



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the festive period, we reflect on another successful Autumn term here at Reddish Vale High School. Pupils have been working studiously towards and beyond aspirational targets. Quality first teaching remains a priority and significant work has been devoted to improving literacy and reading skills to support pupils in accessing the curriculum and deepening their knowledge and understanding. We continue to invest in interventions and initiatives to support personal development, academic growth and good mental wellbeing through; high quality teaching, personalised tutoring, Tutor Trust, Academic Mentors, and pastoral support.

In addition to this we were pleased to offer so many fantastic opportunities and rewards for our pupils, including trips to museums, theatres, educational workshops and motivational speakers, careers fairs, Sports trips and tournaments and an amazing Christmas finale of a music and dance showcase.

Pupils have participated in workshops led by Motivational Speaker and Education Professional, Sean Anthony Sherwood, where he spoke about building resilience and aspirations. Year 10 pupils attended Historian and Author David Olusoga's Black History Month lecture at the University of Manchester, which focused on the role of Black people in British History. We were very lucky to welcome record breaking adventurer and charity founder Alex Staniforth into school to share his experiences with our pupils with a focus on resilience and overcoming adversity through personal challenges. Many pupils participated in various sporting competitions such as the Stockport Cup, Stockport League Cup, Cheshire Cup, Greater Manchester Cup and English Schools Cup. Year 11 GCSE PE pupils spent time developing their rock climbing skills at the Parthian Climbing centre in Manchester.

We are grateful to parents and pupils that contributed to the poverty proofing audit as the information gathered has enabled us to reflect on practices that are helpful to our families and allow us to consider further opportunities to support.

We would also like to express our thanks to local businesses and members of our school community including our Chair of Governors, Kevin Shaw, The Toy Appeal and Ex-pupil, Paul Cheetham Karcz and his team at Sedulo, who kindly provided food and gift donations, enabling us to provide a large number of our families with food hampers and Christmas gifts, we are extremely grateful for their support.



Pupils in all year groups are a credit to the school demonstrating excellent improvements in attendance, attainment and progress. Thank you to all parents that continue to support us with maintaining high standards and expectations. The vast majority of our pupils are immaculately dressed, arrive on time and behave appropriately. Can we remind parents and carers that pupils must be in full uniform coming to, during and returning from school. This includes appropriately wearing a blazer, shirt, tie, regular trousers/skirt and black shoes. Pupils are not permitted to wear trainers to school and the following items are banned; excessive makeup, mascara, false nails, false lashes, nail varnish, fake tan, jewellery, piercings, retainers, chewing gum and illegal items.

In order to promote healthy eating, energy drinks are banned and unhealthy snacks are restricted to one standard sized portion. 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. Uniform checks, with an emphasis on keeping uniform standards high, will take place every morning on the gate. Bag searches occur on the gate each morning alongside random spot checks to ensure pupil safety, we trust you will support us with this preventative measure.

During the winter months we encourage pupils to wear a coat to school however they should not be worn inside the building. Should there be a need to shut the school due to poor weather conditions, parents will be notified and work will continue to be set remotely through Google Classroom.

Good attendance is vital to your child's success, punctuality is equally important, we are delighted to see improvements in attendance, however this is still below expectation. If pupils are not attending school, they are limiting their ability to achieve and this can also lead to educational penalty notices being issued for £120 from the Local Authority where attendance goes below 90%. It is vital that your child is on time to school, prepared for learning and that they start the day off well. Our minimum expected attendance target for each pupil is 96%.

Considerable improvements have been made to the school building over recent years, developments to the building, equipment and resources has enhanced the learning environment. Sadly a minority of pupils behave in a disrespectful manner; litter, misuse of toilets, damage to property and graffiti. These few incidents are swiftly dealt with and community tasks imposed. Please can you support us in speaking to your children about respecting the environment and encouraging their peers to do likewise to ensure a better learning environment for all.



We are very proud of our school and of our pupils and believe that high standards of uniform, behaviour, work ethic, being properly equipped and attending regularly give each and every one of our pupils the very best chance of learning well and achieving their very best. Thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding.

Engagement at our Parents Forum has been disappointing this term, particularly given that this has previously been a strong, supportive and collaborative network on which to consult on and influence decisions around; uniform, bullying, curriculum and interventions. We would welcome new participants as we appreciate parent voice when consulting and making decisions that affect your child directly. There is no expectations from parents at this forum other than to share their opinions and experiences.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 8th January 2024

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Linda Hanson
Headteacher

Black History Month Lecture

On 22nd September we welcomed Sean Anthony into school to deliver assemblies and workshops to Y9, 10 and 11 pupils about building resilience and aspiration. The pupils felt inspired by the sessions and a huge thank you to Sean for taking the time to speak to our pupils!



Careers Fair

This term we hosted our annual Careers Fair, where our Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to gain valuable information about their future education and career choices. They have also participated in mock interviews to prepare them for applying for jobs and college interviews in the future.



Macmillan Cake Sale

On 29th September our Senior Prefects and Community and Charity Ambassadors raised money for Macmillan by hosting a cake sale. They did a fantastic job and we are so proud of them! Thank you to everyone who kindly donated cakes.



