



24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## **April Updates**

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the term, made all the better by the sunny weather that has accompanied our return. I hope all of our families had a restful and enjoyable Easter break and it has been a pleasure to see students settle back into their routines with such energy and focus. The term has already been filled with a range of exciting and important events. We have seen incredible talent on display during our recent Dance Showcase and Dance students have also been busy with a wonderful Boys' Dance Workshop and visit to the Step Around Town performance. Our students also represented the school brilliantly during the Hamilton trip, and we were delighted to take over 100 students from Years 7 through 13 to the West End for a spectacular performance of the show. Alongside these enrichment opportunities, the formal examination season is now well underway. I would like to commend our students for the maturity they have shown this week during their Art exams. We are fully committed to supporting all our candidates as they move into this important period.

## ***Easter Trips***

This Easter break was a truly memorable one for our school community, with three incredible trips departing to different corners of Europe. At CERN in Switzerland, our students stood in the presence of the Large Hadron Collider, gaining a front-row seat to the cutting edge of particle physics and scientific discovery. Meanwhile, on the slopes of Italy, our skiers demonstrated outstanding resilience and talent, tackling challenging terrain with grit and a fantastic spirit of adventure. Not to be outdone, our athletes on the Netherlands football tour represented themselves and the Collegiate brilliantly, showing exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork both on and off the pitch. All students and staff returned with wonderful memories, and we could not be prouder of the way our pupils conducted themselves as ambassadors for the school throughout these life-changing experiences.

## ***GCSE, A Level and BTEC Exams***

As we enter this pivotal half-term, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents and carers of our GCSE, A Level, and BTEC students. Your ongoing support in fostering effective revision habits at home makes a world of difference during what is undoubtedly an intense and vital period in their lives. Our partnership with you is more important than ever during the exam season. We are committed to ensuring every student feels calm and capable, so please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Tutor or College Team if you have any questions or if they require additional guidance. By working closely together, we can ensure they approach their upcoming assessments with the confidence and preparation they deserve.

## ***E-Safety and Using AI for revision***

We are excited to share a fantastic new resource developed by our Director of Computing, Miss Certenais to help students understand and navigate the world of AI-assisted learning. As

technology continues to evolve, the site [Using AI for exam preparation](#) offers practical, safe, and effective strategies and advice for those who wish to incorporate artificial intelligence into their study routines. From generating practice questions to breaking down complex topics, this guide ensures that students use these tools as a "tutor, not a shortcut," maintaining academic integrity while supporting effective revision.

### ***Dance Showcase***

We were delighted to see such an outstanding display of talent at our Dance Showcase on 16th April. The evening was a true celebration of dedication and passion, with students from across all year groups delivering powerful and polished performances. This year, we were particularly struck by the creative construction of the pieces; many routines drew upon interesting and relevant themes, showing a maturity and depth that resonated with everyone in the room. Beyond the technical skill, the performances were, most importantly, a genuine joy to watch. The variety of styles and choreography was exceptional, and it was clear how much hard work had gone into every routine. A huge well done to all the performers, and a big thank you to Mrs Kassam and Mrs Scurlock whose support helped make the event such a success. It was a fantastic evening that truly showcased the strength and artistry of our performing arts community.

### ***Riddlesdown Collegiate: PFTA Annual General Meeting***

Thank you to everyone who attended and expressed interest in joining the Riddlesdown PFTA Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April. During the meeting, attendees voted on a new name for the association, which will now be known as *Supporters of Riddlesdown Collegiate* (SORC). We are delighted to congratulate the newly elected committee members:

- Chair: Aurelie Honeysett
- Vice Chair: Yvonne Kurankye
- Treasurer: Giselle Ali-Pick
- Vice Treasurer: Atinuke Ekundayo-Kehinde
- Secretary: Molly Grenham

The Constitution and Code of Conduct were also formally agreed during the meeting. We look forward to building and fostering a strong and inclusive community through SORC, where parents, carers, staff, and students can continue to work together to support a range of fundraising activities.

### ***Lockdown Practice***

On Thursday, we practised a full lockdown. Like any fire drill, this is an important part of our health and safety procedures, ensuring that both students and staff are prepared for any eventuality. I am pleased to report the drill ran smoothly from start to finish and I would like to thank parents and carers for your support in having conversations at home prior to the drill. These discussions are invaluable in helping students understand the importance of these practices, ensuring they feel safe and confident during the process.

### ***Attendance – Every lesson counts***

We are absolutely delighted to share some fantastic news regarding our school attendance! Thanks to your incredible support and commitment, our overall attendance figures have increased by 0.7% compared to this time last year. While this may sound like a small number, in school terms, it represents hundreds of hours of extra learning, peer interaction, and social development for our pupils. This achievement is a direct result of our partnership with you, and we want to say a huge thank you for support in ensuring your children arrive to school ready to learn every day.



As we move into the final term of the academic year, we are eager to continue working in close partnership with our families to ensure this positive momentum carries through the summer term and beyond. We appreciate your continued dedication to making sure your children are in school, on time, and ready for a great day of learning.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Osborne  
Principal

## ***Safeguarding Briefing***

### **Online Safety at Home**

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we want to highlight the importance of online safety at home. Many young people now spend time on gaming platforms, group chats, and live streaming services, where they may interact with people they do not know. We encourage parents and carers to take an active interest in their child's online world. Keeping devices in shared spaces, talking regularly about who they are speaking to, and reminding children not to share personal information can make a significant difference.

If your child is worried about something online, they can report concerns directly to **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command)** at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk). You can also contact the **NSPCC helpline (0808 800 5000)** for advice if you are concerned about a child's safety. If you have concerns, please do contact the school. Safeguarding is most effective when we work together.