IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE
On behalf of the Trustees, Governors, Staff and Students of Rainhill High School, it is with great pride that I welcome you to our school.

I recognise that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will have to make. We as a school understand that the transition from primary to secondary school can be a little daunting and aim to make it as smooth as possible.

When children join us at the age of 11, they join a very special community. As a school we value each student as an individual and aim to provide the best level of care, learning and development for each one of them, within and beyond the classroom. Our aim is to ensure that students leave us as happy, self-assured and independent individuals with a clear sense of social responsibility and the skills and qualifications to take their next steps confidently.

Our reputation for academic success is endorsed by the sustained achievement at Key stage 4 and Key Stage 5. The progress that students make has been recognised by OFSTED and we remain as popular as ever with a high demand for places at the school.

Here at Rainhill High School we welcome all and value the diversity of our school community. Our highly committed, caring staff help all of our students on their journey ‘in pursuit of excellence’. You will see throughout our prospectus that this permeates the wide range of classroom and enrichment opportunities on offer.

We encourage visits to our school in addition to the Open Evening early in the Autumn Term. Come and see our school in action; we will be delighted to show you around on a normal working day. Simply contact the school and appropriate arrangements will be made to meet myself and answer any question you might have.

I look forward to welcoming you in person.

Headteacher Josie Thorogood
This is what our students say...

...all of the teachers at the school are great
...everyone is polite and helps you out with things - big or small
...there is always someone you can go to at the school if you have an issue
...there are so many subjects to choose from at options time
...I am spoilt for choice after school, I go to lots of different clubs
...lessons make you think, we are constantly challenged to do better
...the arts events and theatre trips have been brilliant!
...I have been on some amazing trips, the teachers were great fun
...I am treated as an individual
...I am much more confident now
Learning is at the heart of what we do. Enabling every student to make great progress and experience the full range of different learning experiences is crucial. Learning new skills and enhancing the existing knowledge of each student, together with the strong belief that we can all do great things, leads to great achievements and helps to develop happy, confident, adventurous young people.

The curriculum experience is carefully planned to ensure children build up essential knowledge and refine their skills to give them a solid foundation from which they can build throughout their lives. There is an expectation that students reuse and recall existing knowledge to consolidate prior learning through a range of experiences including real life problems and challenging scenarios to become increasingly critical thinkers ready for life beyond the age of 18. The aim of our curriculum is to promote our ethos of high expectations and achievement, the development of character and greater social responsibility for each individual, no matter what their individual need. We aim to provide the essential knowledge and skills for citizens of the future and foster a sense of curiosity about the world around us. Throughout their time with us we focus closely on monitoring individual progress and set challenging personalised targets for all our students.

Building on the classroom experience is important and we have a wide variety of residential and overseas visits to build students’ maturity and experience. Recent international trips include New York, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Spain in addition to local trips, which broaden the experience and understanding of the world around them.

Your child’s time at the school will pass quickly; it is important that alongside the many activities, we prepare them for life beyond the school gates and the world of work. A vast range of careers information and guidance is built into our curriculum and students have many opportunities to learn about university life, apprenticeships and employment. We start the work early so that there is plenty of time to get well prepared for the exciting steps ahead.
School Leaders have created a climate of high expectations and ambition for the school, which is inclusive of all students.

OFSTED
Our teachers deliver lessons that are vibrant and that require students to be creative, critical thinkers who have the confidence to work independently in the face of unfamiliar challenges. We believe that it is important to get children working outside of their comfort zone and to develop a determination and resilience in their learning. ‘In pursuit of excellence’ is an aspiration we have for all our students, but we know that instilling the self-belief and passion to learn is critical to making achievement now and in the future a reality.

Understanding the needs of each individual learner, ensuring that the planning and delivery of lessons is appropriately pitched and appropriately challenging is common across our classrooms. We value the distinct qualities of the individual and encourage all of our students to grow and develop, we know that some students need more support and some need more challenge than others and will cater for each of them in their time with us. Regular reviews of progress in lessons, books and assessments help teachers to challenge students at an appropriate level and help each of them thrive.

