

19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

**School closes on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 12.20pm for students**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July will be a non-uniform day for students who wish to take part. All students that choose to wear non-school uniform will be asked to make a donation into the donation buckets linked to the charities listed below. Donation buckets will be on both entry gates in the morning. Monies raised will go to support the **house charities** (see below) with a third of the donations going to the PTA which helps to fund whole school improvements e.g. water fountains for students. The usual expectations around appropriate clothing apply.

House	Charity they are fundraising for	House	Charity they are fundraising for

As what has been an amazing academic year draws to a close, I want to thank you for your continued support. Your children have been incredible and have embraced the opportunities presented to them. This will be my last letter as Headteacher, it has been a privilege to serve the Roding Valley Community for all these years and I wish you all the best for the future. I am very proud of the team here at the school and I am totally confident that the excellent work and upward direction of the school will continue under the new Headteacher, Mr Charlton.

It is time to start looking ahead to the new academic year, and I wanted to remind you of some basic school expectations and share important information with you.

**Returning to school September 2023**

**Year 7 and Year 12 ONLY return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Year 7 should arrive at the **Brook Road** gate entrance for **8.30am**.

Year 12 should arrive at the **Sports Hall** gate for **8.30am**.



**Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023** and should arrive at Brook Road gate entrance by 8.25am. Gates will open at 8.20am.

**The timings of the school day remain as follows:**

8.20am	Students arrive to Brook Road gate entrance
8.30am	Gate closes and students move to period 1
3.00pm	End of school day - start of extra-curricular/enrichment activities

### **Uniform - IMPORTANT**

**From September, the wearing of PE kit to school on PE days will no longer be allowed.**

All students will be expected to wear full school uniform every day and bring their PE kit with them in a bag. In my previous communications, I had highlighted that the wearing of PE kit in lessons was becoming a concern to me regarding school culture, ethos and expectations. Many students do wear the PE kit immaculately but unfortunately, for a significant majority this has not improved. I consider that this is impacting on the most important learning environment in the classrooms, which cannot be tolerated. This will also mean that students **MUST** wear school shoes every day and trainers are not allowed to be worn.

All students should be in perfect school uniform at all times. Please see the table below for the details of each uniform item for students in Years 7 - 11. You will be aware our uniform expectations are gender neutral. All details can be found on our website [here](#). As a school, we have worked really hard on improving the standards of dress for our students, the vast majority of our students look incredibly smart and wear their uniform with pride. Our students are often praised for their uniform and it has supported our much-improved image in the school community. I am not prepared to lower this expectation, and neither should you. If you are experiencing any financial hardship, then please do contact the school. We would always want to support students to wear appropriate uniform. Please do also note our [pre-loved uniform website](#) where quality uniform can be purchased at reduced rates.

In recent weeks we have had to speak to a number of students about the length of their skirts. If your child is choosing to wear a school skirt, then can I please ask that you check the length to be confident that it falls below the knee. If the skirt needs to be replaced and this is going to present a financial difficulty, then please do contact us, as with any uniform issues that you may require support with. Lots of our girls are now choosing to wear smart black tailored trousers instead of the skirt.





Item	Details
<b>Skirt &amp; Tailored Trousers</b>	The only skirt permitted is the school colour kilt and should be worn below the knee. Trousers should be tailored black trousers (not leggings)
<b>Blazer</b>	Plain black blazer with the school badge should be worn at all times
<b>Shirt / Blouse</b>	Traditional plain white cotton tie collar shirt/blouse.
<b>Tie</b>	School tie with the house emblem should be worn at all times
<b>Jumper</b>	The jumper is an optional item, however the only jumper that can be worn is the school jumper with the school badge
<b>Shoes</b>	Plain black leather style shoes. Designer shoes with emblems are not permitted.
<b>Tights and socks</b>	Tights should be plain black or tan with no patterns. Socks should be black or white worn at the ankle.
<b>Jewellery</b>	A single stud in each ear is permitted and a wrist watch. No other jewellery is permitted including braid jewellery.
<b>Make up</b>	Discreet natural makeup is a privilege for Year 10 and 11 students. False unnatural eyelash extensions are not permitted
<b>Nails</b>	Nail extensions, acrylics or colours are not permitted. Nails should be kept at a reasonable length for health and safety reasons.
<b>Coats</b>	Plain coats with no logos are permitted. Tracksuit tops are not permitted.
<b>Bags</b>	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.
<b>Cultural or religious headwear</b>	Should be navy blue, black or white

Another issue we have had to deal with this year has been facial piercings. Please note that students can only wear a single stud in each ear. We will not permit students to wear other studs or rings. A plaster over them is not acceptable. Please ensure that if you allow your child to have additional piercings, it is done in plenty of time before they return to school and can be removed.

