



School Vision:

“Positively Changing Lives through Personal Growth and Academic Excellence”

School Values:

Respect, Aspiration, Determination, Independence

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support during these continued uncertain times.

Coronavirus Cases

As you will be aware, the number of cases in Stockport has escalated this term and this has been reflected within the school community. Unfortunately, we have experienced over 192 positive pupil cases spread across the year groups and 13 staff who have tested positive for Coronavirus. I am pleased to say at the time of writing this letter we currently have less than 10 children isolating due to COVID and no longer have any teaching staff isolating. Whilst numbers were high, the rate of new positive tests has dropped significantly in recent weeks. We continue to strongly encourage pupils to take lateral-flow tests at least twice per week and now ask for this to become daily practice for household contacts of a positive case.

Pupils continue to sanitise their hands regularly and earlier in the term we reintroduced the wearing of masks on the move around the school in response to the rise in Covid rates. This has helped keep our school community safe. The Local authority have advocated that all secondary schools adopt the wearing of masks in communal areas after half term. Therefore, we would appreciate you equipping your child with a reusable mask to bring in to school every day, unless they have a current exemption notice with them.

Our blended learning offer remains in place on our Google Classroom platform for those children required to isolate. This learning forum will also be available should there be any future reason to unexpectedly close the school, for example, extreme adverse weather conditions. In the event of such an occasion, communication will be made via the school website and parents will be contacted by email and text. Lessons will go ahead online and be taught remotely.

Access is available through each individual Year Group Google Classroom, which signposts pupils to where they can find resources. Pupils will log in using their school username which is the year they started, their first initial and the first four letters of their surname, followed by reddish.stockport.sch.uk. For example, Joe Bloggs in Year 8 started in 2020 would be

20jblog@reddish.stockport.sch.uk . Resources can then be found online and lessons taught remotely where possible.

Academic interventions and period 6

We continue to provide support through small group tuition and tutoring as appropriate. This has ranged from literacy and numeracy intervention in the morning, to small group tuition via the Tutor Trust and trained teaching staff. This will help us in our Covid recovery plan. In addition to this, compulsory Period 6 is now up and running for all of Year 11 every day of the week. Your child has been provided with a personalised timetable and this has also been emailed home.

Vaccinations

Coronavirus vaccinations were offered to consenting 12-15 year old pupils by the NHS School Nursing Team on 20th and 21st October 2021. For young people that have missed these, there are additional opportunities to receive a vaccine at Trinity Methodist Church in Bramhall on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th October. Nasal Flu vaccinations are being offered to all pupils next term on the 19th November.

Standard and expectations

As we finish for the October half term holiday, we would like to remind parents and carers that on our return pupils must, more now than ever, adhere to strict codes of conduct to ensure a safe environment. The usual uniform and equipment expectations continue to be a priority as we encourage pupils to understand the importance of being equipped and ready to learn with a pencil case, pens, pencils, ruler, rubber and a school bag. Pupils must be in full and appropriate uniform coming to, during and returning from school. This includes school shirts being tucked in and skirts being worn at an appropriate and decent length. Coats must be removed inside the building, hoodies are not permitted and jewellery is banned in school. This is presenting an ongoing challenge particularly when pupils have new piercings during term time and we would welcome your support. In order to promote healthy eating, energy drinks are banned and unhealthy snacks are restricted to one standard sized portion. Pupils are advised to bring in their own water bottles, avoiding the need to share water fountains. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used anywhere on site and must be switched off before entering the school gates. These items, along with other banned items, will be confiscated if seen in school. Dropping litter is not permitted and all pupils must clear away trays and rubbish after lunch.

Please support us by reinforcing this with your child and explaining the additional risk factors that failing to follow these simple rules may cause to others.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality continues to be a key priority next term as so much learning time has already been lost. Thank you to all parents and carers who have been ensuring your children are arriving to school every day on time. Although we are aware of the impact Covid has had on attendance, we want to ensure that we minimise any further time missed

to enable us to do the best for your child. Well done to our Year 7 pupils who are maintaining the excellent standards they have set so far this year. However, we are concerned that the non-Covid related attendance and punctuality of the older year groups is continuing to decline despite the support, sanctions and interventions we are putting in place.

Please be aware that there is a legal obligation on you to ensure your child is arriving to school, on time, every day. We will be monitoring this closely when we return from half term and arranging parental meetings for those pupils who are persistently arriving late. If they arrive after close of registration this counts as a missed session and may contribute to hitting thresholds for Local Authority, Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued where appropriate. We request that you liaise with the Attendance Team if you require any support or guidance around improving your child's attendance.

Events

It has been fantastic to welcome our new pupils and to see them settle so well into the routines of senior school and making new friendships. We are once again able to offer extra-curricular opportunities and it has been great to see so many pupils getting involved in a range of activities from our usual Sports clubs to Cooking, Computers, Eco and Science clubs. All our clubs and activities, including sports fixtures can be found on the website under the section Extra-Curricular.

<https://www.reddish.stockport.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular&pid=368>

Updates can also be found on our social media pages:

https://www.instagram.com/rvhs_pe

<https://www.instagram.com/rvhsfarm>

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1003771478/reddish-vale-high-school>

<https://www.facebook.com/reddishvalehs>

We look forward to extending this offer next term with planned Expressive Arts trips to the theatre and Science trips to Chester Zoo, as well as welcoming our local MP Andrew Gwynne and pupils from our local primaries for a visit.

