

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. Working together has helped our students to grow both academically and personally.

As you will see in the newsletter the year has been filled with achievements and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished. Staff have provided many opportunities for trips and visits which support personal development and enrich school life. The commitment and enthusiasm of our staff helps to create a positive and supportive learning environment for our students.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for being an important part of our school community. Enjoy the Summer break and we look forward to welcoming students back in the new academic year.

School re-opens on **Wednesday 2nd September 2026** to all students on week one timetable. If you would like to discuss anything please contact us on enquiries@ruskin.cheshire.sch.uk or alternatively on Tel: 01270 560514 and selecting the correct option.

Mr D Postlethwaite
Headteacher



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School Vacancies—Please see our website www.ruskinhighschool.co.uk for current vacancies.

School Gateway

From September, the 'One-Click Payment' option within School Gateway will no longer be available. Parents and carers will still be able to make payments through School Gateway; however, payments will need to be completed using the standard checkout process each



Year 7 Update

As we reach the end of a fantastic academic year, I couldn't be prouder of everything our Year 7 students have achieved. Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone, and this year group has embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience and maturity.

From the very beginning, our students have demonstrated what it means to be part of the Ruskin community. They have consistently embodied our core values of Respect, High Aspirations, Community and Confidence, whether in lessons, around school, representing Ruskin at events or supporting one another. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow as they have settled into school life.

Their journey began with our memorable residential trip to Stanley Head in September. The experience gave students the opportunity to build friendships, challenge themselves and develop teamwork skills that have remained evident throughout the year. It was the perfect start to their secondary school journey. Many students also took part in the Waterpark trip in March which I know was a worthwhile experience for all.

Year 7 students have also represented the school exceptionally beyond the classroom. We were incredibly proud to have two teams qualify for the National Career Challenge Finals in Telford in July. Their creativity, teamwork and presentation skills were outstanding, and they represented Ruskin with professionalism and determination throughout the competition. Special mention to Sahil, who won an individual award for 'Most entrepreneurial year 7 student' which was an incredible achievement. The competition was fierce including many international entrants from as far as China and Singapore.

Student leadership has flourished this year, with our School Council representatives, Diego and Mayra, doing an excellent job of representing the views of their peers and contributing positively to school life. Their commitment and maturity have made them fantastic ambassadors for Year 7. Attendance ambassadors have also done a fabulous job supporting their form tutors throughout the year.

As part of our transition programme, many Year 7 students also volunteered to support our incoming Year 6 pupils during their transition days. They welcomed visitors with kindness, answered questions confidently and helped new students feel safe and excited about joining Ruskin in September 2026. Their patience, enthusiasm and willingness to help were a real credit to themselves and perfectly reflected the caring community we strive to create.

I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to watch this year group grow during their time in year 7, and I am excited to see what they will achieve as they move into Year 8. They have laid strong foundations for the future and should all be incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished.

I hope everyone has a well-deserved, safe and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming our Year 8 students back in September for another successful year.

Mrs Bennett





Year 8 Update

What a fantastic second year it's been for our Year 8s! As we wrap up for the summer, I am incredibly proud of how much everyone has grown, matured, and stepped up over the last ten months.

Instead of just finding your feet like last year, you've really taken on more responsibility this year—tackling harder schoolwork, strengthening your friendships, and showing everyone what the Ruskin spirit is all about.

Here is a look back at how our core values of **Respect, Community, Confidence, and High Aspirations** came to life this year:

Academic Achievements & High Aspirations: The jump in workload from Year 7 is never easy, but your attitude has been brilliant. As the work got tougher, you really stepped up—tackling trickier maths, getting stuck into practical science, and exploring much deeper themes in English. Seeing so many of you take real ownership of your homework and classroom learning has been great, and it shows you've got those high aspirations we talk so much about.

Creative Explorations & Confidence: The confidence in this year group is massive. Whether you were performing on stage, sharing your musical talents, or putting hours of effort into your art and design projects, you've shown a real willingness to put yourselves out there and try new things.

Strengthening Our Community & Respect: Now that you're fully settled into life at Ruskin, Year 8 has become a huge part of what makes our school run so well. We've seen you look out for each other, support your friends when things got tough, and show genuine respect to the staff and your peers. You aren't just part of the school community anymore—you are actively helping to shape it.

