



RAINHILL  
HIGH SCHOOL

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

# PARENT & STUDENT NEWSLETTER

[WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK)   

*Happy*  
**NEW**  
*Year*



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Students,

Good afternoon and welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

We have had a great start to the new term.

Our Reading Plus programme starts next week. Reading Plus is a programme to improve fluency, comprehension and vocabulary in reading. For more information, please refer to page 3.

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, we host our annual Careers Day where our students can meet and interact with a wide range of employers, universities and training providers. If you would like to be a part of our Careers Day, please see page 3 for more details.

Looking forward, we have our Legally Blonde Musical on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February where our students will showcase their talents. Tickets can be purchased from Performing Arts.

Finally, our Year 11 LP2 examinations start next week, timetables are enclosed.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Thorogood, Headteacher*



## **CONTENTS**

### **NEWS THIS WEEK**

**Page 3-9**

Annual Careers Day

Reading Plus

Kooth

Legally Blonde - The Musical

Year 11 LP2 Exam Timetable

Preparation for LP2 Exams

Year 13 LP2 Exams and Timetable

Annual Flu Vaccinations

### **ATTENDANCE NEWS**

**Page 10**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Page 11-13**

Reporting Absences

Enrichment Timetables

Free School Meals Funding

Signing Lesson

### **HELP AND SUPPORT - WHO TO CONTACT**

**Page 14**

## **NEXT WEEK FOLLOWS THE WEEK A TIMETABLE**

	<b><u>MONDAY</u></b>	<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>	<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>
<b>15/01/24</b>					



# NEWS THIS WEEK

## **ANNUAL CAREERS DAY**

Rainhill High School is excited to host its annual Careers Day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 9am-3pm. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to meet and interact with a wide range of employers, universities and training providers. We are planning a Careers Fair in our Sports Hall, with stalls from a range of providers and workshops for our students during the day.

**We believe that parents play a crucial role in shaping and supporting their children's career choices.**

- Could you share your career journey, milestones and experiences that have shaped your professional life?
- Could you discuss what skills and qualifications you consider essential in your field, and how did you acquire or develop them throughout your career?
- Could you help shape the futures of young people in your local area?

If so, then please email [greg.east@rainhillhigh.org.uk](mailto:greg.east@rainhillhigh.org.uk), specifying whether you would like to run a stall at our careers fair, or a workshop during the day.

*Mr East, Head of PSHE & Citizenship.*

## **READING PLUS**

This coming week will see our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils begin their weekly Reading Plus homework.

Reading Plus is a programme to improve fluency, comprehension and vocabulary in reading. All students in these year groups will be expected to complete at least three comprehension lessons and one vocabulary lesson each week.

These lessons will take approximately 30-40 minutes total, and your child will be able to choose the topics that they read about. There are fiction stories, non-fiction, and many different subject areas to choose from. Please join us in encouraging our pupils to get involved with this programme and improve their reading every week.

*Miss Dugdale, School Librarian.*

## **KOOTH**

Access to the Kooth website is 24/7 and young people can access a live chat with councillors between 12pm-10pm during the week and 6pm-10pm on weekends.





**LEGALLY BLONDE - THE MUSICAL**

RAINHILL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PROUDLY PRESENT

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*The Musical™*



**TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE MIKE DOYLE BUILDING  
AT BREAK AND LUNCHTIME**

**£10.00**

SHOW 1 - 6:15 - 7:15  
SHOW 2 - 7:45 - 8:45

**ST. HELENS THEATRE ROYAL**

**Music and Lyrics by** Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

**Book by** Heather Hach

**Based on the novel by** Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)





**YEAR 11 LP2 EXAM TIMETABLE**

	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Period 1	<b>English Language Paper 1</b> 2 hours	<b>Maths Paper 1</b> 1 hour 30 mins	<b>Science – Paper 2</b> Chemistry (Separate) 1hr 45 mins  Chemistry (Trilogy) 1hr 15 mins	<b>English Literature Paper 1</b> 1 hour 45 mins	<b>BOX A – Paper 1</b> Art Graphics – 3 hours Art – 3 hours Art Textiles – 3 hours Photography – 3 hours Computer Science – 1 hour 30 mins Geography – 1 hour 30 mins Food Preparation & Nutrition – 1 hour 45 mins RE – 1 hour 45 mins History – 1 hour Drama – 1 hour in class Period 1
Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2
<b>BREAK</b>					
Period 3	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal
<b>LUNCH</b>					
Period 4	<b>All French Listening &amp; Reading</b> Higher Listening – 45 mins Foundation Listening – 35 mins Higher Reading – 60 mins Foundation Reading – 45 mins  <b>BOX B – Drama Students</b> Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes	<b>Science – Paper 1</b> Physics (Separate) 1hr 45 mins  Physics (Trilogy) 1hr 15 mins	<b>All German Listening &amp; Reading</b> Higher Listening – 45 mins Foundation Listening – 35 mins Higher Reading – 60 mins Foundation Reading – 45 mins  <b>BOX D</b> RE Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 mins GCSE PE Paper 1 – 1 hour Computer Science Paper 1 – 1 hour 30 mins	<b>Science – Paper 3</b> Biology (Separate) 1hr 45 mins  Biology (Trilogy) 1hr 15 mins	<b>All Spanish Listening &amp; Reading</b> Higher Listening – 45 mins Foundation Listening – 35 mins Higher Reading – 60 mins Foundation Reading – 45 mins
Period 5		Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5



