



13th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

March Updates

Three weeks into this short but incredibly productive half-term, our school community continues to demonstrate a remarkable commitment to both academic excellence and personal growth. It has been a period of significant milestones, particularly for our Year 10 and 11 students, who have shown great resilience and focus throughout their recent mock examinations, a vital step in preparing them for the challenges ahead. This spirit of ambition was equally evident during our Year 9 Options Evening and our recent Parents' Evenings; it was a pleasure to see so many families engaging in meaningful conversations about our students' future pathways and celebrating their current progress.

Beyond the formal curriculum, the last fortnight has been punctuated by vibrant opportunities for enrichment. We recently celebrated Pi Day, an event that brought a brilliant energy to our corridors as students engaged in creative mathematical challenges and explored the elegance of numbers in the world around them. Whether it is through the rigour of the exam hall or the excitement of collaborative events like Pi Day (which you can read more about below), our students continue to impress us with their maturity and enthusiasm. This half-term may be brief, but the breadth of activity taking place ensures it remains an inspiring environment for every learner to thrive.

Pi Day

Our school community came together to celebrate Pi Day in spectacular fashion this year, turning the magic and power of mathematics into a day of true inspiration. Throughout the school, students engaged in special themed activities within their maths lessons that brought numerical concepts to life in creative ways. The energy was palpable during our Pi Bake Off, where the culinary and mathematical arts collided, and the excitement continued with a school-wide Pi Scavenger Hunt and a highly competitive Pi Bee. From the festivities of the Pi Party to the many classroom challenges in between, the day was a resounding success and a wonderful reminder of how vibrant and engaging the world of mathematics can be. Thank you to Miss Bines and Miss Fitzwalter for organising this event!

Year 9 Options

Thank you to all families who attended our Year 9 Parents' Evening and the subsequent Options Evening on 5th March. Following a successful Careers in the Curriculum Week, our students have now had the opportunity to explore how their subject choices link to future pathways and professional goals. Today was the deadline to submit final option choices and we thank you for your support throughout the process.

Year 10 Football: National Final Bound!

After three years of relentless effort and several narrow heartbreaks, our Year 10 boys have officially secured their place in their first-ever National Cup Final. Facing an exceptionally strong side from Northampton School for Boys, the team returned to the very same pitch where current Crystal Palace player David Ozoh scored a dramatic extra-time winner to lead Riddlesdown to its first ever National Final. History, it seems, was destined to repeat itself. The opening twenty minutes



were a true test of character as the boys dug deep to weather an early storm. As the game progressed, they grew in stature and confidence; while clear-cut chances were rare, the team was clinical when it mattered most. Decisive goals from Cody Cole (2) and Emilio Brazier (Captain) sealed the victory. A special mention must go to our Skipper, who earned Man of the Match for a truly commanding and tireless display in defence.

This result is a testament to the squad's perseverance and maturity. They have evolved with every fixture, and this complete team effort has now been rewarded with a prestigious day out at the National Finals. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the travelling parents whose cheers spurred the boys on, and to the staff who have supported this incredible three-year journey.

The Power of Presence: Why Attendance Matters

As we navigate this busy half-term, I would like to take a moment to highlight the vital link between consistent attendance and student success. Beyond just "showing up," being in school every day ensures that students do not miss those crucial "lightbulb moments" in the classroom that build the foundation for future learning. Research consistently shows that even a small drop in attendance can have a significant impact on academic achievement and, perhaps more importantly, on a student's sense of belonging and social confidence. When students are here, they are part of a community, engaging in the collaborative spirit of events like our recent Pi Day and building the resilience needed for milestones like their mock exams. We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure every student is present and empowered to take full advantage of the opportunities we provide and every day really does count. As we look toward the end of term, the Countdown to Easter has officially begun! Below you will find the details regarding this competition.

Countdown to Easter – 100% Attendance Club

Following the success of our last Countdown competition, we are excited to launch our Countdown to Easter rewards scheme which starts from Monday 9th March and runs for the final 3 weeks of this term.

Riddlesdown Collegiate

- Students who have **100% attendance** over the next 3 weeks, from Monday 9th March to Friday 27th March, will be included in the 100% club at the end of the term.
- All students who achieve this, will receive a 100% attendance letter home on the last day of term.
- All students who achieve this, will also be entered into a prize draw to be invited to a pizza lunch served at lunchtime in school or win a **£30 Love2Shop voucher** (1 voucher given to KS3 and 1 voucher given to KS4 across the collegiate)



*Countdown
to Easter*



Yours faithfully

Mr D Osborne
Principal



Safeguarding Briefing

Maintaining a secure digital environment requires consistent vigilance, and we encourage all parents and carers to continue to take an active role in monitoring and guiding their child's online activity. To support you in this essential responsibility, we have outlined the following key reminders to help ensure your child remains safe, responsible, and well-protected while using digital devices.

1. Keep communication open: Talk regularly with your child about what they do online. Encourage them to tell you if something makes them uncomfortable.

2. Agree family phone rules. Examples may include:

- No phones overnight in bedrooms
- Screen-free family times
- Age-appropriate apps only

3. Check privacy and safety settings. Ensure:

- Accounts are private
- Location sharing is disabled
- Unknown contacts cannot message them

4. Use parental controls where helpful: Most phones allow you to manage screen time, app downloads, and content restrictions.

5. Remind children about digital footprints and that anything shared online could be saved or shared by others.