



**RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PARENT & STUDENT NEWSLETTER

WWW.RAINHILLHIGHSCHOOL.ORG.UK



OPEN EVENING

MEET OUR PUPILS, TOUR OUR FACILITIES, SEE OUR STAFF



**WEDNESDAY
16th SEPTEMBER**



5:00pm – 7:00pm

CAR PARK OPENS 4:45pm



MEET THE
STUDENTS



SEE THE
FACILITIES



MEET
THE STAFF



CAR PARK
OPENS 4:45pm

— **LEARN, THINK, CONTRIBUTE, CARE** —

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Students,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's newsletter.

It has been a fantastic first full week at Rainhill. Our pupils have settled quickly into school life, and it has been particularly pleasing to see our new Year 7 pupils embracing the opportunities available to them. This week's Freshers Fair was a great example, with pupils exploring our wide range of extracurricular activities, while our Year 9 pupils have enjoyed the challenge and experiences of their Rainhill Adventure Residential. Both reflect our ambition for pupils to Learn, Think and Contribute beyond the classroom as part of being In Pursuit of Excellence.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who joined us for our welcome, expectations and SEND information events this week. We have received very positive feedback about these events to date, and I am grateful to our staff for the time and care that goes into ensuring families are well informed and supported.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and their families to our Open Evening on Wednesday 16th September. Our pupils will, as always, play an important part in showcasing their school and the positive, ambitious culture of Rainhill. **Please remember that school will finish at 2:25pm on Wednesday, rather than the usual 3:25pm, to allow us to prepare for the evening. The bus services that enter site will not operate on this afternoon.** Parents and carers will therefore need to make alternative travel arrangements for their child.

Looking a little further ahead, Year 8 and Year 9 families are reminded that their SEND Parent Information Evening takes place on Monday 21st September at 5pm.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Thorogood, Principal.



CONTENTS

Freshers' Fest 2026

PAGES 3-8

Open Evening 2026

Reading Age Testing

Shakespeare Auditions

Elite Performers

Character Curriculum - Extra Curricular Sport

Wellbeing - Back to School Routines

Macmillan Coffee Morning

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAGES 9-10

Punctuality to School

Homework - Building Strong Learning Habits

Bike Responsibility

HELP AND SUPPORT - WHO TO CONTACT

PAGE 11-13

CURRENT VACANCIES

PAGE 14

NEXT WEEK FOLLOWS THE WEEK A TIMETABLE

	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>
14/09/26	Reading Age Testing Y7		Open Evening 5-7pm (School finishes at 2:25pm)		



IMPORTANT - Wednesday 16th September - Afternoon Bus Service

School will finish at **2:25pm on Wednesday 16th September** ahead of our Open Evening, which will take place from 5pm to 7pm.

Please note that bus services that enter site will not operate on this afternoon. Parents and carers will therefore need to make alternative travel arrangements for their child.

FRESHERS' FEST 2026

It was fantastic to see so many students at our annual Freshers' Fest on Wednesday. The event showcased a wide range of clubs and enrichment opportunities from both within school and the local community, giving students an excellent insight into the many ways they can get involved beyond the classroom.

Freshers' Fest plays an important role in our Character Curriculum, which aims to develop confident, well-rounded young people who are ready to thrive in education, employment, and the wider world. Participation in extracurricular activities helps students build key character strengths such as resilience, teamwork, leadership, creativity, and commitment, while also developing valuable life skills and broadening their experiences.

As part of our Year 7 expectations, all students are encouraged to actively engage in the wider life of the school through extracurricular activities. Whether through sport, the arts, academic societies, service opportunities, or special interest clubs, students are expected to make the most of the opportunities available to them and contribute positively to our school community.

We look forward to seeing our Year 7 pupils participating in clubs and activities throughout the year. A full programme of extracurricular opportunities will be shared with pupils and parents next week, and we encourage every student to find something that sparks their interest and supports their personal development.

Mr Roberts, Assistant Principal.





OPEN EVENING 2026 - WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

Join us on Wednesday 16th September 2026 and discover what makes Rainhill High School such a special place to learn, grow and succeed.

