



Dear parents/carers and pupils,

Well, here we are again. This is our first 'Keep in Touch' (KIT) letter of the new lockdown and more than anything we wanted to let you know that during this challenging time for everyone (especially parents/carers who've been thrown into their new careers of becoming teachers again!) **we are here to support you all!**

Our KIT letters provide regular communications from the school to our parents/carers and pupils during these different times. You will find important school notices, expectations for remote learning, good news stories and lots of positive ideas and ways to look after ourselves and our families whilst we're not in school and facing so many changes.



Remote Learning

If your child is not eligible for a 'critical worker' place in school, we are still totally committed to working with you and your child to provide a high quality remote learning experience. We learnt a lot in the very first lockdown and staff are now providing a wide and engaging learning experience using a range of approaches. Our staff have been incredible at developing and delivering online learning materials via Google Classroom for all students, and some live lessons via Google Meet for our KS4 pupils. Year 9 will start to have some live lessons in English, maths and science from next week. Look out for notifications in Google Classroom.

If done properly then your child will be able to access as full an education as we have been asked to provide by the government, if not more! There may be occasions when, as we develop this further, some pupils may need more support. Please ask your child to contact their teacher directly if they need to via Google Classroom and if necessary you can also [email](#) the member of staff yourself. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are available to talk to or to email (there is always a member of SLT on site to take calls up to 3.30pm during the working week). Our staff will be continuously monitoring the progress children are making through their online learning and may contact you with advice for adding to the experience for your child.

Remote Learning Top Tips:

- Encourage your child to work in school hours and to communicate with staff within these hours if possible. Staff will respond during the school day.
- Keep an eye on whether your child has actually completed the tasks set. **Clicking 'submit' and getting it off their to do list doesn't mean it has been completed.**
- Make sure that your child has pen and paper for live sessions so that they can record ideas and make notes.





- Remember your child will not have work for every subject set every day - your child will be following their timetable from school

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing

We are working hard to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Testing has now started for staff and those 'critical workers and vulnerable children' who are currently attending school. Testing will be provided for the rest of our pupils as they return. If you haven't already done so, please complete the Consent Form within [this letter](#), letting us know whether you do or do not give consent for your child to be tested.



Y9 Chromebook Project



As some of you will be aware, Risedale has embarked on an unprecedented digital education improvement scheme, so far rolling out Chromebooks to all Year 7 pupils at the start of the year. Due to the current lockdown we have also been busy supporting families with digital devices for KS4.

Our Year 9 Chromebook Project is now up and running; we have been very clear in planning ahead for this and as a result we are now able to equip every child in Year 9 with their own device.

The IT Team have been our absolute COVID heroes in this project as they have got 140 Chromebooks ready for children who really need them. If you have not already made your appointment and picked up your Chromebook, please email ITHelpDesk@ridesale.org.uk for further information. The Chromebooks are ready and waiting for you!

One parent recently remarked *'I would just like to express my absolute gratitude for providing my son with a Chromebook, this will help my son so much and I'm hoping with having a much better laptop to work with he will stop being as stressed whilst doing his work, he'll be able to concentrate much better and also no longer have to keep swapping devices with his sister. Risedale School has once again gone above and beyond for my children and I can't thank you all enough'*. This is, quite simply, why we are thrilled to be part of The Risedale Family.

NEW full-time School Counsellor - Mrs Lisa Smith

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Smith to The Risedale Family. Pupil and staff wellbeing is essential to our school community at all times but in the current climate it is absolutely crucial.



Lisa, tell us a little bit about yourself:

I live locally and have two teenage children plus a beautiful but very naughty cocker spaniel called Bella. I have worked as a school counsellor for 6 years and I absolutely love the challenges and diversity of the role.



What are you most looking forward to about starting at Risedale?

In the past, I've always worked across a number of schools so what I'm really looking forward to is being a real part of one school community - Risedale. It is so rewarding when you see the progress of a young person through the counselling process.

COVID has made life very different for all of us. How are you feeling about starting your new job at this time?

It is strange starting in the middle of a pandemic but I'm just really excited to get going. I think what we've all learned in the past 10 months is that you need to be flexible, adaptable and above all listen and respond with kindness. I am particularly excited about working with the young people so it is a service that they can help develop.

When you're not working, what do you like to do?

Well, I've just taken up running which I really enjoy. I also love food - I've got the sweetest tooth! I simply love chocolate. And when we are allowed to get back to travelling my favourite place is Guernsey in the Channel Islands where my brother lives.

