



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

June 2025





Dear parents/carers and pupils,

The last half-term was relatively short but full of fabulous achievements and events, all continuing to demonstrate what a great bunch of people Risedale pupils and staff are and how many of them are striving to be the **BEST** version of themselves.

In particular, I am immensely proud of two recent accolades: our Year 10 footballers, who brought home the County Cup Plate, showed what a special team they really are - go #TeamRisedale! In addition, I am thrilled that we were recognised for our work on a whole-school culture of mental health and wellbeing with the Silver Schools Mental Health Award following a rigorous assessment process. This is such a profoundly important achievement and illustrates the immense time and effort on the part of staff and pupils to prioritise support for mental health and wellbeing.

I was equally honoured to be invited to the Service Pupil Awards in Leyburn for the first time, and delighted to see Mrs Johnson, and (albeit remotely!) Lacey and Sienna-Jade Hanson receive their awards - so well deserved. Our strong bond with the Armed Forces was especially evident at this event, but also through our VE Day commemorations and the participation of some of our pupils in the Woodcraft Project, both of which were supported by veterans, for which we are most grateful.

As always, please enjoy reading about these accolades and wonderful events in our KIT Newsletter, and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your family. Here's to another successful half-term at Risedale - well done, everyone!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Lucy Greenwood - Headteacher



#TeamRisedale     **#BEST**

RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS



OUR VISION & VALUES

Our aspiration is that every pupil and staff member is supported to be the BEST version of themselves.

Members of our Risedale family will feel a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment as a direct result of attending our school. They will accumulate knowledge, cultural capital and social skills, such as empathy and kindness, enabling them to thrive in society and enjoy healthy RELATIONSHIPS. All our pupils will make good progress from their starting points.

At whatever stage of their education Risedale pupils leave us, they will be well-equipped to take the next steps on their journey to becoming a RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL and RESILIENT citizen who can embrace change and learn from mistakes.

We are 'The Risedale Family' and together we are 'A family of learners'.

Risedale School Celebrates Multiple Wins and Nominations at the Service Children Awards 2025



PHOTO: Mrs Greenwood (Headteacher), Dr. Ellis (Service Pupil Manager), Mrs Johnson (Service Children's Advocate), Lt. Col. Charles Anderson (Catterick Garrison Commander and Risedale School Governor). Year 10 pupils Emily-Faye Fort, Ria Glenn and Sienna Stevens (Service Pupil Ambassador).

Pupils and staff from Risedale School enjoyed a glittering afternoon of celebrations at the Service Children Awards 2025, held at The Garden Rooms at Tennants in Leyburn on Thursday, 24th April. The event, expertly organised for its second year by dedicated Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell, recognised the remarkable resilience, adaptability, and contributions of young individuals and supportive organisations within armed forces communities. The timing of the awards was particularly meaningful, falling within April, the designated 'Month of the Military Child' 💜, a special time to acknowledge the sacrifices and celebrate the strength of children from military families.

Representing Risedale School at the awards ceremony were Headteacher Mrs Greenwood, staff members Dr. Ellis (Service Pupil Manager), Mrs Johnson (Service Children's Advocate), and Mr Morris (Administration Assistant), and pupils Emily-Faye Fort, Ria Glenn and Sienna Stevens (Service Pupil Ambassador).

The school, deeply rooted in the Catterick Garrison community, proudly supports a large number of pupils from service backgrounds and was itself nominated for the prestigious **"Service Children Friendly Education Provider"** award, highlighting its ongoing commitment to these pupils.

The event was particularly special as Risedale School celebrated multiple wins. Firstly, in a fantastic achievement, by sisters Lacey and Sienna-Jade Hanson, who were jointly awarded the title of **"Service Children Sporting Champions"**. Unfortunately, the talented duo were unable to attend the ceremony as on the day they were in America, representing both Risedale School and Lazer Cheer at the esteemed Allstar World Championship in Florida.

Adding to the accolades, the Service Children's Community Choir, with strong Risedale participation, was awarded the **"Service Children's Friendly Community Group"** title. Proudly collecting the award were Risedale pupils Emily-Faye Fort and Ria Glenn, accompanied by their Musical Director, Benjamin Noble, and two other junior members of the choir.



Furthermore, the school is delighted to announce that Mrs Johnson was the well-deserved winner of the prestigious **"Service Children's Advocate of the Year"** award! This accolade recognises Mrs Johnson's exceptional dedication and unwavering support for the service children within the school and wider community. We are so proud!

