



Rawmarsh Community School



Executive Headteacher: Helen O'Brien BSc. Hons.
Headteacher: Matthew Turton BA.
Associate Deputy Headteacher: Mark Conlin BSc. Hons.

MTN/JRO

Dear Parent

I would like to say thank you for your ongoing support in what turned out to be a school year like no other. What came along in March changed all of our lives dramatically as we were all thrown, without much warning, into an unprecedented situation. Although we have all found the length of the school closure hard to accept as we have missed our students dearly, I am in awe of how each and every member of staff and students have adapted to the new reality, and a new way of teaching. The manner in which we all, staff, students and parents, have embraced home learning is a credit to us and, although it has not been perfect, we should all look back on the last 16 weeks with a great sense of pride.

Never before have we had to demonstrate the Rawmarsh Way to the extent we have during the last 16 weeks. Remember that throughout this demanding time we have all **taken responsibility, risen to the challenge, supported others around us and never given less than our best.**

Our staff and students have worked tirelessly over the last 16 weeks to ease the learning deficit caused by the school closure and the absence of traditional classroom teaching. As we look forward to September and anticipate moving towards a full school reopening we all, staff, students and parents, have a responsibility to **support each other, never give less than our best** and continue to **work hard**. This has been an unprecedented time for education and a challenging time for each and every one of us. We should be immensely **proud of our achievements** during the school closure and I am excited that we are able to welcome all our students back to school as part of our phased return after the summer holiday.

Staff Leavers

We would like to offer our gratitude to staff members who are leaving Rawmarsh this year. The commitment, dedication and conscientious approach to support all of our students from Mr Ali, Mr Bagnall and Mr Gough has been hugely appreciated. We wish them all well in their future endeavours.

We would also like to inform parents that from September Miss Robinson and Miss Glover will begin their roles as Student Progress Manager for Year 7 and Year 11, respectively.

GCSE Results Day

GCSE results day will take place on Thursday 20th August. However, due to Covid-19 and social distancing measures, results day will be slightly different. You will receive an email or letter closer to the time giving you a specific time, venue and entrance to use to collect your results. Students will have to come into school alone at this set time and adhere to social distancing measures and one-way systems in place in and around school.

Rawmarsh Community School
Monkwood Road, Rawmarsh, Rotherham, S62 7GA
Tel: 01709 710672 Fax: 01709 710078
Email: rcsmail@rawmarsh.org Web: www.rawmarsh.org



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



The Rawmarsh Pledge

I introduced The *Rawmarsh Pledge* to our students in May and I am excited to celebrate all their achievements when we begin our reopening in September. As I said in May, The *Rawmarsh Way* sits at the very heart of the *Rawmarsh Pledge* and our sole objective is to encourage students to develop their personal skills, attributes and broaden their horizons, in order to demonstrate:

- Active Citizenship
- Fundamental British Values
- Life Skills

The *Rawmarsh Pledge* will become a record of personal achievement for all our students and will be at the very heart of our school when our doors reopen. As we have throughout the school closure, we must continue to **support those around us** and inspire our students to push themselves out of their comfort zone and achieve things that we may have previously thought out of our reach.

Achievements during the school closure

There are individual men and women, and there are families. The school closure has tested each and every one of us, staff, students and families. However, I am immensely proud in the manner that our entire school community has **risen to the challenge** and **never given less than our absolute best** throughout the last 16 weeks. We should all be incredibly **proud of our achievements**.

There are far too many achievements to celebrate but I wanted to draw particular attention to some of the stand out moments. Firstly, our extremely talented Performing Arts students who went viral on Radio Sheffield with their performance of 'I'll Be There For You.' What a way to showcase both our support for one another, and the sheer breadth of talent at RCS. Allana Kennedy rose to a significant personal challenge by completing the 'Alps to ocean' walk which was in excess of 200 miles; an achievement that demonstrates resilience and an unwavering **self-belief**. Alys Blood competed in the UK National Schools dance competition and came 2nd; 2nd in the entire country. Some of our students took up my Rawmarsh Pledge challenge by learning new skills such as Bonnie Inman and Brooke Matthewman who spent time learning sign language. Rygel Berry, Marci Walsh, Ella Bingham, Hannah Surtees, Lewis Thornton participated in the "big bang digital" science, engineering and COVID-19 project online to celebrate the amazing work of scientists and engineers in a pandemic. Curtis Yip has written and produced an anti-racism campaign video for Rotherham Youth Cabinet, as part of his role within the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Steering group. He has had weekly Zoom meetings with local MPs to discuss youth impacts, changes and improvements that can be made. Finally, Caden Bray completed part of his Duke of Edinburgh during lockdown by volunteering to do jobs for local residents.

All of the above achievements, and the many more that have happened throughout our community in recent months, demonstrate how fortunate we are to work with a group of students who are second to none with all the potential in the world.

September reopening

Our thoughts must move now to September, in the hope that we will see a return to some normality. We will continue to work hard and have high expectations of each other. The expectation of our absolute best must remain a key focus for us as we move forward. In order to allow us to ensure that procedures are fully in place we will operate a staggered start to the year in September:

- Monday 31st August – August bank holiday (school closed)
- Tuesday 1st September - INSET day (school closed to students)
- Wednesday 2nd September, school will reopen to all students in Year 7 and Year 11
- Monday 7th September, school will open to all Year 10 students (in addition to Year 7 and Year 11)
- Wednesday 9th September, School will open to all Year 8 students (in addition to Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11)
- Monday 14th September, school will be open to all Year 9 students and commence full reopening.

To prepare for return to school in September:

- Your child will need to wear full school uniform. The only exception to this is on the day your child has PE when they can wear their Rawmarsh PE kit to school. This is so we can avoid the use of changing rooms.
- Your child will need to bring equipment including pencil case, pen, pencil, ruler and rubber with them to school. In addition students will be provided with a mini whiteboard and pen that they can use in all of their lessons.
- Where possible your son/daughter should bring a packed lunch to school, however the food outlets will be open, and a limited menu available. Students in receipt of a free school meal will continue to get food in school. To limit the amount of money in school and avoid use of the thumb print machines parents may only to top up dinner money via ParentPay.
- All of the normal behaviour systems will apply in school and students will be reminded of our Rawmarsh Way expectations when they arrive back at school.
- All year groups will study the full curriculum as normal, taught by subject specialist teachers. Provision will be made for students who are identified as requiring additional support, for example, in literacy or numeracy.

In August, we will write to you again with further details about the plans for reopening and the *time* and *place* your child should report to in September. In the meantime, more detailed information can be accessed through the health and safety leaflet on our school website.

J.B Priestley once discussed how powerful communities were all members of one body and were responsible for one another. Never has this been truer than now or more of a reflection of our community. Rawmarsh is a community that has risen to the challenges of the last 16 weeks, and worked in unison to continue to do the best for our children. I am proud and grateful for the courage, innovation and collaboration we have all shown during the school closure. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution, understanding and unwavering determination to ensure all our students **dream big** in spite of the challenges life throws at them.

I have said it before and I will say it again – it is a real privilege to work alongside so many dedicated individuals here at Rawmarsh. I wish you a restful summer vacation period.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Turton
Headteacher