

Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome...

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, reflecting and celebrating all the achievements of our students during not only our Summer Term but the whole 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.



Our final term has seen us say farewell to our Year 11 students after completing their GCSE exams. We marked the occasion with two fantastic events – our celebration breakfast assembly and Prom. Our class of 2023 were amazing and will always be a part of our Rayner Stephens family and we can't wait to welcome them back to celebrate their results. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our class of 2023 and wish them luck in whatever the future holds for them.

As one cohort leaves, another begins. We're looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s who will be joining us in September, it was a pleasure to welcome them on their recent transition visits and to various events throughout the year. We can't wait to watch you grow over the coming years!

Elsewhere in school, we've seen lots of enrichment activities happening around school, from trips such as Blackpool Zoo, Malaga and Paris, to regular clubs for sport and languages. It's been great to be able to celebrate and reward students for all the hard work they've put in throughout the year.

Finally, as we head into the summer I'd like to personally thank all our staff at Rayner Stephens for all the hard work and dedication they have for our students and the wider community. Along with the students, our staff are what make Rayner Stephens so special, so thank you.

I hope everyone has an exciting and restful summer, ready to continue the hard work next academic year. Once again a huge thank you to students, staff and parents and carers for your continued support and hard work.

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

Listen to others
without interruption

Respond promptly
and positively

Have pride in our
environment and
our community



RESILIENCE

Have a positive
attitude

Work hard, never
give up

Learn from mistakes

Embrace challenges



ASPIRATION

Aim high

Believe in ourselves

Accept only our best

Celebrate success



Rayner Stephens achieve Flagship School status for Inclusion!

Rayner Stephens High School have been awarded the Inclusive School Award with Flagship School status by the Inclusion Quality Mark.

Only a handful of UK schools have the honour of achieving IQM Flagship School status. The award recognises those unique schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least 3 years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools.

Rayner Stephens are extremely proud to have been described as a “Friendly, Vibrant and developing community” with “The best possible experience for students.”

As part of Stamford Park Trust, Rayner Stephens have shown their shared belief that the young people of Tameside should have access to the best education provision so that the students in their care are able to realise their ambitions for their future and their life chances are improved by embedding outstanding practice. The assessor noted that since joining Stamford Park Trust there is a “strong belief that the school is improving at a fast pace and is an outstandingly inclusive place and that it will continue to evolve and change to meet the need of its community, rising to meet whatever challenges occur in the future.”

The report detailed that a recent review of vision and values had demonstrated the schools highly inclusive ethos and is thoroughly embedded in everyday practice.

Particular areas of focus include the school’s outstanding reading intervention in partnership with City Year UK, SEND provision, HIVE centre for academic intervention and the student leaders and Anti-Bullying ambassadors. Noting that students are “well looked after and there is a clear understanding that inclusion means all students, no matter what the barriers to learning are, no one is left out or left behind.”

The report concluded by stating “Rayner Stephens continues to be an outstanding school in terms of inclusion, ingrained in its ethos and this is enacted each and every day.”

Martin Davies, Headteacher said: “We are delighted to have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status as it symbolises and recognises the amazing effort, care and dedication that is shown every day by the inclusion teams and wider staff at Rayner Stephens High School. The school is committed to ensuring that every single student receives the highest quality support and pastoral care to enable them to access the best education and personal development possible whilst they are with us.

The challenges around inclusion in all schools, has never been greater, and that is why programmes such as our free breakfast and breaktime food schemes, family dining, the bespoke reading programme in partnership with the University College London and our expansive SEND and Pastoral Care provisions, are so vitally important to us and our students.

The school is never standing still in our drive to provide the highest quality provision for our students and the IQM Flagship Award is a fantastic platform from which we will continue to develop and evolve our inclusion provision at Rayner Stephens."

Anton McGrath, CEO of Stamford Park Trust added "'This is a fantastic report which clearly identifies a school on the up. The staff and students at Rayner Stephens should be rightly proud of this report and the confirmation of flagship school status. The assessor saw the positive impact of the approaches taken by the leadership team at the school who have worked tirelessly to develop all aspects of provision over the last few years. Congratulations to all at Rayner Stephens; well done!"



