



Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear parent/carer

SUBJECT: Getting Back to School - March 2021

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 22nd February schools will begin to reopen for all pupils from 8th March. Risedale's Senior Leadership Team and the Local Authority are carefully working through the guidance provided by the government and developing our plans to ensure this can happen in a safe and successful way.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson sent an open letter to parents, carers and guardians on 23rd February which you can view here: [Letter from Education Secretary Gavin Williamson 23/02/2021](#)

Asymptomatic Testing - Lateral Flow/Rapid Tests:

A crucial part of the government's 'getting back to school plan' is that all secondary schools must offer pupils **three rapid tests** in the **first two weeks** of their return, **three to five days apart**. Testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged to help reduce the prevalence of the virus.

We sent you a letter and consent form regarding the Lateral Flow/Rapid Tests back in January and want to thank all parents who have already completed this form - you do not have to complete this form again.

For those that haven't yet given consent, we strongly urge you to do so now, completing one form per child: [NHS Test & Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing](#)

Information regarding the test itself can be found in this updated letter: [PUPIL COVID-19 Testing Letter](#). Please read through the letter with your child so you both understand the process and what action should be taken depending upon the result (positive, negative or void).

Once pupils have been tested 3 times at school, they will then be provided with home test kits to allow them to test twice a week at home. Home test kits will also be available for all staff on return.

Our current plans involve starting testing by appointment on Thursday March 4th for Year 11, followed by March 5th for Year 10 and 7 followed by March 8th for Year 8 and March 9th for Year 9. These ARE NOT days when those year groups will be in school learning and will be to facilitate the start of our testing programme. Pupils will receive a time slot for them to come to school on those days and once tested they should return home to continue their online learning.

School reopening from 8th March 2021:

- Monday 8th March - pupils in Years 11, 10 and 7 **only** will return to full schooling.
- Tuesday 9th March - pupils in Year 8 will return to school and join Years 7, 10 and 11 in school.
- Wednesday 10th March - pupils in Year 9 return to school and join the rest of their peers full time.

The school day will start at 08:30am for Years 7, 8 and 9 and 08:35am for Years 10 and 11. Pupils should not arrive more than 5 minutes before their allotted time slot to allow for social distancing and bubbling to be





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maintained. The school day will end at 15:00 for Years 7, 8 and 9 and at 15:05 for Years 10 and 11. Pupils MUST be in full uniform and Year 7 and Year 9 must remember to bring their Chromebooks with them. Masks are now mandatory so please remember to make sure your child has one with them every day.

The full plan for testing with specific dates and times of the whole school rapid testing programme will be with you very soon.

In the meantime, **please complete the consent form** and as always if you have any concerns do contact the school.

Best wishes,

Colin D Scott - Headteacher