	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Period 1	<b><u>BOX B – Paper 1</u></b> Fashion – 3 hours Photography – 3 hours iMedia – 1 hour 30 mins Geography – 1 hour 30 mins History – 1 hour Construction – 1 hour Product Design – 1 hour	<b>Maths Paper 2</b> 1 hour 30 mins	<b><u>BOX D Paper 1</u></b> Art Graphics – 3 hours Photography – 3 hours Food Preparation & Nutrition – 1 hour 45 mins <b><u>Paper 2</u></b> RE – 1 hour 45 mins GCSE PE – 1 hour Computer Science – 1 hour 30 mins	<b>Maths Paper 3</b> 1 hour 30 mins	<b>Science - Paper 6</b> Biology (Separate) 1hr 45mins  Biology (Trilogy) 1hr 15mins
Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2
<b>BREAK</b>					
Period 3	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal
<b>LUNCH</b>					
Period 4	<b>Science – Paper 4</b> Physics (Separate) 1hr 45mins  Physics (Trilogy) 1hr 15mins	<b><u>BOX C – Paper 1</u></b> Geography – 1 hour 30 minutes iMedia – 1 hour 30 minutes History – 1 hour Product Design – 1 hour	<b><u>BOX A</u></b> RE Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 mins Computer Science Paper 2 – 1 hour 30 mins Drama Written Paper – 1 hour 30 mins  <b><u>BOX B – Drama Students</u></b> Drama in class Period 5 – 1 Hour	<b>Science - Paper 5</b> Chemistry (Separate) 1hr 45mins  Chemistry (Trilogy) 1hr 15mins	<b>All French, German &amp; Spanish</b> Written Paper Higher – 75 mins Foundation – 60 mins
Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5



### **PREPARATION FOR YEAR 13 LP2 EXAMS**

Year 13 LP2 exams are planned for the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please see below a full timetable. It is important to consider your revision now and start planning for when you will complete it.

During tutorial you have spent some time considering how to use your time more productively through time-blocking. This important skill you will now use to put a revision planner in place.

#### **Making a revision timetable that works**

A solid study planner is the key to making sure you cover everything you need to in time for the exam. It also has the added benefit of breaking everything down into more manageable chunks – revision suddenly feels much less daunting.

Once you start getting everything out on paper or screen, you will have a proper idea of the task ahead. The ideal revision timetable will be prepared far enough in advance that you can keep a good study/life balance and do not burn yourself out.

Start your revision timetable using this very simple model:

- Work out how many revision days you have left until your exams.
- Decide how much time you will spend revising on each day.

then

- Make a list of all the exams you need to revise for.
- Share the available revision time around each subject and/or exam.

Once you have got the basic timetable in place, you can start breaking those subject timings down into topics. You might then tweak it to suit your own study style (for instance, focusing more on one specific subject and less on another). More on that below.

If you can access your timetable on the go (using something such as Google Docs or an app – see some app ideas below) you'll have more flexibility over where you can study.

#### **Prioritising your revision**

Spend some time working out which subjects and topics need more of your revision time. You can then focus on these in your study planner.

A few things to think about:

- Y13 LP1 results. These might have flagged areas you need to work on.
- Uni offers. You might need to work harder to achieve certain parts of your offer.
- Teacher feedback. Ask your teacher if they think there are certain areas where you need to focus.
- Course specification. You can download the specification for each of your subjects. It will list everything that you're expected to know, so you can then check your revision plan is covering all it needs to.

Do not forget to make time for your stronger subjects too.

#### **Regular refreshers**

If you possibly can, try to make time to revise topics more than once - especially the ones you find tricky. Ideally you will have a plan that covers all the topics and then has refresher sessions for each. In this way, your understanding of each topic will stay fresh.





### **Past Papers**

There is really no way to exaggerate the usefulness of past papers. Looking back at exams from previous years will help you get in the zone. You can get used to how questions are worded and set yourself the challenge of taking them against the clock. Plug time into your revision timetable to go through past papers regularly.

Here are links to the exam board pages where you can find past papers:

- [AQA \(All Levels\)](#)
- [OCR \(All Levels\)](#)
- [Pearson Edexcel \(All levels\)](#)
- [Eduqas \(All levels\)](#)

### **Revision Timetable Apps**

These three popular apps can help you structure and plan your revision schedule. They offer study timetable templates to start from, along with other features to help you stay focused.

