



31st January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

January Updates

On behalf of our school community, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the many messages of condolence and support we have received following the tragic loss of Jaiden Shehata. As we come together in grief, we also stand united in supporting one another and ensuring that our school remains a place of care and comfort for all. As outlined in Mr Vass's letter on Monday 27th January, all students were guided through a session on managing grief in Tutor Groups when they returned to the Collegiate on Monday morning. All students have been able to access professional support to help them begin to process this tragedy and talk about their feelings. We will continue to offer this to our whole school community in the coming days and weeks and provide further opportunities and activities for students to manage their grief. I have reattached the information leaflet sent last Thursday which may be useful as you have further discussions with your children and the [Young Minds](#) website is an excellent source of advice, guidance and support. Thank you for your strength, understanding, and for keeping Jaiden in your thoughts.

Safer Travel

The safety of our students is our highest priority, and we urge everyone to take extra care when travelling to and from Riddlesdown Collegiate. Following the recent tragic accident, we strongly advise all students to avoid using the Bourneview Level Crossing and to follow safer, designated routes instead such as the footbridge or alternative crossings to ensure their journey is as safe as possible. We ask parents and carers to reinforce this message at home and encourage responsible travel choices. By staying alert, following safety guidelines, and looking out for one another, we can help prevent further tragedies and ensure the well-being of our school community.

Year 13 Mock Exams

Year 13 students must use their Mock Exam results as a valuable learning opportunity to ensure success in their summer A-level exams. Take the time with your child to reflect on their performance, identifying both strengths and areas for improvement. All students must use their teacher feedback to guide their revision and address any gaps in understanding. Students must not hesitate to ask for support and consistent revision, effective time management, and acting on feedback will be key to making progress. Their exams and results are a key part of the learning process and with the right focus and determination, your child can achieve their full potential in the summer exams. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your child's performance and how they can most effectively use their last few months before their public examinations at the Year 13 Parents Evening on Thursday 13th February.

Year 11 Mock 2 Exams

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the GCSE Preparation Evening on 21st January. As we approach the Year 11 Mock Exams, it is important your child is preparing effectively to give themselves the best chance of success. Over the half-term break, please support your child by

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ensuring they are using the resources available on Google Classroom and those provided by teachers to support their revision, including past papers, revision guides, and topic-specific materials. If your child is unsure about what to focus on or needs advice on how to revise, they must speak to their class teacher before the break—they can provide guidance on key areas to work on and effective revision strategies. A well-structured revision plan and regular practice will help build confidence and ensure your child is fully prepared for their Mock 2 Exams.

Year 9 Options

The options process at Riddlesdown Collegiate is a crucial step in shaping each student's future, and making the right course choices requires careful thought and discussion. Family engagement plays a vital role in this decision-making process, as parents and carers can provide valuable support and guidance. We encourage families to have open conversations with their child about their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. Significant dates in the Options process are listed below and your attendance at the key information events will ensure you can support your child in making informed decisions. By working in partnership, we can ensure that each student selects the courses best suited to their abilities and ambitions, setting them on the path to success.

Key Dates:

- 6th-17th January Options exams
- 3rd February Reports sent home
- w/c 10th February Options website launch
- 27th February Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual)
- 6th March Options Evening
- 14th March Option choices deadline

Finally, in times of great sadness, the strength of a community lies in its ability to come together, support one another, and offer comfort to those who need it most. Let us continue to stand together as a school family, offering a listening ear, a helping hand, and the reassurance that no one is alone in their grief. Thank you for your continued support and for showing the true spirit of our community in the face of such heartbreaking loss.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne
Principal