



Thursday 21st December 2023

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher’s Letter - December 2023

I’d like to start by praising our Year 8 and 9 pupils for their improvements and dedication during their ‘Focus and Celebration Period’. They have really “knuckled down” to do even better than before and are setting a high standard for their peers to follow.



As we approach the end of term, I would like to especially address the parents/carers of our Year 10 and particularly Year 11 pupils. Their final examinations are fast approaching, and the knowledge and skills they acquire in the coming months will significantly impact their future endeavours. We will do our utmost to help nurture and guide them through their preparations for examinations, as our hard-working staff always do, but we need your help to support them too. Please let their form tutor know if your child is finding things hard. Sometimes they do not tell us when they are struggling so any early indications for us to intervene and support would be really useful.

I would like to remind all parents/carers that the upcoming mobile phone ban at Risedale School will begin when we return after the Christmas break. To ensure a smooth transition for your child, I encourage you to review the detailed [LETTER](#) outlining the ban and its implications, which was sent to you on 8th December 2023. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Thank you to the staff, pupils and parents/carers for making December such a memorable and fun month at school. It has been an incredibly long, tiring yet rewarding, term for us all and we continue to strive to do even better. Whichever way you spend the upcoming holiday, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, please do enjoy special time with your family and friends and share in the excitement of being together.

I wish you all the very best wishes for the season and I look forward to the pupils returning in January with hope and excitement for the months ahead.

Future Events / Save the Date



25 Dec - Fri	5 Jan	Christmas Holiday
Monday	8 Jan 2024	Staff Training Day
Tuesday	9 Jan	Start of Spring Term 1 (pupils return)
Wed	10 Jan	Year 11 QE Sixth Form College Interviews
Thurs	25 Jan	Year 8 Consultation Evening
Wed	31 Jan	Year 9 DTP and MenACWY Vaccinations (Consent Form)
Thurs	1 Feb	Year 8 & 9 Risedale Family Coffee Events (Reserve your place here)
Thurs	8 Feb	Year 11 Consultation Evening
12 - 16	Feb	Half-Term Holiday
Monday	19 Feb	Start of Spring Term 2 (pupils return)

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



Year 9 DTP and MenACWY Vaccinations

The North Yorkshire Immunisations Team will be visiting Risedale School on **Wednesday 31st January** to offer all **Year 9** pupils their **DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio) and Meningitis ACWY vaccinations**. The DTP booster is the fifth and final dose of their routine childhood immunisations. Together with the Meningitis ACWY, these will complete their childhood immunisations from birth.

Please complete the online [CONSENT FORM](#) as soon as possible. Even if you do not wish for your child to have their vaccinations, please complete the online form so that your wishes can be recorded.

Information about the DTP and MenACWY vaccines can be found on the following websites:

- www.schoolvaccination.uk
- [A guide to immunisation for young people](#)
- [Immunisations for young people - GOV.UK](#)

Year 8 & 9 Risedale Family Coffee Events ☕💕

Risedale Family Coffee Events

For parents/carers of Year 8 and 9 pupils

Thursday 1st February 2024

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



Calling all Year 8 and 9 parents! Join us for our next Risedale Family Coffee Event, a chance to connect with fellow parents in a relaxed and informal setting.

There will be two sessions to choose from on **Thursday, 1st February 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 Friday, 26th January. Alternatively, email Lisa directly at Smith.L@risedale.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 9 SLT Tutor Chat

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended our Year 9 SLT Chat on Tuesday 22nd November. We hope you found the event helpful and informative. If you were unable to attend, we would like to share the presentations from the events with you:

- [Year 9 SLT Chat Presentation / Resources](#)
- [MCAS, ParentPay and Epraise Information](#)

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



Advance Notice: Recording of Phone Calls

We would like to inform you that our school telephone system will soon be upgraded. As part of this upgrade, a new automatic telephone recording system will be activated. This will record all phone calls made to or from the school using external lines. All external callers calling into the school will receive an automated message that informs them of this fact. There will also be a notification on our school website. The school will be able to access such calls using the telephone management system. The system will not record internal phone calls.



Access to Recorded Calls: Access to calls is expected to only be made under exceptional circumstances. Only a restricted number of staff will have access to the recording system and thus any calls made. Such staff will have to obtain permission from senior school staff to access such calls. Details of access to calls will be kept along with the reason for access, which will principally be for staff training or security/safety purposes and to further improve our communications overall. Monitoring systems will be put in place in order to ensure the system is used securely and that confidentiality is maintained. Copies of calls will not be made without the permission of the Headteacher.

