

10th October 2025

Dear Families,

I am writing to update you on all the exciting things that have been happening so far this term. Our new Ready to Learn zone is up and running, supporting our students 'in the moment, on the day and in advance' when they need some additional support. We are very excited to be bringing together our whole pastoral Team – Safeguarding and Behaviour, as well as Attendance, Mental Health and SEND, to provide the very best inclusion support for all our young people.

We are also working closely with a team from RBWM, including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language therapists and other professionals to audit the great work we do and also look for ways we can better communicate with parents and students about this important work.

We are very happy with the redecoration that has been going on around the site. Our new hall looks wonderful and lots of other spaces have been given a refresh over the summer.

Our students have been involved in a plethora of activities, sporting events, a Harvest Service at All Saints Church, trips to the Mini factory, Reading University, and Geography field trips to Brighton, there really is loads going on.

With two weeks of this busy half term to go we'd like to thank you for your continued support and wish you good health as the days shorten and we enter cold and flu season.

Please remember we are launching Yondr phone pouches after Half Term and will send more information about how these will be distributed shortly. Anyone without a Yondr pouch will need to hand their mobile phone in to reception daily on arrival at school and collect it at the end of the day.

We would also like to let you know that we do have one member of staff out on very unexpected longer term sickness and reassure you that we are working hard with the Humanities department to reduce cover as much as possible, whilst prioritising GCSE and A level classes. We are lucky that we have two excellent cover supervisors, who provide consistency when staff are off sick, but understand the frustration when students have lots of cover. We will continue to look for solutions in the short term and make sure high quality cover work is being set when necessary.

Message from Achieving for Children RBWM

Child Employment

Getting a part-time job is often an important part of a young person's life, teaching them vital life skills, and providing their first step on the road to financial security and independence.

There are regulations in place to make sure children seeking work are safe and protected. The regulations ensure that the child is not working outside the legal hours, they are not doing any types of work that are prohibited, and that the school is fully aware of what they are doing. This way, we can all work together to ensure that our children are safe, that they are working legally, and that their school work does not suffer. This link explains the laws surrounding Child Employment: <https://www.nncee.org.uk/page/45/employment>

The most important thing to remember, is that it is a legal requirement that any child from the age of 13 up to statutory school leaving age needs a work permit if they would like to get a part time job, regardless of where they are working. Unfortunately, the employer to initiate the permit process, but unfortunately some employers may need a reminder. It is therefore important that parents are aware, so they can prompt the workplace to apply, get the ball rolling, or contact me for advice, if necessary.

I am happy to chat to parents or pupils over any aspects of this process.

Susan Harris is the Child Employment Officer and her email address for any information, advice, and the issue of work permits is: susan.harris@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Finally, we are really pleased with the introduction of our non-branded uniform items, which we hope is making life easier for parents. Can we remind everyone that hoodies and white socks over tights are not allowed to be worn and that girls' trousers must be smart tailored school trousers not Lycra or flared leggings.

Best wishes



Mrs Cath Harden
Headteacher