



RAINHILL HIGH SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS

In Pursuit of Excellence

SUMMER 2021



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SEE PAGE 8

NEW CURRICULUM

"EXCELLENT ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE, CULTURAL CAPITAL AND SKILLS"



Our curriculum at Rainhill High School is evolving to reflect our ever strengthening pursuit of excellence and the changes and challenges of the past twelve months.

9



NEW STUDENT LEADERS

Meet our recently appointed new Head Students and Senior Prefects.

3



MEET MR MCKEEGAN

Mr McKeegan is our new Deputy Headteacher and joins the SLT Team here at Rainhill.

12



Welcome to the Summer Highlights Magazine!

It has been an extra-ordinary year. Despite this, you will find this edition of 'Highlights' full of things to celebrate. The lifting of restrictions in July should mean that we are able to operate 'normally' from September - something we are all looking forward to. As the pandemic has affected so many aspects of life for such a long period of time, we will be working hard to get everyone back into strong routines from September to help make up for lost learning time. We look forward to a smooth, orderly start to the year and the reintroduction to a wide range of activities across the school day as well as after school, including trips and visits.



New Assessment

Learn all about our new assessment vision on Page 9.

A particular thank you to all our community volunteers who have supported the school's Covid testing centre; quite simply we could not have managed over the last 12 months without their help and support. Their generosity of time and energy are a shining example to us all about community involvement and making a contribution to society.

Our work on curriculum has continued at pace this year and we will be introducing a new assessment system that focusses on the key knowledge and skills that students need at each stage of the year from September. Parents can read more about this in this edition. In addition, we will be focusing on mental health and well-being in response to some of the challenges students have faced in partnership with the local Clinical Commissioning Group as well as other charities that support such issues.

I am delighted to welcome our new Head Students into their roles and look forward to working with them to make the school a better place to learn and develop; they have some exciting ideas about student leadership at school as well as some of the big issues of the day.

Congratulations to all those students who achieved highly in their chosen sporting field,

particularly those who participated in the Liverpool City Championships. Great progress has been made despite the interruptions to training and competitions. Congratulations to Miss Marshall who won a silver award for Pearson, Secondary School teacher of the year award. This means that she automatically goes forward as a nominee for the gold award presented later this year in a red-carpet event in London.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and support over the year and hope that you all get a good break and rest over the summer, ready to start afresh in September.

Josie Thorogood (Mrs)
Headteacher

MEET RAINHILL HIGH'S NEW STUDENT LEADERS

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head Students, Deputy Head Students and the Senior Prefect Team.

The new team have all been through a rigorous process of completing a comprehensive application form and a formal interview with Mrs Thorogood, Mr Roberts and Mr Giles. All of the new senior prefect team have done themselves, their families and the school proud and will now put into action their plans for student-led initiatives to make the school even better.

Some of the roles that the head students and the wider senior prefect team are responsible for, include:

- Delegation of the wider prefect team into roles across the school
- Leading on the newly restructured school council and subcommittees
- Leading meetings and welcoming VIPs to the school
- Speaking at major events such as open evenings, induction events and award ceremonies
- Working with Senior Leaders in the school to instigate positive changes for students



MEET THE TEAM...

Head Students Alice Lee & Will Webb
Deputy Head Students Emily McAleny & Adam Webb
Senior Prefects Lucy White, Grace Onyett, Evan Woods, Jack Lawson

Alice Lee

Hello, I am Alice and I am Head Student of Rainhill High school. This role in the school enables me to do many things such as give students a voice and a platform to speak out about anything bothering them or anything they appreciate about our school. We believe at Rainhill that we should create a community that always strives for excellence and the students are all heavily involved in ensuring that the community is the best it can possibly be including factors such as individuality and acceptance.



Will Webb

Hi, my name is Will and I have been appointed as Head Student at Rainhill High School. I like to believe I will suit this role due to my attitude that I will always try my best at everything I do. Additionally, I also live by the quote "integrity is doing what's best, even when no one is watching". This is an incredible experience for me and I hope to grow into the role even more as time goes on.



Rainhill Sixth is leading the way with supporting talented athletes in education, having been accredited by a TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) initiative.



TASS is part of the SportsAid family and as such is funded by the National Lottery, through Sport England, with a brief to help young sports people juggle the demands of sport and education. The talent pathway allows students to have the opportunity to gain qualifications alongside their sporting pursuits and follow other interests and personal development.

As a Dual Career Accredited Site, Rainhill Sixth will be an important extension of the network of universities that already partner with TASS, delivering core support services to more than 600 student athletes each year. These support services include physiotherapy, nutrition, lifestyle support, psychology strength and conditioning and a private medical scheme.

Achieving TASS Dual Career Accreditation not only recognises our existing commitment to encouraging and supporting talented athletes from a wide range of sports, but also provides us with an opportunity to add even more value to the experience of our students and consequently help them to achieve the career and life ambitions.

CONEXUS



We are delighted to be continuing our work with Conexus Tuition. This year, we were able to continue tuition during lockdown with students in Year 10 benefitting from English and Maths input through a combination of in-person and online lessons. In addition to this, we have provided Maths 'catch-up' for around 100 Year 7 students and selected Year 8 and 9 students.

Conexus Tuition was founded in 2013 and works with a number of schools in the North West. Their motto is 'making exceptional progress every day' and from what we have already seen, this very much rings true. Their Principal Sharon Cawley told Highlights, 'I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole Conexus team in Rainhill, to express our appreciation and thanks for the way in which we have been welcomed into your school community. The engagement and the way in which the young people conduct themselves is outstanding. We look forward to the new year at Rainhill, delivering across all the year groups and working with a superb group of students.'

