



# RISEDALE

A family of learners

## Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

November 2023





### Dear parents/carers and pupils,

Thank you for being a part of the Risedale Family! Our 'Keep In Touch' (KIT) Newsletters are a celebration of all the positive things that have happened at our school. This is the first publication of the year and highlights all the great work that our pupils and staff have been doing since the start of the academic year.

Throughout this publication, we hope you will be able to see and share in the excellent and happy times that make our school so special.

It was an absolute privilege last term to present the annual Risedale Awards Presentation Evening, alongside two of our Lead Senior Pupil Ambassadors, Grace Baker and Archie Bassett. The event was outstanding, and it was incredible to see such a large proportion of our school receive awards, testimony to the hard work, dedication and empathy which our pupils display each day. A stunning rendition by Grace Baker of 'On My Own' from the musical *Les Misérables*, and the musical accompaniment of Katie Galloway on keyboard, capped a sensational evening.

I have also had the pleasure to meet and work with a vast range of parents, and it was lovely to have such a fantastic turnout at our Year 11 SLT evening and Year 7 Tutor Chat. I am always impressed by the support and dedication displayed by parents and carers. We really welcome the fostering and development of this relationship further and always appreciate the feedback, challenge and support that you give. It is through partnership and collaboration that we will help your children become the warm, empathetic, caring, independent and resilient young people that you are so proud of.

Best wishes to all our pupils, families and staff for the term ahead.

Kindest regards,

**Mr J Yates - Deputy Headteacher**





## Risedale receives Thrive Approach accreditation

We are delighted to announce that Risedale School has achieved Thrive Approach accreditation. This means that we have an Accredited Thrive Practitioner and a member of our Senior Leadership Team trained in fostering a Thrive Approach throughout the school. Within the Risedale Family, we recognise the importance of a relational-based approach to supporting our young people and Thrive helps us on our path to continue to advocate for our young people and to train our staff on supporting the mental health and well-being of our pupils. We are in the early stages of our accreditation and we will be looking to further enhance the Thrive mindset in the coming academic year - including training more staff to become accredited practitioners.



The social and emotional development of our Risedale learners is vitally important to us. To help us support our pupils further, having an accredited practitioner has been invaluable in the identification and guidance of how we can further support those pupils who require an additional helping hand and also to provide our own staff with training on what they can do too! We have some exciting developments in this area and training coming up. We will be in touch again as things move forward.



**Miss Burke - SENCo**

## Risedale pupils attend the opening of Catterick Historical Archive



Three pupils from Risedale had the privilege of attending the opening of the Veterans iHub's 'Catterick Historical Archive' at the Beacon on Thursday 7th September. The archive

was officially opened by Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire Council and a Governor at Risedale School.

The Catterick Historical Archive is a treasure trove of artefacts that have been unearthed during historical excavations in Catterick, providing valuable insights into the Roman era in the region. Additionally, it houses various items that shed light on more recent developments such as the railway, army camp, and wartime Catterick. This unique opportunity allows our pupils to engage with genuine historical artefacts and documents, enriching their understanding of the area's rich history.

Michael Houlgate, Head of History at Risedale, and the Humanities staff began collaborating with the Veterans Association towards the end of the last academic year where our #RisedaleExplorers enjoyed their first heritage walk led by Mark Hill MBE.. We hope that this partnership will continue to grow and provide even more opportunities for our pupils to connect with the rich history of their community.

Congratulations to Isla McGovern (9 Garvey), Rose Moore (9 Vizor) and Harley Waring (8 Allen) for representing the school so well.

### Sunflower Competition Winners 🌻

We would like to extend our congratulations to the winners of our Sunflower Competition, which was held during the summer holidays. The Clarke Family secured 1st place due to their three remarkable entries, while Thomas Hawkins earned 2nd prize.

**C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S**

**Sunflower Competition Winners!**

Winner	Height
Toby-George Clarke	313cm
Paula Clarke	297cm
Mackenzie Clarke	280cm
Thomas Hawkins	165cm

**1st place The Clarke Family and 2nd place Thomas Hawkins**



## The heights of the winning sunflowers were as follows:

- Toby-George Clarke: 313cm
- Paula Clarke: 297cm
- Mackenzie Clarke: 280cm
- Thomas Hawkins: 165cm

Mr Higham, the competition organiser, expressed his astonishment at the overwhelming number of exceptional sunflower submissions this year. Both pupils and parents participated in the competition, resulting in outstanding outcomes despite the unfavourable weather conditions throughout the summer.

He added, *"I really hope that this event marks the beginning of a budding interest in gardening and horticulture among our young learners. My aspiration is that this experience will lead them in their understanding of the important role that green spaces and gardens play in supporting wildlife and addressing wider issues such as global warming."*

## Open Evening Thanks

The entire team at Risedale School would like to express a sincere and heartfelt welcome to all the prospective pupils and their families who joined us this year for our Open Evening. In total more than 86 families and over 250 guests visited us - isn't that fantastic!

Feedback from staff has been amazing and everyone commented on how lovely all the Year 5 & 6 pupils were and the enthusiasm they had looking around the school and taking part in all the activities on offer.

Our new Year 7 pupils have already made quite an impression on us and staff are singing their praises in the staff room and the corridors about the brilliant way they represented the school during the event.

