



RCS

NEWSLETTER

RCS NEWSLETTER - NEWS & UPDATES - MARCH 2021

Headteacher's Update

As we approach the Easter break I think it important to reflect on a term that saw our students demonstrate resilience and dedication through remote learning and return to site for face to face teaching for the first time since December.

It has always been my absolute privilege to work for this community. Ever since I joined the school in 2015 pride, comradery, support and ambition have defined the high expectations of staff and students. The past twelve months have demonstrated this now more than ever. The manner in which my staff, the students and our entire learning community have risen to the challenge of the national pandemic is something that I will never forget. Remember, we have come through another school closure together and during that time we should be so incredibly

proud of our achievements, in hope that it will be for the last time, and we must remember that we have achieved so much in spite of the adversity we have all faced.

There is no barrier to learning more significant than absence from a classroom. That said, at Rawmarsh we work hard, never give less than our best and rise to challenges. As such, we have all, staff, students, parents and carers, battled through the barrier and focused on our core business of learning and wellbeing.

We must never forget the outstanding achievements of the last twelve months. Instead, we must use them as a motivator and benchmark for everything we do and continue to do it in our way; the Rawmarsh Way. A famous man once said attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. The attitude of our students is second to none.

Y11 Assessment Information

Y11 have had an assembly this week informing them of the assessment plan moving forward.

Y11 have had an assembly this week informing them of the assessment plan moving forward. Each student will receive a personalised letter before Easter detailing the subjects they will be having a mini assessment in. The key point to remember are that these assessments are another opportunity for every student to showcase what they can do.

These assessments will not be the sole determinant of the final grade, lots of other information will be used, including, but not limited to, previous mocks, internal assessments, end of topic assessments, homework, portfolios of work, practical elements of the course, Non examined assessment and data collected over the duration of the course. For students studying subjects where there is a coursework element, this must still be completed.

If there are any questions about this, please email mnewsome@rawmarsh.org

Y8/9 Options Process

This week, Y8 students have chosen their mini options for Y9.

Over the next coming weeks, they will have an interview with a member of SLT to ensure that every student has made the correct choices for their mini options. Well done Y8 your option forms were all completed by the deadline! Y9 students have had their Options Assembly this week. Over the next few weeks they will make their bespoke subject choices ready for Y10.

Once all the forms have been completed, they will have an interview with a member of SLT to ensure that they have made the correct choices for their options to ensure that they will be able to make a smooth transition to further education or an apprenticeship. If you have any questions about the subjects you should take, speak to your teachers - they will be able to tell you what the course entails, how it is assessed and what it can lead to.

If you want any advice with regards to careers, email rmullins@rawmarsh.org. We are here to help and guide you in your choices, please ask us any questions!

Transition - Rollover



We're delighted to announce that our rollover day, where Y6 students start their education at RCS, will be on Monday 5th July 2021.

All staff and students at the school are really excited to meet our new intake and we hope Y6 students can't wait to join us. Between now and July, we are running a programme of virtual transition events to help welcome Y6 students and parents to the RCS community, and prepare them for life in Y7.

Y6 Transition Evening 'Taster Sessions'



We're giving our Y6 students an opportunity to participate in some curriculum taster sessions to help prepare them for life at RCS.

These will take place in English, Maths and Science from 6pm on Wednesday 24th March. All you need to do to access the sessions is visit our website, and click on the link which will appear at the top of the page. The theme of the event is 'murder mystery' so be prepared to put your detective skills to the test.



Y6 Masterclasses

Our Y6 Masterclasses are taking place throughout this half term for students across all of our feeder schools based in Rawmarsh.

Each of our primaries are logging into our virtual classroom during the school day for a live session introducing a different area of our RCS curriculum each week. Subjects being covered are: French, History, Spanish, Creative Arts and Performing Arts.

All of our subject taster sessions are intended to get students excited about all of the new learning opportunities Year 7 will bring, and also allow them to get to know some of our teachers.

