



RAINFORD
HIGH

PART OF RAINFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to be welcoming our students back to Rainford High on the 8th March to return to face to face education and school life. The school will operate as it had done between October half term and Christmas, with students in Year bubbles, consistent classes and limited rooming to try to keep our community as safe as possible. In many ways we need to be inspired by the words of Dr Martin Luther King: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." We know we are moving forward and now is the time to begin the climb cautiously.

We will ensure the pillars of infection control are in place firmly; good hygiene with regular hand washing, good respiratory hygiene following catch it, bin it, kill it protocols, as well as keeping year groups separated as much as possible alongside the use of lateral flow tests to identify asymptomatic cases. The school will be deep cleaned on a nightly basis and operate good ventilation protocols, including the extended ventilation of the building in an evening to support high levels of hygiene and to create as covid secure environment as possible. Between October half term and Christmas these measures were successful in limiting cases of coronavirus and transmission to a large degree and we hope this will be the case on our return.

Students Returning to School – Face Coverings and Routines

Students will be expected to wear masks indoors and in communal areas. The government advice until Easter is that students wear masks in classrooms. We appreciate that this will be a challenge but we would ask that students support their community by trying to comply with this recommendation in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. If students are unable to wear a mask in a classroom for a long period of time for a valid reason, we will support this by issuing an exemption pass as previously done for a number of students. I would ask that students and families are supportive of limiting the risks in order to keep all members of the community as safe as possible. We have staff with minor underlying conditions that give them increased concern and we would hope that our community will support them being in school, by acting in as supportive fashion as possible in order to keep the whole community safe.

We would also recommend that students bring two face coverings so that they can swap them during the day. School will be supportive of the challenges wearing a face covering for a long period of time will bring and students will be treated as always in line with the school ethos.

To support our return we will be focusing on getting students back into regular routines based on the school ethos of:

- Everyone Matters: Be polite and respectful.
- Everyone Helps: Make sensible choices
- Everyone Succeeds: Work Hard.

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We will be focusing on students wearing correct uniform, bringing the right equipment, working hard and contributing in a positive fashion to the return of face to face education. Students who fail to meet the clear expectations of the ethos will be sanctioned accordingly. We are delighted to be able to offer an increased offer of after school provision that will include catch up club for those students who are behind and need support to complete the required tasks to move forward.

Attendance

As you will be aware, the guidance has now changed and student attendance to school is compulsory from Monday 8th March. If your child needs to shield then you will need to discuss this with the attendance manager, Mr Taylor (d.taylor@rainford.org.uk), and provide supporting evidence to explain the need to shield. If your child is absent for COVID symptoms, positive result, self-isolation or quarantine then you need to contact school in the morning of the first day of absence to explain this so we can mark it accordingly. Students who receive unauthorised absences will be required to attend catch-up club until 4:30pm on the day after their return for the same number of days as the absence. If you need support with your child attending school then please contact your child's pastoral leader. Please consult our attendance policy for further information.

Lateral Flow Testing and Mental Health

I would also like to thank parents for their support with the onsite testing programme we have run this week. We have identified a small number of asymptomatic cases that will help our wider community remain safer in the foreseeable future. There is no doubt that people's mental health and wellbeing has been affected by the last 12 months, and as a school we are aware of small but increasing numbers of young people with mental health issues so we would recommend that you talk with your child about any concerns they may have at this time.

The Road to Graduation - Celebrating Success and Supporting Students

As we return to school for just over a term our goal is very simple: we are focusing on celebrating the learning and successes that have brought us all through the pandemic. The vast majority of our young people will have learnt new skills and knowledge and need an opportunity to show this. We also have a responsibility to evidence with our students that they have learned enough knowledge and developed enough skills to be able to move on to their next year of study proud of their achievements and confident in their abilities and preparedness to move forward. This process needs to start now in order to celebrate the strength, resilience and abilities of our young people and to make sure the pandemic experience is about learning development and gains rather than focusing on what has been lost over the last 12 months. This means the next 14 weeks will be an opportunity for our young people to shine and for us all to celebrate their success as we move out of lockdown and come through the pandemic. We are setting out on the Road to Celebration and Graduation. During this journey our young people will be asked to demonstrate the knowledge they have learned this year, to demonstrate the responsibility, maturity and resilience and show that they have come through a pandemic understanding that our community ethos and values of the school of Everyone Matters: Be polite and respectful, Everyone Helps; make sensible choices and Everyone Succeeds: Work Hard will be the foundation of their success moving forward.

Celebration and Graduation Day will be a day to mark our young people's success in coming through the pandemic having developed and grown as learners and young people. It will allow them to put the pandemic behind them feel proud and confident in the knowledge they have learned, the skills they have developed and the resilience, fortitude and new skills learned. Being part of Celebration and Graduation Day requires our young people to meet our expectations and work well in lessons. This means from the 8th March our students need to achieve a League of Effort score better than 1.6 on average. Our young people will need to record less than 30 audits in 75 school days and complete regular knowledge retrieval test to a high standard in all subjects. Students will have to achieve the pass mark set by the school, as clearly not learning the knowledge required to move forward next year is not acceptable.

Every young person will be cared for and supported to achieve the success they deserve and no one will be asked to achieve anything that is unreasonable. All we ask our students to do is follow our ethos and commit themselves to ending the year by graduating and celebrating their success during the most challenging period in living memory.

We return to face to face education and hopefully the disruption in the next couple of months will be limited as we move out of lockdown and see a gradual return to a more normal existence. We must look forward and celebrate what we have achieved as Benjamin Disraeli said: "There is no education like adversity." Our young people and our community will have achieved much in a different world and we must celebrate our success and move forward with pride with what our community has achieved. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Young', written in a cursive style.

Ian Young
Principal