

Autumn Newsletter

September 2022

Headteacher Welcome



We are a school at the heart of our community, with our school name honouring one of Dukinfield's heroes. Our school is a warm and caring community for all learners. We celebrate all of our students' achievements and believe strongly in providing an environment where all young people are able to thrive.

Joseph Rayner Stephens was a local 19th Century reformer and educationalist who fought and championed the rights of the working class in the Dukinfield area. He was a person of ideas, always guided by his deep and strongly held values, which as a school, is something we pride ourselves on.

We are an inclusive 11-16 school, part of the family of schools that make up the Stamford Park Trust. Our core purpose is to support learners of all abilities and backgrounds to develop high aspirations, believe in themselves and achieve their full potential. We expect all learners to work hard and aim high in order to succeed academically and personally. We are proud of what our learners achieve and are aware that we will only be successful if we can fully involve and work with our parents and carers.

We nurture and build ambition for our learners, ensuring we develop curious minds and individual talents. Throughout school life we aim to create opportunities, broaden horizons and introduce challenges to support your child's development.

Our whole school community has much to be proud of. We value our learners as our greatest asset and encourage learner leadership and learner voice so they can be fully engaged in all aspects of the school.

Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and conduct at Rayner Stephens. Our expectations regarding behaviour and engagement are clear and consistent to ensure we have an effective and purposeful learning environment.

We recognise that learners have different interests, dreams, abilities and needs and our school's broad and flexible curriculum reflects this. Our staff are committed to ensure that learners achieve their full potential regardless of their starting points. Our curriculum extends way beyond the classroom with our learners having a wide range of opportunities for learning outside the classroom.

We look forward to working together with our learners and families to ensure that they have a happy and successful journey through our school.



CEO – Anton McGrath

It has been a busy year in the life of Stamford Park Trust. Whether working hard to develop the quality of education we offer to all of our students or in investing in the facilities our students use, there has been a lot going on!

We have been working hard to ensure that we reflect our vision, 'Education and ambition for all' in all aspects of the work we do through collaborative events. For example, students participated in a Forensic Science transition day, hosted by Ashton Sixth Form College, managing to solve the case and catch the criminals, and were also given the opportunity to grill the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Angela Rayner MP, in a robust question and answer session. As part of Stamford Park Trust, we are able to provide a broader range of opportunities to students from all three academies. Teachers have benefitted from working more closely together to further develop the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, ensuring that our students receive the very best quality of education.

We have also invested heavily in the facilities for our young people across the Trust, building new science laboratories, a new food technology room, improved IT facilities, a mock hospital ward and nursery, a brand new state of the art TV studio and brand new libraries for each of the schools. We aim to have the very best facilities for our students so they have the best chance of success.

Students from all three academies are benefitting from our Trust wide Realising Aspirations programme, providing opportunities for all students to explore the next steps in their education, whether in further or higher education, higher level apprenticeships or preparing them for entry into the world of work.

The Trust is already bringing significant and tangible benefits for all. We are at the very start of our journey, yet it is clear that the future is bright for Stamford Park Trust.

Student Leadership



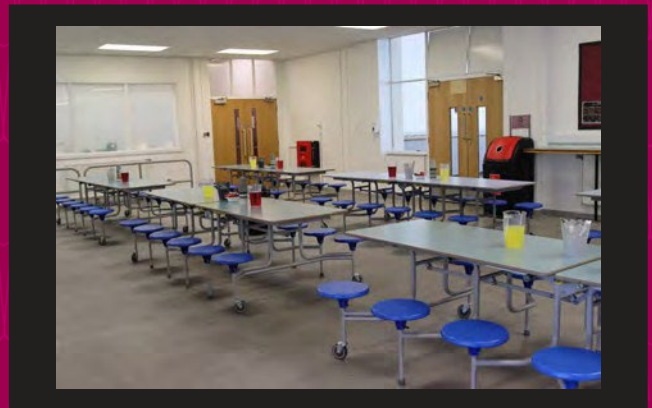
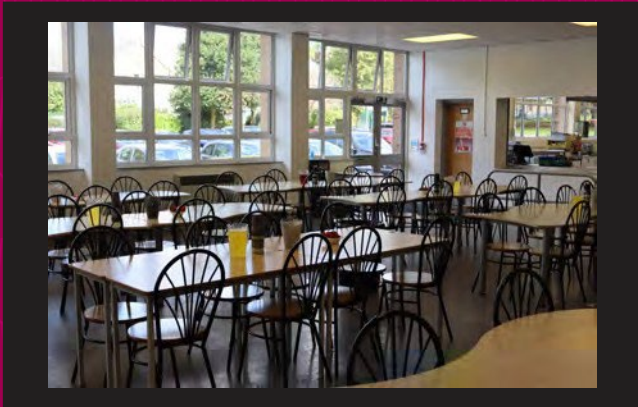
Building great leaders is incredibly important at Rayner Stephens, by nurturing student leadership skills, we prepare young people for the future, boosting confidence, developing critical thinking and collaboration capabilities, and growing community-spirited global citizens who genuinely care about the world around them. We believe that leadership is a critical skill for both personal and professional success, and is central to student achievement.

We believe that our journey as a school and our high expectations of learners is a collaborative process with adults and young people working in partnership. In the past, student leadership has been about 'own clothes day' or 'the toilet facilities'. At Rayner Stephens we wanted that to change. We wanted to have conversations about teaching and learning, the school environment and student and staff welfare.

We are thrilled to introduce our KS4 leadership team, The Head's Ambassadors who lead the way on all areas of student leadership and who will go on to represent the school at different events. The KS4 Ambassadors who have different responsibilities around school which include welfare, teaching and learning, business and finance and the environment. Each team is made up of individuals who are enthusiastic about their area and strive to improve life at school.

