



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - February 2024

What an amazing start to the new calendar year! 2024 looks like it's going to be a fantastic year. There's loads going on and our pupils seem to be up for whatever is given to challenge them in academic learning and the 'extras' we give as a school.

As you know, schools are there to help you as parents/carers and help our young people develop into decent young adults. This is not just about exam results at the end of Year 11, as important as those are. No... it is also about understanding each other, having empathy and resilience, being confident, understanding right from wrong and knowing where they are heading in their careers. With your help, we can work together to achieve that aim, turning your child into a rounded, skilled and open individual who has the ability to go as far as they could ever dream. And I thank you for continuing to help us on your child's journey.



As we move into the exam season for Year 11, we understand how stressful that time can be. Please help us to ensure your child follows the support being given to them. We will help them with tips to keep them calm and ready for the challenge.

Thank you all for the progress we have quickly made in delivering the government's mobile phone ban in schools for pupils. This has been an easier transition than we anticipated and this is thanks to you, and your children, for your understanding and support.

Please do take the time to read the important notices that follow within this letter.

Wishing you and your family a pleasant half-term break.

Future Events / Save the Date

Monday 19 February	Start of Spring Term 2 (pupils return)
Thursday 29 Feb	Y11 Richmond School Sixth Form Interviews
6 - 7 March	Y11 Drama NEA 2 Practical (External Examiner)
5 - 22 March	Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) Session 2 (Timetable)
Thursday 14 March	Y9 Consultation Evening
Friday 15 March	Y11 GCSE Geography Field Trip (Letter)
Thursday 21 March	Y9 Options Evening
25 March - 5 April	Easter Holiday
Monday 8 April	Training Day 4
Tuesday 9 April	Start of Summer Term 1 (pupils return)



>> Please visit our website for more information on important [Calendar and Term Dates](#) and [Exam Information](#) <<



Year 8 & 11 Consultation Evenings

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended our Year 8 and Year 11 Consultation Evenings in this half-term.

If you have any questions or concerns moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or a member of the Senior Leadership Team at enquiries@risedale.org.uk

If you were unable to attend the Year 11 Consultation Evening, here are copies of the documents that were provided to parents on the night.

- [Exam Dos and Don'ts](#)
- [QR Codes: Year 11 Revision Timetables and Exam Information 2024](#)



Year 11 Revision Sessions

There are a significant number of revision sessions taking place for our Y11 pupils each day at school. Please encourage your child to attend as many revision sessions as possible before the GCSE exam season begins. These additional study opportunities are essential to help pupils perform better in their exams. A huge thank you goes out to all the staff who are organising and providing revision sessions after school and during the Easter Holidays. If you have any questions please contact Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk.

Click the links below to see the revision sessions that we have on offer. Remember, dates and times are live and may be updated, so check back regularly:

- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#). Lunchtimes and after school.
- [Monday Night Extended Revision Sessions](#). 3pm-5:30pm for specific pupils/groups. Pizza will be provided for everyone during the revision session and transportation home is also available for those living further away. We only have a limited number of seats on the school minibus, so priority will be given to pupils with the furthest distance to travel.
- [Y11 Easter Revision Timetable](#). Specific pupils/groups.



Year 11s, take charge of your exams!

We recommend that every Year 11 pupil creates a personalised revision timetable. It helps to keep you and your family informed and focused during this crucial time. Revision timetables help you to:

- **Focus on what and when to revise:** Each day becomes clear, with specific subjects and topics mapped out.
- **Organise your studies:** Fit revision into your routine and build in time for relaxation.
- **Stay efficient:** Manage your time and work productively.

>> You can download a [FREE Revision Timetable Maker / Study Planner](#) study planner from Get Revising to assist you with your revision planning.

Y11 Prom and Leavers' Hoodies 2024



Letter Reminder: All the information you need regarding the Prom and purchasing Leavers' hoodies can be found in the [letter](#) that was sent to parents on 01/02/2024.