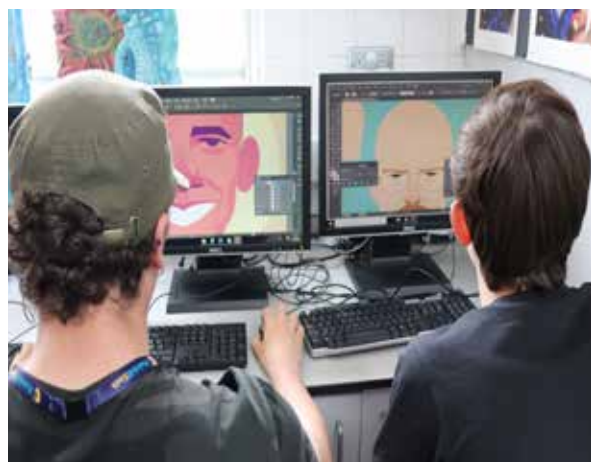


RainhillSixth

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Here at Rainhill Sixth, we value learner voice and set up the Sixth Form Council to provide feedback about the facilities, resources, and curriculum here at Rainhill Sixth on behalf of the student body. The council also help to plan and facilitate charity events and events within Sixth Form for our students. Council meetings are a regular occurrence, scheduled to take place once biweekly to discuss the matters listed. These meetings are organised and facilitated by our Sixth Form Progression Mentor, Kara Banks. Two of the council members Sophie Kenny and Ethan Watts had this to say about their experience on the Sixth Form Council thus far: "During our time on the Sixth Form Council we have accomplished several things to strengthen the provision within Sixth Form itself. By having regular meetings, we can have discussions and debates on how to do this, meaning that our ideas and recommended changes have come through into action. Some examples of changes based on these discussions include: the benefit of having more bins within communal areas, sanitary products for women within the ladies' bathrooms and changes made to the food offerings in the Sixth Form Bistro. Not only do we help make changes, but it also gives a solid group to be able to vocalise what the rest of the student body are thinking and feeling to enhance our Sixth Form experience."



YEAR 11 Students enjoy a masterclass in graphic design.

MASTERCLASSES FOR YEAR 11

During the week commencing 14th June 2021 all prospective applicants to RH6 were invited in for Masterclasses in the subjects they are looking to enrol on.

During a busy week, students also had input from the National Citizenship Service about opportunities during the summer and Oxford University about applying for competitive courses at Russell group universities.

Masterclasses were offered in all subjects and provided students with a real feel for post-16 study in that area. The feedback from students was positive and all seemed enthused by interesting and challenging sessions run by their teachers. The teachers commented positively on how well students had responded to the sessions. It was also a great opportunity for students outside of Rainhill High School to have a taste of sixth form life before joining the Sixth Form on 12th August 2021.

We are now looking forward to enrolment on 12th August 2021 and our induction challenge on Monday 6th September 2021.

RAINHILL SIXTH STUDENT DESTINATIONS



DAISY EVANS 2018-20
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL TO
STUDY FRENCH WITH SPANISH

"Dance at Rainhill Sixth has provided me with so many enriching and creative opportunities. Along-side the incredible opportunities we receive on a daily basis, every lesson we also get to truly immerse ourselves into the dance industry as the personalised and effective teaching we receive prepare us for the dance world. For me personally I've seen growth within myself and been able to express myself in ways I didn't know I could."



JACOB PEARCE 2018-20
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL TO
STUDY ASTROPHYSICS

"I loved the Physics course as the content was extremely interesting and very varied throughout. I always felt my teachers had a genuine interest in our class as well as the subject itself. The highlight of the course for me was visiting CERN in Switzerland as we got to talk to some of the smartest nuclear physicists in the world, as well as talking to other physicists who all use the Large Hadron Collider to help them in their research."



JOSEPH BRABIN 2018-20
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
(GIRTON COLLEGE) TO STUDY
NATURAL SCIENCES.

"I chose Rainhill Sixth as I had prior familiarity with its layout and teachers. I was also fond of there being relatively few pupils per class, as this would (and did) allow for more profitable acquaintances with my teachers: they could get to know us as individuals. My chemistry teachers- know their subject in great detail and have taught me much in the years that I have known them."



YEAR 10 DRAMA

Students take part in an advanced level drama class.

SIXTH FORM STUDENT COUNCIL



Here at Rainhill Sixth, we value learner voice and set up the Sixth Form Council to provide feedback about the facilities, resources, and curriculum here at Rainhill Sixth on behalf of the student body.

The council also help to plan and facilitate charity events and events within Sixth Form for our students. Council meetings are a regular occurrence, scheduled to take place once biweekly to discuss the matters listed. These meetings are organised and facilitated by our Sixth Form Progression Mentor, Kara Banks. Two of the council members Sophie Kenny and Ethan Watts had this to say about their experience on the Sixth Form Council thus far: "During our time on the sixth form council we have accomplished several things to strengthen the provision within Sixth Form itself. By having regular meetings, we can have discussions and debates on how to do this, meaning that our ideas and recommended changes have come through into action. Some examples of changes based on these discussions include: the benefit of having more bins within communal areas, sanitary products for women within the women's bathroom and changes made to the food offerings in the Sixth Form Bistro.

TASTE OF SIXTH FORM 2021

On Tuesday 22nd June 2021 all of Year 10 enjoyed a day in the Sixth Form getting some experience of what post-16 study will be like.

The students chose from a wide range of subjects which we offer at A-level and Level 3 Applied and Technical (please visit <https://rainhillsixth.org.uk/> for a full list) which also included an opportunity for some students working with our partner Fowler Education Football Academy.

The feedback from both students and staff has been very positive. The students enjoyed the sessions and the experience of being a sixth form student for the day. The teachers had a great opportunity to show-case their subject to Year 10 students

so they know what study will be like in that subject should they decide to pursue this post-16.

More events will be organised during the Autumn term to ensure students are well informed about their choices post-16.

Mr Cunningham
Director RH6



BEN TRUMAN YEAR 9 - LIVERPOOL FC AND ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL



"I was called up to the England U15's training camp at St George's Park on 23rd April - 25th April 2020 - my first call up! During the 3 days I trained with players from other clubs around the country which meant not only was I playing in the best environment that I could, I was also interacting with the best players of their age group. It was a busy 3 days - lots to do and not just football orientated. Friday, for the first time, I met the lead coaches and the staff who would be with me on my journey and there to help support me.

These weren't just coaches but education staff who are dedicated to ensuring we didn't fall behind whilst away from school. We had a head tennis session as a group to help us bond and have fun on that first night. Saturday was the toughest day - we had a 1.5 hour education session first thing after breakfast and training after lunch. The food was great and a good chance for me to catch up informally with those who had come from all parts of our home nation. It was really useful to hear of other players' experiences of being at an academy and, through their feedback, learning how to push myself on the pitch. Sunday we had education early morning again with an in-house game later in the day to put our skills to the test and form a team.

I'm hoping I will be called up to the next training camp in May as this will involve a game against Wales and this will be really exciting to play an actual game and push ourselves further as an England U15s squad." #younglions



FEFA ROBBIE FOWLER'S FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Robbie Fowler's Football Education Academy (FEFA) have continued their partnership with Rainhill Sixth to offer a great package of education and sports training.