Looking Ahead: The Year 9 Options Process

When we come back in September, you will officially be the older students in Key Stage 3, and with that comes a really exciting milestone. Next year, during Year 9, you will begin the GCSE options process.

This means you'll start looking ahead to Key Stage 4 and making decisions about the subjects you want to specialize in. It's a big step that requires plenty of maturity and self-reflection, but based on how hard you've worked this year, we know you are more than ready for the challenge. We will be supporting you every step of the way when the time comes! Have a brilliant, safe, and well-deserved summer break. Well done, Year 8—you've been absolute stars, and we can't wait to see you back as leaders of the lower school in Year 9.

Mr Neal



It has been a busy and rewarding term for our Year 9 students. A major focus has been the completion of their GCSE option choices in preparation for the start of Year 10. This has been a lengthy process, requiring students to carefully consider their future pathways, seek advice, and make informed decisions. Throughout, they have demonstrated maturity, resilience, and commitment as they prepared for the next stage of their education.

Another group of Year 9 students also had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Williams Racing STEM Experience. The visit gave students a fascinating insight into the world of Formula One, engineering, technology, and innovation. They explored the wide range of careers available within STEM industries and were inspired by the cutting-edge work taking place at Williams Racing – see full article on page 12.

Students in Year 9 have come together in a touching tribute to remember their friend, Elliot, whose memory continues to inspire our school community.

Over recent weeks, a group of students worked hard to transform a memorial bench dedicated to Elliot. They carefully primed and painted the bench red, to reflect Elliot's love of MUFC. They have succeeded in creating a lasting space where friends can sit, reflect and remember the positive impact he had on those around him.

The project was led by Year 9 students who wanted to ensure that the bench would serve as a special reminder of their friend and the many happy memories they shared together. Their dedication, teamwork and creativity have resulted in a beautiful tribute that will be enjoyed by students for years to come.

To further celebrate Elliot's love of football, students also helped Mrs Bratherton organise a memorial football match. The event brought together all of Year 9 for an hour of sport, remembrance and community spirit. Players took to the pitch in great spirits, demonstrating teamwork, respect and determination—qualities that many remembered in Elliot. The match provided an opportunity for everyone to come together, share memories and support one another. It was a fitting tribute and a reminder of the strong friendships that make our school community so special. We are incredibly proud of the Year 9 students for the care, compassion and maturity they have shown throughout both projects. Their efforts have created meaningful ways to honour their friend and ensure that his memory remains an important part of school life.

Thank you to all students, staff and families who supported the memorial bench project and football match. Together, we have celebrated a young person that touched so many and demonstrated the strength and kindness of our school community.

Sports Day was another highlight of the term, although the weather certainly made it memorable! Wednesday's water event left many students thoroughly soaked, much to everyone's amusement. Despite the challenges of unusually hot weather throughout the day students showed fantastic resilience, determination, and sportsmanship. They embraced every event with enthusiasm, supported one another, and demonstrated the positive attitudes that make our Year 9 cohort such a credit to the school.





Year 9 Update cont'd

We would like to wish our very best to those Year 9 students who will be leaving us to begin the next stage of their education at the UTC. We hope they embrace the exciting opportunities ahead, continue to work hard, and enjoy every success as they embark on their Key Stage 4 journey. We wish them the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about all they accomplish in the years to come.

As our Year 9 students prepare to move into Year 10, I will be handing over the reins to Mrs Bennett, who will guide and support them through the next stage of their journey.

It has been a genuine privilege to be Year Achievement Manager for this wonderful cohort over the past two years. Watching them grow in confidence, develop resilience, and achieve so much has been incredibly rewarding. I am immensely proud of everything they have accomplished and have no doubt they will continue to thrive as they begin Key Stage 4.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Mrs Bratherton



Year 10 Update

The summer term has been an exceptionally busy and productive time for our Year 10 students. Throughout the term, they have participated in a variety of trips across different curriculum areas, with a strong focus on exploring careers and future education pathways.

This term also marked their first real experience of a formal examination period. During June, students sat mock exams designed to mirror the pressures they will face next summer—often with two exams scheduled on the same day. This experience was crucial in helping students understand the demands of exam season and the importance of thorough revision beforehand.

These exams will also play a key role in shaping effective intervention strategies, setting, and exam tiering as the students move into Year 11.

