



December Newsletter

Welcome to our newsletter

Martin Davies – Head of School

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter which showcases some of the wonderful achievements of our students, and some of the fantastic events that have taken place over the last half term. I will never cease to be amazed by the positive attitudes and dedication that the students at our school, show on a daily basis.

It has been an absolute pleasure to experience all the brilliant events that have taken place this term and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the staff at Rayner Stephens for their commitment and support that they provide to the students on a daily basis.

This academic year we have been able to open our doors to our community, for the first-time post pandemic, and it has been fantastic to welcome everyone inside our wonderful school. We have been able to host a very successful 'Open Evening' back in September, a parents and carers celebration evenings for Year 10, and a wonderful Year 11 preparation evening as they begin their final year with us at Rayner Stephens. Just last week our student council did us proud by hosting the local residents from The Beeches Care Home and all our year 7 parents to a lovely Christmas afternoon tea party, and it was wonderful to see so much good spirit in the room. During these times of struggle for many of us, we were still able to demonstrate the community spirit and generosity amongst our families and were blown away by the amount of donations that were made into our food bank collection which will all support local families over the Christmas period.

I must also take this opportunity to draw your attention to the amazing local initiative, 'The Christmas Gift Appeal' organised by Astley Sports Village and Mark Storie which saw the biggest collection to date of gifts. Over 800 presents have been donated and wrapped, which will go to support 54 families and a total of 180 local children, all who will now receive gifts on Christmas morning. A huge thank you to Mark and the team at ASV.

It is this sort of community spirit, generosity and humility shown by the students, staff and families of Rayner Stephens that makes me immensely proud to be the Head. I would like to thank all of our families and friends for your support and engagement with us so far this year and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.



Multi-million pound investment in new arts centre

Rayner Stephens are so excited to have been given the green light for our state of the art new facilities, coming in September 2023. The investment will give students access to industry standard drama studio and music rooms alongside a modern airy art studio.

Stamford Park Trust, in collaboration with Tameside Council, is investing over £1.5 million to ensure students at Rayner Stephens have access to the best facilities, to inspire their love of learning and interests outside of the curriculum.

The improvements are just one in the programme of improvements the school has seen since joining Stamford Park Trust in 2021, which are already having a significant and positive impact on the lives of our students.

It is an exciting time to join Rayner Stephens High School. Progress is happening across the whole school with a clear focus on positive praise and recognition, excellent behaviour for learning, investment in facilities, engaging teaching and an extensive and exciting enrichment and aspiration offers for students. This year, GCSE and equivalent qualifications were the best in the schools history.

Stamford Park Trust gives us the opportunity to do things differently, to develop and form collaborative approaches to teaching and learning to provide an outstanding quality of education to all students in the Trust.

The new Creative Arts Centre will be ready for use in 2023 and will provide the perfect spaces and opportunities for students to develop their talents and interests in the creative arts.



Remembrance Day

School Ambassadors, along with Student Council, Staff and fellow students, represented Rayner Stephens High School at Dukinfield Chapel Hill War memorial on Remembrance day to lay a wreath and pay their respects



Odd Arts Uk Visit



Students recently benefited from a performance by Odd Arts who specialise in delivering work around mental health, discrimination and disadvantaged. Students engaged in an interactive discussion and debate to find solutions to issues which came up in the play about child exploitation.

Students lead on help the homeless campaign

Over the course of the past year, some of our Year 8 and Year 9 students have trained up to become peer mentors. This has allowed them to work closely with some of our feeder primary schools to enable the transition from primary to secondary more smooth and enjoyable for all.

As of September, a number of Year 7 students were invited to join the peer mentor group and they have spent time weekly working on a social action project. The project they decided to run was a 'Help The Homeless' one, looking at raising awareness of what homelessness is and what we can do as a community to support people who find themselves in this situation.



On Tuesday 6th December, the group went to Manchester Metropolitan University to spend the day with industry experts and the staff from PIE (Pursuing Individual Excellence) to create digital and creative content to help support their campaign. As part of this day they were also lucky enough to have a tour around campus and ask students at MMU what life is actually like as a university student.

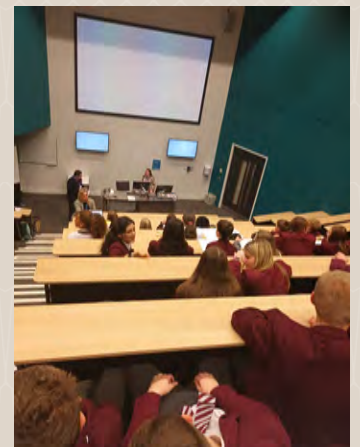
On the day, our students created a podcast, explaining what their help the homeless campaign was about and interviewing members of the public about their thoughts and views on it, creating video and photo media to support their online posters, writing a campaign song, creating tote bags, t-shirts, keyrings and bracelets and also creating leaflets and fliers to support their messages.