Reflecting on the awards ceremony, Mrs Greenwood said: ***"What a wonderful occasion! I am so proud that Risedale pupils and staff received awards this year, and it was a joy and a privilege to be invited and celebrate alongside them. I am also delighted that Risedale was nominated for the Service Children Friendly Education Provider of the Year award. These awards and nomination are testament to the dedication and commitment of our staff to Service Children."***

Here's what our Service Children's Advocate of the Year, Mrs Johnson, had to say about receiving her award:

"Winning this award is the kind of news that makes me want to do a little happy dance in the middle of the staff room! I am still a little bit overwhelmed."

To be recognised as Service Children's Advocate of the Year for the whole of North Yorkshire is such an honour. It's so much more than personal recognition for me. It's a powerful acknowledgement of the incredible strength and adaptability I see in our pupils every day. This award isn't just





about getting a gold star for me; it feels like a giant cheer for every single one of our tenacious, adaptable kids who can walk into a new school and make friends as if they've always been there.

I think back to my own experiences as a service child, and it fuels my passion. That feeling of constantly being the 'new kid' and missing a parent during important moments stays with you forever. That's exactly why, for every young person I look after who's navigating this same path, I'm so determined to make them feel cared for and appreciated. They deserve understanding, consistent support, and a school community that truly gets what they're going through, and that's exactly what we do at Risedale School.

I'm incredibly grateful to the amazing team at Risedale for seeing something in me and giving me this opportunity to support these wonderful kids in a way that I truly believe is best, with a lot of fun and genuine care. When you approach the world with that kind of attitude, even the tough bits don't seem quite so heavy.

I'm incredibly proud to be part of the Risedale Family, and let's be honest, this is happening because of our amazing pupils. They're the ones who sprinkle the glitter on this place!"



More information and support for Service Children and military families can be found on our dedicated website page: [Service Children](#).

Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Bringing Geography to Life: Year 11's fieldwork experience in Hornsea, gaining real-world insights into coastal Geography

On Friday, 25th April, forty-three enthusiastic Year 11 GCSE Geography pupils ventured to Hornsea, a key location along the dynamic Holderness Coastline. This crucial field trip provided invaluable hands-on experience for their compulsory Geography Fieldwork component.

The morning saw our intrepid geographers actively engaged in data collection on Hornsea Beach. Focusing on coastal management strategies, the pupils meticulously measured groynes, gaining a practical understanding of their role in influencing sediment transport and coastal erosion.

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to Hornsea Town Centre, where pupils asked members of the public to answer questionnaires so they could gather data about the social and economic impacts of



tourism in the area. This experience also boosted their communication and interpersonal skills. The day also offered a chance to experience some of Hornsea's local flavour, with many pupils (and staff!) taking the opportunity to sample the traditional seaside treat of fish and chips.

"It was a truly rewarding day," commented Mr Sherwood, Head of Geography and the Humanities Faculty at Risedale.

"The pupils demonstrated excellent engagement and a real enthusiasm for their fieldwork. The success of this trip is a testament to their positive attitudes and the dedication of the staff who accompanied them, bringing key geographical concepts to life. Well done, everyone!"

Year 8 Island Competition Winners Announced!

Year 8 pupils recently put their imaginations to the test during their English lessons in the Library, designing their own unique islands inspired by their study of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Headteacher Mrs Greenwood kindly took on the task of judging the impressive creations, and the winners have now been revealed!

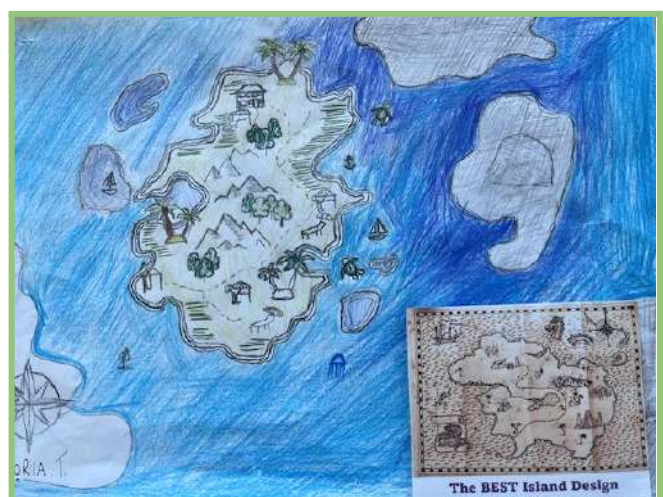
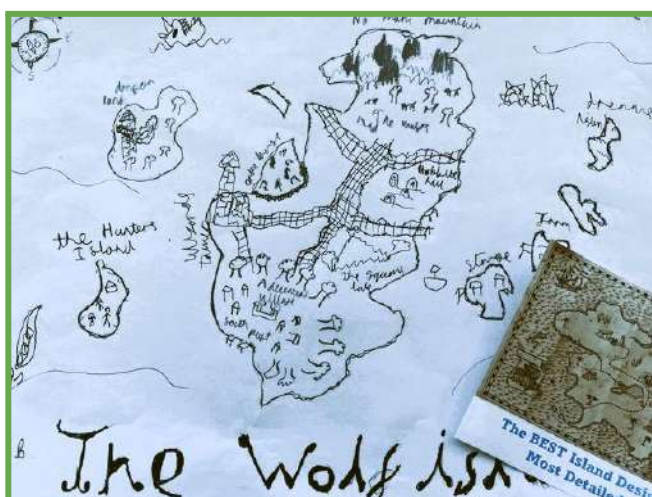
Pupils were encouraged to explore the possibilities of how their imaginary island could look and feel, adding colour, giving their island a name, creating a history (including folk tales of the island, national dress and flag), labelling dwellings and locations, or even creating a language.

