



7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## **November Updates**

A warm welcome back to the second half of the autumn term! Following the fantastic Choir of the Year event on the final day of last half-term, we have hit the ground running this week with Mock Exams, Geography Field Trips, History lectures, and Immunisations taking place this week. The lead-up to Christmas promises to be packed with a range of important and exciting events, so please do read all communications from the Collegiate carefully. As always, do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need further information. I very much look forward to seeing many of you at the events scheduled this half-term, culminating in our wonderful Christmas Concert on 18th December. Thank you, as always, for your engagement, support, and partnership, which we look forward to continuing to build throughout this term and beyond.

## ***Riddlesdown PTA***

We are re launching our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and are gauging interest from parents who would like to get involved and help us raise much needed funds to support developing resources and equipment. Most of all we would love to build a strong community where parents and students and staff come together to create wonderful experiences for our school community and beyond. Please complete this [google form](#) with your contact details and Miss Ward will be in touch with dates for our first meeting.

## ***Mock Exams***

We have been incredibly impressed by the ways in which our Year 10 and 11 students have approached the first week of their mock exams. The Year 11 students have a full and demanding mock exam timetable and they have managed this with maturity and focus. I am keen that students know how impressed we are and would be grateful if you could extend these congratulations. Teachers have begun marking papers and preparing feedback to support next learning goals and will take time once Mock Exams are completed to continue to do this. During this time, I would ask parents, carers and students to be patient with teachers, understanding this significant volume of work. There will be an opportunity for Year 11 students and their families to discuss the exam performance and next steps at Parents' Evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## ***Remembrance Day***

Next week, our school community will come together to mark Remembrance Day. On Tuesday at 11am, students and staff will observe a minute's silence to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have served in conflicts past and present. Throughout the week, students will also take part in a series of assemblies reflecting on themes of remembrance, respect, and peace. These moments of reflection are an important opportunity for our young people to understand the significance of Remembrance Day and to appreciate the value of community, service, and gratitude.



## **Purley Food Hub**

Thank you to everyone who donated to Purley Food Hub at the end of last term. Please see their email below thanking everyone who contributed.

*Dear all, BIG thanks from all of us at Purley Food Hub for the amazing Harvest food & money collection we received from you in October 2025. Please find attached our Thank You Certificate which we hope can be displayed at Riddlesdown. At the Food Hub we give three-day emergency food parcels plus toiletries and household essentials to local people in crisis and to date we have provided food for 400,000 meals for 45,000 people since we opened in 2013. It is directly because of the fantastic support we receive from local schools like Riddlesdown, as well as from churches, community organisations and many families and individuals, that - together - we can make a real difference for families facing real hardship at this time. And it means we can continue to be here for them for as long as there remains a need. With our thanks again and best wishes to you all, Steve & all at Purley Food Hub.*

## **Hurricane Melissa**

Our thoughts are with all those affected by Hurricane Melissa and the devastation it has caused. We know that members of our community may have family or friends impacted by this tragic event, and we want to extend our deepest sympathy and support. We have identified a local charity currently fundraising, volunteering and accepting donations to assist with the relief effort. If you wish to donate any items and it is more convenient to drop them into reception, then please do so as we are able to organise delivery. All details can be found here <https://cbmeforum.org/jamaica/>.

## **A Level History Lecture**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Riddlesdown Collegiate hosted a special lecture given by renowned historian James Barr. His books include the bestselling 'A Line in the Sand' the subject of his lecture. 'A Line in the Sand' has received significant recognition for its in-depth research into the role of Great Britain and France in the origins of the conflict in the Middle East. All Year 12 and 13 students of History and Year 13 students of Politics attended this lecture with many remaining behind afterwards to ask questions and further their own understanding. As part of the History A-level syllabus, students in Year 13 research and write an extended essay focusing on a theme of their choice linked to the conflict in the Middle East. This lecture gave all students an invaluable opportunity to learn from an expert and celebrated historian about the origins of a conflict, which continues to be so prominent in the media today. We are incredibly grateful to James Barr for visiting Riddlesdown and for providing such a fantastic opportunity for our students.

## **Choir of the Year**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Year 7 concluded their first half term at Riddlesdown in style with every student taking part in the annual RC Choir of the Year competition. Each tutor group represented their college magnificently with performances featuring the music of Imagine Dragons, Journey, Natasha Bedingfield and many more! The entire year group also performed 'Banaha', a Congolese folk song, in beautiful three-part harmony as well as a rousing performance of the unofficial anthem of the CPA, 'I Like The Flowers'. The judging panel, featuring guest judge and professional singer Lily-Day Scott alongside Ms Scurlock, Tom Foyle (12KNJ) and Elisabeth Gyimah (12FT), had a difficult task on their hands with performances of such a high standard. However, after extended deliberation, they awarded the prize for 'Choir of the Year' to 7AMuA with their haunting

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performance of 'Song of the Earth'. 7PMuA were recognised as 'Most Spirited Performance' while the overall collegiate prize was awarded to Pegasus. Congratulations to all performers for a fantastic first Music performance at Riddlesdown!

