



## Help Sheet - Returning to school full-time from 8th March 2021

**Welcome back!** After this third lockdown we are extremely keen to see our community return to normal and for our pupils, and their parents, to regain some structure and purpose in our lives again. All of my staff have missed our pupils immensely and are eager for us all to be a school family again! March sees Risedale School re-open to everyone over a few days. This help sheet is designed to summarise as best we can the information for our return to full-time school so that all parents/carers and pupils are well prepared for their return to learning.

I have tried to keep this briefing note as short as possible for clarity but please do make sure you read it all. If there is anything that we have missed please let us know so that we can put it right or answer any remaining concerns. There is always a senior member of staff available in school to speak to up to 15:30 during lockdown or 16:30 when we are fully open.

### Testing

As you know, secondary schools are supporting the government's drive to mass-test as many pupils and staff as we can before engaging on the return to school and to protect everyone. This is a massive task, and the government is allowing secondary schools to phase this return over the full week. However, we are determined to get our children back as quickly as possible and will be using testing for some year groups on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March ready for those groups to come back promptly on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March itself. Some year groups may not, however, return until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March but this is still 5 days ahead of the government's deadline for a full return. Details of our testing procedures are below.

Please note that the school will be responsible for administering the first THREE tests only and they will be spaced out over two school weeks. If a pupil tests positive you will be told what to do and the child will go home. Following the first three on-site tests parents are asked to support children with 'home testing' using the kits your child will be given. Testing is voluntary but we would encourage everyone to have the tests offered so that our community can remain as safe as possible for all, and for us all to slowly return our normal lives.

With everyone's support we will be able to reach a more normal life more quickly, I am sure. If you have not done so already, please do respond to the [letter](#) you received last week completing the [consent form](#) giving permission to test your child for their return in March. For their first test only, pupils will not have to come into school in uniform as they will be going home immediately afterwards to continue with their online learning given to them by their teachers. Pupils should only return full time to school on their allocated return date, below. Appointment slots will be sent out to parents by text so please be patient as we work through everyone.

### Testing dates:

Parents will receive a [text message](#) advising them of their child's specific appointment time slot.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March: all **Y11 pupils** have appointments for tests only.  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March: all **Year 10 pupils AND Year 7 pupils** have appointments for tests.  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March: all **Year 8 pupils** have appointments for tests only.  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March: all **Year 9 pupils** have appointments for tests only.

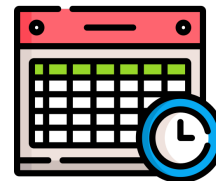
### Pupils returning full-time dates (in full school uniform):

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March ALL pupils in Year groups 7, 10 and 11 to return to school FULL TIME  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March Year 8 pupils to return to school FULL TIME  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March Year 9 pupils to return to school FULL TIME

*\*Please note that our key worker children already attending school will still be in school regardless of the above return dates. However from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March all pupils coming to school must be in full uniform and when their year group returns on the dates above they will join them in the normal timetable.*

## The School Day:

Please share this new timetable with your child so that they are aware of the school day timings for the next phase of “covid-secure” operation within the school. This 4-period timetable will operate until we are able to move to our more normal timetable. This has been designed having learned from our procedures in the Autumn term and to increase safety by minimising movement and staggering bubble breaks/lunches.



Please note that where you see two different year groups having a break at the same time rest assured that they will be segregated in different zones away from other year groups, as happened last term, so that mixing outside of bubbles is minimised.

