

Riddlesdown Collegiate



Learners of today, Leaders of tomorrow.

The Principal writes

This half term has been so short - just 23 school days! - but so busy and focussed. The public exams season is now well underway and I am pleased to see students remaining positive as they tackle each exam. Over the break, I hope that students will relax a little, whilst maintaining their revision for their remaining exams next month.

With Year 11 students now engaged in exams, we spoke to Year 10 students this week following completion of their GCSE RE exams. I congratulated them on their approach to these exams and reminded them of the benefits of securing a good GCSE grade this year, allowing more time to focus on other subjects next year. As the senior students in their College now, Year 10 students have recently been presented with the opportunity to apply for a student leadership role and I know how well suited to such roles so many of them would be. At the same time, students heard a presentation about apprenticeships - this was an opportunity to get students thinking about their next steps after Year 11, whether or not an apprenticeship would be the best option for them. We will continue to work with them, especially in the first half of the autumn term, to help them through Post 16 applications. Of course, for the majority, College VI at Riddlesdown Collegiate will be the best place for them to continue receiving the outstanding quality of education which they benefited from so far and as standards in College VI look set to rise again this summer, it is clearly the place to be for Sixth Form success.

I was delighted to congratulate Marcus Mountain 8GPG, Mathew Wise 8YRW and Zachary Bean 8YRW for achieving a Gold certificate in the Junior Maths Challenge and being selected for the next round, competing against the most able mathematicians in the country. This is a great achievement and we wish them the best of luck.

Parents will have read about some changes we are making to our policy on mobile phones from after half term. I hope that our reasons are clear - we want students to feel happy, healthy and safe, whilst being undistracted from their learning. Your support in reinforcing our expectations would be much appreciated.

Over the half term break, please do ensure that any items of uniform or equipment that need repairing or replacing are addressed. I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to seeing students return to the Collegiate at 8.30am on Monday 3rd June 2019 - with any mobile phones **switched off and out of sight** before entering the site! Have a good break.

**Timetable:
Week commencing
Monday 3 June
will be Timetable
Week B**

Forthcoming Events

Monday 27th - 31st May
Half Term Week

Monday 3rd June
Year 10 Exams begin

Tuesday 11th June
Year 9 HPV Immunisations

Friday 14th - 15th June
Year 9 D of E Assessed

Thursday 20th June
Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Friday 21st - 23rd June
Year 10 Marwell Trip

Monday 24th June
Phoenix Showcase

Tuesday 25th June
Pegasus Showcase

Wednesday 26th June
Aquila Showcase

Thursday 27th June
Orion Showcase

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 5th June
Athletics: Year 7-10 Girls @
Croydon High School 3-6pm

Rounders: Primary school
competition @ Riddlesdown
1-3pm

Thursday 6th June
Cricket: Year 8 Girls v Croydon
High School away 4pm start

Friday 7th June
Cricket: Year 10 Boys v Overton
Grange @ home 1.30pm start

AQUILA

ORION

PEGASUS

PHOENIX

CPA

COLLEGE VI



Mobile Phones

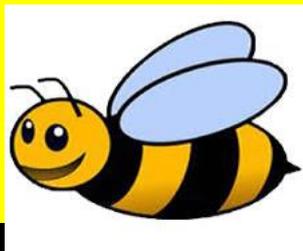
Yesterday we wrote to all parents and carers outlining the changes to, and the reasons behind, our new mobile phone policy. A link to the letters can be found [here](#). We have spoken to all students this week about these changes and we would appreciate it if you could support us by reiterating the key message with your child that phones must be **switched off and out of sight** when on the school's site. We also spoke to all students about the healthy and safe use of mobile phones. The messages we gave students were the following:

- **Phones are high profile targets for criminals.** Whilst the Collegiate is in a safe, low crime area, students should decrease the risk of being a victim of crime by not having their phone out, or listening to their phone, as they walk down the street.
- **Phones cause us to be distracted.** Students are more likely to be hit by a bus, car or a motorcycle if they have their headphones in, or are using their phone, whilst crossing a road.
- **Phones can make us very inconsiderate of others.** When we speak to the local bus drivers they often raise concerns about some students not paying enough attention to members of the public (pushing past them, bumping into them) and playing music on their phones whilst travelling on the bus.
- **Phones keep us awake.** A phone by the side of the bed will delay and disturb sleep. Students should use an alarm clock, not their phone, for a wake-up call. The electronic light of a phone is something that keeps teens awake at night. Phones at night are also a temptation to text, Snapchat or Google. Students can remove the temptation by charging phones in a different room.
- **Phones encourage a lack of real-life interaction and enable cyber bullying.** Often when we deal with cyber-bullying issues, the messages have been sent late at night.

We hope that by developing our mobile phone policy and by raising awareness of some of the current issues mobile phones can present our students will be happier, healthier and safer.

Daniel Osborne
Headteacher Aquila College

Year 7 English Spelling Bee



We have very exciting news for all you Year 7s!!!

The English Department is running a Spelling Bee competition for ALL Year 7 students across the Collegiate. You will be given your spelling lists in your English lesson next week! Make sure you use the half term to practise them!

Round 1 starts Monday 3rd June

Round 2 starts Monday 10th June

Rounds 3 (Best Speller in each College) starts Monday 17th June

Intercollegiate Final will be Friday 28th June.

Bee-lieve in yourself and give yourself the Bee-st chance of doing your very best!