Following the exams, there has been an increased focus on careers education. On Thursday, 2nd July, Year 10 students attended the Secondary College event at Cheshire College South & West. This annual gathering brings together Year 10 students from local schools and offers a valuable opportunity to explore a wide range of courses they might consider after leaving Ruskin.

The variety was impressive—from traditional A-level academic courses to more vocational BTEC options. As staff, it was inspiring to see students engaging in activities they might never have had the chance to try before, from hairdressing to motor vehicle mechanics.

Earlier in June, we launched the prefect and head prefect application process. The response was outstanding—39 students applied, including 12 vying for the head prefect roles. All applicants presented themselves with great confidence and maturity, and the speeches delivered by the head prefect candidates were truly impressive. Standing in front of peers and staff to deliver such speeches is no easy task, so a huge congratulations to all involved.

I'm also delighted to report that Year 10 was strongly represented in the Ruskin end-of-year show. The performances were incredible and reflected the hard work and dedication the students put into the production. They truly made the year group proud.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, our Year 10 students will become the oldest in the school. It is vital they set a positive example for the younger years. Year 11 will undoubtedly be their most challenging year yet, but also potentially the most rewarding. Maintaining an attendance rate above 96% and fully engaging with intervention opportunities—both during and outside school hours—will be essential.

I have no doubt that, come August 2027, we'll be celebrating many happy faces achieving the GCSE results they deserve.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable summer!

Mr E Ledwards



National Careers Challenge Grand Finals

Ruskin Students Represent Our School at the National Careers Challenge Grand Finals



Congratulations to Team Sunshine, Team Ruskin Energy Savers, and Team Frogsville, who proudly represented our school at the National Careers Challenge Grand Finals, held at the Telford International Centre.



Earlier this year, The Inspirational Learning Group visited our school to deliver two employer-led challenges, giving students the opportunity to work on real-world business briefs while developing valuable employability, enterprise, and teamwork skills. Following their outstanding performances, all three teams qualified for the national finals.



At the Grand Finals, our students confidently presented their innovative ideas to employers and business leaders, competing alongside finalists from schools across the UK. The event provided a



fantastic opportunity to showcase their creativity, confidence, and collaboration while experiencing an inspiring national competition.



We are especially proud of Sahil, one of our fantastic Year 7 students, who was voted Most Enterprising Year 7 Student. This is an outstanding achievement and a wonderful recognition of his enthusiasm, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit.



A huge congratulations to all our finalists for representing Ruskin with such pride, professionalism and determination. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved!



Our Greenpower Club continues to give students an exciting opportunity to apply their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills in a real-world project by designing, building and racing an electric car.

The project is part of the Greenpower Education Trust, a UK charity that inspires young people to explore engineering through the challenge of constructing and competing in electric-powered race cars. Students work together to develop practical skills in problem-solving, teamwork, communication and resilience while gaining hands-on experience with engineering and vehicle design.

This year, our students have made fantastic progress, taking responsibility for building the car from the ground up. They have assembled the chassis, fitted the steering system, installed the suspension and brakes, and are continuing to refine the vehicle ready for testing. Every stage of the build has required careful planning, precision and collaboration.

The ultimate goal is to race against schools from across the country at professional motorsport circuits, putting our engineering skills to the test in a competitive and exciting environment. The project not only develops technical knowledge but also helps students build confidence, creativity and employability skills that are highly valued by universities and employers.



CHESHIRE SCHOOLS BOOK AWARDS 2026

The Cheshire Schools Book Awards 2026 was a full on celebration of 20 years of the launch of this incredible event, where schools all across Cheshire get 12 books to read over the school year and pupils take votes on which they enjoyed the most and why in two categories; younger age and older age. The results are announced in a large celebration event at the end of the year, usually in May. This year the event was held at the fantastic Story House in Chester, where over



400 pupils came along to celebrate stories, books, meet the authors of the books they'd enjoyed in their book clubs and also take part in an array of workshops from creative writing, blackout poetry, and Q&A with the authors. This year Mrs Latham went to get all the low down and is very excited to set this event up for Ruskin starting in September. So watch this space!



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

Local author Philip Latham joined us on Friday 8th May to celebrate national Children's Book Week. Philip shared his books with a small group of Y7 students, explaining where his inspiration comes from and how he prefers to write in a rhyming poetry style. The pupils got to ask lots of questions and really engaged with the session. There were activities to get involved in all about Finlay's Rocket (Philip's picture book) also, and lots of pupils enjoyed sharing their ideas for stories. It was a lovely end to a lovely week of celebration.