Additionally, we have received some lovely comments from some Year 7 parents about how their children are settling into the Risedale Family.

One parent said, *"I am writing to let you know that as a parent of a new year 7 - who has had the best 2 weeks of his life - how appreciated your hard work is."*

*He has shown me some of the presentations that were shared on his Google Classroom and you will be pleased to know that these lessons have been re-enacted via Chrome Cast on our TV - I have matched the eras to the names for History and learned all about the shape of a story from English... (twice - after the planning started). I have never seen anyone so excited to sign up for Duolingo... or ever had a child that kicks a football around the house (thanks PE). We have had a microscope in the house for years but this week we have looked at all sorts of household dust on a slide. Please know that you are making the world an amazing place!"*



## U14s Rugby News 🏉

The U14 Boys Team had their first Rugby fixture of the academic year and it was a huge success! The turnout was excellent and the team put on a fantastic performance.

Right from the start, the Risedale team dominated the game, scoring an impressive 11 tries against the Wensleydale School & Sixth Form team who showed great skill.



I was particularly impressed by the boys' sportsmanship and empathy when a couple of Risedale players took turns on the Wensleydale team as they were short of players. Well done gentlemen!

If you're interested in playing Rugby or would like to give it a go, don't forget that practice takes place every Wednesday after school and everyone is welcome: [www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities](http://www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities)

**Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE** #TeamRisedale 💙💜💛❤️

## Kayaking Trip for Year 11 Cambridge National in Sport Studies pupils

Two groups of Year 11 Cambridge National in Sport Studies pupils attended a Kayaking instruction and skills session at [Tees Barrage International White Water Centre](http://www.teesbarrage.co.uk) on September Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st September. The activity morning was planned to support the pupils with their coursework module on 'Increasing Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities' and received funding from Inspiring Choices [www.inspiring-choices.co.uk](http://www.inspiring-choices.co.uk).



Risedale staff and pupils would like to extend a huge thank you to instructors Kyle, Sam and Tom from Tees Barrage for two fantastic sessions on the water.

Instructors Sam and Tom said, ***"The Risedale School pupils have been the most well-behaved and enthusiastic group we have worked with all year. We are particularly impressed with their motivation, growing confidence, resilience and teamwork. Great work Risedale!"***



Teacher of PE, Mr Pugh, said, *“As part of the Cambridge National qualification, our pupils had to plan for and be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills during an outdoor adventurous activity. There were numerous suggested activities in which the pupils could take part such as camping, orienteering and trail cycling, however, myself and Mr Lawson both wanted to give pupils a new exciting experience and decided to make it one to remember... and it certainly was that”.*



*“It was brilliant to see all the pupils coming together as a group and having a really fantastic time, working together as a team, supporting each other and having a really good laugh with one another in the meantime.”*

Mr Pugh continued by picking out a few memorable moments of the day...

*“During a team activity, 5 pupils attempted to balance on a double kayak while Ruby shouted instructions on which side to paddle. Archie won the ‘splashing task’ by successfully soaking everyone, including the teacher who fell out of their kayak and Reece did eventually manage to maintain his balance on the kayak for more than 5 minutes.”*



Risedale Careers Leader, Mrs Porritt, commented, *“It was a real pleasure to accompany our pupils on their adventure to the Tees Barrage. Once they had conquered the first challenge of getting into the wetsuits, putting on their buoyancy aids and helmets and overcoming their nerves about getting into the water they all had a great day. I was so proud that they all gave it a go and tried something out of their comfort zones.”*



Inspiring Choices is part of the Uni Connect programme funded by the Office for Students to provide impartial career information, advice, and guidance about further and higher education to young people across York and North Yorkshire.



## Paris 2023 - by Mr Miller, Head of MFL

**“Bienvenue à Paris!”** In September, 40 Risedale pupils spent a week in Paris, as part of their GCSE French studies. And it was *“absolument fabuleux!”*



We travelled with the UK’s leading school travel company, PGL, and stayed at their flagship property on the outskirts of the French capital, Chateau de Grande Romaine (CdGR) – a former five-star hotel where the Brazil men’s national football team stayed during the 1998 World Cup. We had a full itinerary, soaking up French culture, visiting world-famous sites, practising French speaking skills...and having loads of fun too!

The first day was spent travelling, including a very blowy ferry crossing across the Channel (interesting fact: the French don’t translate ‘The English Channel’ – instead, they call it “*La Manche*”, which translates as ‘The Sleeve’!). We arrived at our base at tea time and were introduced to our PGL rep, Alex. We had a tour of the site and did some fun activities during the evening. *C’était une longue journée!*





On Tuesday, we explored a gorgeous local town, Brie-Comte-Robert, with its medieval castle, quaint cobbled streets and bustling market. Pupils completed a competitive town treasure trail (in French, of course!), while taking in all the sights and sounds and looking for clues in signs, statues and shops.



The most amazing part of the morning was shopping! Pupils practised their French conversational skills by purchasing ingredients for their lunch, and there was a race to see who could buy the biggest cream cake for pudding. We then returned to our base at CdGR and created masterpieces with what we'd bought, a little like a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' challenge. Needless to say, the competition was fierce, although "The A Team" won...but only just.

