

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you for your continued support. This term has been incredibly busy and productive.

Students have engaged well with their learning; have taken part in a variety of enrichment activities and made positive contributions to the wider school community.

I am proud of the way students have demonstrated our core values through their behaviour, effort and support for peers.

It is clear to see from this edition of the newsletter that students have taken part in a wide range of enrichment activities including clubs, competitions, trips and charitable events. These experiences play a vital role in developing confidence, teamwork and leadership and we are grateful to staff who give their time to make these opportunities possible.

The Spring Term commences on Tuesday 6th January on a Week 2 timetable and we look forward to welcoming students back to school. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and I would like to wish everybody a happy and restful holiday period. Best wishes to all of our families for 2026.

If you would like to discuss anything, please contact us on 01270 560514 or via email at [enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk)

Mr D Postlethwaite  
Headteacher



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## School Vacancies

We currently have **no vacancies available**, but please continue to check our **website** for any future opportunities.

[Vacancies | Ruskin Community High School \(ruskinhighschool.co.uk\)](http://ruskinhighschool.co.uk)



## *A Sunset Filled with Love*



*Nature gifted us a breathtaking moment this week - a sunset painted in warm hues of gold with clouds forming delicate heart shapes across the sky. It felt as though the heavens themselves were sending a message of love and peace, echoing the spirit of our Tree of Remembrance.*

*Each star represents a special thought, a name or a memory, a way for us to keep loved ones close. It reminds us that in times of loss, we find strength in community and comfort in shared remembrance.*





## Remembrance

### Royal British Legion Poppy Display

This display was designed and crafted by Bentley Motors for the Royal British Legion, using Bentley's signature red leather and wood. The Royal British Legion has entrusted Ruskin Community High School as custodians of this display for the period 2025–2026, in honour of remembrance and support for our Armed Forces community.



We recently held a Remembrance Service, providing a meaningful opportunity for students and staff to reflect and pay their respects. We were honoured to welcome Sergeant Bernard Morgan and his daughter Sheila, whose presence made the occasion particularly special. Sergeant Morgan delivered a moving reading that resonated deeply with everyone in attendance and helped bring the importance of remembrance to life for our school community. We are very thankful to Sergeant Morgan and Sheila for joining us and contributing to such a poignant and memorable service.



## History

### Holocaust Survivors Share Powerful Stories at Ruskin

Ruskin was honoured to welcome Marianne Phillips and Sam Neuman, who visited the school to share deeply moving stories of the Holocaust with our Year 9 students. Their visit provided a powerful opportunity for students to learn firsthand about history, resilience and the importance of remembrance.

Marianne Phillips shared her personal story of being transported to safety through the Kindertransport. She spoke with honesty and courage about being separated from her family at a young age and the challenges she faced as a child refugee. Her account brought history to life and helped students understand the human impact behind events they have studied in lessons.

Sam Neuman shared the poignant story of his mother's survival during the Holocaust. Through his words, students heard about unimaginable hardship, loss and fear, but also about strength, survival and the determination to rebuild life after such trauma. His storytelling emphasised the importance of passing these memories on to future generations.

Throughout the talks, Year 9 students listened with great respect and compassion. They asked thoughtful and sensitive questions, demonstrating maturity and a genuine desire to understand the experiences being shared. The atmosphere in the room reflected the seriousness of the topic and the empathy students felt for hearing these stories directly.

Despite the difficult subject matter, the year group felt inspired by the messages of hope, resilience and humanity that both speakers shared. The visit was a memorable and meaningful experience that will stay with our students for years to come, reminding us all of the importance of kindness, understanding and standing up against prejudice.

To continue this legacy of remembrance, the school library will be stocking Marianne Phillips' book and will also display her teddy bear, which she had crafted. This will serve as a lasting reminder of her powerful message and the importance of never forgetting these stories.



## Fundraising in School

### Ruskin Citizenship Class Raises £100 to Help End Poverty in Crewe

We are incredibly proud of the Ruskin Citizenship class, who have raised an impressive **£100** in support of our project to help end poverty in Crewe. This fantastic achievement reflects the students' commitment to social responsibility and their desire to make a positive difference in the local community.

Through teamwork, creativity, and determination, the class demonstrated the true values of citizenship by taking action on an issue that affects many people locally. Their efforts will directly support initiatives aimed at tackling poverty and improving opportunities for those in need across Crewe.

A huge well done to everyone involved for their hard work and generosity—your contribution is a meaningful step towards building a stronger, more inclusive community.

