

October 2022

## Half Term 1 Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carers,

Our pupils have made a great start to the year and I want to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting us by ensuring pupils come to school smartly dressed, fully equipped and keen to learn. As we come to the end of the first term I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some key updates and reminders.

### **Transition**

Transition numbers have increased significantly this year, the popularity of our Open Evening hosted earlier in the term suggests that first choice preferences for Reddish Vale High School will continue to rise. Our current Year 7 cohort of 261 pupils have settled in well and the meet the tutor evening on 6<sup>th</sup> October was well attended and received. Pupils in Yr7 will have the opportunity to embark on their residential transition trip later in the year, this was a huge success for pupil's fortunate enough to attend the event last year after previous postponements due to the pandemic.

### **Curriculum**

As a result of our recent current curriculum review, from September pupils have moved to a three-year Key Stage three. Option choices are now made at the end of Yr 9 where pupils select from a range of engaging GCSE and vocational courses to study at Key Stage four. We continue to deliver and celebrate the vast range of academic, enrichment and sporting achievements on offer.

### **Homework**

We have high expectations around the setting and completion of homework as we believe this enhances progress. It allows pupils the opportunity for independent study, research and practice. It also enables staff to check pupils understanding and retention of knowledge. We would appreciate parental support in checking your child has a quiet space to work and is completing work in line with the year group timetable schedule attached and available on the website. Pupils should record homework in their journals, this is also posted on google classrooms, should you wish to check this. If you have any concerns please contact subject teachers.

### **Yr 11**

Year 11 pupils, are working hard as they embark on the final year in preparation for GCSE examinations. Mock examinations take place at the end of November. Like all other Yr 11 pupils in the country, they will be competing for good examination grades and need to put in the hard work to achieve them. As a school our role, in conjunction with you and your child, is to support success and to enable this we have a timetable of events and activities running to help all our pupils prepare for their examinations. There is an expectation your child attends the revision schedule, as appropriate, for breakfast, lunch, and period 6. This continues to run alongside lessons with opportunities for pupils to work independently or through accessing GCSE Pod and Seneca programmes. Counsellors and mentors are on hand to address any anxiety or academic concerns that may arise. The Summer 23 draft exam timetable has been published and is on the website should you wish to support your child in planning ahead.

### **Learning Environment**

Over the summer, we have continued with projects to enhance our building and facilities to provide the very best learning environment for our pupils. We have had extensive works completed on the roof, further electrical rewiring, upgraded IT software and equipment, refurbished 2 science labs, converted the drama studio into a black box room. We are continuing to work towards securing a bid for a new Astroturf provision.



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Headteacher  
Mrs Linda Hanson

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### **Weather contingency plans**

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.

### **Attendance**

The key to pupils being successful at school is largely influenced by their attendance therefore it is essential that we develop good attendance habits and seek to work in partnership with parents to achieve this. If pupils are not attending school regularly, they are limiting their ability to achieve. Our attendance target is at least 95% for every pupil. Research shows that if a child's attendance falls below 90% overtime then they are in danger of dropping an exam grade in every subject. Analysis of last year's attendance in relation to exam success reinforced the fact that pupils with good attendance achieved significantly higher than their peers and were more likely to meet or exceed their target grades.

Please ensure pupils arrive to school ready to start lessons promptly at 8:35am. External appointments should be made out of school time, where possible and pupils should be encouraged to attend punctually every day unless genuinely too ill to do so. It is a parent/carers responsibility to ensure all absences are reported to the attendance team as early as possible on the first day of absence and for every subsequent school session missed. Evidence may be requested to support this where attendance is an ongoing concern.

Attendance panels are regularly held to discuss ways in which we can work together to promote improved attendance and a range of rewards and incentives have been launched. Failure to meet high attendance expectation without legitimate reason may also lead to educational penalty notice fines of £120 being issued to parents from the Local Authority. This is certainly not a sanction any family would welcome given the current financial climate therefore it is essential we work in partnership to avoid this or further court prosecution.

### **Behaviour, standards and expectation**

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support in relation to improving standards. The vast majority of our pupils are immaculately dressed, have an excellent attendance record, arrive punctually and consistently behave in a respectful and appropriate manner. We thank you for instilling these standards at home, modelling respectful behaviour and encouraging pupils to reflect these values and qualities in school and within the wider community. On occasion this has not been the case and therefore the LA have supported schools in devising a Respect campaign to outline expectations of conduct. (See attached Respect posters and model Respect policy on the website)

Unfortunately, a small number of pupils continue to demonstrate anti-social behaviour in school, in the community and over social media. We are spending an increasing amount of time addressing issues that start beyond the school gates and spill over into school life and disrupt learning. Sadly, this escalated to permanent exclusions being issued last academic year. We welcome the opportunity to work in collaboration with families to avoid such extremes and have a substantial and enhanced pastoral team to support. Thank you to parents who have sent in numerous messages acknowledging and praising the support and guidance offered from our team, particularly in relation to addressing bullying concerns. It is vital that every pupil has the right to be educated in a safe and welcoming environment therefore it is essential all pupils take accountability for conducting themselves in a respectful and considerate manner and make positive behaviour choices.