Although we were unable to go ahead with our Open Evening as planned this year, we delivered a virtual event alongside the opportunity to pre-book and attend small group live welcome tours for pupils and parents from our feeder primaries. Our new Prefects and Ambassadors were vital in helping us to conduct these tours and we have received some amazing feedback from prospective parents. Our pupils went above and beyond in promoting the school and were a credit to their parents and our school.

After careful consideration regarding the safety aspects around running large external events, we have made the decision to host our former Year 11 Awards evening remotely on Thursday 11th November 2021. Details of this will be forwarded.

Pupil voice and rewards

I have enjoyed meeting your children in my fortnightly Cake with the Headteacher award, which I host in our common room where I have the opportunity to listen to some of their many achievements over the term. Highlights this term have been listening to a poem written by Angel Ogu, Year 10 and rewarding improved attendance. Please do let us know of any achievements that your children have made outside of school. We want to celebrate as much as we can the home grown talent we have and have extended our assembly time programme to include opportunities for our pupils to show each other their talents. You can let us know at the email address hobbiesandinterests@reddish.stockport.sch.uk

We have completed a number of pupil voice surveys this term on sexual harassment, behaviour, racism and British values and this has fed into enhancing our form time programme. The form time programme aims to have a whole school personal development focus for the week, raising the profile of the topics being delivered. The plan for the year includes a wide range of topics that link to PSHE, RSE, current affairs and wider world understanding. In the most recent pupil voice activity across mixed year groups we asked, 'how does form time help you develop?' pupils responded with "it prepares you for life after school" and "there was a good overview of topics in the first half term".

A successful celebration week for Black History Week took place during the week commencing 18th October, where pupils took part in three form time sessions, an assembly, and a range of events outside lessons including film screenings, fact hunt activities, a cake sale raising money for the Stephen Lawrence Foundation, and a themed lunch menu. The assembly was a talking point within the school as historic speeches, poems, and a pupil written poem were delivered, an internally created 'proud to be' video was shared, and the dance club performed.

Well being

Well-being is a high priority at Reddish Vale and we are fortunate in having a committed team of pastoral, teaching and support staff and also a team of volunteer mentors to support our pupils. There is a range of interventions in place to accommodate a variety of mental health and pastoral needs with positive feedback from pupil experiences. Should you feel your child needs support please contact us, in addition to this we have been sign posting pupils to external support agencies through assemblies and form time activities.

It was lovely to work with our Prefects and also our Student Ambassadors in their recent leadership training sessions. They were involved in various workshops as part of their training and presentations by ex-students. We are looking forward to the many events they have planned over the upcoming months.

Healthy Eating

We welcomed a new Catering Manager to our school this year and pupils were consulted on how they would like to see our food offer improved. I am pleased to say that many of our pupils have requested much healthier alternatives and this has resulted in a new and improved menu which will be launching after half term and will soon be available on our website.

Parental engagement

Our Parents Evening will continue to be delivered remotely via Parent Cloud this year. Guidance around how to access this will be shared in advance of the calendared evenings. Should you wish to speak to subject teachers, tutors, department and year team leaders at any point please make contact with the school. Should you need to escalate any communications the SLT team and I would be happy to meet with you.

Earlier in the term, I issued a request for parents to volunteer their support as a representative parent governor. We have been fortunate in receiving nominations from two strong applicants. As there is currently only one vacancy, I will be requesting that parents participate in an online vote. Further information regarding the candidates and online voting arrangements will be posted on the website and a link distributed.

Parent's Forum meetings are held half-termly and have been well attended. The views and suggestions from the committee have helped shaped policies and practices in school. Additional members are always welcome; the next meeting is scheduled for 7th December 2021

Food support for families

To help support families in need over this October half term, Stockport council have announced that families of pupils eligible for Free School Meals will receive an electronic voucher to the value of £15 to help with the cost of food and essential utilities and other essential living costs. Eligible families do not need to do anything to apply and will automatically receive a voucher for any child if they have made a FSM claim before 12th October 2021.

Site development and refurbishment

We continue to improve the school site and by Christmas the second stage of our electrical improvements work and third stage roofing project will be complete. A number of classrooms have been refurbished including two science labs and we have started plans to extend and improve the upper school canteen facilities. You may be interested to know that Reddish Vale celebrates its 70th year in 2022 and we hope to be able to plan some celebrations despite the COVID restrictions. We would welcome ideas from our parents, many of who will have attended when they were young and community as to how we can celebrate this and share our achievements and show how we have changed over the last few years with those from previous years. You can email us on admin@reddish.stockport.sch.uk

Ofsted

As you will be aware we are overdue an Ofsted inspection and anticipate they may visit during this academic year. Staff and pupils have been working collaboratively to improve the quality of provision across the school and look forward to being able to demonstrate the significant improvements made across the whole school community in recent years. We hope that you will support us in showcasing our pupils with pride and that Ofsted recognise the progress and achievements we have made.

Finally, thank you once again for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hanson'.

Mrs L Hanson
Headteacher