### Cake Sale Raises £114.51 for Children in Need

We are delighted to share that Mrs Simmons, recently held a cake sale in support of **Children in Need**, raising an amazing **£114.51**.

The event was a great success, with staff and students enjoying a variety of delicious treats while supporting a very worthwhile cause. Mrs Simmons' dedication and effort helped bring the school community together and made a real difference to children and young people across the UK.



A huge thank you to Mrs Simmons and everyone who donated, baked, and took part. Your generosity and support truly embody the spirit of giving and compassion that Children in Need represents.

**Thank you** to Parents/Carers, staff and students for donating to our fundraising days and helping us to raise such fantastic amounts of money for local and national causes.







## Donations to the Ruskin Community High School

### Thank You to Crewe Alexandra

We would like to say a huge thank you to **Crewe Alexandra** for their generous donation of **20 tickets** to the match against **Bristol Rovers** on **Friday 19th December** at the **Mornflake Stadium**.

This kind gesture has provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to enjoy a live football match and be part of an exciting sporting event. We are very grateful for Crewe Alexandra's continued support of our school and the opportunities they help create for our young people.. Thank you once again for your generosity and community spirit.

**Crewe Alex are also offering students another opportunity to watch the match at a discounted price**

#### Match Details

Crewe Alexandra vs Bristol Rovers

When: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Kick-off: 7:45pm

Where: Mornflake Stadium

#### Special Festive Ticket Prices

Adults: £10

Under 19s: £5

Under 12s: FREE entry!

This is a great chance to enjoy a festive night out with friends or family at an affordable price.

#### Help Fill the Stadium!

Last year, over 9,000 fans attended the Christmas Cracker. This year, Crewe Alexandra are aiming even higher and hope to fill the whole stadium for this special match.

**Please note:** The Gresty Road End is already selling out quickly, so make sure to book early if you want to secure a spot in that stand!

#### Get Your Tickets

Click here to purchase your tickets

 <https://www.eticketing.co.uk/crewealex/EDP/Event/Index/1066?position=6>

Or call 01270 252610 or go in person to their ticket office which is open 9am – 5pm throughout the week.

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## Donations to the Ruskin Community High School

### Thank You to Our Local Businesses for Their Generous Donations

This term, we have been extremely fortunate to receive some fantastic donations from local businesses, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our school.

To help celebrate and reward positive attendance, we have received a wonderful range of prizes, including:

**Chill and Thrill** – 10 × 1-hour free play sessions, 2 × £5 vouchers, and 1 × 25% off voucher



[Chill & Thrill](#) | [Book Your Kids Party](#) | [Drink, Eat & Play Arcade Games](#) | [Crewe](#)



**Domino's** – A large pizza and a side

[Order Pizza Delivery & Takeaway Near You](#) | [Domino's Pizza](#)

**TenPin Bowling** – 4 × vouchers for two games of bowling

[The best bowling and indoor activities](#) | [Tenpin Book Now](#)



In addition, to support the important work of our **Attendance Team** **in the community**, we are incredibly grateful to **Morning Foods**, who have generously donated **two iPads**. These will be a valuable resource in helping us engage with and support families more effectively.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our local businesses for their continued generosity and support. Your contributions help us recognise and reward the hard work, commitment, and achievements of our students, making a real and positive difference to school life.

If you are a local business owner, or if your workplace may be able to support the school through donations or student rewards, we would be delighted to hear from you. Your support helps us to motivate and celebrate our students and is greatly appreciated by our whole school community. Please contact us at [enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk) or telephone 01270 560514

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## Student Success— Sporting Achievement

### Zeke Qualifies for British shooting school Championship finals.

Congratulations to Zeke, who has qualified for the British Shooting School Championship Finals taking place next February. Competing in the **10m Air Rifle** event, Zeke will represent **Ruskin** at the national finals after delivering an outstanding performance in the qualification round.

Zeke achieved a score that placed him **2nd nationally** in the **Senior category (Years 11–13)**, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects his dedication, consistency, and high level of skill. This result positions him among the very best young shooters in the country and marks a significant milestone in his shooting career.



We wish Zeke the very best as he prepares for the finals and look forward to supporting him as he represents Ruskin on the national stage.

## Sporting Success—Basketball



After several years without competitive basketball in the area, Ruskin basketball team has been involved in a couple of games during this autumn term.