On Tuesday afternoon we explored a stunning castle, Vaux-le-Vicomte, the blueprint for the royal château at Versailles and the site of the 'The Man in the Iron Mask' legend. The weather was stunning, and we explored the vast formal gardens, taking in the fountains and statues, and including a long walk to the far end of the grounds to see the massive golden statue of Hercules on his horse. The beautiful views made the trek worthwhile.

Back to CdGR for dinner, followed by an amazing chance to make our own crêpes! *Délicieux!*



On Wednesday, we travelled into the centre of Paris and made the very most of our time there, despite the city centre being virtually gridlocked (due to a visit by King Charles).



Our first stop was the world-famous Louvre Museum. Our PGL rep Alex told us that if we'd stopped and looked at every piece of art for a single minute we'd have had to spend 65 days there! Unfortunately, we didn't have that long, so we had a quick dash to see priceless artefacts, such as 'The Winged Victory of Samothrace' and the 'Venus de Milo' statues, and of course Leonardo da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa'. The galleries were incredibly crowded, so it was a whistle-stop tour around the museum, although it was totally worth seeing world-famous artworks with our own eyes.



After the Louvre, we drove [slowly] through Paris to the Stade de France, the national sports stadium (so, the 'French Wembley'). We had a private tour, including visiting the players' changing rooms and the Presidential Suite, and we even ran down the tunnel towards the pitch. Our tour guide gave us fascinating facts along the way, such as the fact that the TV screens are as big as tennis courts – it's that impressive. What really made this part of the trip was that the stadium was geared up to host the Rugby World Cup (South Africa vs Ireland), so it was fascinating to see everything adorned in the countries' colours.

Our final visit on Wednesday was back towards the Eiffel Tower and to take a well-needed relaxing boat ride along the Seine on the 'Bateaux Parisiens'. The weather was still great, which gave us loads of opportunities to take fantastic photos of sites such as Notre Dame Cathedral and, of course, the Tower itself.





Back to CdGR, our evening meal – including *escargots* (snails)!!! – and a silent disco, which was as weird as it sounds.



Our final, full day in Paris was probably the highlight for most pupils, as we spent the whole day at Disneyland! We had an amazing time on all the rides (my ears are still ringing from Harvey Semons' screams, who was sitting next to me on Space Mountain) and we saw the parades and shows. Not to mention a shopping extravaganza! We were lucky to stay until the evening when we enjoyed the amazing fireworks and light show (complete with lasers and drones) - an unforgettable experience. Despite some rain in the morning, this was another fantastic day!



On Friday morning we packed our bags and made an early start, ready to travel back to Risedale. It was another long day and we definitely all needed a weekend to recover.

All in all, Paris 2023 was a massive success. Both our coach driver and our PGL rep said that Risedale pupils were genuinely among the best, most polite and most respectful pupils they had ever worked with, and it's true to say that all participating pupils represented our school incredibly.



Thank you to all who took part and to Mr Meacher, Mrs Meades, Mrs Wright and Mr Yates who helped to make it the fantastic success that it was. Next? Paris 2025, *bien sûr!*





### Pupil Feedback:

- Jessica Mallen (Year 11), *"C'était l'expérience de ma vie!" - Jessica Mallen (Year 11).*
- Finlay Addison (Year 10), *"Paris 2023 was such fun and I'd love to go back in the future" - Finlay Addison (Year 10).*
- George Matthews (Year 10), *"Le Stade de France, c'était fabuleux parce que je me passionne pour le foot et le rugby!"*
- Milly Mason (Year 11), *"Paris 2023 was great for character-building. I made new friends and it was great for exploring a new culture."*
- On the subject of eating snails, Grace Baker (Year 11) said, *"À mon avis, les escargots sont délicieux!!"*

### Parent/Carer feedback on Facebook:

- Samantha Camozzi, *"Thank you Risedale School for giving our kids the opportunity to have this experience. Robin is going to cherish these memories forever."*
- Sasha Tomlinson, *"Fabulous!! Thank you so much for giving Tallulah Tomlinson this experience!! She has had an absolutely amazing time. Risedale School thank you!!"*
- Joanne Hill, *"How amazing! Thanks for giving our kids an amazing trip."*





## 'An Invisible Man' theatre company visits Risedale



On Friday 22nd September, Year 7 pupils at Risedale School were treated to a captivating performance of "[Wherever Home Is...?](#)" by the theatre and media arts company, 'An Invisible Man'. The production was commissioned by North Yorkshire Council and made possible through funding from The Garrison ASSIST Project. Its purpose was to explore how changes impact the lives of children.

The story revolved around two children whose parents served in the UK Armed Forces. Through the performance and accompanying workshop, the play delved into the ways in which changes affect people of all ages. It also emphasised the importance of resilience and adaptability in the face of life's challenges.

The play was divided into two acts, with a workshop session in between. During this workshop, students had the opportunity to ask the actors questions before experiencing Act 2.

Mrs Cox, Head of the Creative Faculty, expressed her gratitude to 'An Invisible Man' for delivering such a poignant and thought-provoking performance to the pupils of Risedale. She noted that their feedback had been overwhelmingly positive, with many pupils relating to the themes and messages discussed in the play and workshop sessions.