Everyone in The Risedale Family is so looking forward to working with Lisa and we wish her all the best as she settles into her new role.

Year 11 Examinations Update

Following on from the cancellation of formal GCSE examinations this summer, it has been confirmed that centre assessed grades will be used for awarding qualifications this summer. These will be based on the evidence available for a pupil up to the assessment deadline and it is therefore vital that all year 11 pupils continue to engage with their learning and produce work to their highest standard.



Ofqual and the DfE have launched consultations on the details of their proposed approach towards awarding grades for GCSEs and vocational qualifications this summer. Further details can be found on our website here: [Exam Information](#), where there is a link to the consultation documents. We encourage you and your child to have a look at the proposals and respond.

Online House Challenge



Mr Hindhaugh has just launched our first whole school online House Challenge using the FREE app 'Home Court'. All pupils and staff are invited to join in and try to beat Mr Hindhaugh's score of 936 points! It's a fantastic opportunity to have a well-deserved brain break and take part in a physical challenge. All information is on the 'House System' Google Classroom (Code: ff3m3nj). The House with most points will win 100 House Points. The student with the highest score will also receive 10 epraise points.

Make some space and have some fun!





BFBS - Lockdown Learning Shout Outs

A message from Radio Presenter/Producer Chris Kaye at BFBS:

Chris Kaye here from BFBS The Forces Station. We've launched a new on-air feature called 'Lockdown Learning Shout Outs' and we'd love you to be part of it.



We're inviting students to record a short message telling us a little bit about themselves and saying hello to their mates. This can be done using the voice memo app on your phone and then emailing it to us at chris.kaye@bfbs.com. We think it's a great morale boost as homeschooling continues. Messages are played out weekday mornings at 8:10am. This is the format of the message:

"Hi! My name is Olivia. I'm 11 years old and in year 7. My favourite lockdown learning subjects are maths and English. I love xxxxxxx (list hobbies tv shows, favourite food etc). I'm sending my Lockdown Learning Shout Out to xxxxxxxxxx' (name of friends, family siblings etc)."

Then finish with... *"Gooooood Moorning!"*

We look forward to playing your messages soon.

Updates to our school risk assessment

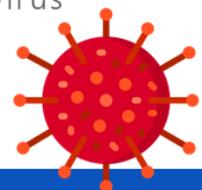
Here are some updates to our school COVID-19 [Risk Assessment](#) that we would like to make visitors/parents/carers aware of:

- Parents/carers can no longer arrive at school without a pre-arranged appointment. If an appointment is agreed this should be with an identified member of staff.
- Parents/carers must not drive into the school grounds to pick-up/drop-off their children off, nor wait in the car park for children to finish school unless a specific exemption has been made. Those parents who are exempt/permitted must wait in their car until the specific pick-up/drop-off time and only then can one adult per family enter the school grounds. This will reduce the amount of people assembling in and around the school grounds and will help with social distancing.
- All visitors entering the school premises (and in other congested areas around school premises) must wear a face covering. Please note that this does not apply to those who are medically exempt.
- All visitors must maintain social distancing at all times.



Changes at Risedale due to Coronavirus

COVID-19
information and updates



The most up to date version of our risk assessment can always be found on our dedicated [COVID-19 page](#) on our school website.



Talking matters - help for parents/carers

[AMAZE.org](https://www.amaze.org) invites parents to take one small step a day to help you become an 'askable parent'. Each day, they've curated an AMAZE video, discussion question, parent resource, or family activity to create 'askable moments' with your kids about puberty, sexuality, and relationships. [Put the daily activities on your calendar HERE](#)

So far AMAZE has looked at:

- The classic stumper, [where do babies come from?](#)
- [Healthy v.s. unhealthy relationships](#)
- [Preparing for periods](#)
- [Letting kids know that however they express their gender is OK](#)
- And [resources for when social distancing has you feeling isolated.](#)

AMAZE releases new content every month. Parents can also [sign up for the 6-day #AskableParent newsletter challenge](#), or simply follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Photography Competition Results