First, we welcomed the team from Sir Thomas Moore for a friendly encounter between both KS3 and KS4 teams which proved to be a great warm-up for future games.

A few weeks later, a selection of Year 7 to Year 10 students visited The Oaks Academy. We played three games and secured an overall win against an enthusiastic opponent. Our students showed resilience, teamwork and effective communication while gaining more game experience which is going to prove invaluable during games and tournaments planned for next term.

The students representing Ruskin on the day were: Isaac D, Jacob M, Tilly W, Eli D, Diego L, Ibukunoluwa F, Bovern T, Matas J, Michael M, Megna S, Jack C and Ethan O.

Our basketball club is open on Fridays after school and is part of our rich extra-curricular provision here at Ruskin.



## Duke of Edinburgh

A huge congratulations to all of our Bronze and Silver students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. The expeditions were a true challenge and provided experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

We are extremely proud of the determination, resilience, and teamwork demonstrated by every student throughout the weekend. Each participant should be very proud of what they have achieved.

Our sincere thanks go to the Ruskin staff and students who generously gave their time and energy to support the expeditions. Their commitment and teamwork were vital to the success of the event.

Well done to everyone involved on a fantastic achievement.



## Careers—Trip to Keele

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Whitefoot and Ms Webster took a group of Year 11 students to Keele University to explore future pathways. We had a great time, completing engineering tasks and working in the university laboratory exploring non Newtonian substances and the challenges of construction. The students were excellent and felt that the day had given them lots of ideas about future careers. We had a tour of the university grounds and the various facilities open to potential students and apprentices.





## SEND Careers Fair Congleton

Mrs Begum from the SEND team, alongside Mrs Whitefoot and Ms Webster, Careers Advisor at Ruskin, accompanied 15 pupils to the SEND Careers Fair held at Congleton Leisure Centre. The event provided pupils with a valuable opportunity to engage with a wide range of local employers, training providers, and colleges, enabling them to gain insight into the variety of pathways available to them after school.

Throughout the visit, pupils asked thoughtful questions and showed genuine curiosity about different career options. One of the highlights of the day was an exciting and interactive tour of a fire engine, which sparked great enthusiasm and discussion among the group. All pupils were fully engaged for the duration of the event and demonstrated excellent behaviour, confidence, and maturity. The visit was a highly positive experience and played an important role in supporting pupils to begin thinking about their future aspirations and next steps.





## English

### **A Festive Trip to the Crewe Lyceum Theatre**

Just before the holidays, our Year 10 and Year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic English trip to the Crewe Lyceum Theatre to watch a live performance of *A Christmas Carol* - the very text they study for GCSE English Literature.

For Year 10, who are currently exploring Dickens' classic in class, the production brought the story to life in a vivid and exciting way. Seeing Scrooge, the Ghosts and the bustling streets of Victorian London on stage helped deepen their understanding of the characters and themes they have been discussing.

For Year 11, the trip offered a valuable chance to revisit the text as part of their revision ahead of the summer GCSE exams. The performance highlighted key moments and interpretations, giving students fresh insights to take back into their written work.



## Performing Arts Department

### Christmas Concert 2025

Our Christmas Concert 2025 took place on Wednesday 10th December, providing a wonderful evening that celebrated the talents of our students across both music and dance. The event featured fantastic solo performances, along with items from extra-curricular clubs, class groups and those taking part in peripatetic lessons.

With a sold-out audience, students treated guests to a vibrant mixture of Christmas classics, contemporary pieces and energetic rock performances. The Performing Arts Department is incredibly proud of all students involved in the show, recognising the commitment and dedication they displayed throughout the preparations and on the night itself.

We are now looking ahead with excitement to our upcoming musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, taking place in March. Tickets will be on sale soon!



## Music Department — Clonter Opera

We have been delighted to host our first collaborative project with Clonter Opera, based in Congleton. The project explored the theme of New Beginnings and involved 50 of our Year 7 students. Over three days, students were challenged to immerse themselves in a range of performing arts disciplines, including percussion, lyric writing, street dance, and set and costume design.

Professional artists visited Ruskin to deliver workshops in each area, giving students the chance to learn directly from industry specialists. Students were then fortunate to be invited to Clonter Opera, where they had the opportunity to work within a professional theatre environment and engage with high-quality technical equipment and staging.

To conclude the project, students showcased a final performance to parents in our Performing Arts Studio. It was wonderful to witness such an impressive performance and to see the students' design work proudly on display. This unique experience offered students valuable insight into the many careers and roles involved in creating a production.