- **My Study Life:** an app to use throughout the year, not just during your revision period. Track homework and assignments and organise your daily and weekly schedule. Everything is stored in the Cloud for easy access on multiple devices. Available on: [Play Store](#), [iTunes](#).
- **SQA My Study Plan:** created by the Scottish Qualification Authority for Scottish students, the app creates a personalised study plan based on when your exams are – you can import your exam timetable directly from SQA MyExams. Available on: [Play Store](#), [iTunes](#).
- **Timetable:** if you're an Android-head, Timetable is one way to manage school life across your devices. The app even mutes your phone during lessons, in case you forget... Available on: [Play Store](#).

## **ADVANCE NOTICE - YEAR 13 LEARNING PROGRAMME - ASSESSMENT WEEK 2**

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 (inclusive)**

From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February (inclusive), all students in Year 13 will be undertaking assessments in the subjects they are currently studying. For both A-level and BTEC subjects these assessments will be based on past paper questions, and indeed complete papers, and will be taken under exam conditions to best prepare your son/daughter for final examinations in May/June 2024.

Please find attached the exam timetable so your son/daughter is aware of when their examinations take place. All morning exams will start as soon as possible at 9:00am. It is vital that your son/daughter reports to the Arts Theatre at 8:50am to ensure we have a 9:00am start.

Afternoon examinations commence at 1:00pm. Your son/daughter should report to the Arts Theatre at 12:50pm.

Students for A-level subjects will have study leave during the exam period as follows: -

1. The morning before an afternoon exam i.e., Tuesday (am) for an exam scheduled Tuesday pm
2. The afternoon before a morning exam i.e., Monday (pm) for an exam scheduled for Tuesday am.

Students completing applied general qualifications and arts courses must attend lessons as normal when not in exams.

Please could you encourage and support your son/daughter to prepare thoroughly for these exams as they will give them a good indication of the progress they have made to date.



The Sixth Form will be providing revision guidance sessions during tutorial periods to ensure your son/daughter can prepare effectively for these important exams. In addition, there is an expectation that your son/daughter will attend their study+ sessions and use this time to effectively prepare.

*Mr Cunningham, Director RH6.*

	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>
Period 1	<b><u>Box J – Paper 1</u></b> English Literature - 3 hours Physics – 2 hours Sociology – 2 hours	<b><u>Box L – Paper 1</u></b> Chemistry – 2 hours German – 2 hours 30 minutes Theatre Studies – 2 hours Biology – 2 hours	<b><u>Box M – Paper 1</u></b> History – 2 hours 30 minutes Geography – 2 hours 30 minutes Computer Science – 2 hours 30 minutes	<b><u>Box N - Paper 2</u></b> English Language – 2 hours 30 minutes Biology – 2 hours Maths – 2 hours French – 2 hours	<b><u>Box M – Paper 2</u></b> History - 2 hours 30 minutes Computer Science – 2 hours 30 minutes Geography – 2 hours
Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2	Exams continuing into Period 2
<b>BREAK</b>					
Period 3	<b>Lessons as normal</b>	<b>Lessons as normal</b>	<b>Lessons as normal</b>	<b>Lessons as normal</b>	<b>Lessons as normal</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>					
Period 4	<b><u>Box K - Paper 1</u></b> Psychology – 2 hours Law - 1 hour 30 minutes	<b><u>Box N – Paper 1</u></b> English Language – 2 hours 30 minutes Biology – 2 hours Maths – 2 hours French – 2 hours 30 minutes	<b><u>Box L – Paper 2</u></b> Chemistry – 2 hours German – 2 hours Biology - 2 hours  <b><u>Box K – Paper 2</u></b> Law - 1 hour 30 minutes	<b><u>Box K – Paper 2</u></b> Psychology – 2 hours  <b><u>Box K – Paper 3</u></b> Law - 1 hour 30 minutes  <b><u>Box J – Paper 2</u></b> Physics – 2 hours English Literature – 2 hours 30 minutes	<b><u>Box N – Paper 3</u></b> Maths – 2 hours  <b><u>Box J – Paper 2</u></b> Sociology – 2 hours  <b><u>Box L – Paper 3</u></b> Chemistry – 2 hours
Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5	Exams continuing into Period 5

### **ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION - YEARS 10 AND 11**

The St Helens Immunisation Team has been tasked by Public Health England to target pupils in current Years 10 and 11 and who have missed their routine vaccinations during the pandemic. To allow the Immunisations Team to facilitate this they will be visiting school on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Parents will be contacted directly from the Immunisation Team. If you need to contact them to discuss further, please do so on 01744 415645.

*St Helens School Immunisation Services.*



# ATTENDANCE NEWS

## ATTENDANCE CELEBRATIONS

This week we celebrate some of our Year 8 pupils who have consistent, improving and improved attendance. Mrs Coxhill was pleased to present them with their certificates. Well done Year 8, 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

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