



Headteacher's Message



Dear Parent / Carers,

The spring term has again passed us by quickly. As we approach the Easter break, It is important to note that we only have a few weeks until pupil examinations begin for our Year 11 students. We wish all the students well and good luck for the examination period.

We were pleased to open the new Performing Arts studio this term and alongside this a refurbished Library which has moved to the ground floor and a newly purposed SEND Hub which was the previous Library facility. All of these areas are functioning well and have been welcome additions to our provisions here at Ruskin.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who have competed and achieved success in both out of school activities and in school-based activities this term. There have been some excellent performances and well done to all of you!

The Headteacher prize winners this term are:

Year 7 Willow C

Year 8 Bailey H

Year 9 Jimmy W

Year 10 Sophia O

Year 11 Taylor J B

Well do to these 5 students.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. Finally, thanks to staff for organising, planning and accompanying all of the activities, trips and visits that have taken place.

I wish you a Happy Easter and I hope you have a relaxing break.

School re-opens on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 to all students on week two timetable.

If you would like to discuss anything, please contact us on 01270 560514 or via email

enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk

Mr Postlethwaite

Headteacher





WHAT'S INSIDE ...

Pages 1	Headteacher's Message	Page 21-22	Science
Page 2	School vacancies	Pages 23	Sportshall Athletics
Page 3	Fundraising	Pages 24-25	PSHCE
Page 4	Uniform	Pages 24	English Department
Pages 5	Art Department	Page 25	What to pack
Page 6	Student Success	Page 26-27	Attendance
Page 7-8	Performing Arts Studio Opening	Page 28	Behaviour
Pages 9	Performing Arts Department	Page 29	Gentle Reminders
Page 10-11	Music Department	Pages 30	School Holiday Dates
Page 12	History Association Debate	Pages 31-32	Wellbeing Support
Pages 13	ASDAN	Page 33-34	Core Values
Page 14-19	YAM Updates	PAGE 35	Thank you

School Vacancies

We currently have no vacancies

For more details please visit our website [Vacancies | Ruskin Community High School \(ruskinhighschool.co.uk\)](https://ruskinhighschool.co.uk)

To apply for any of our vacancies please visit <https://ruskin.face-ed.co.uk>

The school is also looking to recruit a Parent Governor. Please ring the Main Office on 01270 560514 for more information.



Fundraising in School

Christmas Jumper Day	£279.40
Claire House	£375.25
ADHD Foundation	£131.97



Thank you to staff and students for arranging fundraising days in school .

Thank you to parents/carers for donating to our fundraising days and helping us to raise such fantastic amounts of money for local and national causes.

Thank You





Uniform Orders

Please continue to order blazers and polo tops direct from the National Schoolwear Centre based in Hanley. Telephone 01782 272991 for help with your requirements and sizing. The staff are very helpful and experienced.

Ties are sold in school for all year groups. Students can buy from Student Services or parents/carers can purchase from the Main Office. Please bring £6.20 cash.

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. We are currently low on girls trousers and blazers for both boys and girls. If your child is leaving over the coming months or you are having a clear out, we will gladly take them. please drop off at the Main Office. Thank you.

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

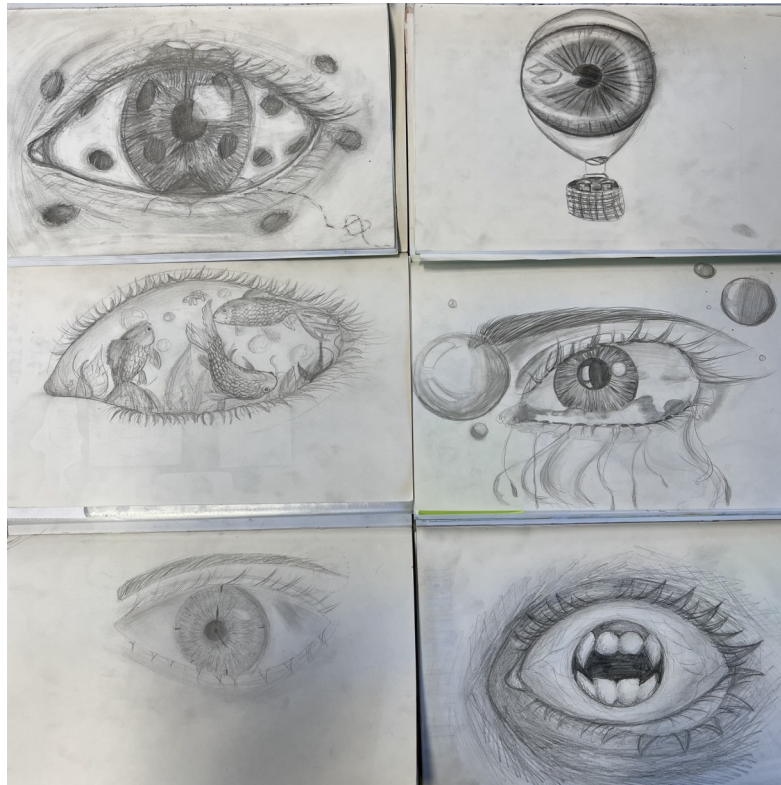


**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**





We are super proud of the amazing work created by students in art! Just look at these Surrealist eyes produced by the year 9s. Each student has been focusing on producing realistic and surreal eyes using tone.





