



27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Start of Term Updates**

The half-term break and first week back have provided our students with so many inspiring and engaging opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and character beyond the classroom. Our Iceland trip was an extraordinary experience, offering students the chance to explore dramatic and “surreal” landscapes while bringing their learning to life. From climbing a glacier and exploring a lava tunnel formed by a previous eruption, to witnessing geothermal energy at Geysir and relaxing in the Blue Lagoon as snow fell around them, every moment reinforced the power of experiencing geography first-hand. The trip concluded with the breathtaking sight of the Northern Lights, a truly unforgettable highlight. The tour guide commented on how exceptional our students were throughout, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm they demonstrated. Meanwhile, our Year 9 Maths trip to Disneyland Paris perfectly combined academic enrichment with unforgettable experiences. Students took part in an engaging seminar exploring the real-life application of mathematical concepts, including forces and energy on rides, scaling, and even the financial planning behind running a major theme park. They then enjoyed time in the parks, experiencing the attractions and ending the day with the spectacular evening light show. It was a wonderful example of learning beyond the classroom, showing how mathematics connects meaningfully to the wider world.

## ***Careers Fair and Careers in the Curriculum Week***

Our Careers Fair, held on Wednesday, was a fantastic success. We were delighted to welcome 65 employers and further education providers, who engaged with students from all year groups throughout the day, with a particular focus on Year 10 and Year 12. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore their future pathways, ask insightful questions and gain inspiration from learning about a diverse range of industries and career opportunities. We are confident that many of our students will have left the event feeling motivated and better informed about their next steps. Next week we will build on this with our Careers in the Curriculum Week during which students will learn more about the career opportunities within each of the subjects they study.

## ***Year 10 & 11 Mock 2 Exams***

This week, Year 11 students completed their second mock examinations in English, Maths and Science, while Year 10 students sat their Religion and Worldviews Mock 2 examination. All remaining Year 11 Mock 2 assessments are being conducted within lessons. Students will receive their grades and feedback once marking has been completed. A report detailing Mock Examination results will be sent home on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## ***Year 9 Options***

Thank you to all families who attended the Year 9 Parents' Evening last night. In addition to providing valuable feedback on your child's progress, the evening marks an important stage in the Options process. At the end of last half-term, Mr Scott wrote to families with detailed information



about the process and the [Options Website](#), which contains key guidance and subject information. We encourage you to revisit the letter and explore the website with your child as you consider the decisions ahead. We look forward to welcoming you to the Options Evening on 5th March.

## **Attendance**

Following the success of our Countdown to Christmas attendance drive, we will shortly be launching our Countdown to Easter attendance drive. This initiative will continue to highlight the vital importance of strong attendance and the positive impact it has on achievement, wellbeing and overall progress. Further details will be shared shortly, but in the meantime, we ask for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school whenever possible and arrives ready to learn each day.

This half-term may be short, but it promises to be both busy and important, with many events and opportunities to further strengthen our partnership. I am extremely grateful for the continued support of our families and look forward to building on this strong collaboration in the weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Osborne  
**Principal**

## **Safeguarding Briefing**

On Saturday the message below was shared with families. Please continue to act upon the advice in this message.

*We are writing to make you aware of messages currently circulating on social media that appear to encourage conflict between students from different schools within the London Borough of Croydon. Riddlesdown Collegiate is not named in these communications; however, we believe it is important to keep families informed so that you can remain vigilant regarding your child's safety and movements.*

*We strongly encourage parents and carers to speak with their children about responsible decision-making and personal safety. Please advise your child to avoid any gatherings that may be associated with these messages and discourage unnecessary travel into Croydon town centre. We also recommend keeping a close eye on your child's social media activity, as situations of this nature are often organised and escalated online. The police are aware of the situation, are monitoring it closely and will have an increased police presence in Croydon. If you become aware of any posts, messages, or plans that suggest violence or retaliation, please report them to the police immediately via 101 or Crimestoppers.*

*The safety and wellbeing of every child remains our highest priority. Open and supportive conversations at home about online influences, peer pressure and making safe choices can make a significant difference. If you have any concerns or information you wish to share, please contact the appropriate authorities without delay.*