



### Headteacher's Message...

Dear Parents/Carers

The Autumn Term has again been incredibly busy in school. I would like to wish everybody a happy restful Christmas holiday period and we send our very best wishes to you all for 2025.

You will see from the newsletter that the term has offered lots of opportunities, visits and activities for our students.

Both the Christmas Concert and the Presentation Evening were fantastic events and a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents and be rewarded for their hard work.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and a huge congratulations to all of our students who are featured. Also, thank you to staff for organising and planning events.

We were delighted to be joined by Captain Bernard Morgan at our remembrance event earlier in the term. Students were able to talk to him after the event and listen to some stories of key events from WWII . Well done to Aryana Balan her fantastic artwork secured a win in a national competition , the winning card can be seen on page 7.



Mr Postlethwaite, Headteacher, pictured with Mrs Rankin , Mrs Burke, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Cross, Mrs Robson, Miss Szymura .

Continued...





### Headteacher's Message continued... Need to update page

The Headteacher Prize Winners this term are:

- Year 7 Jimmy W
- Year 8 Millie T
- Year 9 Evin T
- Year 10 Willow C
- Year 11 Kacper Z



The awards are for exceptional performance, attitude to learning and contributions to school life at Ruskin. Congratulations and well done to all of the winners.

I would like to thank you for all of your support again this term and I hope you enjoy the Christmas break.

School reopens on Monday 6th January 2025 to all students on a Week 2 timetable.

Best wishes,

Mr D Postlethwaite  
Headteacher





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## School Vacancies

Please visit our website [Vacancies | Ruskin Community High School \(ruskinhighschool.co.uk\)](http://ruskinhighschool.co.uk)

We currently have no vacancies



## Fundraising in School

The whole school enjoyed fundraising for Children in Need this year. Thanks to Mrs Simmons and the School Council £240.00 was the total amount raised.

We are very grateful for all of the cakes and sweets that Parents/Carers and staff donated.

We could not offer these fundraising events without your support.



## Remembrance Service

We were joined by veteran and ex-student Captain Bernard Morgan for our Remembrance Service, where we honoured the sacrifice and service of those in our Armed Forces both past and present.

A message written by Captain Morgan was affixed to the wreath laid at our memorial plaque by both the Headmaster and our Head Prefects while the school observed a minute's silence.



Our senior Student Leaders also represented the school with pride and dignity at the Remembrance service in Crewe town centre.

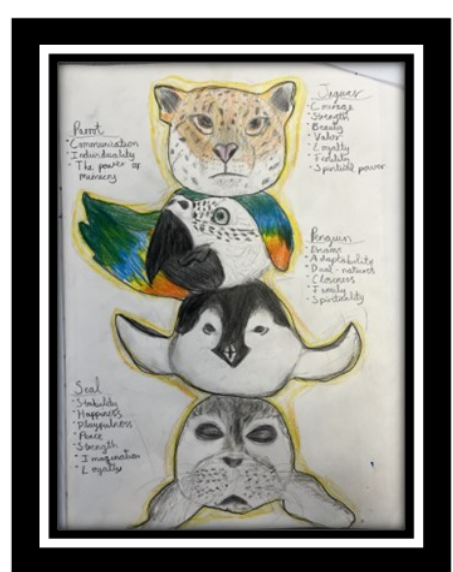


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# Art Gallery





# Art Gallery



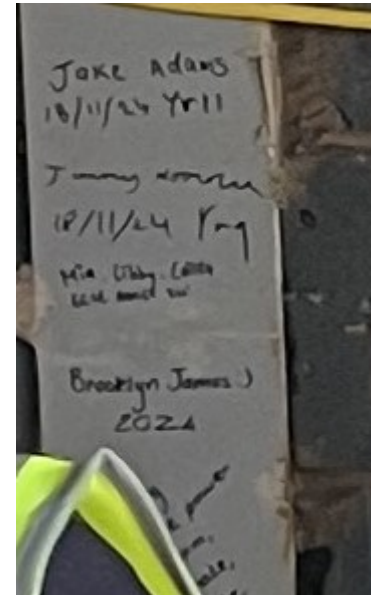


For our annual Christmas Competition Card competition this year we had some amazing entries. We even had a fabulous opportunity to enter them into a national school's competition through SAS (Schools Advisory Service). We are so pleased to announce that Aryana from the Year 10 GCSE Art class produced an amazing design on canvas and has won the overall competition to receive a £100 Amazon voucher.





## Project Update—Sports Hall Extension



The New Dance Studio is aiming for completion 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – with the feature of retractable seating and AV system will be installed in the New Year.

An exciting new, purpose built space for our students involved in Dance and Performing Arts in particular.

Students had the opportunity to sign the steel work and were shown the plans for the build.



## Performing Arts Department — Christmas Concert

Over the recent weeks students have shown immense talent and dedication whilst working on the Christmas Concert. Multiple students across different year groups have put their time and effort into creating dramatical pieces, choreographing dances and learning musical pieces in preparation for the concert. The concert was a culmination of months of hard work practising at either lunchtime or after school. It was also lovely seeing so many staff members getting involved in the staff choir.

The clubs are made up of a Year 11 and Year 10 dancers, Performance Group, KS3 Street Dance, Musical Theatre Club, String Group, Ruskin Voices, Rock Band, Drama Club, as well as year 7 Singing Club. Parents, as well as other year groups, have had the privilege of being able to watch the show. Edleston Primary also had the chance to both watch the show and perform in it.