*Mrs C M Harrison*





## Music Department—Carol singing at Telford Court care home.

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, musicians and singers from Ruskin High School were invited to sing Christmas Carols and perform Christmas songs for the residents of Telford Court Care Home. We really did enter into the Christmas Spirit, and the elderly residents enjoyed joining in with the songs, many singing along with us and even getting up to have a dance!

The students from Ruskin performed beautifully and enjoyed a well-deserved drink and snack at the end of a fun, festive afternoon.





## Music Department—Gainsborough Primary school

Musicians and members of the Ruskin Singing Club have been busy over the last few weeks rehearsing for the Christmas Show but we took time out to visit Gainsborough Primary School and perform in a whole school assembly. We were greeted with enthusiasm and the primary children really enjoyed our performances.

The Singing Club sang a variety of songs from Christmas Classics like 'Merry Christmas Everyone' to 'Hallelujah' and 'Heaven'. There were also some wonderful vocal solos from Sophia B and Leonard P, singing 'Let it Snow' and 'Snowman' respectively. Filip R performed some traditional Ukrainian folk music violin whilst Josh S stole the show with his rendition of Black Sabbath on electric guitar.



## Mr Hartley—History

### Year 11 History – American West Project

This term, Mr Hartley's Year 11 History group have been studying the American West and the experiences of the Plains Indians as part of their History course. Through this unit, students have explored key themes including migration, conflict, survival, and the impact of westward expansion on Native American tribes.

As part of their studies, pupils completed an in-depth project researching the history, traditions, beliefs, and culture of the Plains Indian tribes. The project encouraged students to use a range of historical sources, develop their research skills, and present their findings creatively and accurately.

Pictured are Reece K, Thomas B, and Ollie D, who produced particularly strong pieces of work. However, the overall quality of projects submitted by the entire group was of a very high standard.

Well done to Mr Hartley's class for their enthusiasm, effort, and excellent work throughout the unit.





## Therapy Dogs.



As part of Dog Therapy this term, students have been developing their teamwork and communication skills by participating in a range of dog-themed challenges. Working in small groups, students placed tennis balls around the Hive, each labelled with a different emotion. Lottie and Myla then located the tennis balls and delivered them to individual students, who described the emotion on their ball. This led to a group discussion about times when we have experienced these feelings.

Students have also been experimenting with new tricks involving both dogs. Throughout the term, everyone has demonstrated excellent teamwork, showing care and respect while interacting with the therapy dogs.



## Young Carers Crafting Session

We recently held a **young carers crafting session**, and it was a lovely session filled with creativity, laughter, and connection.

Young carers took time out of their busy routines to relax, express themselves, and enjoy a range of hands-on craft activities in a supportive and welcoming space. From creating personalised artwork to trying new techniques, everyone got involved and produced something festive.

Most importantly, the session gave young carers the chance to **unwind, meet others who understand their experiences, and simply enjoy being creative**. The feedback was really positive, and it was great to see the confidence and smiles grow throughout the session.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible. We look forward to running more creative sessions for young carers in the future.





## Christmas Book Club and BookBuzz

We were delighted to host our very first **Ruskin Christmas Book Club**. Year 7 students and their families enjoyed a cosy afternoon in the school library, sharing stories alongside hot chocolate and festive treats. It was a wonderful way to bring our school community together and celebrate a shared love of reading.

Students have also been thoroughly enjoying their Bookbuzz books from BookTrust. It has been wonderful to see pupils excited about choosing their own book and taking time to read for pleasure, both in school and at home. The Bookbuzz programme continues to inspire a love of reading, encouraging students to explore new authors and genres while building confidence and enjoyment in reading.