Please follow their social media to keep up to date with what they are doing into the new year:

Twitter: @rshs_HTH_pie

Instagram: @helping.the_h0meless

TikTok: @helping.the.h0meless



Rowing across the country for Children in Need!

For Children In Need this year, our student leaders decided to raise money by rowing accross the country. They spent the day taking it in turns to complete as many miles as they could. Staff also had a go to see how many miles they could clock up.

We also held a cake sale during break and lunch for students to purchase a wide variety cakes,biscuits and pastries, which was very well received by everyone.

We managed to raise over £150 for Children In Need.

Well done to all those involved! If you have any ideas for next year speak to Miss Heap.



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 16th December was our Christmas Jumper Day, we asked for donations for the Trussell Trust, who support more than 1200 food bank centres accross the uk to provide a minimum of three days nutritionally balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis.

We had a fantastic response from all our students, families and staff, who have donated an amazing amout of food, toiletries and treats to help those in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection.



Cut & Thrust Workshop

On Friday 9th December we had a visit from a company called Cut & Thrust, they are a Stage Combat company who deliver bespoke workshops according to age and abilities in schools.

The students were taught stage fighting skills which will enable them to safely include physical contact in their Drama work whilst still having fun.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have some fantastic extra-curricular activities for students to take part in everyday from 3pm- 4pm. Take a look at our school website and keep your eye on our Facebook page for new clubs.

| PE DEPARTMENT Rayner Stephens EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Monday Basketball all year groups | Tuesday Netball all year groups | Wednesday Futsal & Table Tennis all year groups | Thursday Gym Club Year 11 | Friday Dodgeball all year groups |
| Monday Gym Club Year 10 | Tuesday Gym Club Year 11 | Wednesday Gym Club Year 10 | Thursday Gym Club Year 11 | Friday Gym Club Yr 10 & 11 |
| ASTLEY SPORTS VILLAGE HEALTH • FITNESS • SPORT | | | | |
| studenthealth schoolPE | | | | |



Christmas Party

We had a lovely afternoon at our Christmas party on Wednesday 14th December. Students had made cards and decorations throughout the week in their lunch-time. We had lots of lovely sandwiches, pies and cakes served by our student council. It was great to see many families come along to enjoy with us.



Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner was a huge success, All Students were given a free Christmas Dinner along with, gingerbread, Christmas crackers and a selection box for every student. A big Thank You to Suzanne and the catering team did an outstanding job as always. We even had some VIP helpers!!!



Open Evening Success

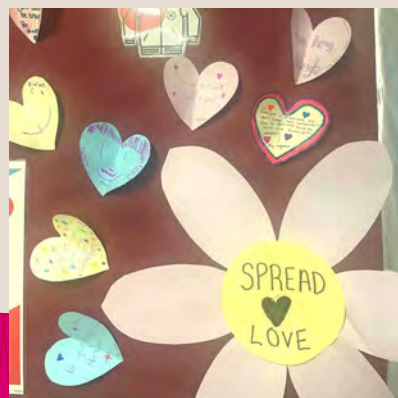
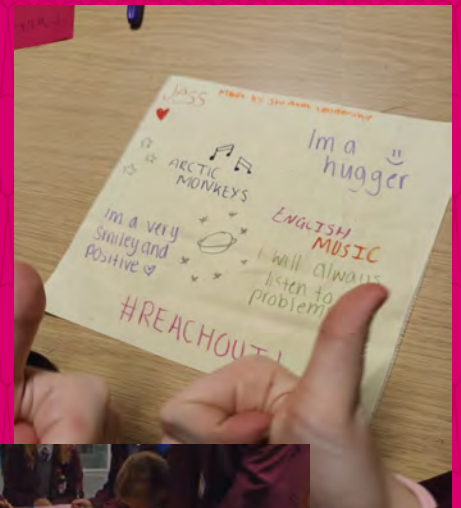
Open Evening at Rayner Stephens this year was a fantastic night as we welcomed families into school. Students and parents were able to take a tour around school to visit the different departments and activities that we have to offer whilst showing us some of the knowledge and skills they have learnt so far at their primary schools.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week this year the theme was "Reach Out". Students were given the opportunity to decorate a square to celebrate their individuality.

Students worked with the City Year UK to create a new notice board sending a powerful message.



Christmas Gift Appeal

This year Astley Sports Village launched there Christmas Gift Appeal in conjunction with Stamford Park Trust. Where we help support our most vulnerable families and children to bring that Christmas magic every child deserves.

ASV works closely with four primary schools that are local to Astley Sports Village, Rayner Stephens and Longdendale. Working with the schools family support team to identify families who really need some support.



We have been completely overwhelmed by the support this appeal has received this year from people who use the facilities at ASV, local businesses and the wider community. Thanks to everyone's generosity over 800 toys and gifts have been wrapped and delivered to the primary schools and lots of

families will hopefully have a lovely Christmas.

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