

Friday 10 July 2020

Dear Families,

One of the absolute highlights of the year is always the summer term where we invite you into school for our fantastic celebratory and community events: The Arts Festival, Sports Day and BBQ. It is so sad not to be able to mark the end of an academic year in this way. Nevertheless, we continue to be so proud of our whole community and its resilience during the pandemic. Life does go on, and in that spirit, I am sharing information with you regarding the 2020-2021 academic year.

Staffing Changes

We are saying goodbye to four members of The Rise staff: our IT apprentice Vivak Chauhan, our Behaviour Lead Victor Ocansey, our midday supervisor Mo Richings and member of the support team Anna Cross. We wish them all well!

We are welcoming: Hayley Hunter as our Food Tech teacher, Martin Mackin as a Computing teacher, Surina Dhillon as a Maths and Science teacher, and Kelly Bowden as a Science teacher. Also, we will be welcoming a number of trainee teachers to The Rise team also: Stacey Newlin and Ernestine Ngringeh.

Within The Rise, Holger Marsen is changing role to become our IT Technician, Aaron Jewell is our new SWPBS Practitioner and Becky Angus will also be a trainee teacher in the primary phase.

1. Class and Timetable for 2020-2021

Attached is a timetable document which has the following information in it:

- Class teacher
- Class TLAs
- The names of all their subject specialists
- The timetable for the week

A new academic year inevitably brings change. We know that change can feel unsettling for pupils and families, and this year, those worries, may be intensified by the lockdown. Classes have been created with the principles of wellbeing, consistency, and rapport at the heart of them.

For fairness, ALL pupils (whether they are at home or school) are receiving the timetable via this letter. I have prepared a general video that you can show them [here](#).

If you have an urgent question regarding next academic year, please make an appointment for a short phone call slot with me on Wednesday 15th July between 3 and 5pm. Please contact Ayesha on ayesha.hines@theriseschool.com to do so.

2. September School (COVID-19)

At the end of this letter is a summary of how we expect The Rise will operate on our return in September. As you will see, it is largely based on a normal school day and timetable but with some changes to be as safe as possible. This is why we've shared the 'normal' class and timetable information with you first. I will post further details and an explainer video in August.

3. FSM Information

For some families, there is an additional letter from Leigh-Anne Sullivan describing the arrangements for Free School Meal vouchers over the summer holidays.

4. 2020 Exams and Results

For some Year 10 and Year 11 families, there is an additional letter from Karen Oliver describing the process by which we submitted Assessment Centre Grades (instead of exams) and the process for getting results in August.

Summer Reports

We report to families on a termly basis in December, April and July. This year we didn't send reports home in April and have adapted the template for July to reflect the current circumstances. These will be sent home to families in the post before Friday 17th July.

Summer 2 Newsletter

We are compiling our usual celebratory newsletter for Summer 2 – please do look out for this in your inboxes on Friday 17th July, it will also be published on our website.

As the summer holidays approach, I want to take this final opportunity to say thank you for your continued support during the pandemic. I sincerely hope that you have a lovely summer break, able to safely relax. I will contact families again towards the end

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Ralston'.

Helen Ralston
Head of The Rise School

The Rise Educational Approach during COVID-19: September 2020

Please note, the below approach to education at The Rise in September 2020 is in line with [government guidance published on 2nd July](#) and the updated Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust position statement which can be read on our [corona webpage](#).

It represents the most likely model for reopening in September, but is of course, **subject to change based on any updated national picture**.

Protective Measures

- Pupils and staff will be 1-2m apart whenever possible.
- Pupils and staff must continue to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
- The Rise will continue to use an enhanced cleaning regime.
- The Rise will engage with track and trace – staff and pupils staying at home if requested.

Arrival

- There will be no breakfast club during the Autumn term.
- Pupils can arrive between 8.20 and 8.50am.
- There will be three different entrances – these will be allocated based on their taxis or location of their form room if they travel with parents or independently.
- Pupils **must wash their hands** (in addition to sanitiser) immediately on arrival.
- They will hand in their mobile phone, as normal.

During the Day

- Pupils will follow their new 20-21 timetable.
- Pupils will stay in their form room all day with **the teachers transitioning around the building** to teach them.
- Each classroom will be set up to maximise social distancing for pupils and staff.
- Pupils may transition to the Science lab for a practical lesson.
- Pupils will do Food Tech every fortnight so that the groups are smaller.
- We are waiting for further information about when swimming will resume.
- The normal SWPBS behaviour system will be used: tick chart, question marks, behaviour ladder, 1:1 time and reflections where needed.

Break Times

- Break and lunchtimes will be slightly different, we will split the school cohort into 2 groups to allow social distancing.
- The hot menu that will be offered has not been confirmed yet.

Leaving

- Pupils will leave between 2.45 and 3.15pm by the same entrance.
- There are no afterschool clubs for the Autumn term, this will be reviewed for January 2021.

Uniform

- The expectation is that pupils will wear their uniform in September. However, as cleanliness continues to be of paramount importance, we are happy for pupils to wear a plain white or navy top (ie. t-shirt, polo shirt or collared shirt) to enable these to be purchased affordably and changed daily. The expectations around grey trousers/skirts and plain black shoes (including trainers) remain the same.

VLE

- We will not routinely be using the VLE as we will resume delivering lessons in person. Therefore we will be arranging to collect any loaned devices at the start of the summer holidays.
- Nevertheless, if we are required to respond to a local lockdown, bubble closure or a pupil needing to shield or isolate (track and trace) then we will deliver lessons remotely once again.

Details to come in August:

- We will be implementing a **phased return** in September in order to support a successful and safe return for the majority of the community. The details of what days/times your child will be doing at school will be forthcoming.
- We will allocate your child an **entrance/exit**.
- The **menu options** for school so you can decide if you wish your child to have school dinners or a provide a packed lunch.

Details to share with pupils in September:

- Their break and lunchtime slots.
- Any updated behaviour expectations.