### Pupil Feedback:

- Lewis Roth: *"I thought the play and acting was amazing and it was really fun."*
- Frankie Dempster: *"I really enjoyed the play and the things we asked to think about were really interesting and the acting was brilliant."*

## Football News: Y7 Boys Football Team's First Game

The Year 7 Boys football team took to the field on Monday 26th September in the first round of the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) Boys U12 9-a-side schools cup, held away at Hurworth School. Despite their valiant efforts and commendable team spirit, the Risedale boys, unfortunately, met defeat in this fixture, however, this first game showed promising signs for the future.



Notable performances included two spectacular goals scored by Jude and Nenyasha. One was an impressive strike from just inside the opposition's half and the other was a composed chip over the goalkeeper's head showing great skill and precision.

Another standout performance came from Leon, who made a substantial contribution by producing a number of outstanding saves for our team. Well done Leon.

While the defeat may have been disappointing, the match provided the team with valuable experience and learning opportunities. It's clear that they have tremendous potential and with this in mind, it would be great to see the boys at football training so they can continue to get to know one another.

Y7/8 Football practice takes place every Tuesday after school and everyone is welcome: [www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities](http://www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities)

**Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE** #TeamRisedale 

## The Woman in Black GCSE Drama Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 27th September, GCSE Drama pupils from Risedale School visited the Forum Theatre in Billingham to watch a captivating production of the renowned play, "The Woman in Black."



"The Woman in Black" is a haunting masterpiece written by Susan Hill and adapted for the stage by Stephen Mallatratt. This gripping play draws the audience into a world filled with spine-tingling terror and suspense. It tells the story of a young lawyer who is summoned to attend a funeral but it's not until he glimpses a young woman, dressed all in black that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black - and her terrible purpose.

The trip to the Forum Theatre was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to witness the power of live theatre and the impact it can have on both the performers and the audience.

Head of Drama at Risedale, Mrs Southworth-Gedye, said: ***"The play was fantastic! A really great example of theatre at its best employing simple stage techniques to***



*terrify the audience. The cast of two played over eight different characters each which showcased their fantastic acting skills. It really allowed the pupils to see quality acting and inspire them for their upcoming performances."*



Mrs Southworth-Gedye was pleased to report that all the pupils behaved exceptionally well. Two members of the public even congratulated them for their conduct and engagement throughout the performance.

She added, *"They were an absolute pleasure to take on this trip. For many of them, it was their first time attending live theatre, and for others, it was their first time watching a play other than a pantomime. Overall, it was a fantastic trip, and I hope to offer this opportunity to more pupils in the future."*

## Risedale Family Coffee Events

On Thursday 28th September, we hosted our first Year 7 Risedale Family Coffee Events to warmly welcome our new Year 7 parents and carers.

Both the morning and evening sessions were resounding successes, with an impressive turnout of over 10 families attending across both gatherings.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet our new parents and have the opportunity to chat over coffee.



**We would now like to invite Year 8 parents to join us for our next event taking place on Thursday 23rd November.**

We will have two sessions on Thursday 23rd November; the first session at 10.30am - 12pm and then a later session at 6pm - 7.30pm. We hope this will be a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents in an informal setting in school, get to know one another and talk about school life.

## Risedale Family Coffee Events

For parents/carers of Year 8 pupils

Thursday 23rd November

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



The sessions will be run by Assistant SENCo Emma Blatch, Specialist SEND Teacher Catherine Davies and our School Counsellor Lisa Smith. If you would like to come along please complete the [Google Form](#) by Monday 20th November or email Lisa directly at [Smith.L@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Smith.L@risedale.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you there!

## U13 Girls Football News

On Monday 2nd October, the U13 Girls Football Team played their first match of the season with a staggering 12 players representing the school for the first time!

Unfortunately, the game did end in a 2-0 defeat against a strong Bedale High School side but the Risedale girls showed incredible determination and resilience throughout and were unlucky not to score a few goals of their own. A great effort girls!



A big thank you must also go to Y10 pupil Lucas Kirk who refereed the game.

Y9/10 Girls Football practice takes place every Wednesday after school and everyone is welcome. Check out our [Activities](#) page for more information.

**Mr J Metcalfe** #TeamRisedale    

## Year 8 Boys Football News

On Wednesday 4th October the Year 8 Boys Football Team took part in the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area 11 aside cup against Bedale High School. The boys showcased their skills superbly in the first half of the game going 3-0 up with fantastic goals scored by Liam, Corey and Alex. However, Bedale showed great resilience and managed to grab 3 goals in the second half, taking the game into extra time followed by nail-biting penalties. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be and the boys ended up losing 4-1 on penalties but I hope they know that I am really proud of them and thought they played brilliantly!



**Mr Pugh - Teacher of PE** #TeamRisedale    



## Remembrance Art Workshop



On Thursday 5th October selected Risedale pupils were invited to take part in a Remembrance-themed art workshop organised by Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell. The workshop focused on creating a collection of poppy mandalas that will be showcased at Ripon Cathedral during the Festival of Remembrance on 10th November. Angela is collaborating with numerous local schools to create a large artwork display for the festival featuring the poppy mandalas.