Our Librarian, Miss Sellers, was delighted with the pupils' engagement. ***"It was wonderful to see the pupils embrace this task with such enthusiasm and imagination,"*** she commented. ***"The level of detail and creativity in their designs was truly outstanding. It's a fantastic way to bring their understanding of *The Tempest* to life and to celebrate their hard work."***

After much deliberation, Mrs Greenwood selected three exceptional entries as winners:

- Most Imaginative Island: Neve Davies (8 Conway 🧡)
- Most Detailed Island: Oscar Baker (8 Conway 🧡)
- Most Artistic Island: Gloria Tikoiserene (8 Rodgers ❤️)

Each winner will be rewarded with a book of their choice and Epraise house points. Congratulations to Neve, Oscar, and Gloria on their fantastic achievements!



Art Talent Programme is off to a Flying Start

What a brilliant start it's been for the Risedale Art Talent Programme! We're absolutely thrilled with the enthusiasm and creativity shown by our amazing pupils from Years 8 to 10 during this first half-term. Their engagement and positive energy have made the club a real success.

The very first session saw our talented pupils dive into creating stunning nature panels using a fascinating array of materials, including old book pages, coffee, ink, sticks, feathers, nibbed ink pens, and graphite. It was wonderful to see them learn how to bring a sense of flow and movement to their artwork by thoughtfully arranging organic lines and forms. We even heard some joyful singing filling the room!

Head of Art, Ms Westwood, commented, *"It's been an absolute joy to witness the pupils' passion and willingness to experiment with different materials and techniques. The artwork they have been producing is so impressive, and their excitement for the weeks ahead is infectious. We're looking forward to seeing their creativity flourish even further."*

The pupils are already buzzing about their next projects and are eager to work on a larger scale with 3D materials. There are still a few spaces available in this weekly Wednesday after-school club for any Year 8-10 pupils who would like to get creative (singing optional!). If you're interested in joining the fun and making some more artistic magic, please get in touch with Ms Westwood to secure your spot.



Victory for Risedale Y10 Football Team 🏆



Risedale Roar to County Cup Plate Glory in Thrilling Final against Stokesley.

The County Cup Plate finale on Wednesday, 7th May, delivered a spectacle worthy of the occasion, a thrilling back-and-forth encounter played with immense mutual **RESPECT** between Risedale and Stokesley School & Sixth Form College. This display of sportsmanship, along with the team's performance, serves as an exemplary illustration of Risedale School's new **Vision and Values** in action.

Risedale frequently dictated the tempo, and this control allowed them to start brightly. The strong **RELATIONSHIPS** in midfield were evident as William Bell's audacious early attempt tested the Stokesley keeper. The team's **RESILIENCE** shone through as they bounced back after the Stokesley keeper's heroic penalty save. The boys lifted their heads and went again with a ferocious strike from James Pollock, hitting the underside of the crossbar and landing to what looked like over the line, but goal or not, Kalen Jenkin took **RESPONSIBILITY** and lashed home the rebound with an acrobatic finish.

Stokesley, however, proved to be a tough opponent, levelling the score with an unlucky deflected set piece, sending the game to a tense penalty shootout. Once again, Risedale's **RESILIENCE** was on display. The penalty takers - Henley Nicholas, Aidan MacKintosh, James Pollock, Corey Hillman, and Omar Secka - stepped up, while Riley Filius looked confident in goal. The shootout reached sudden death, with both teams locked at 4-4.