Y6 ‘Meet the Tutor’ Evening



Another date for your diary is Wednesday 9th June when our ‘Meet the Tutor’ event will take place. This will be done live via Google Meet, and will be our final transition event before Y6 students transfer to RCS. The session will be led by form tutors who are the teachers that Y6 students will register with each morning during Year 7.

The session will be led by form tutors who are the teachers that Y6 students will register with each morning during Year 7. For more information, you can visit the Transition 2021 page on our website to where Y6 students and parents can explore a series of videos, including an interactive Virtual Tour of the school, a guide to the Year 7 curriculum and Student Q&A.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish Y6 students all the very best for the rest of Year 6 and we hope that students and parents enjoy our upcoming transition events.

Recall - Chromebooks & Laptops

With school now re-open, we are recalling all devices – including Chromebooks, laptops and dongles – which have been loaned out to support remote learning.

This applies to any device distributed by school during the first period of lockdown last summer or in the most recent phase of school closure from January - March 2021. All devices should be returned to school as soon as possible. They can be handed in to the SPM's office within your child year group bubble. Please remember that chromebooks and laptops must be returned with their charger.

A significant number of the chromebooks we have in school are now out of date and, by returning your device to us, you will be ensuring that your child and their peers are able to benefit from access to better ICT equipment to enhance their learning.

Thank you in advance to all parents/carers for your support with this.

Please return all devices to the SPMs office within your group bubble.

Mr Skirrow



PSHE Update

During lockdown students really rose to the challenge of home learning and there were some real success stories in PSHE.



Within Y7 students learnt about what mental health meant as well ways to support their mental health. Students were set a challenge to create some happy news stories and Miss Widgets class went the extra mile producing some fabulous news stories. A special mention has to go to Madison Symonds who produced a video, well done Madison.

In Year 10 students have also had lessons around mental health focusing on positive coping strategies and re-framing negative thinking. The work has been that good that I will be creating notice board to display within school to support other students who are struggling. Well done to all Y10 students who have submitted this excellent work.

In Year 8, students took part in the career's workshops with some really positive feedback from the students as well as the staff. Through these lessons all of Y8 have been introduced to the START programme which holds their own personal careers locker and is something they can access at any time to research future careers. If any student needs their login they can speak to their PSHE teachers or contact Mrs Mullins, our career advisor, for further guidance. Y9 have also had a lesson planning future careers including a career quiz, I heard there were some interesting answers.

There have been some very aspirational career choices in both years and I very much look forward to having some of these students come back in to inspire others when they reach their goals. Within Year 11 lessons the focus has been on understanding finances, especially around wages and pay slips to ready students for the working world. Within these lessons we have also been looking at how to spot fraudulent messages and contact, something which is becoming a lot more common and is unfortunately something we all need to be aware of.

In this new term Y7 students will have lessons around growing up and puberty, Year 8 around emotional resilience. Within the Y9, Y10 and Y11 rotations students will look at relationships, including knife crime, staying safe in sexual relationships and marriage and family life.

Please look out for an upcoming email with our parental consultation about the new Relationship and Sex Education policy which will explain the new government policy and how we will implement this at Rawmarsh. After the consultation the policy and curriculum plan will be available on the website.

For more information contact Mrs Mayfield - hmayfield@rawmarsh.org.



Y7 RCS Got Talent

Over February half-term, Miss Robinson came up with the brilliant idea of setting our Y7 students a challenge.

A Y7's Got Talent competition was organised, in which every Y7 student had the chance to send in a video of their talent. There were a wide variety of different talents, and every single entry would have been a deserving winner. However, Mr Bartle and Miss Robinson had the difficult task of choosing both a top 3 and a winner.



A live Google Meet took place on Friday 26th February to announce the winner to our Y7 students.

3rd - Olivia Martin (singing)

2nd - Lydia Wilkins (dancing)

1st - Leo Hutchings (beatboxing skills)

The video is available via the RCS website, where you can watch the wide array of talents that were on show. with this.

