



21st November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

November Updates

We have had a very busy and productive few weeks since our return from the half-term break. Last week, our school community came together for a reflective minutes silence and a Remembrance assembly. Students and staff paused to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. In the assembly I encouraged everyone to think deeply about the importance of remembrance—recognising not only the bravery of others, but also our responsibility to work towards peace and understanding in our own lives, learning from history and carrying forward the values of respect, gratitude, and hope for a more peaceful future.

Mock Exams

Both Year 10 and Year 11 students have sat mock exams over the past two weeks and their conduct, organisation and focus has been excellent. Teachers have nearly finished marking papers and students will receive their results in our Mock Exam Assembly on Thursday 27th November. Following this, teachers will provide targeted feedback to support students in developing their knowledge and skills, and in closing any gaps identified through the exams. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress, their mock exam feedback and their next steps at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 3rd December, which will be held on site and in person, rather than online.

As we move into this vital period in the run up to Mock 2 Exams and the summer exams, we ask for your continued support in helping your child stay fully engaged with their learning. Please encourage them to remain well organised with homework and NEAs, and to attend lessons equipped with everything they need. This includes basic equipment as well as subject-specific resources such as their English Anthologies. Strong organisation at home and at school makes a significant difference to students' confidence, progress and overall readiness for the challenges ahead.

Protecting Our Culture of Respect and Belonging

One of the reasons Riddlesdown is such a special community to belong to is the tolerance and respect we show each other each and every day. This is something we all must protect, and the language we use plays a vital role in maintaining that culture. Students are often reminded that derogatory or harmful language has no place here—whether used as a joke, in banter, or normalised elsewhere—and that our shared values of kindness, respect, dignity, and unconditional positive regard must guide our words and actions. I will be communicating with all students next week in which the key message will be clear: words carry power, and every member of our community has a responsibility to use language that builds others up and ensures that everyone continues to feel safe, valued, and accepted at Riddlesdown. Please reinforce these messages at home.



Students contacting home

In line with our mobile phone policy '*on site, out of sight*', it is vital that no students use their mobile phone to contact home during the school day. Should a student feel unwell or wish to contact home for any other reason it is important that they speak to a member of staff who will be able to support them and arrange for a call home, should that be necessary.

Countdown to Christmas - 100% attendance club

I am pleased to inform you of our new attendance rewards scheme, which starts on Monday and will run for remainder of the Autumn Term.

- Students who have 100% attendance over the next 4 weeks from Monday 24th November to Friday 19th December will be included in the 100% club at the end of the term.
- All students who achieve this will receive a 100% attendance certificate and a letter home on the last day of term.
- All students who achieve this will also be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 voucher (1 voucher given to KS3 and 1 voucher given to KS4 across the collegiate).

Thank you for your continued support and I hope all families have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr Daniel Osborne
Principal

Safeguarding Briefing

As we move into the darker months and daylight ends earlier, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of supporting safe travel home for all students.

Please encourage your child to:

- **Use well-lit, busy routes** and avoid shortcuts through unlit or isolated areas.
- **Walk with friends where possible**, especially if they are travelling on foot.
- **Stay alert** by avoiding phone use when crossing roads.
- **Let you know their plans** if they are going somewhere other than straight home.

We also recommend adding **reflective strips or tags to black school bags**, as they can greatly improve visibility to drivers and cyclists during darker evenings. If you have any concerns about your child's journey home, please contact the school. Student safety remains our highest priority.