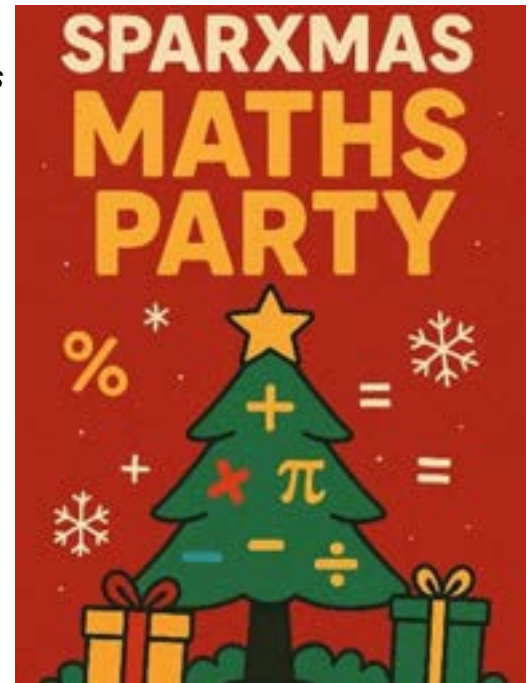


## Sparxmas Maths party

To add an extra bit of sparkle in the lead up to Christmas, the Mathematics Department has been running *Sparx Maths* celebration parties. These events were organised to recognise and reward the fantastic effort and commitment shown by Ruskin students across all year groups in completing their Sparx Maths homework.

To be eligible for an invitation, students needed to achieve 100% completion on all compulsory Sparx Maths homework tasks over the previous seven weeks — a fantastic achievement that reflects consistency, resilience, and hard work.

Over 500 students were able to celebrate their Sparx success by taking part in a range of fun activities, including bingo, karaoke, and dance-offs, creating an exciting and positive atmosphere. The events were thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and provided a great opportunity to celebrate students' achievements in an engaging way.



Well done to all of our Sparx Maths 100% achievers — an outstanding accomplishment!





## Mrs Bennet—Year 7

As we reflect on a very successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of our Year 7 students at Ruskin High School.

We began the year with our trip to Stanley Head in Stoke, which proved to be a fantastic start to secondary school for our new students. The trip helped Year 7 pupils build friendships, develop independence and resilience, and settle confidently into life at Ruskin. Staff were extremely proud of how well students represented the school, showing excellent behaviour and a positive attitude throughout.

At the end of term, we held our Celebration Evening, where a number of Year 7 students were recognised for their academic achievements as well as their commitment to our school values. It was a pleasure to welcome families into school to share in these successes, and I would like to congratulate all students who received awards – your hard work and positive approach have not gone unnoticed.

We also enjoyed our Rewards Day, where students were rewarded for their excellent behaviour and attendance with a variety of trips and activities. This was a well-deserved celebration and a reminder of the high standards our Year 7 cohort continues to demonstrate on a daily basis.

As we move into the Spring term, our focus will be on continuing to develop strong learning habits, building resilience, and encouraging students to take greater responsibility for their learning and organisation. With the positive foundations already in place, I am confident that Year 7 will continue to thrive.

Year 7 have made an outstanding start to their journey at Ruskin High School. I am incredibly proud of their progress and enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed as we move forward.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

*Mrs Bennett*





## Mrs Bratherton— Year 9

### Year 9 Students Inspired at Careers Fair and Williams Racing STEM Visit

Year 9 students enjoyed a highly successful and inspiring experience this term, taking part in a careers fair followed by an exciting STEM visit with **Williams Racing**.

The **careers fair** gave students the opportunity to explore a wide range of future pathways. Representatives from local businesses, education providers and STEM-related industries spoke with students about apprenticeships, further education and career routes. Pupils engaged confidently, asking thoughtful questions and gaining a clearer understanding of how school subjects link to real-world careers.

Building on this, students then took part in a **STEM-focused visit with Williams Racing**, where they were introduced to the cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and mathematics behind Formula 1. Students learned how teamwork, innovation and problem-solving play a vital role in high-performance engineering, and were fascinated to see how classroom learning is applied in a world-class motorsport environment.

The visit proved highly motivating, particularly for students with an interest in engineering, design and technology. Many left feeling inspired and more aware of the wide range of careers available within STEM industries.

Overall, the Year 9 careers fair and Williams Racing STEM visit was a fantastic success, helping students to raise aspirations, develop career awareness and begin thinking confidently about their futures





## Miss Grimshaw—Year 10

We are delighted to share the excellent progress Year 10 has made this term as they embark on their GCSE journey. Students have risen to the challenge magnificently, showing maturity and dedication as they settle into their examination courses.

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE studies, demonstrating commitment across all their subjects. We are particularly pleased with how students have embraced new qualifications including Asdan, Health and Social Care, and Computer Science. These courses are providing students with valuable skills and knowledge that will serve them well in their future studies and careers. The enthusiasm and engagement shown in these subjects has been truly impressive.

One of the standout achievements this term has been Year 10's exceptional attendance. Students have reached 96% attendance on multiple occasions, which is a tremendous accomplishment and reflects their dedication to their education. This outstanding commitment has been rewarded with well-deserved incentives.

