

# Newsletter

## Headteacher's Welcome...

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, reflecting and celebrating all the achievements of our students during our Spring Term and what we have coming up as we start our final term of the academic year.

Once again, I am immensely proud of everything our students have achieved last term as they live and breathe our vision of 'Excellence and Ambition' and our Values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration.



Students marked many of the national days and weeks that took place, including International Women's Day, Young Carers Action Day and British Science Week, where there was a wealth of activities for students to take part in to further their knowledge and better understand wider social issues within their community.

We're also so delighted to welcome our class of 2028 who received their place at Rayner Stephens High School last term. We are really looking forward to meeting the new class of 2028 in the coming months as we prepare them for the next steps in their education. This is the start of a real partnership as school and home work together to ensure the very best education and opportunities we have to offer at our fantastic school. If you are joining us in September, don't forget to keep an eye on our social media and update us on the progress of your sunflowers!

Students visited Ashton Sixth Form College a number of times last term, thanks to our partnership as part of Stamford Park Trust. From a special talk from Tony Walsh, an exclusive STEM day and our bespoke aspirations programme, students are reaping the benefits of our partnership.

Finally, as we head into the summer term and the start of exam season we'd like to wish students the best of luck in their exams, if you're feeling worried about exams please speak to a member of staff who are here to support you and visit our website for further tips and advice.

We know this term students will continue to make a difference to themselves and their community as we head into the final stretch of the year. As always, thank you for your continued support.

M Davies  
Headteacher of Rayner Stephens High School



**Rayner Stephens**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Part of



**STAMFORD  
PARK TRUST**

## Our vision

Excellence and ambition for all.

## Our mission

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.

## Our values



### RESPECT

Be polite and considerate

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Listen to others without interruption

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Respond promptly and positively

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Have pride in our environment and our community



### RESILIENCE

Have a positive attitude

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Work hard, never give up

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Learn from mistakes

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Embrace challenges



### ASPIRATION

Aim high

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Believe in ourselves

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Accept only our best

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Celebrate success



## Rugby Opportunity for Jake

One of our Year 9 students Jake has recently been put forward to go to Sale Shark development squad training by his own rugby club Aldwinians.

Out of about 80 players Jake has been given the opportunity to continue training with Sale Sharks for a few weeks, after which he will take part in a festival against other regions, from that festival he may be selected to join Sale Sharks Academy. Jake said " I have been working hard this last year to build up my strength, speed and stamina getting help and advice from Sam and Leighton at Astley Sports Village"

We look forward to hearing about Jake's continued development over the coming weeks.

Good luck Jake!