Family Dining

In September we introduced our Family Dining for our Year 7 and 8 Students. Family Dining is a fantastic way for students to sit and enjoy lunchtime together with their friends and peers.



At lunchtime students come down to the restaurant area and sit in tables of 10 which are selected from their form groups. Students are allocated roles on a half termly basis that will support them in developing wider personal skills that come with Family Dining experience. These roles will include, collection of meals, gathering of plates and serving of drinks.

Students will have the option of bringing in their own packed lunch or choosing from one of the menu options of 'hot meal', 'hot vegetarian meal', 'pasta pot' or 'sandwiches' in addition to this a dessert will be provided. Jugs of juice will be provided on each table for all students, **regardless** of whether they are on packed lunch or hot meals.

Class of 2022

The class of 2022 at Rayner Stephens High School have secured the school's best ever GCSE results.

Our student's results reflect the hard work and positive changes that have occurred at the school since joining the Stamford Park Trust in January 2021. As a school we have delivered significant improvements in results across all subjects including Math's, English and Science. All subjects have delivered fantastic results which is indicative of the exciting changes made since we joined Stamford Park Trust.



Duke of Edinburgh

Our Year 10 and 11 students have been out doing their qualifying expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh awards for the last 2 weeks. Year 10 spent 2 days navigating in Marple for their Bronze award where they set up camp. Year 11 headed off to Castleton for their Silver qualifying expedition. Fantastic opportunity for all involved.



Hegarty Heroes

Students across all year groups have made a brilliant start to homework in Mathematics. In the Mathematics Department, homework is regularly set on Hegarty Math's: a fantastic, personalised online platform to support student fluency and to practice their learning from lessons. All students are now able to access Hegarty Math's for homework or independent study, with an array of videos to help students understand mathematical concepts and linked questions for practice.

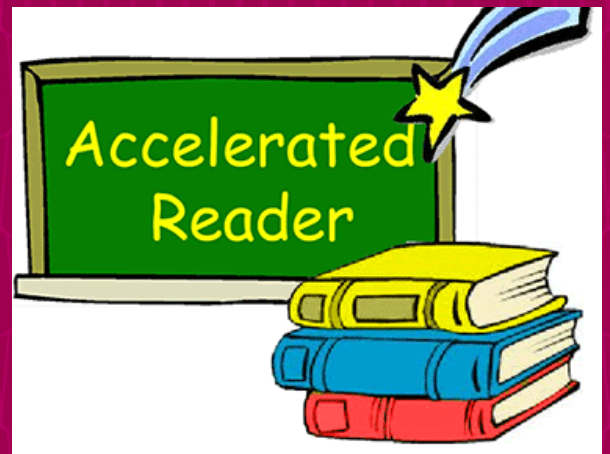
The most recent Hegarty Heroes have been announced and the current leader board based on questions answered is up! The mathematics department have been particularly impressed with the positive start made by all students, but in particular, a student in Year 7: Khiba who has answered over 400 questions so far!



Accelerated Reader

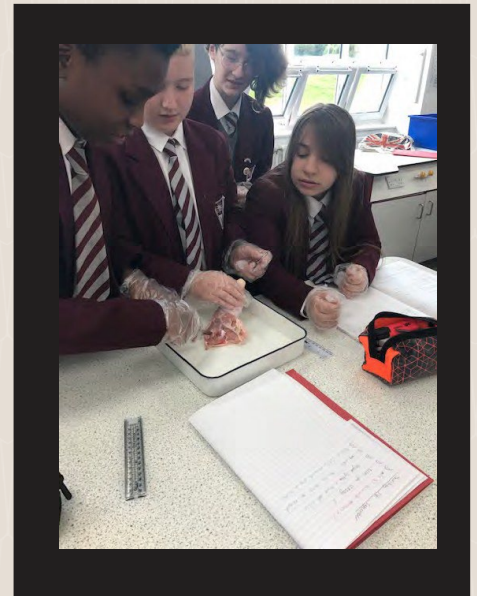
We have an exciting development regarding reading at Rayner Stephens. We have introduced a proven programme called Accelerated Reader, to help motivate students and track their progress with reading.

Accelerated Reader is a programme designed to boost achievement in literacy across the curriculum. It aims to achieve this by encouraging students to read regularly, at the right level, and by carefully monitoring every student's individual progress. As a result, student reading ages are boosted more quickly than normal. Being a good reader will help students in every area of the curriculum, not just English, supporting students to read with confidence and reach their full potential.



Science Mastery

Year 8's have fully embraced our new Mastery course in Science by getting hands on in a Chicken Leg dissection, to demonstrate antagonistic pairs of muscles in animals. It has pushed students out of their comfort zones by handling scientific equipment responsibly and using models to demonstrate how the musculoskeletal system works to provide movement. Well done year 8!



Year 11's have hit the ground running this year, with fantastic revision attendance every Tuesday after school. Keep it up Year 11!

Here are our Super Scientists who have gained the most achievement points in Science since the start of term, keep up the good work!

- Year 7 Nataniel Pawelczyk and Jade Ashby
- Year 8 Brooke Wilding and Daniel Amaral
- Year 9 Ben Meredith and Elissa Bolton
- Year 10 Connor Greenwood and Rhys Thompson
- Year 11 Kacie-Brooke Taylor and Carla Norton



Address
Rayner Stephens
High School
Yew Tree Lane,
Dukinfield,
Cheshire,
SK16 5BL

Telephone
0161 338 2374

Email
admin@rshs.spt.ac.uk

Website
Rayner
stephens.org.uk

Social
🐦 @RSHS_HighSchool
f @RaynerStephensHigh

Trust



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