A huge well done to all staff and students at Rayner Stephens High School who continue to make their school a fantastic and inclusive place to be.

To read the full report, please visit our website.



Duke of Edinburgh students make a real difference!

Students at Rayner Stephens have been completing their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh award throughout the year. Part of their award is doing volunteering work in their local community and wider.

Since April 2022, the students involved have completed an amazing 1066 hours of volunteering between them, which equates to a social value of £5126!

A huge well done to all students on this fantastic achievement! You've been a credit to yourselves and to the school with amazing feedback from partners and businesses.

Spanish students enjoy a trip to Malaga!

Sixteen students recently returned from a culturally rich experience in Malaga where they had plenty of opportunity to practice their Spanish.

The trip started with a guided visit to the contemporary art museum, followed by a historical tour of Malaga with Tapas, a visit to the cathedral in Malaga's old town and the Alcabaza. On Wednesday evening students took part in a fun and interactive Flamenco Dancing lesson.

Students then visited Christine Picasso secondary school to meet Spanish students on Thursday before heading to the Atarazanas market, where students could use their Spanish to buy a delicious lunch and a fantastic time on the Malagueta beach.

Thursday evening consisted of Churritos tasting at the cafe Aranda, followed by some shopping in Malaga and then a lovely meal at a pizzeria on the harbour.

The final day in Malaga began with a tour of the famous Picasso Museum. In the afternoon, students had some free time for lunch and shopping in Malaga old town before tea tasting at the Moroccan style Teteria.

Students were very well behaved and we're so glad students had such a fantastic time!





As part of Stamford Park Trust, we're extremely proud to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

To mark the occasion and create a lasting memory, Headteacher Martin Davies, Stamford Park Trust Executive Principal Mel Wicks and Trust CEO Anton McGrath we're joined by students to bury a time capsule and plant a tree on the school grounds.

The time capsule contained items such as a book about Joseph Rayner Stephens, a Rayner Stephens prospectus, a newspaper from the Coronation of King Charles III, A Rayner Stephens pen, A thank you for your condolences card from King Charles III thanking the students for their kind words on the passing of his Mother Queen Elizabeth II and a poem written especially for the occasion by our Poet Laureate Blessing (year 8).

We hope that the future generation of students at Rayner Stephens will discover the capsule to learn more about school life and this historic event.

Students also spent time in school learning about the Royal Family and their history and tucking into Coronation cupcakes!

Stamford Park Trust CEO said "At Stamford Park Trust, we wanted to do something a little different to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. The planting of trees represents the new King's passion for nature and the natural world and will serve as a physical reminder of this time in our history. The time capsules, once opened, will provide a social history of those who studied and worked across our academies in the future."



Blessing's poem read:

In a world of awe and dreams, behold,
A coronation tale, brave and bold.
At fourteen years, I stand in awe,
To witness history's grandest draw.

The halls adorned, so fancy and grand,
Chandeliers sparkling, like magic in hand.
Whispers flutter, excitement so near,
A new era dawns, casting away fear.

In my school uniform, all neat and right,
I soak in the scene with wide-eyed delight.
A crown on their head, gleaming so bright,
Power and honour, in regal sight.

A thousand wishes float in the air,
For a nation's future, hopes we share.
A promise made to protect and guide,
The ruler's duty, with no room to hide.

From history's pages, lessons unfold,
Greatness within us, young and bold.
I dream of possibilities untold,
Where light breaks through, and darkness is sold.

Coronation's splendour, a dance so grand,
Igniting sparks in our hopeful band.
As the ceremony concludes its sway,
I'll chase my dreams, come what may.

Oh, coronation's magic, I'll hold it tight,
In my fourteen-year-old heart, burning bright.
For in this moment, a legacy stands,
And I'll shape the future with my own hands.

Year 8 Aspirations Visit to ASFC

A group of Year 8 students joined Longdendale High School students in a visit to Ashton Sixth Form College as part of the bespoke Aspirations programme exclusively available to students within Stamford Park Trust.

The theme of the day saw the students take part in a murder mystery event, using their skills in the core subjects of Science, English and Maths.