Year 11 Revision Sessions

All Year 11 pupils are encouraged to attend as many revision sessions as possible before the GCSE exam season begins. These sessions are divided into small-group interventions and open-to-all sessions. While the small-group sessions are by invitation only, the open-to-all sessions are available to all pupils who are studying the respective subjects. Please take a look at the following [timetable](#) to see which subjects have open sessions and encourage your child to attend them. We have already seen a positive impact from these sessions and hope that your child will benefit from them as well. If you have any questions please contact Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk.

YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS (Open-to-all)		
MONDAY	Lunchtime	Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye
	After School	
TUESDAY	Lunchtime	Computer Science: Mrs Rodgers Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood French: Mr Miller German: Mr Gückel Science: All Teachers
WEDNESDAY	Lunchtime	Design & Technology / Engineering: Mr Kirkbride Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye English: Miss Douglas
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood Computer Science: Mrs Rodgers Design & Technology: Mr Kirkbride English: Miss Douglas and Mr Watkinson Geography: Mr Ford and Mr Sherwood
THURSDAY	Lunchtime	Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye History: Mr Houlgate Music: Mrs Cox Religious Studies: Mrs Laheny
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood Engineering: Mr Kirkbride English: Miss Roberts History: Mr Houlgate Maths: All Teachers Media Studies: Miss Douglas
FRIDAY	Lunchtime	
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood

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.

WORK EXPERIENCE 3RD - 7TH JUNE 2024

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.

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

RISEDALE
A family of learners

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**

FEAST - Free Christmas activities for families

FEAST is all about Food, Entertainment, Arts, Sports and being Together... which spells out FEAST! FEAST brings fun to the school holidays, offering loads of different activities for everyone to take part in.

All children and young people across North Yorkshire can get involved in a range of activities, with free places and a free meal for eligible children and young people, thanks to funding from the Department for Education.

If your child is eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals you will receive a voucher. This will enable you to book school holiday activities that are part of the FEAST programme for free, using the online platform HolidayActivities.

To see all the fantastic activities on offer and learn more about how to claim a free place, [visit the FEAST website.](#)



Crisis Support this Christmas

The following links provide information and crisis support contacts for the Christmas holidays in our local area.

Emergency Support: [Hambleton](#) and [Richmondshire.](#)



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.

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

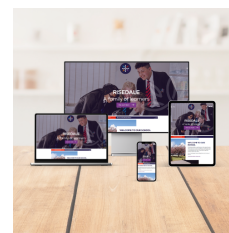
A poster for Richmondshire Arts Academy. At the top, it says "RICHMONDSHIRE Arts Academy" in white and teal text. A yellow starburst graphic with the word "NEW" is in the top right corner. Below, it says "WEEKLY ART PROJECT" in white, followed by "Wednesday evenings starting 21st Feb 2024". An '@' symbol is in the center, with "Richmondshire Cricket Club, Hurgil Road, Richmond, DL10 4AR" below it. At the bottom, it lists "TIMES: 4:30-5:30pm: Ages 6-10" and "5:30pm-6:30pm Ages 11-16". The poster features images of hands painting, a colorful cartoon character, and various art supplies.

A poster titled "WHAT TO EXPECT" in teal. It describes the art workshops as "Fun and inclusive art workshops for young people to learn new skills, meet new friends and most importantly have fun taking part in visual art activities. We can promise lots of chaos and mess" with a thumbs up icon. It lists "Art Games, Variety of workshops, Festival design activities & loads of fun!". A "Prices:" section lists: "£15 joining fee for all academy members. To be paid when booking a place.", "£6 per session there after (to cover material costs)", and "0r £40 up front to cover the 7 week term." It also says "TO BOOK: Email and reference: Arts Academy hi@opendoorart.co.uk". At the bottom, it states "All sessions are delivered by qualified and DBS checked artists. Materials are provided. Please ensure members where appropriate painting attire when attending. Parents/Guardians welcome to stay in the cricket club whilst the sessions take place." There is a small "OPEN DOOR ART FOR ALL" logo in the bottom right corner.

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 out 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.



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, and there will be a concerted focus on **blazers** and **ties** in the new year, which should be worn at all times. **Please be aware that tracksuit bottoms and leggings are not part of the uniform. Plain black footwear is acceptable.** If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.



Equipment and Chromebooks

Please ensure that your child is equipped with a pencil case, their fully charged Chromebook in its protective case, and their PE Kit on the timetabled day. **Please remind your child to charge their Chromebook every evening so they are prepared and ready to learn.**



Online Parental Engagement

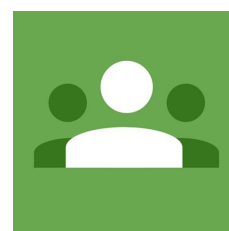
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see 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