



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

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Dear Families,

I am delighted to be able to write to you as the new Head of School for Rayner Stephens High School. I am excited and eager to start working with the learners, staff and families, to ensure we are providing the highest quality of education at Rayner Stephens. I look forward to meeting you all in September.

Although there are still a few weeks to go until the start of the 2021/22 academic year, we have already started gathering views and opinions from learners, staff and families around what currently works well and what could be improved. The feedback has been extremely informative and is helping us shape the planning ready for the new school year.

As the Head of School, I will ensure that we communicate with our families regularly and with clarity around your child's education, policy changes and updates and all of our positive and exciting news stories. **There are some key updates and changes that we are bringing in ready for the new academic year** (see below), that will enable us to have the best start, and to ensure that all of our conversations with learners are focussed on learning and how we can best support them to be successful.

I would ask that families and learners note in particular the points about uniform, make-up, jewellery, shoes and mobile devices.

Pastoral Care and Support

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all of our learners are supported throughout their time with us and to further improve our ability to do this, we are changing the pastoral structure to provide additional staffing in this area. **From September, we will be expanding the pastoral team to have five non-teaching Heads of Year who will be the first port of call for learners and families in each year group.**

The Heads of Year will be available throughout each day to support learners with any pastoral needs. This will enhance our support and inclusion capacity significantly across every year group. We will write to you again before September with details on who will be your child's Head of Year and how you can contact them.

Positive Praise and Recognition and Behaviour for Learning

Our overriding focus with learners will be on learning and enjoyment of school and we understand that young people achieve well in environments that are supportive, caring and recognise and celebrate achievements together. **To help create this environment at Rayner Stephens we are bringing in a new Positive Praise and Recognition approach as part of the Excellence and Behaviour for Learning Policy which will ensure that the successes of all learners inside and out of the classroom are recognised, praised and celebrated every day.**



A full explanation of what will be in place for praise and recognition will be provided before September but we are already excited about the praise messages you will be receiving regarding your child's hard work and achievements.

The school is also working on a new Behaviour for Learning policy, this will be shared with all families and learners in September. We hope that these changes will provide clarity of behaviour expectations to all Rayner Stephens learners, staff and families and ensure that the school is a safe, respectful and purposeful learning environment for all. Learners will always be asked to rectify and correct the issue that we have raised with them, be this behaviour or uniform related. These are classed as reasonable requests. If a learner fails to comply with a reasonable request then a further sanction will be issued, this may include a fixed term exclusion. Families should be clear that this applies to all reasonable requests. **All after school detentions will take place from 2.55pm to 3.55pm.**

We are also launching a new school communication system, this will ensure that families and learners have up to date information at your fingertips. As families you will be able to clearly see the rewards your child has received, alongside poor behaviour choices and detentions. This system will also remove the need for a school planner as all homework will be set and linked for all to see using this new system.

A full update and joining instructions for our new and improved communication systems will be sent to all families in September.

Uniform (including footwear, make-up, jewellery and mobile phones)

As a school, we must seek to reverse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our children's education as swiftly as possible. The majority of our conversations need to focus on learning and how staff can support learners to be more successful. By having high and clear expectations, we remove the need to constantly discuss the things that simply 'get in the way'.

We have made some slight changes to the uniform for September which are outlined below but I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the uniform requirements that are already included in our uniform policy.

The main changes with uniform have been made to the girl's uniform requirements. We have based these changes on learner and family feedback

- **All learners (Boys and Girls) will now be required to wear a plain white school shirt.** The traditional blouse that has been worn as part of the girl's uniform must no longer be worn.
- **A school tie must be worn at all times by all learners (Boys and Girls) The school will provide all female learners with a new tie on their first day in September,** to help support this change of uniform, including all Year 7 learners joining RSHS in September.
- Skirts must be a school grey skirt and must be worn correctly (not rolled up or fastened to higher than the intended length). **All skirts must be a minimum of 20 inches in length and have the school logo on the outside of their skirt. The new style school skirt can be purchased from the outlets listed below:**

You can purchase the skirt along with your other uniform items from Top Marks in Ashton under Lyne, Kids Stop in Hyde, and MCS in Ashton under Lyne.