Head of Art, Ms Westwood, said, ***"The pupils had only two hours to create as many mandalas as possible, using special dot-making tools to apply patterns onto red circles. They were shown how the mandalas would then be used to create lots of 3D circular structures, each representing a poppy. The pupils loved making them and are so proud to have been able to contribute to an event which means so much to our community. We're proud of them too and can't wait to see the final, beautiful display!"***

Year 9 pupil Daniel Hibbins said, ***"It has been a lovely way to remember the sacrifices that have been made by service personnel, to make my world a better place."***



Risedale School's Service Children's Advocate, Mrs Porritt, commented, ***"My thanks go to all the pupils who participated in the workshop. What a lovely creative way to produce a poppy for the upcoming service at Ripon Cathedral. It is always such a special event."***

On Facebook, Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell, said, ***"What an absolute joy it has been working with schools like Risedale School. Every young person that I have met over the last couple of weeks has blown me away with their imagination, creativity and positivity. Every poppy-inspired mandala that has been created is completely unique. Thank you Risedale School for sharing these lovely photos! #BestPartOfMyJob"***

## Swimming Gala News

On Monday 9th October, six pupils from Risedale attended the HRSSA Swimming Championships at Bedale Leisure Centre. They displayed great professionalism and composure as they waited patiently for their races. It was quite a daunting experience to swim in front of a full crowd from seven other secondary schools, but they showed great bravery. Here are the results:



- Year 8 Byron Dagnall: 50m Breastroke.
- Year 8 Sophie Hunter: 50m Freestyle - achieved 2nd place in heat.
- Year 11 Harvey Guy: 50m Freestyle - achieved 1st place in heat.
- Year 9 Thomas Leighton: 50m Backstroke - achieved 2nd place in heat.
- Year 7 Caleb Borisi: 50m Backstroke.
- Year 7 Mason Bassett: 50m Freestyle.

Congratulations to all the participants for their outstanding efforts! Well done!

**Miss Brierley - Head of PE** #TeamRisedale 

## Presentation Evening 2023

On Thursday 11th October, we celebrated the achievements of our pupils at our annual presentation awards.

Joined by pupils past and present along with their families and members of the community, staff at Risedale School recognised the impressive achievements of pupils for the 2022-2023 academic year.



**PHOTO: Headteacher, Mr Scott, with our top prize winners for Outstanding Academic Achievement brothers Foster and Jona Carter.**



Deputy Headteacher, Mr Yates, presented the awards alongside Lead Senior Pupil Ambassadors, Grace Baker and Archie Bassett.

Ahead of the awards, Mr Yates shared why events like this are an important part of school life at Risedale,

***“This evening is not just about the pupils who have got the top grade, it’s about looking at the pupils who have holistically worked hard or overcome adversity or a personal challenge and have achieved something that for them is outstanding.***

***Without celebrations like this, they are the ones who can often go unnoticed.***

***In doing this, we are trying to reward the silent majority of pupils who every day get it right, but don’t always get the recognition they deserve.”***

The awards celebrate achievement across the curriculum with trophies for academic, sporting, and voluntary successes.

Amongst the attendees at the Presentation Evening were representatives from the Soroptimist Society who were there to see Ellie McGee awarded the Soroptimist Cup, an award that recognises pupils who volunteer or contribute towards school life.



As Pupil Ambassador, Ellie helped pupils adjust to school life at Risedale, an important factor for the Garrison school where 70% of our pupil population have one or more parents in the Armed Forces and have often experienced disruption in their education.

Now at Queen Elizabeth College in Darlington, Ellie reflected on her time at Risedale School sharing that the things she misses the most are the teachers.

Rogan Glass, recipient of awards for both Maths and Most Improved Attitude to Learning, a fellow alumnus of Risedale School, echoed Ellie’s words,

***“I miss the relationships I have with the teachers, I looked forward to seeing them, particularly the History and German teachers.***

***They explained things well whilst still keeping it entertaining and they helped a lot with getting the grades I needed to go to college.”***



The impact of the teaching team at Risedale School was evident throughout the evening with many of the pupils attributing their success in their subject awards to their teachers.



Mollie Thirwell, recipient of multiple awards, animatedly shared how her Geography teacher Mr Ford helped her find a passion for Geography,

***“I took the subject for GCSE, if you had told me in Year 7 that I would have, I don’t think I would have believed you.*”**

***I didn’t use to like Geography in primary and not even really in Year 7, but then I started warming up to it in Year 8 and then in Year 9 it got really good!”***

Mollie continued that Mr Ford’s creative approach to teaching the subject made it one of her favourites, something that extended beyond the classroom,

***“I was doing learning outside of school because I liked the subject so much!”***

Mollie was also one of 10 pupils who were recognised for successfully completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

What started as a solo endeavour evolved into a true group effort as the pupils came together to support each other on the expedition element of their award,

***“Everyone was motivating each other, we were singing to help keep us going!”***

said Mollie.

***“When we got to the expedition we had to work as a team... if we didn't work as a team I am pretty sure we wouldn't have done it.”***





The group now plan to work towards their Silver Award together as a team in a clear display of Risedale School's pillars of aspiration, resilience, kindness and empathy for others.

The guests at the Presentation Evening were also treated to musical performances by Katie Galloway on keyboard and Grace Baker on vocals with a stunning rendition of 'On My Own' from the musical Les Misérables.