RUSKIN
Community High School
Learning Together. Achieving High Standards

Student Success—British Shooting

Zeke competed in the intermediate category (yr9/10) representing Ruskin after winning the qualification event last November. The format of the event was a 20 shots match, with the top 8 progressing to the final which was run as another 20 shot match. Zeke made it through the qualification round and gained 5th place in the final, with 2 points separating 3rd, 4th and 5th.

This was a great achievement across a very competitive field. Well done Zeke



Thank you to Zeke's dad for submitting this article.

**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



Performing Arts Studio—Grand Opening 24/01/2025

Introducing our new Performing Arts Studio, we were joined by Sergeant Bernard Morgan, who officially opened the studio, and were lucky enough to enjoy a number of performances from our students. We're really looking forward to many more performances and lessons in our new space!



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**





RUSKIN
Community High School
Learning Together. Achieving High Standards

School Site Development Performing Arts Studio



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



Over the recent weeks Ruskin students have been working hard in preparation for the dance department's busiest time, with two shows in the space of a few weeks of each other. Students of all ages came together to take part in this year's 2025 dance show at the amazing Regent Theatre in Stoke. Students have been working hard to perfect their 7-minute-long dance, having been inspired from multiple choreographers, one of which being the fabulous Bob Fosse. The students had the chance to create their own choreography and were able to choose whether they wanted to have solos/duets or a trio within the dance. After multiple lunch and afterschool rehearsals, the performances were a great success on the night and students walked away happy.

They are now working hard in preparation for the next show at Crewe Lyceum in March. Students are finding it far easier to rehearse with the lovely Performing Arts studio replicating what it is like to perform in a professional performance space, such as a theatre. Well done to all the students involved. Massive thank you to the Performing Arts department and we hope to see you at the next show.



Ruskin singers and musicians entertained the students at Brierley Primary School with a variety of songs ranging from Abba to Irish folk to heavy metal!



The primary students loved the performances and we have been invited back to perform some songs from our Summer Show 'High School Musical'.

Mrs C M Harrison

Cheshire East Schools Celebration at Congleton Hall - Music

'Ruskin students from the cast of High School Musical performing at the Cheshire East Schools Celebration at Congleton Hall, along with soloist Jake Adams performing 'Fly me to the Moon' and 'The Scoobies' performing Don't Stop Believing'



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



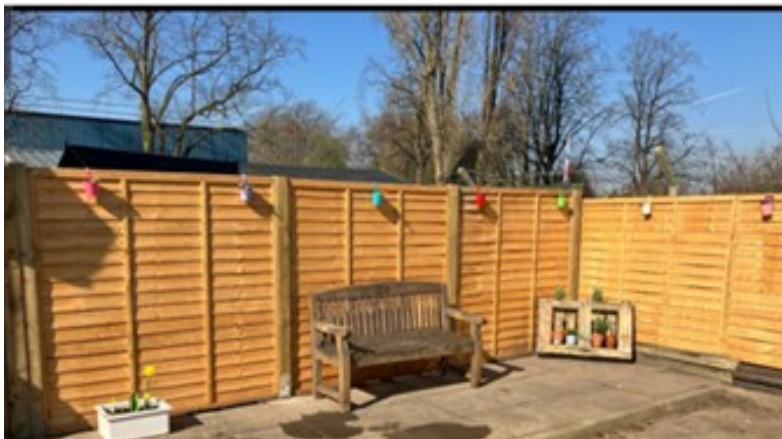
Historical Association Great Debate

Two Year 10 students represented Ruskin at Shavington Academy for the regional heats of the Historical Association Great Debate. Simona and David debated the question 'How does your local History tell a global story?'. Simona and David faced other debaters from Middlewich High School and Shavington Academy.

Simona and her speech on Ada Nield Chew, the Crewe Factory Girl won the regional heat. Simona progressed to both the semi final and the final was hosted at Windsor castle. What an honour to compete in such a beautiful venue. We're very proud of your courage and success

Congratulations to both Simona and David.





Mr Stephenson 's Year 11 ASDAN group have been working on improving an area of the schools for their qualifications—Well done.



Year Achievement Managers

Mr Neal: Year 7

We've observed a positive growth in student confidence and their connection to the Ruskin community. It's encouraging to see students actively engaging within the school environment and feeling a stronger sense of belonging.

Extracurricular clubs continue to see good attendance, offering students valuable opportunities for interaction and skill development. These clubs play an important role in fostering a well-rounded educational experience.