FOWLER ACADEMY

SHORTLISTED FOR THE TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR CATEGORY IN THE NATIONAL 2021 TES FE AWARDS.

WHO ARE FEFA?

Launched in 2015 by former Liverpool and England striker, Robbie Fowler, FEFA's academic results are already impressive. FEFA have, in the past received glowing reports from OFSTED and Pearson qualifications. Last year, four out of five students who attended FEFA progressed to their University of choice, with a suite of excellent qualifications and quality training.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS WITH RAINHILL SIXTH AND FEFA?

There are two routes of study on offer with the partnership between FEFA and Rainhill Sixth:

ROUTE 1:

Male students - Study at Rainhill Sixth and access a bespoke package of training and match play from FEFA. Students need to achieve Rainhill Sixth entry requirement for

the courses they wish to study.

ROUTE 2:

Study at FEFA full time to gain BTEC coaching and sports based qualifications whilst engaging in a comprehensive programme of football.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RAINHILL SIXTH AND FEFA?

Competition amongst academy-age players in England is intense. Only 1 in 200 youngsters nationally will be offered full-time professional contract. By teaming up with Rainhill Sixth, FEFA aims to ensure that young players are educated and equipped for the many alternative careers on offer in football and the wider sports and leisure industry. To offer the support with football and the studies at Rainhill Sixth really is a rare package this partnership offers.

Pearson Awards FE Lecturer of the Year

Teaching professionals working in Further Education institutions play a vital role in inspiring and engaging learners. They're focused on best possible learner outcomes, preparing them to make successes of their lives, whether that's via Higher Education or directly into employment.

BRONZE WINNER Andrew Allen

Robbie Fowler Education and Football Academy





Many changes are happening at Rainhill this Summer

SUMMER SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We are looking forward to a busy summer, which will see lots of exciting additions and changes to our school site!

In addition to the usual programme of resurfacing and remedial works, we will be undertaking a number of exciting projects that will enhance the student and staff experience at Rainhill High School.

The biggest addition will be our fantastic new, purpose built, library that we hope will encourage students to take up reading for pleasure in addition to providing them with a quiet study area before, during and after school. We have employed a dedicated librarian who will be running the library and who will be on hand to provide advice in addition to running events and competitions for students of all ages.

Another noticeable change will be the total refurbishment of our English faculty, giving our students a fresh environment in which

to learn, which is also suitable for visually and hearing impaired students; this marks the start of our annual refurbishment programme, which will see one or two faculty areas refurbished each year.

We are also planning to upgrade our IT provision, with a brand new computer suite being created in S-Block and new computers being installed within Sixth Form communal areas (Study Area and Library) and one of the computer suites in A-Block. Our internet should also run a little faster with a new connection that is four times faster than the current one!

All in all, a demanding summer but one which will be hugely worthwhile!

NEW RHS LIBRARY

A new library building will be the main focus of the summer building work.



SAY HELLO TO MISS DUGDALE

Hello, my name is Miss Dugdale, and I am Rainhill's new School Librarian! I am currently doing a Master's degree in Modern and Contemporary Literature at the University of Manchester, as well as getting Rainhill's books organised to go into our brand-new library.

I am of course an avid reader; my favourite book is *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith, and I also love the knit and craft. I am so excited to get to work on making Rainhill's library the best it can be!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Selected from thousands of nominations, Jane Marshall has been honoured as one of 102 Pearson National Teaching Silver Award winners across the country. Jane Marshall was honoured with a Silver Award in The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School for their outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

Upon joining Rainhill, Jane's obvious passion and ability in the classroom changed the fortunes of her new department for the better and recruitment into A level accelerated rapidly. Jane has since held the role of Senior Lead Practitioner at the school where her infectious attitude and innovative classroom practice has supported the development of colleagues across the school. Jane has presented at the SSAT conference and is a 'go to' professional for colleagues within and beyond the school in her role as an SLE.

Jane has now been shortlisted to win one of just 15 Gold Awards later in the year, in a programme which will be broadcast on the BBC. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

The Silver Award winners are being honoured as part of the wider celebrations for 'Thank a Teacher Day', a national campaign to honour and recognise school staff for their incredible work. The celebrations follow new data which shows how the previous year's lockdowns have significantly changed how families across the country view the role of teachers.

New research from Parentkind and The Teaching Awards Trust highlights that three in four parents and carers have a newfound respect for the teaching profession following their experiences of remote learning during lockdown. 74.9% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had more respect for the work that teachers do following their family's experiences of remote learning.



The last year has seen a wealth of stories of teachers making care visits to vulnerable families, coming up with innovative ways of remote teaching, keeping their pupils settled by regularly checking in and even using their school sites for Covid-19 testing when classes did return to school. There has never been a better time to appreciate them and the vital work they do.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of excellence in education, founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the life-changing impact an inspirational teacher can have on the lives of the young people they work with. This year marks its 22nd year of celebrating, award-winning teachers, teaching assistants, headteachers and lecturers across the UK

Josie Thorogood, Headteacher Rainhill High School said:

"The whole of our school community pass on their warmest congratulations to Miss Marshall on her nomination; we are delighted for her and are very proud of her achievements. Over her career to date she has supported countless children and colleagues; she is a credit to Rainhill High School and the profession, we wish her the best of luck for the next stage of the awards"

Sir Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, said:

"Thank a Teacher Day gives us all a chance - children, families, all of us - to pay tribute to those wonderful educators who change more lives than they will ever know. Today we say thank you to the teachers who have helped our young people navigate these most difficult of times, and who will continue to inspire countless young minds over the coming years."

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

"The hard work and dedication of teachers in schools, colleges and across the education sector during the pandemic has been inspiring, and while our teachers deserve the country's recognition every year, this year's Thank A Teacher Day is even more significant. The support they have provided children, young people and adults has been remarkable, and each and every one of us should be grateful for the part they have played over the past 18 months.

"Congratulations to all the Silver Award winning educators, and every teacher who has gone above and beyond, inspiring and shaping our future generations to be the best they can be."

NEW CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT



Our curriculum at Rainhill High School is evolving to reflect our ever strengthening pursuit of excellence and the changes and challenges of the past twelve months. Our core values of Learn, Think, Contribute, Care underpin everything we do as we develop our curriculum to ensure excellent academic knowledge, cultural capital and skills of our pupils.

