



Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope everyone has had a restful half term holiday and enjoyed the fantastic weather 😎. Summer seemed to arrive early! It really has been a roller-coaster of a year; from the high of our Ofsted GOOD to Norovirus and now COVID-19, never has it been more important for us to be thankful for our strength and resilience. The Risedale Family in tough times is certainly something I am very grateful for; fabulous staff and wonderful students and families. A massive thanks to all of you.



From now on our Keep in Touch letter will be published every fortnight so look out for the next edition on Friday 19th June. Lots more information is now being sent to specific groups of parents - Y10 for example, so please do keep checking for text messages from Risedale, emails and [MCAS](#) announcements.

Best wishes, Mrs Matthewman - Acting Vice Principal

Update on Y10 face-to-face time



The Senior Team and staff have been working hard on creating a safe and purposeful **re-opening for our Year 10 students in the week beginning 15th June**. It's been a busy week and all Year 10 parents and carers have been contacted to assess numbers and answer any questions of concern. We are delighted to report that parents and carers are very happy with the measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of our students and plans are now being refined. We will soon be able to share specifics for each child - which day they will be in school and so on. The Government approach of having no more than 25% of the year group in at any one time means that we are moving towards a 'blended' model of learning where the students will have some face-to-face time with their teacher and will then continue with their learning at home for the rest of the week.

Y10 Preparation - IMPORTANT things for you and your child to know

Y10 parents and carers will receive detailed information very soon with regards to individual timetables for their child. Below is a summary of general information to help keep everyone informed.

NYCC Transport: Students that normally travel to school by bus have already been contacted and are aware of the booking system that NYCC now has in place. **The Government announced yesterday that [from the 15th June face coverings will be mandatory on public transport](#) - this applies to the school bus as well.** A reminder that once parents have received their child's timetable they will need to submit their transport request every week before 9am on Tuesday of the preceding week to secure a place for their child. This is the booking link: [NYCC Home to School Transport Request](#)



Uniform: When Y10 return to school they will be allowed to come in 'civvies' and wear their own clothes rather than school uniform. The clothing, however, does need to be appropriate to a learning environment so please make sure your child wears something comfortable and sensible.



Equipment: All the resources and equipment (pens/pencils etc.) that your child will need for the day will be provided by the school. These items must not be shared as we need to avoid the risk of germs being passed round.

Food: Your child, if required, will need to bring a drink and a snack for break as the canteen will only be open for lunch. You have already let us know whether your child will be bringing a packed lunch or having a school dinner. Please keep to what was agreed during the phone call with school. If your child does want to change their lunch option please let us know well in advance so that we can make provision for them.



Health and Safety: Students will receive a full health and safety briefing on their first day back at school. This will ensure that everyone knows what is expected of them and how we will all need to work together to keep our school as safe as possible for our students and staff. The briefing will include things like hand washing protocols, one way systems and social distancing etc. If your child is ill and will be unable to attend school on their allotted day, please inform school in the usual manner of telephoning the office.

Online Learning Refresh

As we move into the final half term of the academic year staff here at Risedale are working tirelessly to refine and improve their delivery of remote learning. These 7 weeks sees a number of senior staff take on specific responsibility for specific areas. This endeavour is to ensure that the quality of what your children are engaging with is relevant, fun and challenging. **Our aim is simple - to work in partnership with you to ensure your children are not disadvantaged by being away from school.**



1) Quality of Feedback - Miss Burke and Mr Carter



Through phone calls home, we have managed to speak to the majority of students or parents and one comment is almost universal: Students really value when they are given feedback on their online learning. We value all of the work being completed and want to help and encourage students to always produce their best work. We will be exploring the ways that staff are currently giving feedback, sharing best practice and investigating new ideas. Watch this space for more details in the next edition and keep an eye on the feedback on Google Classroom.

2) Tutor Involvement - Mrs Hailwood and Mr Sherwood

Teachers are exploring ways to improve the online provision and you as parents and carers are doing a fantastic job keeping your children on track at home; the students themselves are also getting so much better at managing their time efficiently but we are still all missing that personal touch. Your child's tutor should now have invited them to a Google Classroom group where they can pass on useful hints and tips to keep mentally





healthy, as well as ideas for filling their time away from the computers. More than anything though, this provides an opportunity to chat, share and feel part of the Risedale Family in these unusual times.