Academic achievement remains solid across the year group, reflecting the students' consistent efforts and the supportive learning environment provided by our staff.

We hope you have a restful break and look forward to a productive summer term. We are planning a term filled with engaging activities and learning opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our students' education.

Mr Neal

**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



Mrs Bratherton Year 8

It has been a pleasure to start working with Year 8 as their Year Achievement Manager this term. It has been great to see so many students in lessons engaging enthusiastically in their learning and school life.

The year group has continued to earn lots of positive points for demonstrating our Ruskin Core Values: High Achievement, Respect, Community and Confidence. Well- done to all these students! 8GRM are currently in the top spot with 8316 positive points, at the time of writing. 8SAL are not far behind. It is nice to see such healthy competition amongst the students and their form tutors for pole position!

Huge congratulations also go to the twenty students in Year 8 who have maintained 100% attendance since September.

It is fantastic to see that so many students are also taking part in our wider school life through a range of extra-curricular clubs including chess, music, sport, dance and drama to name a few. These activities develop confidence and enable students to meet new people, as well as providing them with new skills and abilities.

The summer is very important for Year 8 students as they prepare to move into Year 9. The assessments they have been completing during the past couple of weeks will inform students, parents and staff of the progress that has been made and will allow them set targets for the summer term. Our summer term is always a busy one, but I am sure Year 8 students will continue to work to the best of their ability and make the most of the opportunities offered to them.

Our Year 8 Team would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure that your child has had a positive and rewarding year and we look forward to seeing your child's continued successes in the coming months.

Have a Happy Easter and peaceful break.

Mrs Bratherton





As we near the end of our spring term in Year 9, I would like to reflect on and celebrate the many successes and achievements of my year group. It has been a very important term for the students as they have chosen their options for four of their GCSE subjects that they will study in years 10 and 11. Assemblies have been delivered from all the possible GCSE subjects. These assemblies explained the themes and topics of each subject, how the subject would be assessed (by examination only/a combination of coursework and examination/coursework only) and what type of career the subject could benefit. Following this, students had the opportunity to take part in taster sessions where they could sample the type of lessons they would have at GCSE level, and ask further questions in a small group. The final part of the process was the Year 9 Options Evening where parents and students could discuss subjects and student's suitability for those subjects with the teachers who were able to give advice to the students about their choices. Following this, the students have made their choices and are now waiting patiently as Miss Szymura completes the demanding task of trying to fit all students into option groups.

Many students continue to take part in many of the clubs which are offered at lunch times and after school: Art Club, Computing Club, MFL Film Club and many sporting clubs including, badminton, football, netball, basketball and dodgeball. These clubs are essential for developing individual skills and interests which will be invaluable when students come to apply for college places, apprenticeships and employment opportunities in the coming years.

Year 9 students have continued to earn an impressive amount of positive points (14,034) for demonstrating our Ruskin Core Values: High Achievement, Respect, Community and Confidence. Well done to all of these students!

21 students out of 149 have managed to maintain a clean sheet of positive points and the top 10 students with the highest number of positive points and no negatives are listed below:

Name		POSITIVE
Saanvi	9BRL	169
Miley	9STE	166
Maya	9STE	154
Romeo	9GR V	149
Joseph	9GRI	148
Alexa	9BRL	134
Karis	9GRI	130
Phoebe	9GR V	124
Lacey-Mai	9MC N	122
Madiha	9STE	120

39 students (26.2%) achieved 100% attendance

51 students (34.2%) achieved 95% or better

23 students (15.4%) achieved 90% or better



Mr Gregory Page 2

Name	
Billy- Dean	9BRL
Alexa	9BRL
Alfie	9BRL
Zakariya	9GRI
Lilly-Grace	9GRI
Shumirai	9GRI
Alfie	9GRI
Kelly	9GRI
Violet	9GRI
Michelle	9GRI
Joseph	9GRI
Willow	9GRI
Meghna	9GRI
Connor	9GR V
Tayla	9GR V

Wiktor	9GR V
Romeo	9GR V
Ruby	9GR V
Chloe	9KEE
Nathan	9KEE
Jack	9KEE
Alexander	9KEE
Alice	9KEE
Tanisha	9MC N
Blessmore	9MC N
Riley	9MC N
Jenson	9MC N
Dleen	9MC N
Lacey-Mai	9MC N
Blake	9MC N
Thabo	9MC N
Ethan	9MC N
Miley	9STE
Casey	9STE
Amelia	9STE
Aleen	9STE
Warvan	9STE
Lexi-Marie	9STE
Jimmy	9STE

As always, there will be end of year assessments which will be used to determine the groups for your child's GCSE subjects. It is essential that your child works hard for these assessments as they must be in the appropriate set to reach their true potential. It is important that we remind Year 9 students that although they may not be taking certain subjects at GCSE in Year 10, we still have extremely high expectations of their behaviour and attitude towards learning in all subjects. Lack of effort and application are taken into consideration and discussed by Curriculum Leaders when creating GCSE sets.

