



**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023

PARENT & STUDENT NEWSLETTER

WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK   



❄️ Christmas ❄️
**Christmas
Jumper Day**

Friday 15th December



Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Students,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week we have been busy with our charity fund raising for our Christmas House Charities; 'contribute' being part of our ethos and values, we have launched appeals for two significant causes. Find out how you and your child can contribute on page 5.

We are continuing with the December Attendance Challenge. We often find that attendance drops in the last few weeks of term. Regular attendance is essential for your child's progress and therefore we ask that your child attends each day, is punctual and on time for school to start at 8:50am. Find details on page 5 about how participating can positively impact their education.

Looking forward, we are excited about our upcoming Christmas Jumper Day. Join us in wearing festive sweaters to celebrate the holiday spirit throughout the school on Friday 15th December. All funds raised will be donated to Save the Children and our School Production.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Thorogood, Headteacher



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NEXT WEEK FOLLOWS THE WEEK B TIMETABLE

| | <u>MONDAY</u> | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/12/23 | | | | Student Parliament (P3) | Christmas Jumper Day  |



NEWS THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

We ask that as many students and staff wear a Christmas Jumper to school on **Friday 15th December**. All funds raised will be donated to the Save the Children charity appeal and towards our School Production. **We ask both students and staff to donate £1.** In previous years, we have had a relatively small number of students wearing jumpers during this annual event. We are keen to change this culture and to get as many student and staff involved.

There will be prizes/House points awarded for the following

- Most original jumper
- Most Christmas jumper wearers in a tutor group



Students need to be in full school uniform, the Christmas jumper will be worn over their shirt and tie.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE CHARITIES

This year, all five Houses are coming together for two special appeals to support two very important causes in the run-up to Christmas:

- Foodbank appeal for Teardrops
- Santa Dash for Cancer Research

Foodbank Appeal for Teardrops

Teardrops is a St Helens based charity which supports vulnerable members of the community and those impacted by homelessness and difficult financial circumstances.

One way they do this is through their foodbank in which people can donate selected food and drink items which help Teardrops to prepare Emergency Food Packs who cannot access a food bank vouchers and to prepare meals for those who access their facilities.

What items can be donated?

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Tea/Coffee/ Hot Chocolate | Sugar | Dried Pasta and Rice | Soup, Beans |
| Tinned Fruit and Meat | UHT Milk | Jars of Sauces | Biscuits, Crisps, Sweets and Chocolate |

How can I get involved?

You can bring in any of the above items in to school and donate during Tutor Time. Your House Reps will then bring these to your Head of House. The deadline is Friday 8th December to Form Tutors (Heads of House will accept final donations before registration on Monday 11th December). Heads of House will also be setting up a special collection point on Friday 8th December 2023.

Santa Dash for McMillan Cancer Support

- This takes place after-school on Thursday 14th December.
- The route will take place around the PE outdoors area.
- You can run, jog or walk the route.
- Entries are £1.00 - this will be collected by your Form Tutors.
- There will also be a unique opportunity to throw wet sponges at the Heads of House and special guests! (Yes, you read that correctly, we can't believe we agreed to this either!) There will be one free throw for Santa Dash Participants or throws can be purchased for a 50p donation.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch in school will be served on Wednesday 20th December. There will be no other hot food options served on this day however there will be sandwiches and baguettes available for those who do not want a Christmas meal.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE 2024

St Helens Borough Council will be holding a Holocaust Memorial Day Memorial Service at St Helens Town Hall on the 26th January 2024 at 10 a.m.

The service will last for approximately one hour and include prayer, and a candle lighting ceremony to commemorate all peoples who endured genocide and reinforce the message that prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Theme for this year is the Fragility of Freedom.

RAINHILL STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Rainhill Student Parliament takes place next Thursday during period 3 – all representatives are to attend.

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION - YEARS 10 AND 11

Important Information from St Helens Immunisation Team

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child's annual flu vaccination is now due.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu.

Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

*The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is recommended to have the flu vaccine again this year. The immunisation team will be coming into school to deliver on **Wednesday, 20th December 2023.***

Please visit the below link to access further information and complete your child's consent form even if you don't want them to receive their flu spray as this will avoid further communications from our service.

<https://econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk/>

If you are unable to complete the online form, please contact our team who will be happy to help. If after completing your child's form you attend the GP, and your child receives the flu nasal spray or wish to amend their form you must contact the immunisation team directly and not your child's school.

Yours faithfully,

*St Helens School Immunisation Services
01744 415 645*



ATTENDANCE NEWS

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Our December Attendance Challenge is well underway.



There are **9 school days** until the end of term.

We are asking both students and parents to be **resilience**

- Attend when they don't feel 100%.
- Attend when it is dark and wet outside.
- Do not substitute school for a Christmas shopping trip.

It is easy to make an excuse and stay at home, but we must work together to prepare your child for the adult world.

The final day of term is **Thursday 21st December**. Friday 22nd December is a staff INSET day. Students do not return to school until **Monday 8th January**. In total, your child will have 11 days of holidays.

Attendance has dropped this week. We have scheduled all Christmas events as late as possible into the last week of term.

High quality teaching and learning as always will remain the focus until we break for Christmas.

Our attendance team will continue to look at patterns of sporadic absence with individual students and follow this up with you.

Mrs Munro, Deputy Headteacher.



