



# WELCOME TO RYBURN





# WELCOME TO TEAM RYBURN

This is the start of an exciting journey! You have already learned so much thanks to the fabulous work of your primary schools, parents/carers and communities. We are excited to continue that brilliant work with you all here as you grow to become well-rounded young people.

You are joining a school which has exceptionally high standards. Ryburn students work hard, get involved with the school community and "strive to excel". At Ryburn you will have access to a wide range of opportunities, so I encourage you to take advantage and use your time to thrive. You will make new friendships, learn new subjects and skills and join in with a wide range of extra curricular activities.

We hope you finish high school with lots of new skills and knowledge, and some great exam results. However, we also want you to develop and grow as a person, to leave here with the attitudes and confidence to go out into the world and make a positive impact. Being part of our school community is about sharing our values and making your own contribution.

Read this guide carefully to find out what to expect here, and what we expect from you. In return, we will provide some outstanding memories that will remain with you for life. Ryburn is a wonderful 'family' and we cannot wait for you to start!

## OUR VALUES

**OUR SCHOOL VALUES ARE HONESTY, KINDNESS, ENDEAVOUR AND RESPECT.**

What do these words mean to you?

Here are some examples of what these values look like in Ryburn students. Can you think of some more?

### RESPECT

Respect other people and appreciate what makes us different. Make the effort to learn about different cultures and ideas, celebrate and support each other.

Respect the rules and norms that help the school run smoothly. This is part of being a community.

### KINDNESS

The world needs more kindness. The kindness that notices a friend who's feeling down and makes time for them. The kindness that doesn't leave anyone out. Have you done something kind today?

Be kind to yourself too.

### ENDEAVOUR

To endeavour is to try hard to achieve something. It's about enthusiasm, and not giving up even if you face setbacks and obstacles. It's knowing that progress often looks like difficulty or even failure at times. It's all part of the journey.

Keep on going.

### HONESTY

Being honest is about having the courage to be yourself, to embrace and express what makes you YOU. We are all individuals and our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.



Mrs Donna Watkins Head of School

Ryburn is part of a group of schools called the Together Learning Trust, and I want to personally welcome you to that family. The wealth of opportunity this brings for you here is breathtaking.

We will encourage you to get involved in as much as possible, constantly providing magical learning experiences along the way. This will enable you to develop intellectually, spiritually, culturally and physically whilst enjoying every aspect of school life. We want everyone in our Trust schools to stand out, and be outstanding Together.

We, along with everyone connected to you, will support you as much as we can over the coming months to get off to a great start at high school. I am confident that you will thoroughly enjoy the experiences we will create together at Ryburn and will go on to cherish your time here for the rest of your life.



Mr David Lord CEO



Mr Dave Hewitt Executive Headteacher

**Together**  
Learning Trust







# HERE TO HELP

Ryburn has so many more staff than your primary school. It's useful to know some faces whose special job it is to make sure all our students are safe, happy and able to thrive. Your Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year and your Form Tutor are your key team and the first people to contact if you need support.

We also have a **Pastoral Team** who can help out when issues crop up for students. Your Year Team might ask them to help you out. Our **Subject Teams** of specialist teachers and heads of department look after students' educational progress.

## WHERE TO FIND HELP IN SCHOOL

If you have questions or need help, you can ask your form tutor during registration. You can also go to the **Student Services** desk by the entrance.

Our team of **Student Ambassadors** are also fantastic people to speak to if you've ideas about school life, or if there's anything you're unsure of. They are always friendly and happy to help other students. We have Ambassadors in years 8-11 and you can recognise them by their special silver ties, or find their pictures on the board in reception. Maybe you could be an Ambassador yourself in the future?

## WHERE TO FIND HELP - PARENTS / CARERS

Parents and carers can get in touch with the team either by phoning school on 01422 832070 to make an appointment to speak to someone, or by emailing a member of staff. Staff emails take the format initial.surname@rvhschool.co.uk. If your child has special educational needs or disabilities, you can contact our SENDCO, Ms Suzanne Gould.

For more information on how we support students and families, please see [www.rvhs.co.uk/wellbeing](http://www.rvhs.co.uk/wellbeing).

YEAR 7 TEAM



Mrs C Lowe Head of Year 7



Miss A Vick Assistant Head of Year 7

My form tutor's name is:

.....