I look forward to a successful summer term for Year 9, in preparation for the transition to Year 10 when the commence their GCSEs.

A. Gregory (Year 9 Achievement Manager)

Mr Gregory





It has been a pleasure to see Year 10 fully settle into their GCSE options with such maturity and enthusiasm. We've had fantastic conversations with students, parents, and staff about their achievements in lessons and their growing interest in various subjects. It was also wonderful to see so many of you at the Year 10 Parents' Evening on Thursday, 23rd January. The event was very well attended, and it was a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Many Year 10 students have embraced our wider school life through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, music, dance, drama, and sporting events. These activities not only boost confidence, but also help students expand their networks while developing new skills and abilities. It's been fantastic to see students taking part in school trips, such as the English visit to the Regent Theatre to watch *Macbeth*, the art residential in Wales, the music trip to Bridgewater Hall, and the PE trip to Staffordshire University and the bet365 stadium. Additionally, Year 10 students have had numerous opportunities to visit different companies through the Pledge program.

During our recent PHSCE lessons, we have been developing important skills such as interview techniques and CV writing. These skills will support students as they begin applying for colleges, sixth forms, and apprenticeships in Year 11. After the February half-term break, there has been a noticeable increase in sports fixtures, and Year 10 students have represented our school exceptionally well.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we are excited to announce that Year 10 will be attending Cheshire College South and West on Thursday, 3rd July. This day will include three taster sessions, giving students a wonderful opportunity to experience student life at college and explore courses they may be interested in for the future.

We will also be launching the application process for Head Prefects, Senior Prefects, and Prefects next half term. I am looking forward to reading Year 10's applications.

Finally, form tutors and I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child has had a positive and rewarding year so far. We look forward to seeing their continued successes in the coming months.

Mr Ledwards



Year 11 have continued to work incredibly hard this term and I remain so proud of how they have been embracing the challenges of their final year at Ruskin. It has been a busy term as we approach the summer exams. There has been a lot happening academically with many extra-curricular opportunities too. There have been several trips and visits this term involving year 11, including a GCSE Business trip to the Trafford centre, which I know the students found to be a valuable experience.

Of course, the focus this term has been preparation for the summer exams. Students have been fortunate to have workshops delivered by staff on revision techniques, along with the visit from Mr Beezy in January who provided them with lots of motivational messages and strategies to succeed. It is hoped they will utilise these skills and strategies over the coming weeks as their exams draw nearer. Students have now completed their second set of mock examinations and have received their latest mock results and predicted grades. All students have had the opportunity to meet with staff to discuss their mock exam results and reflect on their current revision strategies, considering their strengths and next steps from their mocks.

Many students studying subjects which have a coursework component have been working hard to complete this to the best of their ability and I have seen some amazing pieces of work in Hospitality, Food, Art, Photography and BTEC Sport which students should be proud of.

I have also been proud of the fact that lots of students have shown such a willingness and desire to do their best on their upcoming exams. Lesson 6 attendance and lunchtime intervention sessions have been well attended, and I encourage all students to make the most of this extra support available. Students should, at the very least be attending the extra sessions offered in English and Maths. There are also lots of sessions being put on by staff over Easter to support students with extra tuition in a variety of subjects and I would strongly recommend they take advantage of these if they can. The summer exams are just around the corner now, so students need to take every opportunity to ensure they are prepared and ready for these.

This term has seen most students apply for one or more Further Education Providers and try to plan their next steps once they have left us in the summer. All students have received a careers meeting and we know most student are in a position where they can focus on their exams having applied for various courses.

The next half term will be a challenging one for all the students in the year group in the run up to their exams. All we can ask of them is to do their very best and we, as a school, will be immensely proud of them. Whilst GCSE exam pressure is normal, we do encourage any students that are feeling this pressure is too great, to speak to a member of staff so we can look at additional support measures.

Form tutors and I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure that your child has had a positive and rewarding year so far, and we look forward to seeing your child's continued successes. I feel so privileged to have been the Year Manager for this wonderful cohort of young people throughout their Ruskin journey, and I know they will all continue to work hard and do themselves proud as we approach their final term at Ruskin. We all want them to be in a position where they are collecting their results in August, proud of themselves and knowing they tried their best! Year 11, keep revising, working hard, and remember we are all here to help you to achieve your potential.

Mrs Bennett








We have had lots of exciting activities happening in Science this term. Starting with what has been happening in lessons:

- Year 7 have been building on their KS2 knowledge of genes & energy by studying variation & human reproduction, energy stores & transfers, fuels as energy stores, energy in the home & the cost.
- Year 8 have been building on Y7 work on energy & Earth by studying machines, work done, thermal energy, carbon cycle & the changing Earth.
- Year 9 students have further learnt about the enzymes involved in digestion including food testing. Students have also defined reactions as endothermic or exothermic with the introduction of practical techniques to measure this.
- Year 10 students have used their prior learning on organisms and cells to study how organisms are affected by, give rise to and respond to communicable diseases. Students have developed their understanding of respiration and photosynthesis as chemical processes fundamental to life as well as studying chemical reactions in non-biology scenarios.
- Year 11 students are now embarking on a comprehensive review of the entire curriculum, encompassing Paper 1 & Paper 2, ensuring a thorough grasp of the subject matter in preparation for their exams to start in May.

