

# Rayner Stephens

H I G H   S C H O O L



PROSPECTUS



**AspirePlus**  
E D U C A T I O N A L   T R U S T



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Matthew Bowler  
CEO AspirePlus  
Educational Trust



Fay Beach  
Headteacher

# “We endeavour to achieve and aspire to be successful”

**Welcome to Rayner Stephens High School.** We are a thriving 11-16 school built on strong values that inform all that we do. We care deeply about our local community and have represented this through our school name. 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.

Welcome to Rayner Stephens High School's prospectus we really hope it is helpful as you consider making the choice of secondary school for your child. If you select Rayner Stephens, you will have chosen to be part of the AspirePlus Educational Trust's ambitious vision for our community. We are totally committed to providing support to all our learners so that they are equipped to succeed in all aspects of their lives and able to fulfil their future aspirations. The AspirePlus Trust is fully committed to our local community and has been established to coordinate sustained educational improvement our schools. Working with you in partnership, we will be better able to meet our ambition:

We support, challenge and collaborate in our endeavour to provide world-class education that allows our whole community to flourish.

Matthew Bowler  
CEO AspirePlus Education Trust

At Rayner Stephens we are guided by our values and commitment to work together and support one another in our endeavour to provide the very best possible educational experience for our young people. This is embodied in our core values of ASPIRE. We are a highly inclusive school and have been designated a Centre of Excellence in this area by the Inclusion Quality Mark. We have high standards where everyone is challenged and supported to flourish and encouraged to work hard to fulfil their aspirations. We expect every member of our school to strive to be the best they can be.

We have high expectations of all our staff, learners and the wider community. We expect high standards of teaching from staff and excellent learning from learners, alongside the proactive encouragement of parents enabling all learners to be successful. Everyone at Rayner Stephens is fully committed to maximising the achievement of every learner.

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

We believe that working in partnership with parents is vitally important to supporting our teaching staff in fulfilling our core purpose of endeavouring to achieve and aspiring to be successful. When your child starts at Rayner Stephens you are joining us in a commitment to provide them with the best educational opportunities.

I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of the vibrant, purposeful and exciting place that Rayner Stephens is.

Fay Beach  
Headteacher

WELCOME

**A**chievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour



# Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching & Learning

At Rayner Stephens High School we continually strive to create the right environment in which every child can thrive and succeed.

Our aim is to provide the highest quality teaching and learning for our learners so that they can achieve their potential. We strive to ensure that all learners are supported to achieve their goals and open the doors to future opportunities.

We provide a personalised curriculum which engages, inspires and challenges all our learners. We continually evaluate and adapt our curriculum provision to ensure we are doing the best for every learner to meet their individual needs, interests and aspirations.

Learners follow a broad, balanced curriculum in Years 7 and 8, which not only prepares them for their examination courses to come, but also develops their skills and character as independent learners. In Years 9, 10 and 11 all learners study a compulsory core curriculum which includes: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Modern Foreign Language, Computing and PE.

Learners choose from a wide range of optional subjects which will support their career aspirations and offer them the best opportunities for success as individuals..

We recognise that all learners have special skills, abilities and aptitudes and we treat them as individuals. Every member of our teaching staff knows their learners well, and to promote the best learning, staff engage and enthuse learners through a wide range of learning activities which promote progress, achievement and enjoyment.

We expect learners to participate fully in, and engage with, the learning process so that they become responsible for their own learning and adopt an enquiring approach to their studies. We want our learners to become independent, lifelong learners equipped with the knowledge and skills they will need to become successful adults, both in the workplace and in their personal lives.



Aspirational and inspirational leadership is coupled with highly professional, motivated and enthusiastic staff.



The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that has been designed to ensure progress.

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# Challenge, Support and Success

At Rayner Stephens High School we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our learners, whatever their needs or abilities. There is a strong ethos of mutual respect, integrity and good citizenship so that everyone can feel safe, included and well supported in a caring environment that helps them to succeed.