- The school skirt must always be worn with plain black tights (minimum of 60 denier). **Bare legs or socks are not permitted when wearing the school skirt.**
- Girls are allowed to wear school trousers if they chose, but they must be in-line with the school trouser requirements outlined below.

The full uniform policy is available through the school website but I have included here a summary of what is required.

- All learners must wear the full school uniform at all times
- **School shoes must be plain black school shoes made of a polishable material. We do not permit high boots, ankle boots, high visibility buckles/bows/coloured laces or tags. Trainers or canvas shoes are not permitted. This includes Nike, Vans, Converse and other sport brands.**
- School trousers should be smart plain mid-grey school trousers, and must have a side pocket. Trousers that are 'skinny fit', tight or short length are not permitted.
- Socks under trousers must be plain black ankle socks
- School shirts must be plain white and formal shirts. These must be tucked in at all times
- Mid-grey plain knitted jumper or tank top must be worn at all times
- The school blazer is to be worn at all times, including on corridors and open spaces/dining halls etc.
- Learners must wear the school tie. The top button on the shirt must be fastened and the tie worn appropriately.
- Make-up must be discreet and natural with no false eyelashes or acrylic/false nails, this includes nail varnish
- Hoodies are not allowed to be worn once inside the school building.
- **Jewellery must not be worn other than one pair of stud earrings.** A wrist watch is the only other permissible exception (not a smart watch)
- Learners are required to bring a school bag every day
- **No phones, smart watches or any other electrical devices are allowed to be used inside the school building at any time.**
- Energy drinks, of any kind, are not allowed in the school.

Learners who breach the policy will be asked to address the issue raised. **Jewellery, mobile devices and hoodies will be confiscated and stored in reception, whereby learners can collect them at the end of the day. A one-hour detention will also be issued.** Detentions will also be issued for other breaches of the uniform policy.

Times of the School Day

It is important to note that learners will need to be **on site by 8:40am. Learners arriving after 8:40am will be issued with a 15-minute break time detention.**

We will be holding a split lunchtime with years 8 and 9 on first lunch from 12:25pm - 12:55pm. Years 7, 10 and 11 will be on the second lunch at 1:25pm - 1:55pm.

Please note the school day will end at 2.55pm from September.

We will be offering an exciting and extensive extra-curricular offer of clubs and groups that will run after school from 2:55pm - 3:55pm. We would like to have as many learners as possible attending these sessions and a full list of available activities will be advertised in the new academic year.

Exciting developments

Stamford Park Trust has secured £1.3 Million to improve the school facilities for our learners and staff. This work will start over the summer holiday period, with three new science labs being built, alongside other improvements to the school building. We will be working with learners, staff and families on how and what we use some of this money for during our next phase of development work

Returning to School in September

The summer holiday period will be a busy one in school, with three new science labs being built, alongside other improvements to the school building. We are hopeful that schools will be able to return to some form of normality in September, following what has been an extremely challenging and difficult time for everybody. We are however aware that schools may need to continue to carry out some form of Covid-19 testing to ensure the safety of all learners, staff and families. We will write to you over the summer with an update on any requirements for learners returning in September.

The dates for returning to school are as follows:

Wednesday September 1st:	INSET Day: Staff Only
Thursday September 2nd:	INSET Day: Staff Only
Friday September 3rd:	New Year 7 Only
Monday September 6th:	Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 Only
Tuesday September 7th:	Full school returns.

We will be writing to you prior to September with additional updates on some of the policies and systems I have referred to in this letter and to provide further details on the return to school, but for now I would like to wish all our families a pleasant and enjoyable Summer and I look forward to working with you all in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr. M Davies
Head of School