

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear parent/carer,

## **SUBJECT: Year 11 Learning and Exam Focus**

I am delighted to welcome all Year 11 pupils back as they begin the most important period of learning. We all believe that our current Year 11s have the potential to achieve exceptional results in their GCSE examinations. Overall, attendance is strong, and behaviour by the vast majority of pupils is respectful and appropriate.

Throughout the next 6 months of study, we will place a strong emphasis on praise, support and positive communication, highlighting the exceptional contributions of our Year 11 pupils. We are also launching our annual Passport to the Prom which will acknowledge and appreciate our pupils' daily accomplishments.

### **Revision Sessions**

We would also like to stress that there are a significant number of revision sessions taking place each day. We would strongly encourage all pupils to take full advantage of these. There is a strong link between attendance and effort in revision sessions and those pupils who then go on to achieve higher grades in their final examinations. Please take a look at the following [timetable](#) to see which subjects have open sessions and encourage your child to attend them. We have already seen a positive impact from these sessions and hope that your child will benefit from them as well. If you have any questions please contact Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at [Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk).

### **Ensuring that every child has a right to learn**

We firmly believe that every child has a right to learn. It is critical that learning in Year 11 lessons is focused, respectful and facilitates calm and productive study for every member of the Risedale Family. It is essential that every minute of every lesson is maximised so that no pupil is disadvantaged by the behaviour of a minority. I would like to reassure all parents that we will not tolerate a minority of pupils who think it appropriate to disturb the learning of others or who delay the start of learning. Such behaviour significantly impacts the progress of their peers, and we expect all pupils to adhere to the following lesson expectations.

### **Lesson Expectations and Consistency**

- All teaching staff will meet and greet all pupils positively at their classroom door.
- Pupils will line up and enter the classroom respectfully and in silence and begin the pre-learning activity or revision activity in silence whilst the teacher takes the register.
- To facilitate a rapid start to learning, positive learning, and mature discussion, pupils will be silent until told otherwise by the teacher. Pupils will of course be allowed to communicate, debate and do group work when directed by the teacher, and this respectful collaboration will remain a key part of Yr11 learning.

- Teaching staff will issue Epraise points to recognise all the amazing work taking place and daily rewards and positive communication home will be issued in recognition of this.

### Consequences for Non-Compliance

- However, if a pupil is NOT following expectations, there will be a clear stepped approach
  - RS1:** A clear verbal warning will be given.
  - RS2:** An RS2 will be recorded and you will be able to see this via MCAS.
  - RS3:** Your child will be removed INSTANTLY and taken to our Reflection Room, initially just for that one lesson. The member of staff WILL ring you, on the same day if possible, to discuss and ensure a positive resolution to any issues. Pupils will also be issued with an after-school detention until 4pm that same day, though this will be focused into after-school interventions where possible.
  - Repeated Negatives or Significant Disruption to Learning:** Our aim is to keep Year 11s in their learning where possible. However, we reserve the right to isolate pupils for a period of time should their behaviour disturb other learners or for repeated instances of negative behaviour.
- Pupils will work in SILENCE in the Reflection Room (or an appropriate other venue if required/as per individual pupil support plans). If pupils do not follow expectations here, parents will be contacted IMMEDIATELY and sanctions will be escalated accordingly. We reserve the right to use suspensions, according to our behaviour policy, to sanction pupils who are disturbing the learning of others.

### Individual Support Plans

- Members of staff will follow any individual support plans, and ensure the needs of all pupils are clearly understood and met.

### Please be aware of the following dates

- Monday 29 January: Friday 2nd February: GCSE English Language S&L Assessments
- February to May: Darlington College Interviews (by appointment at Darlington College)
- Monday 5 February - Friday 9 February: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical Assessments
- Thursday 8 February: Year 11 Consultation Evening
- Thursday 29 February: Richmond Sixth Form Interviews (at Risedale)
- Mon 4 March - Thu 7 March: one day for GCSE Drama NEA 2 Practical
- Monday 11 March - Friday 22 March: Year 11 PPEs (Second session)
- Friday 15 March: GCSE Geography Field Trip
- Tue 16 April - Friday 19 April: GCSE Art NEA Practical (2 days per pupil)
- Mon 29 April - Friday 3 May: GCSE French/German Speaking Examinations
- Thu 9 May - Wed 26 June 2024: GCSE Exams
- Thu 6 June PM, Thu 13 June PM, Wed 26 June 2024: GCSE Contingency Days. Please be aware that all pupils need to be available for examinations up to and including the 26th June 2024
- Friday 28 June: Prom (The Blackwell Grange Hotel, Darlington)



**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

**RISEDALE SCHOOL**

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**Open Communication**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Senior Leadership Team should you have any queries. I am sure you appreciate that our entire focus is to celebrate and recognise the many positives and ensure all pupils are enabled to do the very best they can here at Risedale.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

**James Yates**

Deputy Headteacher

[Yates.J@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Yates.J@risedale.org.uk)