Jayden Pew stepped up to take the first sudden death penalty and continued to show Risedale's **'BEST'**, he calmly sent the keeper the wrong way, and the pressure switched to Stokesley. The personality and character of the Risedale keeper, Riley Filius, were on full show with an acrobatic stop, clinching the County Cup Plate for Risedale. Overwhelmed with joy, the team erupted in celebration before immediately showing their class and character by consoling the Stokesley players with a sportsmanlike handshake of mutual admiration.

Every member of the squad deserves immense credit for this victory, with Head of PE, Mr Lawson, stating:

*"To witness the boys display such incredible **RESILIENCE**, **RESPECT**, and **RESPONSIBILITY** throughout the entire match, culminating in that dramatic penalty shootout victory, was truly something special. The strong **RELATIONSHIPS** they've built as a team were evident in their cohesive play and unwavering support for each other. Every single one of them played their part, and the spirit they showed, both on and off the pitch, makes me immensely proud. Well done #TeamRisedale!"*

Mr Lawson's sentiments were further echoed in his enthusiastic match ratings, with every player involved receiving a perfect 10/10 for their contribution to this memorable triumph.

Riley Filius 10/10! Jay-Ron Browne 10/10! Omar Secka 10/10! Jacob Gardner 10/10!
Henley Nicholas 10/10! Corey Hillman 10/10! James Pollock 10/10! Jayden Pew 10/10!
Aidan MacKintosh 10/10! William Bell 10/10! Kalen Jenkin 10/10! Christopher Allan 10/10!
Jay Newman 10/10! Matthew Senivota 10/10! Martin Jack 10/10!

Woodcraft Project Success



PHOTO: Risedale pupils with the Garrison Sergeant Major, Garrison Commander, Chris Morgan from the Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre, Dr Ellis (Service Pupil Manager) and Mrs Deighton (HLTA).

Risedale Pupils Discover Hidden Talents at Inspiring Woodcraft Project.

Pupils from Risedale School recently embarked on a rewarding journey of discovery, honing their creativity and practical skills at the Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre in Newton Aycliffe through their participation in a special Woodcraft Project.

The initiative, which saw pupils engaging in weekly sessions, proved to be an overwhelming success, leaving a lasting positive impact on all involved. The Veterans

Community and Enterprise Centre shared their delight on Facebook, stating, ***"It was an absolute pleasure working with the students. They were well-behaved and all enthusiastic to learn new skills. They all had a great deal of talent and good imagination. The students also met members from Blind Veterans UK, who had a woodworking background, and those veterans showed that a disability does not stop you from having a go. The students were a credit to the school."***

This sentiment was echoed by Risedale staff member, Mrs Deighton (HLTA), who organised and accompanied the pupils to the project each week. She enthusiastically reported: ***"Our pupils had a fantastic time learning new skills from Chris Morgan and his team at the Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre. Their weekly sessions were varied, engaging, productive and fun. Every pupil made a number of models, using scroll saws, hand carving and ultimately wood turning, a fantastic (and very useful) wooden pen. These pathfinders have ensured that there is now a superb programme in place for future groups."***

The success of the Woodcraft Project is a testament to the collaborative spirit between Risedale School and external organisations. Mrs Deighton extended a heartfelt thank you to Kirk Lester from the Army Welfare Service (AWS), acknowledging their crucial role in making such enriching outside learning opportunities a reality for the pupils.

This initiative not only provided the Risedale pupils with practical skills and creative outlets but also instilled valuable life lessons in perseverance, adaptability, and the power of community. The positive feedback from both the Veterans Community and Enterprise Centre and the school highlights the significant impact of such hands-on learning experiences, paving the way for future Risedale pupils to benefit from this superb programme.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Risedale Pupils Mark VE Day 80th Anniversary with Heartfelt Tributes

The spirit of remembrance and gratitude has been evident at Risedale School this week as pupils from Years 7 to 9 dedicated themselves to creating heartfelt tributes in anticipation of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. With the school having a significant proportion of service children, this deep-rooted military connection makes the VE Day commemorations especially significant for The Risedale Family. The pupils poured their creativity into crafting individual pieces of art, poignant poems, and unique tributes, an inspiring project spearheaded by Teacher of History, Mr Hill.



These individual expressions of remembrance were thoughtfully compiled into a vibrant 'bunting display' that proudly adorned the school's main corridor and reception, transforming these central areas into a visual testament to the sacrifices made during World War II.



