

Thursday, 21st May 2026

Dear parent/carer,

## **SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - May 2026**

As we have entered the exam season, the whole school community is getting behind our Year 11s and supporting their hard work. I would like to thank parents/carers for your continued support in ensuring your children are ready for learning. Readiness for learning, including having the right equipment, being in school on time every day, respecting everyone's right to learn in a calm environment and being in the correct uniform, are crucial for success, culminating in the door-opening qualifications pupils earn in Year 11.

**Here are some key reminders about Risedale's expectations ready for next half-term:**

### **Uniform and Equipment**

**Uniform:** We expect all pupils to arrive every day with the correct uniform. This includes plain black shoes, school trousers or skirts, a shirt (tucked in) and a tie on. As we are entering our final summer half-term, blazers are not required to be worn - we make this adjustment to recognise the need to stay cool during this warmer period. Shirts must be tucked in. We also continue to ask pupils to ensure no coats are worn inside the school.

**Equipment:** Pupils should bring to school a bag with their planner and pencil case every day. For Years 8-11 this also includes their Chromebook. These are essential for pupils to be able to take part in their learning.

If a pupil forgets any of the above uniform items/equipment, they can attend the **"One Stop Shop"**. This is a new supportive measure the school has put in place to ensure our pupils can access their learning in the correct uniform. Pupils can go here as they arrive at school at 8.20am and it is located near the gym. They will be asked to swap an item (such as a phone or key) to support them in remembering to return the borrowed item at the end of the day. Pupils who resolve uniform and equipment issues prior to attending form time will not be given a negative point, as we recognise we all sometimes need this support.

### **Attendance Matters**

During the final half-term, we will be asking all pupils in Y7-10 to complete another survey in conjunction with Impact Education. This is for us to gather information around pupil voice linked to attendance. We then use this to inform our planning for the next academic year.

This half-term, we have worked as a school to improve our punctuality both at the start of the day and to lessons. This is an essential life skill and one we want pupils to continue to work on. School





**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

**RISEDALE SCHOOL**

Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood - BA (Dunelm), NPQH  
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD  
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: enquiries@risedale.org.uk  
www.risedale.org.uk | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

gates open at 8.20am, so it is ideal if pupils arrive then to ensure they are in tutor time for 8.30am. When a pupil arrives late to school, they receive a lunchtime detention. If they arrive after 9am, they are issued with a “U” code, which is classed as absent for the whole morning session - this impacts pupils’ attendance figures. If you are struggling with getting your child to school on time, please do contact their form tutor or Pupil Support Manager so we can discuss a support plan.

**Positive Behaviour**

We look forward to our pupils returning on Monday, 1st June, with a focus on “being the **BEST** version of themselves”. For us, this means our pupils arrive to lessons on time, with their equipment, wearing uniform correctly, working hard in lessons and showing kindness and **RESPECT** to others. We hope that a focus on these areas can ensure pupils and staff have a positive end to the academic year.

Finally, I would like to thank and pay tribute to Mr Metcalfe, who will be leaving us on the 19th of June after almost 5 years of service as our IT/Digital Technician. He has been a wonderful colleague to work with and has supported our pupils and staff with care and endless patience so that they can make effective use of technology for learning. We wish him all the best in his new role in cybersecurity.

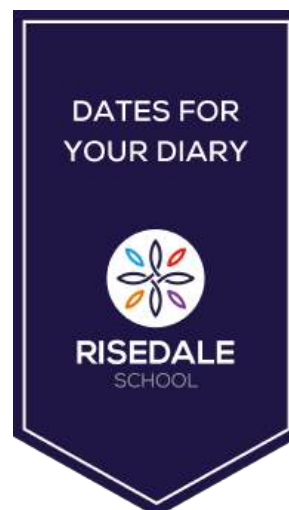
*Greenwood.*

**Mrs L Greenwood**  
Headteacher



## Dates for Your Diary

25 - 29 May	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 1 June	Start of Summer Term 2 (pupils & staff return)
	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
15 to 19 June	Year 10 Core Exams
Tuesday 16 June	Year 10 QE Sixth Form Taster Day
Wednesday 17 June	Children's Armed Forces Day
	Year 6 SEND Parents' Evening
23 & 24 June	Drama Production Evening
Thursday 25 June	Year 6 Welcome Evening (6-8pm)
Friday 26 June	Year 11 Prom (Hall Garth Hotel, Darlington)
Saturday 27 June	Car Boot Sale (PTA Event)
Tuesday 30 June	Y10 Darlington College Taster Day
30 June & 1 July	Year 6 Transition Days
Tuesday 7 July	Reward Trip to Flamingo Land
Wednesday 8 July	Sports Day (Friday 10 July Contingency Date)
Friday 17 July	Last Day of Term
Thursday 20 August	GCSE Results Day



