



NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Dear Parent/carer,

I write at the end of what has been another very difficult Autumn Term for the whole school community. Despite careful planning and management of Covid safety, the pandemic has had a significant impact throughout the school and wider community. Incidents of positive cases have been high amongst staff and pupils particularly at the start of the term and although this has declined recently we have then battled with the usual illnesses that strike at this time of year. This has had a detrimental bearing on whole school attendance for pupils and staff.

The national picture has been very similar therefore, like many other schools this has put pressures on all of our staff team, who have gone above and beyond to maintain a high standard of education, quality of provision and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment, with the support of supply and agency as required. I would like to extend my praise and thanks to the whole staff team for continuing to manage day to day business and offer additional opportunities for extracurricular and enrichment opportunities, particularly when our pupils have missed out on so much in recent times.

The range of events, trips and experiences offered is extensive, some are outlined later in this newsletter and we regularly share updates on our website and Facebook page. As a school, we are keen to broaden the cultural capital offered to pupils and strongly value recognising and rewarding good behaviour and positive attitudes to behaviour. Thank you to parents for supporting us in reinforcing the school values of **Respect, Aspiration, Determination and Independence**. The number of pupils receiving Bronze, and Silver certificates for RADI points so early in the school year is encouraging. It has been a pleasure to spend time with pupils nominated for "Cake with the Head" for various achievements and to acknowledge the achievements of so many different pupils during our end of term rewards assemblies.

I have been extremely impressed with the resilience of our pupils and the manner in which they have responded to returning to school routines, behaviour codes of conduct and taking responsibility for maintaining the rigour and high standards and expectations in place, by adhering to social distancing guidance, wearing masks and regularly sanitising. I would appreciate parents reinforcing this message with their children. A minority of pupils have not settled well, therefore, we have revisited our Behaviour Policy and procedures and will be reinforcing expected standards through a behaviour drive with all pupils in the New Year. Mr Perry, Assistant Head of Behaviour, will be sharing further details regarding this before the end of term.

Parents/Carers are invited to a parental consultation evening on 1st February 2022, to discuss your views on our Behaviour Policy and suggestions around curriculum changes and options for next academic year. A limited number of spaces will be available to attend in person; however, we will also open up the opportunity to attend remotely.



Year 11 mock examinations have taken place at the end of this term and pupils have responded to them with a positive and mature attitude. These will allow us to identify strengths and gaps so that we can ensure suitable interventions are in place to support pupils to secure the best outcomes. Attendance to school, lessons and all additional period 6 sessions will have the most significant impact on improving exam grades; therefore, it is essential that pupils maintain excellent attendance. As it currently stands we are anticipating that pupils will sit a full set for examinations this summer, however as the current climate is unpredictable we must ensure we are prepared for the prospect that this may not happen. If this is the case then we will base Teacher Assessed Grade's (TAGS) on performance over the course, in mocks, and attendance and engagement to lessons and interventions. Therefore, we would appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school every day and encouraging your child to attend and engage fully with the provisions and interventions we have on offer.

Despite the school closure, building works and refurbishment projects have continued as planned; the third phase roofing and second phase rewiring projects are nearly complete. In addition to this, we are in the process of refurbishing and extending the canteen facilities for our upper school pupils.

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 Classroom should we be forced to shut the building, this will ensure there is no further lost learning time.

School closes for Christmas on Wednesday 22nd December at 1pm and reopens on Monday 10th January with a staggered return throughout the day to accommodate COVID testing for consenting pupils. The planned schedule is included below.

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

Linda Hanson

Staggered Start Times for Monday 10th January 2022:

- 8.35am – year 7 and year 11
- 10.00am – year 10
- 11.15am – year 8
- 12.15pm – year 9



Careers Fair

Our year 10 and 11 pupils participated in the annual Further Education fair where they developed their knowledge and understanding of the vast array of opportunities open to them, including local colleges, Apprenticeship providers, Football courses such as City in the Community and the RAF.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the careers fair and fed back on their experience: 'It was really useful to find out which colleges do the course I want.'