PHOTO Back Row L-R: Knile Prescott (Veteran), Dr Ellis (Service Pupil Manager), Mrs Greenwood (Headteacher) and Mr Houlgate (Head of History). Front Row: Riley Williams-Matthews (8Dean), Halle Murray (7Westwood), Alisha Kincaid (8Laheney), Harmonie Tobie (7Dovaston), Aiden Scott (8Rodgers) and Paris Johnson (8Conway).

Speaking about the significance of the project, Mr Hill explained, *"Given Risedale's strong ties to the military community, it was particularly important for our pupils to commemorate VE Day in a meaningful way. Their thoughtful contributions to the bunting display truly reflected the deep respect they have for those who served. Well done, everyone!"*



The week's activities extended beyond the visual displays, with tutor time activities and assemblies, expertly organised by Head of History Mr Houlgate, dedicated to reflecting on the historical significance of VE Day. The culmination of these efforts was on Thursday, when the school had the distinct honour of welcoming local Veterans. This special event provided pupils with a precious opportunity to connect with those who served, listen to their experiences, and collectively remember the heroes of 1945.



The photographs capturing the pupils' impressive displays serve as a powerful reminder of how deeply ingrained the importance of such historical events are for the Risedale Family. While VE Day is undoubtedly a time for celebration, the pupils of Risedale are steadfast in their commitment to never forget the immense sacrifices made by the servicemen and women during the Second World War, ensuring the freedom of Europe. Their thoughtful tributes stand as a moving testament to this enduring respect and remembrance, resonating deeply within a school community that holds its military connections so dear.

VE Day Reflections on BFBS Radio



PHOTO: Dr Ellis (Service Pupil Manager), Robbie Burns (Presenter and Producer at BFBS Radio), Joshua Scott and Kaiden Collins (both 10 Bennett).

Risedale voices were heard across the Garrison as pupils shared their VE Day reflections on BFBS Radio Catterick.

BFBS Radio Catterick provided a platform for the thoughtful reflections of Risedale School pupils on the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. The station invited the pupils to share what VE Day meant to them, and their poignant responses resonated across the Garrison.

Inspired by the profound historical significance of VE Day, the pupils articulated moving sentiments that captured the spirit of remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to connect with the wider community and share their thoughtful responses to such an important historical event," said Risedale Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis.

This initiative underscores the strong connection between Risedale School and the military community in Catterick Garrison. By providing a platform for the pupils' voices, BFBS Catterick not only celebrated their thoughtful engagement with this historical event but also fostered a deeper appreciation for history and remembrance within the local community. The pupils' powerful words and insights serve as a fitting tribute to the 80th


anniversary of VE Day, ensuring that the lessons and spirit of that momentous time continue to resonate with future generations.

 **You can listen to the recording [HERE](#).**


Congratulations to our budding broadcasters: Kaiden Collins (10Bennett), Kristian Cutress (11Dunphy), Paris Johnson (8Conway), Alisha Kincaid (8Laheney), Halle Murray (7Westwood), Aiden Scott (8Rodgers), Joshua Scott (10Bennett), Harmonie Tobie (7Dovaston) and Riley Williams-Matthews (8Dean).

Wear It Green Day



Our "Wear it Green Day" on Thursday, 15th May, was a wonderful demonstration of our school community's commitment to raising awareness and supporting mental health. As part of Mental Health Awareness Week , which this year focused on the theme of 'Community', pupils and staff embraced the opportunity to show their solidarity by wearing an item of green.

The collective effort resulted in a fantastic fundraising total of **£117.95** for the Mental Health Foundation. This impressive amount will help the charity continue its vital work in supporting individuals and promoting positive mental health within communities across the UK. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated, demonstrating the strength and compassion of the Risedale Family.

On Facebook, the [Mental Health Foundation](#) commented: ***"Thank you so much for having a Wear It Green Day at your school, we hope you had a great time! We really appreciate your support** *

Risedale School Scoops Pioneering Mental Health Award



PHOTO: School Counsellor, Lisa Smith, with Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors.

Risedale School has been awarded the prestigious **'School Mental Health Award'**, achieving the **'Silver'** standard as assessed by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools. This accolade recognises Risedale's outstanding commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of its pupils and staff.

Risedale School has implemented a comprehensive range of initiatives to foster a positive wellbeing culture. These include in-school support through Creative Arts, Art Therapy, the Thrive Approach, Emotion Coaching, and Mentoring. Crucially, it also offers the significant benefit of a full-time, on-site Counsellor for pupils and staff, setting it apart from other local schools that typically access counselling services externally.

Risedale School enhances its pupil wellbeing support through active engagement with external agencies, including the Garrison Assist Project, North Yorkshire Wellbeing in Sport, Young Carers, and local safeguarding providers. Recognising its strong ties with Catterick Garrison and a significant service family population, the school also has a dedicated Service Children's Manager and Advocate to provide specific support and guidance.