We have had lots of other exciting activities happening in Science including:

Science Week – ‘Change and Adapt’. Students all took part in a class practical to build an eco-home and prizes were given for the best designs. We also had a special session in Science Club looking at how gummy bears change in different liquids. There was an eco- scavenger hunt and poster competition also happening, which is still to be judged.



Gummy Bear Exploration			
Essential Question What happens to the gummy bears as they sit in different liquids?	Teacher Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gummy bears (5 per group) Clear plastic cups (1 per group) The following liquids- water, salt water, vinegar, milk 	Student Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gummy Bear Exploration Recording Sheet Pencil Highlighter Coloring utensils 	Learn About It! Why Do I Get Itchy Fingers in the Bath? So Show Kids 
Directions: With your teacher's help, observe what happens to gummy bears when placed in different liquids. Place one gummy bear in each liquid and remove after at least 12 hrs.			
Control (part that doesn't change) -place 1 gummy bear beside each cup to compare to the gummy bears inside the cups after the experiment.		Predict - Highlight the liquid you think will result in the greatest change with the gummy bear. Underline the liquid you think will result in the least change.	
Water 	Salt Water 	Vinegar 	Milk 
Which liquid resulted in the greatest change to the gummy bear? Which one had the least change? _____ _____			



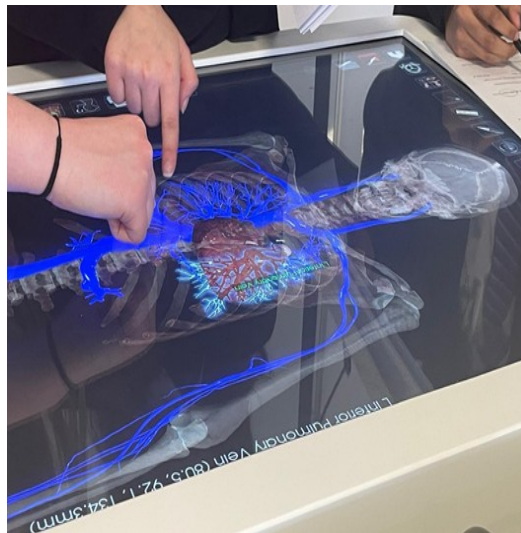


Scholars' week – This was a fantastic week starting with a talk from a GP on Monday and a university preparation session, followed by Space lectures in the week delivered by Mr Gray to KS3 and KS4. Students were asking such fabulous questions about string theory and Quantum Physics Well done! We also had a visit from the Space Academy who delivered sessions and made rockets with different year groups.

We were lucky enough to have a professor of medicine and two medical students a session to Year 10 and 11 who are interested in a medicine pathway. The session involved the role of a GP, the cardiovascular system, CPR and possible future careers. The students involved loved this session and we thank the visitors who gave their time and experience.

There was also a trip out to Cheshire South and West College with Year 10 students who undertook an Anatomy workshop with the live interactive anatomy tables and a chemistry workshop. This was an excellent session ran by the college.

Mr Gray has also arranged a Lego robotic workshop through higher horizons where students design a robot with Lego and then activate it to move and dance. This was a marvellous opportunity for our Year 7 and 8 students.



*Mrs
Sant*





South Cheshire Cup Football Competition

This term, students from Years 7 to 11 participated in the South Cheshire Cup, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and determination across several fixtures.

First Round of Fixtures

The first set of matches saw our Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 boys' teams face off against The Oaks. Despite strong efforts, the Year 7 and 8 teams were unfortunate to lose their matches. However, they represented the school with pride and displayed great teamwork. Notable performances included:

- Year 7: Boris G and Mason L, who both scored fantastic goals. Charlie S also impressed with a solid performance in goal.
 - Year 8: Tom S showed resilience and leadership, while Leroy J P and Archie B stood out with strong performances.
- In contrast, our Year 9 and 10 boys' teams secured victories in their fixtures:

- Year 9: Captain Kudzai W was named Man of the Match after scoring a stunning long-range goal.
- Year 10: Nathaniel M earned MOTM honours for an outstanding performance.

Second Round of Fixtures

The next round saw our Year 9, 10, and 11 boys' teams, along with the Year 8/9 girls' team, compete against Shavington.

