

Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

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Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

9th December 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

End of Term Arrangements / Start of Spring Term Arrangements / Uniform Updates

The school term finishes for students on Friday 17th December at 12:30pm.

This will be a Non-uniform Day and there will be Celebration Assemblies held during period 4. You have already been sent a [letter](#) regarding the arrangements for making charity donations as we now have to take payments via ParentPay. Each House has chosen a worthwhile charity to support and we thank you for your donation.

On the last day of term, there will be a full complement of food available at break time and those eligible for free school meals will be able to spend their allowance at this time. Please also note the information further down in this letter regarding vouchers for eligible families that will be sent out for use over the Christmas break.

It is really unfortunate but at this present time, we are having to cover high levels of staff absence. We are now experiencing issues with agencies who do not have the staff available. I will be reviewing this on Monday, to check that the school site is adequately staffed and supervised but we may need to implement some temporary remote learning for certain Year groups. Should there be a need for this to happen, we will avoid key exam classes and keep you updated. I truly hope that this can be avoided in this final week leading into the Christmas break. However, my priority must be on the safety and adequate supervision of students.

Staggered Start Arrangements for Week Beginning 4th January 2022

You may have seen in the media that students have been asked by the government to carry out a Lateral Flow Test before returning to the school site in January. Unlike in September, where we only tested Year 7 on-site and the other year groups did a Lateral Flow Test at home. In January, all students will be asked to attend the school site to take a Lateral Flow Test on site. After this initial test, students will continue to take Lateral Flow Tests at home twice weekly, as they have been doing this term. Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, it is really important that we all continue to test regularly to enable the school to continue to operate safely and as normal. I don't think anyone would want to go back to a full remote curriculum in the new year. The new restrictions do not further impact on our current operations; students and staff remain expected to wear face coverings in all communal areas inside the school building.

Below are the details for all students from Tuesday 4th January 2022 - please check when each year group is being tested and when they return to school, along with remote learning (live lessons and independent learning) to allow for the staggered testing of each year group.



Year Group	Date of On-site Testing	Return to School	Remote provision
11 & 13	Tuesday 4th January 2022	Wednesday 5th January 2022	
10 & 12	Wednesday 5th January 2022	Thursday 6th January 2022	
Year Group	Date of On-site Testing	Return to School	Remote provision
Years 7 & 9	Thursday 6th January 2022	Friday 7th January 2022	Wednesday 5th January 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online Form Time at 8.40am to 9am ● An invited live lesson ● Independent Tasks on Google Classroom
Year 8	Friday 7th January	Monday 10th January	Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online Form Time at 8.40am to 9am ● An invited Live Lesson ● Independent Tasks on Google Classroom

All Live Lesson links will be emailed to your son/daughter's RVHS email address and delivered via Google Meet. If you need any support with using Google Meet, please [click here](#). Your child will also need to remind themselves of our 'Live lesson etiquette' to retain our high standards. Please [click here](#) to see our etiquette information.

The students have been allocated times to attend school for their Lateral Flow Test which are staggered throughout the day. These times have been allocated to the student's surname alphabetically. Students must only arrive at school for the time of their test via the Sports side gate and then return home. Lateral flow testing will be in the Sports Hall as before. Thank you for the volunteers who have kindly offered their support.

Time	Surnames Beginning
9.30am	A-B
10.00am	C-D
10.30am	E-G
11.30am	H-K
12.00pm	L-N
12.30pm	O-R
14.00pm	S-T
14.30pm	U-Z

PE Kit / Uniform Updates

Following the positive feedback from students in the lower Years (93% of the students who responded to the survey want to continue wearing PE kit to school on PE days), we will continue with this for students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Please be aware that students must only wear RVHS PE kit and must still wear their blazers. It is not compulsory to have their names embroidered on their kit. However, given the colder weather we also recognise that students need to wear the RVHS tracksuit/ leggings to keep warm. These can be purchased from Forest Casuals and all the sports kit is gender neutral. There is a more fitted top and skorts, however, both boys and girls can wear the looser fitting top and shorts if they prefer. As a school, we expect conformity to our school uniform and we certainly do not want our students to be cold or uncomfortable. Therefore, if you are eligible for free school meals, or are experiencing any financial hardship which would prevent you purchasing the required uniform then please contact Mr Price, Assistant Headteacher for Student Welfare - tprice@rodingvalley.net.

