



8 January 2024

## Reading Girls' School

Principal: Marika Farrugia

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and all our students have had a restful festive season and that you managed to spend quality time together as a family. I also want to wish you a happy and prosperous year ahead.

This term is a remarkably busy one. **Year 8s start their formal assessment this week and 9s will have their formal assessments before the Easter holidays.** Both of these will take place in the exam hall. Our Year 11s will have their second set of mock exams at the start of the next half-term. **Year 8s will also take part in the Options process.** In addition, we will see the return of our **school musical** – this year **The Addams Family** - which will take place toward the end of the spring term. Students involved have been working hard rehearsing since the beginning of the Academic Year. If the Christmas music and dance show was anything to go by, it will be a huge success. Tickets will be on sale in advance, and parents will be notified on how will be able to purchase them in advance. There are several trips taking place this term, the most exciting will be the residential trip to Greece. We have also had many students sign up for the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**, which started this academic year. This provides students with an opportunity to participate in voluntary work, take up a new skill and participate in an expedition. The award is highly thought of by universities and employers.

It is important, however, that we reset at the beginning of each new term, by revisiting our high expectations. As students start the spring term, it is important that they do so with a positive frame of mind, ready to work hard and embrace opportunities that come their way. We remain committed to our high expectations with respect to attendance, behavior and uniform and I thank you for your support in these matters.

Please do continue to ensure your child attends school daily. As we always stress, every day is important if your child is to secure the best possible grades and make the progress they are capable of. It is also important for their wellbeing and mental health. Holidays during term time are not allowed as stated by government guidelines. Please ensure that if you are visiting family or friends abroad, that they take place during the 13-week holidays during the academic year. Any request for absences, unless expectational, will not be authorised. The following link provides useful information about the importance of attendance for parents and on other educational matters. [Why is school attendance so important and what are the risks of missing a day? - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

I particularly seek your support in monitoring how your child uses social media. We had a few incidences last term where students misused social media, leading to incidents that involved other students in school, which led to students being sanctioned. As always, please ensure your child is only accessing age-appropriate social media sites and that they are using them appropriately. For example, WhatsApp has raised its minimum age of consent from 13 to 16. NSPCC provides some useful guidance to parents on this issue and many others. [Social media | NSPCC](#)

Our school uniform policy is on the website, and I have attached a copy. Students need to take note that no jewellery or hoodies should be worn to school, as they will be confiscated. In addition, students are only allowed to attend school with natural colour hair. We also do not wish to see or hear mobile phones at any time during the school day and while students are on the school premises.

If you have concerns regarding your child, please contact your child's Head of Year, if it has to do with a pastoral matter, or their subject teacher, if it is relating to an academic concern or advice.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Farrugia', written in a cursive style.

**Ms M Farrugia**  
**Principal**