Keele University High Level Achiever Maths Study Day

Students took part in a series of lectures and guided work booklets to complete questions on GCSE topics that have many common misconceptions. The students were asked to help to spot the misconceptions and come up with new ways of tackling them. The guidance from the lecturers were very thorough even down to how to set out workings and looking at new methods. Ruskin students showed excellent participation and knowledge of the three topics discussed and massively impressed the hosts for with their attitude towards the whole experience.



Year 9 Safety Central Visit

A few of our Year 9 students attended an event at Safety Central where they looked at various aspects of keeping ourselves safe. We had the opportunity to visit a mock custody suite having been arrested by PC Martin Shore followed by being put on trial in front of a real-life working magistrate. We were given an insight into cyber crime, how the world around us is changing rapidly and how to keep ourselves safe online followed by a tour through an unsafe house where our devices caused a fire. We finished our day looking in detail at our outside environment and how to keep ourselves safe on the road, the effects of alcohol and crucial water safety.

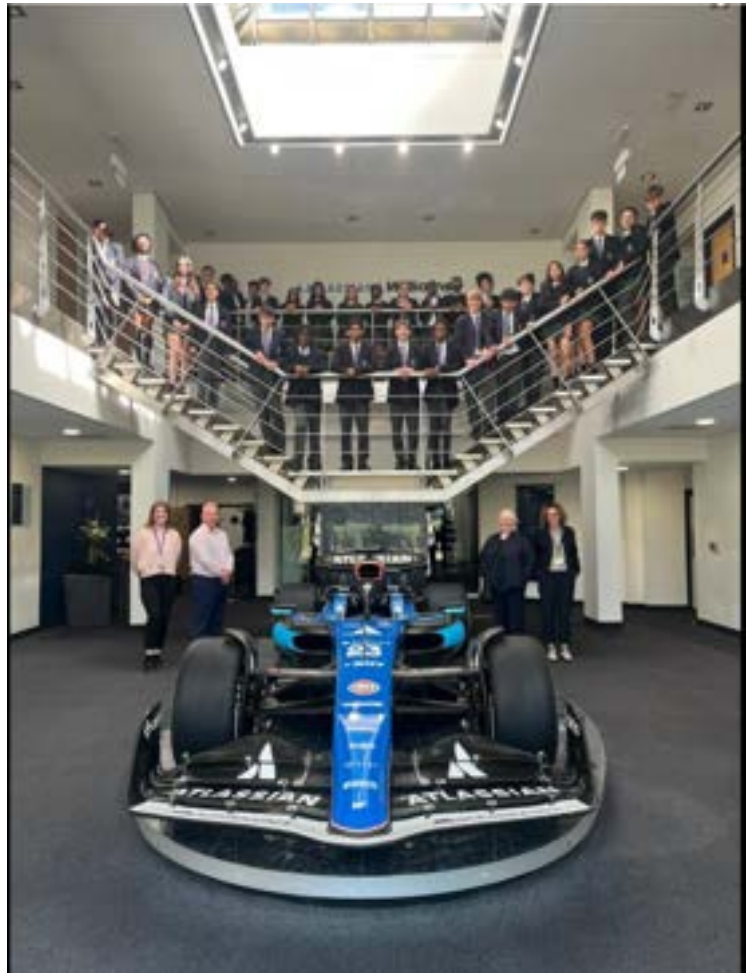


Formula 1 Experience

Thirty-nine Year 9 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable educational visit to the Williams Formula 1 Headquarters, where they experienced the exciting world of motor-sport engineering and innovation. The day began with an engaging tour of the Williams

Heritage Centre, where students explored the team's remarkable racing history. Surrounded by iconic Formula 1 cars and championship-winning machines, they learned about the evolution of the sport, the technological advancements behind each era, and the achievements that have made Williams one of Formula 1's most respected teams.

The visit also gave students the opportunity to experience the thrill of Formula 1 through the team's state-of-the-art racing simulators, allowing them to test their driving skills on virtual race circuits. In the afternoon, students took part in an inspiring engineering workshop where they worked collaboratively to design a new front nose cone for a Williams F1 car. The activity encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork while highlighting the importance of aerodynamics and engineering design in modern motorsport. The trip was an exciting and memorable experience, giving students a fascinating insight into the careers, innovation, and technology that drive Formula 1.