School Counsellor, Lisa Smith, commented: ***"I am so proud that we have achieved the Silver Award. It's a true reflection of the hard work and unwavering commitment of both staff and pupils in cultivating a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing at Risedale."***

Through collaborative efforts, the school has successfully built upon existing good practices while continuously striving to develop even more effective strategies for mental health and wellbeing support.

A central element of Risedale's success has been its dedication to fostering a positive and supportive whole-school culture. The voices of pupils, staff, and parents are actively valued, creating an environment where pupils feel empowered to express any concerns about their mental health. The school boasts a strong cohort of Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors, Service Pupil Ambassadors, an active Pupil Council, and support for Young Carers. Furthermore, all pupils are encouraged to contribute ideas for promoting mental health through a dedicated wellbeing Google Classroom.

As a result of this proactive approach, pupils feel confident discussing mental health. The school actively promotes and shares its positive wellbeing initiatives through various channels, including local press, the school newsletter, website, and social media.

Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood, said: ***“At Risedale, we believe wholeheartedly that the key to unlocking learning and progress is happy pupils and staff, so we have worked hard to introduce and embed good wellbeing practices. Pupils are at the forefront of leading these - we listen to their thoughts and ideas around mental health and wellbeing and will continue to do so.”***

The award was established in 2017 by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – part of Leeds Beckett University – and social enterprise Minds Ahead.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools aims to strengthen pupils' mental health by supporting schools to make a positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, improving students' outcomes and life chances.

Rachel C. Boyle, Dean of Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education, said: ***“The achievement of the Mental Health award is a demonstration of the school's significant commitment to improving children's and staff's mental health and wellbeing. It is also a commitment to developing practices in school that seek to improve awareness and expertise in creating safe and secure learning environments in which all children can truly fulfil their potential. This award is one that all staff can be truly proud of”.***

Nationally, more than 1400 schools have signed up to take part in the mental health award.

Dean Johnstone, founder and CEO of Minds Ahead, said: ***“This award shines a light on the excellent work schools are doing to promote mental health for their community of children and adults.***

“It is thrilling and humbling to learn about Risedale School and the many other schools engaged in the quality award process. I'd like to offer my congratulations on this deserved recognition.”



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Risedale School Achieves National Online Safety Certification Again!

We're thrilled to announce that Risedale School has once again successfully completed the comprehensive online safety training programme and received our **National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation**.

Achieving this prestigious award again confirms Risedale School's strong, whole-school commitment to protecting children in the digital world.

Our continued collaboration with National Online Safety, a multi-award-winning digital training provider with extensive resources aligned with the Department for Education's statutory requirements, ensures that all senior leaders, teachers, school staff, and parents are supported in understanding how to make the internet a safer place for children.

James Southworth, co-founder of National Online Safety, said: *"Congratulations to everyone at Risedale School on becoming a National Online Safety Certified School. By completing our training programme, the school has shown its strong commitment to implementing an effective whole school approach to online safety."*

"It can be increasingly difficult for schools and parents to stay ahead of online threats and ensure both children and staff are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We arm schools with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers and react in the best way possible to any problems."

Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood, said: *"We are incredibly proud to have achieved our National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation once again. This renewed certification reflects our unwavering dedication to providing a safe online environment for our pupils. In today's digital world, it's more important than ever to equip our entire school community—pupils, staff, and parents—with the knowledge and tools to navigate online challenges responsibly. This award is a testament to our proactive approach and continuous efforts to ensure online safety remains a top priority for the Risedale Family."*