My Form Tutor

# ATTENDANCE & HEALTH

**Attendance and punctuality are important. Missed school days affect your progress, and arriving late disrupts others' learning as well as your own. Please do your best to be here on time each day.**

Of course, sometimes you have a justifiable reason for not being in school, like when you are too poorly, or for exceptional events such as a family funeral.

## APPOINTMENTS AND EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS

Where possible, please make medical appointments outside of school hours. If this isn't possible, or for other planned events, you must call Student Services in advance and request an 'Exeat' permit.

## SHOULD I BE AT SCHOOL?

If you have a mild illness, it can be tricky to know whether you should be in school or not. Certain contagious illnesses require you to stay at home. For guidance see [www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school). If in doubt, speak to Student Services.

## HOLIDAYS

You should only take holidays during the school holiday breaks. Permission for holidays taken in term time cannot be granted and will be deemed as unauthorised absences, which may result in a penalty fine.

## MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Parents / carers should inform school of any medical conditions you may have, which may require extra care or medication. We have a number of students with medical conditions, some of them serious, and are used to dealing with these, so please don't worry.

## ALLERGIES

Please make sure school is aware about any allergies you may have and their severity. We have an epi-pen in school. Our canteen can cater for special diets.

**Please note**, we ask all students not to bring in or consume any nut products in school.

## SICKNESS OR ACCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

We have a number of first aid trained staff in school as well as a Healthcare Assistant, who will ensure students receive medical care if they need it.

If you feel unwell in school, let your teacher know. Students who are unwell normally go to the sick bay, and we will contact parents/carers to collect them from school.

## KEEPING HEALTHY

Throughout the school curriculum, we cover many topics to help our students learn to stay healthy, from exercise to sex education. We work with the local health organisations, and take part in immunisation programmes. As a community, we all have a responsibility for protecting each other's health. Thank you for playing your part.

**If you are absent due to sickness or an emergency, your parent/carer must call school on 01422 832070 before 8.30am**, giving the reason for your absence. Please note, we cannot take absence messages via other channels such as SMS or Facebook messages.





## KEEPING IN TOUCH

We make a real effort to keep parents and carers up to date with everything that is going on at Ryburn, and hope that you will do the same.

You can always contact your child's form tutor, or Head of Year if your child is having any issues or needs some support. Call school on 01422 832070 to make an appointment, or email the member of staff ([initial.surname@rvhschool.co.uk](mailto:initial.surname@rvhschool.co.uk)). We hold annual parents evenings where you can speak to your child's subject teachers about their progress, but please feel free to contact us any time if you have any concerns. You can also use the Student Planner to communicate short messages to your child's teachers.

If there's something going on for your child outside of school - whether a difficult patch, or something to celebrate - it's really useful to let us know.

For individual messages about your child or important information we contact you directly, normally by phone, text or email - so it's really important that you **keep your contact details with us up to date** and let us know if they change.

We also make a lot of use of our website and social media channels for sharing news, events and stories of what's going on in school. It's definitely worth following us there.



### FOLLOW US

Website: [www.rvhs.co.uk](http://www.rvhs.co.uk)  
Facebook and Youtube: Ryburn Valley High School  
Instagram and Twitter: @RVHS\_school  
Look out for our subject departments channels too.

# 8 TOP TIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT RYBURN

**We all want the best for your child and together with you, we can help them thrive. If you're wondering what you can do to support your child at high school, here's our top tips.**

#### HELP THEM BUILD GOOD HABITS

Being organised is a skill, not a personality trait, and anyone can learn to be more organised. Rather than doing it for them, spend some time supporting your child to develop habits that help them be organised. Make a list together of school equipment for the week and have them tick off items as they pack their bag. Create dedicated times and spaces for homework, perhaps using a timer to set aside a chunk of focussed time for work. Sowing the seeds for good habits now will help them take root and stick as your child progresses.

#### ENCOURAGE THEM TO FIND AND FOLLOW THEIR PASSIONS

It will serve your child well at high school - and in life - to jump in and try out all kinds of experiences and opportunities. We find that students who are passionate about their hobbies develop skills like focus, perseverance, team work and time management. It might even be the first step towards a career they love! Support your kids in trying new things and develop their passions in or outside school. The wide range of extra curricular activities here at Ryburn offers something for everyone.