- Year 9 Boys: Played at home, but were unfortunately eliminated by a strong Shavington side.
 - Year 8/9 Girls Won a thrilling match on penalties to advance to the next round. Lily– G B was exceptional, providing encouragement and leadership throughout the game.
 - Year 10 & 11 Boys: Both teams played away at Shavington in high-scoring, entertaining matches. Despite battling hard, both teams narrowly lost and exited the cup.
- o Year 10 MOTM: Olly D, who made outstanding saves in goal. Nathaniel M also delivered a fantastic performance, scoring a hat-trick.
 - o Year 11: The entire team put in a great effort, showing resilience and teamwork. Special mention goes to Jake C for his impressive display.

Upcoming Fixtures

The Year 8/9 girls' team is still awaiting confirmation of their next match against Malbank. Dates and venue details will be announced soon—any support for the team would be greatly appreciated!
A huge well done to all players for their efforts and sportsmanship throughout the competition. We look forward to more exciting matches in the future!

Miss Davies/ Mr McGregor/ Mr Stephenson



PSHCE Drop Down Day and Personal Development 4th March

On Tuesday, 4th March we had our termly **PSHCE Drop Down Day**. During this day students took part in a range of enriching activities designed to explore important topics related to personal development. These activities covered areas such as guest speakers, workshops and group discussions designed to encourage self-reflection and growth.

WaterAid Visit for Year 7

We were thrilled to welcome WaterAid, who shared valuable information with our Year 7 students about the importance of clean water. The session also raised awareness of the global challenge faced by those without access to safe water. Our students were inspired to think critically about these pressing issues and how they can make a difference.

Higher Horizons Revision Skills for Year 11

Our Year 11 students had a productive and focused day, as Higher Horizons delivered engaging and practical sessions on revision skills. These sessions helped our students prepare for their upcoming GCSEs, equipping them with strategies to study effectively and manage exam stress.

A huge thank you to both WaterAid and Higher Horizons for their incredible contributions to our students' learning and awareness. We're proud of the enthusiasm and commitment our students showed throughout the day!

We can't wait to see what's in store for our next PSHCE drop-down day!

Voices for Equality Workshop

On Monday 3rd March and Tuesday 4th March, a group of Year 7 students participated in a powerful *Voices for Equality* workshop, run by the Anne Frank Trust. The students explored important themes of equality, tolerance, and human rights, gaining valuable insights that will help shape their perspectives and actions in the world. We're incredibly proud of their commitment to standing up for what's right and making a difference.



Nantwich Town Girls Football Coaching - A Kickstart to the Week!

What a fantastic way to begin the week! On Monday 3rd March, our Year 7, 8, and 9 girls had an amazing time participating in an exciting football session led by **Nantwich Town FC**. The girls had a blast learning new skills, playing matches, and enjoying the thrill of the game.

We are incredibly excited about the opportunity to build strong and lasting links with Nantwich Town for future collaborations, and we hope this is just the beginning of many more sessions to come.

For those who are interested in continuing their football journey, **Nantwich Town FC** also runs their **Squadgirls** sessions every Tuesday from **7-8pm** at the 3G pitch in Nantwich. This is a fantastic opportunity for any girls looking to get involved in football, improve their skills, or simply have fun.

We encourage all of our students to consider joining and becoming part of the vibrant football community



English Department Term Update

We're pleased to share highlights from our students' achievements in English this term.

Year 11

Our Year 11 students have shown exceptional dedication to their GCSE English Language studies and Literature exam preparation. Their commitment to Period 6 sessions has been remarkable. A term highlight was motivational speaker Mr. Beezy, who delivered an inspiring talk on resilience and study habits, followed by specialised workshops for students and parents on exam preparation and support strategies.

Year 10

Year 10 students have been studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth,' exploring themes of ambition, power, and morality. We're organising a special theatre trip featuring a production that incorporates revision techniques, with a narrator highlighting key quotations and themes. Students have also made excellent progress with their Power and Conflict Poetry anthology.

Twenty Year 10 students visited Oxford University's Somerville College, enjoying a tour, lunch in the college dining hall, and a session exploring life's big questions, followed by a visit to the Ashmolean Museum.

Year 9

Year 9 students have engaged with two compelling units: Gothic literature and Shakespeare's Villains. Their Gothic exploration has inspired atmospheric creative writing, while their comparison of Shakespearean antagonists like Iago, Lady Macbeth, and Richard III has produced impressively mature analytical essays.

Year 8

Year 8 students have studied 'Oliver Twist,' using Dickens' portrayal of Victorian London to develop their transactional writing through diary entries, newsletters about workhouse conditions, and persuasive pieces on social reform. Their work on 'Romeo and Juliet' has included creative dramatisations and thoughtful character analysis.

Year 7

Our Year 7 students have begun their secondary English journey with Romantic Poetry, studying Wordsworth, Blake, and Keats and creating their own nature-inspired poems. 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' has provided an engaging introduction to Shakespeare, with students enjoying the magical elements and comedic aspects through drama activities, creative writing, and analytical discussions.