We value the skills and talents of all our learners. We recognise that in endeavouring to achieve some of our learners may need extra help, support and guidance on their journey through from primary school transition to Year 11.

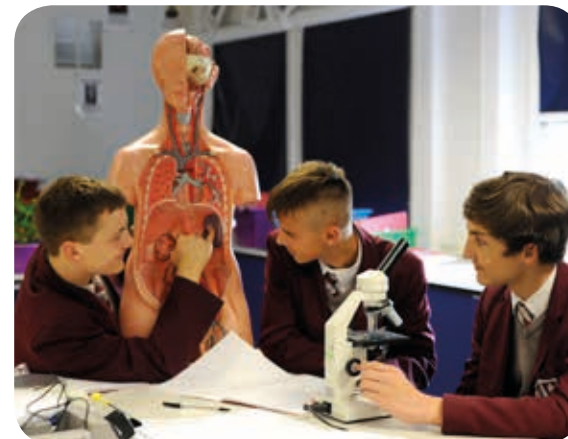
Our Inclusion Team is the heart of our school. We have our ASPIRE centre dedicated to supporting the academic and emotional wellbeing of all our learners. Our inclusion team work with individuals, groups and families to remove any barriers to progress; ensuring parents are involved with decisions about their child at every stage.

We endeavour to establish a strong partnership with our parents. The support of parents is of great importance to the success of their children.

We make regular contact with parents so that they can support their child by establishing professional values on the importance of good attendance, smart uniform, classwork and homework.

Every learner is supported by their Form Tutor. Tutors are the first point of contact in a year team led by a Learning Leader. A sense of identity is carefully nurtured within each tutor and year group. Your child's Form Tutor is dedicated to challenging your child to make good progress, ensuring they have the most choices available to help them mature into young adults.

Here at Rayner Stephens High School we understand that the move to secondary school can be stressful for parents and learners alike, so we do all we can to reassure and support learners, whilst helping them to understand and respond to new challenges and opportunities.



Inclusion is absolutely at the heart of everything that happens. Rayner Stephens strives for all learners to have a strong sense of belonging.

We have an extremely successful three-day Induction programme that immerses your child in the new and exciting life at Rayner Stephens High School.



SUCCESS

**A**chievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour



# Expectations, Standards and Professionalism

At Rayner Stephens High School we have high expectations of ourselves and our learners. It is essential that we equip our learners with clear understanding and the skills needed to be professional and allow them to contribute to society and their chosen profession in the future.

All our learners are professional learners and as part of that we insist on the highest standards of work ethic, presentation and punctuality. We expect our learners to attend on time every day with the correct equipment and with the ability to meet deadlines for homework and present themselves professionally in their dress and work.

Through the highest of expectations of each individual from the School community, we ensure real academic and personal success for all of our learners.

There are a variety of student leadership programmes which are provided every year, throughout all curriculum areas. These help learners to develop professional working relationships with their peers and act as representatives of the school.

Professionalism is an integral quality of the staff at Rayner Stephens High School. We

endeavour to ensure that we provide the best standards of teaching and learning and constantly evaluate and develop our systems and teaching methods to incorporate the latest research. We do this to ensure we are providing the best educational experience possible. At Rayner Stephens we prioritise staff training in order for our teachers to continue to experience high quality professional development that improves the learning experiences and ultimately the life chances of the learners we teach.

As part of our reflection processes we engage in parent and student voice to get a clear understanding of what you consider we are doing well as a school and what could make the experience better for learners and parents.



Behaviour in classrooms, around the school building and outside was exemplary. Students were courteous, mature and respectful to each other, to staff and to visitors.













# Integrity, Opportunity and Character

**We believe in building a network of opportunities to develop our learners' academic, practical and social skills. We aim to develop every child as a whole and our members of staff are role models of professionalism, respect and reliability. Rayner Stephens High School provides challenge for all, facilitating each learner with a chance to strive for academic excellence in every lesson.**

Rayner Stephens High School is caring and supportive and we provide a wide range of activities and initiatives to build the character of each and every individual throughout their time with us. The school boasts an active school council and the student leadership team where learners are encouraged to become active participants in decision making in the school. Careful tracking and use of rewards encourage and motivate learners to prepare for their educational pathways and future careers.

