



Ranelagh School

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September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to be able to welcome back all the staff and students to the new academic year. My role gives me the opportunity to walk around the school during the day and I see first-hand the learning that is taking place. I am always so thrilled to see such high-quality teaching and learning underway. It is clear to me that the students are relishing being back in school, are enjoying their lessons and are enjoying seeing their friends again. It is also lovely to be able to return to our normal timetable cycle. There is a real sense that our school community is back together again. I am hopeful that this will remain the case in the coming months. COVID 19 is still with us though so I would encourage all families to continue testing twice weekly to help us keep our school community as safe as possible. The onsite LFD testing has now finished so students and staff should now test twice weekly for the remainder of the month at least.

My full school assembly this week focussed on our school Christian vision:

“For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1.7

The importance of this vision lies not in just being listed, but in being lived; in being genuinely woven into the day-to-day fabric of our school life. This verse reminds us that God’s spirit gives us the power and determination to develop excellence, courage and confidence yet ensuring humility and modesty. The love that we give should be unselfish and focused on concern for the welfare of others. It is a love that challenges narrow mindedness and vulnerability and fights for equality and justice for all. I believe that, if we let what we want lead our decisions, then our lives can quickly spin out of control. Self-control is so closely linked to doing well at school and making positive relationships, ultimately leading to being happier in all aspects of your life. I have challenged the school community to model this vision and our values, to embrace every opportunity that is given to them, to work hard and be kind. If we all do this together, as a community, I am confident that we will be able to recover from last year and grow stronger together.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

English

Library

As of Monday 6th September, the library will be open at break and lunch for students to take books out and to work or sit quietly. Unfortunately, year 7 will not be able to take out books for the first few weeks whilst the system is updated. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Returning Books: simply place them in the pink box at the top of the library stairs, with no need to worry about fines for lateness.



Taking out books: students are now welcome to browse the shelves as long as they sanitise their hands first. However, they can still look online at the selection available and email Miss L Oblein a request if they wish to do so, either using the school email or a message in Microsoft Teams Chat.

What to do:

Go to: <https://readingcloud.net>

Then, where it says 'login' type 'Ranelagh' where it says 'school' (under username and password)– make sure you click on the correct option i.e. not 'primary'.

Then click 'OK' **You DO NOT NEED A USERNAME OR PASSWORD in order to view the books available at Ranelagh.**

If you're on the correct page it will say 'Ranelagh School' at the top.



Food & Nutrition

We are very excited to welcome you back or meet you for the first time and have an exciting year ahead. Along the way you will gain lots of practical skills and become experts in nutrition, as well as learning how to work as an effective team member and professional food taster.



Housekeeping message

Please ensure that you do the following.

- Purchase an apron, you must bring this clean to each food lesson, even if you are not scheduled for a practical as we will be doing food tasting and trailing.
- Bring your own container or oven proof dish as advised each lesson, this must be named and the correct size for the product you will make.
- Check Teams daily for any communication or notices.
- Copy your practical slot into your diary so that you can prepare for your practical lessons in good time and avoid any 11pm trips to Tesco.
- Recipes will be on Teams but also discussed in lesson and a letter sent home.
- Pre-prepare ingredients as much as possible at home, such as measuring ingredients and putting into portioned amounts the day before the lesson.
- Place any high-risk food into the fridges and all other ingredients on the lesson shelf, please do not put carrier bags in the fridges and label everything.

This will enable us to maximise the lesson time, it is quick and fast paced so make it as easy as possible for yourself.

We welcome our new teacher Miss Bartley who is joining Mrs Harrison, Mrs Blythe and Mrs Chopra as part of the fabulous Food and Nutrition department.

SIXTH FORM

Students in years 12 and 13 are expected to register on site at 8.45am each day and study in school in the mornings. They may sign out to study off-site in the afternoons for independent study if they have no timetabled lessons. General RE and PE are compulsory aspects of the timetable.

From September the peer mentoring scheme will be kickstarted by the sixth formers as a way of older students passing on knowledge and guidance to younger members of the school. This will be for students in years 7, 8 and 9 whether they choose for it to be over email or through getting in direct contact with their head of year or form tutors.

We hope this will be useful for the years that have not had a school year pre-coronavirus, so the older members of the school can shed some light on what will be a new experience for them. Peer mentors will be able to give relatable advice drawn from our experience at Ranelagh over the years. Students can get in touch with the peer mentors for school, friendship or life advice in general by using the following email: mentors@ranelagh.bonitas.org.uk

Students may find the peer mentoring scheme helpful as it is by the students, for the students. We understand some may find going to a member of staff daunting, so this mentoring scheme offers another way of receiving guidance.

We hope to get in touch with some of you in September!

CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

This term we have an extensive range of enrichment activities on offer. Please encourage your child to participate in this important aspect of school life.

A detailed list of clubs and activities for this term is now published on our website

<https://www.ranelagh.bracknell-forest.sch.uk/school-information/clubs-and-activities/>

ROUTINE INFORMATION

For those new to the school, the following information will be helpful. However, we ask that all parents take a few minutes to remind themselves and their children, of information about uniform, parking etc.

The timings for the school day are as follows:

Warning bell	8.45
Registration/Tutor time	8.50
Period 1	9.20
Period 2	10.20
Break	11.20
Period 3	11.40
Lunch	12.40
Period 4	1.35
Period 5	2.35
End of the school day	3.35

General correspondence to parents

The majority of correspondence is emailed to parents. If you are new to the school please look out for emails from ranelagh@scopay.com and add this address to your contacts to avoid messages going into your "junk" email.