Many of our students are very strong academically and considered to be gifted in different aspects of the taught curriculum. Challenging students to think hard and progress to a level appropriate to them is part of normal lessons. In addition there are targeted opportunities through enrichment events, from Computing to Maths, Languages to Science to support their development and pace of learning.
The culture of aspiration is an essential aspect to Rainhill High School and one that encourages children to make a difference in school and beyond. Being part of a community where aiming high, the encouragement to try new things and the celebration of success is widely shared, is one of the things that make Rainhill a great place to be.

The development of the personal qualities including resilience, grit and the determination to succeed are obvious in our classrooms as well as the varied enrichment opportunities on offer. The ‘Rainhill Experience’ is a series of planned activities that help to extend the understanding of the wider world of each child. We believe that exposing children to a range of cultural experiences, including religions of the world, performing and visual arts, international travel and charity involvement, helps children develop a deep sense of social and moral responsibility and helps them make informed choices in the future. All of our students are required to participate in a range of activities throughout their time with us.
Students achieve well overall. GCSE results are consistently above national averages across the range of subjects.
Outstanding teaching leading to students making good and outstanding progress in the majority of lessons

OFSTED
The House system consists of four Houses Sans Pareil, Rocket, Perseverance & Stephenson, names all associated with the locomotive trials at Rainhill Trials of 1829. The purpose of the Houses is to recognise the day to day contributions to the school community and also to recognise and celebrate extraordinary achievements and contributions through a house point system. Everyone is included; everyone makes a contribution.

Events are run throughout the year by all faculties, Year groups and houses; a number include charity work and other good causes. Students are actively encouraged to participate in activities that promote a positive school culture within and beyond the school day, this may be part of the events team, faculty buddies or the local community support group.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The student leadership team is made up of a Head Girl and Boy, Deputy Head Girls and Boys and a large prefect team. Under the guidance of the Head Girl and Boy the student leadership team lead by example and demonstrate the sense of pride throughout the school, helping and speaking at large school events and also representing the school in other forums including the local Parish Council and Youth Parliament.

Rainhill’s School Council are democratically elected representatives of each form and year group, ensuring that students have a clear voice and ability to influence decision making within their school. The student body is regularly consulted on aspects of the school and work hard to make a positive difference for those in the school now and in the future. House Captains and House representatives make Rainhill a happy and rich environment for students, by students.
The curriculum provides some outstanding opportunities for students’ moral, social and cultural development and prepares them well for life in modern Britain.

OFSTED

Trips and activities range from visiting the battlefields of the Somme, to joining an expedition to Tanzania, and animation workshops at the National Media Museum.

OFSTED
We know students thrive when they are happy, safe and settled and look forward to coming to school. Once the induction events are concluded, the children really are part of the Rainhill community. A place where everyone knows each other; where positive relationships are built and every individual counts. Students have a voice and are recognized in their own right. We celebrate diversity in our school and take our responsibilities in developing our young people very seriously.

Each student at Rainhill is in the care of a form tutor and they are the main point of contact between parents and school. They will get to know your child and make sure that they are happy, settled and able to thrive at school.

Early in the new term there will be a Year 7 Parents Information Evening and later in the year a Parents Evening to support and inform you of your child’s progress. We will keep you up to date at other times if we need to and make sure you are involved at every step of their school life.

We recognise that some students face additional challenges. Our highly skilled, professional staff will provide the support, help and advice for students and parents to ensure we overcome any barriers and help them focus on their learning.

The celebration of effort and achievements are a central part of our culture. House points, postcards of praise, achievers certificates and celebrations assemblies are just some of the ways in which we like to share the good news.
Relationships between teachers and students are based on high levels of respect thus enabling a good climate for learning to take place.

OFSTED
The Headteacher and senior leaders have a strong vision for the future of the school that is inclusive and aspirational.
We understand that moving up to secondary school is a big step; it is important to get it right. Our series of induction events and strong relationships with primary schools help support a smooth transition.