Our Year 6 Open Evening is the perfect opportunity for prospective pupils and their families to experience life at Rainhill High School and find out more about the exciting opportunities available to every learner.

Our Pursuit of Excellence

At Rainhill High School, our Pursuit of Excellence is at the heart of everything we do. We have high expectations for every pupil and are committed to providing the outstanding teaching, support and opportunities that enable young people to fulfil their potential.

This year, we are extremely proud to celebrate excellent exam results, reflecting the hard work, determination and ambition of our pupils, together with the dedication and expertise of our staff and the support of our families.

These achievements demonstrate our continued Pursuit of Excellence and our determination to ensure every pupil leaves Rainhill High School with the qualifications, confidence, knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps and beyond.

Why Choosing the Right School Matters

Selecting the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions a family can make. A school that provides high-quality teaching, strong pastoral support, enriching experiences and high expectations can have a significant impact on a young person's academic achievements and future aspirations.

Good exam results open doors. They create opportunities for further education, apprenticeships, training programmes and future careers, while providing greater choice when selecting colleges, sixth forms and universities.

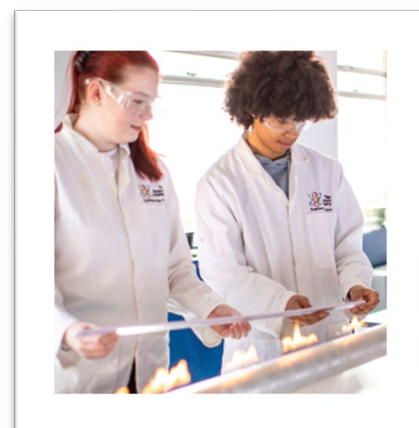
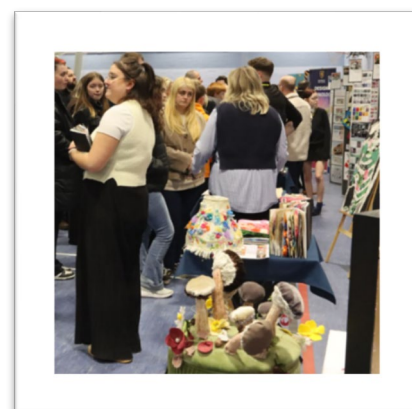
However, excellence is about more than grades alone. It is about creating an environment where pupils feel valued and supported, are challenged to aim high and are inspired to become confident, ambitious and successful young people.

At Rainhill High School, our Pursuit of Excellence means helping every pupil realise their potential, develop confidence in their abilities and build the knowledge, skills and character needed for future success.

What to Expect

- Meet our dedicated staff and welcoming pupil ambassadors.
- Explore our excellent facilities and inspiring learning environments.
- Take part in interactive activities across a range of subjects, including English, Science, Mathematics, Art and Social Sciences.
- Enjoy live performances from our talented pupils in Dance, Drama and Music.
- Hear from our Principal at **5:45pm**, who will share our vision, values, recent successes and our continued Pursuit of Excellence.

There is no need to book. Simply join us, tour the school, speak with staff and pupils, and discover more about our curriculum, enrichment opportunities and vibrant school community.





Come and see how our excellent exam results, high-quality teaching, strong pastoral care and exciting opportunities help our pupils to thrive.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Rainhill High School on Wednesday 16th September 2026.



SUPPORTING READING IN YEAR 7

Reading is a key priority at Rainhill High School and is fundamental to pupils' success across the whole curriculum.

During this half term, all Year 7 pupils will complete a reading age assessment. This will help us understand each pupil's current reading level and identify where any additional support may be beneficial. Reading ages will be communicated to parents and carers, along with details of any targeted reading intervention that may subsequently be put in place.

As part of our Universal Reading Offer, all Key Stage 3 pupils use Reading Plus, our online reading platform. Year 7 pupils will begin using Reading Plus this half term and will receive their individual login details during English lessons. Pupils should complete four Reading Plus tasks each week, equating to approximately one hour of home learning.