Aramark Celebrate Summer in our school canteen



June was a wonderful month in our school catering department, as we joined in celebrating Pride Month. We were delighted to recognise and support the values of inclusion, respect and diversity that Pride represents, helping to create a welcoming environment for everyone in our school community.



The excitement has continued with our World Cup celebrations, which are still underway. We have enjoyed bringing a sporting theme to our catering offer and look forward to keeping the celebrations going until the tournament comes to an end.



We have also been serving up a taste of summer during Wimbledon, with a selection of delicious fresh strawberry desserts. These seasonal treats have been a popular addition to our menus and a great way to celebrate one of Britain's most iconic sporting events.

We look forward to sharing more themed events and special menu items with our pupils and staff throughout the year!



Cultural Day

Recently, our school was transformed into a vibrant celebration of culture, colour and community as students proudly wore traditional clothing representing their national heritage. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to share and celebrate the rich diversity that makes our school such a special place.



Students arrived dressed in a stunning array of national costumes, each with its own unique history and significance. From beautifully embroidered garments and colourful patterns to elegant ceremonial outfits, every costume told a story about family traditions, cultural identity and national pride. It was inspiring to see students confidently sharing their heritage with friends and staff.

The day was not only a celebration of different cultures but also a reminder of the values that bring us together. Through conversations, photographs and shared experiences, students learned more about the backgrounds and traditions of their classmates. These moments helped to promote understanding, respect and appreciation for the many cultures represented within our school community.



We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated and thank families for their support in helping to make the day such a success. The enthusiasm and pride displayed by everyone reflected the inclusive and welcoming spirit of our school.



BIG BANG FAIR

Year 8 students recently attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC Birmingham, where they explored a wide range of interactive STEM exhibits and activities.

The event gave students the opportunity to engage with employers, universities and industry professionals, helping them to learn more about future career pathways and the real-world applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Students represented the school exceptionally well and were a credit to Ruskin throughout the visit.



National Space Centre

On 21st May, our Year 10 Triple Science students visited the Space Centre and had a brilliant time exploring life beyond Earth.



They discovered how astronauts eat, sleep and live while in space, and learned about the challenges of surviving in a microgravity environment. Students also explored space technology, training and the science behind human space exploration.

A highlight of the trip was watching an incredible Journey Through the Solar System show, taking them on an immersive tour of our planets and beyond.



A fantastic day full of curiosity, discovery and inspiration for the next

Rollercoaster Challenge at Keele University

Students recently enjoyed an exciting opportunity to combine their physics and engineering knowledge with creativity and imagination by designing their own virtual rollercoasters.

During the project, students explored the science behind rollercoasters, learning how engineers use important physics principles such as forces, energy, gravity, and motion to create thrilling yet safe rides. This hands-on experience helped students understand how science is applied in the real world.

Working collaboratively in teams, students designed and developed realistic virtual rollercoasters, using their problem-solving skills to ensure their creations could operate successfully. The challenge encouraged teamwork, innovation, and critical thinking while giving students the chance to put their classroom learning into practice.



Golf Experience Day

In June our pupils at Ruskin Community High School enjoyed an exciting and engaging Golf Experience Day, taking part in a series of taster sessions led by professional instructor Stu Warren. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to develop new skills, including chipping and driving, while benefiting from expert coaching and guidance.

The sessions provided a fantastic introduction to the sport, with pupils showing great enthusiasm, focus, and willingness to learn. It was brilliant to see so many students stepping out of their comfort zones, supporting one another, and demonstrating excellent behaviour and effort.

Overall, the day was a huge success, with lots of talent on display and many pupils expressing an interest in continuing to develop their golf skills. Well done to everyone involved for making the event such a positive and memorable experience.



Athletics Success at Town Sports

On Tuesday 30th June, 28 of our Ruskin students proudly represented the school at the annual Town Sports Athletics Competition, held at the Cumberland Arena.

Throughout the day, students competed in a variety of track and field events, demonstrating excellent determination, resilience, and sportsmanship. Every student should be incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm, and the fantastic team spirit they showed while supporting one another.

A special [congratulations](#) goes to Lucy S, who won 1st place in the Junior Girls' 100m, and Munotida M, who achieved an impressive 4th place in the Junior Boys' 100m.