Learners are provided with a wide range of rewards and enrichment opportunities throughout the academic year.

Extra-curricular activities are offered to develop our learners' talents further in addition to the balanced curriculum. We support learning in the classroom with additional homework clubs and revision sessions for our KS4 learners who are preparing for their external examinations.

This school works closely with other educational facilities to support learners and their aspirations. We link with tertiary colleges, subject experts, local universities and leaders in industry to provide a comprehensive range of activities and opportunities to inspire our young people throughout their time at school.

Every learner is encouraged to build upon their strengths and develop strategies to improve areas which may require development. Targets are set from Year 7 for all subjects in the curriculum, with the expectation that they are met or surpassed, enabling our learners to reach their true potential in readiness for adult life.



The development of student leadership has been a key focus in the school and has significantly developed over the past three years.



The quality of careers education, information, advice and guidance is effective.

# Partnership, Respect and Responsibility

All research recognises that learners, teachers, staff and parents are equal partners in learning. We have high expectations of our learners and encourage parents and carers to work in partnership with us in securing the 'personal best' for all of our learners in all aspects of their school life.

Rayner Stephens High School is a part of the ApirePlus Educational Trust. This partnership supports all member schools so that they can work together to share good practice, raise standards and develop the life chances of all learners.

At Rayner Stephens High School we are committed to developing excellent partnerships and firmly believe that the skills, knowledge and expertise of those around us can be harnessed and developed for the benefit of our learners and the wider community.

Our aim is to secure strength in our partnerships, which will enable our learners to access a wide variety of academic, vocational and health related opportunities. We value those partnerships that establish an ethos of hard work, diligence and determination where working together in mutual respect and cooperation allows all of our learners to thrive and flourish.

We work closely with partner primary schools, local further education colleges, universities and work place providers to ensure that we are in a position to ensure that all of our learners are appropriately equipped to experience smooth periods of transition.

Our strong links with parents allow us to develop in all of our learners a sense of right and wrong, respect for others and an understanding of their responsibilities as members of a diverse society.

We actively encourage all partners to work alongside us in developing in our learners that sense of commitment, respect and responsibility, so that they can take their place in the wider community equipped to succeed, make positive contributions and enhance their personal well-being.



Parents speak very highly of the school and they are involved in the life of the school in many and increasing ways.







# Endeavour

Endeavour is an extremely important value in our school. The ethos of ASPIRE, and in particular endeavour, runs through all that we do and is a characteristic we develop in our learners.

Our core purpose, led by the Chief Executive Officer, the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership team, is to ensure that all of our learners receive a first-class education; achieving the very best that they can in a supportive and vibrant school community.

An integral element to learners' achievement is their attitude to learning. This is a key focus for the school in developing learners' independence, resilience, and ability to endeavour.

As teachers, we endeavour to serve our local community to create the best possible educational experience for our learners. For this aim to become a reality we focus on developing our staff to be the best possible teachers and support workers, in order to ensure that all learners make progress in every lesson.

We see a core purpose of the school in developing our learners in to young adults with excellent attitudes to learning and attitudes to life. Learners are taught to reflect on their learning and development, to become resilient and to endeavour to achieve.

We endeavour to instil the message to all our staff, parents and learners that every lesson counts. We believe that with hard work, motivation and self-belief all learners can achieve their aspirations and enjoy success at Rayner Stephens High School.

The school's leadership and staff have an astute understanding of their community and have an unswerving dedication toward it.



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# PROSPECTUS

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**Rayner Stephens**  
HIGH SCHOOL



Quotes featured throughout this prospectus have been taken from the Inclusion Quality Mark Assessment issued in April 2019