| Time  | Y7   | Y8       | Y9       | Y10                        | Y11      |
|-------|--|----------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 08:30 | Pupils taken to Form Group   |          |          |                            |          |
| 08:35 |  |          |          | Pupils taken to Form Group |          |
| 08:50 | Pupils escorted to their yard area by their Form Tutor   |          |          |                            |          |
| 08:55 | PERIOD 1 – Pupils escorted to their class by their P1 teacher                                  |          |          |                            |          |
| 10:10 | Pupils escorted to their yard area by their P1 teacher for brief comfort break                 |          |          |                            |          |
| 10:20 | PERIOD 2 – Pupils escorted to their class by their P2 teacher                                  |          |          |                            |          |
| 11:35 | Pupils escorted to their yard area by their P2 teacher   |          |          |                            |          |
| 11:40 | PERIOD 3A  | Lunch    | Break    |                            |          |
| 12:05 | Break  | Break    | Lunch    | PERIOD 3                   | PERIOD 3 |
| 12:30 | Lunch  |          |          |                            |          |
| 12:55 |  | PERIOD 3 | PERIOD 3 | *Lunch                     | Break    |
| 13:20 | PERIOD 3B  |          |          | Break                      | *Lunch   |
| 13:45 | Pupils escorted to their yard area by their P3 teacher (or for Y10/11 their lunch supervisors) |          |          |                            |          |
| 13:50 | PERIOD 4 – pupils escorted to their class by their P4 teacher                                  |          |          |                            |          |
| 15:00 | End of school  |          |          |                            |          |
| 15:05 |  |          |          | End of school              |          |
| 15:10 | Potential for after school sporting activities on some days or ‘bubbled’ interventions / clubs |          |          |                            |          |

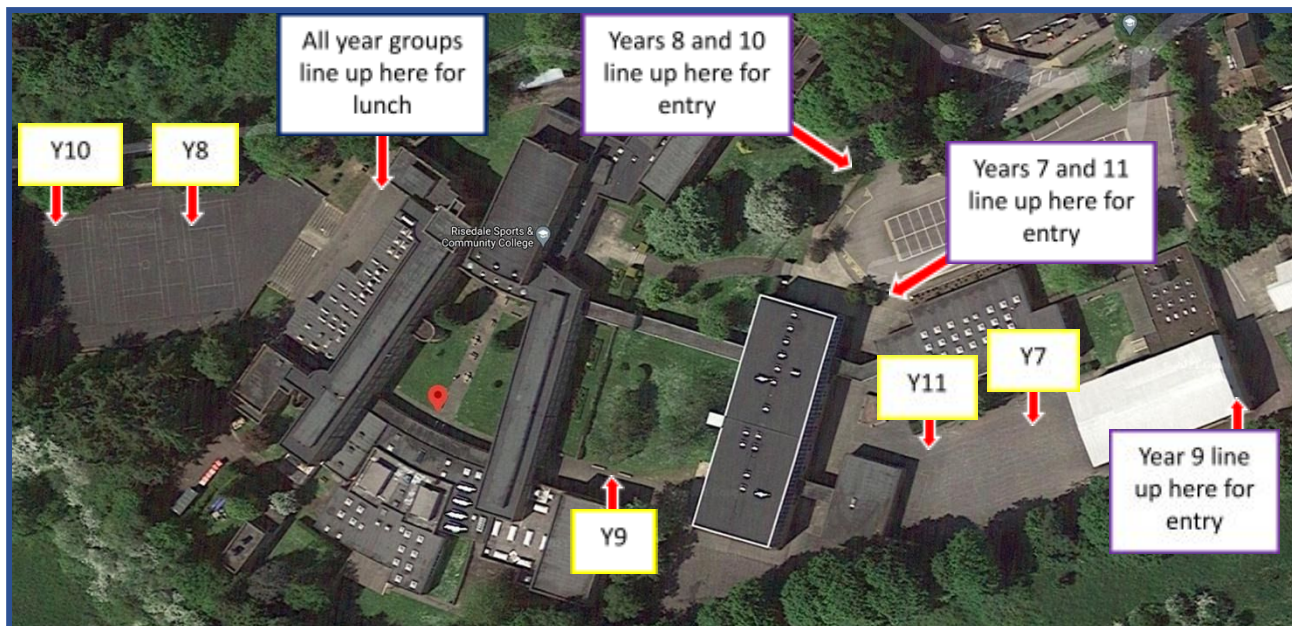
You will notice that the government is now allowing us to provide after school sporting events and other clubs. Where these do operate, they will be done in the normal “covid secure” way using group ‘bubbles’ where appropriate.

### Arrival and assembly points:

Pupils should arrive inside of school no earlier than five minutes before their time above.

- Years 7, 8 and 9 should arrive and line up for 08:25 so that they can be escorted to their form lesson at 08:30.
- Years 10 and 11 will be allowed on site after Key Stage 3 have left the yard areas and then line up at 08:30 to be escorted to their form groups at 08:35.