RCS Pledge Awards

On Tuesday 16th March, a live assembly was held in which we celebrated our Y7 students who had achieved a Bronze Pledge.

Amy Thompson achieved a Bronze Pledge in Active Citizenship. She learnt greetings in 5 languages, researched the career requirements to be a teacher, shared her strengths and weaknesses with her class and also completed several documentaries of the week.

George Purdy also achieved a Bronze Pledge in Active Citizenship. George learnt how to chip in golf, researched the career requirements to be a police officer, as well as sharing his strengths and weaknesses with his class and completing many documentaries of the week.

For more information please contact Mrs Mayfield via email.
hmayfield@rawmarsh.org



Ava Merrick completed her Bronze Pledge in Active Citizenship and Life Skills. Ava learnt the phonetic alphabet and researched the career requirements to be a teacher for her Active Citizenship Bronze Pledge. For her Life Skills Bronze Pledge, Ava created a revision resource to help improve her attainment in Maths, and she also analysed a mistake she made when making some blueberry muffins.

Millie Parker achieved a full Bronze Pledge by completing all the tasks for Active Citizenship, Life Skills, and British Values. Millie researched the requirements to be a dance teacher, shared 5 things she is proud of with her class, and signed off every single Bronze Pledge task. She has already made a great start with the Silver Pledge tasks by conducting an online interview with a potential employer, and also independently raising money for charity.



Abigail Adegboye is the first student in Y9 to complete the Active Citizenship Rawmarsh Pledge. She has fully embraced the Pledge, and has spent a considerable amount of time demonstrating the skills and attributes required. Abigail compiled detailed information about her strengths and weaknesses, and discussed these with the class. She is part of the school netball team, and regularly takes part in competitions and tournaments, where she is a much-valued member of the team.

Abigail has also been learning Japanese, and has even recorded a video of her speaking aloud in Japanese. To complete the final aspect of the pledge, completed detailed career research and interview questions about her dream job, which is to be a psychiatrist. She included the qualifications and personal skills required to carry out this job, as well as including information about what the job would entail. She then mocked up interview questions for the role, and included these in her research.

These 5 students have made an incredible start with the Rawmarsh Pledge and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

We look forward to seeing which students will be next to achieve their Bronze Pledge!





Monday 8th March marked our return to school opening for everyone and also International Women’s Day. During tutor time, students at RCS discussed the importance of International Women’s Day and the need to highlight the importance of the contribution’s women have made to all areas of life.

At an SSLT meeting this half term, we discussed women that we were inspired by and who were also leaders and pioneers in their own right, as we encourage members of SSLT, and indeed all students at RCS, to be. A few of our members highlighted the women that have been traditionally overlooked and why we should hear the experiences of all people and what they did to help us develop into the society we are today. Some of what we discussed is below:

Rosalind Franklin was not recognised in her lifetime for her work. I think it’s important that we know about Rosalind Franklin because her work was really important in the discovery of the structure of DNA, and the researchers who also did work on DNA won the Nobel prize, so I think she should be known for her work too.

- **Kimiko, Y11**

Kathrine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan were all African-American mathematicians who worked for NASA in the 1950s.

I think it’s important to recognise all these women’s achievements because they all worked in a period where racism and segregation in their everyday life was acceptable, and they were all able to achieve their goals even though it would be difficult for them to do so while being oppressed and disregarded because of their skin colour.

- **Abigail, Y9**

Ada Lovelace was an English mathematician and writer who published the first algorithm intended to be carried out by a machine. I think we should remember her as she invented the first computer program and without them today we would be lost.

Also, with COVID, we had to home-school and without computers we wouldn’t have been able to be educated as we did without our computers, phones and tablets.

- **Amy, Y7**



Rosalind Franklin



Kathrine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan



Ada Lovelace



Y7

Mr Bartle & Miss Robinson

Over lockdown, our Y7 students worked hard and never gave less than their best with their online learning. The average Y7 student attended 80.37% of their lessons, with 137 students attending 80% of their lessons or more. Well done, you should be proud of your achievements.