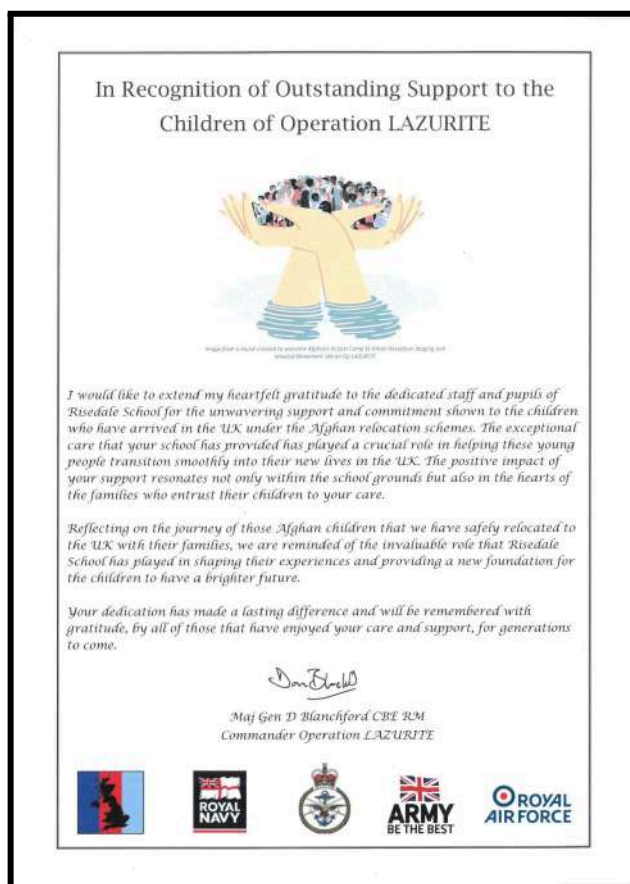
Risedale School Honoured for Exceptional Support to Children of Operation LAZURITE



On Wednesday, 21st May, Risedale School was presented with a prestigious certificate of recognition from Major General D. Blanchford CBE RM, Commander of Operation LAZURITE, for its outstanding support and commitment to children relocated to the UK under Afghan relocation schemes.

The heartfelt citation on the certificate praised Risedale School for the **"unwavering support and commitment shown to the children who arrived in the UK under the Afghan relocation schemes."** Major General Blanchford emphasised the **"exceptional care"** provided by the school, which has played a **"crucial role in helping these young people transition smoothly into their new lives in the UK."**

The citation continued, **"The positive impact of your support resonates not only within**



the school grounds but also in the hearts and the families who entrust their children to your care." It further highlighted Risedale School's *"invaluable role in shaping their experiences and providing a new foundation for the children to have a brighter future,"* concluding that the school's *"dedication has made a lasting difference and will be remembered with gratitude, by all those that have enjoyed your care and support, for generations to come."*

Distinguished guests from the Armed Forces, including Jools Howe (Deputy Commander to Operation LAZURITE), alongside Neil Southern, North Yorkshire Community Participation Officer, visited Risedale School to formally present the certificate. They met with key staff members instrumental in this success: Headteacher Mrs Greenwood, Pastoral Support Manager Ms Benson, and Administrator Mr Morris.

Mrs Greenwood expressed her gratitude, stating, *"It was wonderful to have the hard work and care of Risedale staff acknowledged and to be thanked in person by the Deputy Commander and Armed Forces representatives who were instrumental in the operation. We discussed the importance of support for these children and their families, who have faced much adversity, and who are both our friends and allies."*

The recognition underscores Risedale School's profound dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, enabling young people facing significant life changes to thrive and build new foundations in the United Kingdom.

Year 10 Explore Higher Education at York St. John University

As part of Risedale's Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme for our Year 10 cohort, pupils recently participated in "Inspiring Choices" events at York St. John University. These valuable visits, held on 14th and 21st May, provided an essential introduction to the world of Higher Education, allowing pupils to really get a taste of university life and helping to raise their aspirations for future academic pathways.



Throughout the day, pupils engaged in a comprehensive campus tour and gained crucial information about higher education through a series of interactive activities. This campus visit forms part of a broader series of experiences designed to empower our pupils to make informed and confident choices about their post-16 pathways.



Careers Leader, Helen Porritt, commented, *"Our pupils were absolutely fantastic! They were so engaged and asked some brilliant questions during the day. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they explored the campus and got a real feel for what higher education offers. These visits are incredibly powerful in demystifying higher education, igniting their curiosity, and broadening their horizons for what's possible after Risedale."*

This experience directly supports Risedale School's vision to empower every pupil to become the **BEST** version of themselves, fostering a sense of belonging and accomplishment. It also contributes to our Curriculum Pillar of 'Cultural Capital and Knowledge for Success', equipping pupils with a broader understanding and insights crucial for their future.



For more information about CEIAG at Risedale School, please visit our dedicated website page: [Careers](#).

David Walliams Streams Live to Risedale School



At Risedale, we're always keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements and encourage a love for reading. On Thursday, 22nd May, a select group of Year 7 pupils had a unique opportunity to participate in a nationwide live-streamed author event with the incredibly popular children's author, David Walliams. This fantastic event was organised by Read for Good, a charity dedicated to encouraging children to read for enjoyment while also providing books and stories to children in hospitals and schools.

These particular pupils were invited as a special literacy reward, recognising their consistently strong work and dedication in English lessons. Gathered in the school library, they joined Miss Sellers, our Librarian, to tune into the event.