In Science, students learnt how to protect a crime scene, gather and analyse evidence and form conclusions on who could be the guilty suspect.

English saw students discover how linguistics can be used in solving a crime, by looking at clues in the suspects social media posts and text messages. The grammar, punctuation and use of language, gave the likely suspect a 'linguistic fingerprint' which added suspicion against one suspect in particular.

In Maths, students worked in groups to solve a range of challenging puzzles to crack codes and open locks in an escape room style challenge. Eventually this helped them discover coded messages and parts of a jigsaw that when combined, unlocked the code of the leading suspects iPad which contained strong evidence as to the perpetrator of the crime.

The students showed commendable team working skills throughout. It was a great experience and our thanks go to everyone at Ashton Sixth Form College involved in organising the event



Celebrating National School Sports Week

From 19th-25th June we marked National School Sports Week, where the aim was 'Play for Fun, play for 60' encouraging students to take part in sport for 60 minutes a day all week.

Students recorded their activities for the week in a diary, which gave them the opportunity to win prizes,

Well done to all students who completed the challenge and received excellence points; Aiden D, Eliasse R, Alex R, Matthew B, Abdulla B, Leyann G, Harriett S, Lexie Y-C, Ellie S.

Winners of the prize draw include:

Harriet S - Entered into the Tameside draw for free family activities and PE equipment

Boys winner - Eliasse R - Wins PE goodies

Girls winner - Lexie Y-C - Wins PE goodies



The polyglot club runs every Friday, allowing students to sample other cultures.

Recent activities have included Spanish Salsa dancing, guessing where the food is from, doing a bull run for 'el Boloencierro' and celebrating the baby jumping festival!



Our first Year 6 transition day was a success! Our peer mentors ran a fantastic day to give students joining us in September a taste of life here at Rayner Stephens High School. A huge well done to our students for making sure our Year 6 feel comfortable and supported.

On 3rd July Year 7 and Year 8 enjoyed a trip with the science department looking at animals and their environment. Student thoroughly enjoyed the trip!



We've now said farewell to our class of 2023, capped off with two fantastic events, the celebration breakfast assembly and Prom.

Year 11, you have been amazing and although you are now leaving you will always be a member of the Rayner Stephens family and welcome back anytime.

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

 /RaynerStephensHighSchool

 @RSHS_HighSchool

Year 10 take part in careers week

10-14th July has seen careers week in school.

Many activities took place, including work placements, virtual work experience, talks from employers and workshops. Feedback from students has been amazing and we hope they got lots of meaningful experiences from the week as they start to prepare for their next steps!

Students have had the opportunity to self-place on a work placement to give them first hand experience of the working world. Students also participated in 'Be Your Own Boss' which allowed them to explore key skills needed in the workplace including financial management, problem solving, networking, marketing and more.

For those in schools we've had key talks in each day from various industries. We heard from Dell Technologies for students who have a keen interest in computing, technology, media or engineering for a insight into what's needed to get into the industry. HiyaTech also came into school to talk all things technology, students found the talk extremely informative with Bradley from Year 10 commenting "I thought that Dean's talk was very helpful and informative, and he did a great job of explaining what recruitment which has shown me what I could possibly go into, I am very thankful as I hadn't been very interested in much, but Dean's talk has inspired me and really made me think on different opportunities."

Simon Artley from Elevated Knowledge spoke to our students about engineering. Our students were able to ask a wide range of questions about engineering and learn about different areas of industry where engineers work and what they can expect on apprenticeships. Gary from Year 10 commented "I thought that Simons talk was informative and made me more interested in engineering and made me want to study it more and look into engineering even more. I was already interested in engineering but Simon made it sound more interesting and made me realise how many different opportunities there are."

Other talks during the week included Candy's Cupcakes who gave insight into starting your own business and the Former Head of Science at Manchester United delivering a practical session in soccer skills and a talk in coaching careers and how to get into the sports industry!

The week has been a great success in informing students of the pathways available to them and how they need to prepare to get there.

A huge thank you to all employers who have taken the time to support students this week, we know the experience will be invaluable and raising aspirations!



RESPECT RESILIENCE ASPIRATION



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