How can parents and carers help?

Reading regularly at home makes a significant difference. We encourage families to support pupils to complete their Reading Plus tasks and, wherever possible, to continue reading together or discussing what they are reading at home. This might be a novel, newspaper article, magazine, website or other age-appropriate text.

Strong reading skills support much more than English. Being able to read fluently, understand increasingly complex vocabulary and make sense of challenging texts helps pupils to access Science, Maths, Humanities and every other area of the curriculum. Reading also develops vocabulary, communication, concentration, confidence and critical thinking – important skills for future study, employment and everyday life.

Even a small amount of regular reading can make a real difference. By working together, we can help our Year 7 pupils develop the confidence, fluency and enjoyment of reading that will support them throughout their time at Rainhill and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make reading part of every pupil's weekly routine.

Mr Walton, Assistant Principal.



ELITE PERFORMERS

We are creating our new 2026-27 Elite Performer/Gifted and Talented lists for 2026/27.

If your child is at a registered academy, or elite talent pathway whereby school may need to work in partnership with the club or organisation with regards to authorised absences (due to fixtures or regular training such as day release) and academic support, please contact Dr Rotheram with information of your child's level, club and requirements. Please also send a relevant picture of your child in their kit and/or competing for our display - David.Rotheram@rainhillhigh.org.uk

Dr Rotheram will be looking after these Elite Performers, if they fall into the Elite Performer remit. Please [click here](#) for more precise details.

If your child represents school boys/girls, represents at country or regional level in their chosen sport, then we would love to celebrate their achievements by placing them on our Gifted and Talented registers. We will celebrate these pupils alongside our Elite Performers by spreading good news of their achievements on newsletters, socials and on our PE display wall.

If you believe your child would be classed as gifted and talented then please send information of your child's level, club and sport to Mr Wood - Michael.Wood@rainhillhigh.org.uk

Please also send a relevant picture of your child in their kit and/or competing for our display.

Mr Wood, Head of PE.



CHARACTER CURRICULUM - EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT

Please see below our extra-curricular timetable for our first term. All pupils are invited to attend as many clubs as they can. There is no need to pay for any clubs, all we ask is pupils have PE kit for afterschool clubs and girls have shorts for the trampolining. These clubs are not school teams; they are recreational clubs for anybody and everybody.

As part of our Character Curriculum, we are urging pupils to engage in as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible. Regular participation in school sports clubs provides pupils with far more than just the opportunity to develop their sporting ability. By attending clubs consistently over time, pupils can build confidence, resilience, teamwork, communication, and leadership skills, while developing positive habits around physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Sustained involvement also helps pupils learn how to set goals, respond to challenges, manage success and disappointment, and commit to something over a longer period. Our extra-curricular programme is designed to give every pupil the opportunity to belong to a team, represent their school, develop their skills, and enjoy being active, with the aim of creating positive experiences that can encourage a lifelong interest in sport and physical activity.

Please note, some clubs may be cancelled if the facility is unavailable (e.g. sports hall being used for exams or if a fixture has been arranged after school).

Communication in these cases will be done via Arbor, so please sign up to our clubs via Arbor.

Term 1: September - December		
 @ RainhillPE	LUNCH 12:55 -13:25	AFTER SCHOOL 15:30 -16:15
MONDAY	Trampolining – Gym Year 7	Girls Netball – Courts – All Years Boys Football – Astro - Y8 (Wk A), Y9 (Wk B)
TUESDAY	Badminton – Sports Hall Year 9 and 10	Girls Football – Astro – All Years Boys and Girls Rugby – Field – All Years
WEDNESDAY	Badminton – Sports Hall Year 7 and 8	
THURSDAY		Boys Football – Astro – Year 7
FRIDAY	Trampolining – Gym Year 8-10	Boys Football – Astro – Year 10
<i>Please note, clubs are subject to fixture/facility clashes, appropriate and safe weather, and appropriate pupil participation.</i> <i>Please sign up to clubs on ARBOR – for help and support, contact your form teacher</i>		



WELL-BEING: BACK TO SCHOOL ROUTINES

Now that our young people have had their first week back at school, it is a good opportunity to reflect on how they are settling back into their routines. We know that getting back into the rhythm of school life can take some time, and having consistent routines at home can help children feel settled and ready for the school week.

