

Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

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Headteacher: Mrs S Jenner
Chief Executive Officer: Mr P Banks



Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

25th November 2021

Dear Parent / Carers,

I really hope that everyone in the school community is keeping safe and well.

As the cold weather draws in, please can I remind you that the school gates open at 8.25am and therefore, students should not be arriving at the gates significantly before this. The school site is supervised and secure from this time; students arriving before 8:25am for interventions and clubs should enter via the main reception.

Safety has been the theme of my assemblies this week. As the darker evenings draw in, please can I ask that students travel straight home from school. We will be doing a Lockdown drill next Wednesday and this has been explained to all the students in my assembly. I have also reminded them of the numerous ways that they can seek help within the school, including from their form tutors, their year progress leader, house captains and other members of student voice, mentors and leaders within school. They should all be aware of our iamnotok@rodingvalley.com email. I have spoken to them about seeking help for mental health issues and we revisited considering what they are posting on social media.

Last week, Miss Dyer's assemblies were on the topic of bullying. The students played an active part in the assemblies which were about the impact of "bystanders." The assembly explored the responsibility we have to look out for one another and understand the part we can play in tipping the imbalance of power, sometimes unwittingly, simply by standing by and watching something unfold. We are always encouraging our students to show empathy and kindness to one another. This is another strand we have explored this half term.

We have also issued a further set of Lateral Flow tests, so please can you ensure that the students continue to test twice weekly on Wednesdays and Sundays. This supports all the school community to keep safe and allows the school to continue to operate normally, which is what we all want at this time.

I would like to draw your attention that tomorrow (Friday 25th November), the school will be closed to students. For full term dates, please refer to our 2021-2022 Academic Calendar on the [school website](#). Students should return to school at the normal time on Monday 29th November. Additionally, the RVHS bulletin will be sent out on Monday.

Future dates for your reference:

Autumn Term

29th Nov - 1st Dec	Year 9 Exams
2nd December	Winter Concert
6th - 17th December	Year 13 PPEs



10th December	Christmas Lunch
17th December	Last day of term (student will be dismissed at lunchtime)

Spring Term

4th January	Inset Day
5th January	New Term starts at the normal times for all students
20th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening
27th January	Careers Fest
3rd February	Year 12 Parents Evening
10th February	Year 9 Options Evening

This coming winter break, Active Essex and Essex County Council will be offering FREE places on the Essex ActivAte December holiday programme for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals. These clubs provide a range of fun activities and a healthy lunch for every child attending. Please find attached a flyer with more information and the link to book:

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/bookings/>

All eligible parents and carers will be emailed their vouchers today, please ensure that you check your email.

We have been incredibly proud of the way our students have returned to school this term. Attendance to school for the vast majority of students has been excellent. The winter months are often the time that students may find the morning routines more difficult, so we have created a short presentation for parents and carers to give some support strategies to ensure your child maintains excellent attendance (at least 96%) in the school year. You can watch the presentation by clicking on the link [here](#). All details regarding attendance can be found on the school website [here](#).

I have an excellent opportunity to share with parents who would like to know more about how to protect their children from exploitation, specifically "County Lines." We have recently devoted time to training all staff in school and are working with students to help them understand the dangers in different ways for different year groups. This opportunity has been endorsed by the local authority and is being delivered by the charity Barnardo's alongside the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Parents Against Child Exploitation (Pace). The course aims to help parents and carers:

- Understand what child exploitation is
- Understand what county lines are
- Understand the signs of child exploitation
- Learn how children are groomed online
- Understand the behaviours of exploited
- Learn how to approach a potentially exploited child
- Learn where to get support and further information

To register for a place on this free course please follow the link [here](#).

We have also reviewed our severe weather day/ alternative day arrangements - please see link on [website](#) Our first choice would always be to have students on site, however, given the ability to teach remotely, this would be considered with regard to the severity of each situation. Should this alternative day need to be implemented, it would be communicated by 7:30 am by text/ email and put on our website.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Jenner', written over a light blue grid background.

Mrs Jenner
Headteacher