**Website Pages:** [Calendar & Term Dates](#) | [Exam Information](#)

## Attendance, Absence and Punctuality

**Is My Child Too Ill For School?** Attendance in school is a key step to ensuring our pupils flourish to their full potential. We know when they aren't feeling 100%, it can be hard to decide whether they can still come to school. We hope that by sharing this NHS guidance this helps you know when it is ok to still send them in: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

**Punctuality:** We have been really impressed with the way pupils have responded to our recent push for them to arrive at school on time. We have seen some pupils work really hard to improve this, and recognise parents/carers will be supporting this. Thank you for working together to ensure our pupils arrive in time to be in their form room for 8.30am and hear key information from their form tutors.

**Morning Routines:** When we looked into why pupils might be arriving late, some of them shared with us that they feel their morning routines before school aren't always supporting them in being on time. Therefore, please see below our top tips for supporting positive mornings:

- 1) **Get a good night's sleep** - mornings are always a lot easier if you have had a full 8 or more hours in bed.
- 2) **Wake up at a regular time every day** to help your body clock get into a positive routine- if you feel rushed, consider bringing your alarm clock forward 10 minutes. Allow yourself the time you need.
- 3) **Fuel up with a delicious breakfast** - you need to try to eat both carbohydrates and protein to be fully fuelled for a busy day of learning!
- 4) **Be organised** and get your bag and [equipment](#) ready the night before- this will help you feel ready. It will also help the morning feel smooth and stress-free.
- 5) **Get school ready** - wash your face, brush your teeth and put on your uniform. Sometimes when you look the part, you will feel the part. #dresstoimpress

If you have any concerns or queries around attendance, please contact your child's form tutor or pastoral manager, who can offer support. We are here to work with you.

★ **Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!** ★

**Website Page:** [Attendance, Absence and Punctuality](#)

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

We understand that concerns may arise outside of school hours, including during the holiday times. For access to important information and contact details for relevant agencies, please visit our dedicated website page.

Website Page: [Safeguarding](#)

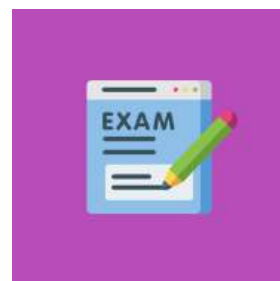


## Year 11 Exam Update: A Fantastic Start!

We have had an amazing start to the exam season, with a really positive atmosphere across the entire school. I have been catching up with many of our Year 11s, especially in our new common room, and I am incredibly impressed by their calm, prepared attitude and their clear drive to succeed.

To maintain this momentum, we are ensuring every pupil feels supported right up until the moment they sit down for their exams:

- **Pre-Exam Masterclasses:** Immediately before each exam, pupils attend focused preparation sessions. These are designed to provide last-minute tips and exam-specific guidance to ensure they can approach every question with confidence.
- **Expert Encouragement:** Our new Deputy Headteacher, Miss Ireland, has been meeting with all pupils before they start their exams, providing a positive pep-talk to ensure everyone is in the right headspace.



As we approach the half-term holiday break, please ensure that your child has a revision timetable prepared for the half-term holiday. This should cover all remaining subjects to ensure the hard work continues through the second half of the exam season.

If you have any questions or need further support, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Kirkbride.M@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Kirkbride.M@risedale.org.uk).

**KEEP REVISING Year 11 - you are doing so well!**

Mr Kirkbride (Senior Teacher, KS4 Standards)

Website Pages: [Exam Information](#)

## Year 11 Uniform and PE Kit Donations

As our Year 11 pupils approach their last months at Risedale, we are kindly requesting donations of any school uniform items that are no longer needed.