The school has recently engaged with the 'Prosperity Project' and taken the views of the students who wanted some change. The Student Voice attended the 'Headteacher Conversation' and together, we have updated our uniform expectations for Year 7 to Year 11, to make it more gender neutral and appropriate for the diverse needs of the students. We will also be revisiting our Sixth Form Dress Code in the new year in consultation with the students. We will update the official policy in due course but detailed below is the initial draft excerpts for the main uniform that parents and carers may want to pay particular attention to:

Item	Details	Years 7 to 11
Skirt or Smart Black Tailored Trousers	<i>The only skirt permitted is the school colour kilt and should be worn below the knee. Trousers should be tailored plain black trousers (not leggings/jeans)</i>	

<i>Blazer</i>	<i>Plain black blazer should be worn at all times with school badge</i>
<i>Shirt</i>	<i>White collared shirt (long or short sleeved)</i>
<i>Tie</i>	<i>School tie with the House emblem should be worn at all times</i>
<i>Jumper</i>	<i>The plain black v-neck jumper is an optional item, however the jumper that should be worn is the school jumper with the school badge</i>
<i>Shoes</i>	<i>Plain black leather style shoes. Designer shoes with emblems are not permitted. Trainers are not permitted except when worn with PE kit.</i>
<i>Tights and socks</i>	<i>Tights should be plain black or tan with no patterns. Socks should be black or white worn at the ankle.</i>
<i>Jewellery</i>	<i>A single stud in each ear is permitted and a wrist watch. No other jewellery is permitted including braid jewellery.</i>
<i>Make up</i>	<i>Discreet natural makeup is a privilege for Year 10 and 11 students. False unnatural eyelash extensions are not permitted</i>
<i>Nails</i>	<i>Nail extensions, acrylics or colours are not permitted. Nails should be kept at a reasonable length for health and safety reasons.</i>
<i>Coats</i>	<i>Plain coats with no logos are permitted. Tracksuit tops are not permitted.</i>
<i>Bags</i>	<i>School bags must be big enough to hold books and equipment needed for the school day. Bags with big logos or expensive designer bags are not encouraged in our school.</i>
<i>Cultural or religious headwear</i>	<i>Headscarves should be navy blue, black or white. Head bands should be navy blue, black or white.</i>

Updates to hair section:

Extreme hairstyles or colour are not acceptable. If colour is being used on hair it must be a natural colour. (Colours such as blue, red, purple etc. are not acceptable). Students should not have their hair shaved below a number two and there should not be any patterns shaved into the hair. Hair bands should be discreet and black or blue in colour.

Our school champions the right of staff and students to embrace all Afro-hairstyles. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black staff and students'

racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.

We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.

Braiding jewellery/accessories are not permitted including but not limited to metal hair cuffs and coloured string wrapped around the braids. If this is due to cultural or religious reasons, please feel free to talk to a member of our team and we can discuss flexibility.

At this school, we recognise and celebrate our staff and students' identities. We are a community built on an ethos of equality and respect where hair texture and style have no bearing on anyone's ability to succeed.

Students may be sent home to change their hair style or colour and will work in isolation until the situation is resolved. If a student continues to disobey the rules regarding their hair styles and colour, this may lead to a suspension.

Free School Meal Food Vouchers

This can be a difficult time of year for some, both financially and emotionally. Please be assured that the Free School Meal vouchers will once again be emailed out to cover the period of school holiday. If you are not in receipt of free school meals, but would like some support, please do contact us. You can email Miss Dyer, Deputy Headteacher - sdyer@rodingvalley.net or call the school on the usual number.

You will also find a number of useful links on our website on the [Wellbeing Page](#) and on our [Safeguarding Page](#).

We will send home the RVHS bulletin on the last day of term so that you can join in our student celebrations.

Kindest Regards



Mrs Sharon Jenner
Headteacher