### Attendance Matters



Students enjoyed Free Fashion Friday, where they were granted the privilege of wearing hoodies. Additionally, we celebrated our highest attendees in Stage 1, along with those students who showed remarkable improvement by moving up an attendance group, with a special treat from the waffle wagon. These rewards are just a small token of our appreciation for their hard work and commitment.

As we approach the Christmas break, we want to congratulate Year 10 on an excellent term. Their positive attitude, strong attendance, and dedication to their studies set them up perfectly for continued success in the new year. Don't forget, work experience will take place in July 2026 – it's never too early to search and secure your placement!

We wish all Year 10 students and their families a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved rest.



## Year 11 Festive lunch

Our Year 11 students enjoyed a well-deserved festive lunch, providing a lovely opportunity to celebrate the season together. The event offered students a chance to relax, socialise, and enjoy a special meal in a warm and festive atmosphere. It was a positive and enjoyable occasion, allowing staff and students to come together and recognise the hard work and commitment shown by Year 11 throughout the term.



## Staff Dress to Impress

Staff dressed up in their best festive outfits, bringing plenty of Christmas cheer to the school. Students had the opportunity to vote for their favourite looks, creating lots of excitement as they enjoyed seeing the wide range of creative costumes and festive outfits on



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## Attendance at Ruskin

### Reporting a Student Absence

As you will be aware, attendance is always a key focus at Ruskin. Attendance at school is essential in order for students to make the progress they are capable of and succeed during their time at secondary school.

We give students the challenge of having 96% attendance or above and anything lower than this can have a big impact on students learning, as you can see from the chart below:

Our preferred method for reporting absence from school is via the Class Charts app. Your child should have the details for you to log in to the app/website in their planner. If you do not have this, they will be given out again at the start of the new academic year, or please contact the school. You can now also track your child's attendance every day on Class Charts.

Stage	%	Attendance %	Days Missed (yearly)	Lessons Missed (yearly)	What this means
1	96% +	100	0	0	Excellent!
		96	7	35	working towards excellent
2	90-96%	95	9	45	warning
		90	19	95	
3	80-90%	85	28	140	worrying
		80	38	190	
4	50-80%	75	47	235	very worrying
		70	57	285	
		65	66	330	
		60	76	380	
		55	85	425	
		50	95	475	
5	<50%	45	104	520	serious concern
		40	114	570	
		35	123	615	
		30	133	665	
		25	142	710	
		20	152	760	
		15	161	805	
		10	171	855	
		5	180	900	
		0	190	950	



### Penalty Notices for Attendance

A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour (improve attendance) without the need of criminal prosecution. This is in reference to unauthorised absences, not when a child is ill, for example. This does include holidays, arriving late after registration closes, unjustified reasons for absence or having no communication from parents/carers as to why their child is off school.

Penalties for Unauthorised Absences		
Timeline	One Child	Two Children
Paid within 21 days	£80 per parent	£80 per child = £160 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£160 per parent	£160 per child = £320 per parent
After 28 days	The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds that they have failed to secure their child's regular attendance.	The parents will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds that they have failed to secure their children's regular attendance.

### Two Penalty Notices Limit and Escalation of Repeat Offences

From Autumn Term 2024, only two penalty notices can be issued to the same parent within a 3-year rolling period. Any second notice will be charged at a higher rate, with the flat rate of £160 per parent applied immediately. If a penalty notice is required for a third time within a 3-year period, prosecution will be considered.

Ruskin Community High School always want to work with parents/carers and students in order to support with attendance to school. Please do contact your child's form tutor in the first instance if you have any concerns regarding their attendance to school.

## Attendance Matters — Every Day

As we approach the end of term and look ahead to the Christmas break, we would like to take a moment to thank parents and carers for your continued support with school attendance. Regular attendance is vital to your child's learning, confidence, and wellbeing, and each school day builds upon the last. Even short absences can have an impact on progress, routines, and friendships.

As a school, we are striving to achieve our whole-school attendance target of **96%** every day. Reaching this target consistently helps ensure that all pupils are accessing the full curriculum and benefitting from everything school life has to offer. Your support in encouraging daily attendance and punctuality plays a key role in helping us meet this goal.

We understand that illnesses and unforeseen circumstances do occur, and we appreciate timely communication whenever your child is unable to attend school. When children are well enough to be in school, arriving on time and attending every day helps them develop positive habits that will support them throughout their education and beyond.