The final awards of the evening were for Outstanding Academic Achievement and were awarded to brothers, Jona and Foster Carter.



Both brothers were commended for their hard work and consistency across all of their subjects and were joined by their proud family on the evening to mark their success.

Congratulations to all our worthy winners and to all the staff that make evenings like this so special!

## U15 Boys Rugby News 🏉

On the day of Risedale School's Presentation Evening, the U15 Boys Rugby Team showcased their award-worthy skills in a challenging match against The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form. Going into the interval at 4 tries each, the Risedale team started strongly, however unfortunately in the second half a few late Wensleydale tries resulted in a defeat of 9 tries to 7.

The match allowed some pupils to play their first game of rugby and the opportunity to represent the school. There were too many noteworthy performances to name individually, but all the boys should be proud!



The game also provided an opportunity for GCSE PE moderation for one pupil, which will hopefully inspire some Year 9s to follow the same path and realise the positive correlation between academic and sporting performance.

The Risedale rugby focus now turns to the U16 boys team, who will soon be playing in an Area Tournament. Good luck to all those selected, and I'm excited to see how they perform.

**Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE** #TeamRisedale 🇧🇷🇵🇷🇨🇪🇩🇪

## Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors



Our dedicated team of Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors continues to actively promote and enhance mental health and wellbeing throughout our school community and the ambassadors are doing an amazing job!

**Creating a Space for Ideas:** As part of their initiatives, they helped to create a Google Classroom Forum, accessible to all pupils, encouraging the sharing of ideas on how we can further champion mental health and wellbeing within our school.

**World Mental Health Day:** They wrote and delivered an assembly for World Mental Health Day, emphasising the importance of talking about any worries or emotional struggles we may have and how to open up to others. Through their engaging presentation, the Ambassadors encouraged all pupils to think about how they were feeling and let them know that all staff were there to listen, including our School Counsellor Lisa and the Pupil Mental Health Ambassador Team.



Every year we celebrate World Mental Health Day on 10th October. The theme for 2023, set by the [Mental Health Foundation](#), was 'Mental health is a universal human right'.

World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. It's also a chance to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling. [#WMHD](#) [#WMHD2023](#) [#WorldMentalHealthDay](#) ❤️



We are incredibly proud of our Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors for their remarkable dedication to fostering and nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment that prioritises mental wellness among our pupils in the Risedale Family. If your child would like to be part of the Mental Health Ambassadors Team, please contact Lisa Smith at [Smith.L@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Smith.L@risedale.org.uk) or ask your child to speak to their Form Tutor on how to join the team.

**For more help and advice, please visit our dedicated website page:**  
[Health and Wellbeing.](#)

## Restart a Heart Day ❤️



On Monday 16th October, the Year 7 pupils at Risedale School had the opportunity to learn life-saving CPR and defibrillation from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for Restart a Heart Day.

The survival rates from sudden cardiac arrests are very low in the UK, with only 1 in 10 people surviving. However, we remain hopeful to change this statistic. Let's work together to improve these numbers.

Join #TeamRisedale ❤️💜💛❤️, the Resuscitation Council UK, and others in this effort. Please visit [www.resus.org.uk/rsah](http://www.resus.org.uk/rsah) for more information on how you can get involved.



## Year 11 SLT Tutor Chat and Year 7 Tutor Chat

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended our Year 11 SLT Chat in September and our Year 7 Tutor Chat in October. We hope you found these events helpful and informative. If you were unable to attend, we would like to share the presentations from the events with you:

- [Year 11 SLT Chat Presentation / Resources](#)
- [Year 7 Tutor Chat Presentation](#)
- [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](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk)

A big well done to all the pupils who received certificates and prizes for their commitment to reading in English and fantastic Science projects. A special mention also to Alex Dunphy (7 Dean) for designing the winning ticket for the Halloween Disco. Keep up the brilliant work Year 7!



## Success for our Young Writers

At the end of last year, another group of talented pupils participated in the Young Writers' Competition and impressed the judges with their creativity. All of their entries, which were required to be an original 100-word piece of writing about an unsolved mystery, have been selected for publication.

Teacher of English and Media Studies, Miss Douglas, said:



***"I could not be prouder of their efforts. Each and every one of the pupils wrote a fantastic piece and it's so exciting that their work will now be published as part of a Young Writers' Anthology. Fantastic work everyone!"***



## Cheerleading News

Lazer Cheer Academy members have qualified for the 2024 ICU World Championships. Lacey Hanson (10 Dunphy), Sienna-Jade Hanson (8 Lawson) and Eva Langdale (9 Vizor) from Risedale School will represent their country in the competition. Miss Brierley (Head of PE) expressed her excitement upon hearing this amazing news; it would be an understatement to say how proud and impressed she is with the girls' achievements.



Lazer Cheer announced on Facebook that seven athletes from their academy in Colburn will be competing in the World Championships 2024 as part of England's National Team. They added, ***“Having our very own homegrown athletes represent their country in the sport that they live and breathe is such an achievement and we can not wait to support them on their journey.”***

Kat Hanson, Lacey and Sienna-Jade's Mum, expressed her pride in her daughters' accomplishment by saying, ***“So proud of my girls. Thank you for sharing their amazing achievement xx”***

Everyone at Risedale School congratulates the Lazer Cheer squad and wishes them the best of luck in the World Championships next year.