Well done to all those students who got involved and were brave enough to perform so beautifully. Thank you to all those who attended the evening – what a great audience you were.

A massive thank you to Miss John, Mrs Harrison and Miss Allen, as well as all the staff members who helped to ensure it ran so smoothly. We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a happy new year. We hope to see you soon, in what will be our newly built dance/drama studio.



## Carol Singing at Telford Court Care Home!

On Tuesday 10th December, musicians and singers were invited to sing Christmas Carols and perform Christmas songs for the residents of Telford Court Care Home. We really did enter into the Christmas Spirit, and the elderly residents enjoyed joining in with the songs, many singing along with us and even getting up to have a dance!

The students performed beautifully and enjoyed a well-deserved drink and snack at the end of a fun, festive afternoon.



### Mr Neal—Year 7

#### Year 7: A Bright Start

We're thrilled to report that our Year 7 students have seamlessly transitioned into secondary school life. The transition from primary to secondary can be challenging, but our new students have risen to the occasion with enthusiasm and dedication.

#### Key Milestones Achieved

- Attended Transition Sessions
- Embraced Ruskin's Core Values
- Met Form Tutors and Year Achievement Managers
- Participated in Personal Development Evening

Engaged in Extra-Curricular Activities

#### A Positive Impact

Our Year 7s have quickly become valued members of the Ruskin community, demonstrating a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

#### Celebrating Success

- **Academic Achievement:** Our students have collectively earned over 22,000 positive points on Class Charts! A special shoutout to 7MIS for leading the way with an impressive 4,457 points.
- **Perfect Attendance:** 52 students have maintained 100% attendance, which is a remarkable achievement.

**Bronze Award Winners:** Congratulations to Arha A, Boris G, Jolana Z, Logan Mo, Carla G, Sandy B, Dillan McG, and Bianca M for earning their bronze awards.

#### A Successful Personal Development Evening

We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to our Personal Development Evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect and discuss the exciting journey ahead for our Year 7 students.

#### Wishing You a Joyful Festive Break

As the year draws to a close, we wish you all a restful and rejuvenating festive break. We look forward to working with you again in the new year.

*Mr Neal*





## Miss Lander— Year 8

As we come to the end of another long term, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the many successes of Year 8 students at Ruskin.

Recently, many have worked extremely hard rehearsing for the Christmas Production leading to a fantastic performance on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. I am certain that many of you came to support our students. Students also performed the production to their peers in different year groups and at a local care home to the residents.

Students have continued to earn many positive points for demonstrating our Ruskin Core Values: High Achievement, Respect, Community and Confidence. Well done to all of these students! Year 8 students have collectively earned over, 22,637 positive points on class charts! A special shoutout to Form 8GRM with an impressive 5169 positive points.

W

e have a 34 students have maintained 100% attendance which is an incredible achievement! We also have 93 students who have achieved our target of 95% and above.

### **Bronze Award Winners:**

We have 27 students who have achieved their bronze badge already this year for having 250 or more positive points. A huge well done to those students!

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We were thrilled to welcome so many parents and carers to our Personal Development Evening on Wednesday, October 23rd. It was a memorable evening, providing a valuable opportunity to connect and discuss the exciting journey ahead for our Year 8 students.

As the term draws to a close, you will soon receive your child's autumn academic report. I am immensely proud of the hard work and achievements of our Year 8 students. I encourage you to discuss their progress and set ambitious goals for the coming term.

This term, our Year 8 students have participated in a series of thought-provoking assemblies on respect, kindness, resilience, internet safety, and remembrance. These assemblies have fostered a supportive, respectful, and inclusive year group, and I am delighted to see the majority of our students embodying these values daily. We look forward to celebrating their achievements at our end-of-term assembly.

As the festive season approaches, I wish you all a restful and joyous break. I eagerly anticipate welcoming Year 8 back in 2025, refreshed and ready to embrace new challenges.

*Miss Lander*





As we near the end of our first term in Year 9, I would like to reflect on and celebrate the many successes and achievements of my year group. Many students in Year 9 have spent a long time working extremely hard preparing and rehearsing for the sellout Christmas Concert which took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Year 9 students also performed excerpts from the production to Years 7, 8 and 9 in the run up to the concert. Special mention must be given to Billy Woolrich who stole the show with his peers performing a monologue from Blood Brothers. There were a number of Year 9 students who gave amazing performances too: Karis D, Ruby MR, Miley B, Saanvi S, Emilia W, Casey C, Julia O, Chloe B, Lexi B, Kelly M and Amelia McG. It was good to see that some of these were debut performances and I hope that they continue to be involved in future school productions.

Many students continue to take part in many of the clubs which are offered at lunch times and after school: Art Club, Computing Club, MFL Film Club and many sporting clubs including, badminton, football, netball, basketball and dodgeball. In addition to this many students excel in clubs outside of Ruskin: Karis D and Lucy-Grace B (Football), Saanvi S (Fencing and Archery), Ruby MR and Jimmy W (Lyceum Theatre).

In Year 9 our students have continued to earn many positive points (26,608) for demonstrating our Ruskin Core Values: High Achievement, Respect, Community and Confidence. Well done to all of these students!

