22 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Rickmansworth School Sixth Form Instagram

As you may be aware, last month students in Sixth Form had the opportunity to complete a Student Experience Survey. This survey asked their opinions on a variety of subjects around Sixth Form provision here at Rickmansworth. The findings were extremely interesting and I have put in place a number of changes following the survey to enhance the experience students have while in Sixth Form.

In the survey students identified that 78% of them use Instagram on a regular basis. Looking into some research on screen time and social media usage it was discovered that the average 17 year old in the UK spends on average 53 minutes a day on Instagram. I have spoken to students in the past about social media use and the negative impact it can have, although it is important to understand the positives and how it can be used in education in the right way. This being said, an Instagram account has been set up for all students in Key Stage 5 to be used as a virtual noticeboard. I am often forwarded a lot of information regarding Post 18 opportunities, taster courses etc. Previously we used to have a blog for this, but it was not fully used to its potential.

The Instagram will use the Instagram Story and main Instagram features to highlight opportunities for Sixth Form students and some information notices. However, this will not replace formal communication but will be in addition to it. The account will be a closed account only accessible for Sixth Form students and comments will be disabled. This should give students swift and regular access to opportunities outside of School and in School.

I will be notifying students about the account in due course but thought it was important that you were aware of this service. Students can follow @rickmansworthsixthform from Monday 25 March.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Eley
Director of Learning, Sixth Form