



20th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Autumn Term

As we end the Autumn Term and near the end of 2024, I have been reflecting on how proud I am to be the Principal of a school that so regularly goes above and beyond to ensure that the Collegiate is a wonderful and inspiring place to work and to learn. I am very grateful for the support that parents and carers provide, and it is through our strong partnership that we will continue to flourish and ensure that we deliver an exceptional education for all.

Our festive period has been filled with wonderful events, competitions and opportunities and I would encourage all families to regularly check our website for updates. Most recently, all students have participated in our Carol Concerts that really brought the spirit of Christmas alive and we also held our Maths Advent Calendar Competition. You can see all the superb entries and the overall winner, Daniel Wood's (7IMH) entry on our [website](#).

The Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert last night was a truly heartwarming and joyful event. In my speech at last night's event, I spoke about how the Christmas Concert epitomises what makes Riddlesdown so special and how I am determined to build upon our proud history of bringing our community together to share more fantastic events and showcase the amazing talent we have at the Collegiate. Well done to all the students involved and to the staff who work so hard to create these opportunities for students to show leadership and to use and develop their talents.

Library Rewards Programme

Congratulations to Sameera Ermolova (7MEH), for being the first student to read ten books from the Riddlesdown library this year and winning a £20 Amazon gift card. This shows a great dedication to reading and is a brilliant example for the rest of the Collegiate. Many prizes are still to be won, and the Library Rewards Programme will continue into the coming year. Please encourage your child to visit the library to collect a Rewards Card.

Behaviour and Standards

In my first letter of this half-term, I outlined how the Riddlesdown Commitment is the well-established foundation for all our work on behaviour and standards. It is through this Commitment that we develop those vital personal characteristics that ensure our students will be successful and can maximise their potential once they leave the Collegiate. I have once again attached the information that sets out our expectations so that at home, families can continue to support the same messages to ensure that we maintain our already well-established outstanding standards. Please refresh yourselves with these so that when students return after the Christmas break, they are Riddlesdown Ready with the correct [uniform](#) and equipment so that the focus is solely on learning within and outside of the classroom. A reminder that students are only allowed one single

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pair of studs worn in the lower ear – no other jewellery is allowed, including any visible body piercings or tongue studs. Nail varnish and nail extensions are not allowed; discrete, subtle make-up is permitted for students in Years 10-11. As always, your partnership and support with our work here is greatly appreciated.

On a practical note, a reminder that our first day back will be on Monday 6th January 2025. Students will begin registration and have tutor time at 10.20am and gates will open for students to come onto site at 10.00am. Students should not arrive earlier than that time.

Finally, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all have a wonderful break.

Safeguarding Briefing

With nights drawing in, please remind your child to take extra care when walking home, remind them to stick to pavements and to be extra vigilant when crossing roads. If your child travels by bike, please remind them to wear a helmet, have lights on their bike and be as visible as possible. Please remind your child that if they are concerned about something they see or encounter whilst travelling to or from school, to report this to a member of staff as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Osborne
Principal