## U16 Boys Rugby News

On Wednesday 18th October 2023, our Year 10/11 Rugby Team participated in the Area Rugby 10's Tournament at Wensleydale RUFC.

It was a fantastic event and eight teams competed, showcasing the talented Rugby skills of the young people in our local area. Some of the pupils were playing in their first competitive rugby game, and they performed brilliantly.





TeamRisedale played four games, winning two, drawing one, and losing one. The only game they lost was against the eventual champions, who played exceptionally well.

Every individual in the team gave an outstanding performance, displaying commendable resilience, aspiration, and sportsmanship. I am extremely proud of them, and they are a credit to the school and themselves.

**Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE** #TeamRisedale 🇺🇰🇫🇷🇮🇹🇨🇪

## Girls Football News 🏈

On Tuesday 23rd October, the Risedale girls' football teams played some amazing matches against The Wensleydale School & Sixth Form at the Jaffa.

Wensleydale arrived with one less player for their U15s team, so Ria Glenn (9 Vazor), offered to play a full match for them and ironically scored all their goals. You're definitely playing for Risedale next time Ria!!!!



Both the U13 and U15 teams played 11-a-side, and the U13 only conceded goals in the first half of their game. However, they all rose to the challenge in the second half and played some exciting football, showing grit and determination to keep going.

Special thanks to Mr Lawson and Mr Allen for refereeing, and to all the family spectators who turned up to cheer the teams on.

The whole PE department is so proud of the talented and enthusiastic group of girls they are able to choose from to represent Risedale this year and the great news is that they are always happy to welcome new players at Wednesday night's training sessions.

To find out more about the fantastic clubs and activities we're offering at lunchtime and after school please follow the link and get involved >>

[www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities](http://www.risedale.org.uk/pupils/activities)



**Miss Brierley - Head of PE** #TeamRisedale 🇺🇰🇫🇷🇮🇹🇨🇪



# Catterick Camp Railway Heritage & History Trail

Mark Hill MBE tells us all about an exciting day out for our #RisedaleExplorers.



*“What an Amazing day we had with a group of Year 9 Risedale School history students! #RisedaleExplorers!*

*We embarked on an enlightening journey as we followed in the footsteps of the 'Catterick Camp Military Railway Heritage Trail.'*

*Guided by the incredible Veterans from the 'Catterick Historical Archive,' we were transported back in time through the pages of local history and heritage. Their passion and knowledge left us all in awe.*



*The students, a true testament to their school, were a delight to have with us. They were incredibly inquisitive and filled the air with endless questions, showing a hunger for knowledge.*

*Our journey continued as we paid our respects walking down the 'Memorial Walk'.*



*After arriving at Camp Centre Roundabout, we delved into the rich history of the Garrisons' Historical Archive Room. The room was filled with captivating photos, military kit and equipment, and even ancient Roman artefacts!*

*Some of the students even got to step into the shoes of history, trying on old uniforms and diving into folders with photos and information spanning over the decades.*

*After visiting the Catterick Historical Archive, our adventure continued as we made our way to the Locomotion Railway Museum in Shildon.*

*Here, the Risedale Explorers had the incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of steam locomotives. The students also attended a captivating workshop, learning more about the history of Catterick Garrison.*

*What a remarkable day of learning, exploration, and fun! We couldn't be prouder of the Year 9 students from Risedale School for their curiosity, enthusiasm, and respect for our local history and heritage. Thank you to the teachers, Mr Houlgate and colleagues, for their support.*

*A huge thank you to our amazing history guides and mentors from the Catterick Garrison Armed Forces & Veterans iHub, Bill, Knile, Paula, Peter, and John. Your inspirational input and dedication truly made this day unforgettable. Your passion for local history and heritage shone through and ignited the same enthusiasm in the Risedale Explorers."*

**Mark Hill MBE | Veteran**





## Halloween Disco 🧛



On Friday 26th October, Risedale School was transformed into a spooky haven for its Halloween disco. With music pumping from Smooth Sounds Around Town, the school's doors were thrown open to a night of ghoulish fun and frightful festivities.

Despite the long half-term, the energy levels of the pupils were infectious as they took to the dance floor, dressed in their most creative and imaginative Halloween costumes. From spooky skeletons to mischievous witches, the school was filled with a kaleidoscope of characters, each eagerly embracing the spirit of the season.



Among the many outstanding costumes, Sofia Arckless, Oscar Baker, Nevaeh Bascombe-Nakoma, Bailey Mayho, Scarlett Moss, Thomas Remmer and Miss Douglas stood out for their exceptional creativity and attention to detail. Their costumes were truly works of art, adding an extra layer of excitement to the already lively atmosphere.

The disco was a resounding success, providing a much-needed boost of fun and energy for both pupils and staff alike. It was a night to remember, filled with laughter, music, and the thrill of Halloween leaving everyone with memories that would last long after the last cobweb had been cleared away.







