



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Address

Rayner Stephens High School
Yew Tree Lane
Dukinfield
Cheshire
SK16 5BL

Contacts

T 0161 338 2374

W www.raynerstephens.org.uk

E admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk

Headteacher

Fay Beach

Tuesday 5th January 2020

Dear families,

Thank you for your support and understanding over the past couple of days as we have been trying to react quickly to the rapidly changing situation which has led to remote learning being extended over the whole half term rather than the planned fortnight that I wrote to you about last week.

Support and contact with learners and their families

We are extremely disappointed and frustrated not to be able to welcome all of our learners back into school and understand the added pressure and frustration for both learners and their families as we enter this further national lockdown. We currently have around 25 learners attending school as vulnerable learners or the children of key workers. We expect this number to rise tomorrow and we encourage as many of those learners who fall into these criteria to continue accessing their education at school. These families have been written to separately and we will continue to contact you regularly as part of the ongoing support.

For our parent and learner voice we are aware that some learners struggled emotionally during the first full lockdown and how important it is that we try to stay connected with you as much as possible during this time. This is the reason that live form time has been introduced to allow learners the access to their form tutor through the question and answer function on a daily basis. We have put a process in place today to ensure all learners are contacted personally by either their form tutor or a member of the inclusion team over the next week. We are prioritising learners that we know found the last lockdown difficult but please do not wait for this call if you feel your child would benefit from more regular contact. The school inclusion team are on hand throughout school hours to support all learners and can be contacted by ringing the school office. There is also key information on the website about how to access support outside of school.

Remote learning

The remote learning plans that were shared with parents before the winter break and last week were put in place to cover a week/fortnight of remote learning. These are currently being reviewed and with the exception of year 11, who are access all their lessons through live events, the current timetables are likely to see some further changes. We will endeavour to increase the level of live lessons prioritising exam classes in the first instance but also providing further opportunities for learner interaction and participation through the online assessment platform in TEAMS. By the end of the week we will be posting you a pack with an exercise book, the remote learning guide and letters detailing the full half term's remote learning package. There will also be assemblies that both learners and parents can watch at the start of next week to explain the remote learning for the rest of the half term. Thank you for your patience as we get the updated information to you as quickly as possible.

Year 11 exams



Unfortunately, our Year 11 learners, parents and teaching staff have been left feeling anxious and unsure about what will happen with the announcement that the final exam series in the summer has been cancelled. We are expecting a further announcement from the Department of Education at some point on Wednesday afternoon where we will receive further guidance, but it is unlikely that we will know the exact details for at least another couple of weeks. Mr Morris will write to Year 11 parents separately as and when we receive further information.

Mass testing

Although the lockdown is now in place, schools have been directed to continue with the planning and implementation of lateral flow testing. We hope to be in a position that school staff will be offered weekly testing next week with the offer of testing for learners currently accessing the school to follow shortly afterwards. The testing is optional, Mrs Marshall will write to families with more information when we are in a position to provide this service.

Free School Meals

The Prime Minister announced that Free School Meal vouchers would be provided for the duration of this lockdown. Unlike the summer term, the distribution of Free School Meals has been devolved to schools to manage. We have arranged for vouchers to be issued via email to eligible families on a fortnightly basis for the duration of the lockdown. Families will be sent a link via email to redeem a voucher for either McColl's, Morrisons, Aldi, Iceland, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose or ASDA. Once redeemed the voucher for the chosen supermarket will be emailed back to you to spend in store.

Vulnerable learners

Whilst school is closed to the vast majority of learners, vulnerable learners are still expected to attend school as normal. Learners are considered vulnerable if they:

- Have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Have an allocated Social Worker
- Have an Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- Are Young Carers
- Are deemed otherwise vulnerable by school (e.g. if they have no appropriate ICT equipment at home).

All vulnerable learners have already been contacted by Dr Potter extending an offer of school provision.

We expect all vulnerable learners to attend school as normal. This is a difficult time for everyone, especially young people. If, however, a parent or carer of a vulnerable young person wishes their child to be absent from school for the duration of the lockdown, they should let the school know in writing that this is the case. Written requests should be forwarded to

m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

Vulnerable learners who are not attending school will be contacted regularly by members of the school's Inclusion Team.

Information about support services for families and young people is available on our website. Members of the SEND and Inclusion Teams are also in school to support during this period and are contactable via the main office.

Critical Workers

School also remains open to the children of critical workers. You can find a definition of a critical worker by clicking [here](#). If you are a critical worker and your child requires provision in school we will require 5 working days notice of this. All requests for provision in school should be forwarded to keyworkers@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

COVID related absences

Learners accessing provision in school should continue to follow the COVID absence procedures. Learners should not attend school if they have any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, cough or loss of taste/smell). They should notify school of the absence and arrange a test. All test results should be reported back to school as quickly as possible. Out of hours, this can be done by emailing covid@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions about the current provision that is in place.

Yours faithfully,



Fay Beach
Headteacher