

SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

If there was ever a time for a well-earned break, Summer 2021 would probably take some beating!

So I am optimistically writing this cheery summer message in the sunshine ready to share some of the amazing things that have taken place in this full and very busy summer term, here at Ravenshall.

As always there has been lots to celebrate throughout the year – despite the many Covid disruptions! Ravenshall School never stands still and, during this summer term in particular, pupils have risen to many challenges and have made us very proud indeed.

Leavers' Ceremony

As always it was lovely to celebrate our Year 11 & Year 13 students' 'rite of passage' as they prepare for their journey into adulthood. Staff spoke fondly and humorously about some key moments in our pupils lives. They presented several awards for academic and personal successes, and all students went home with a lovely 'Year Book' which highlighted many of their happy memories of the school. The day continued with a take away meal at our PfA Pod where the fun and continued.

It goes without saying that we wish every one of our 2021 leavers the best of luck for the future!



Welcoming our New Pupils

Clearly there have been different arrangements to welcome our new students to Ravenshall School this year. Mrs Keen in Primary, Mr Turner in Key Stage 3 and Miss Errett in PfA have done a great job to ensure that all new pupils and their parents have felt supported and welcomed to the school. They have spent much of this term making visits to new pupil's schools and then arranging individual 'tours' of the school, staff have provided a truly personalised transition for both our new students and their families. Through your feedback, I know you have appreciated the individually tailored approach they have offered this year to make this hugely important transition successful.

Sports Day

Last Wednesday we were lucky with the weather which was just perfect for the school's Sports Day to take place. All pupils enjoyed the event; Primary in the morning and our Secondary students in the afternoon. There were some splendid individual performances with many students achieving their 'personal best' results. However, the least said about the Staff Egg & Spoon Race, the better!!



The 100 Challenge Event

Ravenshall has been delighted to take up the challenge of Captain Sir Tom Moore's charitable cause with a raft of fun and enjoyable tasks and activities to raise money for good causes. As you are aware, the school decided on several charities with whom we work with; The Donkey Sanctuary, Downs & Special Friends and Friends of Ravenshall are just three of our grateful beneficiaries.



So, 100 handmade Cards, 100 Buns, 100 Charity Shop items, 100 toasted marshmallows, 100 basket



hoops, 100 decorated biscuits, 100 penalties (Yes, a better score than the Professionals!) and 100 Mile walk are just a selection of the amazing things which our talented and dedicated staff have challenged our pupils to do!!

Alongside the fun and teamwork which our children and young people have enjoyed, Miss Cocker has been determined that our brains should have a good work out too. As our specialist Maths teacher, she has led the fun mathematical learning and understanding of the magnitude of A

HUNDRED. Pupils have handled, collected and counted the money, they have sorted goods, they have divided and multiplied, they have served and delivered the cupcakes and biscuits.....in short they have done it all!

Every one of the activities have been simply inspirational; the 100 Raffle is next, and I will update you on the total amount raised just as soon as I know.

Party In the Park

This year our whole school 'Party in the Park' held a very special place in our hearts as we remembered our brilliant student Daniel Sullivan, who sadly passed away early in 2020. As part of



the 100 Challenge, we were keen to support the Leeds General Infirmary where Daniel spent the last weeks of his life. The Grand Raffle raised £533 which will be donated in Daniel's memory



Daniel's Grandma kindly attended our Party and graciously accepted a very special Tottenham Hotspurs football shirt signed by none other than England Captain, HARRY KANE!! This was organised by Mr Garside who also notified the local press to cover the story. Check out The Huddersfield Examiner (22nd July edition) to see the coverage. Daniel was a very special student who had a brilliant personality and a very kind heart. We miss him.

Staffing News

Ravenshall is a popular and growing school, so it's not surprising that we continue to welcome new staff to our Outstanding team.

We are delighted to welcome new teachers Kat Gornostaj and Bex Simpson who are joining the Secondary team, whilst Fiona Rodger and Hannah Ferraby will teach in the Primary department. We hope that another 2 teachers will be appointed shortly to take up both Maternity cover and tutoring posts. We wish all new staff the very best of luck in their roles!

We also have staff members leaving Ravenshall for pastures new.

Karen Hodson has secured a SENDCO role in a Barnsley Special School which complements her vast skill set. Karen came to Ravenshall as a newly qualified teacher but recently has been lead teacher in our Semi Formal classes. Her skills and expertise in this area will be sorely missed and we wish her well in her new post. Good luck Karen!

Mrs Halliley, teacher in S9, has decided to retire after 32 years in the profession this summer! I first worked with her in the early 1990's at a Bradford Middle School and her career has mainly been within the Secondary sector. Debs joined the Ravenshall team in 2014 and is currently a form tutor in KS4. In addition she has been proactive as the school's PSHE curriculum lead for several years. More recently, Deb has worked with the LA Advisory team to share her expertise in the development of Kirklees' RSE framework. Deb will be spending more time with her family and hopefully enjoying lots more 'out of term time' travel!

Fourteen years ago, Christine Greenwood joined the Primary department as a Nursery Nurse and has now decided to take life a little more slowly and retire from her role here at Ravenshall. Christine's skills and expertise with our younger pupils is a joy to see. Her patience, talents and calm approaches have been admired and replicated by others learning the most effective and valuable attributes of successful teaching in a Special School. Christine has been a hardworking and reliable colleague who is much loved and admired by all those who have worked with her. Thank you, Christine, for your long years of service and dedication; you will be missed by us all.

We wish both Deb and Christine a long, healthy and very happy retirement!

Latest Government guidance for schools

I'd like to draw to your attention that we have updated our Covid Safety Plan in recognition of the most recent changes which the Government have introduced nationally.

The school is happy to be able to relax some of the restrictions which have been lifted in line with Government guidance. I am attaching a more detailed overview which outlines the main changes in Education and how the new testing arrangements will work in school from September.

However, I must reassure you that the health, well being and safety of everyone at Ravenshall School remains our utmost priority. Much of our very effective practice throughout the Covid pandemic will remain in place, so please do refer to our updated plan which is on the school website for more details.

So, as this strange and somewhat turbulent academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Best Wishes

Jeanette Tate

Headteacher