



8th April 2022

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of another term, it's time for us to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students over the last few months, and to extend our thanks to all of our families who make up our school community for your continuing support.

Although we were able to return to procedural normality following lockdowns and 'bubbles', COVID persisted in throwing obstacles in our way; particularly through high staff and student absence. However, I am proud to say that our students and staff have continued to show dedication and resilience, and as a result we have continued to rise to these challenges and focus on our core business of student learning and personal development. Our Y11 students in particular deserve a mention here as they continue to work hard towards their upcoming exams.

I thought it timely to share some of our whole school initiatives and achievements as the term draws to a conclusion.

Our new entitlement curriculum has seen the introduction of a comprehensive careers curriculum in order to provide our students with opportunities to explore the links between the subjects they study and the different employment industries within the wider world. The implementation of the new careers curriculum has so far centred on Science, MFL, Technology and maths. The ambition of our new, broader, curriculum offer is to ensure that all our students are exposed to content that exceeds the national curriculum offer and enriches their experiences, day-in day-out, to prepare them for the wider world. For example, our Money Matters curriculum in maths educates students on the many financial scenarios they will find themselves in beyond the school gates. The final area of curriculum entitlement of note is our first aid training - delivered by specialist staff in PE, Science, Technology and Food. These lessons introduce some of the key skills and knowledge required to help out students react to some of the more common medical dilemmas we often find ourselves in. I have said many times before, our mission is to send each student out in to the wider world ready, able and qualified to play their full part in it. The qualified looks after itself through high quality teaching; the able is about promoting the key skills and attributes students need to be a success. Our entitlement curriculum, working in tandem with the Rawmarsh Way and the Rawmarsh Pledge, has the potential to achieve this now, more than even before.

Technology and learning continue to have a clear and unquestionable link. The students of today are more IT savvy and technology rich than any before them and as a result we must find ways to embrace this opportunity. Our **Chromebook** for all initiative and the introduction of our new Smart screens in maths, MFL, and Social Science, is now in place. It is our ambition for all our students to have access to a device in order to enhance our teaching and learning and continue to enable our students to flourish. Given the high number of our families who have taken up the opportunity to purchase a Chromebook and the level of resource within each of our faculty areas we now have the capacity for each lesson to access Chromebooks where appropriate and where conducive to learning. This is an exciting initiative that will continue to grow from strength to strength in order to enrich our curriculum offer.

The Rawmarsh Pledge continues to empower our students to **dream big** and ensures my staff and I never lose sight of the importance of personal development. This academic year, our pledge achievers have grown throughout the whole school and we have seen 411 Bronze pledge presentations and 34 Silver. The Rawmarsh Pledge was only introduced formally this September so to see our students **never doing less than**

their best in the opportunities beyond the curriculum is something we are all so very proud of. Our ambition is to present our first Gold pledges in the upcoming summer term.

I also wanted to take the time to update parents regarding our INSET days for the next academic year - which will now include our parents' evenings. As you will be aware, during the pandemic we have operated through remote parents' evenings. This brought both benefits and areas of consideration. I feel there is a clear need to continue to offer remote meetings during parents' evenings, but there is a growing desire for us to also meet face-to-face. Therefore, during INSET days in 2022-23, we will be offering a blended approach of virtual and face-to-face appointments. To allow as many of our families as possible to access our scheduled parents' evenings, we will be offering morning, afternoon and evening appointment times, so that you are able to book appointments at a time which suits you. These appointment sessions will be planned around staff development sessions on each of the INSET days. The key dates of our INSET days are:

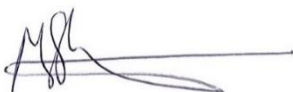
- 1st September School closed to all students
- 2nd September School open to Year 7 and Year 11 only.
- 4th October including Year 11 parent appointments
- 30th November including Year 10 parent appointments
- 2nd February including Year 8 parent appointments
- 7th March including Year 9 parent appointments
- 3rd May including Year 7 parent appointments

All the achievements of our students and the manner in which they embrace the Rawmarsh Way played a significant role in the outcome of our recent Section 8 Ofsted inspection, which took place on the 9th and 10th of February. **Rawmarsh Community School, our school, continues to be a good school** and I am so very grateful for the ongoing support of all our students, parents, staff, governors and the Wickersley Partnership Trust. The inspection validated our own assessment of the strengths of Rawmarsh Community School and we should all be **proud of this achievement**. The inspection highlighted that:

- Leaders are committed to providing an education that equips all pupils to be successful in the adult world
- Pupils study a curriculum that is ambitious and broad
- Pupils have many enrichment opportunities
- The Rawmarsh Pledge provides a framework for developing pupils' confidence
- BRAG marking and Get Ready starter tasks support teachers in helping pupils to know, remember, and do more of what the school intends them to learn
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective

Thank you for your ongoing support; on behalf of everyone at Rawmarsh Community School, I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Turton
Headteacher