## A Textiles Masterclass with Designer Davinder Madaher



On Monday 6th November, Risedale School pupils were given the amazing opportunity to join the textile pupils of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington, for a masterclass with Print Designer/ Consultant/ Lecturer Davinder Madaher.

They learnt from Davinder what it was like working in the fashion industry and his career as a print designer before spending the day experimenting with drawing and watercolour painting.

Teacher of Design & Technology at Risedale, Mrs Vizor, said ***"The Risedale pupils were exceptional, and I was immensely proud of their representation of our school. It was an extraordinary day that was thoroughly enjoyed by all."***

Davinder Madaher is a print designer, consultant and lecturer with over 25 years of experience in both fashion and homeware. He has worked in New York and the UK with some of the world's biggest brands, including The Gap, Guess, Fatface, Joules, Next, Debenhams, Tesco, Littlewoods and Cotton Traders.





The masterclass provided Risedale pupils with an invaluable opportunity to learn from an industry expert and gain first-hand exposure to the world of fashion design. They were also encouraged to explore their creativity and develop their artistic skills.

Mrs Vizer expressed her gratitude to the Textiles Department at QE for hosting this enriching learning experience. ***"I am confident that this masterclass will inspire many of our pupils to pursue their own creative aspirations in the future,"*** she remarked.

# QE

## QUEEN ELIZABETH

Sixth Form College



On Instagram, [QE Art Department](#) said, ***"We absolutely loved working with this group of students. They were all so friendly, hard-working and mature. We would love to continue working with them in the future 😊"***



On Instagram, [Davinder Madaher](#) said, ***"Thank you for coming it was so much fun and a great experience for the pupils too! I hope they felt inspired!"***





## World Space Competition Winners 🚀



World Space Week is an international celebration of Science and Technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week would be held each year from 4th-10th October. These dates commemorate two special events:

- 4th October 1957: The launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration
- 10th October 1967: The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

This year the theme was Entrepreneurship and pupils at Risedale School were encouraged to imagine that in the future there would be human colonies on Mars and two moons of Jupiter, *Io and Europa*. They were then asked to consider what businesses they thought would be important to those colonies and what they would offer as a resource.

The pupils at Risedale mainly concentrated on those concepts most important to life - oxygen and food. Many had designed businesses that provided food, whether as a restaurant or delivery service, to keep the nutrient requirements of the human population sated. A few had also suggested an oxygen recycling or delivery service for people to access.

The winner however was Jamie Cook, 8Douglas, and his “Mariopa Express”. This was a delivery service that took into account the needs of people living in diverse areas that did not have the ability to access shops as people would traditionally have been able to.

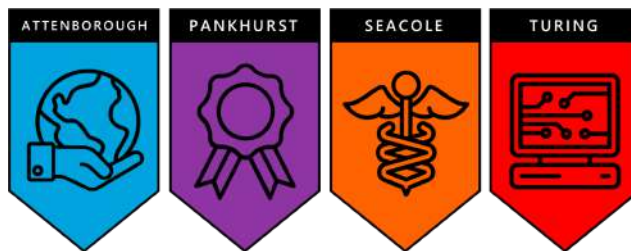
Second place went to William Bell, 9Vizor, and his “Bell’s Cosmic Autoships”. A thrifty second-hand spaceship/car dealership business.

Finally, in third place, it was too hard to choose between the deliciously well-planned eateries of Thomas Remmer, 8Gunnell and Lucy Scott, 7Rodgers.

Teacher of Science, Ms Blatch, said, ***“Thank you so much to all the pupils who contributed. I am so proud of your ingenuity and look forward to seeing your ideas for next year.”***

## House System News

The fight has begun to see who will become House Champions 2023-2024!! At the time of going to press, we can proudly announce that the current house point scores are as follows:



- **1st Attenborough**  **with 7,489 points**
- **2nd Pankhurst**  **with 6,976 points**
- **3rd Seacole**  **with 6,546 points**
- **4th Turing**  **with 6,333 points**


There is still plenty of time to turn the competition on its head! Look out for more competitions to earn extra points for your house. Every entry gets you a house point, and every Epraise point earned goes towards your house total - Good luck everyone!

**#TeamRisedale** 

## Pumpkin Carving Competition - THE RESULTS




The half-term Halloween challenge was accepted by a small group of Risedale pumpkin carvers and we received some fabulously creepy entries. It was really difficult to decide on a winner.

**1st prize** and 40 house points for **Turing**  was awarded to Caitlin Enbom (11Louison) for her Tim Burton-inspired Coraline creation.

**2nd prize** and 30 house points for **Pankhurst**  went to Holly Millington (7Metcalfe) for her scary spidery spooktacular.

**3rd prize** and 20 points for Seacole  to Ruby Taylor (7Laheney) for her ghostly glowing pumpkins.

**4th prize** and 10 house points for **Attenborough**  was awarded to Sienna Stevens (9Sandell) for the beautiful witch's black cat.

Special mention must also go to Alex Dunphy, Cody Price, Mabel Thirlwell and Riley Williams-Matthews for a fabulous array of pumpkins (all in Year 7) and Callum Sankey in 10Hill.

Congratulations to everyone who took part - every entry will receive 1 house point!

**Mrs Hailwood - Senior Teacher**



# PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Congratulations to our spooktacular winners

1



2



3



4





**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

