



13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **June Updates**

It's been a fantastic start to the half-term, filled with energy, achievement, and celebration. Students have already taken part in a wide range of brilliant events, including a successful Duke of Edinburgh expedition, the inspiring Young Musician of the Year competition, and impressive performances in football, athletics, and other sports. Our College Showcases have also been a real highlight, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the talent, dedication, and hard work of so many of our young people. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—it plays a vital role in helping our students thrive.

### ***Celebration Season - College Showcases***

This week, we proudly hosted four College Showcases, each a special celebration of our students' outstanding achievements. These events highlighted those who have excelled in their learning, demonstrated exceptional attitudes and truly embodied our Collegiate VALUES. It was wonderful to come together as a community to recognise and applaud the dedication, effort and character of our students. The Showcases also served to strengthen our partnership with families, offering a meaningful opportunity to share in the pride of your children's success. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making these events such a memorable celebration of excellence.

### ***Riddlesdown Makes History in Croydon Schools Football Finals***

Last week saw a historic end to the Croydon Schools football season, with Riddlesdown reaching 6 out of 8 District Cup Finals—more than any school has ever achieved. All matches were held at the Crystal Palace Academy training ground, and our students delivered exceptional performances throughout. The Year 9 boys kicked things off with a 6–2 win over Tenison's, followed by the Year 10 boys, who battled through heavy rain to beat Shirley 2–0. The Year 7 boys shone in their first final, winning 3–1 against Harris Crystal Palace. Our Under 13 girls were dominant in an 8–0 win over Coloma, showcasing the rapid progress of girls' football at Riddlesdown. The Under 15 girls narrowly lost 2–1 in a close contest played inside Crystal Palace's dome, after a spirited second-half comeback. In total, Riddlesdown won 5 District Cups, adding to 7 league titles across boys' and girls' teams. It's been the most successful football season in the school's history—a huge well done to all students and staff involved!

### ***RC Young Musician of the Year 2025 – A Celebration of Exceptional Talent***

On Thursday 5th June, the final of the RC Young Musician of the Year 2025 took place, showcasing some of Riddlesdown's most talented and promising solo performers. Sixteen finalists, selected from over forty applicants after two competitive audition rounds, represented their Key Stage with professionalism, passion and exceptional musical ability. The standard of performance was incredibly high, making it a challenging task for the judging panel—Ms Ward, Mr Dey, and guest judge Jon Regan (Co-Head of Croydon Music & Arts).



After much deliberation, the Key Stage 3 prize was awarded to Felix Cook (Year 7, Phoenix), with Aidan Kim-Moore (Year 7, Pegasus) as runner-up for his heartfelt rendition of *Smile*. In the Key Stage 4 category, Vanisha Kanchiraju and Alice Connolly (both Year 10, Phoenix) were named runner-up and winner respectively. At Key Stage 5, Elisha Yanda (Year 12, College VI) gave a show-stopping vocal performance to earn runner-up, while Kieran Gaywood (Year 13, College VI) took the top prize with an outstanding piano solo. The overall title of RC Young Musician of the Year 2025 was awarded to Harry Cook (Year 10, Phoenix) for his captivating and technically brilliant flute performance of *Hypnosis* by Ian Clarke. Congratulations to all of the finalists for a truly memorable evening of music.

## ***Cultural Learning Week***

Next week marks our exciting Enrichment Week, during which all KS3 students will enjoy two days filled with enriching experiences. Each student will spend one day on an offsite school trip and another participating in a variety of engaging activities and workshops within the Collegiate. We're thrilled to offer a diverse programme that includes visits to Kew Gardens, The Tate Modern, and The Natural History Museum, alongside a wide range of on-site workshops such as Dance, Cooking, Computing, Music, Sports, Martial Arts, Art, and Enterprise. These opportunities are designed to inspire creativity, build skills, and broaden horizons. Please refer to the letter sent by Mrs Ward earlier this week for full details, including the specific days of your child's activities and what they will need to bring for each day.

## **The importance of attendance in school**

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and it is a key priority at Riddlesdown Collegiate. Last year the Department for Education launched a national campaign – Moments Matter, Attendance counts. Below are some of their attendance top facts:

### **Attendance: the top facts to know & share** MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

**The link between attendance and attainment is clear:**

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, compared with 84% of regular attenders.<sup>1</sup>

**And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:**

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.<sup>2</sup>

**But attendance is important for more than just attainment:**

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.<sup>3</sup>

Our aim at Riddlesdown is for all students to achieve 97% attendance. You can find your child's attendance on **Arbor Parent Portal and App**. The table overleaf shows the lost learning time from absent days at school.



Annual Attendance	Annual Days Missed	Annual Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	5	30	150
95%	10	60	300
90%	20	120	600
80%	40	240	1200
50%	100	600	3000

## ***Safeguarding Briefing***

### ***Safer Travel***

Ahead of next week's trips, please reinforce TfL's ***Young Person's Behaviour Code*** below with your children.

#### **Act in a considerate and responsible manner**

- Act safely
- Cooperate with our staff and treat them and other passengers with respect
- Use language that does not cause offence to others
- Ensure you are the only person that can hear your music
- Ensure you pick up all your litter
- Keep your feet off the seats
- Give up your seat for others

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne  
**Principal**

**Principal: Mr D A Osborne BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH**