



# RCS

## NEWSLETTER

RCS NEWSLETTER - NEWS & UPDATES - JULY 2021

### Headteacher's Update

This academic year has been one of many challenges and many successes. It would have been easy for many of us to use the challenges as an excuse.

This is not the Rawmarsh Way and in spite of these challenges and uncertainties that each term has brought, the vast majority of our students saw every day, whether on site or not, as an opportunity to be the best they can be.

A year of bubbles, staggered starts and Heras fencing has been difficult. That said, my staff and I have continued to ensure, whether on site or virtually, that learning and well-being are our priority.

Our students have risen to the challenge and continued to work hard and never give less than our best; for this I am so very proud of each and every one of them.

When September arrives we will all be ready for the new year and ready to empower all our students to embody the Rawmarsh Way and be the absolute best they can be.

Have a fantastic summer!

# WPT Summer School

## Why are Summer Schools taking place?

According to the DfE, the three main objectives of the nationwide Summer Schools initiative are:

- To prepare students for their transition into Y7
- To provide opportunities for academic catch up
- To allow for enrichment experiences missed during lockdown

As with the National Tuition Programme, there are numerous 'government approved' organisations delivering Summer Schools across the country. However, we felt it appropriate to offer our own bespoke programme which is planned and delivered by our own WPT staff in collaboration.

## What is our offer to students?

All Y6 students joining our secondary schools across WPT have been invited to take part in a week long Summer School. As part of the Summer School students will have a taught 'classroom' based session where novel based study is used to blend aspects of English and PHSE, a practical 'creative' session where students are able to design and produce an artefact, and an 'active' sports session with activities taking place both on-site and at Ulley.

With the absence of educational visits over the past 12 – 18 months, we have also included a day trip to Magna Science Adventure Centre for all students taking part in the Summer School as an enrichment experience to provide much needed cultural capital.

## When are Summer Schools taking place?

**Students will be attending during one of two weeks on offer during the first two weeks of the summer holidays: Week Commencing 19th July or Week Commencing 26th July.**

## Who is taking part?

Summer School places have been offered to all Year 6 students across all of our secondary schools across Wickersley Partnership Trust. All places are free and funded by the DfE.

## How many students are taking part?

In the spirit of the WPT community, students from Clifton, Thrybergh, Gainsborough, Wickersley and Rawmarsh will join forces for our Summer Schools and they will be hosted at both Clifton and Wickersley schools. Overall, we have almost 300 taking part from across all of our WPT secondary schools, including 61 Year 6 students from RCS.



# Y11 Results Day

Year 11 results day will be on Thursday 12th August.

A letter has been sent home to all Year 11 students informing them of the arrangements for the day. We are looking forward to seeing as many of our Year 11 students on the day and celebrating their achievements. If you are unable to collect your results on this date, there will be alternative arrangements outlined in the letter for this.

We are so very proud of how, in this challenging time, our students have continued to work hard and never give less than their best.

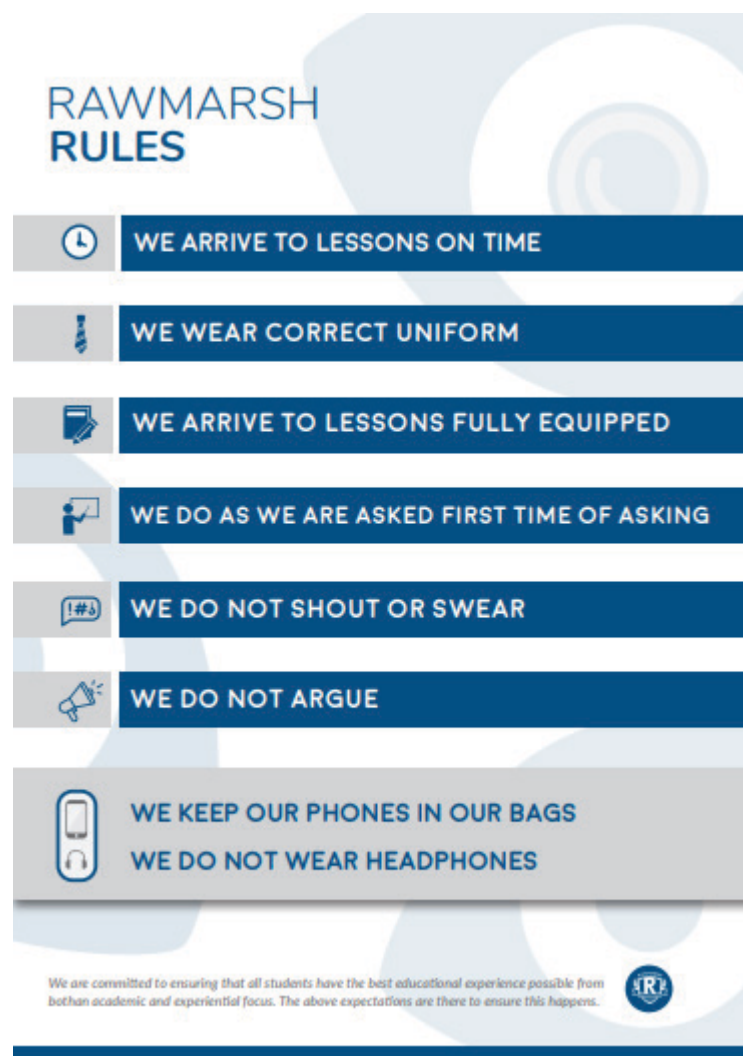
## Expectations in September

This year has been challenging for all students, all parents, and all staff.









In September, we plan for all students to return to a school with no restrictions.

This means year group bubbles can be removed, lessons for all year groups will be held in all areas of the school, and students can once again have greater independence during break times. With this, our high expectations in terms of uniform, attendance, and engagement, will resume.

We have simplified our code of conduct for students into 7 clear statements. These statements are applicable to all students.



**RAWMARSH RULES**

-  WE ARRIVE TO LESSONS ON TIME
-  WE WEAR CORRECT UNIFORM
-  WE ARRIVE TO LESSONS FULLY EQUIPPED
-  WE DO AS WE ARE ASKED FIRST TIME OF ASKING
-  WE DO NOT SHOUT OR SWEAR
-  WE DO NOT ARGUE
-  WE KEEP OUR PHONES IN OUR BAGS
-  WE DO NOT WEAR HEADPHONES

We are committed to ensuring that all students have the best educational experience possible from both academic and experiential focus. The above expectations are there to ensure this happens.

# Uniform

All students must come to school in full uniform each day, bringing their PE kit to change into on days they have PE lessons.

In 2020/21, with consideration of the global pandemic and restrictions in place on us all, we approached our enforcement of this policy with consideration. We understand that acquiring a full uniform has been difficult for some. From September, we expect every student to be in full uniform, to wear no more than one stud or sleeper in each ear, and to ensure no facial piercings are worn. Students failing to meet this expectation can expect to be removed from lessons until this is resolved.

## Attendance

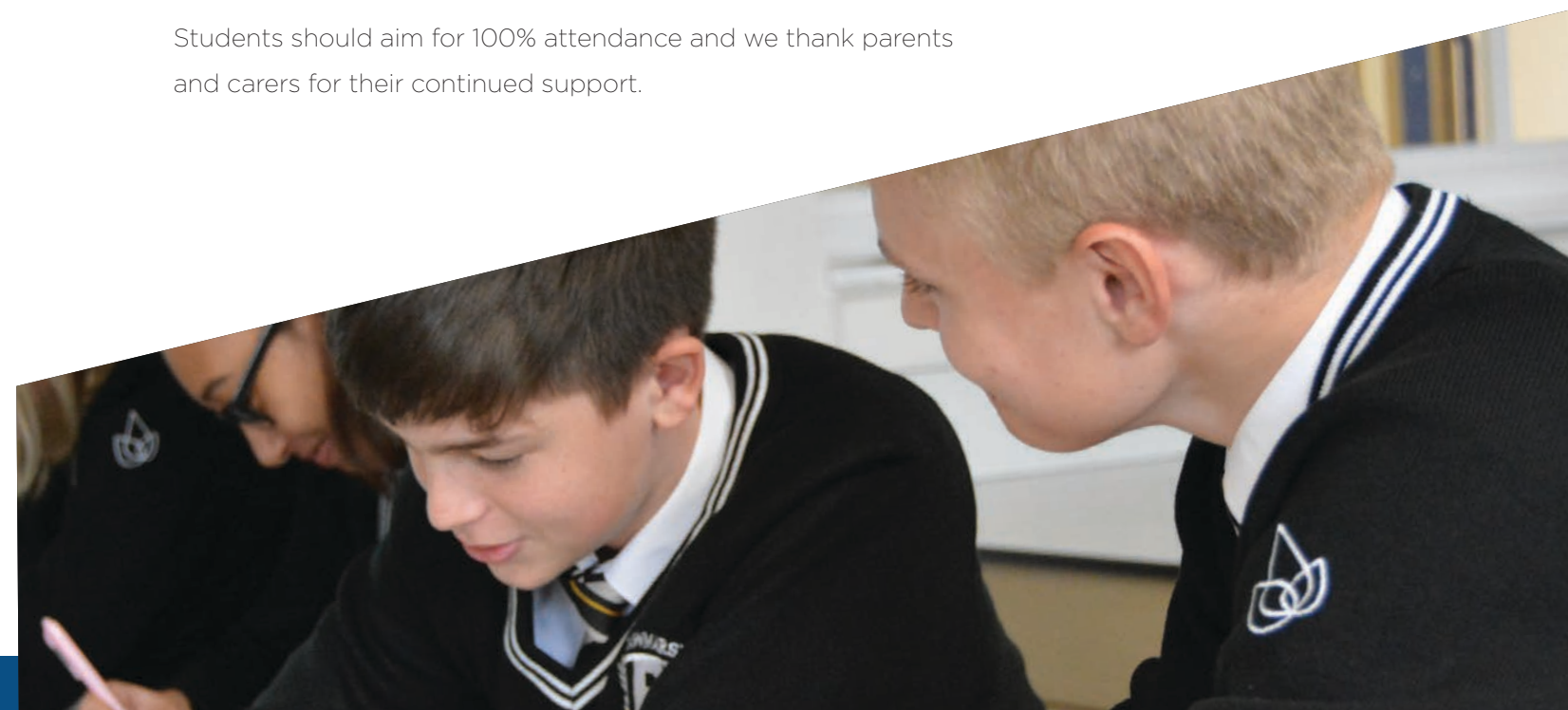
The link between attendance, attainment, and progress of students in school is beyond doubt.

Full attendance is the largest contributing factor of any student's achievement.

**A single day's absence means at least two days' loss of progress.**

- 1) Less than 95% attendance will lead to some underachievement
- 2) Less than 90% attendance will lead to severe underachievement
- 3) Less than 80% attendance will mean that achievement will be very poor to non-existent.

Students should aim for 100% attendance and we thank parents and carers for their continued support.



# Preparing for Learning in September

In September, you will be moving into a new year group, with new teachers and even more learning.

The summer is a time to relax and enjoy yourselves, and as part of that fun there are lots of opportunities for you to use and develop the skills and knowledge you have gained this academic year. These skills are a foundation for what you will need to know and do from September.

The more you recap, the stronger your foundation for learning when we return to school!

## Reading for pleasure

Read (or listen to audio versions of) books that are linked to subjects or ideas you have studied in school this year. You could read fiction stories or non-fiction texts such as articles, blogs or journals. There is a huge variety of texts available online, including a wide range of audio books that are free on YouTube.

## Rise to the Challenge

Mr Ellis has sent you an enrichment grid every week this year. Perhaps you could spend some time applying your learning to an activity, researching new topics or exploring an idea you are interested in. Or, could you go back and watch the documentaries sent to you by Miss Cobb?

COMPLETE  
OUR ENRICHMENT  
GRIDS. DISCOVER &  
LEARN IN A VARIETY  
OF CREATIVE  
TASKS!

CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

### TED Talks

TED talks are talks on a range of different topics delivered by people from different backgrounds.

### Virtual Tours

Lots of museums, zoos, and heritage sites have created virtual tours. Go and explore the National History Museum, Chester Zoo or the Tate Art Gallery!

### Test Yourself

You could find, create or complete a number of fun activities based on things you have learned at school this year.

Can you create a quiz to test your Geography knowledge?

Can you create an experiment to test a scientific theory?

Can you write a book review for a text you studied in English?

Can you create a course around your garden to test your P.E. skills?

## Handy Websites

- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)
- [www.tate.org.uk/kids](http://www.tate.org.uk/kids)
- [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)
- [www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/try-this-at-home.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/try-this-at-home.html)
- [www.nationalgeographic.org/education/classroom-resources/](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/classroom-resources/)
- [ed.ted.com/lessons?direction=desc&sort=featured-position&user\\_by\\_click=student](http://ed.ted.com/lessons?direction=desc&sort=featured-position&user_by_click=student)

# Mental Health

## What is Mental Health?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It influences how we handle stress, relate to others and make choices.

## Impact of the Global Pandemic on Mental Health

As we know, people's mental health has been severely tested over the past 2 years with the onset of the global pandemic.

For our students, who not only have to navigate the many changes and pressures that come with adolescence, it has been especially difficult at times to deal with the stop-start changes and unpredictable nature of the Covid Pandemic.

## What can we do?

As we come to another end of year and the start of the six week summer holidays we would like to remind you of some of the things that your child can do to keep mentally healthy and the support services that are available to access.

## Here are some useful websites which offer a lot of support:

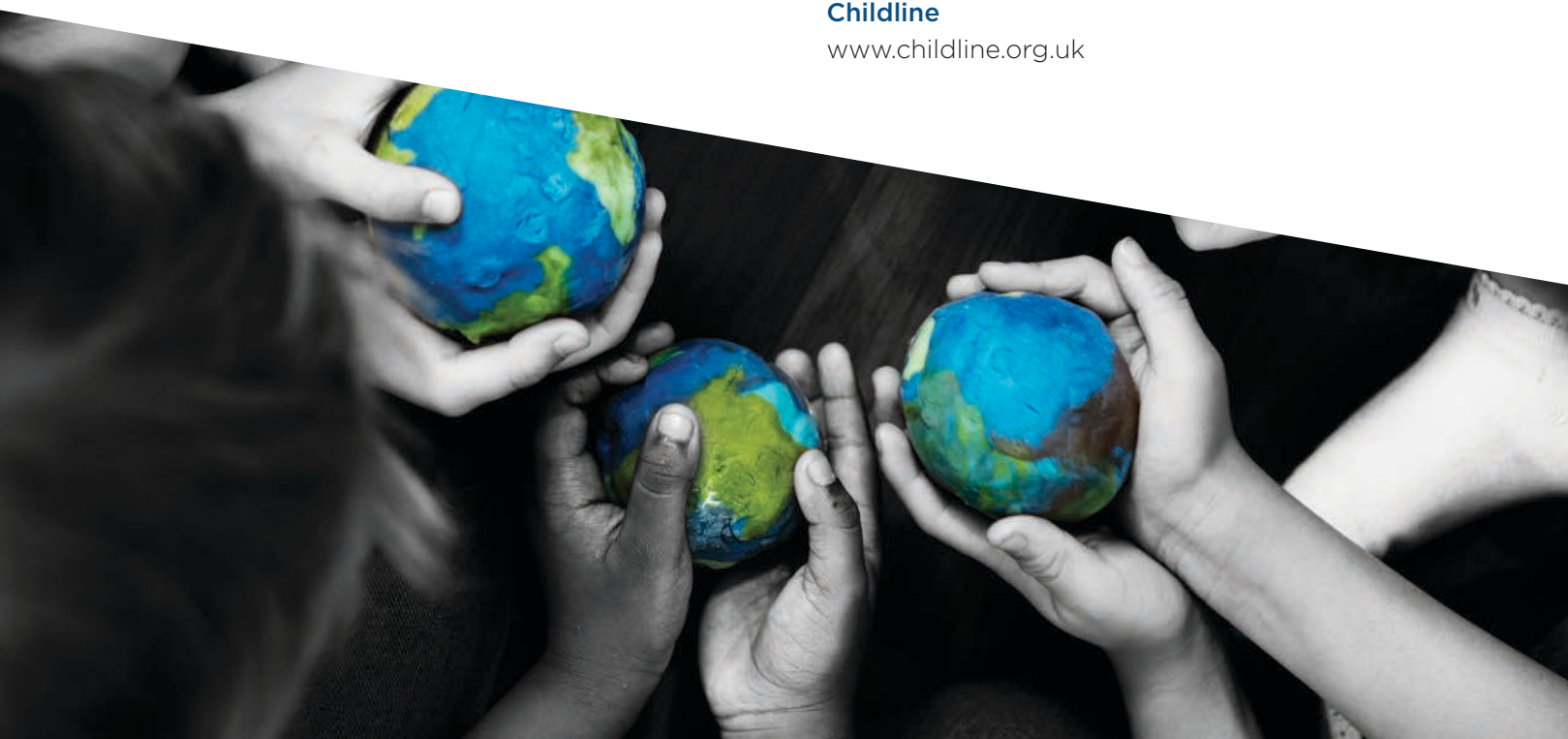
- With Me In Mind**  
[www.withmeinmind.co.uk](http://www.withmeinmind.co.uk)
- Young Minds**  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- Samaritans**  
[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)
- Childline**  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

# Duke of Edinburgh

Since the half term break, many of our Y10 students have been taking part in their practice expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Also, some of our Y11 students returned to school to complete their assessed expeditions for the same award. This year, due to lockdown restrictions, all of our expeditions have taken place locally. This has given students the chance to explore footpaths and bridleways right on our doorstep around Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, Wentworth, Swinton and Elsecar. As part of the expedition, students have also been researching local history and visiting various landmarks such as the Needle's Eye, Wentworth Woodhouse and Keppel's Column.

The students have to navigate using an Ordnance Survey map and must not be helped by staff. They also have to demonstrate the ability to set up camp and cook outside on a stove. All our students showed great determination and rose to the challenge.



# Virtual Work Experience



Speakers for schools offer an extensive range of work experience opportunities - due to their virtual delivery employers all over the country are getting involved and offering sessions which can last from a few hours to a few days. Summer holiday opportunities include:

- VGC Group Civil Engineering: 2nd-6th August
- Game Academy Bootcamp - 16th - 20th August
- WaterAid with Thames Water - 25th August
- RAF careers insight - 23rd August
- NHS next generation nursing - 29th July
- Amey, Balfour Beatty and Willmott Dixon 9th-13th August
- Santander Insight Day - 17th August

To apply for any of the above students need to create a student account at [www.s4snextgen.org](http://www.s4snextgen.org) - Select Rawmarsh Community School as your school. Once registered you can apply for any of the above opportunities and many more; your application will be processed by staff at Speakers for Schools and Miss Mullins in school.

## Brilliant Club Scholars Programme

Congratulations to our Y9 students who have completed this project working alongside a university academic to find out more about the topic they specialise in and complete their own 2000 word final assignment.

This time we have been considering whether we should 'take comedy more seriously' looking at some of the hidden, and perhaps not so hidden meanings. Students attended a virtual graduation event with a campus visit planned for the Autumn term.



### Y11 leavers

Please keep an eye out on the Y11 post-16 google classroom since it is being regularly updated with info on events, employment and apprenticeship opportunities:

[classroom.google.com/c/NTQ1MTQ1MTczNzBa](https://classroom.google.com/c/NTQ1MTQ1MTczNzBa)

If you need help to complete any college, sixth form or apprenticeship applications please email [rmullins@rawmarsh.org](mailto:rmullins@rawmarsh.org)

### Virtual Experience of Work programme - Department for Work & Pensions

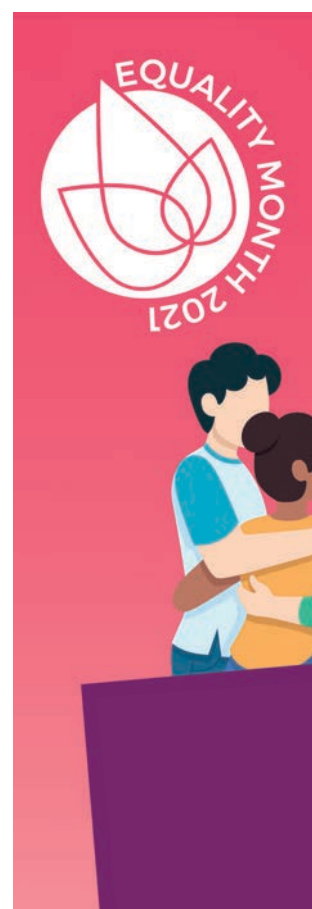
Well done to all our Y10 students who applied for and completed this pilot work experience scheme offered to RCS students. Students completed eight after school sessions taking part in team challenges and learning from guest speakers about the work of the Civil Service; gaining valuable formal work experience to add to their CV's.

# Equality Month

Last month saw schools across the Wickersley Partnership Trust take part in Equality Month. Equality Month aimed to encourage students in all our schools to embrace our differences and celebrate what makes us all unique.

Students spend time in form time having conversations on the importance of listening to people and learning about their experiences. They had discussions on the need to support people of all backgrounds and what we could all do to make our society even more welcoming and inclusive. Students were also encouraged to enter the 'Together, unique' competition in which they could submit any entry as long as their entry was inspired by the tagline. They could submit these entries themselves but also took part in lessons too, coming up with very creative submissions from making posters, to creating dances, and even baking.

Equality Month embodies what we as a school and trust want our students to take away from their time in education. Embracing the things that make us unique and continuously learning from the people around us are qualities that we want all students at RCS to carry with them, even when they have finished with their education and continue to grow into the capable young people we know them to be.



# PSHE

Here is the final installment of the PSHE update. It has been a very challenging year and students have risen to the challenges that this year has faced. There has been some fantastic work within PSHE including Pledge awards, careers workshops, some very mature debates around equality; I want to congratulate each and every student in PSHE.

We have some exciting changes coming to PSHE in September. Firstly PSHE and RE will be working on a rotation. This means all students in Year 7, 8, and 9, will have lessons in both subject areas moving forward. Information about this will be available on the website and you will be able to see the curriculum and updates within these subjects.

We also have plans to bring in outside agencies again starting in October with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue with Year 7 and Year 8 students around hoax calls. More information on these will be available in the new academic year.

I would like to end this update by highlighting the student support section of the website aware.wickersleypt.org. On here there are a lot of links for both students and parents should you or your child need it. I hope you have a safe and pleasant break and I look forward to communicating with you all again in September.

Mrs Mayfield - [hmayfield@rawmarsh.org](mailto:hmayfield@rawmarsh.org)



# SSLT Update

There were some interesting discussions to be had at SSLT meetings regarding Equality Month.

We had some enlightening discussions on various topics as well as members talking about their own experiences and opinions on what equality means to them. Students in SSLT strive to make a difference at RCS and to have the voices of our students heard. They were also eager to have what we discussed shared in their own words to all in the wider community.

‘What equality means to me’  
by SSLT members

Abigail Adegboye Y9:

Equality in the dictionary defines the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities. When I think of equality these topics do come into mind but for me, it means so much more. Being a young black girl in a diverse society constantly reminds me of how privileged I am in life. I am able to study with all sorts of people regardless of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity.

From a young age, I realised that everybody is different. No two people are carbon copies of each other. Just as there are people who like night, there are people who like daytime- maybe both. Everybody is unique. Some people may have the same or similar opinion on one topic but maybe not the other. This may lead to disagreements rather than respecting and accepting that everybody forms different opinions or lifestyles.