#### HELP THEM LEARN TO STAY SAFE ONLINE

Today's teens live in a digital world. We want to keep our children safe from harm such as fake news or unsavory strangers, so we have to give them the tools to recognise risk and act smart. We cover these topics at school and provide regular online safety information so you can educate yourself too. At home, make sure you're aware what your child is accessing online and try to be open so they feel able to speak to you if they are uncomfortable about something.

Support them to balance their screentime with other experiences too. Family rules like 'screen free Sundays', 'no phones at the dinner table' or 'we leave our phones downstairs at night' can really help, especially if parents join in.

#### CELEBRATE MISTAKES

Learning is a messy process. We encourage our students not to fear challenges and setbacks, but to value them as chances to learn. It's called having a growth mindset. Can you shift how you think and talk about mistakes?

#### KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SCHOOL

Parents and school are on the same team and good communication is essential to your child's success here. Please feel free to get in touch with your child's form tutor or head of year with their news and achievements as well as if you have worries about them. A small issue can be fixed more easily before it grows into a big one.

Don't miss parents evenings and important events. And keep an eye on emails, letters and newsletters to follow all the school news and opportunities.

#### HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

Encourage your child to make healthy choices around food, sleep and exercise. It's not about being super strict, but things like ensuring there's healthy snacks to hand for a hungry teen to grab, or taking family bike rides which help to build healthy habits. Sleep is a major one so establish a regular bedtime routine. All of these healthy choices build up and will help your child to blossom in their Ryburn journey and beyond.

#### TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

As they say on aeroplanes, put on your own oxygen mask first. Parenting can be hard. If you're overwhelmed or dealing with tough issues of your own, seek help and support. Find resources at [www.rvhs.co.uk/wellbeing](http://www.rvhs.co.uk/wellbeing)

#### LISTEN TO THEM

We asked our students what they thought parents could do to support their child, and the number one answer was simple - to listen to them. Make time to find out what's going on in your child's life, listen without judging or always trying to 'fix' it, and support them in making the right choices.





# UNIFORM

Ryburn students look smart and feel ready to learn. Be proud of your uniform and make sure you have the correct items and a high standard of personal appearance.

For a full uniform and equipment guide, and information on stockists, see [www.rvhs.co.uk/uniform](http://www.rvhs.co.uk/uniform)



## SHIRT

Plain white school shirt with long or short sleeves. Make sure it's tucked in, and the collar is buttoned.



## TIE

Our ties are clip on and attach to the top of your collar. There is a different colour for each year group.



## JUMPER AND / OR BLAZER

Either a jumper or blazer must be worn around school - or both, if it's chilly. These are navy with the Ryburn crest.



## TROUSERS

Plain black, full length, formal tailored trousers. No other styles are allowed (ie ankle-grazers, leggings etc.).



## SKIRT

Plain black, knee length, full/box pleated skirt. No tightly fitted styles, mini skirts or skater skirts.



## SHOES

Plain black smart shoes paired with black socks or tights. Socks should be above the ankle, no trainer socks or pop socks allowed.



## COAT

A coat suitable for Yorkshire weather. These must be taken off when you enter the school building.

## GET IT RIGHT FIRST TIME

Ties, blazers and jumpers can be bought from Shaw Hardcastles or The Uniform Shop, Halifax. Second hand uniform can be donated or obtained from Halifax YMCA. All clothing and equipment should be clearly named.

This section is intended as a guide. Not all items advertised in the 'school uniform' section of high street shops are suitable. If in doubt, please check before you buy.

Students in incorrect uniform or shoes will be loaned something for the day and parents/carers will be asked to rectify incorrect items as soon as possible



## TIES IN 2023-24

Our ties are colour coded to make it easy to recognise each year group. You will keep the same colour as you move through school. Here's a guide.



## TROUSERS AND SKIRTS

Trousers should be a **full-length, formal school style**. No other styles are appropriate, including jeans style, denim, tight fitting, leggings, very wide leg, cropped, ankle grazer or rolled up. They should not have studs, ties, zips (ie on pockets) or other embellishments.

**Skirts should be knee length, permanent full/box pleat**. No tight-fitting skirts, kilts or pencil/skater skirts are allowed.