ATTENDANCE CELEBRATIONS

This week we celebrate some of our Year 7 students who have consistent, improving and improved attendance. Mrs Coxhill was pleased to present them with their certificates. Well done Year 7, keep it up.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REPORTING ABSENCES/LATE TO SCHOOL/FORTHCOMING

APPOINTMENTS/UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES VIA ABSENCE TAB ON SYNERGY

Synergy is the primary source of communication from school to all parents in relation to your child.

Synergy also enables daily attendance alerts to be sent to parents and allows you to:

- report your child's absence from school
- query if your child has an unexplained absence mark
- inform the school if your child is going to be late
- let us know of any forthcoming medical appointments for your child
- reply to the Attendance Team if you have received an attendance alert

Please use Synergy to report absences in the first instance. This can be actioned by accessing the contact school option from the home screen, followed by the absence option.

ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

Please [click here](#) to see our Enrichment Timetable.

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

| WINTER EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2023/24 | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15:10 -16:00 | GIRLS | BOYS |
| MONDAY | MEETINGS | |
| TUESDAY | Football: All Years Trampolining: Y7- 3-3:30 Y8-11 – 3:30-4:00 | Rugby: Y7 and Y8 Trampolining: Y7- 3-3:30 Y8-11 – 3:30-4:00 |
| WEDNESDAY | Netball: Y7 and Y8 (Boys welcome) | Football: Y7 Rugby: Y9 |
| THURSDAY | Netball: Y9 – Y11 (Boys welcome) | Football: Y8 and Y9 Basketball: All Years |
| FRIDAY | Girls Rugby: All Years Badminton and Table Tennis: All Years | |

Please note, all clubs are subject to **fixture/facility clashes, appropriate and safe weather, and appropriate pupil participation.** We aim to give notice to pupils as early as possible when this is the case. Pupils, please speak to staff if you are unsure.



FREE SCHOOL MEAL FUNDING



**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Could your child qualify for Free School Meals? Has your income changed this year? Could your child be eligible for additional funding?

**Do any of the statements below apply to you?
If they do your child may be eligible to access
additional government funding at school.**

**Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any
of the following:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

**It is important to give children the
best possible chance in life, open as
many doors as possible and broaden
their horizons.**

**Additional funding may be available
to school to support children who
have faced challenges, overcome
difficult times or are in a low income
household.**

**Your child may be able to access
additional funding if:**

- They have been adopted from care
- They are on a special guardianship order
- They have a parent that regularly serves or died whilst serving in the armed forces

**If you think any of the three statements above
apply to you please email
yacine.rachi@rainhillhigh.org.uk with details.**

**If any of the statements above apply to you please ensure you complete a
FREE SCHOOL MEAL application from your local council. You will apply to
the council that your home address is part of.**

St Helens

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/schools-education/school-meals/free-school-meals/>

**If you have any questions
regarding Free School
Meals you need to
contact St Helens Council
on 01744 676666**

Knowsley

<https://parentportal.knowsley.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

**If you have any questions
regarding Free School
Meals you need to
contact St Helens Council
on 0151 489 6000**

Liverpool

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals>

**If you have any questions
regarding Free School
Meals you need to
contact Liverpool Council
on 0151 233 3009**

Warrington

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

**If you have any questions
regarding Free School
Meals you need to
contact Warrington
Council on
01925 443322**

Widnes & Halton

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

**If you have any questions
regarding Free School
Meals you need to
contact Halton Council
on 0151 511 7188**





SINGING LESSONS



**DO YOU KNOW WE
OFFER 1-1 SINGING
LESSONS?**

**Do you love to sing and
have a passion to
perform?**

**Then come and see Miss
Mawdsley in D block on
a Tuesday to find out
more information**

**LEARN CORRECT
VOCAL
TECHNIQUES,
SING YOUR
FAVOURITE SONGS
AND HAVE FUN!**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**





HELP AND SUPPORT

CURRICULUM QUERIES

Heads of Department

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| English | Ms Dickman | Philosophy & Ethics | Mr Ernest |
| Mathematics | Mrs Hughes | Social Sciences | Mr Bunby |
| | Mr Rimmer | Computer Science | Miss Johnson |
| Science | Mr Flynn | Art Design Technology | Mr Bennett |
| Biology | Dr Gordon | Languages | Miss D'Anna |
| Chemistry | Miss Hesketh | Food Studies | Mrs Bolland |
| Physics | Mr Hurst | Performing Arts | Mrs McCann |
| History & Politics | Mr Fairclough | PE | Mr Rachi |
| Geography | Mrs Parkinson | Life Skills | Mr East |
| | | (PSHE/Citizenship) | |

PASTORAL QUERIES

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Stage 1 | Form Tutor | |
| Stage 2 | Year Student Manager/Progress Coach | |
| Stage 3 | Year Progress Leader/Director RH6 | |
| Stage 4 | Deputy Headteachers | Mrs Munro/Mrs Segal/Mr McKeegan |
| Stage 5 | Headteacher | Mrs Thorogood |

Pastoral Structure

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Y7 Student Manager | Mr Heron | Y7 Progress Leader | Mr Shoebridge |
| Y8 Student Manager | Miss Hill | Y8 Progress Leader | Mr Webster |
| Y9 Student Manager | Mr Moran | Y9 Progress Leader | Mrs Haselden |
| Y10 Student Manager | Mrs Jackson | Y10 Progress Leader | Mr Giles |
| Y11 Student Manager | Miss Gordon | Y11 Progress Leader | Mr Barry |
| RH6 Progress Coaches | Mrs Duffy/Mrs Nugent | Director RH6 | Mr Cunningham |

Communications Policy

Please [click here](#) to view our new communications policy.