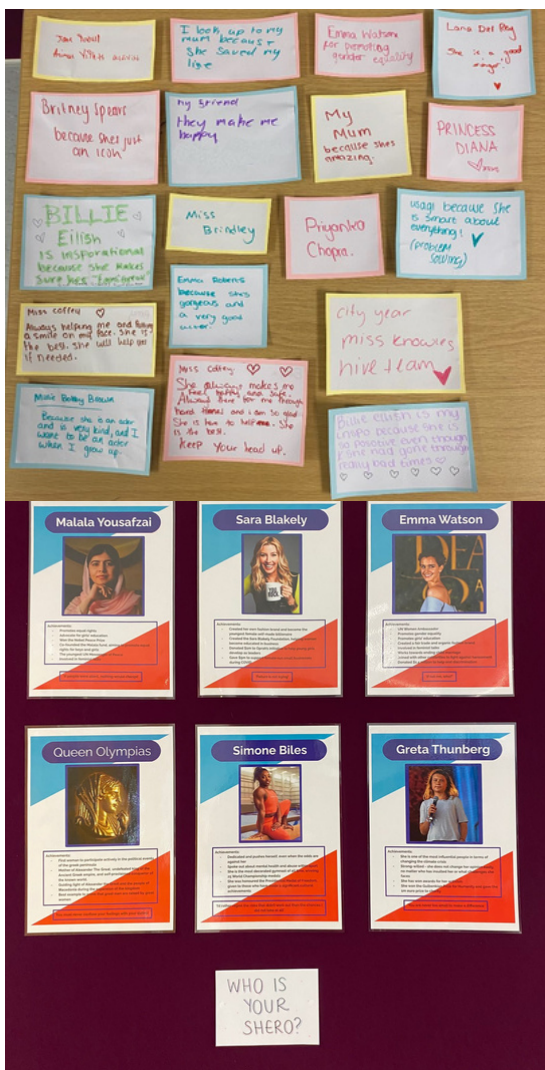


## Supporting International Women's Day

As part of International Women's Day on 8th March, we celebrated the women who make a difference in our school and our community every day and the young women we educate to raise their aspirations!

We asked students to write a card telling us about their female heroes. We were touched to see so many students choose staff as their inspiration! Staff also profiled women who inspire them and encouraged students to research them. Students said they enjoyed the chance to celebrate and learn more about women and the impact they have.

Mel Wicks, Executive Principal said "International Women's Day is about celebrating all women's achievements and raising our visibility. We need to educate and raise awareness to ensure we create a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. This is the importance of International Women's Day and this is the importance of education."



# Welcome

To our class of 2028!

We are so delighted to welcome our class of 2028 who have received their place at Rayner Stephens High School.

We are really looking forward to meeting the new class of 2028 in the coming months as we prepare them for the next steps in their education. This is the start of a real partnership as school and home work together to ensure the very best education and opportunities we have to offer at our fantastic school.

Our vision of 'Excellence and Ambition for All' underpins everything we do and the progress we have made since becoming part of Stamford Park Multi Academy Trust is having a significant and positive impact on the lives of our students. The class of 2028 will be joining the school at a very exciting time; investment continues to happen across the school in our facilities, our staff, and the opportunities offered to students. We are also incredibly proud that our GCSE results last year were the best in the school's history.

We understand that moving on from primary to secondary school can feel like a big step for children and their families. Our staff are looking forward to helping students prepare for this exciting step. We have planned lots of activities to support them through this journey and make the transition as smooth as possible, so look out for our transition team visiting primary schools and the key dates coming up!

We'd like to take this opportunity to formally welcome our new year 7 cohort and wish them every success as a member of the Rayner Stephens and Stamford Park Trust family!

If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

You should have received your box by now which contained your sunflower seeds and your planting instructions and so it's time to get planting!

We will be awarding prizes to the best sunflowers in lots of different categories (including the tallest) when you arrive with us in September, so make sure to take lots of pictures of them as they grow.

Simply tag us in your sunflower photos over at:  
[twitter.com/RSHS\\_HighSchool](https://twitter.com/RSHS_HighSchool) or  
[Facebook.com/RaynerStephensHighSchool](https://Facebook.com/RaynerStephensHighSchool)

Departments in school are also growing their sunflowers so look out for updates and the winner of our staff competition!







## Celebrating British Science Week

British Science Week is a ten day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths which took place from 10-19th March.

This year's theme was connections; by exploring the importance and joy in connections between individual scientists, research groups and institutions, you could discover the different ways connections appear across all areas of science.

To get us ready for the week, students were tasked with finding some missing equipment needed for science experiments. Ten pieces of Science equipment were hidden around school for students to find. Well done to all students who used their detective skills and received a prize: Cameron (Year 8), Rydell (Year 8), Alfie (Year 7), Dylan (Year 8), Logan (Year 8), Hassan (Year 8), Lilya (Year 8), Thomas (Year 7), Abbas (Year 8), Minami (Year 8)