This year, we have defined the key knowledge and skills that every pupil at Rainhill High School needs at the end of KS3 in order to progress onto the KS4 course in Year 10 in a strong position, and ready to excel at GCSE and beyond. Whilst our pupils may follow different routes to achieve this standard, ultimately it is our expectation that all pupils reach – or exceed – this aspirational goal.



So, with such a mammoth vision, where do we start?

Of prime importance is that we ensure the National Curriculum is adhered to and that we cover everything that we have to by law. However, how we interpret this is down to us - and subject leads have worked with Mrs Segal and Miss Aylward to ensure that our curriculum offer is aspirational, engaging and challenges every pupil to be passionate about learning, study and the world around them.

With this underpinning everything, each subject has therefore defined the key knowledge and skills needed at the end of KS3, or Year 9, and the sequence in which this knowledge, and these skills, are taught throughout the Key Stage in their own subject area.

Reading cuts across all subjects and this, too, features in our school curriculum intent.

Cross curricular links are also being developed in order to ensure that all of our pupils view knowledge as being fluid and adaptable across a diverse range of subjects, so deepening learning further.

What will this look like in lessons?

Delivering the key knowledge and key skills through well sequenced lessons, and how these lessons, and teaching and learning, look is what all teachers have been working on this year.

We embed principles of introducing knowledge in small steps, providing models, guiding student practice, asking planned questions, giving feedback and – essentially – rigorously check understanding at every stage and periodically.

How is my child tested?

Depending on the subject, your child will be assessed once or twice per half term in every subject. These tests are constructed specifically from the knowledge taught in the lessons immediately prior to the test alongside some 'prior knowledge' from an earlier unit.

There will be a mix of multi-choice-questions, short and longer response questions on every paper. Literacy will also be marked, as will reading skills.

As part of structured feedback, the 'gaps' in understanding identified on marking will be retaught and retested, both on a whole class level and individually.

At the end of each year, the final 'LP' will be a formal exam, testing everything from the year thus far.

What will my report look like?

- We are not using levels or grades in Year 7, 8 or 9.
- Instead, you will receive, per subject, information about whether your child is working at greater depth, expected or working towards the Rainhill defined expected standard.
- More importantly, your report will also include details of which key knowledge, per subject, your child has grasped securely and where further study is needed. Parents will get information on these areas too; what we are doing at school and what you could do to support at home.

When will I find out more?

We will be sending further information in the summer pack this August. The Parent Information Evenings at the start of the new term will also be an opportunity for us to showcase these exciting developments.



STUDENT'S SHORT STORY SET FOR THE STAGE

Cameron Gilbert's 'A Moment of Change' will be performed live by Northern Broadsides in July.



Rainhill Sixth Student, Cameron Gilbert, applied to Halifax based theatre company Northern Broadsides with an original 300 word short story, which they have helped him to convert into a professional stage production. Cameron's story was one of fifteen successful entries and is a tale set in the distant future, long after humanity has become extinct.

"A moment of change"

She stared intently at the painting, watching the colours swirl through the lens of her remaining eye. "The Starry Night" she said aloud, though no soul heard her. She watched as the ancient canvas convulsed like the sea, crashing waves of flowing joy throughout her system. She discovered love within that painting. It captivated her young but endless imagination with its pristine romance. She sat upon the decaying bench of the crumbling gallery and thought of the man it must take to create such art.

"Van Gogh."

Her voice echoed in the lifeless space. She searched her memory and gorged on the information she once regurgitated to tourists. She could see all his paintings so clearly, each one a masterpiece. She spent days engrossing herself within every perfect stroke of the brush, every detail placed by this master of colour. Her body shuddered with new sensations of pleasure and wonder. She had been as cold as steel before she discovered the troubled soul and his wonderful artwork. Something had been missing from her that she simply couldn't live without. But what was it? What was that moment of change?

She pondered that question, holding her face of rubber within her prosthetic hand. Her mechanical heart ticked away like the passing seconds, pumping electricity through her copper veins. "What changed" her voice crackled like the static of a radio. She turned her head to see the last painting of Van Gogh. The magical field transported her to a place where the sun could shine. She adored the singing birds and radiant sunlight upon her artificial skin, her mechanical mind relishing in new sentience. The world from which she was born is long since dead. She will never notice, absorbed in the delights of her moment of change.

OUTWARD BOUND TRUST

The Outward Bound Trust have been in school this term working with groups of our young people on team building and problem solving activities. The pupils have all really enjoyed the sessions and getting stuck in to new activities that they haven't experienced before. The pupils took part in a whole range of challenges from building shelters to creating their own fire pits. The skills developed by our pupils included perseverance and effective communication. One of our instructors Shaun said "The pupils we've worked with have embraced the challenges and are a great bunch of young people. Their enthusiasm has been fantastic and they are a credit to the school".



RAINHILL READERS

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum at Rainhill High School and is vitally important to the academic progress of all students; it develops vocabulary understanding and use in both written and verbal communication and opens the door to exciting new adventures and journeys through imagination.

Each year group have their own novel and twice per week Form Tutors read to their form to enjoy the story as it unfolds. This has sparked some interesting discussions between students and their teachers as they experience the novels and their associated contexts together. Each book explores a diverse range of topical real world issues. Whilst there is still a place for independent reading in the school day, as an introduction to every English lesson, this is a proven strategy to enhance reading for pleasure and develop children's ability to appreciate and love stories.

The books we are currently reading are: Year 7; Cogheart by Peter Bunzl, Year 8; Millions by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Year 9; Noughts and Crosses Malorie Blackman and Year 10; If I Was your Girl by Meredith Russo by Holly Bourne. Before Christmas students will be actively involved in the selection of their new form reader to begin in the new year.



As part of the Rainhill Standards we ask that all our students read independently at home and that parents support this reading for pleasure. To support you with this, there are some QR Codes to the right of this text, to recommended reading lists that are suitable and challenging for each year group. Our school library has also been recently restocked with some interesting and exciting new titles which can be loaned. Your child's English teacher will be more than willing to give some guidance and recommendations for new reading material.



YEAR 7



YEAR 8

YEAR 9



YEAR 10



HOUSE SYSTEM OVERHAUL SEES NEW HOUSE CREATED!

Our House System is very important here at Rainhill High School and we are always looking at ways of allowing it to be as productive as possible in helping us drive our Personal Development agenda. The purpose of the Houses is to recognise the day to day contributions to the school community but also to recognise and celebrate extraordinary achievements and contributions through a House point system.