Before starting school in September, two induction days help settle students into their new environment. Many will also meet some of our staff in their primary schools throughout Year 6 too. Our transition programme ensures that all have the confidence to look forward to beginning Year 7.
The overwhelming proportion of parents who completed the online survey agreed that the school keeps their child safe. Bullying is rare. Safeguarding, particularly of the most vulnerable is strong.
At Rainhill, we help to guide students to make positive choices beyond the classroom. Students are encouraged to participate in a range of activities as part of their school experience and to develop as well rounded young people, including careers advice and guidance. ‘The Rainhill Experience’ consists of a range of activities, experiences and leadership opportunities, all of which are designed to encourage students to be active members of their school and wider communities.

At Rainhill we encourage our students to believe in themselves and that anything is possible. With hard work, commitment and determination, we present a range of opportunities to encourage students to try new things and ‘have a go’. There are many school based opportunities but nationally recognised schemes are also available including The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver or Gold and the National Citizen Service.
EVERY YEAR

• Take part regularly in an extra-curricular club
• Actively take part in a charity activity or project to help the school or wider community
• Achieve the bronze ‘Arts Award’
• Take part in your form assembly
• Represent your House or form in an inter-house/form/reward activity
• Regularly take part in an out of school activity (e.g. sport or music).
• Read at least one book every half term

DURING YOUR TIME AT RAINHILL HIGH SCHOOL

• Take part in a residential experience
• Meet an inspiring person who can widen your knowledge
• Visit a place of worship and gain an understanding of a different culture
• Be an ambassador for the school (e.g. Open Evening)
• Actively take part in an Enterprise activity
• Take on a position of leadership
• Perform or present to an audience in or out of school, or represent school in an activity/competition/event
• Take part in a mock interview
• Mentor a young student
• Become a school prefect
• Complete the National Citizen Award
• Attend a Careers Fair
Our Arts Academy offers an opportunity for students to engage in an exciting programme of visual and performing arts events and performances. The programme includes working with professional artists, dancers, actors and media specialists and allows students to gain a real insight into the world of the arts and the career possibilities within it. We offer additional qualifications in the arts as well as a range of masterclasses on site, at arts venues locally, regionally or internationally. Those auditioning and applying for places at the next level are given specific mentoring and support. Graduates of the Arts theatre have entered a range of courses and organisations from professional dancers to lighting and from graphic media to costume design.
Our aim is to put our students at the top of the ‘most wanted’ list for universities and industry. The Science Academy is an excellent springboard for students wanting to study science at ‘Rainhill Sixth’ and beyond and gives students access to scientists at the cutting edge of research so providing help and support to individuals to pursue their own scientific interest through research and placements in industry. Graduates of the Science Academy have gone on to secure university places in medicine, Biochemistry, pathology and zoology amongst others.
Rainhill Sixth is on the same site as our main school but has a different identity and atmosphere to the highly successful 11-16 school, giving a whole new experience.

Our strength is our size, being large enough to offer a full yet diverse curriculum and small enough to focus and support you in academic studies and future progression. We have excellent destinations with students going on to the best universities, apprenticeships and performing conservatoires in the country. We provide you with the tailored support and guidance in your studies allowing you to succeed at the highest levels.

The Rainhill Sixth ‘supercurriculum’ programme is wide reaching and ensures that you have every opportunity to build a range of first hand experiences, develop skills and your self-confidence to make your next steps at age 18. The programme includes bespoke work experience, enterprise, preparation for University, support with applications and a range of speakers and visits to support your studies and knowledge of the wider world. We actively encourage leadership opportunities, from national campaigns to local charity work. We actively encourage participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, many of our students go on to achieve silver and gold awards.

Destinations for our Rainhill Sixth leavers include undergraduate courses at Oxford, Cambridge and may Russell group Universities, top class performing arts institutions like the Italia Conti Conservatoire and Level 3 Apprenticeships at Whiston hospital and the RAF.