As well as attending their lessons, a number of students were taking risks and rising to a challenge by getting involved in Lockdown Challenges, which covered a variety of themes. There was a World Book Day Challenge, a Cardboard Boat engineering challenge, as well as a Cooking challenge.

There was also an opportunity for students to dream big and enter the Y7's Got Talent competition, which has a huge success and is an idea that will be continued when students are in Y8. When students returned to school, it was great to see lots of them getting involved in the PE extra-curricular activities after school, and making the most of all the opportunities that Rawmarsh has to offer. Overall, we are extremely proud of how our Y7 students rose to the challenge of online learning, but delighted to see them back in school and enjoying their face-to-face learning once more.

Y8

Miss Merchant & Mrs Small

We are so proud of how Year 8 have settled back into school life since returning to the building.

This has not been an easy half term, but you have all continued to amaze us with your work ethic and perseverance to achieve in every situation. You have all risen to challenges over the last 5 weeks, and believed in yourselves, to continue working hard even in the toughest of circumstances.

This half term, you have also looked to the future and dreamed big, researching future careers and speaking to staff in school to help you choose your GCSE options. These have now all been inputted and I'm sure you can't wait to start your courses in Year 9! Continue to work hard and be proud of your achievements Y8, and know that we are extremely proud of you too!

Y9

Mrs Cooper & Miss Egginton

I would like to say a huge well done to all of you for your return to school, effort and attitude over the past week. You have all risen to the challenge, and have settled in like we have never been away.

In our first week back, we managed to get an impressive 275 CFPs! This is testament to working hard and never giving less than your best. I would like to say a huge congratulations to Abi Adegboye, who is the first person in the year group to complete a full Rawmarsh Pledge. I am so proud of all of your efforts Abi, and the work that has gone into completing the activities required. I look forward to awarding pledges to others in the year group soon! Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Miss Egginton or myself if there is anything that you would like to share or discuss with us.

Y10

Mr Leary & Mrs Tapper

Y10 have shown incredible resilience and spirit in the first week back in school, reintegrating back into onsite provision remarkably well.

This year has been an emotional rollercoaster, and we are immensely proud of the spirit and tenacity that the year group has displayed, adapting and rising to the variety of challenges that have, and continue to present themselves. The year group has embraced the Rawmarsh Community ethos, and continues to move from strength to strength. Continue to work hard and never give less than your best.

Y11

Mrs Shaw, Mrs Hazzard & Miss Glover

It has been lovely to have the Year 11 students back in our bubble, seeing them in lessons and backengaging in face to face learning has been great. As a year team we have been really impressed with the resilience and commitment to learning the students have shown.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the following students who did not miss one single lesson of online learning during the recent lockdown. These students are a credit to the school and should be immensely proud of their ongoing efforts and dedication to their studies: **Lucy Beresford, Lewis Cheetham, Jake Crabtree, Aiden Hoyland, Bonnie Inman, Sam Mould, Luca Pilgrim Yates, Georgia Shenton, Kimiko Uttley and Curtis Yip.**

The first week back in school has been full of questions and information as the students start to get to grips with how they will provide evidence towards their GCSE grades. I have been impressed with the maturity students have displayed in this ever-changing situation and hopefully after this week all students are now clear on what they need to do in order to achieve their full potential in each of their subject areas.

The new challenge of wearing masks consistently throughout the day and in lessons has also been a smooth transition and we would like to thank all the Y11's for taking responsibility for their choices and actions, and adapting to this change ensuring, as a community, we all keep each other safe.

This school year for the Year 11s has looked, and continues to look very different. To maintain some traditions, we have handed out the Y11 leavers hoodies this half term; you may see them walking around in a sea of blue.



FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AT
WWW.RAWMARSH.ORG

HAPPY EASTER!