Everyone is included, everyone makes a contribution.

From September 2021 we will be introducing a new House 'Braithwaite' to ensure we have parity across all years (as there will then be 10 form groups in each year). The House is named after John Braithwaite who jointly built 'Novelty', the engine which came second in the Rainhill Trials.

This will mean some pupils will be reassigned to the new House and therefore new House colours.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

The role of the Senior Leadership Team at Rainhill High School and Rainhill Sixth is to ensure that all of our young people get the very best educational experience that we can offer. Recently, we have made some changes to the structure and members; all of the changes reflect the school's most recent School Development Plan (See below).

The Senior Team will welcomed a new Deputy Headteacher from January 2021. Mr Alan McKeegan joins us from The Wade Deacon Trust where he was also a Deputy Headteacher; he will oversee the timetable, curriculum offer, data and will ensure that we meet all of the statutory national curriculum requirements required of English schools. Mr Rob Owens's, (Chief Operating Officer) and Mrs Linsay Munro's (Deputy Headteacher: Personal Development and Well-being) roles remain unchanged, Mrs Wendy Segal moves into Curriculum planning and provision, learning outcomes for all students and teacher training and Miss Louise Aylward to classroom practice, vocational education and our disadvantaged cohort. Mr Tony Cunningham moves to the Director of Sixth Form to replace Mr Hemsley and Mr Peter Roberts will oversee Personal Development and Student Destinations.

In 2021 the senior team also saw the arrival of Mr Yacine Rachi as Associate Assistant Headteacher in September 2020 to review and strengthen the provision and progress of boys at our school and this month saw the creation of a new Associate Assistant Headteachers' post to support 'blended learning' approaches; Ms Laura Johnson has already begun to review some of our provision and has been asked to help improve the support available to teachers and parents in lockdown and beyond.

All contact details of SLT are published each week in the Parent Newsletter



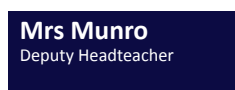
Mrs Thorogood
Headteacher



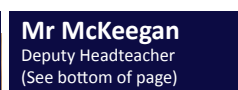
Mr Owens
Chief Operating Officer



Mrs Segal
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Munro
Deputy Headteacher



Mr McKeegan
Deputy Headteacher
(See bottom of page)



Mr Roberts
Assistant Headteacher



Miss Aylward
Assistant Headteacher



Mr Cunningham
Director of Rainhill Sixth



MR McKEEGAN RAINHILL'S NEW DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

"I am delighted to be joining you in the position of Deputy Headteacher".

Prior to this role I was employed as a Vice Principal within a successful Multi Academy Trust, I will draw upon all of my experiences to fully support the progress of Rainhill High School. The removal of barriers within education is something that I am passionate about, alongside the importance of providing young people with a wide range of opportunities to develop both inside and outside of the classroom.

Outside of education, I am a staunch supporter of St. Helens RLFC and I also regularly take part in endurance events such as marathons and triathlons.

Your Name: Mr McKeegan

Subject you teach: Science (Physics + Biology)

Where are you from/born? St. Helens

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? Having previously worked in several schools in the local area, Rainhill has always had a great reputation for academic success. The opportunity to join the team as we work towards being an outstanding provider was one that appealed strongly to me. Working with our sixth form students was also a key reason behind my decision to apply to work

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIES 2021-22

1. Improve the quality of education at Rainhill by:

- a. Ensuring that our curriculum is carefully planned and articulated, taking account of the specific needs of our pupils, and built on sound principles of cognitive science and best practice in subject teaching expertise.
- b. Improving all our pupils' literacy skills, so that they are fully able to access their learning in all subjects and well prepared to participate in their local, national and international communities.
- c. Developing the most effective teaching and learning strategies that enable our pupils to improve their long-term retention of the key learning in each subject.
- d. Ensuring that traditionally under-achieving groups in the academy, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, the disadvantaged, those in public care and – more broadly – boys, make better progress at least in line with similar groups nationally
- e. Lifting the performance of pupils in currently under-performing subject areas to that of the academy's best
- f. Develop an academy wide Covid-19 recovery curriculum to address any 'gaps' in learning from lockdown and self isolation

2. Improve the behaviour and attitudes of all pupils by:

- a. Eliminating low-level disruptions to learning
- b. Raising the aspirations, ambitions and expectations of all pupils to help them fully realise their potential
- c. Improve the attendance of pupils who currently have attendance below the academy average

3. Build upon the currently excellent opportunities that the academy offers for personal development and leadership by:

- a. Improving participation in enrichment activities from currently under-represented groups such as those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, by ensuring that activities are appropriately accessible and that pupils are suitably supported. (Curriculum Implementation)
- b. Develop an academy-wide Covid-19 recovery plan to address any identified mental health and wellbeing issues that become apparent.

4. Ensure all members of staff with leadership responsibility are able to meet the academy's expectation of outstanding leadership, by:

- a. Continuing to recruit individuals with the ambition, drive and potential to be outstanding.
- b. Improving the programme of training, professional development, mentoring and coaching at all levels of leadership to ensure that colleagues are clear about the academy's high standards and suitably supported to achieve them.

5. Improve the quality of Sixth Form provision at Rainhill by:

- a. Ensuring that the academy's work on curriculum, teaching and learning and behaviour and attitudes includes specific and identifiable elements tailored to the needs of post-16 learners
- b. Developing training and professional development opportunities specifically for those involved in teaching post-16 learners, to ensure the very best practice for this age-group

here; seeing students progress from Year 7 to 13 is a hugely rewarding experience.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? It was obvious to me from my first day at Rainhill that teaching and learning is at the forefront of our thinking. Staff are proactive and well led to ensure that cutting edge research is used to inform their delivery of lessons. I have been particularly impressed by the remote learning that was implemented throughout lockdown and I am confident that the skills developed throughout this period will benefit our students as we return to normality.

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? Science has always fascinated me; I love the fact that almost any topic that we can deliver can be related to the real world, whether that be teaching someone to wire a plug or discussing the origins of the Universe and how this knowledge can influence our daily life.

What are your hobbies? I am a passionate fan of rugby league, after finishing playing I now watch the Saints at every opportunity. I also take part in endurance events such as marathons and triathlons - I am not very good but I enjoy completing them! I am a regular supporter of Cancer Research UK and will be

working with the students during the next year to organise some fundraising activities.

