teacher. Some schools limit the number of teachers that can be seen; we don't do this. It is always a pleasure to see so many parents having discussions with teachers. If you have been unable to attend a parent consultation evening, do contact us so that a separate arrangement can be made.

## School Bus

A reminder that we run a school bus on a daily basis. Each journey is £1 and this is heavily subsidised by school. The bus route runs from Leighton right through to Ruskin Road and individual stop offs are accommodated where possible. If you would like further information, please contact Ms Jewell at school.

## Contact

As always, feel free to email me directly on [brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:brette@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk) if you have any questions or suggestions. In addition, please keep in touch with the relevant form tutor so that we can keep lines of communication open.

On behalf of the staff and our Governing body, I would like to wish you all a relaxing Easter holiday.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



E S Brett  
Headteacher

**Please note:** School returns on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Week 2 of the timetable.  
The term 'parent' refers to parents and carers throughout this letter.