

July 2023



Dear Parent/carers

As we come to the end of another academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. We are proud to look back at some of our many achievements, events and opportunities for academic and social experiences. Sport, Music, Drama, residential trips, outdoor pursuits, academic competitions, university visits, workshops, work experience, school shows, external speakers and a full enrichment programme.

Reddish Vale Road, Reddish  
Stockport, SK5 7HD

Tel: 0161 477 3544

Email: [admin@reddish.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@reddish.stockport.sch.uk)  
[www.reddish.stockport.uk](http://www.reddish.stockport.uk)

Headteacher  
Mrs Linda Hanson

### **New CEO**

A variety of pupil achievements were celebrated throughout the year culminating in our annual Awards Evening, which was held at The Plaza, Stockport. We are grateful to Peter Brooks, CEO, for his inspiring speech as our guest speaker and also thank him for his excellent years of service pending his retirement from his position next term. We wish him the best of luck for the future and thank him for his contribution to the school's improvement and welcome Kim Earle, who will be assuming this role next year.

### **Year 11**

Our Year 11 pupils have worked incredibly hard and we are sure their efforts will be recognised in their final GCSE examination grades which will be distributed on results day on Thursday 24th August. We look forward to celebrating the pupils' academic successes and thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic evening of celebration at the school prom in June.

### **Transition**

Transition numbers have increased year on year with more families making Reddish Vale High School their first choice preferences, subsequently we are full in our incoming year 7 cohort. Transition day was a great success on July 6th and we look forward to welcoming our new intake in September.

### **Curriculum**

Following our curriculum review last year, from September pupils moved to a three year Key Stage 3, extending our allocation of curriculum time in Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography, Technology and Music in Year 9. This changeover has been successfully managed and Option choices are now made at the end of Year 9 where pupils select from a range of engaging GCSE and vocational courses to study at Key Stage 4. We are delighted to extend our option offer to include Child Development and Photography next year.

**RESPECT - ASPIRATION - DETERMINATION - INDEPENDENCE**



2022-2021



## Assessment

Ongoing assessments take place throughout the year with all year groups having final end of year exams to assess their knowledge retention. Pupils have engaged in revision technique sessions to teach them how to revise in preparation for future examination expectations. Thank you to parents who have supported with this and encouraged pupils to study independently.

## 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 continued parental support in checking your child has a quiet space to work and is completing work in line with the year group timetable schedules available on the website. Pupils should record homework in their journals, this is also posted on Google Classroom, should you wish to check this.

## Attendance

We continue to stress the importance of excellent attendance to school to secure better outcomes personally, socially and academically and we implore parents to support us with this as the disappointing attendance rates this academic year have had a detrimental impact on pupil success. The local authority will be playing a much bigger role in sanctioning absences next year and fixed penalty fines will be reinstated where attendance falls below expectations. Our target is 95% minimum attendance. Research shows that if a child's attendance falls below 90% overtime 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 8:30am. External appointments should be made out of school time, where possible, and pupils should 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 held regularly 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 Expectations

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.

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 fixed term and 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 whose support has been well acknowledged and praised. It is vital that every pupil has the right to be educated in

**RESPECT - ASPIRATION - DETERMINATION - INDEPENDENCE**



2022-2021



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.

## Uniform

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. 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.

## Vaping

Similarly to the national picture, 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.

### Health risks associated with Electronic cigarettes (E-cigarettes):

- 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.

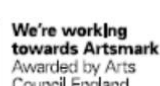
## Toilets

Significant school funds have been invested in refurbishing, replacing and repairing toilets and associated drains mainly due to the misuse by some of our pupils. Despite discussions at student council, staff meetings and parent's forum, we continue to experience issues with managing a system that allows open access to the facilities whilst maintaining a safe, dignified and appropriate environment. Unfortunately the inappropriate access and repeated damage caused by a minority of pupils has left us with no alternative than to put restrictions on the access and use of the toilets. We have trialled; sanctions, supervision, signing for keys, controlled opening times, limiting access and a variety of alternative solutions, however, we continue to experience vandalism, graffiti, vaping and deliberate attempts to block the drainage. This appears to be a national dilemma not an isolated issue. Please can we ask parents to support us by; reinforcing basic manners and respect, encouraging your child to use the toilets at supervised times where possible (break, lunch and lesson changeover), and to avoid abusing the toilet pass system so we ensure we are not disadvantaging pupils who genuinely need to attend the toilets in an emergency or for a medical need. We genuinely would love a system where pupils can respectfully use the toilets, as and when they require, however this is almost impossible to facilitate in any school unless all pupils can be trusted to comply, sadly, from our experience, this is not the case.

## 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 RADl points awarded and track any scheduled detentions should your child have received one.

**RESPECT - ASPIRATION - DETERMINATION - INDEPENDENCE**



## 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
- Head of Pastoral for escalating issues - A Knowles
- SENCO for any SEN queries- R Bright
- Safeguarding Officer for safeguarding issues- F Waheed
- 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. However, as the school continues to grow, I would recommend you raise your issues with the relevant staff leaders in the first instance and escalate accordingly. Appointments to be made through my PA Emma Illingworth

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.

## Learning Environment

Once again we have been fortunate in achieving two further bids for school refurbishment. One for continued electrical rewiring across the school and a second to upgrade the exterior and interior repairs and ventilation in the Science Block. We also have plans to refurbish two additional science labs, and to enhance the safety fencing at the front of school. We continue to progress towards securing a bid for a new Astroturf provision in partnership with The Football Foundation, that will provide an excellent sporting facility for the school and the community. .

## Staff and Governors

We are most grateful to all the teachers who work extremely hard to continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for our pupils and to the support staff that ensure the smooth running of our school. Our thanks extends to our Governors who play an important role in providing support and challenge to the leadership team, in particular, Kevin Shaw our Chair of Governors.

## Strike Action

We apologise for any disruption caused by industrial strike action over the course of the year. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions and the general underfunding of schools. These issues are pertinent to us as a school as they are to all schools in Stockport and nationally. At this stage we are unclear if this will continue in the new academic year. As a school, we will continue to follow the guidance issued from the Department for Education and remind you that the impact of this action varies from school to school depending on the proportion of teachers within the NEU and their personal decisions on participating in strike action. As always, our main priority is to ensure the safety and

**RESPECT - ASPIRATION - DETERMINATION - INDEPENDENCE**



supervision of pupils on site, therefore we conduct a thorough risk assessment based on the information we have available.

### Start of the year

The new academic year starts in September. Staff will be in school for an Inset day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, to allow a smooth transition into school **ONLY Year 7 will attend on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, with all pupils in Year 8, 9, 10, & 11 returning on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 8:30am.** Pupils are to report to their respective Year group Hubs: Year 7 Maths, Year 8 MFL, Year 9 Science, Year 10 English, and Year 11 Humanities.

### Change of school day timings

Following our consultation earlier in the school year regarding changes to the timing of the school day we have made changes in line with the government's recommendations for school's to deliver a minimum of 32.5 school hours per week. This means the school day will now run from 8:30am-3:00pm. The changes to the format of the day have previously been circulated.

Thank you once again for all your support to Reddish Vale High school; I hope that you have a happy and restful summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Linda Hanson  
**Headteacher**

### Dates for your diary

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Staff INSET Day
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7 **only** Start
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – All pupils return to school
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – School closes for half term
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – School re-opens for pupils and staff
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – INSET Day for staff
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – School closes for Christmas

**RESPECT - ASPIRATION - DETERMINATION - INDEPENDENCE**