Have you any pets? A morkiepoo called Dave

Favourite Music? A bit of everything really - my all time favourite band is Queen but you will most likely hear me listening to The Courteeners at the moment.

Favourite Film? Rocky IV

Favourite Book? Anything by Andy McNab - I secretly would like to be part of the SAS!

Favourite TV Show? Gogglebox

What are you really good at? Not giving up and thinking outside of the box to solve problems

Which sports team do you support? The Saints and Liverpool

(More new staff profiles on the next pages!)

RAINHILL NEW STAFF PROFILES



Name: Guadalupe Rangel-Vazquez

Where were you born: Badajoz city in a region called Extremadura, an area known for its beautiful nature and historical heritage.

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? First and foremost, I identified myself with the ethos and values the school promotes, coupled with wanting to pass on my passion for Spanish to all students in a highly regarded school like Rainhill.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? So far, I am absolutely loving my journey, as working here has provided me with an opportunity to meet the most incredible students and fantastic colleagues. The languages department is second to none, and I am lucky to be able to work with truly supportive and hardworking colleagues.

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? I chose to become a Spanish teacher because I wanted to guide and inspire young people, to make them realise that their lives have no limits or boundaries, as long as they have the right attitude and work ethic, which starts in school. Since I was young, I had a fascination for English as a second language, and after finishing my degree I knew I wanted to move to England to teach my own language and inspire other young people to pursue a career in languages!

What are your hobbies? I love exercising, cycling, walking, running or any other activity that involves being outdoors. I really enjoy hiking or country walking too!

Have you any pets? Unfortunately, due to travelling abroad often, I cannot have any pets; however, in Spain I have a 18 year old cat and a lovely, loving white Labrador called 'Luna'.

Favourite Music? I have an eclectic taste when it comes to music - from classical music when I need to relax, to Latin or Dance music when I am in an upbeat mood!

Favourite Film? One of my favourite films is The Revenant although I could name so many others...

Favourite Book? Similarly to films, I have quite a few books close to my heart, but 'The Choice' has to be the one to absolutely recommend to everyone.

Favourite TV Show? Stranger Things or The Mandalorian.

What are you really good at? I am actually really good at pencil drawing, although I wish I had more time to devote myself to this hobby! I am also a very good listener, and I would like to think I am very good at helping people.

Which sports team do you support? Without a doubt 'Liverpool FC'! Above any Spanish football team for the record!



Name: Megan Sumner

Subject: PE

Born: Liverpool

Why did I apply to Rainhill: I had been in my previous school for a number of years and I wanted a new opportunity in a much larger school than I had previously worked. The opportunity to teach different pathways at KS4 and KS5 with different options available to pupils was also something that drew me to the school and the department.

What do I think of teaching at Rainhill: Enjoying it; every day is different and I have a really varied timetable which is nice.

Why did I choose to be a teacher: Teaching is in my family as both my mum and sister are teachers. It was always something I wanted to do from a young age.

Hobbies: Mainly around sport, to be honest. Walking, cycling and a pretty keen golfer

Pets: None

Favourite Music: Well, favourite artist - John Mayer.

Favourite Film: 'Walk The Line'

Favourite Book: 'Seven days in Utopia - Golf's sacred journey'

Favourite TV: Love Strictly when it is on and in terms of series, 'This is Us' and 'Line of Duty' The quiz show 'Who Dares Wins' (BBC One) as made an appearance on there several years ago!

What am I really good at: Ermmmm probably have to say golf; play off +1, represent Cheshire and member at Sandiway Golf Club.

Sports teams I support: Everton Football Club and Wales for International Football and Rugby (Welsh Mum!)



Your Name: Felix Shin

Subject you teach: Science (Physics)

Where are you from/born? South Korea

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? Location, location and location. Excellent reputation helped too. Taste of challenge as well.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? Diversity is a crucial part of human existence, and it also spices up life... a little bit.

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? I'm too much of a logic-oriented person to be other things. And life pushed me into this direction somehow.

What are your hobbies? Video games

Have you any pets? No

Favourite Music? City pops, swing, jazz

Favourite Film? Matrix (only the first one), Benjamin Button movie

Favourite Book? Any historical mystery books (CJ Sansom, Bernard Cornwell)

Favourite TV Show? The Mandalorian, Loki

What are you really good at? Crawling (ninja style)

Which sports team do you support? None



Your Name: Nicola Georgson

Subject you teach: Modern Foreign Languages

Where are you from/born? Ormskirk area

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? I saw an opportunity to be part of a great school community in pursuit of excellence.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? It is really enjoyable teaching from KS3 through to KS5. There are so many pupils with such enthusiasm for languages which is brilliant to see and be a part of.

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? Languages have been a passion of mine since joining my secondary school. My teachers were inspiring and encouraging and I wanted to pay that forward to other pupils and share with them an experience similar to my own with the aim of fostering a love of languages.

What are your hobbies? Cycling and going on long walks in the countryside

Have you any pets? No

Favourite Music? I enjoy listening to a variety

Which sports team do you support? Liverpool



Your Name: Claire Dean

Subject you teach: English

Where are you from/born? Wigan

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? Rainhill's excellent reputation and a new challenge in my career.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? I love teaching here. I have been so welcomed by staff and students alike.

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? I have always been a bookworm and I love my subject. After studying English at university I worked at another school as a teaching assistant; I really enjoyed working in a school setting and was inspired to go on and do my teacher training.

What are your hobbies? Reading, watching Netflix, taking my dog out for a long walks, socialising.

Have you any pets? A cheeky black Labrador called Wilson.

Favourite Music? I listen to everything and my Spotify is bursting with playlists from different genres and decades. My favourite new artist is probably Arlo Parks though!

Favourite Film? Bridesmaids

Favourite Book? Normal People by Sally Rooney.

Favourite TV Show? I'm a sucker for a good murder detective documentary, however I love Orange is the New Black, Pose and Line of Duty.

What are you really good at? Making people laugh when they need it.

Which sports team do you support? Liverpool FC



Your Name: Peter Quirk

Where are you from/born? Local lad, so it's St. Helens

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? The opportunity to work at a high school with a Sixth Form, was an amazing opportunity to take.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? It's a challenging and rewarding environment with fantastic staff giving up their time to help me settle in.