Well done to everyone who took part—you represented Ruskin with pride and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Ruskin Football Team Impress at Cheshire FA Competition

On Tuesday 19th May, ten Year 7 and 8 students represented Ruskin at the Cheshire FA Introduction to Football Competition, held at Moss Farm in Hartford.

The team competed against a number of local schools from across Cheshire, representing the school with pride throughout the day. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for both their teammates and the opposing teams, making them fantastic ambassadors for Ruskin.

A special mention goes to Zayne-Lee D and Micah K, who both got on the scoresheet with some excellent goals. [Congratulations](#) also to Micah K, who was voted Ruskin's Player of the Tournament by the opposing teams—an outstanding achievement and a reflection of his skill, attitude, and sportsmanship.

Finally, a huge well done to Wiktor L, who captained the team superbly, motivating and supporting his teammates throughout the competition.

Well done to everyone who took part—you represented Ruskin with pride!



This year, both our Year 7 and Year 8 students enjoyed an unforgettable residential weekend in the beautiful Lake District. Our Year 8 students attended from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd March 2026, followed by our Year 7 students from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April 2026.



During their stay, students were based at the historic 12th-century Water Park Mansion House, a centre renowned for providing outstanding outdoor adventure education. The centre focuses on developing young people through tailored, hands-on experiences, offering a range of exciting activities including water sports, gorge scrambling and raft building.



The residential was designed to challenge students, develop resilience and strengthen teamwork while building confidence and independence. Throughout the weekend, students embraced new experiences, supported one another, and enjoyed spending time in the natural environment. The trip provided countless opportunities for personal growth, helping students to create lasting memories while experiencing the outdoors in a safe, supportive and inspiring setting.



We look forward to visiting again next academic year with our new year 7s!



This term, our Duke of Edinburgh students were due to complete both their practice and qualifying expedition weekends. Students complete their Bronze on year 9 and progress onto their Silver in year 10.

The practice expedition took place from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May, with students walking approximately 12.5 km each day. It was a hugely successful weekend, with all participants demonstrating determination, resilience and teamwork while developing their walking, navigation and campcraft skills.

Both our Bronze and Silver groups began their expedition at the National Trust car park at Bickerton Hill, near Malpas, before making their way to their campsite at Pitch and Canvas, near Tattenhall. On Saturday, the Bronze group followed a scenic route past Beeston Castle and across the Peckforton and Bulkeley Hills, finishing at the Bickerton Poacher. Meanwhile, the Silver group completed a challenging circular route, returning to the campsite before following a similar route to the Bronze group on the Sunday.

Unfortunately, due to the exceptionally high temperatures forecast for July, we made the difficult decision to postpone the qualifying expedition in the interests of student safety and wellbeing. The assessment expedition will now take place from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th September, when our students will be exploring the beautiful Llangollen area.

We wish all of our Duke of Edinburgh participants the very best of luck for their qualifying expedition and look forward to celebrating their achievements on their return. A big thank you to all the staff who are giving up their weekends to enable this opportunity to happen for our students.

We will launch our DofE programme for next academic year in September so students in years 9 and 10 will have the opportunity to sign up. For more information please speak to Mr McGregor.

We were also delighted that **Mr McGregor**, who leads our Duke of Edinburgh programme, was invited to attend the **Gold Award Celebration at Buckingham Palace. Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh**, hosted thousands of young people and their guests at the celebrations in May, which formed part of the charity's **70th anniversary** year. The event recognised the outstanding achievements of Gold Award holders from across the UK and celebrated the positive impact that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to have on young people's lives. It would be wonderful to hear from any former Ruskin students who have gone on to achieve their **Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award** while at college or beyond. We would love to celebrate your success and share your achievements with our school community.



Timings of the School Day Effective from 2nd September 2026

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY FROM September 2026

Monday to Friday	Years 7 to 11
AM Form Tutor	8.40am – 9.05am
L1	9.05am – 10.05am
L2	10.05am – 11.05am
Break	11.05am – 11.25am
L3	11.25am – 12.25pm
L4	12.25pm – 1.25pm
Lunch	1.25pm – 2.10pm
L5	2.10pm – 3.10pm





Attendance Matters— Every Day Counts

As we approach the end of term and look ahead to the Summer break, we would like to take a moment to thank all parents and carers for your continued support with school attendance. Coming into school every day plays such an important role in your child's learning, confidence, and overall wellbeing. Each day builds on the last, and even a short time away can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning, routines, and friendships.