Student equipment – ‘Ready to Learn’

As part of our ‘Ready to Learn’ agenda we consider students having the correct basic equipment vital to making the most of each and every lesson. We therefore wish to take this opportunity to remind you that all students require the following basic equipment:

- Blue or black pen
- Pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Compass
- Protractor
- Colourless ruler
- Glue stick

We would appreciate your support, periodically throughout the year, in helping students source, organise and *check for themselves* that they have the correct equipment.

We thank you in advance for your support with this.

School meals

Our caterers, Harrison’s, are working within government guidelines on healthy eating. Snacks such as fresh and dried fruit are on sale at break. Cakes and biscuits must only be bought as part of a balanced meal. The cost of the school ‘meal of the day’ is £2.25.

We ask you to support us in our provision by encouraging your son/daughter to eat healthily. Please do not provide your children with fizzy drinks, crisps or chocolate bars as snacks as this will undermine the work we are doing in order to promote healthy eating. It would also be helpful if you could talk to your children about any food purchases that they may make on the way to school.

School uniform

We would be grateful if you would also support the school by checking the school uniform requirements.

Please remember:

- WINTER UNIFORM – **Monday 11 October**
- Shirts/blouses to be tucked in
- No jewellery, except as stated on the website
- Long hair to be tied back off the face; no extreme hairstyles
- Black shoes – not boots or trainers – heels below 5cms for safety reasons
- Socks/tights as stated on the website
- All PE equipment/clothing must have a name label or initials

Mobile telephones

Mobile telephones are not allowed in school. In exceptional circumstances permission to bring a phone into school may be obtained from the Headteacher. In such cases the mobile phone must be handed in at the school office for safekeeping during the day.

Arrival in School

Students are welcome on the school site from 8.15am. For health and safety reasons, where an early arrival is unavoidable, a written request should be submitted.

Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school early on the first day of absence (by telephone before 9.00am) and on each subsequent day of absence. If we have not received a message the school will contact you. Whilst we encourage prompt arrival to school please also remind your child to sign in at reception if they miss registration.

Parking

Parents are reminded that they are not permitted to drive onto the school site at the start and end of the school day. If there is an exceptional reason such as transporting a sick/injured child or a very large piece of equipment e.g. cello, a separate permit can be obtained from school reception. Those parents dropping off/collecting children at the rear or front entrance to the school are also reminded of the importance of not obstructing driveways or access points for residents and other road users and of not waiting in their car with the engine running. The school enjoys positive relationships with its neighbours, and it is important to preserve these.

The safety of all pedestrians must be our priority.

We have received a very gracious letter from the Kerith Community Church, on Church Road. Please refrain from parking and waiting to collect your child in the church car park. The staff and visitors are now returning to the buildings since Covid guidelines have been updated and unfortunately the church does not have the parking capacity to support parents dropping/picking up their children.

May I also remind parents to be mindful and considerate of the residents and pedestrians of the Parks Estate when dropping off and collecting their children.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contact details

In order to help us to accurately maintain our records, please ensure the school is informed immediately of any change of address, telephone number or email address.

SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL

PTA

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) will keep you informed of their activities and meetings over the course of the year.

Friends of Ranelagh

The Friends of Ranelagh (FOR) will keep you informed of their activities over the course of the year through their excellent newsletters.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Open Days

Our Open Days for prospective Year 7 students and parents or carers are on **Thursday 16th September and Monday 20th September 2021.**

Year 6 students are invited to visit the school with their parents or carers during one of the morning or afternoon sessions. Please follow this link to book your tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ranelagh-school-open-day-tours-tickets-170266462573>

A further presentation about the school from the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will be available from 6:30pm on Thursday 16th September. It will include details about our admissions policies and procedures which are distinct from other schools in the area.

Diary Dates – Autumn Term

Tuesday 14 Sept	Year 11 Geography fieldwork – Dinton Pastures
	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening – 6.30pm
Wednesday 15 Sept	Year 11 Geography fieldwork – Dinton Pastures
Thursday 16 Sept	OPEN DAY
Monday 20 Sept	OPEN DAY
Tuesday 21 Sept	Year 10 Parent's Information Evening – 6.30pm
Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 Sept	Year 11 Bronze DofE qualifying expedition to Henley
Wednesday 29 Sept	Year 12 Parents' Information Evening 6.30pm
Friday 1 Oct	Year 13 Concert at the Royal Festival Hall
Monday 4 Oct	Year 7 Oakwood visits this week
Wednesday 6 Oct	Year 11 Parent-Carer Consultation Evening (on-line)
Friday 8 Oct	Year 7 Holy Communion
Monday 11 Oct	Winter Uniform
Tuesday 19 Oct	Year 7 Meeting the tutor evening 6.30pm
Wednesday 20 Oct	Autumn Chamber concert 7.00pm (TBC)
Friday 22 Oct	Professional Training Day
Monday 25 – Friday 29 Oct	Half Term
Tuesday 2 Nov	Year 11 Computer Science visit to Bletchley Park
Thursday 4 Nov	Prizegiving 7.30pm (TBC)
Tuesday 9 Nov	Year 12 Open Evening

Monday 15 Nov	Year 11 Mock Examinations (1)
Monday 22 Nov	Year 11 Mock Examinations (2)
Friday 26 Nov	Professional Training Day
Friday 3 Dec	Christmas Ball – 7.30-11.00pm (TBC)
Wednesday 8 Dec	Christmas Concert 7.00pm (TBC)
Thursday 16 Dec	Carol Service – Holy Trinity Church 7.00pm (TBC)
Monday 20 Dec – Monday 3 Jan	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4 Jan	Start of Spring Term

And Finally...

I would like to wish you all a restful weekend and I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Griffith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mr T Griffith
Headteacher