



The Richmond upon Thames School
Excellence Through Endeavour

NEWSLETTER

September 2018



Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year! A special RTS welcome to all students who have joined the school at the start of this term. A particular welcome to our new Year 7 cohort who have had an excellent start to the new term at RTS. Last week we invited parents and carers to our Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Evenings which were an opportunity to meet admin staff, tutors, Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team. There was a great atmosphere in the hall and many parents and carers told us how happy they were with their child's successful transition to RTS. Click [here](#) to access the Year 7 Curriculum Guide and [here](#) for the Year 8 Curriculum Guide.

Ms Dooley



Open Evening for Year 7 Admission in 2019

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students and their families is on Wednesday 3 October from 17:30 to 20:00. Many students have been asked to help in subject areas and in guiding families around the site. If your child is involved in this way, please remember to provide your consent. **On Thursday 4 October, students must arrive for lessons at 09:45. Remember, Thursday is a PE day and students wear their PE kit to school.**

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not allowed to be used on the school site, including the games field and sports hall. In the interest of promoting the safety, well-being and academic achievement of our students, mobile phones and non-school electronic devices must not be seen on the school site. If a mobile phone or non-school electronic device is seen on the school site, it will be confiscated and held in the School Office until a parent/carer comes to collect it.

We understand that you may wish your child to have a phone for use off-site before and after school and would recommend that you give them the most basic handset. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage to any valuables. Please see the online safety information from our [curriculum evening presentation on our school website](#) for advice regarding social media and keeping your child safe online.

Technology training session for parents/carers

On Wednesday 10 October, we are providing a number of sessions to help you get the best out of the technology resources used at RTS. These 30-minute sessions will look at the RTS iPads and Google Classroom. We recommend you attend one of the sessions to help you support learning at home. Book [here](#).

School Meals

The menu for this term is accessible [here](#). We are working very closely with our Caterer to improve the service in the dining hall. Students whose parents/carers did not 'opt in' to biometric registration will be issued with a pin number for payments.

Free School Meals

Each child who is entitled to a free school meal has an allowance of approximately £450 each year. Our cashless catering system also ensures that no child is identified as having a free school meal. Since the introduction of the "pupil premium" by the government, the school also receives additional funding (£935 per child) to give additional support to our students. If you think you are entitled to receive free school meals, you can apply online via the Richmond Council website [here](#).

Wise Pay

To access Wise Pay, please [click here](#).

Student Appearance and School Uniform

We expect all our students to adhere strictly to our uniform expectations. I ask for your support in ensuring that students look smart at all times. In particular, we request:



- Shirts are tucked in at all times
- Ties are worn appropriately (including top buttons of shirts done up)
- Skirts should be just below the knee or longer
- Footwear should be black and polishable
- Hair should be a natural colour
- No makeup, eyelash extensions, nail varnish or nail extensions
- There should be no visible body piercings (one plain small stud in each ear lobe is excepted)
- No branded tracksuit bottoms, sweat tops, hoodies, jackets or shorts
- Dark coloured coats/outerwear

The uniform code operates when travelling to and from school. Please familiarise yourself with our uniform expectations [here](#).

Considerate Parking and Driving

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this important health and safety issue. May I, therefore, ask all parents/carers that if you are visiting the school, or even just dropping off your child in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon, that you park with consideration for our neighbours, safely and legally.

Safer walking and cycling routes

A number of families have contacted the school about the possibility of the Council adding permanent barriers on the A316 from the top of the Meadway to the Stoop. There are quite a few children of families living locally who use this route on their way to and from school and would appreciate it if the route could be made safer. I have been in contact with Richmond Council, who have explained that this road is not under council responsibility and maintained by Transport For London (TFL). So, any request for barriers would, therefore, be for TFL to consider and respond to. For TFL to consider installing barriers it is going to take a community effort, and I suggest, therefore, that we send emails to the following email addresses to voice our safety concerns. TFL: londonstreets@tfl.gov.uk and the Highways and Transport mailbox for Richmond: HighwaysAndTransport@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

Pre-Learning

Pre-learning involves exposing students to new content, skills and ideas that are about to come up in a lesson. All pre-learning tasks are aimed at helping students to develop levels of curiosity and interest before they learn new material in class. It boosts self-esteem and motivation and is more measurable in terms of engagement with curriculum than traditional homework methods. **Timetables can be accessed below.**

Year 7	Year 8
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FoRTS (Friends of Richmond Upon Thames School)

FoRTS was set up last year by a group of parents of our founding year group. They work tirelessly to support the school at events and raise money which is used to buy equipment



such as books and sports equipment for our new site. If you would like to get involved with the FoRTS committee or would like to find out more about what they do please read this [letter](#) and get in touch.

School Photographs

Students will receive their individual (and where relevant sibling photographs) on Monday 01.10.2018. The deadline for orders is Friday 5 October 2018. Please ask students to hand their order form to their academic tutor.

Events

Prospective Year 7 Open Evening	Wed 03.10.2018	Register Here
Early close ~ 15:00	Wed 03.10.2018	
Late start ~ 09:45	Thu 04.10.2018	
Technology workshops for new parents/carers	Wed 10.10.2018	Register Here
Staff Training Day	Fri 19.10.2018	
Staff Training Day	Mon 29.10.2018	
Academic Tutor and Parent/Carer Evening Year 7	Wed 14.11.2018	16:30-19:30
Academic Tutor and Parent/Carer Evening Year 8	Wed 21.11.2018	16:30-19:30
Last day of the Autumn Term ~ Close at 12:00	Fri 21.12.2018	