



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Coronavirus COVID-19 – Information (Week Beginning 18 May 2020)

May Half Term

Please note that the school will be closed to all learners and staff during the scheduled May Half Term (Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2020, inclusive).

School Closure

The school remains closed to the majority of learners. This is as a result of the national school closures which have been in place since Monday 23rd March 2020. The school is only open to your child if you have been contacted by school in writing to inform you that your child is eligible to attend. School is only currently open to those learners with an allocated Social Worker, are in the care of the Local Authority, have an EHCP or are the child of a key worker.

Parents should only send their child to school if this has been pre-arranged and agreed with school. Please contact Dr Potter via email (m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk) or phone (07395978602) to discuss your child attending.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10th May 2020 about his long term plan to lift the lockdown. In his statement he expressed his hope that Year 10 students would be able to return to school prior to the summer holidays to meet with their teachers. He suggested it is highly unlikely that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 would return to school before September. We currently have no further information from the government about when and how schools will re-open. As soon as we do we will notify you.

Support to you and your child during the closure

The school may be closed but we are still here to provide guidance and support to any of our families who may need it. A member of the school's Safeguarding Team will be in school every day and available to speak with over the phone. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any help or support.

You can find details of support available to your and family during the school closure, alongside a list of key contacts in school, [here](#).

You can also find guidance about how to support your child with their nutrition, mental health, bereavement etc. on the school's website, [here](#).

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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Learners entitled to a Free School Meal

The government has introduced a national voucher scheme for all learners who are eligible for Free School Meals. For parents who have signed up to this scheme, they have been emailed a voucher each week, worth £15 per child per week, which can be used at their local supermarket of choice. From this week, however, parents who have signed up to the scheme will receive a £30 voucher each fortnight for their child.

All vouchers have now been requested for the weeks ending 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th April and 1st 8th and 15th May 2020.

You can find a letter about how to sign up for Free School Meals and the national voucher scheme [here](#).

You can find a further letter about the issues all schools have been experiencing with the national voucher scheme and what school is doing about this [here](#).

You can find guidance and FAQs from EdenRed, on how to claim your voucher once you have an e-code, [here](#).

Work to complete during the school closure

During the partial school closure, school have made resources available to all learners online. Learners in Year 11 have been provided with a pack of work to complete.

Below is a link to the school website pages that detail work that learners can complete during the closure. This is updated regularly.

<https://www.raynerstephens.org.uk/Home-Learning-Resources>

Learners can access their school email and staff are contactable, via email, during the normal school day, for support.

If your child does not have access to the internet or a computer and cannot access the work available on the school's website, please contact school who will be happy to arrange a pack of work for your child.

What about the GCSE and A level examinations?

The government has announced that the summer examinations for the class of 2020 (Year 11) will no longer take place. GCSE examinations will not take place in May and June.

Ofqual released information about how they would award grades on Friday 4th April. You can find a letter from Ofqual [here](#).

You can find a letter from Mrs Cooke, Deputy Headteacher, to all Year 11 learners [here](#).

As yet we do not have a full update with regards to our current Year 10 learners and what this will mean for them as the OFQUAL consultation for this does not end until the 29th April 2020. After this date and when further information becomes available we will be back in touch to share any relevant information with all our families.

You can find a letter from Mrs Cooke, Deputy Headteacher, to all Year 10 learners [here](#).

My child is in Years 10 or 11 and they need careers advice. What support is available?

Positive Steps will be working hard to engage with young people and parents to continue to offer support career information and guidance. This includes:

- Telephone and video conferencing where possible
- Development of information videos for young people highlighting help and support available to young people
- A duty system each day where advice and guidance can be accessed
- Support for young people and families who need advice regarding progression to Education, employment and training

Please contact Caroline Batty, the school's Positive Steps Careers Adviser, on carolinebatty@positive-steps.org.uk or Tameside Positive Steps on 0800 484 0407 or 0161 621 9292 in the first instance. Caroline will endeavour to support, with the priority given to learners in Years 10 and 11.

Are you a Key Worker?

Schools are remaining partially open to support Key Workers going to work.

The government defined what job roles are considered key workers. These include those working in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communications and financial services.

You can find the full details here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you are a key worker and require your child to be in school please contact Dr Potter (m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk).

Symptoms?

If your child or anyone in your household has a **high temperature** (37.8 degrees or above) or a **new continuous cough** or a **loss of smell/taste** the household should **self-isolate** for 14 days.

Students should not worry as it appears that the young are the least vulnerable age group. It is important though for them to take precautions so that they do not pass infection to people who may be more affected.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Where can I find more information about Coronavirus?

From the following websites:

Government's Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

Department for Education's Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

NHS Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

What can I do?

STAY AT HOME! The government has released these guidelines:

- You and your child should not meet up with people you do not live with
- You and your child should not meet up with family members from outside of your household
- Only leave the house for essential food or medical supplies or to exercise. Do this as infrequently as possibly.
- If you do need to leave the house, stay at least 2 meters away from other people
- You can travel to and from work, but only where you cannot work from home

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

How will parents be informed of any changes from school?

We will inform parents via text, email and the school website if there are any changes we are advised to make. Please ensure that the school has the most up to date contact details so that we can provide essential information quickly and accurately. If you need to update your contact information, please contact the school office.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about this guidance?

Please contact Dr Michael Potter (Education Welfare Manager) if you have any questions or queries about this information. He can be contacted by email (m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk) or by phone (07395978602).