Year 7 Football Tournament at The Cliff

Congratulations to the year 7 football team who competed in the 5 a side Football Tournament at the Cliff on 29th September.

The pupils made the school proud by finishing in 3rd place after 4 wins, 2 draws and only 1 defeat.

All pupils displayed great attitude, behaviour and performance. Well done!

Black History Month

We are delighted to have seen such wonderful pupil and staff engagement in our Black History Month activities throughout the whole of Black History Month in October.

A number of pupils and staff were involved in hosting our cake sale, with the proceeds going to the Stephen Lawrence Foundation, film showings, assemblies, featuring cultural dance performances and our themed lunch menu.





OddBalls Talks

We were pleased to welcome Pat from the Oddballs Foundation on 5th November, who delivered fantastic talks to our year 10 and 11 pupils, raising awareness of testicular cancer. We are looking forward to carrying out more awareness activities throughout this academic year.



Pupils Attend Remembrance Service

We are extremely proud of George Collins, Year 9 and Eve Collins, Year 11, who took part in their Remembrance Sunday Service at St Peters Church on Remembrance Sunday, where George supported the flag bearers and Eve completed a reading. They are wonderful ambassadors for our school.



Buddy Reading Programme

This term, we launched our 'Buddy Reading' programme. Year 10 readers paired with Year 8 readers to build their skill, resilience and confidence in reading.

The sessions have been really positive: all of the pupils were each given a complimentary book, have arranged their next meetings and set a reading target to work towards.

Please check the Literacy page on our school website for full details on our literacy focus, word of the week and recommended subject specific reading.





Anti-Bullying, Diversity & Interfaith Week

15th-19th November was Anti-Bullying, Diversity & Interfaith week and we celebrated this in school by hosting a variety of activities for pupils and staff to get involved in.

We hosted a Cultural Fair in which pupils and staff celebrated their different cultures, a bake sale with proceeds going to Children in Need and The Diana Award, and anti-bullying pledges were written and displayed in the canteen on our Anti-Bullying tree.

Read for Children In Need

Throughout the week of 15th-19th November, we encouraged pupils to Read for Children in Need in all lessons across the curriculum.

Pupils were given sponsorship forms to raise money for Children in Need and recorded all minutes read on their log bookmarks. At the end of the week, pupils tallied their total reading minutes for the week and collected their sponsorships.



People's History Museum & MOSI Trip

On 17th November, pupils enjoyed a trip to the Peoples History Museum and. They learnt about the Industrial Revolution and how Unions were formed in democratic Britain in the 1800s.

They also visited the MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry), where the pupils were very engaged in the interactive science activities that were on display, as well as a scheduled display of the textile machines that were operational in a presentation of its then cutting-edge technology.



Andrew Gwynne Visits Reddish Vale

We were really pleased to welcome MP Andrew Gwynne into school to deliver talks and host a Q&A with Year 10 and 11 pupils on 19th November.

The pupils asked some brilliant questions and were able to learn about Andrew's role as an MP for Denton and Reddish.

Chester Zoo Trip

On 6th December, 73 year 9 pupils enjoyed a trip to Chester Zoo with the Science Department, where they saw and learnt interesting facts about a variety of different animals, including the elephants, giraffes, lions and jaguars.

The pupils were exceptionally behaved and engaged throughout and were a real credit to the school.



Reddish Vale Book Fair

Pupils were able to come to our book fair with either 50p for a new book or with an old book that they could swap. We had over 160 book donations which is fantastic!

Due to its success, the English department will be running at least one Book Fair per term to encourage our pupils to keep reading!

Expanding our Curriculum

Our DT Department are excited to be introducing years 7 and 8 to a term of product design and graphics after Christmas, where they will learn about mechanical pop ups and typography.



Annie Jr

The Reddish Vale School Musical is back! Rehearsals for Annie the Musical are in full swing with a fantastic cast of pupils from all year groups. We are looking forward to showcasing the amazing talent that we have here at Reddish Vale!



U14 Basketball Tournament

On 9th December we entered 2 teams into the U14 Basketball Tournament and overall, the pupils did really well.