We would like to share a helpful resource from Action for Children, which provides practical advice for parents and carers on getting children back into school routines. It includes suggestions around sleep, morning routines, preparation and organisation to help make the transition back into school life as smooth as possible.

[Action for Children – Getting your child ready for a new school term](#)

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything we can support with.

Mrs Blagbrough, Wellbeing Champion.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

You're invited to a 

MACMILLAN

Coffee Morning



Sip coffee. Enjoy treats.
Make a difference.

 **PLACE**
Sixth Form
Study Area

 **DATE**
Friday 25th
September
2026

 **TIME**
10:35 –
13:25

 **CONTACT**
Katie
Thomas

 **We are asking for**
baked goods to sell on the day.
Home made or shop bought
is fine! 

Donations to be handed in
to 6th Form Office.









GENERAL INFORMATION

PUNCTUALITY TO SCHOOL

Students are reminded to be punctual in the morning and to arrive at school by 8:50am. If students arrive late, then they will be assigned a 20-minute lunchtime detention, and their mobile phone pouch will be housed, until the detention is completed.

HOMEWORK - BUILDING STRONG LEARNING HABITS

RAINHILL
HIGH SCHOOL
IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

LEARN

THINK

CONTRIBUTE

CARE

Homework – Building Strong Learning Habits

Homework is an important part of learning at Rainhill. It helps pupils practise and consolidate their learning, strengthen their knowledge and develop the independent study habits they need to succeed.

All homework will be set or scheduled on Arbor, giving pupils and families a clear overview of what has been set and when it is due.

AT A GLANCE – OUR WEEKLY HOMEWORK ROUTINE

KEY STAGE	HOMEWORK	WHEN SET	WEEKLY EXPECTATION	WHERE TO FIND IT
KEY STAGE 3 Years 7–9	Reading Plus	Monday	Up to four reading assignments each week	Reading Plus & Arbor
KEY STAGE 3 Years 7–9	Sparx Maths	Monday	One weekly task	Sparx & Arbor
KEY STAGE 3 Years 7–9	Recall 100	Monday	Weekly recall and retrieval	Arbor & Form Time
KEY STAGE 4 Years 10–11	Subject Homework	Weekly	Homework across all subjects	Arbor & Pupil Planner
KEY STAGE 5 Years 12–13	Subject Homework	Weekly	Homework across all subjects	Arbor



Key dates

KEY STAGE 4 & 5

Homework begins

**WEEK COMMENCING
7TH SEPTEMBER**

KEY STAGE 3

Reading Plus, Sparx Maths and Recall 100 begin

**WEEK COMMENCING
14TH SEPTEMBER**

KEY STAGE 3 – YEARS 7, 8 & 9

KEY STAGE 3 HOMEWORK STARTS FROM WEEK COMMENCING 14TH SEPTEMBER.

Our Key Stage 3 homework cycle has three core elements designed to establish a simple and consistent weekly routine.



Reading Plus

Set each Monday by the pupil's English teacher through Reading Plus and scheduled on Arbor. Pupils are expected to complete **up to four reading assignments** each week. Reading Plus provides immediate online feedback and allows teachers to monitor reading development.



Sparx Maths

Set each Monday by the pupil's Maths teacher through Sparx and scheduled on Arbor. Pupils complete **one** weekly Sparx assignment. Pupils receive immediate online feedback, while teachers can monitor progress and identify areas for further practice.



Recall 100

Set each Monday through Arbor and overseen by the Form Tutor. Recall 100 encourages pupils to regularly revisit and remember the important knowledge they are learning across the curriculum. Pupils complete a **weekly recall activity in Form Time**, checking and correcting their answers.