The next table below sets out our expectations for [uniform for students in Year 12 and 13](#). These uniform expectations have recently been revisited with all students; thank you to all parents, carers and students for supporting us in maintaining these high standards in 6<sup>th</sup> form.





Item	Details
<b>Suit - it may be trouser or skirt suit</b>	Should be blue, black or grey. Shorts and leggings are not permitted. Skirt length and style should be professional and formal.
<b>Dress Suit</b>	Should be blue, black or grey and must be paired with a suit jacket
<b>Shirt/Blouse/Top</b>	With sleeves.
<b>Tie</b>	Ties are a compulsory part of the dress code for male students and are permitted to be worn by female students.
<b>Jumpers/cardigans</b>	Should be blue, black or grey but should not be worn in place of a suit jacket. Hoodies or sweatshirts are not permitted.
<b>Shoes</b>	Should be leather style and plain. Trainers are not permitted
<b>Coats</b>	Plain coats with no logos are permitted. Tracksuit tops are not permitted.
<b>Lanyards</b>	Identification and house coloured lanyard must be worn at all times
<b>Jewellery</b>	A necklace, wrist watch and earrings are permitted. Facial piercings are not permitted.
<b>Makeup</b>	Subtle, natural makeup is permitted
<b>Nails</b>	Nails should be kept at a reasonable length for health and safety reasons. Subtle colours are permitted.
<b>Cultural or religious headwear</b>	Should be navy blue, black or white
<b>Hair</b>	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).

For all year groups, our expectations of hairstyles remain the same. 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 refer to [Roding Valley High School: Student Behaviour and Expectations Policy](#) Page | 23 or talk to a member of our team to 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.



## **Punctuality**

We have the highest expectations of all our students at Roding Valley. One of the things we insist upon is good punctuality to school in the morning and individual lessons throughout the day. All lessons start with a “do it now” task which is underway as soon as students arrive to the classroom. It is waiting for them when they arrive to ensure that learning begins immediately and students are able to make the most progress possible.

All staff make allowances for students moving across the school to different lessons in different parts of the school. There are no classrooms that should take any longer than about 3 minutes to travel between, and we allow students approximately 5 minutes’ flexibility before they are classed as late.

This poor punctuality to lessons will not only be affecting their own progress but also the progress of others when they arrive late and disrupt the lesson which has already started without them.

Our protocol for students who are arriving late to lessons is to issue them with a Positive Action for Learning 1 when they arrive late, due to the disruption this causes. You can read more about our Positive Action for Learning (PAL) system in our Student Behaviour and Expectations Policy [here](#). We monitor punctuality to lessons very closely and there are sanctions imposed for students who do not get this right; We operate a sliding scale of timed detentions on a Friday after school, depending on the number of times your child is late to lessons. You will be informed if your son or daughter is required to attend this detention via text message by the end of the day on Thursday.

If your child is late to school in the morning, they do a 20-minute lunch detention the same day. This will escalate to the Headteacher’s 100-minute detention on a Friday if they fail to attend.

The ultimate detention sanction is the Friday Headteacher’s 100-minute detention, and failure to attend can result in a fixed-term suspension.

## **Attendance**

We have an expectation of 100% attendance.

If your child’s attendance falls below 96%, you should expect to hear from us. Please recognise that in the first half term, 3 and a half days absent will actually force their attendance below 90% and class your child as a persistently absent student. Whilst we appreciate that children do get ill from time to time and there may be genuine reasons for students to be absent from school, we have a responsibility to make you aware of our concerns. As part of our commitment of continuing to improve the attainment and progress of our students we monitor student attendance on a weekly basis. During our regular monitoring we identify any students whose attendance causes concern. You may hear from your child’s academic mentor or we will then issue a letter to register our concern with parents/carers. We have always worked in this way, and have seen exceptional student outcomes as a result of tackling any attendance issues at the earliest opportunity.





## **Equipment**

All students should have all the equipment they need for their lessons at all times. We are happy to provide students in receipt of Free School Meals with new equipment. Part of the compulsory equipment is a reading book. All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 spend at least 20 minutes a day reading as part of our "Drop Everything and Read" (DEAR Time) campaign to continue to drive up literacy standards. All students should have a reading book with them at all times. Your son/daughter will also need the basic classroom equipment with them at all times; a black pen, green pen, highlighters, ruler, rubber and pencil. They also require a scientific **calculator** and maths set. All academic mentors will be checking equipment & uniform during their period 1 sessions. Students are not allowed to use their phones as calculators in lessons. Phones will never be allowed in any exam environment and it is essential that we encourage good study habits at all times. To achieve a good grade in a Maths GCSE, students must be able to use the functionality of a scientific calculator. Regardless of Maths ability, the top grades are unobtainable without this skill.

