



17th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Updates

As we reflect on a busy, successful, and enjoyable half term, we are delighted to celebrate the many wonderful opportunities our students have had to develop their character, skills, and knowledge beyond the classroom. At Riddlesdown Collegiate, we believe that an *Exceptional Education for All* extends far beyond academic success — it is about nurturing confident, curious, and compassionate young people who are ready to make a positive difference in the world. Enrichment experiences such as these play a vital role in helping students discover new interests, challenge themselves, and grow both personally and academically. We are incredibly proud of all that our students have achieved this half term and of the vibrant, supportive community that makes Riddlesdown such a wonderful place to learn and develop. Opportunities this half-term alone have included a wide range of curriculum and co-curricular experiences: trips to art galleries, the theatre, the House of Lords, Sadlers Wells, and many more; Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; visits from external speakers on leadership and mathematics; engaging Animation Workshops; and today's fantastic Choir of the Year competition, among countless other activities. I look forward to seeing our students continue to take part in these enriching opportunities throughout the rest of the year.

Today we marked Breast Cancer Awareness Day by taking part in the national "Wear It Pink" campaign, which raises awareness and supports breast cancer treatment and research. Students were invited to wear a pink accessory alongside their usual school uniform, it was wonderful to see so many students across all year groups get involved and support such an important campaign. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parent/carers who donated to the Purley Food Hub. It is wonderful to see our students and their families supporting such an important cause and giving back to the community.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Mock Examinations for Year 11 and Year 10 RW will begin immediately upon our return from the half-term break. In preparation, students have been supported through this week's Walking Talking Mocks and have been practising effective revision techniques both in tutor time and during lessons. A wide range of high-quality revision resources are also available on Google Classroom to support independent study over the break. We encourage all students to plan a structured revision timetable to ensure they are thoroughly prepared for their exams, while also maintaining a healthy balance by taking time to rest and enjoy quality moments with family and friends. Here is the link to the [Revision Strategy video](#) shared by Mr Bellamy earlier today — please take a moment to watch this so you can support your child effectively with their revision over the half-term break and beyond.

Year 7 E-Safety Animation Workshops

During the final week of half term, our Year 7 students participated in a special double-session workshop centred on designing animations with an e-safety theme. This exciting event was provided by Three Discovery, part of the VodafoneThree brand, committed to empowering young

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people with confidence and digital skills. The sessions highlighted our students' creativity, enthusiasm, and collaboration, while promoting safe and thoughtful use of technology. Students exchanged experiences and knowledge on staying safe online and how to report concerns. They then progressed to creating their own animation clips both with and without using a green screen. Working in teams, they edited multiple layers, added text, and incorporated sound to complete their final projects. When time permitted, we enjoyed viewing their impressive creations. It was also wonderful to hold the workshop in the Gallery, surrounded by inspiring art pieces. This workshop built upon a Police Talk held two weeks prior and will be part of an annual programme of talks and activities, including a future session delivered by the Breck Foundation. We are thrilled that our Year 7 students had the opportunity to engage in this inspiring experience with green screen technology and video editing. We look forward to showcasing the animations they will present in their Excellence and Computing lessons before Christmas.

SOCS

We are delighted to announce that we are now in a position for all parents to have access to SOCS. SOCS provides details on our Co-curricular programme and whether your daughter/son have signed up for a club. We also use SOCS Music where all instrumental lesson timetables can be accessed. SOCS Sports provide details about fixtures and there is also access to a parent calendar. The instructions on how to access SOCS is on our website which you find using [this link](#)

The importance of excellent attendance

At Riddlesdown Collegiate, we recognise that excellent attendance is one of the most important foundations for every child's success. Attending school every day not only supports strong academic progress but also helps students to build confidence, enjoy their learning, and take full advantage of the many opportunities available at the Collegiate.



Congratulations to the Tutor Groups who currently have the highest attendance in their College and/or Year Group for this academic year. Your commitment and consistency were celebrated in our College Reward Assemblies this week — well done to you all!

College		Year Groups		College Attendance	
Aquila	8AAG	Year 7	70MM	Aquila	95.3%
Orion	7SAJ	Year 8	8AAG	Orion	93.7%
Pegasus	70MM	Year 9	9EXS	Pegasus	95.3%
Phoenix	7RAC	Year 10	10SEB	Phoenix	94.4%
		Year 11	11AKM		

Our aim at Riddlesdown is for all students to achieve 97% attendance.



The importance of high standards

High standards play a vital role in helping students thrive at school. When expectations for behaviour, uniform, and conduct are consistently maintained, students are better able to focus, engage with their learning, and develop the confidence and discipline they need to succeed. To support us in upholding these standards, we have included a list of key uniform expectations at the end of this letter. Please take a moment to read through these so that every child can return after the half-term break fully prepared and ready to learn.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for joining us at one of our many parental evenings this half term and for your continued support of your children and our school community. We hope you enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable half term and look forward to welcoming your children back after the break.

Safeguarding Update: Keeping Safe in the Community

We wanted to make families aware that there has been a recent increase in reports of mobile phone robberies involving young people in the local area, particularly after school hours and around transport hubs.

While such incidents remain uncommon, it's important that students are reminded how to keep themselves safe when travelling to and from school. We have been sharing these messages in assemblies and tutor times, and would encourage you to reinforce them at home:

- Stay alert: avoid distractions such as using your phone or wearing headphones while walking.
- Keep valuables out of sight: store phones and earphones securely when not in use.
- Stick to busy, well-lit routes: avoid quiet shortcuts, especially after dark.
- Travel with friends: there is safety in numbers.
- Know what to do: if you ever feel unsafe, move to a safe location (such as a shop or station) and call 999.

If a robbery or attempted theft occurs, students should not confront anyone. Their safety is the priority. Incidents should be reported to the police and to school so that we can provide support.

We continue to work closely with our Safer Schools Police Officer and to monitor any local concerns. Please remind your child that they can always speak to a trusted adult in school if they are worried about their safety.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Osborne
Principal



Standards

As you are aware, we continue to set high levels of expectations for all members of our community, and these are reflected clearly and precisely in the standards we expect from students in acting as ambassadors inside and outside of The Collegiate. We are certain that this commitment to our VALUES promotes good habits and routines, taking pride in all, we do and developing the behaviours that lead to success. This half term break will provide you with the chance to re-set and ensure that your child is fully equipped and ready for the final half term of the academic year. Therefore, it is a timely opportunity to share some reminders about some of our key non-negotiables related to standards and expectations.

Skirts

It is important that students choosing to wear a skirt to school are not only wearing the correct skirt (the approved Riddlesdown skirt DL972* is available only from Hewitts), but that it is being worn appropriately at knee length. Students who continue to choose to roll their skirt and wear it inappropriately, will be required to wear trousers to school.

Nails & Jewellery

Our uniform policy is very clear in outlining that nail varnish and nail extensions are not allowed. In addition, we stipulate that students may wear one small plain stud in each ear and no other jewellery is allowed – this includes bracelets, necklaces and other piercings. If students choose to wear painted or extended nails to school and these cannot be removed, they may find themselves working in isolation from their peers. Furthermore, additional jewellery that is worn outside of what is permitted must be removed.

Hoodies

Hoodies are not permitted to be worn in school. It is important that students are adhering to this at all times. Students who choose to wear a hoodie in school will have it confiscated as it is not part of the school uniform.

Blazers

The school blazer is a compulsory item of uniform and must be worn at all times. The school jumper is optional, as are coats and jackets – these must not be worn instead of the blazer. Students who continue to carry or not wear their blazer will be placed in Social Supervision.

Eyelashes

Students must not wear false eyelashes. Anyone arriving at school with false eyelashes will be expected to take them off. If there is a lack of compliance with this, students may then be isolated in Ulysses.

School Shoes

These must be black leather formal shoes. Shoes must be low-heeled and students should not therefore wear boots. Nike and Adidas do not make school shoes and these will not be permitted. Any student not wearing correct footwear will be placed in school shoes by their college team.

Riddlesdown Ready

Being well equipped and ready for learning is a significant factor in students being successful. Please ensure that students are returning to school with fully stocked pencil cases, to include a supply of black, green and red pens, pencils, ruler, compass, protractor, scientific calculator, highlighters and glue.

Punctuality

Our school day starts at 08:30 and as you are aware, any student who is not sat down in their tutor room and ready for the day at this time, receives a Whole School Detention. We place a high value on punctuality, to school in the morning and to lessons throughout the day, as it demonstrates a commitment to learning and a respect for the community. Please ensure that appropriate routines are in place to support good punctuality in the morning and the messaging of the importance of being on time to lessons is being reinforced at home.

Mobile Phones

Our approach to mobile phones is On Site, Out of Sight. This simply means that whilst on the school site, students phones must not be seen or heard. Students should turn phones off and put them away in bags so that there is no distraction during the day. A student who chooses to have their phone on display in a trouser or blazer pocket will have it confiscated, as per our policy, for 5 school days.