22 students out of 150 have managed to maintain a clean sheet of positive points and the top 10 students with the highest number of positive points and no negatives are listed below:

Jimmy W

Saanvi S

Ethan M

Meghna S

Romeo R

Estrella MB

Michelle O

Willow P

Jenson H



As attendance is at the heart of achievement and I am particularly impressed with the resilience of our Year 9 students who have a 100% record of attendance during this long term with dark nights, cold and wet weather and the spread of coughs and colds.

21.3% of students achieved 100% attendance

33.3% of students achieved 95% or better

20.7% of students achieved 90% or better

Since the start of the Autumn term the Year 9 students have taken part in various assemblies addressing: Initial Guide to Option Choices, Kindness, Rumours and Gossip, Internet Safety, Operation Christmas Child, Diversity Society and Remembrance with the aim of promoting a support, respectful, tolerate and inclusive year group. The vast majority of students demonstrate these qualities on a daily basis and are to be commended for it. Assemblies are now starting to focus on the Options process which will help shape our student's GCSE choices and possible future pathways. More information regarding options will be circulated to parents and students next term, however it is never too early to start research and staff will be pleased to discuss GCSE requirements and courses with students at any time.

You will also receive your child's short report at the end of term which will also be helpful in with options in mind. I hope this will give you the opportunity to discuss with your child the progress made so far and the targets that they are going to set themselves for the coming term in 2025.

A lot of students in year 9 have qualified, through excellent behaviour and attendance, for the end of term reward trips, which this year are: Cinema, Bowling, Ice-Skating, Baking and film day and Taylor Swift Activity day. This is a lovely way to end the Autumn term and an incentive for students who have not qualified to aim to do so for the Summer term. We are also looking forward to our celebration assembly on the last day of the term and to the Year 9 students ending the term on a high note.

Best wishes for the festive season and I look forward to Year 9 starting 2025 after a well-earned break.

*Mr Gregory*







As Year 10 are approaching the first term of their GCSE courses, I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping them to make the most of their time here at Ruskin. As you are aware, this is an important and demanding time for your child; it can be extremely stressful for students with revision and controlled assessments taking place throughout the year.

Students have settled in very well to their options subjects and are getting on with learning the GCSE content these subjects require. For some, that have chosen Photography, Media, Health & Social Care, I-media, Psychology, and Hospitality these are completely new subjects they have never studied before and I thank them for their mature attitude to learning these new disciplines.

There have been a number of school trips which have included year 10 students. These include the An Inspector Calls trip ran by the English department, The New Brighton Trip ran by Photography and Art, The Love Music Extravaganza run by Music, as well as, the rewards trips that run on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. These trips have enriched those curriculum areas and more are planned for the spring term.

A massive 19,000 positive points have been accumulated by the year group, so a huge well done to everyone on that. The year group attendance currently sits at 90.2%. This is significantly below where we would like it to be and certainly something we are going to be working hard to improve in the spring term. 10JOH have the highest attendance at 93.3% - keep it going 10JOH!

A huge thank you to all parents and guardians who attended the Parental Engagement Evening on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October this was attended brilliantly for our year group. This gave form tutors the opportunity to chat with parents and discuss GCSE choices and offer their support. Year 10 parents evening is going to be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, this will give you the opportunity to speak with each one of your child's teachers individually and get subject specific advice as they move through the year.

A special mention to all the students who took part in our the Christmas Concert in various different roles. These students were: Joshua C, Dicia L, Leona DCS, Aryana B, Sophia B, Lilli-Mae C, Brooklyn J, Malakai S, Sebastian W, Ruby TR, Filip R and Josh S. We are incredibly proud of all of them – their performances were outstanding. An individual mention to Aryana B who won a national Christmas card design competition – a tremendous achievement!

I hope you all a have a well-earned Christmas break and I will see all students back in 2024 for an exciting spring term ahead!

*Mr Ledwards*





Year 11 Parents' Evening took place on Monday 25th November and it was lovely to see so many of you in attendance. This was an excellent opportunity for yourselves as parents/carers to have conversations with class teachers around their mock results, along with their predicted GCSE grades. For those that couldn't make the evening, hopefully you have had chance to speak to your child's teachers or myself. Students' Short Reports and Mock Exam Results were issued before the evening. I hope that you found these useful, as they allow you to track your child's progress and see, at a glance, whether they are on target for their GCSEs. We will be holding a Year 11 Information Evening on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024, and it is important that you attend this so that you and your child are as prepared as possible as we head into the next set of Mock examinations.

Work Experience will commence w/c 16th December for Year 11 students. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain vital experience in the world of industry. Most students have successfully found a suitable placement, and I am confident they will do well and have a really positive experience. For those unable to find a placement, various events will run throughout the week to give those students experience of career based skills that will serve them for the future. We will be celebrating our end of year rewards on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, along with a Christmas lunch for all of Year 11 to recognise all of their hard work so far this year, before they commence their work experience.

Your child will have their next round of mock exams in February. As with each set of mocks it is vital they prepare fully as it gives an up-to-date snapshot of what they're likely to achieve in their final exams. The October mocks went well and the students were, generally, well prepared and understood the exam protocols that have to be followed. Please can I send a gentle reminder that students must arrive on time to all exams and have with them all necessary equipment.