Warm regards,

The English Department





Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

@Ruskin

Pencil Case

Pen

Pencil

Green Pen

Highlighter

Rubber

Ruler



Calculator

Protractor

Compass

Water bottle

Core Knowledge Booklet

Planner

What to pack in my bag



You may also need:

Your school books, PE kit, hair bobble, reading book as needed



Attendance at Ruskin

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 95% attendance or above and anything lower than this can have a big impact on students learning, as you can see from the chart below:

	Short term impact	In a year	In a school career
100%	Full attendance	190 days learning	Full attendance – no learning lost
95%		Good Attendance	
94%	Half a day off per fortnight	2 <u>week</u> learning lost	10 weeks learning lost
90%	A day off each fortnight	A month's learning lost	Over half a year's learning lost
85%	A day and a half off each fortnight	Nearly half a term's learning lost	The equivalent of missing Year 11
80%	A day off a week	Over half a term's learning lost	A full year's learning lost

We do know that on occasions, absence is unavoidable. On these occasions, we do ask that you contact the school every day that your child is absent. If we do not get information on this or a valid reason is not given, your child's absence will be marked as unauthorised. One day is worth two absences (am and pm registration) and ten unauthorised absences could result in you being fined by the local authority. Holiday fines are sent where ten sessions (five school days) are missed.

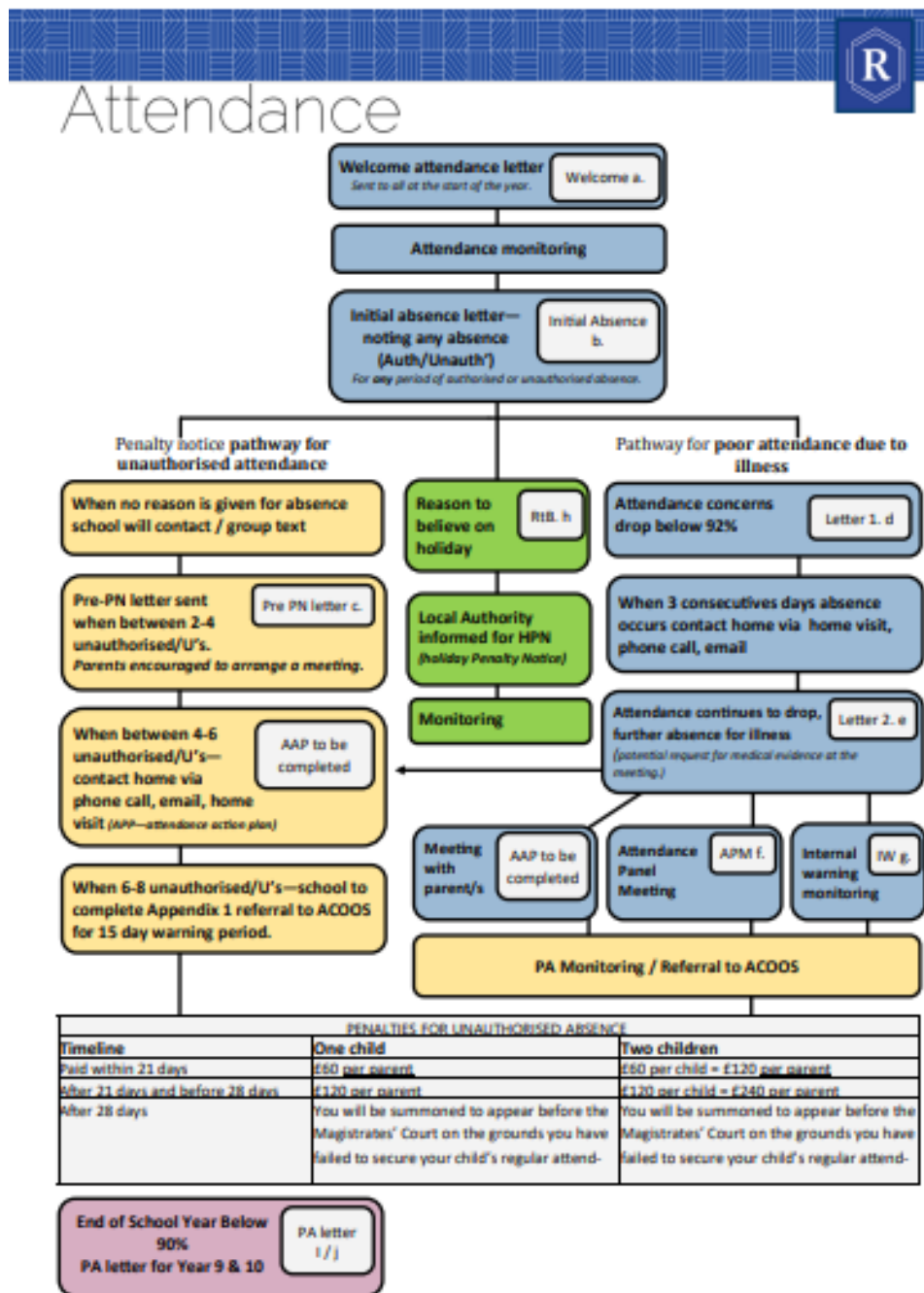
Penalties for Unauthorised Absences		
Timeline	One Child	Two Children
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent	£60 per child = £120 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent	£120 per child = £240 per parent
After 28 days	The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' 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.