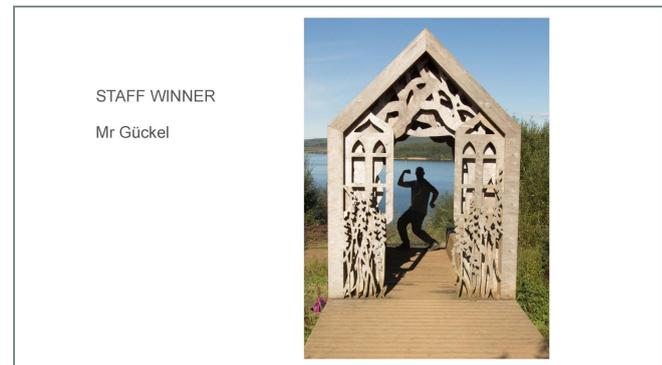
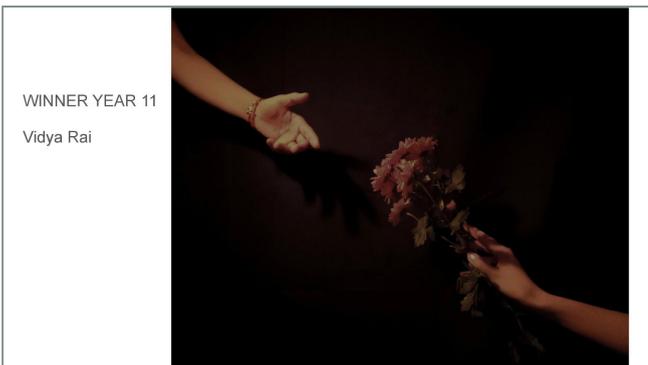
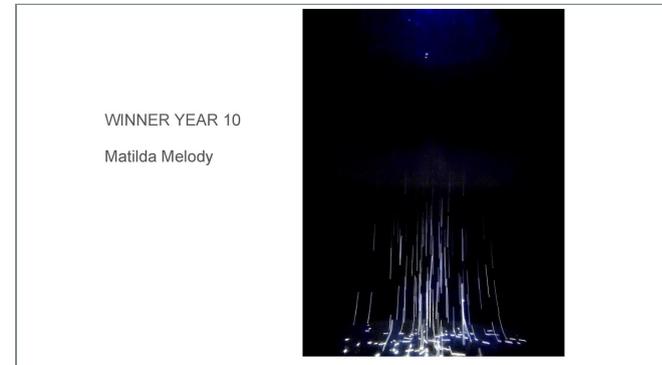
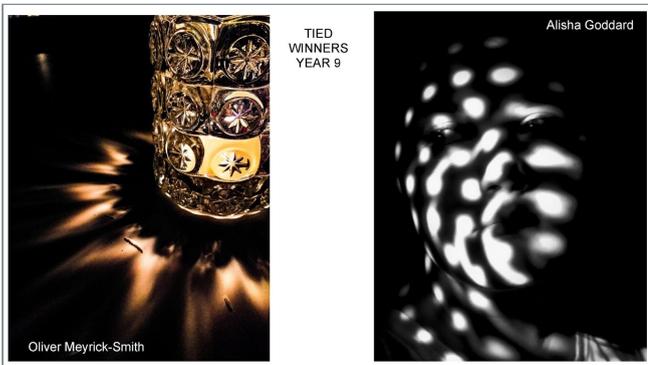
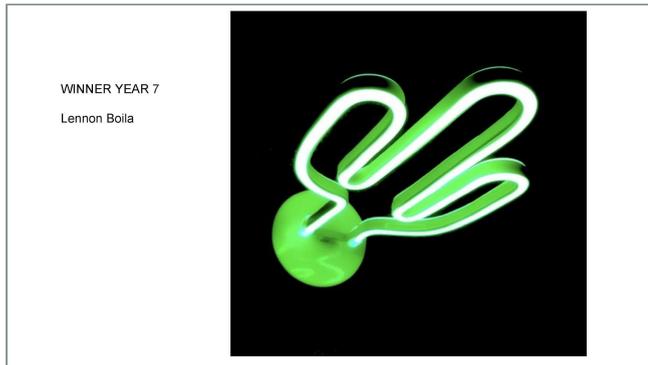
Congratulations to the winners and runners-up of the Winter Photography Competition. Pupils and staff were asked to explore the theme of 'Chiaroscuro' (the treatment of light and shadow), and the submissions were absolutely brilliant. Well done everyone!

Head of Art, Ms Westwood said: "Thank you for putting so much effort and thought into your entries yet again. Risedale really does have A LOT of creative, talented photographers!"

Well done everyone!



Photography Competition Winners!



Keep in Touch - Keep Safe - Keep Learning