We have had visitors from all the local colleges and other post-16 opportunities come to present to the students in assemblies this term, and many students have also had a one to one careers interview with our careers advisor Mrs Webster which they have found useful. We want the students to be as informed as possible as they make decisions about their next chapter.

It has been wonderful to see how the year group have grown and matured since year 7 and they are now young adults taking the challenges of Year 11 seriously. They are such a fantastic cohort of young people and I am so proud to be supporting them through their final year at Ruskin.

*Mrs Bennett*





This half term in Science:

Year 7 have been learning about states of matter and forces, including solids, liquids and gases and identifying forces on diagrams.

Year 8 have been learning about breathing, digestion and magnetism. Including how our food gets digested by enzymes and how to build electro-magnets.

Year 9 have been learning about diseases and energy, including how we can protect ourselves from disease and how energy transfers.

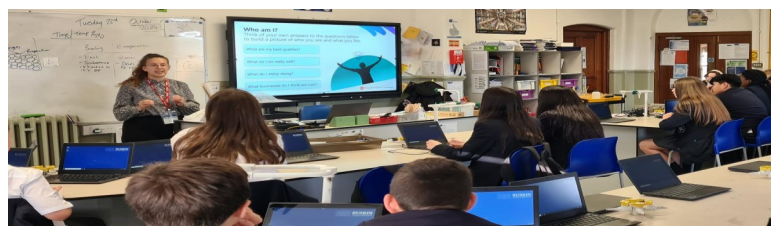
Year 10 have been learning about energy and electricity, including how heat transfers happen through different mediums and how to build circuits.



We have had a visit from a company called Everfi who delivered sessions on STEM careers to Year 7, 8 and 9. Students really enjoyed the software being used in these sessions.

STEM club have made lava lamps, fruity batteries and lots more. The Eco-Committee are still meeting to monitor how their herbs are growing.

*Mrs Sant*



Musicians and members of the Ruskin Singing Club have been busy over the last few weeks visiting some of our local primary schools to share our love of Music and to perform in assemblies. We visited Edleston Primary, Hungerford Primary and Pebblebrook Primary and are planning to also perform at Brierly Primary in the New Year.

The Singing Club sang a variety of songs from Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' to 'California Dreaming' from the Mamas and Papas. Two of our students, Saanvi S and Lilli-Mae C, also delivered speeches to the primary children explaining what opportunities they can have in Music and Performing Arts at Ruskin Community High School. There were also some wonderful vocal solos from Jake A and Sophia B. Filip R and Charlotte P performed some traditional folk music on tin whistle, violin and Cajon whilst Josh S stole the show with his rendition of Black Sabbath on electric guitar.



*Mrs Harrison*





Ruskin Choir and Musical Theatre Group were invited to take part in a 'Vocal Extravaganza Day' at Congleton Hall in November. The day featured a series of workshops about vocal techniques, performance techniques and stage presence. These were delivered by vocal experts from the LMT and an ex-student from the world-renowned LIPA (Performing Arts School). The choir were then asked to perform during the evening concert.

We performed a 15-minute set, opening with an acoustic arrangement of 'Beauty and the Beast' featuring soloists Ruby MR and Jake A. Jake then went on to perform a solo, the beautiful 'Neverland' from Peter Pan.

The choir then livened up the mood to finish the set with a rendition of 'California Dreaming'

The students also had the opportunity to listen to other performances during the concert, from other secondary schools in Cheshire East.

We finished the evening with a mass performance of 'Never Enough' with over 100 voices from across Cheshire East – an amazing sound that filled the Town Hall!





This term Year 9 have been learning all about how to form, understand and use the past tense in French. Ms Batho is particularly pleased with the work done by 9y4 and the past tense Christmas poem they created as a class. They then wrote them up and illustrated them and the winners (chosen by Mr Gregory, Year 9 YAM) are Connor B 9GRV and Ola K 9BRL.

Decembre dernier au Pôle Nord

Les lutins ont fait les cadeaux

le bonhomme de neige il a décoré le sapin avec les boules.

au village le père Noël et renne ils ont tiré le traîneau

J'ai rempli les chaussettes avec les étoiles

**FIN**

Noël Dernier

Décembre dernier, au Pôle Nord.

J'ai visité le Père Noël. Les lutins  
ils ont fait les cadeaux. Le bonhomme  
de neige il a décoré le sapin

Avec les boules. Le renne ils ont  
tiré le traîneau. J'ai rempli les  
chaussettes avec les étoiles





### **Year 7 and 8 Girls Compete in Football Tournament at Crewe Alex Soccer Centre**

On Tuesday, 26th November, a group of Year 7 and 8 girls took part in a football tournament at the Crewe Alex Soccer Centre. The tournament was a local competition, with teams from St Thomas More, Sandbach High School, Brine Leas, and Shavington also competing.

Our first match was against St Thomas More. The girls made an excellent start, taking an early lead. Unfortunately, St Thomas More managed to equalise late in the game, ending with a 1-1 draw.

Although we didn't win any of our remaining three matches, the team played with great determination. We rotated the players throughout the games, ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to represent the school. All the girls showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship.

A special mention goes to Year 8 students Kiki S, Jessica McG and Elise M, who were fantastic role models. They offered encouragement and support to the Year 7 girls, helping them throughout the tournament.

Overall, the girls represented the school with pride and enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

All students are welcome to join the football clubs which take place as follows; Tuesdays year 7&8 boys and All girls, Thursdays 9, 10 and 11s.