Attendance at Ruskin

Reporting a Student Absence

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.

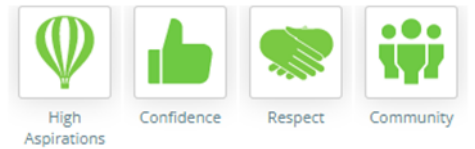


Behaviour at Ruskin Community High School

Our 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.

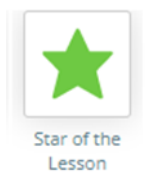
Positive Points on Class Charts

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. Since we started the system, 546 students out of 580 have been awarded 'Star of the Lesson'. Check Class Charts to see if your child has been awarded 'Star of the Lesson'.

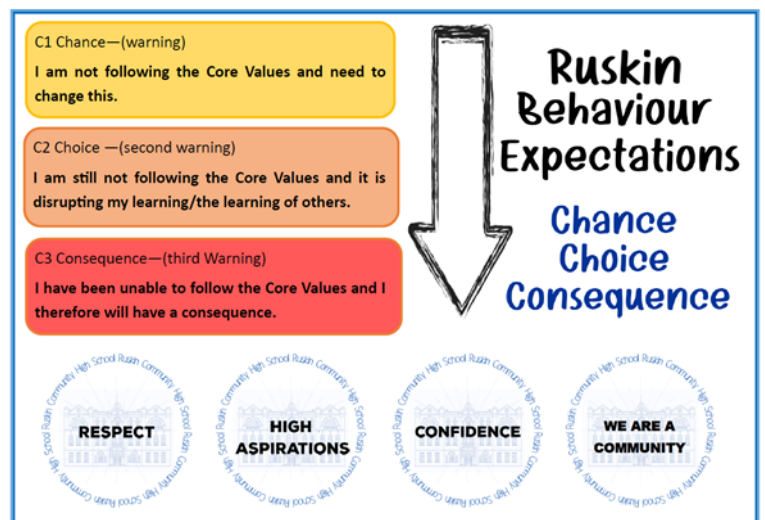


Ruskin Core Values and Chance-Choice-Consequence

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.



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.
- 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
- Water bottle

Calculators and Maths sets can be purchased from School Gateway and collected from Student Services:
Calculator £12
Maths Set £1.50
Both £13



**Ruskin Community High School
SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024 / 25**

	<i>Date of Closing</i>			<i>Date of Re-Opening</i>		
Autumn Term Begins	*****			Tuesday	3	September
Autumn Half-Term	Friday	25	October	Tuesday	5	November
Christmas 2024/25	Friday	20	December	Monday	6	January
Spring Half-Term	Friday	14	February	Monday	24	February
Easter	Friday	4	April	Tuesday	22	April
May Day	Friday	2	May	Tuesday	6	May
Summer Half-Term	Friday	23	May	Monday	2	June
Summer	Friday	18	July	*****		

INSET: Designated staff training/preparation days:

Monday 2 September 2024
Monday 4 November 2024
Friday 4 July 2025
Monday 21 July 2025
Tuesday 22 July 2025

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 – 2.10pm
L5	2.10pm – 3.10pm

**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



Wellbeing Support

Shout (in partnership with Place2Be)

Any young person who feels like they are struggling to cope can text **CONNECT** to **85258** for free, 24 hours a day. Shout's trained volunteers are there to listen and support young people (and adults) to get to a calmer and safe place. Texts are confidential and will not show up on your phone bill.

[Shout - UK's 24/7 Crisis Text Service for Mental Health Support | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](https://www.giveusashout.org/)



ThinkNinja (age 10-18)

ThinkNinja is a mental health app designed for 10 to 18-year-olds. Using a variety of content and tools, it allows young people to learn about mental health and emotional wellbeing, and develop skills they can use to build resilience and stay well.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinkninja&hl=en_GB&gl=US





It is really important to look after yourself, especially as exam season approaches.

Thank you to Miss Lander for sharing this lovely picture above on the different ways (however small) you can self-care.

You are worth it!





RUSKIN
Community High School
Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

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.



Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

@Ruskin



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.





Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

@Ruskin



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.



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



Core Values



Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

@Ruskin



Core Values



HIGH ASPIRATIONS


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.






Learning Together. Achieving High Standards.

@Ruskin




Core Values



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.



Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards



Thank You!

Special thanks to the local businesses that have supported us this term. Your generosity has made a significant impact, and our students have greatly benefited from your contributions which have meant we have been able to celebrate their achievements with meaningful rewards for their attendance. We have also been lucky to receive 300 calculators to support our students' academic progress. We truly appreciate your continued support and commitment to helping our community thrive!



Crewe Alexandra
Football Club