To help us work closely together, please remember to keep an eye on **ATTEND**, where we may send messages or updates regarding your child's attendance. Regularly checking Attend ensures you receive important information and helps us respond quickly if support is needed.

If a child is absent, please be aware that the school may carry out home visits. These visits are supportive in nature and are designed to help us understand any challenges your family may be facing. Our aim is always to work in partnership with you and to provide support in every way possible to help ensure a quick and successful return to school.

We have also been pleased to celebrate positive attendance through a range of rewards and activities. These have included Waffle Wednesdays for pupils achieving 100% attendance, Focus Fridays with raffle prizes, Free Fashion Fridays where students could wear a hoodie instead of their blazer, and our festive 12 Days to Christmas initiative with lots of rewards and prizes on offer. In addition, students enjoyed the chance to soak the teacher after the whole school reached our 96% attendance target in the days leading up to half term. These rewards have been extremely popular, and many more exciting incentives are planned.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our **Strong Start 2026 Attendance Challenge**, designed to encourage all students to be in school every day and on time. This initiative will include rewards and prizes to recognise positive attendance and punctuality — so watch this space for more details coming soon!

As we move through the final weeks of term, maintaining good attendance ensures that children can fully take part in learning, special events, and end-of-term celebrations alongside their peers.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas. Thank you for being a valued part of our school community. We hope you enjoy a safe, restful, and joyful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

## Some Gentle Reminders:

### UNIFORM

Please remember:

- **NO** sculptured haircuts, including patterns, are allowed and hair length must be at least a Grade 2 or above.
- Hair should be a natural colour.
- No shaved eyebrows.
- Only plain ear studs are allowed, one in each ear lobe.
- No nose studs, including clear retainers.
- Trainers are not allowed.
- No painted or gel nails.
- No fake tan.

### MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are to be switched off at all times.

Mobile phones are not to be used in school. If students are found to be using their phone, it will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to collect it from the Main Office.

**Students should not use their mobile phones to contact parents throughout the school day.**

Phones taken on a Friday will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed.

### SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

- Pencil case
- Pen (black)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Maths Set

Calculators and Maths sets can be purchased from the Mathematics department or Student Services:  
Calculator £11  
Maths Set £1.50  
Both £12







## Uniform Orders

Please continue to order blazers and polo tops direct from Schools in! in Nantwich. You can visit the shop, order online at [Ruskin Community High School | School's In - Custom Embroidery & Printing](#) or telephone 01270 618957 for help with your requirements and sizing. The staff are very helpful and experienced.

Ties are sold in school for all year groups for £6.80. These are purchased by Parent/Carer through the School Gateway app and can then be collected from Student Services by your child.

Please scan the QR code to access Ruskin High School uniform page where you can find a list of all uniform required for students .



## Uniform Donations

We are fortunate that we receive donations of blazers, polo tops, skirts, shirts and trousers. If you need support to provide uniform items, please see Student Services or Miss Lander.

Ruskin School gratefully accepts uniform donations. If your child is leaving over the coming months or you are having a clear out, we will gladly take them. Just drop off at the Main Office. Thank you.

Alternatively, Her-Place in Crewe has Ruskin uniform that has been donated and you can contact them for support on 01606 557666 or text 07496 160930.



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## Behaviour at Ruskin Community High School

In May, we trialled a new behaviour system to support and improve in-lesson behaviour. This included two main changes to our systems already in place. In lessons, teachers are now using our four Core Values of **High Aspirations, Respect, Confidence and Community** when discussing both positive behaviour and when behaviour needs to be addressed.

### Positive Points on Class Charts

You will now notice that all of our positive points are related to our four Core Values. Check Class Charts to see which of the Core Values your child has been awarded.



### Star of the Lesson

At the end of every lesson, teachers now award a 'Star of the Lesson' to one student in the class. This is worth five points on Class Charts. Check Class Charts to see if your child has been awarded 'Star of the Lesson'.