Black History Month

We are delighted to have seen such wonderful pupil and staff engagement in our Black History Month activities. A number of pupils and staff were involved in creating informative displays, Black History Month pledges, an art competition and a cake sale with profits going to Afrocats.

Black History Month Lecture

On 6th November, some of our Year 10 pupils attended Professor David Olusoga OBE's lecture for Black History Month at the University of Manchester. The pupils had a lovely time and David was kind enough to gift a signed copy of his book to the school.



Guinea Pigs

Year 9 farm club pupils named our new rescue guinea pigs Poppy and Daisy - the names were chosen in the run up to Remembrance Day.





Anti-Bullying Week

13th-17th November was Anti-Bullying week and we celebrated this in school by hosting odd socks day, held assemblies with a focus on anti-bullying to raise awareness and encouraged pupils to make anti-bullying pledges, which were then used to create an anti-bullying paper chain shield which is currently being displayed on the main corridor in school.



Children in Need

On Friday 17th November our Community and Charity Ambassadors raised money for Children in Need by hosting a penalty shoot-out and splash the teacher. Overall, the pupils raised £85. Well done and thank you to our wonderful Ambassadors.

Sporting Success

Pupils have participated in many sporting activities such as athletics, badminton, basketball, football and netball in all year groups in different competitions such as the Stockport cup, Stockport league cup, Cheshire cup, Greater Manchester cup and English Schools cup. Most of the competitions will commence again next term as we aim to bring even more sporting success to Reddish Vale High School.



Rock Climbing

The Year 11 GCSE PE pupils have spent time developing their rock-climbing skills at the Parthian Climbing centre in Manchester this term. This was a fantastic experience for the pupils as we aim to give our pupils as many different opportunities as we can.



Ex-Year 11 Certificate Evening

We invited our Class of 2023 back into school on Thursday 30th November to collect their GCSE certificates and have the opportunity to catch up with their teachers and friends from school. It was lovely to see the pupils again and we wish them all the best in their futures.



ITV Workshop

This term we welcomed James from ITV into school to deliver inspiring workshops to some of our Year 10 Business and Drama students. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and came up with some brilliant TV show ideas.

Textiles Workshop

On Monday 11th December Textile Artist Jessica Grady visited school to deliver a textiles workshop to Year 10 & 11 GCSE Art Textile pupils. The pupils made some really vibrant and colourful work and learnt a range of new skills and techniques including hand embroidery, die cutting, layering, ruffling and couching. The workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Alex Staniforth Visit

We were very lucky to have welcomed Alex Staniforth, record breaking adventurer, avalanche survivor, publisher and mental health charity founder into school on 11th December to share his experiences with our pupils with a focus on resilience and overcoming adversity through personal challenges. Pupils were able to ask him some thought provoking questions at the end of the talk and some even managed to try on his Mount Everest hiking gear.



Teens and Toddlers Programme

This term Year 9 pupils who currently attend the teens and toddler programme were invited up to the HR office to be celebrated for their hard work so far on the programme. They met both founders of the Power2 charity, Manchester City Football player Zack Steffens and American Soccer player Alex Crognale. The behaviour and respect that was shown by all our pupils was impeccable, they have made us extremely proud.

Christmas Markets Trip

On Wednesday 20th December, a number of Year 11 pupils visited the Manchester Christmas markets as a reward for being excellent ambassadors of the school. The pupils had a lovely time and it was a wonderful opportunity to get into the festive spirit!



Rewards Cinema Trip

On Wednesday 20th December, many of our pupils with zero behaviour points and 100% attendance went to the cinema as a reward for being excellent ambassadors of the school.

Music and Dance Showcase

On Wednesday 20th December we held a Christmas Music and Dance Showcase to celebrate the talents of our pupils, who were keen to sparkle and shine in front of an audience of parents and carers. A huge well done to the vocal groups, ukulele club, drummers, soloists and dance groups who were exceptional.





CHRISTMAS FAIR

Christmas Fair

On Thursday 21st December we hosted our Christmas fair, organised by our Year 11 student leadership team. There was a variety of stalls, including Christmas tree decoration stall, cake sale and tombola.

Christmas Hampers and Gift Donations

In the run up to Christmas we were extremely grateful to local businesses and members of our school community who kindly provided food and gift donations, enabling us to provide a large number of our families with food hampers and Christmas gifts, we are extremely grateful for their support.

We would like to say a special thank you to:

- Kevin Shaw, Homeclean (Chair of Governors)
- The Toy Appeal with support from Kirsty McGrath (Governor)
- Paul Cheetham Karcz, Sedulo



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 and attendance awards. 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





School Calendar Dates

- Christmas Holidays School Closure 1.00pm on Thursday 21st December 2023. Break will be extended with additional food offered for Lunch. School bus will arrive at the earlier time
- School reopens on Monday 8th January 2024
- Year 10 Parents' Evening 11th January 2024 4:00-7:00pm
- Year 8 Parents' Evening 8th February 2024 4:00-7:00pm
- Pupils finish for half term Friday 9th February 2024- 3:00pm
- School reopens Monday 19th February 2024