Over time I realised that each person has a different story and different people interpret themselves differently; equality allows each person to speak themselves. Each person is given an equal opportunity despite their difference. As a teen growing into a society where women can still face challenges, it inspires me every day that I am not limited because of my gender and some of my close

friends are not limited because of their sexuality; that as long as we strive for a goal we can reach it with hard work.

As a POC, I have faced challenges where I feel like I can't achieve some of my goals because of my skin colour. Sometimes people view my skin colour as a disadvantage because my features do not fit eurocentric beauty standards so I would be less wanted than some of my peers, yet I know they do not need to fit this standard because everyone is unique yet equal at the same time so no one can be above the other person.

In history, many different POCs fought for equal rights because it is important that everybody in life is given their fair chance. I will not take these opportunities for granted because those in history fought for their voices to be heard, so we must carry their accomplishments with pride. Equality to me means that I can come to school not expecting that I will be shot because I am a girl trying to get an education. Equality to me means that I can learn alongside my friends knowing that they won't be shunned because they love the same gender. Equality to me means that other POCs will not face violence or horrendous conditions because of the colour of their skin. Equality to me that everybody has a fair chance to live as they want without being judged.

Amy Thompson Y7:

Equality Month is about being you and no one else. It's about being different and also being your own individual. It is important to have Equality Month as it makes time to look back at all the good things about us and not the bad things and it also makes time for us as well to not look at our similarities but instead to look at understanding and accepting our differences and how everyone is unique.

Kimiko Uttley Y11:

The idea of having an Equality Month with the theme of 'Together, unique' is to let us understand how everyone is different in many ways, and how this unites us, instead of separating us, as a community.

It's important to be unique because it allows everyone to express their own differences, show their own individuality and lets everyone be who they truly are. This month also helps us to look at the idea of equality, and how important this is within our world today. What equality means to me is everyone being given the same opportunities, and everyone having equal chances at whatever they do in the world. In the past, equality has been a big issue that many people have fought to have, so it's important that we use this month to understand what has happened in the past, and how we can increase equality in our world moving forward.

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## Eco-Council Update

Our RCS Eco-Councillors have continued the work they've been doing in their campaign to improve our environment.

They've now had their second session and are about to take part in their third soon. Their last session focused on the campaigning with the aim of building their knowledge in order to campaign successfully when they begin the programme in full next term. The students learned about the various types of campaigns, and discussed which would be most effective when tackling the issue of climate change by considering the benefits and drawbacks of each.

Looking at well-known campaigns, including the recent campaign led by Marcus Rashford, was how our Eco-Councillors decided on the type of campaign they would choose to follow and decided that a combination of although raising awareness was something they wanted to focus on, ultimately they wanted to achieve a practical change just as Marcus Rashford did with his campaign aimed at the government. They left feeling energised and ready for their final session of this term where they'll decide what issue they want to focus on as a group.

The first phase of the Eco-Council is coming to an end and September is when the real work will begin with the students being given the opportunity to address the first phase of the campaign where they make a change at a school level.

We look forward to seeing what important changes they look to make at RCS and beyond.





**Y6**

### **Mrs Hazzard & Miss Glover**

This term we have been busy in preparation for the Y6 transition.

As part of their transition, students have been on tours of the school to help familiarise themselves with the school and its layout. Myself, Mrs Hazzard, their Head of Year, and Miss Glover, their SPM, have been into all of the local primary schools to give a talk about what life will be like at RCS and answer questions the students may have. We have held our 'Meet the tutor' event, where students can become familiar with the other students in their tutor groups and meet their form tutor. Unfortunately this had to happen virtually, but the evening was still a huge success and provided both students and carers with some vital information about their transition.

The Y6 joined us for their transition on the 5th of July, arriving smartly dressed in their new uniform and taking pride in their appearance. They have risen to the challenge and have settled in very well. They are still finding their feet with this big change but they have joined us as prepared and equipped to learn as they could be and there is a lot of excitement amongst them, which seems to have overridden their previous nerves. We are very excited to be starting this journey with you Y6 and myself and Miss Glover cannot wait to see what our journey together brings.