*Mr Stephenson*

### **Exciting Launch of this year's Duke of Edinburgh Programme & Parent/Carer Information Evening**

In September, we were thrilled to announce the launch of our school's Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme! This is an exciting opportunity for students to develop new skills, challenge themselves, and earn one of the most respected awards. The launch, combined with a successful Parent/Carer Information Evening, marked the beginning of what promises to be a transformative journey for our students. This evening covered everything from the levels of the award to the various activities students can undertake. Parents also had the chance to ask questions about the logistics of the programme, including expedition preparation, safety measures, and how students are supported throughout their journey.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Information Evening, as well as to our staff who have worked tirelessly to bring this exciting opportunity to life. The Duke of Edinburgh programme is set to be an incredible experience for our students, and we can't wait to see them grow through the challenges ahead.

For more information or to sign up, students and parents can contact Mr McGregor.





## **PSHCE Drop-Down Day: A Day of Personal Growth and Future Preparation**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, our school held our termly PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) drop-down day, providing our students with a wide range of workshops and activities designed to equip them with essential life skills and prepare them for their futures.

### **Year 7: Staying Safe and Healthy**

For Year 7, the focus was on personal safety, both in the physical and digital world. Students took part in hands-on activities such as basic first aid, discovering the importance of dental health and understanding online safety. These sessions provided valuable knowledge on how to look after themselves and stay safe in a range of environments-whether at home, school, or online.

### **Year 8 and 9: Exploring Careers and Aspirations**

Year 8 and 9 students participated in workshops focused on careers and aspirations. They had the opportunity to explore different career paths, understand the importance of goal-setting, and gain insights into how their current studies connect with future opportunities. As part of this, students attended a special workshop hosted by **Higher Horizons**, a programme that provides expert advice on post-16 opportunities, including apprenticeships, further education, and voca-

### **Year 10: Preparing for the Future**

Year 10 students were given a valuable head start as they attended three interactive workshops led by **Higher Horizons**, focusing on preparing for Year 11, university options, and career choices. These sessions helped students understand what lies ahead in their academic journeys and the wide variety of options available to them after school. From university applications to job readiness, the workshops provided practical tips and advice that students can use to plan their next steps.







## **Year 11: Work Experience and Workplace Expectations**

Year 11 students worked on preparing for their upcoming work experience placements, with a focus on what to expect in the workplace and how to conduct themselves professionally. These sessions aimed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to make the most of their work experience and to understand workplace culture, expectations, and the importance of developing transferable skills for the future.

## **A Big Thank You to Higher Horizons**

Once again, we were fortunate to have **Higher Horizons** visit our school to deliver expert workshops across multiple year groups. Their insights into post-16 pathways, career options and university life were invaluable, helping students to envision a bright future and take the first steps towards making it a reality.

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## Staff Christmas Wreath Making



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We are delighted to share the progress and achievements of our students in English and Media Studies this term. Across all year groups, enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication have been at the heart of our lessons and extracurricular activities.

Year 11 students have had a particularly inspiring term. Not only have they continued to excel in their GCSE English Language studies, but they were also given the fantastic opportunity to see 'An Inspector Calls' live at the Regent Theatre. Furthermore, their commitment to Period 6 sessions has been outstanding —demonstrating dedication that will surely pay dividends in their exams.

This term marks the beginning of GCSE English Literature studies for Year 10. Students have dived into the gripping worlds of 'An Inspector Calls' and 'A Christmas Carol', exploring themes of responsibility, morality, and transformation. In addition, a group of Year 10 students has also embarked on a brand-new adventure with the introduction of GCSE Media Studies, expertly delivered by Mrs. Simmons. The students have shown great enthusiasm for this exciting addition to the curriculum, and we can't wait to see their creative projects take shape.

In lower school, Year 9 students have been captivated by the emotional and dramatic story of 'Blood 'Brothers. Through this play, they've delved into complex themes such as class, family, and fate, enriching their understanding of literature and drama.

Our Year 8 students have embraced a variety of exciting literary challenges, studying the play Frankenstein and exploring the evocative imagery and themes in war poetry. Their thoughtful discussions have been truly impressive.

Year 7 has made a fantastic start to the year with their creative story-writing skills on full display. Their imaginative tales have wowed teachers and peers alike, setting a high bar for future studies.

In terms of clubs, our Debate Club has taken off with a bang! We have some remarkable speakers among us, and the level of confidence and skill displayed during debates is truly inspiring. Media Club has launched for lower school students, giving them a taste of this dynamic subject and encouraging budding creators to explore the world of media. For our eager readers, Classics Club has been the perfect space to explore timeless texts and foster a lifelong love of literature.

The library continues to be the heart of our reading lessons and an inviting space for students to discover new worlds through books. We are so fortunate to have such a lovely resource, and it's been a joy to see students making the most of it. Thank you, Mr Kavanagh!

We're immensely proud of our students' hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm this term. A special thank you to our wonderful teachers for their dedication and to parents and carers for your continued support. Please remember students need to read to succeed. We hope that Year 7 enjoy their Christmas presents, which have been expertly wrapped by our older students.

Warm regards, The English Department



## **Presentation Evening—Thursday 12th December**

On Thursday 12th December, we held our first Presentation Evening of this academic year. Students from across Year 7—Year 11 were presented with a range of awards, from Core Value Awards and Academic Awards.