This will help us to ensure social distance and reduce mixing, keeping everyone safe.



\*yellow boxes represent pupils' yard/break area and where they will line up for form/lessons.

## Getting Ready - what your child will need: Uniform and Equipment

- **Pencil case** - containing black pens, red pen, blue pen, pencil, ruler and eraser. The sharing of equipment is discouraged under the current guidance.
- **All children in Year 7 and Year 9 must bring their school chromebook/laptop** in every day – this is now part of their normal school equipment. Pupils should make sure their devices are fully charged for use. By September every pupil in the then Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have received a personal laptop device free of charge from school and this will help immensely with any future online learning or for when children are ill at home. There will also be some in Year 11 who will benefit from a school device.
- **Coat** - students will be spending some time outside and although we are nearing Spring it can still get cold and very wet so please make sure that your child has a waterproof coat.
- **Uniform** - Make sure your child comes to school in full uniform. I know some parents are aware of a new school logo but please do not worry as that does not happen until September and for current pupils you will be given the new badge to iron over the current badge on their blazer. Our new Year 7 starting in September can order new blazers with the new badge already embroidered onto it.
- **A drink and a snack for break** - There will be no canteen facilities available before school or at morning break to minimise contact. Please do give your child a snack and drink for the morning break if you wish. Energy and high-sugar drinks, such as non-diet fizzy pop, are banned in school so if possible make sure your child brings a still flavoured drink or water into school.
- **Face mask** - In accordance with government guidelines, we are now required to ask pupils to wear masks in the classroom and in all areas within the school building. This is likely to be until at least Easter and possibly for some time after that too, depending upon local infection rates. However, we can now allow pupils to remove their masks whilst outside should they wish. If your child is exempt from wearing masks and you haven't already told us then please do contact Mrs Wright or Mrs Benson and let them know to avoid any embarrassment or unintended challenge to pupils by staff.
- **A plastic bottle for water that they can refill.** To reduce the amount of times pupils visit the water dispenser, please make sure that they bring a bottle filled with water at the start of the day.
- **The school mobile phone policy must be followed at all times.** Please remember not to call your child while they are in school as this continues to cause disruption and some behaviour challenges with a very few pupils.
- **If you do need to speak to your child,** please call the school and we can get a message to them and arrange for them to be able to speak to you if needed. Similarly, if you receive a call or text from your child please remind them of the school policy and ask them to speak to a member of staff who can help them as we are on site and can more often solve issues quickly if we know about them.

## School car park, pick-ups and drop-offs:

Parents must not drive into the school grounds to drop their children off, or wait in the car park for children to finish school without prior arrangement. The drive into Risedale School's car park will be closed to all vehicles between 08:15 and 08:40 in the morning, and from 14:50 until 15:15 in the afternoon. This is to avoid overcrowding and ensure a safe start to the staggered day. We are recommending that as many students as possible walk or cycle to school. If your child is travelling to school by public transport, they must wear a mask.



## Student Bubbles:

In order to allow for us to maximise the safety of pupils, and in accordance with published risk assessments and guidelines, children will be kept in 'year group bubbles' and these bubbles will be further reduced into normal classes to allow us to deliver a full and broad curriculum with minimal mixing within a year group. Pupils will be allocated a 'zone' or classroom within school that they must remain in and on most occasions the teachers will come to them, rather than their class going to the teacher. This helps to minimise pupils mixing.



## GCSE Examinations in 2021:

The government has just confirmed that there will be no GCSE examinations in 2021 and instead pupils will be assessed by their teachers. We need your support to encourage your child to complete ALL of their work on time to the very highest of standards and sit any 'internal' classroom exams. This will allow their teachers to base the given grades on the actual evidence provided to them by pupils. Pupils cannot simply expect a teacher to 'guess' a grade and the government is yet to provide schools with a definitive list of things we can use for grading. It is vital that in these last few months of GCSE our Year 11 pupils attend every single day, attend any after school interventions given AND hand in ALL of the work asked for. Once we know more from the government, we will let your child know. Your support in this is essential in these last few months.

## School visits in the UK and abroad:

We have been informed that we are still unable to operate school visits anywhere in the UK or abroad but have been told that this remains under constant review. As soon as we are able to resume our additional curriculum through outside visits we will do so.