Prom: Get ready to celebrate the end of year in style! The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 28th June 2024 at The Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington. The evening will begin at 7:00pm and end at 11:00pm.

Leavers' Hoodies: Show your school spirit with a personalised hoodie! Hoodies will go on sale **from 19th February**, on the SchoolShop website. They cost £18.00 each and are a great way to commemorate your time in Year 11.

LINK FOR HOODIES: <https://school-shop.co.uk/product/year-11-leavers-hoodie-risedale-school/>

Need more information? Please contact Ms Andrea Benson, Pupil Support Manager for KS4, at Benson.A@risedale.org.uk for any further information regarding the Prom or Leavers' Hoodies.

Risedale Family Coffee Events ☕💕

A huge thank you to all the parents/carers of our Year 8 & 9 pupils who were able to attend one of our Family Coffee Events on Thursday 1st February. It was an absolute pleasure to meet with parents/carers in an informal setting, have a chat over coffee and get to know one another better.

Risedale Family Coffee Events

For parents/carers of Year 11 pupils

Tuesday 12th March 2024

10:30am - 12pm or 6pm - 7:30pm



Our next Family Coffee Event will be for parents/carers of pupils in Year 11.

There will be two sessions to choose from on Tuesday 12th March 2024:

- **Early session: 10.30am - 12pm**
- **Late session: 6pm - 7.30pm**

Meet our Assistant SENCo Emma Blatch, SENCo Stacey Burke, Specialist SEND Teacher Catherine Davies, and our School Counsellor Lisa Smith, as we discuss school life and foster a sense of community among parents.

To RSVP: To reserve your place please complete the [Google Form](#) by Tuesday 5th March Alternatively, email Lisa directly at Smith.L@risedale.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

National Measles Incident

North Yorkshire Council's Director of Public Health has asked us to share the following information with parents/carers.

The United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has declared a national incident following Measles outbreaks in London and West Midlands. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine.

Measles is a highly infectious, serious illness that can be very unpleasant. Those most at risk are under 1's, the unvaccinated, immuno-compromised or pregnant women. There is no specific treatment available, so it is important to get vaccinated to avoid serious illness.

If you and your child have been vaccinated, it's very unlikely you will catch Measles.

Symptoms of Measles

- Usually starts with cold-like symptoms
- High fever
- Sore red watery eyes
- Cough and/or runny nose
- Small red spots with bluish-white centres inside the mouth
- A red/brown blotchy rash which appears several days later, rough to the touch.



You should keep your child away from school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appeared and until they are completely recovered.

Keep your child away from babies, anyone who is pregnant and those with a weakened immune system.

'THINK' Measles

If you think your child has measles or has been in contact in the last 3 weeks with someone with a confirmed case of measles, then please stay at home and call your GP surgery.

- DO NOT bring your child to school or nursery.
- DO NOT visit the GP surgery/ out of hours, or Hospital.
- CALL ahead to the GP surgery so measures can be put in place for your arrival.

Children in school who are suspected of having measles will be isolated and parents will be asked to collect promptly.

Vaccination

If you are unsure about whether your child is due a vaccine or has missed a vaccination you can check your vaccination status by calling your GP surgery or checking your 'red book'. If your child has missed one of their MMR's call your GP surgery and book an appointment.

The MMR schedule is usually 1 vaccine at 12 months old and a 2nd vaccine at pre-school, around 3 years and 4 months. For adults, it's never too late to get vaccinated. Adults require 2 vaccines at 4 weeks apart.

You can request a version of the MMR vaccine that does not contain pork products from your GP surgery, making it suitable for all faiths. Please note that the GP practice may need to order this product in specially, so it will be helpful to tell the GP surgery before the appointment.

MMR vaccine is not advised during pregnancy, those women of childbearing age should avoid getting pregnant for at least 4 weeks following vaccination.

Pregnant women are advised to contact their midwife/GP surgery if they believe they have come into contact with Measles. Pregnant women who suspect they might have Measles should not go to an antenatal clinic or any other maternity setting until they have been assessed.