Many congratulations to all of the students who were presented with an award, and also to those who performed during the evening. Also, thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you celebrating our students' successes, along with their teachers and peers.

## **Rewards Day—Thursday 19th December**

Year 7 to 10 students had a fabulous time during the Rewards Day. Students could choose from ice-skating, bowling, the cinema or an activity in school. Well done to you all and we hope you enjoyed your choice!



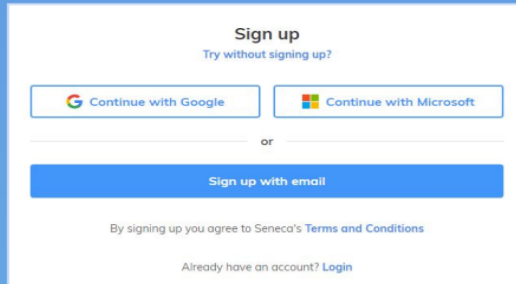


## Get Started as a Parent

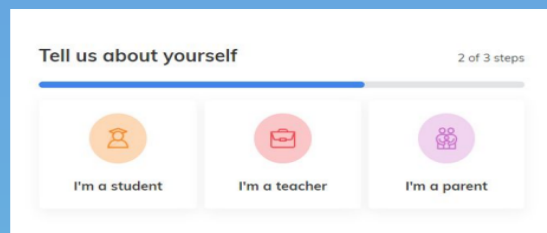
Monitor your child's progress in all their subjects for FREE!

**Sign up**

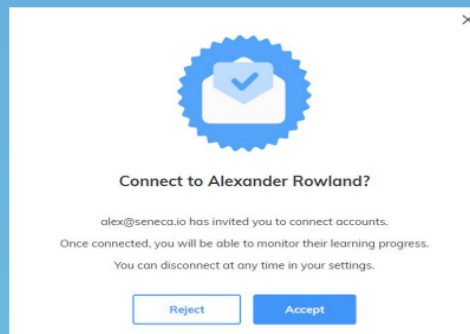
### 1. Sign up for a free parent account



### 2. Tell us about yourself

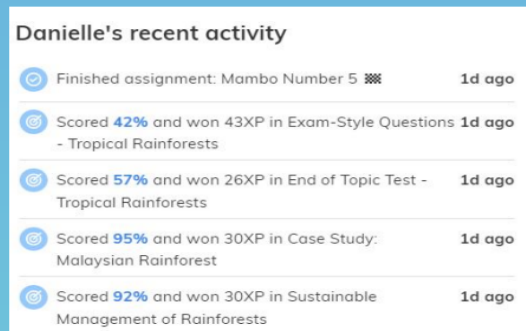


### 3. Accept the connection



### 4. Track your child's learning

You have visibility of assignments, courses and a live study feed.



**Monitor your child's progress for free**





## Get Started as a Parent

Monitor your child's progress in all their subjects for FREE!

**Sign up**

1. Sign up for a free parent account  
[www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com)

## 2. Track your child's learning

You have visibility of assignments, courses and a live study feed.

### Danielle's study time (mins)

Last 30 days ▼



### Danielle's recent activity

- Finished assignment: Mambo Number 5 🔒 **1d ago**
- Scored **42%** and won 43XP in Exam-Style Questions - Tropical Rainforests **1d ago**
- Scored **57%** and won 26XP in End of Topic Test - Tropical Rainforests **1d ago**
- Scored **95%** and won 30XP in Case Study: Malaysian Rainforest **1d ago**
- Scored **92%** and won 30XP in Sustainable Management of Rainforests **1d ago**

### Danielle's assignments

Upcoming

Past

Assignment	Teacher	Due date	Score	Time taken	
Homework Spanish D1	Mr Fryer	6d ago	97%	2min 36s	<a href="#">See more</a>

### Danielle's courses

Last year ▼

Course	Rank <span>📊</span>	Study time	Average score	Wrong answers	
Geography: AQA GCSE	8	44min	77%	19	<a href="#">Get help</a>

**Monitor your child's progress for free**

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## Attendance at Ruskin

As you will be aware, attendance is always a key focus at Ruskin. Attendance at school is essential in order for students to make the progress they are capable of and succeed during their time at secondary school.

We give students the challenge of having 95% attendance or above and anything lower than this can have a big impact on students learning, as you can see from the chart below:

	Short term impact	In a year	In a school career
100%	Full attendance	190 days learning	Full attendance – no learning lost
95%		<b>Good Attendance</b>	
94%	Half a day off per fortnight	2 <u>week</u> learning lost	10 weeks learning lost
90%	A day off each fortnight	A month's learning lost	Over half a year's learning lost
85%	A day and a half off each fortnight	Nearly half a term's learning lost	The equivalent of missing Year 11
80%	A day off a week	Over half a term's learning lost	A full year's learning lost

We do know that on occasions, absence is unavoidable. On these occasions, we do ask that you contact the school every day that your child is absent. If we do not get information on this or a valid reason is not given, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised. One day is worth two absences (am and pm registration) and ten unauthorised absences in a 10 week period could result in you being fined by the local authority. Holiday fines are sent where ten sessions (five school days) are missed.

Our preferred method for reporting absence from school is via the Class Charts app. Your child should have the details for you to log in to the app/website in their planner. If you do not have this, they will be given out again at the start of the new academic year, or please contact the school. You can now also track your child's attendance every day on Class Charts.





