

10 July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move to the end of another year at Reading Girls' School, I write to thank you as always for your support and to say farewell as I come to the end of my time as Interim Headteacher.

On behalf of my staff team and our wonderful students, I am pleased and proud to say that the school has improved in just about every respect over the past twelve months. As you know, RGS becomes an academy, part of the Baylis Court Trust, from 1 September, and I feel very confident that the Trust will continue these improvements as they bring in their own ways of working. Mr Jon Gargan, the incoming Principal, and Ms Deborah Ajose, Executive Headteacher of the Trust, have spoken to parents at events that have been held at RGS over the past few weeks, and I know they have been able to calm any worries that have been expressed about the transition of the school to an academy.

Sports Day

The second-to-last day of term – Tuesday 18 July – is Sports Day, which we are all getting very excited about. Your daughter has been given all the information she needs about what is going on on the day, and we would be glad to welcome any parents who would like to watch the track events from 1.00 pm. These will take place on the school field. I can't direct you very clearly on how to get to the field, as around this time we will be closing our temporary car park and opening our new one. The best advice I can give you is to make your way to the right of the main reception, where the school field is. The long-range weather forecast suggests that it won't be quite as hot as it has been recently, but please be ready to provide your daughter with plenty of water, a hat and high-factor sunscreen just in case.

And on the topic of staying healthy and safe in the sun, accompanying this letter is an information and advice sheet from all the local authorities in this part of the country.

End of term

The end of term is just around the corner, and I know that staff and students alike are looking forward to a very well-earned summer break, after what has been an incredibly busy year. The last day of term for students is Wednesday 19th July, and we will dismiss them at 1.30 pm. Any students who are entitled to free school meals should use their allowance at break time.

Next term

School begins for students on Tuesday 5th September. Years 7 and 11 return at 8.30 am; other year groups return at 9.45 am.

There are no changes to the school day planned for next term, but we do expect students to be on site by 8.30, so that registration can be taken promptly at 8.40.

Uniform

We have done incredibly well this year to smarten up students' uniform. I am always so impressed when I see our students walking up the school drive in the morning looking so smart. There are no plans to change our uniform rules; please do refresh your memory of what they are by clicking here: <http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=81>

As a reminder of the main changes that were successfully brought in this year:

- Shoes must be plain black, formal, polishable and flat-heeled
- Jewellery: only one pair of small, plain stud earrings; no nose studs or other facial piercings
- The blouse must have a revere collar
- Mobile phones and other devices are not to be used anywhere on the school site. If seen or heard, they will be confiscated.
- The coat must be plain black or navy blue. No hoodies allowed.
- Hair must be of a natural colour.

Behaviour

Behaviour expectations remain as they always were, and again this is an area of school life that everyone agrees has been transformed this year. I'm sure Mr Gargan will appreciate your support in making sure this excellent behaviour continues in September. The behaviour policy is here: <http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=693&type=pdf>

Attendance

A reminder about the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality from September. The school's target is for each girl to attend for 100% of the time and not to be late at all during the year. I hope you are able to support the school and your daughter in making this objective a reality.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a restful, enjoyable summer holiday, and, once again, thank you for all you have done to support me and the whole school over the past year. I will pay a very close interest in tracking Reading Girls' School's progress as it becomes the outstanding school it has the potential to be.

Yours sincerely



Leo Gilbert
Interim Headteacher