The information provided by UKHSA, should provide clarity and reassurance. We ask that you remain vigilant over the half-term holiday and if you are in any doubt about sending your child to school unwell, we would appreciate you considering keeping them at home.

Please follow the links below for further information and guidance:

- [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [Think Measles! \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [Pregnant? Immunisation helps to protect you and your baby from infectious diseases.](#)

Cost of Living Support

We have been asked to share the following information with parents/carers by North Yorkshire Council.

If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency financial support, managing debt, benefit entitlement, energy bills and staying connected all in one place at www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving

North Yorkshire Council's cost of living web page also has information about pension credit, schemes to help families and local community-based support, including [Warm Welcome](#) spaces, as well as advice on staying safe and well.



ADVANCE NOTICE: Canteen Price Increase

We understand that rising costs affect everyone, and, unfortunately, Risedale School hasn't been immune to this challenge. Throughout the past two years, we've seen significant increases in the cost of fresh produce and dry ingredients, some as high as 30%. While we've strived to absorb these costs for as long as possible to ensure our pupils continue to enjoy high-quality meals, we must now make some adjustments to ensure the sustainability of our canteen operations.

After the Easter Holiday, we will be implementing a modest price increase of an average of 9% across most canteen options. We understand this may cause some concern, and we want to assure you that this decision wasn't taken lightly. We explored all possible cost-saving measures before resorting to price adjustments.

For example, our one-course 'Meal Deal' option will move from £2.30 to £2.50, and the two-course option will increase from £2.70 to £2.90.

Please be reassured, that if your child qualifies for Free School Meals, their daily allowance will automatically cover the cost of the two-course 'Meal Deal' ensuring they continue to enjoy a balanced and filling lunch at no additional cost.

>> An updated price list and example menu can be found on our dedicated website page: [Catering](#).



NEW After School Homework Club:

A colorful poster for a Homework Club. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored geometric pattern. At the top, the text 'Join Our Homework Club!' is written in a large, bold, white font with a black outline. Below this, the text 'Open to All Pupils' is followed by a smiley face icon. The next line says 'In the Risedale Centre' with an arrow pointing to the right. The following line reads 'Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday' and the last line says 'After School (3pm to 4pm)'. On the left side, there is a central graphic of a dark blue circle with a white stylized flower or leaf design, surrounded by various school-related icons like a globe, a clock, a pencil, a ruler, a book, and a trophy. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text 'RISEDALE SCHOOL: A FAMILY OF LEARNERS' in white capital letters.

Join Our Homework Club!

Open to All Pupils ☺

In the Risedale Centre →

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

After School (3pm to 4pm)

RISEDALE SCHOOL: A FAMILY OF LEARNERS

You can check out all the other fantastic lunchtime and after-school clubs that we have on offer at Risedale School by visiting our dedicated website page: [Activities](#)

Service Children Awards 2024



2024 marks the inaugural Service Children Awards, shining a spotlight on the extraordinary achievements and contributions of Service Children and their dedicated supporters in North Yorkshire.

Nominations are open NOW and there are a range of categories, some specifically for children, others for adults and organisations. You can complete the form multiple times if you have more than one person that you would like to nominate. Please submit your nominations by 21st March.

LINK TO NOMINATION FORM: <https://forms.office.com/e/nbPkhdtn3t>

Recording of Phone Calls

Following our email on 31st January 2024, we wanted to remind parents/carers that our telephone system has now been upgraded and all incoming and outgoing phone calls at Risedale School are being recorded for training and monitoring purposes. External callers are informed of this. Internal calls are not recorded. Access to recorded calls is restricted to senior staff and must be justified. Recordings are used for staff training, security, and communication improvement. Unauthorised access is prohibited and copies are not made without permission. Our [policies](#) and privacy notices about Data Protection explain how the school manages personal information.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding the recording of telephone calls, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Calling all local businesses!

We are seeking work experience placements for our pupils... can you help?

We are seeking opportunities for our pupils to gain valuable work experience in our community. We are looking for businesses that are willing to open their doors to our enthusiastic learners and provide them with hands-on experience in a variety of fields.