KEY STAGE 4 & 5 – YEARS 10–13

KEY STAGE 4 & 5 HOMEWORK STARTS FROM WEEK COMMENCING 7TH SEPTEMBER.

Pupils can expect weekly homework across their subjects, with teachers setting homework on Arbor. Teachers will also provide time in lessons for pupils to record homework or revision in their planner so that expectations and deadlines are clear.



Homework deadlines

Where homework requires physical submission, pupils will normally be given **7 days** from the date it is set to complete and submit their work.

Revision homework may work differently. In the lead-up to an assessment, test, controlled assessment, end-of-year assessment or mock examination, revision will be set according to the nature and timing of the assessment.



What might homework be used for?

Homework may be used to prepare for future learning, practise and consolidate knowledge and skills, revise for assessments and exams, undertake wider reading or research, develop independence and effective study habits and help teachers identify areas that need further teaching or practice.



How will pupils receive feedback?

Feedback will be appropriate to the homework task and may include individual or whole-class feedback, written or verbal feedback, scores or grades, peer assessment or teachers adapting subsequent lessons, assessments or tasks in response to pupils' work.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Parents and carers can play an important role in helping pupils establish successful homework habits. We encourage families to support pupils to:



Check Arbor regularly for homework and deadlines



Use their planner to organise their work



Complete homework on time



Establish a regular weekly homework and revision routine



Find a suitable place and time to complete homework



Ask their teacher for support if they are unsure about a task



STRONG ROUTINES → REGULAR PRACTICE → SECURE KNOWLEDGE → GREATER INDEPENDENCE
IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



BIKE RESPONSIBILITY

TOP TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR BIKE

M **Mark your bike**

Attend a free bike marking event advertised by Merseyside Police. These are advertised on the local Merseyside Police social media channels. Your bike is 83% less likely to be stolen if it is both marked and registered.

A **Awareness**

When you are out on your bike be aware of your surroundings and don't let thieves try to steal it. When out on the street leave your bike in a well lit area where it can be seen by passers by. Lock both wheels and the frame to a cycle stand, or an immovable object. Make sure the lock goes through the frame, wheel and the post you are securing it to. Take any removable items with you.

R **Register your bike**

Register your bike for free by visiting The National Cycle Crime Database/BikeRegister. Merseyside Police are now actively checking bikes on the National Cycle Database. If your bike is stolen, this will significantly increase the chances of you getting your bike back. Scan the QR code (to the right) to register your bike on BikeRegister.

SCAN ME



K **Keep out of view**

When at home store your bike in a shed or garage. Don't leave the bike unattended outside the front of your house. Remember to secure it to an immovable object.

I **Insure**

If you have invested a significant amount of money into your bike, consider specialist bike insurance or check your home insurance covers you for theft away from home.

T **Top bike lock**

A decent bike lock is worth its weight in gold. A heavy-duty bike lock can make thieves jobs more difficult, often meaning they want to steal a bike that is less secure. Make sure you buy a Sold Secure Diamond or Gold Lock.





HELP AND SUPPORT

CURRICULUM QUERIES

Heads of Department

English	Ms Dickman	Business Studies	Mr Farrell
Mathematics	Mr Rimmer	Social Sciences	Mrs R Evans
Science	Mr Flynn	Computer Science	Mr Cowley
Biology	Miss Harper	Art Design Technology	Mr Bennett
Chemistry	Mrs Bancroft	Languages	Mr Farrell
Physics	Mr Hurst	Food Studies	Mrs King
History & Politics	Mr Swan	Performing Arts	Mrs McCann
Geography	Mr Iddon	PE	Mr Wood
Philosophy & Ethics		Life Skills	Miss Burgess
		(PSHE/Citizenship)	

PASTORAL QUERIES

Stage 1	Form Tutor	
Stage 2	Year Student Manager/Progress Coach	
Stage 3	Year Progress Leader/Director RH6	
Stage 4	Assistant Principal - Behaviour & Culture	Mr East
Stage 5	Vice Principals	Mrs Munro, Mrs Aylward
Stage 6	Principal	Mrs Thorogood

