



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear families,

RE: Phased Re-opening of Rayner Stephens High School to Learners in Years 7-10, January 2021

Following on from the government announcement yesterday I can confirm that learners in years 7-10 will not be returning for face to face teaching before Monday 18th January 2021.

Between Tuesday 5th January and Friday 15th January 2021 Years 7-10 learners will access their lessons through a combination of TEAMS live events and independent learning activities. This is the same system they used from June onwards as part of their remote learning. They will be expected to attend all live lessons following their daily timetable that was sent to parents before the Christmas holiday. The initial timetable that was published only provided remote learning for the week beginning 5th January. Following the announcement the school will publish a timetable for the week beginning 11th January when we return to work next week. The link to each live lesson will be emailed to learners. All learners can access TEAMS through a laptop, Ipad/tablet or smart phone. There is full guidance on accessing remote learning through live lessons on the school website, including step by step videos. Any learners having issues accessing TEAMS from Tuesday onwards can contact the ICT team by ringing through to main reception or by emailing admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

Learners will be expected to attend all lessons and form time through the live events and complete all remote learning work that is set by the class teacher ready to hand in when learners return to school on 18th January. Families were informed of the remote timetable for each year group at the end of last term, copies of these letters can be found on the school website or by accessing the insight app.

The school has a record of all learners' ICT access at home, any learner who does not have the relevant equipment has been added to the vulnerable learners list and will be sent a separate letter advising them that they can access their learning through school from Tuesday 5th January. This is also the case for all learners of parents that are key workers as well as all other learners that are classified as 'vulnerable' using the government criteria. Dr. Potter sent these letters out in the final week of last term, if you have not received one and feel that your child should be classed as vulnerable, key worker, or not having the correct ICT equipment please contact Dr Potter on m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk as soon as possible.

The school feels that remote live lessons are a key element of remote learning to engage learners and provide the highest quality of remote learning at this time. However our ability to provide these lessons will depend on staff levels when we return in the New Year. The Tier 4 restrictions have led to reductions of staffing in school and to date we are unable to confirm how many, if any, staff are currently impacted by self-isolation/sickness. Staffing levels will be

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

Rayner Stephens High School Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 5BL **Headteacher:** Ms F. Beach
e: admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk t: 0161 338 2374 f: 0161 338 9200 w: www.raynerstephens.org.uk



reviewed daily and if live lessons are unable to run for a particular session learners will be notified through their email and independent activities will be set for that lesson.

Those learners entitled to Free School Meals will receive vouchers similar to the process during the first lockdown. Dr. Potter will write to families separately on Monday to inform you of how the vouchers will be distributed to you.

On Monday we are expecting the first shipment of lateral flow tests to be delivered. The school will be working quickly to recruit and train staff to support the mass testing process. School staff and Year 11 learners will be the priority group to test first, hopefully by the end of the first week with all other year groups the following week. The school will write to you again at the start of the term to share the latest information about how testing will take place and the process for all learners.

At this stage the information we have been provided by the Department of Education states that Years 7-10 learners will be returning to school on Monday 18th January however, this is subject to review by the government. The situation appears to be changing rapidly across the country and at this stage we cannot rule out further announcements that might extend the remote learning period for these learners. As yet we do not know how long it will take for the mass testing to be ready and this will be a key factor in any review that takes place next week. If the government does announce further extensions to remote learning we will continue with the remote learning approach that has already been shared with you.

Staff will be returning to school on January 4th 2021 for the INSET day and then will be in the building throughout the week delivering live lessons and supporting the setup of mass testing. The reception will be manned as usual from 8am-4pm and all safeguarding, inclusion and SEND staff will be available throughout the day to support learners and parents if required. We understand that this continues to be a very difficult time for families and our learners. Please do not hesitate to contact the school from Monday if you feel your child is in need of additional support at this time or if you have any questions about the remote learning provision.

Thank you for your continued support, best wishes for the New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Fay Beach
Headteacher