During this half term tutors will also be continuing with the **'Keep in Touch' phone calls home** to see how our families are and to ask if there is anything that the school can do to support home learning (thank you for your help with this so far) and as always if you have any concerns please email your child's tutor directly: [Staff Email List](#).

3) New Y9 Options - Mrs Cox

Year 9 parents and carers have now received a letter outlining your child's GCSE options. From Monday 8th June your child will be invited to join a new Google Classroom for their option choice subjects. The work set will be aimed at bridging the jump from KS3 to GCSE. Students will be set a variety of tasks designed to prepare them for their new courses. All work will be expected to be completed in these subjects, and I am sure your child will enjoy the tasks set!



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pupils, Parents and Staff Privacy Notice



A [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pupils, Parents and Staff Privacy Notice](#) has been written to inform pupils, parents and staff of the school about how we will be using personal information in light of the measures that have been introduced in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This Privacy Notice should be read in conjunction with the standard Pupils and Parents, and Employees Privacy Notices. All of these are available on our school website in the [Policies](#) area.

Berlin Trip 11-13th Nov 2020 - Mr Lipinski, Head of History

Parents of students going on the Berlin Trip should have received letters asking them to complete a survey about **potentially postponing the trip to Feb/March 2021**. Please could you complete this at your earliest convenience. A further update will follow once we have evaluated the survey.



Y11 Messages from Ms Benson:

The following information has been emailed directly to all Y11 students by Ms Benson so they should already be aware - this summary is to keep parents/carers up to date as well.

Y11 Leavers Hoodies are currently in production and we should receive them within the next week or so. Mrs Benson will email Y11 students to let them know how they will be distributed safely once they have been delivered to school.

Y11 Prom: Unfortunately our venue, [The Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington](#), is still closed. We do still have our original booking for 3rd July and a reserve date for 11th September. All we can do is wait for further guidance from the Government about social gatherings/events to know when our Prom can actually go ahead. Until then please be assured that, as soon as we know, we will let you know. Students have also been told that

the usual 'Prom Passport' and points system no longer applies due to the current situation, so for this year, all students automatically have a place and we hope to see you there!



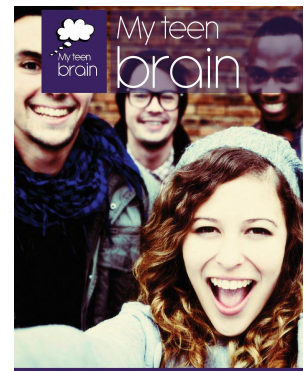
Ms Benson also wanted to share some information about a [support helpline from MIND in Darlington](#) whose help she has accessed before for individuals in school. If your child is aged between 11 and 18 and needs additional support at this difficult time please reach out. And, if there are any other issues you think we as a school could support you with, please do not hesitate to make contact with Ms Benson benson.@risedale.org.uk or a member of the Risedale Team.

My Teen Brain

As adults, we can struggle to communicate with young people, worry what they're doing and can be baffled by their behaviour.

However, recent interesting research on the adolescent brain has given us an insight into adolescent development and enabled us to better understand this period in a young person's life.

The 'My Teen Brain' initiative aims to highlight what happens in the teenage brain which, in conjunction with experience and environment, can affect many aspects of teenage behaviours, including emotions, relationships, behaviours, sleep and attitudes to risk.



[Click here to view your copy of 'My Teen Brain'](#), a really helpful leaflet for parents/carers and young people to find out more about the teenage brain.

Further information can be found at www.hertsdirect.org/myteenbrain




Millie smashes her '100km in May' challenge

We're really proud to report that Millie Hollis (9Kirkbride) has completed her challenge and has gone above and beyond her personal target by running a total of **135km in total!** Well done Millie, what a fantastic achievement, you can definitely enjoy a well deserved rest now!