What we are collecting:

- **General Uniform:** Especially blazers and ties.
- **PE Kit:** All branded Risedale items and shorts.
- **Footwear:** Football boots and school shoes in good condition.

If your child has already outgrown any of these items, please feel free to send them into school now. Otherwise, we will be collecting all donations on the pupils' final day.



**Other Year Groups:** We also welcome donations from any year groups where pupils have outgrown their uniforms. Donations can be brought to the school office at any time between now and the end of the term. Thank you for helping us recycle and support our school community.

## Service Children's Spotlight:

From our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis

It has been another incredibly busy and productive half-term at Risedale for our service pupil community. We are absolutely delighted to have welcomed a number of new pupils and their families into the Risedale Family this half-term.



Our main focus this half-term has been on transitions. For our Key Stage 4 pupils, this included some fantastic visits from universities and outside agencies, aimed at helping our service pupils unlock their full potential, recognise their unique strengths, and confidently consider their exciting options after Risedale. Meanwhile, it has been an absolute privilege to work with our Key Stage 3 pupils on their own transition journeys through a variety of creative outlets, including reflective poetry and engaging arts workshops.

Looking ahead, we are already preparing for the next half-term, where we look forward to coming together as a community to recognise and celebrate Armed Forces Day. Thank you for your continued partnership, and we hope you have a wonderful break!

**Leaving us?** If you are due to be posted out of the area and will be leaving Risedale, please do get in touch as early as possible so that we can facilitate a smooth transition out of the school.

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions, please email our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis, at: [Ellis.S@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Ellis.S@risedale.org.uk).

More information is available on our dedicated **Website Page:** [Service Children](#)

## Upcoming PTA Event: Car Boot Sale!

The PTA is currently busy planning a **Car Boot Sale for Saturday, 27th June 2026**. This is a brilliant opportunity for the Risedale Family to come together, declutter, and raise vital funds for school resources. **More information will follow soon!**

### How You Can Help:

To make events like the Car Boot Sale a success, we need your help! Whether you have a lot of time to give or just a little, your contribution is invaluable. **By joining the PTA, you can:**

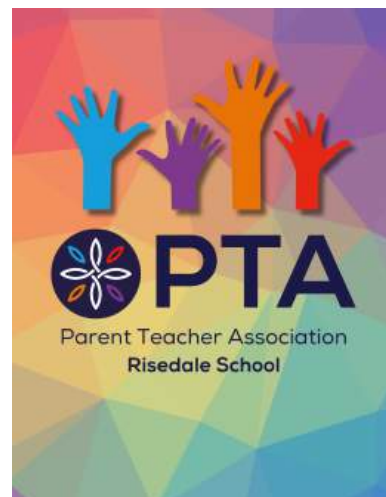
- **Support essential fundraising** that directly benefits our pupils' opportunities.
- **Connect with other parents** and build a stronger community network.
- **Help plan and run fun events** like the upcoming Car Boot Sale.

Whether you have a lot of time to give or just a little, your contribution would be invaluable.

Let's work together to help every pupil be the **BEST** version of themselves, embodying our school's values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

## READY TO GET INVOLVED?

If you're interested in learning more or would like to be involved, please email us today at [PTA@risedale.org.uk](mailto:PTA@risedale.org.uk)





## May Half-Term Adventures! ☀️ 🌳 🍃

The North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service is offering action-packed activities this May half-term (26th–29th May)!

**🦘 Adventure Club (Bewerley Park):** Day activities with a 10% discount for siblings or multi-day bookings.

**🚤 Sailing Course (East Barnby):** A two-day RYA course to earn Stage 1 or 2 qualifications.

**🔗 Details & Booking:** [School holiday activities > North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service](#)

### Tick Awareness:

It's important to be tick-aware while enjoying the outdoors.

Ticks are most active in the UK from March to October, with most bites commonly reported during May and June. They can carry pathogens (microorganisms that cause disease) such as [Lyme disease](#) and, more rarely, [tick-borne encephalitis](#).

Ticks live in many different outdoor environments, often found in woodland, rough upland or moorland pastures, heathland, grazed grasslands and some urban parks. You are more at risk of being bitten when taking part in activities such as hiking, cycling or camping, but ticks can also sometimes be found in urban gardens.