Pastoral Structure

Y7 Student Manager	Dr Rotheram	Y7 Progress Leader	Mrs Haselden
Y8 Student Manager	Mrs Beardwood	Y8 Progress Leader	Mr Giles
Y9 Student Manager	Miss Hill	Y9 Progress Leader	Mr Barry
Y10 Student Manager	Mr Lambert	Y10 Progress Leader	Mr Brown
Y11 Student Manager	Miss Humphreys	Y11 Progress Leader	Mr Webster
RH6 Progress Coaches	Mrs Thomas/Mrs Garton	Director RH6	Mr Cunningham
Young Carer Champion	Miss Wordsworth		

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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

BREAKFAST CLUB BOOKINGS

Breakfast Club is available free of charge every school day from **8:00am to 8:30am**. Students can sit quietly before school or purchase breakfast from the catering service using their normal lunch card.

Places must be booked in advance through the **Arbor Parent App**:

1. Open the Arbor Parent App.
2. Select **Menu**.
3. Select **Clubs**.
4. Choose **Breakfast Club**.
5. Select **Register for this club** and book the dates required.



Young Carers

A young carer is someone who provides regular and ongoing care and support to a family member who has a physical or mental health condition, or misuses drugs or alcohol and they cannot cope without their support. They can often take on responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

Being a young carer can have a big impact on the things that are important to growing up; like your education, your physical/mental health, your social life and your self-confidence.

If you find that you don't have much time to spend with your friends, you feel stressed and worried, it's getting harder to keep on top of schoolwork – there are people in school who are here to support you... and Young Carers Support Services.

A young carers assessment can help to find out if there is any extra support for you or the person you care for. This could help to take away some of the worries or stress you may be feeling, help you keep on top of your schoolwork and be able to spend time doing things you enjoy.



Do you think that you may be a young carer?

Young Carer Champion
Miss Wordsworth

Speak to the YC Champion or another adult you trust.



SHARP

Use the SHARP system to ask for help and we will come and speak to you.

Young Carer Drop-in

Monday lunchtime
A105

Week A Y7, Y8, Y9

Week B Y10, Y11, RH6

Parents and Carers can contact the YC Champion via School Synergy.

CARERS TRUST





ACCESSING FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you have been in receipt of free school meals previously and believe this should still be the case, you will need to apply to St Helens Council. Please [click here](#).

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY



Dear Parent/Carer,

You may or may not be aware that from September 2026 the government are changing the criteria required to be eligible for free school meals. This means that across England there may be an additional 500,000 pupils that hit this new criteria. The even better news is that we can check your eligibility to see if your child(ren) are eligible under the scheme, and if they are, that will directly begin the application.

Please scan the QR code or click on the link to take you to a short MS Forms and we will be in touch to let you know if you are eligible and whether your application has been processed.

NB All decisions are made by central government and not by the school.

[Free school meal eligibility checker – Fill in form](#)



SCHOOL MENU

Please [click here](#) to view our latest menu.

Please [click here](#) to view our allergens menu.



CURRENT VACANCIES

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Governor. We are delighted to confirm that we have received six applications for the available Parent Governor vacancy. As the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, a parent ballot will now take place.

Candidates

- Anthony Albrecht (Daughter Y8)
- Emma Biszby (Son Y9 & Daughter Y8)
- Pamela Langan (Son Y8)
- Jackie Lunt (Son Y8)
- Chana Michaels (Son Y7)
- Martin Stanway (Daughters Y11 & Y9)

What happens next?

- Candidate statements will be shared with all parents and carers next week.
- Voting will open on **Wednesday 16 September 2026**.
- Voting will take place electronically via a secure online ballot.
- Each parent/carer will have the opportunity to cast **one** vote each.
- Voting will close at **4.00 pm on Friday 25 September 2026**.
- Votes will then be counted and candidates informed of the outcome before the result is published to the school community.

We would like to thank all applicants for their willingness to support the school and contribute to the work of the Local Academy Committee. The high level of interest demonstrates the strength of our school community and commitment to helping Rainhill High School continue to thrive.