As a school, we continue to work towards our whole-school attendance target of 96%. Achieving this consistently helps ensure that all pupils are able to access the full curriculum and make the most of every opportunity school provides. Your support in encouraging your child to attend every day and arrive on time really does make a difference.

We completely understand that illness and unexpected situations can happen, and we appreciate you keeping us informed if your child is unable to attend. When children are well enough, being in school every day helps them build positive habits that will support them throughout their education and beyond.

To help us work together, please continue to check ATTEND regularly, as we may share updates or messages about your child's attendance. This helps us keep communication clear and ensures we can offer support quickly if needed.

If a child is absent, the school may carry out a home visit. These visits are always supportive and aim to help us understand any challenges families may be facing so we can work together to support a successful return to school.

We've also loved celebrating great attendance this term through a range of rewards and activities. These have included non-uniform days, doughnuts and ice-creams for 100% or improved attendance, Focus Fridays with raffle prizes, and Free Fashion Fridays where pupils could swap their blazer for a hoodie. We also enjoyed our special Summer-themed rewards and activities, with plenty of treats and surprises along the way. One highlight has been our soak the teacher event, a moment many won't forget!

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this with more rewards and incentives to encourage strong attendance and punctuality. There is lots to look forward to next term, so watch this space!

We would like to remind all parents and carers that holidays taken during term time are not authorised. As a result, any holidays taken during the school term will be recorded as unauthorised absence and may result in further action.

We strongly encourage families to plan holidays during the designated school holiday periods. This helps to ensure that your child does not miss valuable learning time, as even a few days away can have a noticeable impact on progress, routines, and friendships. We appreciate your understanding and continued support in helping us maintain high levels of attendance for all pupils.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families a very safe and happy Summer break. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next term Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

Ruskin Attendance Team

**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



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.



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.
- No fake eyelashes

School Equipment—all students require daily:

- Handbook
- Pencil case
- Pens (black)
- Pen (green)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Highlighter
- Calculator
- Maths Set
- Water bottle

Calculators and Maths sets can be purchased from the Mathematics department or Student Services:

- ♦ Calculator £12
- ♦ Maths Set £1.50
- ♦ Bundle Price—Calculator & Maths Set £13

NB: If your child requires a replacement planner a charge applicable.





MOBILE PHONE FREE SCHOOL PHONE POUCHES

FOCUS. RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. READY TO LEARN.



BACKGROUND

At Ruskin Community High School, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every student can thrive. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives on and offline. This presents many exciting opportunities – but also academic, emotional and social challenges. Our goal is to promote a focused and distraction-free learning environment whilst encouraging responsible use of technology. To support this, we have introduced a mobile phone pouch to ensure we have a mobile phone free school.

We believe that every student deserves the chance to experience a phone-free education. Phone pouches provide a simple and secure way of supporting this approach across our school. This approach provides a balanced solution, ensuring young people retain possession of their phones while minimising distractions during school hours. The pouch helps foster social interaction, improve focus on learning, and reduce stress associated with phone use, all while maintaining communication for families during travel to and from school.



STUDENT PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

Our school is a phone-free community. Each student will be assigned a personal Yondr Phone Pouch and they are responsible for bringing it to school daily and keeping it in good working condition. Phones and wearable tech will be secured in the pouch upon arrival and remain there until the end of the school day.

DAILY PROCESS

- Upon arrival, students will: Turn their phone off.
- Place their phone and any wearable technology inside their Yondr phone pouch and lock it during the form time line up, in the presence of their form tutor.
- Keep the pouched phone with them throughout the school day, and store it in their bag.
- At the end of the school day, students will unlock their pouch at one of the magnet boxes by the two exit points, retrieve their phone and tech, and re-close the pouch to protect the locking mechanism from damage. Pouches must be brought to and from school each day.

NOTE: Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or unpouch their phones at the main office.

MAGNET UNLOCKING STATION



Stations are located by the two exit points.



Lock it in the morning.
Stay focused.



Unlock it at the end of the day.
Stay connected.



Respect the system.
Respect each other.

PROCEDURES AND SANCTIONS



LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DISMISSALS

Students arriving late or leaving early must pouch or unpouch their phones and wearable tech at the main school reception.



