



Friday 9th June 2023

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Important Information for Parents/Carers and Pupils

I would like to welcome you all back after the half-term holiday. The Summer term is one of excitement, much trepidation for GCSE pupils, yet also one of renewal as the longer days set in, and the summer warmth begins. I am confident that the next few months will be a positive and exciting time for members of the Risedale Family. I would also like to take the opportunity to provide some clarity on a range of issues which parents and pupils have raised over the last few months.

Praise

Risedale has a strong culture of acknowledging its pupils' achievements, which is reflected in the distribution of more than 70,000 Epraise points this year alone. This is a staggering number of positive recognitions, which are well-earned by the hundreds of exceptional pupils at Risedale.

Epraise is our chosen system for awarding house points because it allows pupils to quickly see what they have earned and use those points to redeem rewards. We offer daily and weekly rewards as well as celebration events.

To keep track of your child's positive events, we encourage all parents/carers to register with [Epraise](#). If you need assistance logging in, please visit the [Login Help](#) webpage or contact the school.

Communication

Risedale is a growing school, with numbers up almost 50% in the last 6 years. Our teachers work exceptionally hard, and most will teach full-time and deliver revision sessions or attend external meetings which may start at 8am and may not finish until well after 5pm. Whilst we will try and respond to all communication and queries as rapidly as possible, please understand that due to teaching commitments, this may not be on the same day, but we will try and make contact within 2 working days. In most cases, it will be much sooner than this. Please ring the school should you have any emergencies which need dealing with immediately.

We understand that communication with parents is an important aspect of our work and we are committed to improving it. If you have any concerns or suggestions for improvement, please do so by completing the following Google Form: [Communication \(June 2023\)](#). Your honesty and openness are appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you. I plan to set up a parental forum to discuss this further, so please let me know if you would like to be involved by expressing your interest, again by using the [Communication \(June 2023\)](#) Google Form. Responses to the form will close on Monday 3rd July. Your ideas are valuable to us and we always strive to listen and act upon them.

Safety

The safety of our pupils is of utmost importance to us, and we will not tolerate any pupil who acts in a manner which is detrimental to the well-being (physical or otherwise) of any of our pupils. There has been a rise, nationally, in the number of incidents in which pupils have physically assaulted other pupils. Here at Risedale, we WILL NOT tolerate this.





I would like to take the opportunity to reassure you and to state with certainty that ANY unprovoked physical assault against another pupil WILL be dealt with as follows:

- 1st INSTANCE: Suspension of (at least) 3 days
- 2nd INSTANCE: Suspension of (at least) 5 days
- 3rd INSTANCE: Permanent Exclusion

Mobile Phones and Earphones

One of the main aims of any school is to educate pupils to be successful ONCE they leave and join the wider world. We, therefore, need to educate pupils to use mobile phones and technology appropriately. We are consequently modifying our approach to phones to reflect this.

Mobile phones WILL now be allowed when sitting in the canteen OR when outside on the yards.

However, mobile phones will NOT be allowed in the classrooms, corridors OR in assembly.

- ANY videos or pictures taken in school OR any social media bullying in school will result in a mobile phone ban.
- Any phone used outside of the designated areas WILL be removed and taken to the pupil reception area to be picked up at the end of the school day. Three instances of this WILL lead to a mobile phone ban.

We also do not allow earphones unless permission has been granted for sensory reasons. Any pupil wearing earphones (without permission) will have these earphones put safely in reception and they will be able to pick them up at the end of the day as per the mobile phone policy.

Vaping / Smoking / Alcohol

Nationally, there is a growing number of pupils who vape, and who have become addicted to vaping.

For the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, it is illegal to vape, smoke, or consume alcohol on a school site.

Any pupil caught will receive an instant suspension, dependent upon the severity of the incident.

Any pupil caught dealing/sharing drugs will receive an instant permanent exclusion and the police will be involved.

We would rather support pupils positively who may have an addiction to substances. Please do get in touch should you want any support with this, so that we can work together to support young pupils in making the right choices and to ensure they receive the help they need.

All pupils will receive a copy of this letter via their school email, and the information will also be discussed during tutor/assembly time.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

J Yates

Mr J Yates

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