



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
Ashbourne Road
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ST14 5PB

19th July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to thank all parents and families for their support this year. Not only have pupils completed a wide range of academic studies, they have also been able to return to a wide range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year.

Particular congratulations go to our pupils who took part in events such as: The Jubilee Writing competition, sporting inter-school competitions, the middle schools Geography quiz, the Rotary DT competition, trips and visits to Liverpool, Kiddlestone Scout camp and many more. We are so pleased that we can begin to plan trips and visits again, as well as get involved with sports competitions and concerts.

We wish our Year 8 pupils farewell as they move on to their chosen High Schools, we have enjoyed celebrating their time at Middle School and wish them luck with their new opportunities.

It was with deep regret the decision to postpone the trip to Alton Towers/Splash Landings was made. The recent weather has presented all schools with significant challenges and difficult decisions have had to be made but the health and safety of all our pupils and staff is, and remains, a key priority. We will be in touch in September regarding a new date for this trip, as the park will allow us to rebook. As explained in the communication yesterday, our Year 8 pupils will be entitled to a refund and the office will be in touch with you individually.

I am delighted to introduce to you our new Year 8 leaders who were appointed this week by staff:

Head Pupils - Tom and Kate

Arkwright House Captains - Freya and Anas

Arkwright Sports Captains - Bethany and Harry

Arkwright Vice Captain – Josh

Sheldon House Captains - Abi and Luke

Sheldon Sports Captains - Kiki and Jacob

Sheldon Vice Captain - Felicity

Heywood House Captains - Lily and Harrison

Heywood Sports Captains - Abi and Sam

Heywood Vice Captain - Tia

UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST



Part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust

Company Number: 10547353

Registered Office Address:

Uttoxeter Learning Trust

Thomas Alleyne's High School

Dove Bank, Uttoxeter, Staffs

ST14 8DU

T: 01889 561820



Please find below some important reminders about next year:

School reopening

School will reopen to pupils on Tuesday 6th September from 8:30am. A full list of term dates, including INSET days are on our website.

Mobile Phone Policy change

Over the last few weeks we have taken the opportunity to review our school rules surrounding mobile phones. As part of this process we have consulted staff and governors and have made some changes to our rules around mobile phones in our school building. From September 2022 the main guidelines are as follows:

- *At all times during the school day, mobile phones are not allowed to be used by pupils for any purpose.
- *If pupils choose to bring a mobile phone with them to school they must be **turned off** and stored in their locker. We will no longer store pupils mobile phones in the school office.

Whilst we appreciate this is a significant change, we feel the change is necessary for the following reason:

- *Mobile phones can cause a significant disruption to the smooth running of the school, including the main office where pupils can be waiting a significant amount of time to hand in or collect their device. This can amount to a loss of learning time.

All pupils will be reminded of these rules on the first day back in September. Should a pupil be found breaching the rules, the phone will be confiscated.

Uniform

We are very grateful for your support with our high expectations for school uniform. Please see a reminder of our expectations for uniform below:

Girls

- Ryecroft branded jumper
- Plain white blouse with collar
- Plain black/blue tailored skirt (knee length, not jersey/lycra) **or** plain black tailored trousers (not jeans)
- School tie
- Black tights or black socks
- Plain black shoes with a low heel (no trainers, sling backs, mules or pumps)

Boys

- Ryecroft branded jumper
- Plain white shirt with collar
- Plain black tailored trousers (no jeans) or black shorts (summer term only)
- School tie
- Black socks
- Plain black shoes (no trainers)

- No extreme hair styles or excessive hair accessories are permitted.
- Hair should be kept neat and tidy and worn in a style that does not compromise health or safety.
- Hair should not be dyed unnatural hair colours, be shaved off or have colours or patterns/ words cut or woven into. *Should a pupil come to school with an extreme hairstyle, a member of the leadership team will work with the parents and pupil to come to a decision about a reasonable timescale for alteration, normally less than one week. For example, if a child has patterns shaved into their hair, they should seek to even out the hairstyle each day until the pattern has gone.*
- Pupils should not attend school wearing makeup or coloured nail varnish. This also includes no nail extensions, acrylic, gel, long and/or pointed nails. If they do so they will asked to remove it.

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Equipment

It is essential that all pupils come to school fully equipped and prepared for learning. This means that each pupil, every day, needs to bring the following equipment:

- School Bag – we ask that these are not excessively large and are ‘locker size’ appropriate
- A minimum of 2 **blue** handwriting pens (Berol)
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Ruler
- Pencil Case
- Glue Stick
- Rubber
- Reading Book
- KS3 Pupils only - Scientific Calculator (*recommended model Casio FX-83GT*)
compass and *protractor*

Please note, for health and safety reasons, metal water bottles will not be allowed from September.

Talaxy

In September we will be introducing a new online system to set homework. This will replace our current paper planners. More details to follow.

Lockers

All pupils will be allocated a locker from September. These are deemed a privilege and school holds the rights to withdraw this privilege should it be abused in any way or to the detriment of any pupil. In order to keep all pupils safe we ask that you adhere to the safe usage and regulations below:

- Pupils will take responsibility and ownership of their locker.
- School lockers will be inspected on a regular basis. Lockers need to be kept clean and free from belongings which are prohibited on the school premises.
- Lockers need to be emptied and cleared out at the end of every half term.
- Damage caused to any locker may be chargeable.
- Students are not to swap or change lockers as all lockers are allocated on an individual basis, and a record is kept with details of ownership in the School office.

If you choose to purchase a lock for your child’s locker may we suggest the use of a combination padlock to minimise the loss of keys. Please purchase a padlock with a narrow shackle so that it fits the locker.

As shared in previous correspondence, we say thank you and goodbye to some staff today. We wish Miss Wanford and Mr Howlett all the very best as they move on to new teaching appointments. We thank them for all their hard work and commitment - their new schools are very lucky to have them. Miss Boot leaves us today to commence her maternity leave, and we wish her well and we look forward to hearing news of a safe arrival very soon. We also celebrate two weddings this summer as Miss Starkey and Ms Tarlton, each get married – congratulations to them!

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to Mrs Rudge, who has been Executive Headteacher at Ryecroft since September. She has been incredibly supportive to all staff during her time here, working to improve all aspects of school. We are grateful for her hard work and dedication to pupils here.

School will close today for the summer holiday.

Thank you for all your support this year. On behalf of the whole team at Ryecroft we wish you all the very best for the summer holiday. **We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 6th September 2022.**

Kind regards,



Mrs A Grattage
Headteacher

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