A reminder that pupils must be in full uniform to, from and during the school day, which includes a blazer, shirt, tie, regular trousers/skirt and shoes. We will be conducting a uniform review in the coming months and would welcome input from parents and pupils to ensure uniform remains affordable and practical whilst maintaining a professional image. Pupils are not permitted to wear trainers to school and are not permitted excessive makeup, mascara, fake tan, jewellery, false nails, false eye lashes, any piercings or unnatural hair colourings. Mobile phones and ear 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.

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We have serious, growing concerns regarding incidents of pupil's vaping (using electronic cigarettes). Pupils have been observed smoking/vaping in school and near to our school grounds. Vaping is banned, any pupil found vaping will face serious sanctions at school and their parents/carers will be notified. In addition to this E- cigarettes are associated with harmful health risks which have been outlined below:

- Electronic cigarettes can contain high levels of nicotine. Adolescence is a critical period for brain development and exposure to nicotine can have long-term health consequences, impacting memory, attention and learning.
- E-cigarettes (Vape) are often available in different flavours which can be appealing to young people and may expose them to chemicals and toxins such as formaldehyde, heavy metals, particulate matter and flavouring chemicals, at levels that have the potential to cause adverse health effects.
- Sometimes vapes are disguised as USB's, pens and cosmetics.
- Second-hand smoke exposure can cause disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke. Specifically, children exposed to second-hand smoke experience a range of upper and lower respiratory illnesses and symptoms such as colds and flu, cough, phlegm production, wheezing and pneumonia.

**There are ways you can help protect your children and support our school community:**

- Talking to your child about why smoking/vaping are harmful for them. It is never too late to have the conversation
- Learning about the different types of e-cigarettes available and the risks associated with using these products. We recommend our parents/carers have a look at images of vapes online to familiarise what they can look like.
- Setting a good example by being tobacco and E-cigarette free.

Please encourage your child to report anyone who is selling cigarettes and e-cigarettes  
Take steps to ensure your child does not bring any such item in to school

We have attached a letter for parents which outlines further information regarding examples, risks and support.

**Parent App**

If you have not already done so please can you take some time to log onto our Classchart parent app. Class Charts is what we use to record your child's behaviour and it allows you to keep track of your child's behaviour and positive RAD1 points awarded and track any scheduled detentions should your child have received one. If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account. Class Charts for parents can be accessed via iOS and Android apps.

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information our school already has, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up-to-date. An email was sent out with a letter attached towards the beginning of this academic year explaining how to log on to the app and with your own unique access code. Should you not have received this, have any questions, would like more information or want to check and change any details on sims please contact your child's Year Team.

**Communication**

Your continued feedback is an important part of our efforts to improve, we are always keen to address any concerns or queries as they arise so we can intervene early and provide support to you and your child. Therefore, as parents/carers we encourage you to work with the school to share your opinions, comments and suggestions in order to improve your child's experience. You can join us by attending one of the Parents Forum meetings scheduled throughout the year where we share and consult on plans, policies and procedures. Alternatively you can discuss any personal concerns by making contact with the school directly through a number of channels;

- Your child's form tutor in the first instance
- Individual teachers for any subject specific questions.
- Heads of department for any academic issues
- Assistant or Head of Year for pastoral concerns
- HOY for pastoral/academic or community issues
- Key Stage leaders for escalating issues, A Knowles Yr7-9, F Rockey Y10-11

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- SENCO for any SEN queries- R Bright/ A Mason-Power
- Safeguarding Officer for safeguarding issues- S. Vivante
- Senior Leadership will address any serious or escalating concerns

As Headteacher I am always available for a personal appointment to be made if you do not feel your concerns have been suitably addressed and resolved. Appointments to be made through my PA Emma Illingworth, [e.illingworth@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:e.illingworth@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)

Please help us in addressing any concerns or issues with us directly as they arise so we can seek to resolve them and improve standards through working together.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Trips taking place next Half Term**

Manchester University trip 2nd November  
Imperial War Museum trip 11th November  
Cinema reward trip 20th December

#### **In school events taking place next Half Term**

Ex Year 11 awards evening 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Anti-Bullying Week – November 22  
Year 11 Mock Interviews – November 22  
Yr 11 Mock Exams 28<sup>th</sup> Nov- 2 weeks  
School show 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas fair 16<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Parents Evening taking place next Half Term**

Year 11 Parents evening 17<sup>th</sup> November

#### **School Closures taking place next Half Term**

Monday- Friday 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October Half term  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – school will be closed to pupils for Staff INSET  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 13:00 pm -School Closes for Christmas  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023- Pupils return to school

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