## Summer schools:

The use of summer schools has also just been announced by the government. We have not yet been told as to whether we will be required to do so or what form these will take. Outside of 'summer schools' we are keen to explore everything we possibly can to support extra learning and, as importantly, cultural experiences for pupils who have missed so much over the last year. As we develop these ideas and routines we will, of course, let you know. If you do intend to go on holiday this summer, and the law allows it, please DO go on holiday regardless of any summer school we may provide. You've earned it as have our children!

## Changes in the classroom:

- Extra intervention/tutorial sessions for students to support their learning, especially for those in Y11.
- Reduced movement around the school. Students will mainly be taught in one classroom and teachers will go to them in their allocated room.
- Where a few pupils do have to move because of their option subjects they may be asked to follow particular routes or one-way systems around the school.
- All classrooms have hand-sanitising facilities.
- Daytime cleaners have been employed to help keep the school site and classrooms cleaned throughout the day.
- All desks face the front of the class. The teacher and support staff will not be able to move around the room as much as they once did and will mostly teach from the front.
- All students must comply with the new guidance and systems in school, conducting themselves in a responsible and safe manner at all times.
- Behaviour expectations will be supported using 'The Risedale Way' and our behaviour policy does have sanctions in place for those pupils who find it difficult to stick to any school procedures. Whilst exclusion



remains a last resort for us as a school, if a pupil repeatedly does not follow safe ways of working and is seen to be risking the safety of others, then exclusion will happen. The safety of everyone remains paramount.

### **Catering - lunch and the canteen:**

- The canteen WILL be offering normal school meals during allocated lunchtimes only. A full range of healthy hot and cold options will be available for pupils to buy.
- Break and lunchtimes are either staggered or segregated with all year groups kept apart.
- The canteen will be cleaned between year-group sittings.
- All pupils now have 'tap to pay cards' that they can use to pay for their meals instead of using their fingerprint.

### **Absence from school:**

If your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, or anyone in your household has symptoms, you must not send your child to school. Instead, you should ensure that the person showing symptoms is tested for Coronavirus by contacting the NHS/Government website and your whole household must self-isolate for 10 days. If the test reveals that they are negative, then your household can go back to normal and your child can and should return to school. We ask all parents to report any absence from school by contacting the office before 9am on the first morning of the absence. The NHS advises that children suffering mild cold-like symptoms should still go to school and that "sore throats and blocked or runny noses are not symptoms of coronavirus".

### **If a child becomes unwell at school:**

Should a pupil become unwell in school, they will be immediately sent to our trained First Aid Staff who will isolate them and check for their symptoms. It is more likely that children will be suffering general bugs as opposed to COVID-19. But if the symptoms may be related to coronavirus then the child will be sent home and parents must then follow the government guidance for testing and isolation. The 'bubble' that the child has been removed from will continue to operate as normal until the local arm of Public Health England (PHE) reacts to a positive test at which time they will carry out an immediate risk assessment to tell us what action they recommend. This will probably not result in a closing of the school or bubble but will be more targeted at those who PHE determines are most at risk from being exposed to a pupil with the virus. Because of the extra procedures we are introducing to minimise the mixing of pupils, for example allocated seating and not sharing stationery, then the number of children who may have been exposed to a pupil with the virus, and therefore at risk of infection, will be reduced.

### **Visiting the school and making appointments:**

We always welcome parents to come and talk to us when there is a concern. However, to keep potential mixing to a minimum and in accordance with government guidelines, parents must not arrive at school without a pre-arranged appointment to meet an identified member of staff. We know how important it is for parents to see staff quickly and we will do our very best to see you as soon as possible. Appointments will be available from 09:00 until 14:30 and again between 15:15 and 16:00 and only when the member of staff is available.

### **Helping us to do our best for your child:**

Whilst we will continually have to adapt to a fast-changing set of guidelines to keep everyone safe, it is essential that you work with us so that we can react and do the right thing. As we find our feet again on our return to full-time school, it may be that unforeseen issues occur either at home or at school. Please do what you are all great at and work with us to get things right. Your suggestions, as ever, are always welcome.

**See you soon. Best wishes from all The Risedale Family.**

**Colin D Scott - Headteacher**