Riddlesdown Collegiate

27th June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

June Updates

The summer term is always a fantastic time for student enrichment and a chance to celebrate the outstanding achievements and efforts of so many students who have worked incredibly hard throughout the year. Recent highlights such as Cultural Enrichment Week, UCAS and Careers Week, DofE expeditions, and a wide range of trips and events have been hugely successful. I'm very grateful to all colleagues who have organised and supported these opportunities. Last night's CPA Awards means that over 700 students will have received awards on stage as part of our celebration season and by the end of term, more than 200 students will also have performed in various concerts, competitions and events, including the upcoming Summer Concert!

Girls' Football Teams Shine at National Finals!

We are incredibly proud of our Under 13 and Under 14 girls' football teams, who recently competed in the National Finals at Lilleshall – a fantastic experience for all involved. The Under 14s narrowly missed out on a place in the final, losing in the semi-final to the eventual champions after conceding in the final five minutes. However, they showed great resilience and team spirit in the 3rd/4th place play-off. After a thrilling 2-2 draw – with goals from Olivia Garassino and Ismay De Giovanni-Smith – the girls came back from 3-1 down in a dramatic penalty shootout to win 7-6 and secure the bronze medal!

The Under 13s were exceptional throughout the tournament. They beat St James' School from Gateshead 5-0 in the semi-final, with goals from Lucie Nimmo (2), Lilybell Henson, Kymaya-Ley Thomas-Quarshie, and Analiese McGregor. In the final against Upton Hall (Liverpool), the team showed real determination, growing into the game thanks in part to a strong performance from Beatrice Ali-Pick in goal. Lily Shean came off the bench to score twice, and the girls ran out 2-0 winners, becoming our first ever girls' team to win a National Championship!

To mark the occasion, the team even recreated the iconic England 1966 World Cup-winning photo – a perfect way to celebrate such a historic moment. The students had a brilliant couple of days away, and we are hugely grateful to Mr Langan for his leadership of Sport, Mrs Tappenden for her excellent work with the team, as well as to Miss Daniels, Mr Piscina, and Mrs Naomi Adams, whose support and swift organisation made the trip possible. Congratulations to all involved – a truly inspiring achievement!

Student Leadership – Year 8 Conservation

Over the next 2 weeks, we have our final Year 8 groups completing conservation work on the Downs. By the end of this academic year, 6 groups of Year 8s, almost 100 students, supported by College VI students, would have completed this work on the Downs. The students work with the Site Ranger gaining experience and knowledge of the

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work and tasks involved in maintaining such a diverse habitat. The work involves cutting bushes and holly along boundaries as well as inspecting some ancient beech trees. Students have had the opportunity to use bow saws and loppers as well as developing their leadership, communication and teamwork skills. We look forward to continuing this work in September with our new cohort of Year 8 students.

Thank a Staff Member

I wanted to give parents an opportunity to acknowledge the positive impact that members of staff at the Collegiate may have had on you or your child and so I am inviting you to nominate a member of staff for *a Riddlesdown Staff Award*. This is for any member of staff who has gone above and beyond in order to support and make a positive impact on students, staff and the wider Collegiate community.

Has your child's Form Tutor been exceptional in providing care, support and guidance. Has one of your child's subject teachers made a huge difference to your child's progress and/or enjoyment of that subject? Has a member of our non-teaching staff been instrumental in supporting your child through difficulties? Whomever it may be, whatever their role and whatever the reason, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please make your nominations (you are welcome to make more than one) by 11th July 2025 by completing the form on this link: Thanking a Member of Staff.

All members of staff who receive a nomination will be informed before the end of term – but please do not tell them yourself, as it would be nice if it were a surprise! If there is a member of our team who has really made a difference to you or your child this year, I hope that you will be able to find the time to make a nomination – it will only take a couple of minutes and I know that it will be very much appreciated.

The importance of attendance in school

Well done to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance in their College and/or Year Group for this academic year so far. This was celebrated in College Reward Assemblies this week.

Colleges

Aquila	7IMH
Orion	7EMB
Pegasus	7AJP
Phoenix	7MLB

Year Groups

Year 7	7IMH
Year 8	8OAB
Year 9	9RXB
Year 10	10EJF

End of Term Arrangements

Finally, on Friday 18th July, students will finish school at 12.00pm. They should arrive at 8.30am and be prepared for lessons 1 – 3. During lesson 4, they will have an extended Tutor Period and

will be dismissed by their Tutor at 12.00pm. Further details of the end of term, including Sports Day, and full details of the start of term, will be shared soon.

Safeguarding Briefing:* *Online Selling Safety

We would like to make parents and carers aware of a recent rise in robberies linked to the sale of items through online platforms such as Facebook Marketplace. In particular, high-value electrical items – including electric scooters – have been targeted. If you or your child is using these platforms to sell items, please take extra care. Always arrange meetings in safe, public places, avoid going alone, and be cautious of last-minute changes to agreed locations or times. Your safety is the top priority, and taking extra precautions can help prevent these situations from becoming dangerous.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne
Principal

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