## ***The Addams Family***

You may be aware that this year's school production will be The Addams Family! Our talented students and staff have been working incredibly hard to bring this spectacular show to life.

Please see the attached flyer and QR code for details on how you can support the production through donations. Every contribution helps us make this year's performance even more magical!



[justgiving.com/campaign/riddlesdownaddams](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/riddlesdownaddams)

Finally, below you will find the regular Safeguarding and Attendance Notices. Please read these carefully and contact the Collegiate should you have any questions. I look forward to a productive, successful and enjoyable half-term ahead!

Yours sincerely

**Mr Daniel Osborne**  
**Principal**



## **Attendance**

At Riddlesdown Collegiate we know that excellent attendance is one of the most important foundations for every child's success. Being in school every day not only supports strong academic progress, but also helps children to build confidence, enjoy their learning, and make the most of all the wonderful opportunities we offer at the Collegiate. We set our students the attendance target of **97%** for the academic year.

## **Attendance Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***How do I report my child's absence?***

Parents/carers should contact the Collegiate on each morning their child is absent. Parents/carers can inform the school via letter, text, phone call or emailing using [attendance@riddlesdown.org](mailto:attendance@riddlesdown.org). Parents/carers must provide reasons for absence and include details of the illness and not just that they are unwell. If it is a medical appointment, the Collegiate can be notified in advance of the day of the appointment. Medical letters will be kept on file by the College.

### ***Can my child attend school if they are unwell?***

If your child feels well, they should be in school. If you are unsure whether your child can attend school with an illness please follow the link: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

### ***Can I take my child to a medical appointment during school hours?***

If your child has an urgent medical appointment that cannot be taken out of school hours, they will be required to attend school before and after the appointment where possible. Please provide any evidence of medical appointment, these may include emails, letters or text messages.

### ***What is classed as persistent absence?***

A student is considered persistently absent if they miss 10% or more of their total school sessions within an academic year. This level of absenteeism can negatively impact a child's academic performances and overall school experience. Our Deputy Heads of College closely monitor students with attendance of 90% and below.

### ***What should I do if my child is late to school?***

Parents/carers must either email your child's tutor and/or contact the school's reception to notify them that your child will be late to school and the reason for their late arrival. Registers are taken at 8.30am and close at 9am. If your child arrives after 9am they are marked with a U code, which is recorded as unauthorised, for the morning session.

### ***What should I do if I'm struggling to get my child into school?***

At Riddlesdown the partnership between home and school is important and something we value. If your child is facing challenges to attend school, you should contact your child's tutor first. They will be able to discuss the concerns and offer support. They may ask other colleagues from the pastoral or inclusion team to support.



## *Safeguarding Briefing*

### **Safeguarding: Online Safety**

The online world offers fantastic opportunities for learning, creativity, and staying connected. However, it also presents risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, scams, and contact from strangers. As your child grows in independence, your guidance remains crucial in helping them navigate these challenges safely.

#### **Key tips for parents and carers:**

- **Talk openly and regularly.** Ask your child which apps, games, or social platforms they use, and discuss what is and is not appropriate to share online.
- **Set clear boundaries.** Agree rules about screen time, privacy settings, and sharing personal information. Encourage them never to post anything they would not want you or a teacher to see.
- **Check privacy and security settings.** Review these together on social media accounts, games, and devices.
- **Model good behaviour.** Show responsible online habits yourself. Children often copy what they see.
- **Know the signs of harm.** Sudden changes in mood, secrecy around devices, or withdrawing from friends can indicate online bullying or exploitation.

#### **Useful organisations and resources:**

- [Thinkuknow](#) – Advice from the National Crime Agency on staying safe online for parents and young people.
- [NSPCC Online Safety](#) – Guidance on social networks, parental controls, and talking about online risks.
- [Childline](#) – A confidential helpline and website for young people to talk about anything worrying them (0800 1111).
- [Internet Matters](#) – Step-by-step parental control guides and age-specific advice.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – Tips, helplines, and reporting tools for online issues.

Please remember: if you are ever concerned that your child or another young person may be at risk online, contact the school's safeguarding team without delay – [dsl@riddlesdown.org](mailto:dsl@riddlesdown.org). In an emergency, call 999.

By working together, parents, carers, and school staff, we can help ensure all our students develop the skills and confidence to stay safe and positive online.