Newspaper Donation

This week, the Collegiate was very grateful to receive a donation of a stack of newspapers dating from 1918 to 1947 from an anonymous donor. The donation has generated excitement across multiple subjects at the opportunities to incorporate these valuable resources into lessons! The newspapers have been organised chronologically and are being stored in the Library for use by all subjects. The majority of the newspapers are from 1939 to 1945 and provide fascinating insight into the Second World War, people's daily lives and British and international wartime politics. They cover not only pivotal moments such as the Blitz, the Battle of Britain and the defeat of Germany and Japan, but also the everyday stories of life during these tumultuous years. The earliest edition is a copy of *The Daily Mirror* dating from 12th November 1918 celebrating the end of the First World War (the front page is shown in the photograph). It is a rare and exciting moment to receive such a treasure-trove as this; unfortunately we do not know who made the donation, but should the donor come forward then we would like to express our thanks in person.

Mr Towers



Vacancy

We are looking to appoint an Administrator to work with our team from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm during term time. Previous administrative experience is essential and a knowledge of SIMS would be an advantage.

Full details can be found on our website under [Vacancies](#).

Netball

After a long journey on Friday afternoon the girls were in high spirits as we drove through the picturesque countryside. We arrived in Liddington just after lunchtime, took a tour of the beautiful surroundings and enjoyed a hearty buffet dinner and some evening activities.

Saturday morning started with PGL activities. The girls really were using and developing their talents as they scaled the vertical obstacle course, sticking at it as they abseiled from great heights and valued each other from the ground with fantastic footage of their feats and encouraging cheers – Gladiators, ready!

Saturday afternoon saw the start of the netball tournament and four matches later we had won three, setting us in a good position for Day Two. The girls' team ethic and endurance was impressive and all of those Wednesday 7.30am starts in the frost and drizzle were beginning to pay off! The evening saw a photo competition, which we won, of course! The girls showed off some incredibly innovative ideas: human pyramids, optical illusions, rapping skills and slow-motion gymnastics!

On Sunday morning, we had two more matches to play in the group stages, and our Year 8 team won both with some excellent play. Winning five out of six matches in the group stages meant that we were hopeful to get through to the finals. After a nervous wait and some painstaking miscalculations from the judges, we found out that we were through to the semi-final! The girls enjoyed some archery to calm their nerves and then regrouped to take on St John the Baptist School.

In the semi-final, the team were on fire, winning 13-2. Their stamina never dwindling to ensure they moved the ball up court. After celebrations of reaching the final, nerves were beginning to show as the klaxon sounded. We were playing Newport Girls, a team we had already met in the group stages and won against the day before. A few changes from their coach meant that their team was looking very strong. The fight was incredible, however, we just missed out on the gold medal in the final half.



There were 42 teams, across 4 year groups, playing in the tournament at PGL, Liddington, with 14 in our Year Group and we only lost two matches in total which is an incredible achievement. Miss Luniak and myself could not be more proud of how these girls represented the Collegiate and performed. Participating in the PGL activities and coming together over the weekend meant that our team was stronger than ever and despite only coming away as silver medallists, we felt like a winning team. The level of commitment from the squad has been impeccable throughout the year and those early morning training sessions have all been worth it! We were grateful for the praise we received from the many umpires and England gold medallist netballer, Ebnoi Usoro-Brown, as she presented us with our silver medals on Sunday afternoon.

Miss Mackenzie

PE fixtures Round Up

Croydon Schools Athletics Championships

On Wednesday 15th May Year 7 & 8 competed against Croydon's finest athletes. The squad was made up of 31 students, competing in a variety of events over the day. The students had been practising for the past few weeks at athletics club, and for some this was the first time they had ever tried their events. Their progress and development in such a short space of time was so impressive and this was reflected in some amazing results on the day.

Special mentions to Eloise Sullivan Flatt for coming 3rd in the 1500m, Olivia Wright 3rd in the Javelin, Max Lorke 2nd in the Javelin and Jamie Barnett 3rd in the 100m. We had several winners on the day and our gold medallists were Alyze Gentles Gold in high jump, Tom Harmer gold in 1500M and Inessa Atta-Fynn. Well done to everyone who took part on a really successful day.



Cricket

Riddlesdown finally got their first wins of the cricket season after two fine performances from Year 7 & 8. On Wednesday the Year 7 team took on Eden Park and put on the performance of the year. The boys were excellent with the bat, and in the field, and a special mention must go to Leo McClean for an excellent all round performance. The Year 8 boys took on Ravensbourne and finally came together to show their quality. They bowled Ravensbourne out for 68 and then Adam Burnham put on a fine batting display to seal the win comfortably. We look forward to seeing both teams winning more games after half term.

Football

On Tuesday the College VI football team went to Selhurst Park again to play in a friendly and wear the Crystal Palace kit. The Year 12 boys put in a fantastic performance to hold out strong opposition and they settled for a 0-0 draw. The boys had a fantastic day and with so many Palace fans amongst them it was a day to remember.

PE Kit Expectations

The Riddlesdown PE kit is part of the school uniform and all students should only be wearing Kukri Riddlesdown kit. The minimum expectation for summer is:

- Riddlesdown socks or normal trainer socks
- Riddlesdown shorts/skort or tracksuit bottoms
- Riddlesdown Polo

Students can choose to wear a Riddlesdown tracksuit top as well but generally a polo is warm enough. There have been a few issues with kit recently and staff will be checking kit carefully after half term.

If you need to order any items you can [follow this link](#)

