



Rawmarsh Community School



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MTN/JRO

September 2019

Dear Parent

It is a privilege to welcome all our students back to Rawmarsh Community School for a new academic year. I hope that you and your child had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you are excited to see what new challenges and success 2019 and 2020 will bring.

At Rawmarsh Community School it is the commitment of each and every member of staff to ensure that we do our utmost to send all students into an ever changing world ready, able and qualified to play their full part in it. As a result, we all strive to ensure that students not only achieve in formative and summative examinations but also develop the personal qualities and attributes required to be the very best they can be.

There is nothing more powerful in education than a successful home, school and student partnership. Working together is a cliché that is used often, but it is appropriate to stress how important collaboration is to do the very best by all of our children.

Our expectation is that you send your children ready for the day ahead, and equipped to learn. Your expectation of us must be to embrace this 'readiness to learn,' and to stretch, challenge and nurture the talent of all students on our roll. Our promise is to help all students to be the best student they can be and to never do less for your child as we would for our own. Parental partnerships are crucial if we are to deliver that promise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their unconditional support with regard to the new uniform. I have said, on many occasions, that a student in correct uniform is a student 'on message' who meets our high expectations on a daily basis. To see such support from the community we serve makes me very proud to work at Rawmarsh Community School. Uniform is fundamental in ensuring a calm and business-like atmosphere in any school and therefore is central to effective discipline and outstanding behaviour for learning. Our uniform has never looked better.

This summer saw another Year 11 cohort leave us and we are proud to say that 72% of students achieved a grade 4 or better in English and 59% achieved a grade 4 or better in Maths. Progress 8 is a measure of the progress children make between the end of Key Stage 2 (Primary) and Key Stage 4 (Secondary). A school's Progress 8 score is usually between -1 and +1 and a school achieving a score of -0.5 or lower is not meeting the government's minimum expectations. A score of +1 essentially means that students in that school achieve one grade higher in each qualification than other similar students nationally. A score of -1 means they achieve one grade lower. At Rawmarsh our progress score is 0 which means that, on average, students in Year 11 made expected progress. We are proud of all our Year 11 students who left us in 2019 and wish them a very bright and successful future.

Some highlights to recognise from 2018-19:

Yet again, our end of year awards assemblies saw a record number of student achievement celebrated with between 89 and 119 students in each year group winning an award. It was a pleasure to see so many parents and families join us. When I spoke at the assemblies I mentioned how proud I was to see the change in climate at the event over the past four years and as always we appreciate your support in making our awards assemblies what they are. This year Mrs Shaw is looking into the possibility of hosting our assemblies at an external venue so that all students and parents can be present. We will be in touch in due course.

One of our core priorities is to help students become 'ready and able' and nothing is more powerful in helping us to achieve this than the variety of extra-curricular enrichments that we offer. Last year we saw many of our students enjoy visits to *Krakow*, including a visit to *Auschwitz*, *Madrid* as part of our football tour, *Folgarida* on the ski slopes, *Broutel* to the French Christmas markets and that life changing adventure to *Tanzania*. This year we hope to see as many students as possible taking up the opportunities to broaden their horizons.

Another area of our enrichment we are particularly proud of is our involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award gives students the chance to do something completely new and improve on things they are already doing, taking them out of their comfort zone in the process. Last year 51 students in Year 9 were working towards their Bronze Award and 99 from Year 10 and Year 11 working towards their Silver Award. As with every year, we hope to increase these numbers moving into 2019-20.

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"We want to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their part in it".



Performing Arts is an area of school that I am particularly proud of. Each and every year we reach new heights and last year's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was the best I have seen in my time at Rawmarsh. Movement Evening did not disappoint once again and both events showcased the huge array of talented performers we have at Rawmarsh Community School. Performing Arts is a fundamental part of establishing a high challenge, low fear culture in any school and as a result will continue to be a central part of both our curricular and extra-curricular provision.

The highlights above depict the skills and attributes that are central to the Rawmarsh Way and that our students demonstrate on a daily basis. I am very proud of all the achievements of our students last year and I am excited to see what this academic year has in store for us.

Some updates and things to look forward to for 2019-20:

Our Performing Arts production this year, *Beauty and the Beast*, will take place at Christmas between the 10th and 12th December. I am excited to see how the students and staff involved will endeavour to put on another performance that we will all enjoy.

Over the years, R Factor has grown from a small platform for students to perform to a professional showcase of our very talented singers. This year the final will take place on 12th February and I hope to see many of you there supporting and enjoying the collection of talent on offer.

Every year we prioritise our work for charity. Throughout this academic year, each year group will have a series of small events aimed at raising money for selected charities that are close to our hearts. In addition, our annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 11th October with Year 7-10 taking part and raising as much money for charity as possible. Let's aim to break last year's record.

We will also be having a big push on careers and enterprise this year. Some upcoming events will include our Year 7 employability day, Y11 careers day on 11th October and the Tenner Challenge in early 2020.

I have always been a big believer in celebrating success and rewarding students for their exceptional performance. With this in mind, we are looking to increase the recognition of success and number of rewards. Our new Gold, Silver and Bronze reward structure ensures that the most deserving students receive the highest level of recognition. Furthermore, all year teams have been tasked with organising a full programme of trips and events. We will be writing in due course to explain our new approach.

As I said earlier, parent and school partnerships are crucial. A final initiative we are looking to introduce is our new parental engagement offer with regard to future workshops, information evenings and school performances. This year we are fully committed to offering a range of informative evenings to increase student, teacher and parent understanding of a wide range of contemporary issues such as:

- How can I support my child in IT, English and Maths?
- What is revision and how can I help my child?
- Understanding the risks associated with social media

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. By working together in the 'Rawmarsh Way' we will continue to ensure that our children leave school able, qualified and ready for the ever changing world in which we live. My staff and I are excited by the prospect of continuing to work with you. The combination: home, school and student here at Rawmarsh will prove to be unbeatable.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Turton
Associate Headteacher