## PERSONAL APPEARANCE

- **Hair colour and style** must be appropriate for school. No unnatural hair colouring or any extreme hairstyles/shaven heads/tramlines.
- A watch and one small stud in each ear is allowed. No other **jewellery** is permitted for safety reasons. No other body piercing, tattoos or ear stretchers allowed.
- No **make up** is allowed in KS3. Subtle make up may be worn in KS4.
- No coloured **nail polish**, fake nails, hair extensions or false eyelashes.

## FOOTWEAR

Only plain black, formal, leather (or leather look), low heeled shoes are allowed, the sort which would be appropriate for a smart office environment. No plimsolls, high heels, boots, pumps, or sports style shoes such as Converse and Vans are allowed. There should be no visible logos or embellishments such as large buckles. Laces should be plain black, as should any stitching.





# EQUIPMENT

Before anything else, preparation is the key to success. Get every day off to a good start by making sure you have the equipment you need for the day.

## THINGS YOU NEED

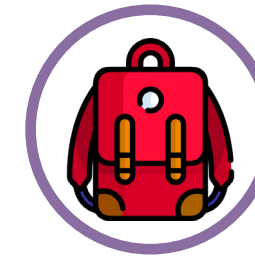
- School planner - we'll give you this on the first day of term
- 2 blue or black pens (fountain or biro)
- Pencil
- 15cm or 30cm ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- 5 coloured pencils (not felt tips)
- Pencil case
- Maths protractor
- Scientific calculator
- Glue stick (small)

## THINGS YOU DON'T NEED

These items should never be seen in school:

- Mobile phones
- Valuables - Please do not bring expensive items or large sums of money to school.
- Game devices, hair straighteners and personal entertainment equipment etc
- Correction fluid e.g. Tippex.
- Earpods or headphones

You'll also need to check your timetable and bring the right books and kit for each lesson. Don't forget your homework!



## LOST PROPERTY

Oops! If you lose something around school, or on a school bus, please ask at Student Services. If the item has not been handed in you should tell your form tutor. For items left on the service buses (e.g. 579) please telephone 01422 422186.

**Make sure you label all your items with your name.** This will really improve your chances of getting it back. We end up with many unclaimed items each term, so please do check lost property.

## PE

### THINGS YOU NEED

- PE shirt with Ryburn crest
- PE shorts in navy blue
- Ryburn PE socks (navy)
- Trainers - any colour. These need adequate grip and support - not plimsolls.

### RECOMMENDED / OPTIONAL

- PE hoodie with Ryburn crest
- Black leggings (for gym, dance, trampolining, cold weather)
- Tracksuit bottoms with school logo or plain navy
- Football boots
- Shin pads
- Gum shield

## TECHNOLOGY THINGS YOU NEED

- Navy blue Technology apron

Parents/carers are asked to make a small contribution towards materials costs in Technology in Year 7 & 8. You will be emailed about this.





# TRANSPORT

The first step in making a good start at Ryburn is actually getting here. Whether you travel by bus, bike, car or on foot, plan your journey to ensure you arrive in good time. If you're feeling anxious about your move or will be travelling by yourself for the first time, it's a great idea to have a 'dry run' in advance before the big day.



## SCHOOL BUSES

WY Metro run a number of dedicated bus services to Ryburn. A number of public buses also serve our school, in particular the 579 from Halifax Bus Station.

We expect our students to be respectful and mindful of others whilst using the buses.

### APPLY FOR YOUR BUS PASS - DEADLINE 1 JUNE 2023

To use a school service you must to apply online for a bus pass each year. Those eligible for a free pass apply to Calderdale Council (earlier deadline). Fare payable passes are issued by WY Metro.

Don't miss the deadline or you may find there is no space.

For full details on buses, including links to bus routes, bus pass applications and live bus information, see [www.rvhs.co.uk/transport](http://www.rvhs.co.uk/transport)



## ARRIVING BY CAR, BICYCLE OR ON FOOT

With many students arriving at Ryburn and our neighbouring primary schools at the same time, it can get quite congested around school. If you have the choice, we'd encourage you to walk, cycle, or use the bus. Cycle racks for students are provided outside our main entrance.

To keep our students safe, please do not use our driveway or bottom car park to drop off or collect students during peak times. The disabled parking bays are in use by many students with mobility issues and inconsiderate use can make it difficult, or dangerous for them arriving at school. Thank you for your cooperation.



# MONEY

## PARENTPAY

Payments to school are best made through our online system: ParentPay. Here you can add lunch funds, pay for school trips and buy items such as calculators and revision guides. We will email you your details for ParentPay. Write down your login details here so you don't forget them.