FORGOTTEN POUCHES

If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected and securely stored in the office and parent/carer asked to collect. Parents/carers will be contacted and reminded of the procedures. Repeated instances will result in the pouch being treated as lost and a replacement fee of £15 will be charged and the student will receive a day in the IC.



PHONE USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If a student is found in possession of a phone outside of their pouch on school site, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. The student will then have to go to the Inclusion Centre for the equivalent of one full day. Parent/carer must then collect the phone from the main office.

If a student refuses to hand their phone over, they will be suspended from school for one day.



Bag searches may be conducted if teachers have concerns that a student has a mobile device on them that hasn't been secured into their pouch. Students will be asked to remove their belongings from their bag and blazer. Any searches by staff will be completed in pairs.



DAMAGED POUCHES

Any attempt to tamper with the phone pouches system, including use or possession of high-strength magnets will be treated as a serious offence, potentially resulting in a replacement fee of £15, confiscation of the device until a parent/carer picks it up and suspension.

If accidental damage occurs, students must report it immediately. If damage is discovered during checks and has not been reported, it may be considered intentional.

The following may indicate intentional damage:

- Ripped or cut fabric
- Bent or cut pin
- Signs of force to the black locking mechanism
- Pen marks inside the pouch
- Pouch opening without a station
- Scuff marks on the black ball



The pouch should not be used as a replacement for a protective case and/or screen protector on mobile device.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Handheld unlocking stations will be taken by staff on school trips. This will only be needed in an emergency as unlocking stations will be available at school on arrival back to school.



STUDENTS WITHOUT A MOBILE PHONE

A log will be kept of all mobile phones and cases for each student. If a student says they do not have a phone, this will be checked by the school contacting parents and requesting for them to sign a declaration that they do not have a phone and will inform the school if they do have one in the future.



EMERGENCIES & SAFEGUARDING

COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents/ carers who need to contact their child during the school day should do so via the school office on 01270 560514. We will then pass this message onto your child.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Students who require access to their mobile devices for specific medical purposes will be provided with a medical pouch. These medical conditions include but are not limited to: Diabetes type 1, medical implants and the use of pacemakers.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In an emergency, the priority is for students to follow school safety procedures under staff guidance.

Unauthorised phone use during such situations may:

- Delay emergency responses
- Spread misinformation
- Put students and staff at increased risk
- Disrupt coordinated safeguarding measures

Emergency communications will be managed through the school. When it is safe to do so, students will be able to unlock their pouches, either at the unlocking stations by the exits or using one of the portable unlocking stations that staff will have.



REFUSING TO USE A PHONE POUCH

If a student brings a mobile phone to school and they or parent/carer refuses to use a pouch, they will not be permitted to bring their phone into school. The school will require a signed declaration from the parent/carer to state that this is happening.

If they are found to have their phone on them, the phone will be confiscated, parent/carer must collect and the student will go to the IC.

If they refuse to hand the phone over, they will be suspended from school.

If the student is repeatedly found with a mobile phone on them, they will spend a prolonged period in the IC or they will be suspended from school.



FOCUS

Stay on task.
Achieve your best.



RESPECT

Respect the rules.
Respect each other.



RESPONSIBILITY

Make positive choices.
Own your actions.



READY TO LEARN

A distraction-free environment
helps everyone succeed.





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.



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



In lessons, teachers use 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

Positive points are related to our four Core Values. Check Class Charts to see which of the Core Values your child has been awarded. There are also other points for Ruskin Expectations, Extra-Curricular and Support Weeks.



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 you 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.

Ruskin Community High School. SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2026 / 27						
	<i>Date of Closing</i>			<i>Date of Re-Opening</i>		
Autumn Term Begins	*****			Wednesday	2	September
Autumn Half-Term	Friday	23	October	Monday	2	November
Christmas 2026/27	Friday	18	December	Tuesday	5	January
Spring Half-Term	Friday	12	February	Monday	22	February
Easter	Thursday	25	March	Monday	12	April
May Day	Friday	30	April	Tuesday	4	May
Summer Half-Term	Friday	28	May	Monday	7	June
Summer	Friday	16	July	*****		

INSET: Designated staff training/preparation days:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 19th July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027



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



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.



**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**



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.






**Learning Together,
Achieving High Standards**