Why do you choose to teach your subject? Identifying the students who I can help nurture their talent into a career is the most rewarding aspect. In a subject such as Graphic Design, we are able to visually communicate with an audience, every project/brief we work with provides new and exciting challenges, week in week out.

What are your hobbies? I've been teaching myself the guitar for the last 4 years. During the January lockdown I started to teach myself Italian.

Have you any pets? Not yet. Though a German Shepherd would be my choice.

Favourite Music? Bob Dylan, Curtis Mayfield and Leonard Cohen.

Favourite Film? Inside Llewyn Davis

Favourite Book? The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Favourite TV Show? Mad Men and Il commissario Montalbano (helps with my Italian)

What are you really good at? Impersonations whether it's characters from the Fast Show or football pundits.

Which sports team do you support? Man Utd and Celtic.



Your Name: Donna Wailes

Subject you teach: Mathematics

Where are you from/born? Northern Ireland

Why did you apply to work at Rainhill? To be able to teach maths at a higher level.

What do you think of teaching at Rainhill? Love it!

Why do you choose to be a teacher of your subject? I have always loved mathematics from a young age, I love being able to solve problems and think logically to achieve the answer.

What are your hobbies? Reading, baking, shopping, spending time on the beach.

Have you any pets? Yes, a dog called Teddy.

Favourite Music? I enjoy listening to all types of music - it depends on my mood.

Favourite Film? Military wives or Me before You

Favourite Book? The Alex Cross series by James Patterson

Favourite TV Show? Line of Duty

What are you really good at? Cake decorating but it does take a lot of time.

Which sports team do you support? Has to be Liverpool FC as my husband would never forgive me if I said anything else.

RAINHILL HIGH GOES TO KENYA

This action-packed and meaningful African adventure will take Rainhill Students from the savannahs of Tsavo, teeming with Kenya's top wildlife, to the white-sand beaches of Diani where they'll learn to explore the underwater world.

- LOCATION KENYA, AFRICA
- DURATION 4 WEEKS
- EXPEDITION TYPE SCUBA



Throughout their time in Kenya students will get involved in a range of projects, helping to support education and community development in two rural communities. They will become part of the community as they live and work alongside local people, learning about the challenges faced by them as well as the rich tradition and culture of Kenya. Throughout the expedition, students get up close to some truly incredible wildlife – try to spot some of the Big 5 on land and scuba dive alongside colourful marine life as they undertake their PADI Open Water Dive qualification in the glistening Indian Ocean.



School improvements and conservation work

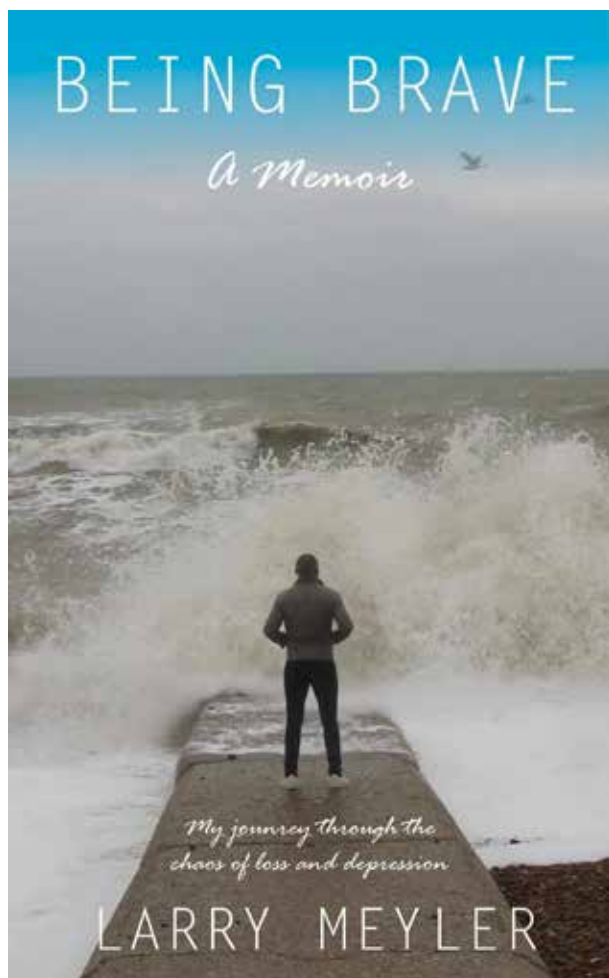
Many local schools are in very dilapidated buildings which suffer from erosion and seasonal flooding. Students will help to build or renovate school buildings so that local children have a clean and safe academic environment. They will also get involved in initiatives to promote a peaceful co-existence between the community and the local wildlife, such as improving natural waterholes and planting indigenous trees for habitat and food sources.

Community development and coastal forest protection

Muhaka village remains one of the poorest communities in Kenya. Rainhill students will help to support community development projects such as traditional house building and school improvements. They may also work on our reforestation projects within the sacred Kaya forest, an important habitat home to many species of monkeys.



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



ACCLAIMED AUTHOR VISITS RAINHILL HIGH

Larry Meyler is the author of 'Being Brave', a memoir about an Irish boy with a childhood haunted by grief and bubbling anxiety, who fights through depression in his adulthood.

But despite the internal darkness that plagues him, one consistently positive thread runs through his life, the refusal to give up and the refusal to lose faith in love, even with a shattered heart.

Larry ran sessions with our students to discuss his rollercoaster life and how he used different coping strategies to survive. Students were chosen who we felt would be able to act as Mental Health ambassadors for the school. The sessions were heart felt and allowed students to be open and honest about various issues around mental health such as the impact of social media.

Comments from students;

"I will remember many things from the session with Larry. However, the main thing I will take from it is to do things I want to do and not for other people. I also remember that it's fine if you don't know what path you want to take in the future, just do the things which you enjoy and make you happy".

"I will remember most about Larry's session is how he gave us ways to overcome mental illness. I will use those techniques to help me when things get tough".

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

Tips, advice and where to get support for your child's mental health

You and Your Child

- Make sure they know you love them and are proud of them. Even when things are busy or stressful, and it feels like you are in survival mode, a word or a hug can reassure them a huge amount. Praise them for what they do well, and encourage them to try new things.
- Be clear about what is and isn't acceptable - and tell them why. Children need to know what is OK and what isn't, and what will happen if they cross the line. Follow through on what you say as otherwise they may get confused or stop respecting the boundaries.
- Be honest about your feelings - you don't have to be perfect. We all get things wrong and shout or say unkind things from time to time. If this happens, say sorry to your child afterwards and explain why it happened. They will learn from you that it's OK to make mistakes and that it doesn't make you a bad person.
- Own your own role - you are the parent, so don't be afraid to take tough decisions. If your child sees you are scared of their reaction and always give in to them, it can make them feel very powerful, which can be frightening. Children need to know that you are there to keep them safe.