## **PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING !**

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19 August 2024.

### **Penalty Notices will be issued for**

**Term time leave:** Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

**10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period:** A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.

However, we retain the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the above thresholds.

### **Per Parent/Per Child**

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### **First Offence**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

### **Second Offence**

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

### **Third Offence**

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section 444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500.



Cheshire East

**TOGETHER for Children and Young People**

*Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young*

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## Attendance at Ruskin

### Attendance

We're committed to fostering a culture of consistent attendance, ensuring that your child has every opportunity to thrive. Through our school system 'Attend', we are monitoring attendance closely and communicate attendance news regularly. Messages from Attend will appear separately from our main school communication system so please do look out for these text and emails and acknowledge their receipt.

At Ruskin High School, we firmly believe that regular school attendance is vital for your child's growth, not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. It's in the classroom where friendships are forged, ideas are exchanged, and lifelong skills are honed. Every day missed represents a missed opportunity for your child to engage with their peers, teachers, and the diverse learning experiences we offer.

We understand that life can sometimes throw unexpected challenges, and there may be barriers to regular attendance. If you haven't already, please get in touch with us to see how we can provide support.

Your role as parents and carers is paramount in ensuring that your child arrives at school each day, ready to learn and grow. Should your child be unable to attend for any reason, we request that you notify us promptly by contacting us at school. Thank you for your continued support.

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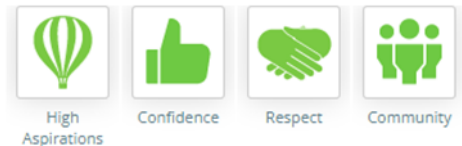


## Behaviour at Ruskin Community High School

In May, we trialled a new behaviour system to support and improve in-lesson behaviour. This included two main changes to our systems already in place. In lessons, teachers are now using our four Core Values of **High Aspirations, Respect, Confidence and Community** when discussing both positive behaviour and when behaviour needs to be addressed.

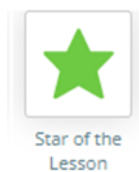
### Positive Points on Class Charts

You will now notice that all of our positive points are related to our four Core Values. Check Class Charts to see which of the Core Values your child has been awarded.



### Star of the Lesson

At the end of every lesson, teachers now award a 'Star of the Lesson' to one student in the class. This is worth five points on Class Charts. Since we started the system, 546 students out of 580 have been awarded 'Star of the Lesson'. Check Class Charts to see if your child has been awarded 'Star of the Lesson'.

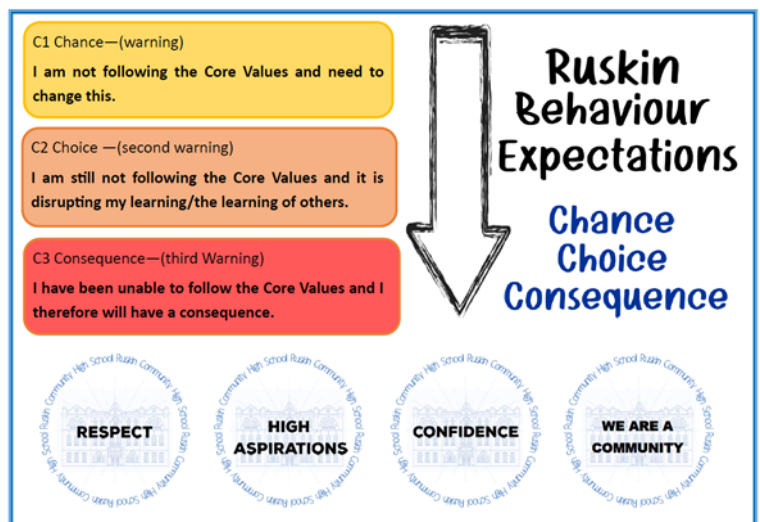


### Ruskin Core Values and Chance-Choice-Consequence

We have introduced the Chance-Choice-Consequence system to make it really clear to students about how they should behave in lessons.

**Chance:** The student is not following the Core Values and need to change this. The teacher will inform the student that their behaviour is not following the Core Values and why, and inform them that this needs to be changed.

**Choice:** The student is still not following the Core Values and it is disrupting their learning/ the learning of others. The teacher will explain to the student that they have a choice to either improve their behaviour/attitude relating to the Core Values or be given a consequence. They will make it clear that they have now been given a choice and a negative 'Choice' point is awarded on Class Charts.



**Consequence:** The student has been unable to follow the Core Values and therefore will have a consequence for this.

The student will receive either:

**An Immediate Sanction:** This could be a **detention set** for that day, removal to Support Timetable, removal to the Remove Room or removal to a designated member of staff.

**A Delayed Sanction:** Detention set for another day, a phone call home or meeting with Parent/Carer.

The introduction of this new system and the 'Star of the Lesson' has been positive and we have seen an improvement in the general attitude to lessons and learning. We look forward to embedding this further in the new academic year.

Continued...



## Some Gentle Reminders:

### UNIFORM

Please remember:

- **NO** sculptured haircuts, including patterns, are allowed and hair length must be at least a Grade 2 or above.
- Hair should be a natural colour.
- No shaved eyebrows.
- Only plain ear studs are allowed, one in each ear lobe.
- Trainers are not allowed.
- No painted or gel nails.

### MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are to be switched off at all times.

Mobile phones are not to be used in school. If students are found to be using their phone, it will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to collect it from the School Office.

**Students should not use their mobile phones to contact parents throughout the school day.**

Phones taken on a Friday will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed.

### SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

- Pencil case
- Pen (black)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Maths Set
- Water bottle

Calculators and Maths sets can be purchased from the Mathematics department or Via School Gateway and collected from Student Services: by using School Gateway app for payment.  
Calculator £12  
Maths Set £1.50  
Both £13





Ruskin Community High School SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024 / 25						
	Date of Closing			Date of Re-Opening		
<b>Autumn Term Begins</b>	*****			Tuesday	3	September
<b>Autumn Half-Term</b>	Friday	25	October	Tuesday	5	November
<b>Christmas 2024/25</b>	Friday	20	December	Monday	6	January
<b>Spring Half-Term</b>	Friday	14	February	Monday	24	February
<b>Easter</b>	Friday	4	April	Tuesday	22	April
<b>May Day</b>	Friday	2	May	Tuesday	6	May
<b>Summer Half-Term</b>	Friday	23	May	Monday	2	June
<b>Summer</b>	Friday	18	July	*****		

**INSET: Designated staff training/preparation days:**

Monday 2 September 2024  
Monday 4 November 2024  
Friday 4 July 2025  
Monday 21 July 2025  
Tuesday 22 July 2025

### Timings of the School Day from September 2023

Monday to Friday	Years 7 to 11
AM Form Tutor	8.40am – 9.00am
L1	9.00am – 10.00am
L2	10.00am - 11.00am
Break	11.00am – 11.20am
L3	11.20am – 12.20pm
L4	12.20pm – 1.20pm
Lunch	1.20pm – 2.10pm
L5	2.10pm – 3.10pm



## Motherwell Community Share Hub



Our hub stocks school uniforms, generic and branded items, stationery, and period poverty kits. And in addition, we have our fancy dress, and a community library rental service.

The Community Share Hub is here to support all, no referral needed, no questions asked.

If you have any questions, please email us on [motherwellhub@motherwellcheshirecio.com](mailto:motherwellhub@motherwellcheshirecio.com) or visit us at 54 Beech Drive, Crewe CW2 8RG.

Motherwell are offering a range of activities for young people and parents over Summer.

Please click the link for more information <https://mailchi.mp/b287a31f39bb/whats-the-latest-at-motherwell-cheshire-9267262>

**Motherwell have asked us to share the following message: Parents/Carers can use the hub for football boots or astroturf trainers. No questions asked, no referral needed! Ring 01606 557666 or text 07496 160930**



## Appeal for clothing

### DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED UNIFORM YOU CAN DONATE?

We are seeking donations of any uniform items you no longer need and are willing to

Blazers in particular as these are the most expensive items



We ask that all donated items are washed and in good condition, no rips or stains

If you can, please drop items off at the Main Reception

## Uniform Orders

Please continue to order blazers and polo tops direct from the National Schoolwear Centre based in Hanley. Telephone 01782 272991 for help with your requirements and sizing. The staff are very helpful and experienced.

Ties are sold in school for all year groups. These can be ordered via the app - School Gateway and collected by the student from Student Services.



### Shout (in partnership with Place2Be)

Any young person who feels like they are struggling to cope can text **CONNECT** to **85258** for free, 24 hours a day. Shout's trained volunteers are there to listen and support young people (and adults) to get to a calmer and safe place. Texts are confidential and will not show up on your phone bill.



[Shout - UK's 24/7 Crisis Text Service for Mental Health Support | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](#)

### ThinkNinja (age 10-18)

ThinkNinja is a mental health app designed for 10 to 18-year-olds. Using a variety of content and tools, it allows young people to learn about mental health and emotional wellbeing, and develop skills they can use to build resilience and stay well.

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinkninja&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinkninja&hl=en_GB&gl=US)



# Core Values

Our Core Values of Respect, Confidence, High Aspirations and We are a Community are at the heart of our school. Our expectation is that all students and staff uphold these Core Values in order to create a cohesive and successful and caring learning environment.

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## Respect

Our students demonstrate **respect, kindness** and **tolerance** of people from all beliefs, cultures and backgrounds.

All areas of our school life are designed to **educate, celebrate** and **appreciate** our diverse school community and beyond.

By promoting **independence**, we empower our students to build high levels of **self-respect**, allowing them to recognise and value their own **strengths**, and also to accept and act upon any areas of **development** that they have.






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## Confidence

Through all of our lessons, we facilitate students to retain **deep knowledge and understanding**, thus enhancing students' confidence in their own abilities.

We consistently provide support to develop our students into **confident communicators and readers**.

Our students are encouraged to be **inquisitive, self-assured** learners who value and are **actively involved** in their education and development.








# Core Values

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## High Aspirations

Through embedding **careers** and **work-related learning**, we promote a **value of education** and an understanding of its context for our students' futures both in a local and national context.

We want our students to demonstrate **ambition, adaptability and resilience** in all aspects of life.

We encourage students to **be the best that they can be** and offer students a **multitude of opportunities** to maximise their potential.






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## We are a Community

Within our **caring** and **supportive** learning environment, we focus on building **strong relationships** between staff and students, meaning that all students **thrive and develop**, both inside and outside of the classroom.






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