**Y7**

### **Mr Bartle & Miss Robinson**

It's been another excellent half-term for our Y7 students.

We have an incredible 42 students who have signed off a Bronze Pledge, with 200 students now having completed at least one Pledge task. Y7's dedication to dream big and embrace the Rawmarsh Pledge has been remarkable, and I look forward to seeing more students complete Pledges as we go into Y8.

It has been brilliant to recognise those students who have been going above and beyond in a variety of areas of their school lives in the end of year Awards Assemblies. Students have been nominated for their work in lessons, for embodying the Rawmarsh Way on a daily basis, and also the main nominations for Top Boy and Top Girl. Please keep an eye on RCS Social Media for announcements about the winners of all these awards. In Y7 Data Collection 3, it was positive to see the Effort Average of the year group rise, and also to see the number of students reaching Effort Rank 1 go up to 39, which is extremely positive.

Overall, it has been a challenging year for our Y7 students, but they have taken risks to rise to each and every challenge which they have come across, and continued to never give less than their best day in, day out.

**Y8**

### **Miss Merchant & Mrs Small**

This half term has been a tough one, but Y8 have continued to show us why they are exemplary Rawmarsh students.

They never stop working hard, never giving less than their best and believing in themselves, and we couldn't be prouder of them! We have had an outstanding number of students in the year group taking risks and rising to a challenge, achieving CFPs and Pledges this half term, and this is just another example of how dedicated and incredible our year group is. So many of our students have continued to develop their skills through attending various after school activities, from competing (and winning) in rounders, to making glue in Ancient Roman style in science, the year group have taken every opportunity possible to learn new things. We wish all of our students and their families a lovely, and hopefully restful, summer holiday - we can't wait to welcome you back in September as Year 9s!

**Y9**

### **Mrs Shaw & Miss Egginton**

As we come towards the end of this academic year I am sure I speak for all the Year 9 students when I say we are all ready for a break and to return after the 6 weeks recharged and ready to tackle Year 10 and GCSEs head on.

After a full term in school, we have seen some great successes from the year group, yet again they have managed to make myself, Miss Egginton and Mrs Finlayson proud with the way they have adapted to changes across the school, including the reintroduction of tutor time, movement around school to allow for practical lessons to take place, and changes to the start/finish time of their school day.

The Rawmarsh Pledge has been a real highlight of this term with multiple bronze and silver pledges completed. We currently have 42 students who have completed at least 1 bronze pledge with 9 of these students having completed the full bronze pledge (all 3 sections). A massive well done to Abigail Adegboye, Aimee Grant, Amelia Longden, Brooke Richmond, Daisy Oakes, Ella Evans, Hannah Surtees, Laura Skelton and Mischa Walsh. We also have 10 students who have completed at least 1 section of the silver pledge. This is a great achievement and students have been working hard both in PSHE lessons and at home to complete the pledges. When we move into KS4 students we will start over with a new set of pledge criteria and I hope to see many of our students reach gold pledges before they leave in Y11.

During the final week of Term, students will be able to view our annual awards assembly, although for the second year this will be virtual and we will not be able to invite families in to celebrate with us. It is still a fantastic event and a great opportunity for us as a year group to reflect on the past academic year and celebrate the fantastic work the students have done both inside and outside of school - watch out for the link on the website.

Finally, I would like to say a massive well done to everyone in Year 9, this year has not been easy but you have risen to the challenge, never given anything but your best and you should all be proud of your achievements. The Year 9 team look forward to welcoming you all back in September to start your KS4 journey in full uniform, on time, and prepared for learning. Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

**Y10**

### **Mr Leary & Mrs Tapper**

A massive well done to all Y10 students, who have shown impressive resilience and drive during the mock exam period.

They have risen to the challenge of the assessments, displaying adaptability and heart to give their best right up until the end of a very testing academic year. We are so incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far. Wishing each and every student a fantastic end to the school year, and a very happy break over summer. Keep smiling Y10 and stay safe!



FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.RAWMARSH.ORG](http://WWW.RAWMARSH.ORG)