



NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Dear Parent/carer,

I write at the end of what has been a very difficult and unusual Autumn Term for the whole school community. Fortunately, due to careful planning and management of COVID safety, the impact of the pandemic has been relatively light within school. Incidents of positive cases have been rare, well-contained, and the systems we have in place has meant we have had a limited number of pupils required to self-isolate. This has meant that although attendance has declined it currently remains above national average.

During the term, we have welcomed regulatory monitoring visits from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Ofsted, both were very positive. In addition to this, we commissioned an external Safeguarding audit to validate existing good practice and identify areas for further development.

Staff have worked hard to adjust the curriculum to assess and address any knowledge gaps caused by the school closure, ensuring steps are in place to recover lost learning. Support is also in place to remedy pastoral issues triggered or exacerbated through the pandemic. During the Ofsted visit, inspectors explored the impact of COVID on the school community and the measures in place to deal with a safe return to school. A report will be available in the New Year summarising their findings, the visit does not replace an inspection and does not result in a grading or categorisation.

I have been extremely impressed with the resilience of our returning pupils and the manner in which they have responded to working in year group hubs and zones. I believe this has been a contributory factor in keeping the school open to pupils. However, it is important all pupils take responsibility for maintaining the rigour, high standards and expectations in place by adhering to social distancing guidance, wearing masks and regularly sanitising. I would appreciate parents support in ensuring your child attends school with a mask every day and reinforcing this message.

At present, Year 11 examinations are set to go ahead in the Summer with some adjustments to dates, content and opportunities to resit if unable to attend. Mock examinations have taken place at the end of term and pupils have responded to them with a positive and mature attitude, this reflects the encouraging behaviour we have seen from this cohort since their return in June. Booster sessions are well attended and will continue throughout the year.



Despite the school closure, building works and refurbishment projects have continued as planned; rewiring of the English and Maths classrooms, roofing replacement, external canopies, refurbished toilets and classrooms.

As we are entering that time of year, where the weather can be unpredictable, we have procedures in place should we need to make a decision to close the school. As we now have established platforms for remote learning, lessons will be provided remotely via Google Classrooms should we be forced to close the building, this will ensure there is no further lost learning time.

You may be aware that term dates relating to Christmas holidays has been a topic of debate nationally. Governors have agreed an early school closure for Friday the 18th December with remote learning provided on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December following the red week timetable. The school will reopen on Monday 11th January as originally planned and this will be a blue week. This decision was made to ensure a period of time to avoid contact so that families are COVID safe to meet over the festive period.

The COVID reporting email covid@reddish.stockport.sch.uk will continue to be active and monitored by senior leaders during the holidays for you to notify us of any positive cases. Track and trace practices will continue to be carried out as appropriate.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Linda Hanson, Headteacher

Thank you from the Chair of Governors - Malcolm Stansfield

We have come to the end of the first term of what has been a particularly difficult time for everyone and once again the governors would like to express our appreciation and sincere thanks to everyone at the school. Everyone has worked extremely hard to ensure the safety of staff, pupils and visitors and by doing this the wider community also.

Teachers have used innovative methods to ensure pupils receive the best teaching and learning throughout this term - thank you.

There is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines hopefully becoming available very soon and thus a brighter future.

Once again thank you to everyone at the school.

Please have as happy a Christmas as you can with friends and family and please stay safe.



Cake with the Head

We are very pleased to be able to continue our Cake with the Head reward, which we have slightly adjusted to ensure our year group bubbles do not mix. Nominated students now have the opportunity to enjoy Cake with their Head of Year during form time and Mrs



Hanson has cake with each year group on a 5-weekly rota. We are extremely proud of all our students who have been nominated for Cake with the Head so far this year, and look forward to continuing this reward.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was marked and celebrated by our Year 7 form groups who decorated their classroom windows with poppies and lovely messages. The parents of George and Eve Collins proudly shared these photos of how they as a family marked the day of Remembrance. They, with other local members of the Scouting movement, sold poppies to raise money for the British Legion in a year which has seen a huge drop in fundraising for the very worthy cause.