The A team, photographed, won all 4 games and have qualified for the semi-finals, which will be held in Manchester. The B team unfortunately did not qualify; however, they were extremely resilient nonetheless.

School Trip Abroad

We are excited to have the possibility of running a school trip to Barcelona, Spain, in 2023 across the Art, Food tech and MFL departments.

A Survey will be shared in the New Year to gauge interest and enable parents/carers to have their say in regards to transportation.

All trips information can be found on our school website.



Food Tech Practical Lessons

Practical lessons have been successful this term in food technology lessons, and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed enhancing their skills, making dishes such as decorated focaccia and sweet shortcrust pastry fruit pies.





Empower Cyber Week Event

On Friday 12th November pupils travelled to Manchester city centre for an opportunity to find out more about Empower Cyber Week and careers in cybercrime.

Our pupils gained an overview of Empower Cyber Week, highlighting key areas of content. They learned about the CyberFirst Girls' Competition from the NCSC, had Local guest speakers to inspire and deliver CEIAG information and participated in an interactive session giving the pupils the opportunity to try their hand at 'Coding with Emojis'

Please visit the School website for all Careers information and explore the online platforms Xello and GMACS for further information.



Advent

All of our Bronze, Silver and Gold badge members have been entered into our advent draw and each day in the lead up to Christmas, one of these pupils was selected to win an advent gift.

Congratulations to all pupils who have achieved their badges so far and those who won the advent prizes.

Photographed is one of our winners: Freya Noble.

Rewards Cinema Trip

On Monday 20th December, over 200 of our pupils with zero behaviour points and 100% attendance (not including COVID) went to the cinema as a reward for being excellent ambassadors of the school.



Christmas Fair

On Tuesday 21st December we hosted our Christmas fair, which was organised by our Year 11 student leadership team.

There was a variety of stalls, including a hot chocolate stall, tombola, decorate a Christmas decoration and penalty shoot-out.



Christmas Hampers

We would like to say a huge thank you to Vision for Education, who kindly donated a number of food hampers to us.

In addition to this, ex-pupil, Paul Cheetham-Karcz kindly raised and donated an outstanding and greatly appreciated £4,000 to enable us to supply Christmas gifts for a large number of our pupils.

We would like to say a special thank you to:

Paul Cheetham-Karcz – Sedulo
Kevin Sinfield OBE – Leicester Tigers
Jamie Jones Buchanan – Leeds Rhinos
Jimmy Hill – Hairburst
Richard Goodall – Goodall Brazier
Paul Woods – Proactive Despatch
Dave Connor – Optimum Coffee
Jessica Hampson – CEL Solicitors
Sandeep and Seema Malhotra – Forever Unique
John O Donnell – Closure London/ Faded
Sam Mabon – Brabners



Reward Assemblies

As always at the end of every term, the rewards assemblies for all year groups have taken place. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the pupils' hard work and success with a range of awards. These include subject awards, tutor and Head of Year awards, attendance awards and pupils that have gained their Bronze, Silver or Gold badge membership will receive their respective badges.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the pupils who achieved an award and thank them for being such excellent ambassadors of our school.



Online payment system - Parentpay

Reddish Vale is a cashless school and we use the secure website Parentpay, to make online payments for all pupil items including school meals, trips and revision books.

If you are experiencing difficulties accessing Parentpay please contact the Finance Office by emailing finance@reddish.stockport.sch.uk and we will be happy to assist.

www.parentpay.com





Key Dates

- Christmas Holidays: School Closes on Wednesday 22nd December 2021. School reopens on Monday 10th January 2021.
- Year 9 HPV vaccinations for consenting pupils 11th & 12th January 2022
- COVID vaccinations second dose for consenting pupils 10th & 11th February 2022
- Year 9 Virtual Consultation Evening 27th January 2022 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 11 Virtual Consultation Evening 3rd February 2022 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 8 Virtual Consultation and Options Evening 24th February 2022 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Year 10 Virtual Consultation Evening 17th March 2022 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Parents Forum 1st February 2022 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Parents Forum 29th March 2022 5:30pm-6:30pm
- School closes for February half term on Friday 11th February 2022. School reopens on Monday 21st February 2022