- [Click here to sponsor Richmond Town FC Juniors U14 Girls](#)

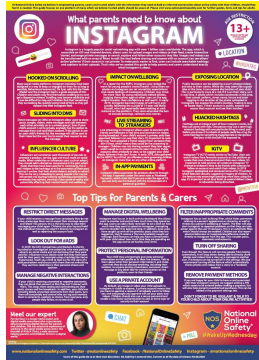
National Online Safety Guides

Facebook 'Messenger Rooms'

Facebook's new group video chat feature 'Messenger Rooms' is now available, and is ready to compete with services like Zoom, Skype, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, as more people turn to video chat during the coronavirus lockdown. Check out National Online Safety's guide giving parents/carers tips to keep children safe whilst using the app  >> [Messenger Rooms](#)



Instagram



It's easy to see why Instagram is so popular. Its focus on sharing visual content means that users can quickly upload, edit and share media with their friends and family instantly. But, should parents be concerned about what's on Instagram? How can it impact children? And what safety measures can be put in place? Find out with this guide 📸👉 >> [Instagram Guide](#)

Parents and carers, don't forget to sign up for your FREE and interactive online safety workshop by registering here: [National Online Safety for Risedale Parents](#)

Crafty Corner with Mrs Plews - Risedale Rocks!

We've all smiled when we've found a pebble that someone has painted and left to be discovered. So, why not make some 'Risedale Rocks' to brighten up the Hub's new garden/outdoor classroom?



You will need:

- Pebbles - from your garden, if you have any, but the river is the best place to choose the shapes you want. Always ask permission, be accompanied and make sure you stay safe!
- Pencil and paper.
 - Acrylic/poster paint or acrylic pens. (You might have some little paint pots left over from a craft kit - these are ideal. Use anything you have - be creative!)
 - A fine paintbrush.
 - Varnish (although we can do that at school for you if you don't have any at home).



And here's how to do it:

1. Select your pebbles.
2. Sketch some ideas onto paper - it could be anything - a portrait, a flower, something to do with Risedale or your favourite cartoon character - it's entirely up to you!
3. Select your final design and draw your image in pencil directly onto the pebble(s) and then fill in with paint or acrylic pen.
4. When the paint is dry, you could add a black outline to define your image and help it stand out, but this is optional.

When we're all back at school together you can bring in your 'Risedale Rocks' to be part of a lovely display in the Hub garden.

My favourite is the chilli pepper but there are loads of ideas online to inspire you as well. *Have fun - Risedale Rocks!*





Upcoming National and Global Events

Things to look out for and get involved with **this week:**

- [National Volunteers' Week](#)
- [World Heart Rhythm Week](#)
- [Global Day of Parents - 1st June](#)
- [Garden Wildlife Week](#)
- [Legs Matter Week](#)
- [Child Safety Week](#)

Next week:

- [Bike Week UK](#)
- [Diabetes Awareness Week](#)
- [Carers Week](#)
- [National Sewing Machine Day UK - 13th June](#)
- [Cupcake Day in support of Alzheimer's Society - 18th June](#)



Recruitment at Risedale



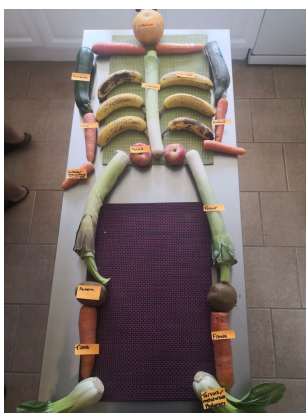
A reminder that we currently have 2 job vacancies available and are looking to appoint a **Senior Science Technician** (closing date midnight Sunday 7th June) and a **Project Setup Manager** (closing date midnight Sunday 14th June). Join our forward thinking, innovative and creative team.

APPLY TODAY at www.risedale.org.uk/recruitment

OUR GALLERY

Examples of great work completed by our students learning from home and our 'Key Worker' students at school:

Well done to all our students who are working so hard and producing such fantastic work across all subjects. You are a credit to yourselves and the school.



←Y8 Léa Westen's fantastic creative response to a PE task labelling the bones of the body.

A beautiful pavement zentangle drawn by some of our Key Worker students in school with Ms Westwood for their creative session →





Issue 5: Friday 5th June 2020

↓ #BlackLivesMatter - Our Key Worker students researched aspects of Black History and discussed subjects such as prejudice, racism and discrimination, culminating in this thought provoking poster that they made with Mr Lipinski.