VE Day 75th Anniversary

This year saw the 75th anniversary of VE day. To celebrate we recreated a vegetable garden similar to that which would have been planted in any spare area of land that people had during ration time. With our land army of students we dug over the soil and planted carrots, rhubarb, broad beans, potatoes, onions and spring onions. All grew fantastically well and although we couldn't use the produce for war time cookery lessons due to COVID, the staff at RVHS

stepped up and bought the produce, raising an amazing £81.20 which we have now donated to the Royal British Legion.

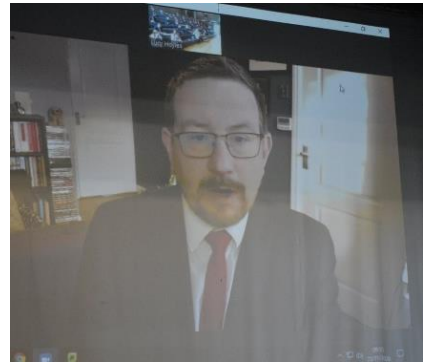


Stockport Normandy Veterans Competition Success!

Congratulations to our Year 10 student Caitlin Bell who won the Stockport Normandy Veterans writing competition earlier this year. Here she is proudly holding our school trophy which is inscribed with Reddish Vale High School for 2020 and will be on display at our school for this academic year. We were highly commended winners in the National competition for which we are extremely proud. Thank you to our Head of History Mrs Travis for arranging this fantastic opportunity.

Zoom with Andrew Gwynne

On 23rd November, we had the pleasure of hosting a virtual meeting with local Denton and Reddish MP Andrew Gwynne. Our year 10 GCSE Citizenship students were given the chance to ask questions regarding his role as an MP, the political system and current affairs. Miss Hoyles and Mrs Morrison were really proud of how the students conducted themselves and were really impressed with their challenging questions. A big thank you to Andrew Gwynne MP for giving our students this fantastic opportunity.



Stockport County Academy

On the 1st December, our Year 11 pupils had a fantastic morning with the Stockport County Academy Management Team, Damien Allen and Michael Raynes.

Damien and Michael talked about a range of educational courses available to our pupils and how they could get involved. Thank you to both gentlemen for giving their time to help inspire our pupils.

From left to right: Michael Raynes, Logan Nevins (Year 11 football captain) and Damien Allen



Sibling Rivalry Goes Nuts for Languages



Brother and Sister, Eve and George Collins amazed everybody this year with their determination to develop their language skills. In the summer, we set our students a challenge to get Reddish Vale High School into the top ten schools in the world using the Language Nut app. We made it to 3rd place which is incredible. Aimee Humphreys also played a key role in our success, often breaking into the top 2 places on the app keeping the competition alive.

A special shout out goes to Kieran Dolan who individually made it into the top 25 in the world and Nathan Pimlott, our current Language Nut leader.

All students at Reddish Vale have access to the Language Nut app and they can get their log in details from their languages teacher or via Google Classroom.



Black History Month

During October, Reddish Vale celebrated Black History Month. The month was launched to celebrate black History and to act as a time for learning about how black people have significantly contributed to British society. In celebration of Black History Month, the History department hosted a school wide competition asking students to complete a piece of work about a person who they associate with Black History. There were lots of fantastic entries to this competition which made picking a winner very difficult.



Winners:

Y7 Winner: Rebecca Ikhinmwin
Runner up: James Battman

Y8 Winner: Amy Renshaw
Runner up: Joseph Dews



Y9 Winner: Ateisha Banto
Runner up: Grace Reeves



Y10 Winner: Aimee Humphreys
Runner up: Caitlin Bell





Trinity College Programme



Congratulations to three of our Year 11 pupils studying German, Layla Nisic, Macy Cort and Keri Brennan, who have secured places on the Trinity College Cambridge Language Programme. We asked them all what being part of this programme means to them and here are their replies.