Work experience is an essential part of our pupils' education, providing them with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world situations. It also helps

them develop important life skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

We are confident that our pupils can make a positive contribution to your business, and we would be grateful for any opportunities you can offer them.

If you are interested in hosting a work experience placement from 3rd-7th June 2024 for a pupil (or pupils), please email me at Porritt.H@risedale.org.uk

Thank you for your time and consideration. **Helen Porritt - Careers Leader**



WORK EXPERIENCE 3RD - 7TH JUNE 2024

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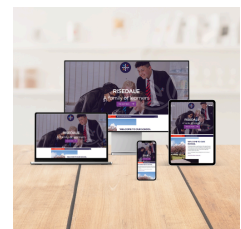
Register your interest by emailing our Careers Leader at:
PORRITT.H@RISEDALE.ORG.UK

RISEDALE
A family of learners

General Reminders for Risedale School

School Website

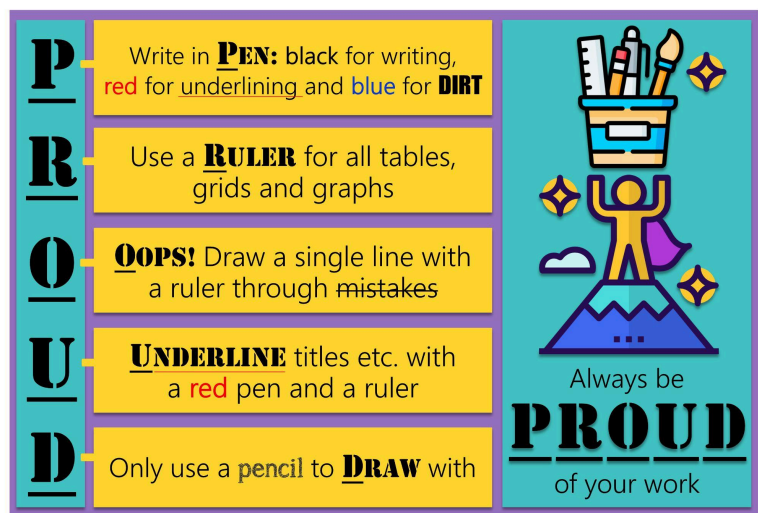
It is recommended that all parents familiarise themselves with the school's website www.risedale.org.uk. There you can find lots of important information such as [calendar and term dates](#), [letters to parents](#), [uniform](#), [policies](#), [exam information](#), [wellbeing](#) and our [latest news](#) to name but a few.



Equipment and Chromebooks

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school to start the day positively and be prepared to learn.

- Chromebook fully charged and in its case.
- A pencil case containing the following:
A **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**, pencil, ruler and eraser to enable pupils to take pride in their presentation (P.R.O.U.D) and earn Epraise points.
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).



P Write in **PEN**: black for writing, red for underlining and blue for **DIRT**

R Use a **RULER** for all tables, grids and graphs

O **OOPS!** Draw a single line with a ruler through mistakes

U **UNDERLINE** titles etc. with a red pen and a ruler

D Only use a pencil to **DRAW** with

Always be **PROUD** of your work

Uniform

At Risedale, we take great pride in our school uniform and strive to make it as affordable as possible by limiting the number of branded items we offer. Our website provides guidance on the [Uniform](#) policy, which is an integral part of our school's identity. It is mandatory for all pupils to wear the correct uniform at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.



Online Parental Engagement

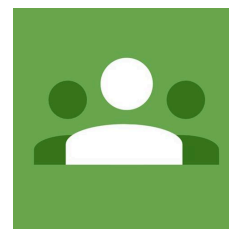
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see the latest available information. Parents can access MCAS via the website or can use the MCAS App which can be downloaded from the app/play store.



When your child joins Risedale you will be sent details to allow you to access your account. If you have forgotten your Parent Login details click [HERE](#).

Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian' simply complete this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



Yours sincerely,



Colin D. Scott
(Headteacher)