



10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 9

I am so delighted to welcome all our students back into Year 9 after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable summer break. I have already enjoyed hearing from many Year 9 students about the exciting adventures they had over the holidays and how much they are looking forward to this school year. With such a buzz around the school at present, I too can only share this excitement about the upcoming school year and the exciting opportunities on offer for the students in Year 9. Indeed all of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about some key points to ensure a smooth transition into Year 9 and a successful year ahead.

All students have now been regrouped into new form groups and will have a new Academic Mentor. I have included the names of the Year 9 team below, together with their email addresses, as they should always be your first point of contact relating to queries regarding your child.

Argon:	Mrs Walker Ms Langlet	lwalker@rodingvalley.net slanglet@rodingvalley.net
Beryllium:	Mrs Thompson	cthompson@rodingvalley.net
Carbon:	Mr Miah	amiah@rodingvalley.net
Fluorine:	Miss Woods	cwoods@rodingvalley.net
Hydrogen:	Mr Allen	callen@rodingvalley.net
Lithium:	Miss Rabin	arabindramohan@rodingvalley.net
Magnesium:	Mr Olaitan	bolaitan@rodingvalley.net
Neon:	Miss Pinches	tpinches@rodingvalley.net
Oxygen:	Miss Hodges	fhodges@rodingvalley.net

Students must arrive at school by no later than 8.35am. I would encourage our students to arrive at the Brook Road gate (by the new building) between 8.25 - 8.30am to ensure there

is no congestion on Brook Road and that the footpaths are clear and free, ensuring safety for all in the RVHS community. Due to enhanced safeguarding measures, gates are not opened until 8.25am, students who require access to the school prior to this time, to attend an intervention, meeting or club must come through the main reception which is manned. There is a staff presence on the playground from 8.25am.

All students will be dismissed from school at 3.00pm and will depart via the same gate on Brook Road. As per school policy, should it be necessary we may keep your child behind for up to 20 minutes without informing parents/carers. Please factor this into your pick up routine. Similarly, should your child arrive late to school, they will complete a detention that same afternoon to make up for the minutes that they were late that morning. Students should go straight home at the end of the day and should not congregate in the local community, particularly around the station and Sainsburys areas, for their own safety and the welfare of the rest of our local community.

Year 9 is such an important year in the seven year journey of RVHS and as such, students are expected to meet a minimum attendance requirement of 96%, however, your child should be striving to attend school 100% of the time unless they are seriously unwell. If your child is ill, please contact the office to report their absence..

Following the positive feedback from many of our students about coming into school wearing their PE kits, we are going to continue with this policy. This will mean that on days when your child has PE, they will be allowed to attend school in their full RVHS PE kit, including their blazer. All clothing items must now be RVHS PE kit which is available from Forest Casual and Schoolwear. No other item of clothing will be accepted and sanctions will be set if your child attends school in the wrong kit.

- Students on the A side (Studying Spanish) have PE on **Tuesday & Thursday.**
- Students on the B side (Studying French) have PE on **Monday & Wednesday.**

As always, we are here to support your child in any way we can, and have a dedicated safeguarding team to ensure the wellbeing of all at RVHS. If you are ever concerned about the wellbeing of your child, please do contact any of the Safeguarding Team; Miss Dyer, Safeguarding Lead and our Safeguarding Deputies, Mrs Low, Mr Price and Mrs King who will be in the best position to support your child. We also have the iamnotok@rodingvalley.net email address which students/parents can email to seek support and guidance if needed. Please also encourage your child to talk to myself or their Academic Mentor should they have any concerns at all.

Please look out for the **Year 9 Transition Presentation** that will be released on Friday 17th September outlining key information for the transition into Year 9. This will be emailed to all parents/carers as a pre recorded presentation.

Dates for your diary:

- **Exam Week:** W/b 29th November, 2021
- **Parents Evening:** Thursday 20th January, 2022
- **Year 9 Options Evening:** Thursday 10th February, 2022
- **Assessment Consolidation:** W/b 28th February, 2022
- **Assessment Consolidation:** W/b 6th June, 2022

As we progress through this year, I recommend that you start to have discussions with your child about their preferred GCSE options. On the RVHS website there is information about the GCSE options we offer and what is required in each subject. This selection process will start with the Options Evening in February 2022. More information concerning this will be communicated at a later date.

During Year 9, there are many new and exciting opportunities on offer for our students and I encourage as many of our students as possible to get involved in as many opportunities as possible. The full extra curricular provision will be communicated with you over the coming days, however students can also ask their teachers about what is on offer in their departments. Some of the exciting trips our students are eligible for are:

- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award
- 2022 Disneyland Trip
- 2022 Ski Trip to Andorra
- 2022 Netball/Football tour of South Africa
- 2023 Ski Trip to USA

Please do contact me should you have any queries relating to any of these trips or other opportunities.

Year 9 will have the opportunity to be a 'Duty Student' this year which will see them help out in reprographics, run important errands around the school and deliver important messages to staff and students. In previous years, students have thoroughly enjoyed this day and allowed them to contribute positively to the efficient running of the school.

I look forward to working in partnership with you this year to best support our year 9's and watch them grow into respectful young adults. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any queries at all.

Yours faithfully



Miss C Edwards
Year 9 Progress Leader



Miss S Dyer
Deputy Headteacher