



30th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

January Updates

Remembering Jaiden Shehata

On Friday 23rd January we marked the 1st anniversary of the death of Jaiden Shehata, a much loved member of our school community. Thank you for the continued kindness, messages of remembrance, and support shown as we mark the first anniversary. This remains a deeply significant and emotional time for many, and our thoughts are with all those who continue to feel the impact of this loss. As a school, we remain committed to supporting one another and ensuring that Riddlesdown Collegiate continues to be a place of care, compassion, and understanding. Over the past year, students have been provided with opportunities to reflect, talk, and access professional support to help them process their grief in ways that feel right for them. We recognise that grief does not follow a timeline, and feelings may resurface at different points for both students and families. As you continue conversations at home, The Young Minds website also remains an excellent source of advice, guidance, and support. Thank you for your continued strength, understanding, and for keeping Jaiden in your thoughts as we remember them together.

Mobile Phones

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently published updated guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools, with further updates expected in the coming months. We are monitoring this guidance carefully to understand any implications for our school. In the meantime, we would like to remind families that Riddlesdown Collegiate operates an 'On Site, Out of Sight', gate-to-gate mobile phone policy, which has been in place since 2019. This policy is designed to ensure students can fully focus on their learning during the school day, take part in clubs and activities, and enjoy social time with their peers without unnecessary distraction. Please be reminded that any mobile phone that is seen or heard on the school site will be confiscated for five school days. We kindly ask for your continued support by reinforcing this expectation with your child at home.

Year 13 Mock Exams

Year 13 students must use their Mock Exam results as a valuable learning opportunity to ensure success in their summer exams. Take the time with your child to reflect on their performance, identifying both strengths and areas for improvement. All students must use their teacher feedback to guide their revision and address any gaps in understanding. Students must not hesitate to ask for support and consistent revision, effective time management, and acting on feedback will be key to making progress. Their exams and results are a key part of the learning process and with the right focus and determination, your child can achieve their full potential in the summer exams. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your child's performance and how they can most effectively use their last few months before their public examinations at the Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening on Thursday 5th February.



Year 11 Mock 2 Exams

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the GCSE Preparation Evening on 26th January, all resources and information from the evening have also been emailed home. As we approach the Year 11 Mock 2 Exams, it is important your child is preparing effectively to give themselves the best chance of success. Please support your child by ensuring they are using the resources available on Google Classroom and those provided by teachers to support their revision, including past papers, revision guides, and topic-specific materials. If your child is unsure about what to focus on or need advice on how to revise, they must speak to their class teacher—they can provide guidance on key areas to work on and effective revision strategies. A well-structured revision plan and regular practice will help build confidence and ensure your child is fully prepared for their Mock 2 Exams.

Year 9 Options

The Options process at Riddlesdown Collegiate is a key milestone in each student's educational journey. Choosing the right courses is an important decision that benefits from careful consideration and ongoing discussion. Family involvement remains central to this process, as parents and carers play an essential role in offering encouragement, insight, and support. We strongly encourage families to talk openly with their child about their interests, strengths, and future goals. Key dates for the Options process are outlined below, and attending the scheduled information events will help ensure you are well placed to support your child in making confident, informed choices. By working together, we can help every student select the courses that best match their abilities and ambitions, providing a strong foundation for future success.

Key Dates:

- 30th January Reports sent home
- W/C 9th February Options website launch
- 26th February Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual)
- 5th March Options Evening
- 13th March Option choices deadline

Gas Works on Riddlesdown Road

Due to ongoing gas works on Riddlesdown Road, there is currently a diversion in place which may affect journeys to and from school. Where possible, families are encouraged to use the signed diversion route via Warren Road, Selcroft Road, Oakwood Avenue and Downs Court Road into Mitchley Avenue (and vice versa) to help reduce congestion and keep traffic flowing safely in the local area. We thank parents, carers and residents for their patience and cooperation while these essential works are completed. As always, please avoid dropping your child off at the school gates unless there is a medical need.

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

Riddlesdown Collegiate



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.

When students attend regularly, they are more likely to:

- Keep up with their learning and achieve their very best.
- Enjoy lessons and feel part of the school community.
- Take part in clubs, trips, performances, and other experiences that enrich their education.

To encourage and celebrate attendance in school, every Monday morning in Tutor time we celebrate the highest attendance the previous week in Tutor Groups and in Colleges.

Please find below last weeks:

Year Group	Tutor Group
Year 7	7DXN
Year 8	8RSG
Year 9	9EXS
Year 10	10RXB
Year 11	11SAG
Year 12	12JAS
Year 13	13ELT

1	Aquila
2	Pegasus
3	Phoenix
4	Orion

Yours sincerely

Daniel Osborne
Principal

Local Safety Concerns

Following the message sent earlier this week, we are writing to remind parents and carers of key travel safety advice after two separate incidents in the Kenley area in which six students were mugged while travelling home. The school continues to work closely with the police, who are actively investigating and will maintain a presence in the area. All students have received additional guidance in tutor time, and we ask that families continue to reinforce messages around staying aware, travelling with friends where possible, using busy and well-lit routes, keeping valuables out of sight, and trusting instincts to seek help if something feels wrong. Students have also been reminded that their safety is always more important than possessions and that they should never resist if threatened. We recognise that incidents like this can be upsetting for both students and families, and we want to reassure you that emotional support is always available in school. Please continue to talk with your child about how they are feeling, and thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our community safe.