<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/>

LIVERPOOL CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



Monday 21st June saw our Y9 and 10 boys' teams travel to Wavertree to compete. The day was split between track and field events with Y9 being first up on the track and Y10 competing in the field. The start of the day could not have gone any better as Fin Beaven coasted to victory in his 100m, clocking an impressive time of 12.21s in the day's curtain raiser, a really good start for our athletes; you could feel the nerves ease as Fin crossed the finish line. That was shortly followed by our first record of the day as Dan Frost in Y10, competing in discus, stormed to victory throwing a whopping 36.38m and breaking the current Y10 record in the process, something we know Dan was keen to do.

The day continued in this way with impressive Y10 displays in the field by Sam Edwards, Ben Thompson and Owen Dagnall in the shot putt, high jump and long jump respectively, which gave our boys even more confidence. It wasn't long before our second school record was broken as Owen Dagnall leapt a huge 11.40m triple jump, thereby setting a new school record!

The Y9 team were relentless on the track. Sammy Bolland won his 200m; Ben Trueman won his 1500m and Dominic Windeaver won his 800m – all in comfortable fashion. Jordan Clarke ran the fastest time we've seen from any Y9 so far this year as he crossed the finish line for the 400m, in first place, with a remarkable 58.00s. The last race for the Y9s saw our relay team, consisting of Sammy Bolland, Jake Holt, Dom Windeaver and Fin Beaven, smash a long standing 4x100m relay record with 49.88s – a fantastic run and great way to finish the morning events.

On the turnover of events, we felt really confident we could match the morning results and we got off to a great start in both field and track events as Jack Wilson-Jones for triple jump, Kyle Lewis for shot putt and Alex Strettle for javelin all won their events.

It was now over to the Y10 boys to match the Y9 teams' heroics in their track events. Jacob Roberts started the ball rolling with the first pupil to run sub 12 seconds for a 100m as he stormed to victory in 11.90s – a really popular win amongst the team. Victories kept coming with Michael Hayman winning his 200m race

before Owen Dagnall blew everyone away with his second school record of the day running 400m in a staggering 53.20s – an outstanding achievement. Reece Williams in 800m and Nathan Mercer in 800m rounded off a great day with a personal best each which brought our great outing at Wavertree to a close.

On Thursday 24th June, it was the turn of the girls to attend the same competition. What a competition it was! Hosted in the same format as the boys event a few days earlier, the girls were extremely excited to compete against schools from Liverpool. The Y9 girls started on track events whilst the Y10 girls were on field. Y9 pupils Emily Bellard, Abi Newman and Olivia Pile all competed extremely well in their events clocking up personal best times for the season, and all placing in their respective events. The Y9 momentum continued with Tegan Sidebotham running a huge race in the 300m, winning comfortably, and beating the school record in the process. Korinne Roberts also ran an impressive 1500m race finishing just outside the current school record time, in a personal best of 6.16, but gaining first place. The Y9 track events finished with an impressive relay. Slick changeovers, despite limited practice time competitively, resulted in a 4x100m time of 58.09 and another school record was broken! The team consisted of Olivia Pile, Tegan Sidebotham, Abi Newman and Emily Bellard. What a fantastic start for Y9 on the track. As Y9 moved onto their field events, impressive performances were witnessed across the board. Personal bests were achieved in the triple jump for both Becky McCallister 8.93m and Maddison Reed 8.55m, and a first and second place finish. Becky's hot vein of form continued into the high jump where she jumped 1.43m and similarly for Maddison who jumped a very good 3.26m in the long jump.

In the throwing events, Abbie Newman threw a very comfortable 15m in the discus and Robyn Wilson an excellent 18.16 in the javelin both gaining a position on the medal rostrum! Kosy Nwanya had a long wait for her event but didn't disappoint with a throw of 7.14m in the shot and another first place for the team. What a performance from Y9!

With inspirational performances from our Y9 pupils, our Y10s certainly didn't disappoint with their outstanding efforts on both the track and field. Knowing that this may well be their last competitive action for Rainhill, the girls were fiercely competitive in all aspects of their performance. In total, Y10 broke five school records and never finished out of the top 2 in a single event. On the track, Evie Drinkhill and Lydia Humphries raced in a keenly contested 100m, with Lydia breaking the school record in a time of 13.72s, and Evie achieving a new personal best of 14.06s. Millie O'Hanlon ran a superb 200m and whilst she was just pipped on the line for first place her time of 28.06 broke another school record! The good form continued in the sprints as Francesca Laven ran a personal best of 48.56s, gaining a new school record in the process. As we moved into the middle-distance events, Eva Almond smashed her personal best by over 40s and Mia Hoey ran a sub 6-minute 1500m to claim the school record by over 15s! The Y10 track events finished with a flourish as the relay team romped home to victory. Mille O'Hanlon led the team off, handed over to Evie Drinkhill who ran a storming leg in the back straight before Sophie Oluyombo and Lydia Humphries combined to bring the baton home in a new school record of 55.78. That will take some beating!

As we moved into the field events, the rich form and great success continued. First places were achieved in all of the field events! Our jumpers jumped extremely well. Millie jumped 1.50m in the high jump after a tiring morning of track events. Sophie Oluyombo jumped an impressive 4.21 in the long jump and Becca Fossard, despite a slip in the difficult conditions, jumped 8.70m in the triple jump to gain a new school record, one that we know she has been capable of for a while now. In the throws, Lydia and Becca took the spoils in all three throwing events.

What a few days of athletics we have had. The boys and girls have been an absolute credit to themselves and the school and it delights us to see them fulfil their potential on such a grand scale. We are immensely proud of their efforts and are sure that some of the 'new' school records will remain for years to come!



RAINHILL HIGH SCHOOL



FACILITY HIRE

All of our facilities are available to hire. For more information contact the Community Use on 01744677205 EXT 350

Facilities Available

3G Pitch
Sports Hall
Gymnasium
Arts Theatre
Dance Studio
Conference Room
Classrooms
Grass Pitches



Rainhill High Facilities



@facilitieshire



Rhs Facility Hire