## **Revision & Study over the Summer Holidays**

Over the Summer break, your child may wish to engage in some revision & study to prepare themselves for the next academic year. They will all have access to Google Classroom, where they can still access previous lesson materials & assignments. These subject Google classrooms will also contain links to helpful revision documents & websites.

All students also have access to our fantastic, bespoke revision & study microsites. To access these sites that have been put together by our teachers, please click on the link below. This will take you to our webpage, where you can then select the relevant microsite for your child's age group:

<https://rodingvalley.net/high-school/revision-resources/>

We also have put together subject reading lists for every subject studied at RVHS. If you would like to access these reading lists, please click on the link below:

<https://rodingvalley.net/high-school/reading-lists/>

Lastly, if your child is hoping to join our 6<sup>th</sup> form in September, you will have also been notified about the Year 12 Summer work booklets that are available on our revision microsite. [Please click here](#) to access them. You will have also received [this letter](#) to notify you about Year 11 GCSE results day on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Safeguarding in the local community - Station area and Sainsburys**

Please can I ask for parents' support in ensuring that your child travels straight home at the end of the school day in September. It is not a safe place for young people to be hanging around the station area, we are aware of numerous police activities and plain clothes operations. Also, meeting outside Sainsburys, whilst not unsafe, is not conducive to a positive image of our students in the local community. I can only ever reiterate that the vast majority of our students behave very respectfully whilst out in the community but there are a few who have on







occasions let us down. Those who do bring the school into disrepute, should expect to be sanctioned under our [Student Behaviour and Expectations Policy](#).

Essex Police are warning about the continued and increased involvement of young people in County Lines activity - please see attached [help link](#)

### **Results Days- Year 11 & 13**

Year 13 will be able to collect their results on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August** from 8.00am; Year 11 will be able to collect their results on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August** from 8.30am. Students will enter via the Brook Road Gate and join alphabetical queues where they can collect their results. Please [click here](#) to see both results day letters for Year 11 and Year 13.

### **The Year Progress Leader Teams for 2023-24 are:**

Your first point of contact with any concerns should be your child's Academic Mentor.

Y7: Prog. Lead. - Ms Hegerty		Y8: Prog. Lead. – Miss Reed	
Argon	Mr Martin	Argon	Mr Stewart
Beryllium	Miss Harbutt	Beryllium	Ms Barclay
Carbon	Mr Ugbomah	Carbon	Mr Lacono
Fluorine	Mr Joiner	Fluorine	Ms Joseph
Hydrogen	Ms Ali	Hydrogen	Mr Brittain
Lithium	Ms Harrison-Nembhard	Lithium	Ms Gregori
Magnesium	Ms Stavrides	Magnesium	Mr Allen
Neon	Ms Ahmed	Neon	Ms Aston & Ms Jogyat
Oxygen	Mrs Bastienne	Oxygen	Ms Minhas
Platinum	Mrs Walker & Mrs Cain		



Y9: Prog.Lead. – Mr Ryan		Y10: Prog.Lead – Mrs Wills		Y11: Prog.Lead. – Taylah Pinches	
Argon	Mr Badioo	Argon	Ms Kalair	Argon	Mr Rahman
Beryllium	Mr Perera	Beryllium	Mr Savage	Beryllium	Ms Thompson
Carbon	Mr Melvin	Carbon	Mr Patel	Carbon	Mr Jennings
Fluorine	Ms Abbot	Fluorine	Mr Wilson	Fluorine	Ms Woods
Lithium	Mr Ohmeng	Lithium	Mr Bedi/ Ms Lasfer	Hydrogen	Ms Collins & Mr Jones
Magnesium	Ms Stringer	Magnesium	Ms Munk	Lithium	Ms Di-ilio
Neon	Ms Yea	Neon	Mr Huxford	Magnesium	Mr Rahman & Ms Gouveia
Oxygen	Mr J Allen	Oxygen	Ms Michaud	Neon	Mr Saghir & Ms Patel
				Oxygen	Mr Dennis & Ms Nisar

Y12 - Mrs Curling		Y13 - Mrs Curling	
Q	Ms Jack	Q	Ms Bleakley
R	Mr Hussain	R	Mr Cocker & Ms Pooley
S	Mr Goodall	S	Mr Patel
T	Mrs Costello	T	Mr Jones
U	Ms Mbelle	U	Mrs Hodges
V	Ms Sasikant	V	Mr Frary

Finally, I would like to welcome our new Year 6/7 parents and carers who are also receiving this communication.

I do apologise for this long letter but it is full of very important information regarding your child (ren) and the school's expectations. This is a wonderful school but it is important that everyone maintains their part. I have always been incredibly grateful for the parents' support and this relationship with home is vital in maintaining standards, inclusivity and high levels of academic success.

Wishing everyone in our school community a very good summer break.

A fond farewell,

Sharon Jenner  
Headteacher