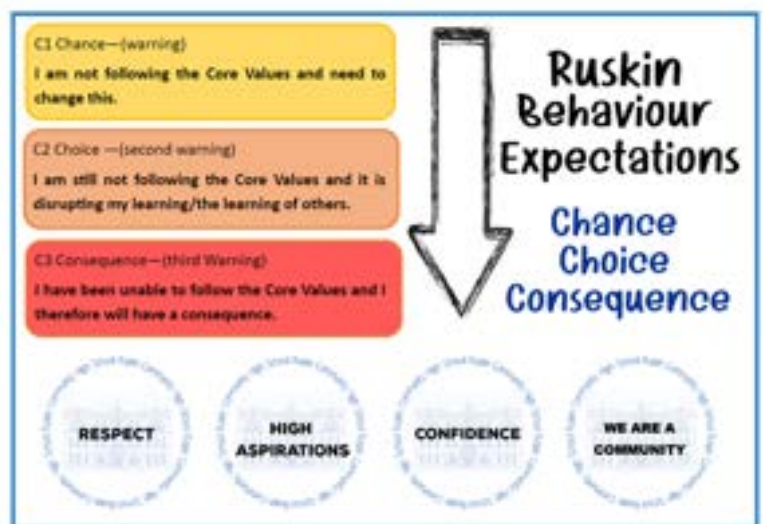
### Ruskin Core Values and Chance-Choice-Consequence

We have introduced the Chance-Choice-Consequence system to make it really clear to students about how they should behave in lessons.

**Chance:** The student is not following the Core Values and need to change this. The teacher will inform the student that their behaviour is not following the Core Values and why, and inform them that this needs to be changed.

**Choice:** The student is still not following the Core Values and it is disrupting their learning/ the learning of others. The teacher will explain to the student that they have a choice to either improve their behaviour/attitude relating to the Core Values or be given a consequence. They will make it clear that they have now been given a choice and a negative 'Choice' point is awarded on Class Charts.

**Consequence:** The student has been unable to follow the Core Values and therefore will have a consequence for this.



The student will receive either:

**An Immediate Sanction:** This could be a **detention set** for that day, removal to Support Timetable, removal to the Remove Room or removal to a designated member of staff.

**A Delayed Sanction:** Detention set for another day, a phone call home or meeting with Parent/Carer.

The introduction of this new system and the 'Star of the Lesson' has been positive and we have seen an improvement in the general attitude to lessons and learning. We look forward to embedding this further in the new academic year.



## School Holiday Dates

# Holiday Dates 2025/2026

Term	Date of Closing	Date of Opening
Autumn Term Begins	****	Tuesday 2nd September
Autumn Half-Term	Thursday 23rd October	Monday 3rd November
Christmas 2025/2026	Friday 19th December	Tuesday 6th January
Spring Half Term	Friday 13th February	Monday 23rd February
Easter	Friday 27th March	Monday 13th April
May Day	Friday 1st May	Tuesday 5th May
Summer Half-Term	Friday 22nd May	Monday 1st June
Summer	Friday 17th July	****

## Timings of the School Day from September 2023

Monday to Friday	Years 7 to 11
AM Form Tutor	8.40am – 9.00am
L1	9.00am – 10.00am
L2	10.00am - 11.00am
Break	11.00am – 11.20am
L3	11.20am – 12.20pm
L4	12.20pm – 1.20pm
Lunch	1.20pm – 2.00pm
L5	2.00pm – 3.00pm

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## Core Values

Our Core Values of Respect, Confidence, High Aspirations and We are a Community are at the heart of our school. Our expectation is that all students and staff uphold these Core Values in order to create a cohesive and successful and caring learning environment.



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**Core Values**



**RESPECT**

### Respect

Our students demonstrate **respect**, kindness and **tolerance** of people from all beliefs, cultures and backgrounds.

All areas of our school life are designed to **educate**, **celebrate** and **appreciate** our diverse school community and beyond.

By promoting **independence**, we empower our students to build high levels of **self-respect**, allowing them to recognise and value their own **strengths**, and also to accept and act upon any areas of **development** that they have.





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**Core Values**



**CONFIDENCE**

### Confidence

Through all of our lessons, we facilitate students to retain **deep knowledge and understanding**, thus enhancing students' confidence in their own abilities.

We consistently provide support to develop our students into **confident communicators and readers**.

Our students are encouraged to be **inquisitive**, **self-assured** learners who value and are **actively involved** in their education and development.



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## Core Values



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### High Aspirations

Through embedding **careers** and **work-related learning**, we promote a **value of education** and an understanding of its context for our students' futures both in a local and national context.

We want our students to demonstrate **ambition, adaptability and resilience** in all aspects of life.

We encourage students to **be the best that they can be** and offer students a **multitude of opportunities** to maximise their potential.








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### We are a Community

Within our **caring** and **supportive** learning environment, we focus on building **strong relationships** between staff and students, meaning that all students **thrive and develop**, both inside and outside of the classroom.






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