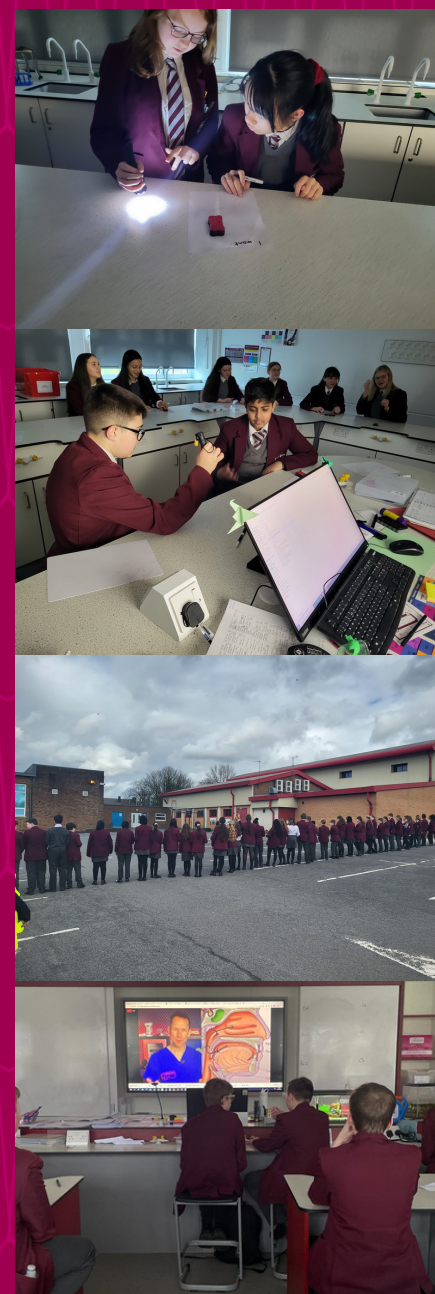
Once the equipment was found we were ready to start activities!

Medical Mavericks delivered some great virtual sessions in lessons, including The Senses Show and The Human Guinea Pig, students also explored their connection to science by exploring what careers in science they could explore. Students also looked at different ways we can connect, including communicating through Morse Code.

All classes during Science Week also took part in building and testing Brooklands Gliders, Year 7 then finished off the week with a glider competition in the courtyard to see how long they could stay in the air. A huge well done to Lillyanne who came first and Gohar and Darcy who came 2nd and 3rd.

We were also excited to welcome partner primary school, Broadbent Fold, in to school for different activities. Year 5 and 6 students investigated acids and alkalis and used their knowledge to make sherbet.

We loved seeing how engaged students have been during Science Week, a huge thank you to our staff for arranging great activities!



## Drama Club's production of 'Our Day Out'

Rayner Stephens High School Drama Club performed our adaptation of Willy Russell's acclaimed play 'Our Day Out' on Tuesday 14th March.

This play by award-winning Willy Russell was first seen on BBC2 in 1977 and has now been specially edited for practical use by schools, colleges and groups. It tells the story of some underprivileged schoolchildren who are taken on a day's outing by their teachers. The children boisterously rampage through a roadside café, a zoo, Conway Castle and a beach. A joyous celebration of the joys and agonies of growing up, but also a sharp pointer to the depressing present and future, for a day out is as much as these children can expect.

Students started rehearsing in October and worked incredibly hard and gave their time after school and in the holidays to ensure the final performance was slick and professional.

The cast included:

Lesley and Mrs Roberts — Lillyanne Doheny  
Carol — Mia Jackson  
Mrs Kay — Erin Bell  
Headmistress and Waitress — Jade Ashby  
Briggs — Electina Fernando  
Susan — Toni Ogunrinu  
Colin — Josh France  
The Driver — Matthew Branwood  
Reilly — Elissa Bolton  
Digga — Amelia Dyson  
Linda — Violet Giles  
Karen — Sophia Mitchell  
Andrews — Marlie Carden  
Ronson — Shanelle Hayward  
Kasey — Aria Little  
Kidida — Evie Brierle

Mr Fernando, a proud father of a cast member rewarded all the cast with an Easter Egg to finish the experience, a lovely gesture.

A huge thank you to all the cast for their commitment during rehearsals. This is a challenging, stylised play with minimal set or effects and all students have worked hard to 'tell it's story'.

We'd also like to take the time to thank Mrs Owen for directing and putting together the full performance. We look forward to the next one being bigger and better!





## Recognising our Young Carers

Wednesday 15th March saw Young Carers Action Day marked nationwide and we wanted to make sure we recognised our young carers too!