## CASHLESS CANTEEN

No more hunting around for loose change in the morning, or spending your dinner money on the way to school. We run a cashless system, where funds are added in advance online by a parent/carer (or automatically in the case of free school meals). Students then 'pay' using a finger biometric recognition system. It is not possible to pay with cash in the canteen.

Parents can log onto ParentPay and see what their child has purchased, and can set a daily spending limit.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Students, including Sixth Formers, are entitled to free school meals if their parents are in receipt of certain benefits.

If your child is eligible (even if they choose not to have school dinners), it's really important to register for them. Our school can receive significant extra Pupil Premium funding for each registered pupil. This supports your child's learning in so many ways, such as funding their school trips and revision guides, and extra provision to raise attainment.

For ParentPay, visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and log in. For more details of school meals, and a link to apply for free school meals, visit [www.rvhs.co.uk/meals](http://www.rvhs.co.uk/meals)

## PARENTPAY LOGIN

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT OUR FINANCE TEAM

If you have any questions about financial matters, including using ParentPay, applying for Free School Meals or making payments to school, please get in touch with our Finance Team, either via the school office or by emailing [finance@rvhschool.co.uk](mailto:finance@rvhschool.co.uk).







# EVERYDAY GREATNESS

## THE RYBURN WAY

We expect high standards of behaviour from our students. And day in, day out, Ryburn students deliver. But what does that specifically mean?

- Be on time to school and to lessons
- Look smart and have the correct uniform
- Line up quietly outside the classroom before each lesson, and come in calmly when asked to do so
- Have all your equipment ready on your desk, especially your planner
- Complete all the tasks you are set to the best of your ability
- Be polite to staff and peers
- Follow teacher instructions. Do as you are asked, first time, every time
- Respect everyone's right to learn without disruption or distraction
- Demonstrate a growth mindset and a determination to persevere with work
- Have good attendance

Ryburn students behave impeccably and are ready to learn. We recognise and celebrate this in many ways including reward points, recognition boards and our annual Academy Awards.

Of course, we know some students have factors beyond their control that can make it harder to follow these norms. Whether it's the pressures of home, neurodiversity, health issues or simply a having really bad week, we understand this, and we support students in different ways. If you're struggling, speak to your form tutor, our pastoral team or our SEND department. What we ask is that you strive for your best every day and work with us to help you find solutions that work.

## THE RYBURN DAY

Our school day starts at **8.30am** with registration in form rooms. Form tutors check in with their form to make sure they are ready for the day. School normally opens to students at 8.00am with access to the Library and canteen.

The school day is made up of five periods of an hour each. You'll have a different set of subjects each day, each taught by your specialist subject teachers. Your Ryburn timetable runs over a fortnight, with 'A' and 'B' weeks. You'll soon get used to the new routine.

You also have breaktime and lunchtime every day, when you can use the canteen, Library or outside spaces, or perhaps join an extra curricular club.

The school day finishes at **2.50pm**, leaving you with plenty of time for after school clubs, homework and hobbies.

# TERM DATES

## 2023-2024

AUTUMN TERM	Staff Training Day	Monday 4 September 2023
	Open to Year 7 & 12	Tuesday 5 September 2023
	Open to Years 8-11 & 13	Wednesday 6 September 2023
	Staff Training Day	Friday 13 October 2023
Half Term	Close	Friday 27 October 2023
	Re-open	Monday 6 November 2023
	Staff Training Day	Friday 24 November 2023
Christmas	Close	Friday 22 December 2023
SPRING TERM	Staff Training Day	Tuesday 8 January 2024
	Re-open	Wednesday 9 January 2024
Half Term	Close	Friday 9 February 2024
	Re-open	Monday 19 February 2024
Easter	Close	Friday 22 March 2024
SUMMER TERM	Re-open	Monday 8 April 2024
	May Day	Monday 6 May 2024
Half Term (Spring bank)	Close	Friday 24 May 2024
	Re-open	Monday 3 June 2024
Midsummer	Close	Friday 19 July 2024





**SEE YOU SOON!**

**RYBURN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

ST PETER'S AVENUE, SOWERBY BRIDGE, HX6 1DG - TEL: 01422 832070 - [WWW.RVHS.CO.UK](http://WWW.RVHS.CO.UK)