‘During the Love Languages Program hosted by Trinity College Cambridge, I was given useful information for progressing onto doing German in higher education and it also further informed me of the wide range of opportunities that languages can bring regarding future employment.’ Layla

‘I am thoroughly enjoying the ‘Love Languages’ course so far. A number of high-achieving language students were picked to join the course, and it fills me with pride to know that I am one of them! We may have only had one session so far, but I am very much intrigued, and I can’t wait to attend the next one.’ Macy

‘I have really enjoyed the Love Languages programme so far, because it has given me a lot of useful information about my future in languages in higher education, and all of the options which are open to me. I look forward to continuing with the sessions and I am really grateful for this opportunity!’ Keri

Care Packages for the Community

Thanks to funding from 'Keep Stockport Caring' and 'Pursuing Individual Excellence' our Year 8's were given the lovely opportunity to create some Christmas hampers for local care homes in Reddish. The ten students selected were chosen by their tutors for their continued hard work and good attitude to learning. The group were given a budget to work with and set out to source the hamper items and order them online.

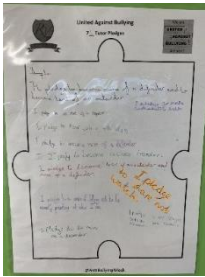
They packaged up the hampers ready to be delivered with Christmas cheer! A lot of thought was put into each individual hamper and we are extremely proud of what they created. The staff at Re:dish were extremely grateful for the beautiful hampers which they will distribute on our behalf.





Anti-Bullying Pledges

During Anti-Bullying week, year 7 worked together during tutor time to produce pledges to demonstrate how they were united against bullying. Our focus this year was to ask students to think about how groups can play a role in bullying rather than just individuals. As a result of thinking about how this occurs, many students pledged to stand up to bullying and become more aware of their actions.



8E Food Collection

Ms Lees' tutor group 8E decided that for their Christmas gift this year, they would be donating a food package to The Wellspring. This local organisation helps homeless and vulnerable people throughout Stockport. They have been collecting items for the past couple of weeks and have managed to put together a thoughtful package of tinned items to donate. They can be very proud of their efforts showing respect and giving back to our local community.



Celebrating our talented Year 7 artist Lacey Hays

Lacey Hays created this amazing sculpture as part of her Art homework this term. She chose to focus on the artist Picasso, copying one of his works and then creating her own sculpture inspired by his style. Well done to Lacey who went over and above to complete this inspiring work.

Christmas Hampers

We have been lucky enough to receive donations from various local businesses, stores and charities to make up hampers and provide gifts to some of our students and their families. Local firms McCrory Brickworks, Creative Technology Inc, The Coop, The Prince's Trust and Vision for Education as well as the Cash for Kids charity have all donated. Thank you to our staff members who have made this all happen and made sure these were distributed before the school closed on the 18th December.





Student Ambassador Programme

Thank you to all of our year 7 and 8 pupils who applied to become student ambassadors this year. Congratulations to those that were successful. After Christmas, online training will be available on Google Classroom as students will start to work on their leadership skills on their pathway to becoming great ambassadors for our school.

Key Dates

- Christmas Holidays School Closure on Friday 18th December 2020. Students will access remote learning on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December. School reopens on Monday 11th January 2021
- Year 10 Virtual Consultation Evening 14th January 2021 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 9 Virtual Consultation Evening 4th February 2021 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 11 Virtual Consultation Evening 25th February 2021 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 8 Virtual Consultation and Options Evening 25th March 2021 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Virtual Parents Forum 2nd February 2021 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Pupils finish for half term Friday 12th February 2021. School reopens Monday 22nd February 2021

Important information: Online Payments

Reddish Vale is a cashless school and we are asking all parents/carers to use the secure website Parentpay, www.parentpay.com, to make online payments for all pupil items. This can be accessed via our website and allows you to pay for school meals, trips, ingredients and revision books. If you are experiencing difficulties accessing Parentpay please contact the Finance Office by calling 0161 968 4221 or by emailing: finance@reddish.stockport.sch.uk and we will be happy to assist.

www.parentpay.com



we wish you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

happy new year