When you are enjoying the outdoors, be tick aware and, where possible:

- Use an insect repellent that prevents ticks
- Wear long sleeves and long trousers to prevent direct skin exposure
- Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation
- Check for ticks on young children, around their heads and necks
- Use an insect repellent that prevents ticks on you, your children and your pets

### What to do if you're bitten:

- Remove the tick as soon as you can, either using a tick-removing device or fine-tipped tweezers
- Grab the tick as close to the skin as you can and pull upwards
- Clean the area with soap and water
- Keep an eye on the bite area for a few weeks in case of any changes

If you have any queries, please contact the North Yorkshire Council Public Health team at [dph@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dph@northyorks.gov.uk), contact your GP or NHS 111 immediately.

Read more on the UKHSA website at [What is Lyme disease and why do we need to be tick-aware?](#)

If you have any queries, please contact the North Yorkshire Council Public Health team at [dph@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dph@northyorks.gov.uk)



## Shape the Future of Catterick and Colburn!

[North Yorkshire Council](#) and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority want to hear from you! Help develop the new Town Investment Plan by sharing what you love about the area and what could be improved.

### How to get involved:

Attend a drop-in event or complete the survey at [HERE](#), or paper copies are available at Catterick and Colburn Libraries.

**Deadline:** Tuesday 30 June 2026

Have your say and help create a vision for the next 5 to 10 years!

## Let's Talk About Knife Crime

We know that some conversations are harder to start than others with our children and young people, and knife crime is definitely one of those tough subjects. This week is #OperationSceptre week, a national initiative to reduce knife crime across the country.

We have been asked to share the following helpful resources with all families and our community—just some useful tools for your parenting toolkit to help keep our young people talking and safe.

We've also gathered all the full guides, legal facts, and support contact lists into one folder for you to look through whenever you have a moment.

 **Access the Parent Resource Folder here:** [Knife Crime Resources](#)



Town Investment Plans

### A vision for Catterick and Colburn: have your say

We are developing a Town Investment Plan for Catterick and Colburn and we want to hear from you.

- What do you love about living in or visiting Catterick and Colburn?
- What would make it an even better place to live, work and explore?
- How do you see Catterick and Colburn evolving over the next 5 to 10 years?

Help us identify the biggest challenges and the most exciting opportunities to improve Catterick and Colburn, enhance the environment and create spaces and services that benefit everyone.

Join us at our drop-in events or complete our survey online at [northyorks.gov.uk/TIPS](http://northyorks.gov.uk/TIPS)

**Closing date: Tuesday 30 June 2026**

Public engagement drop-in events				
Wednesday 10 June 4pm to 6pm Booth Memorial Institute, Catterick Village	Friday 12 June 10am to 1pm Colburn Hub and Community Cafe, Colburn Village Hall	Thursday 18 June 10am to 12pm Hipswell Village Hall	Thursday 18 June 2pm to 4pm Scotton Village Hall	Saturday 20 June 10am to 12pm Catterick Library



Paper copies of the survey can be collected from, and returned to, Catterick and Colburn Libraries.

 NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL  YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY  DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

04726 829882/234



**Sure it's hard talking to your child about knives. Not half as hard as never talking to him again.**

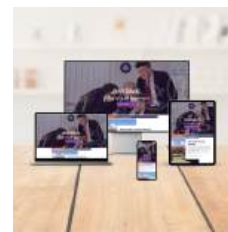
A guide on how to talk to your child about knives.

 Home Office

# General Reminders for Risedale School

## School Website

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



## Uniform

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



## MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) Parent Portal

[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to manage all school payments and view your child's performance in real-time via the web or app. Please check MCAS regularly, as this facility allows you to access your child's **timetable**, **attendance**, **behaviour**, and **reports**, as well as providing a secure way to **top up dinner money** and pay for **school trips and clubs** 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/Google 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 the ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) form, and our IT team will set this up for you.



## Equipment and Chromebooks

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



- A **pencil case** containing the following:
  - **black**, **blue**, and **red** biros.
  - pencil, ruler and eraser.
- **Planner:** Required daily (replacement cost £2 if lost).
- **PE Kit:** On timetabled days.
- **Reading Book:** KS3 only.
- **Chromebook:** Fully charged and in its protective case (Years 8-11 only).

