



Dear Families,

Although we hope our learners are enjoying a wonderful summer holiday, we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back to school in September. We are particularly keen to welcome our new Year 7 learners to Rayner Stephens on their dedicated induction day.

To support the return to school, we wanted to write to you in order to update you on the plans for September. As outlined in the end of term letter sent in July, there are some key changes and updates that have been put in place for the new academic year.

Please do take the time to read through this letter as there are a number of important messages that will need to be shared with your child before they return.

On-site Lateral Flow Covid-19 Tests and School Return Dates in September

In consultation with Public Health England, The Department for Education has asked that we complete onsite lateral flow tests with all learners on their return from the summer holidays. In order to do this, we shall operate a slightly staggered start in September. Please see the table below which explains the testing plan and return dates.

Learners will be required to come into school for their LFT on their allocated day. **A test time will need to be booked using the relevant year group links below this timetable.** Learners will leave site immediately after taking their test. A second test will be carried out in school after learners have returned.

Day	Schedule
Thursday 3 rd September	All new year 7 – lateral flow testing 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Friday 4 th September	All new year 7 return to school 8:40am New year 10 - lateral flow testing 9:30am – 12:00pm New year 11 - lateral flow testing 12:30am – 3:00pm
Monday 6 th September	All new year 11 and 10 return to school 8:40am New year 8 - lateral flow testing 9:30am – 12:00pm New year 9 - lateral flow testing 12:30am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 7 th September	All new year 8 and 9 return to school 8:40am

Consent for testing

As was the case during previous testing events, learners can only be tested in school if you have given explicit consent. If you provided consent for your child to participate in on-site testing during the last academic year, you **do not** need to provide consent again.

If your child has joined Rayner Stephens since March 2021, or is a Year 7 learner starting in September, you will need to complete a consent form. This is accessible through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/EGbHbAZ3L7>

If you have previously given consent and now wish to withdraw consent, please contact the school prior to your child's return to school date.

How do I book my child's on-site lateral flow test?

You will need to book this first test appointment by using the booking system below:

Year Group	Testing Date / Times	Booking Form
New Yr7	Thursday 3 rd September 12:00pm – 3:00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-7-covid-testing-tickets-168466673355
New Yr10	Friday 4 th September 9:30am – 12:00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-10-covid-testing-tickets-168473543905
New Yr11	Friday 4 th September 12:00pm – 3:00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-11-covid-testing-tickets-168472207909
New Yr8	Monday 6 th September 9:30am – 12:00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-8-covid-testing-tickets-168475363347
New Yr9	Monday 6 th September 12:00pm – 3:00pm	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-9-covid-testing-tickets-168476306167

When learners arrive at school for their test there will be staff on hand to direct them through to the test centre from the main car park area. Learners do not need to wear uniform for this first test.

School return times and entrances

Although we no longer need to operate a year group 'bubble' model we will be retaining year group areas in the morning when learners arrive to school. The school building will open at 8:20am to allow learners to get breakfast from the canteen area. **If learners wish to access the canteen before 8:35am then they must use the external canteen doors, situated next to the main entrance.**

If learners do not wish to access the canteen for breakfast before school, then they must use the entrances in the table below and move through to their form tutor collection area. **All learners must be on-site and in their form tutor collection area by 8:40am.** Staff will be on duty on all entrances to welcome the learners.

Year Group	Entrance	Form Tutor Collection Area
New Year 7	Student Entrance	Quad
New Year 8	Astley Sports Village Gate	ASV Yard
New Year 9	Astley Sports Village Gate	ASV Yard
New Year 10	Student Entrance	Quad
New Year 11	Student Entrance	Quad

Face coverings

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but experts are recommending that face coverings are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where individuals may come into contact with people they don't normally meet. This includes public and dedicated school transport.

We recognise that this change may cause some anxiety to a minority of parents and their child(ren) and have therefore made the decision that it will be a personal choice as to whether learners and staff wear a mask on site for the month of September. The school will continually review this policy in response to government advice and local transmission rates. If necessary, further information will follow at the appropriate time.

A full letter explaining the changes to Covid-19 management, precautionary measures taken in school, close contact management and what to do if somebody in the household tests positive will be sent home over the next couple of days.

Uniform (including footwear, make-up, jewellery and mobile phones)

We provided uniform updates back in July which clarified some of the points that were in the existing uniform policy and also explained that we were introducing some changes to the uniform requirements. The full list of required uniform items and the examples of the types of footwear that are allowed and those that are not, is explained in our updated uniform policy which has been included with this letter.

We appreciate that, for a small minority of families, there may be issues with obtaining uniform items. If this is the case, please contact us as soon as possible at admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk and we will endeavour to support you prior to our return.

Learners are also reminded they must have a school bag and suitable classroom equipment which includes: **Pens, pencil, ruler, rubber and a scientific calculator.**

School Communications System - Introducing School Gateway

We are very excited to be introducing School Gateway to Rayner Stephens – a parent engagement app that will allow you to access parentpay, communicate with the school and view your child's timetable, letters, behaviour, and reports at anytime from anywhere. All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables and attendance figures will go through School Gateway from 1st September. To stay up to date with what's going on at school make sure you download the app for free. Just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information Rayner Stephens already has, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date. You can check and change these details by sending an email to admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/> You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via this site if you do not have a smart phone, although we do recommend using the app if possible as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. It will be against the law not to send your child to school if they are of compulsory school age unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the learner has been granted a leave of absence or is unable to attend because of sickness).

A small number of learners will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice. This could be because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves. If your child is unable to attend school for this reason, you should contact us directly about our online education offer.

We very much look forward to seeing all learners return to school in September but if, in the meantime, you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school by email on admin@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk or telephone 0161 338 2374.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. M Davies
Head of School