The session offered our pupils a direct connection with one of the UK's most beloved authors. David Walliams spoke engagingly about his books, sharing the inspirations behind his memorable characters and the imaginative worlds he creates. He also gave insights into his writing process, providing a fascinating look at how a story develops from an initial idea to a published book.



"Our pupils were fully immersed in the event," commented Miss Sellers. "It's genuinely inspiring for them to hear directly from an author like David Walliams about his craft. Experiences like this really help to bring stories to life beyond the page."

The pupils were clearly captivated throughout the event, enjoying Walliams' humorous anecdotes and thoughtful reflections on storytelling. It was a wonderful way to motivate our young learners and highlight the exciting possibilities that literature offers.

We hope that hearing directly from David Walliams will further encourage our pupils to explore new books, foster their own creativity, and perhaps even inspire some budding writers among them!

Well done again to all the Year 7 pupils who earned this special reward – your hard work continues to be recognised and celebrated!

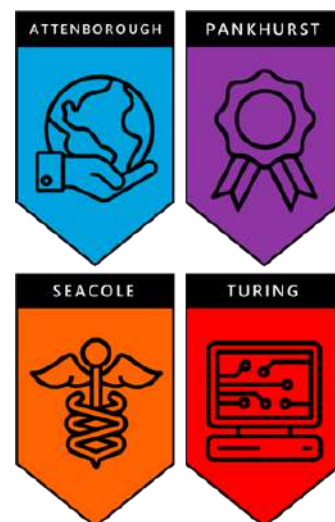
House System News

The competition among Risedale School's houses is really heating up as we head into the final stretch of the academic year!

House points are awarded for exceptional work, participation in inter-house competitions and extracurricular activities, and contributions to the school and wider community. Every point earned makes a difference, and it's clear from the current standings that our pupils have been working incredibly hard.

The current House Point totals are as follows:

- **1st Turing** ❤️ **with 38,364 points**
- **2nd Seacole** 🟡 **with 38,342 points**
- **3rd Pankhurst** 💜 **with 37,731 points**
- **4th Attenborough** 💙 **with 35,113 points**



Congratulations to all pupils for your dedication and effort throughout the year! We're now in the last half-term, and it's anyone's game. Good luck to every house as you battle it out for the top spot!

To view the most up-to-date house point totals and see how each house is progressing throughout the term, please visit our dedicated [House System](#) website page.

#TeamRisedale 💙💜🟡❤️

Celebrating Attendance and Our School Values 🏆

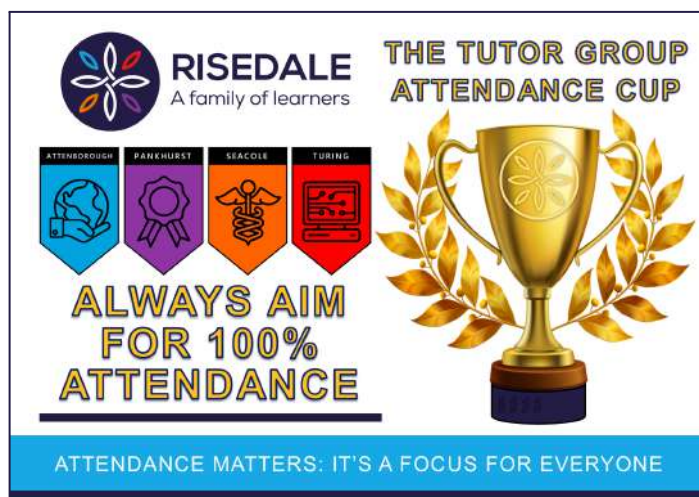
Last half term, we had some great attendance figures from our tutor groups. Each week, we proudly celebrated the group with the highest combined attendance, recognising their dedication and commitment to their studies. These consistent efforts not only contribute to individual academic success but also foster a positive and productive learning environment for the entire school community.

A special mention must go to the pupils of **7 Westwood**, who demonstrated exceptional **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESILIENCE** by winning the Tutor Group Attendance Cup an incredible **3** times for **ATTENBOROUGH HOUSE** this half term! Their exceptional dedication sets a fantastic example for the entire Risedale Family, truly embodying our school values.

Well done to all the tutor groups, and especially to those who claimed the weekly prize!

Congratulations to our winners:

25/04/2025	9 Blatch	98.03%
02/05/2025	7 Westwood	96.82%
09/05/2025	7 Westwood	97.73%
16/05/2025	8 Rodgers	95.22%
23/05/2025	7 Westwood	95.75%





RISEDALE
A family of learners