Young Carers Action Day is all about raising public awareness of young carers and young adult carers and seeking to bring about change for them and their families.

Carers Trust said 'Young carers and young adult carers tell us repeatedly that health and wellbeing are really important to them, but all too often their caring role leaves them feeling overwhelmed. This is particularly the case when they are juggling their caring role with schoolwork.'

To support and recognise our carers we held a celebration breakfast and an arts and crafts morning in school, a chance for carers in our school to take some time out and socialise.

We also shared key information in form time and around school to raise awareness of Young Carers and how we can support them.

The morning was enjoyed by all.

To show your support and raise awareness for Young Carers, find out more or sign the pledge visit [The Carers Trust](#).



## Students visit Ashton Sixth Form

A selection of students had the opportunity to visit Ashton Sixth Form College this week for a special talk from Tony Walsh (Longfella Poet).

Tony read a selection of his poems about growing up in Tameside and becoming a poet as well as a question and answer session.

Students loved the talk and really impressed staff with all their questions and interest.

A huge thank you to Ashton Sixth Form College for inviting us, to Tony Walsh for an amazing talk and to students for all their participation.



# What's on

**27th April**  
Year 8  
celebration  
evening

**28th April**  
Year 10 mocks  
end

**1st May**  
May Day Bank  
Holiday

**6th May**  
Coronation of  
King Charles III

**8th May**  
Bank Holiday

**15th March**  
GCSE exams  
start

**26th May**  
Finish for Half  
Term

**29th May**  
Bank Holiday

**5th June**  
Back to school



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Each week, teams in Key Stage 3 collect points for positive choices made in lessons, with a reward for the winning team each week.

This week the 'Scarlet Red' team won our Excellent Choices competition and received a special breakfast. Well done team!



A selection of students joined Ashton Sixth Form College for an exclusive STEM event. The day included a talk from Professor Julie Gibbs and taster sessions in Maths and Science.

Thank you to Ashton Sixth Form College for hosting the day.

On Wednesday 22nd March, boys from Year 7 competed in the Tameside Indoor Athletics competition at Hyde.

We finished 4th overall coming close in some quick races. The boy's behaviour, attitude and resilience was superb throughout the whole event!



Year 11 have been amazing throughout their last mock exams before the final push toward their GCSEs and so received a well deserved treat!

For latest news and updates, please follow us on social media over at:

 /RaynerStephensHighSchool

 @RSHS\_HighSchool

# Resources for managing exam stress

April is Stress Awareness Month, aiming to raise awareness of the causes and cures for modern-day stress. It is the time when we have an opportunity for an open conversation on the impact of stress. Dedicated time to removing the guilt, shame, and stigma around mental health. To talk about stress, and its effects and open up about our mental and emotional state with friends, families, colleagues, and professionals.

With exam season approaching it's a good time to reflect and focus on what you can do to ensure you or your child is looking after their wellbeing during exam season.

Whilst it is important to be prepared for the next few months we're working with teachers and others to build confidence through effective revision and examination practice to allow students to maintain balance across the week, building in time for family and friends, for exercise and sport and for a little downtime in between your preparations.

Please find below some resources that may be useful during this time.

## Kooth

If you're worried about exams, explore self-help tools or chat to a mental health professional today over at [go.kooth.com](https://go.kooth.com)

## Young Minds

Young Minds have great advice if it's all getting a bit too much, exams are affecting your sleep or your eating habits. Just head over to [www.youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)

## NHS

Tests and exams can be a challenging part of school life for children and young people and their parents or carers. The NHS website offers great tips for ways to ease the stress.

## BBC Bitesize

Offers resources to help students with homework, revision and learning.

All staff in school are there to support you. If you're feeling worried, anxious, or stressed about your exams please speak to us and we're here to help.

You can also find more tips, advice and resources over on our website.

We would like to wish all students entering their final examination phase all the best for this period. We are looking forward to celebrating your success in August!



# RESPECT RESILIENCE ASPIRATION



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