



**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

# Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

January 2026





# RISEDALE KIT Newsletter



**KIT Newsletter Issue 45: January 2026**

**Dear parents/carers and pupils,**

What an amazing end to the Autumn term we had! From trips, rewards events and workshops to superb sporting successes, the Year 11 "Walking, Talking Mocks" and wonderful Christmas events - so many valuable experiences were rolled out and memories made.

Our Remembrance events were appropriately solemn and marked incredibly respectfully by pupils, showing just how special the Risedale Family is. I am proud of how our pupils have represented the school at these, but also at other events, such as sporting fixtures, careers visits and workshops, and on trips.



I am also proud of our commitment to charity fundraising. We know how tight finances can be, especially at Christmas, but our pupils have raised funds for various national and local charities in recent weeks. It was amazing to see the parcels and monetary donation go to the Colburn Hub and Community Café at the end of term.

Our renewed focus on rewards for pupils getting it right has led to fantastic rewards assemblies, certificates, prizes and trips, as well as regular recognition for pupils demonstrating our values and attending regularly and on time. There was such a buzz in the assemblies at the end of term, and more recognition, prizes and trips are lined up for this term, which is so exciting.

Please enjoy reading our KIT Newsletter. As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your family. I hope that the Spring term brings yet more opportunities for pupils to shine and be the **BEST** version of themselves.

Kindest regards,

**Mrs Lucy Greenwood - Headteacher**



**#TeamRisedale**  **#BEST**

**RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS**



# REMEMBRANCE AT RISEDALE

Remembrance at Risedale 2025 🌹



## Risedale School's Week-Long Programme of Remembrance Honours Serving Families and our Shared History

Risedale School proudly observed its annual week of comprehensive Remembrance commemorative activities in November, ensuring every pupil played an active part in honouring the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community. With the school located right in the heart of Catterick Garrison, the 2025 Remembrance programme featured significant community engagement and a powerful Armistice Day service.

The school's deep commitment to Remembrance began in October when the Royal British Legion launched its annual Poppy Appeal. The school supported the appeal by selling poppies, and many Risedale pupils, fulfilling their roles as cadets, contributed significantly to the fundraising efforts by selling poppies in the local community and at Tesco.





# REMEMBRANCE AT RISEDALE

## Festival of Remembrance, Ripon Cathedral

The school's formal remembrance activities officially began on Friday, 7th November, at the annual North Yorkshire Council Festival of Remembrance, held at Ripon Cathedral. The event, now in its 13th year and organised by North Yorkshire's Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell, was attended by more than 600 children and young people from 25 schools across the county.



Risedale was proudly represented by 15 Service Children, accompanied by Service Pupil Manager Dr Ellis, Mrs Johnson, and Mr Morris. The Risedale staff noted that the pupils' conduct at this large-scale event was exemplary. They were all respectful and a credit to the school.



## Wreath Laying and Community Commitment

The school continued its external commitments over the weekend. On Sunday, 9th November, Dr Ellis attended the Hipswell Village Remembrance Service, where she formally laid a wreath on behalf of Risedale School, establishing the school's presence at the local memorial event.



## A Week of Historical Insight

Leading up to and following Armistice Day, the theme of Remembrance was reinforced daily across the school. Year 11 Pupil Support Manager, Mr Godfrey, a retired police officer and passionate World War I history enthusiast, led the school's Remembrance assemblies from Monday, 10th November to Friday, 14th November. His assemblies ensured that pupils received a rich, historical context for the significance of Armistice Day and the ongoing legacy of the Armed Forces.



## Armistice Day Service

The pinnacle of the week was the special Armistice Day Service, which took place on Tuesday, 11th November. Pupils from Years 7 and 8, in addition to all service pupils from Year 9 and Year 10, and all school cadets, took part in a special service, led by Headteacher,



# REMEMBRANCE AT RISEDALE

Mrs Greenwood, featuring poignant poems read by pupils. The moving proceedings culminated when the entire school community observed a one-minute silence to reflect on the sacrifice of the fallen. The silence was then followed by the traditional, moving sound of The Last Post, played by Squadron Leader Lumsdon. Risedale was incredibly fortunate to have Squadron Leader Lumsdon join them on this special day, and the school extends its sincere thanks for his time.



## Remembrance Reflection

***"Remembrance is far more than a date on the calendar for us; it's woven into the very fabric of Risedale School,"*** said Dr Ellis, Service Pupil Manager. ***"Being located right here in Catterick Garrison, and having such a high proportion of service pupils, means we have a personal responsibility to ensure this legacy is maintained."***

***"I am incredibly proud of the entire Risedale Family and the deep respect they consistently show for those who have fallen, for our shared history, and for those who serve now. This is especially poignant for many of our pupils whose own parents are currently serving; they understand the meaning of sacrifice firsthand. The dignified engagement shown by our pupils throughout the week, whether at the Festival of Remembrance or in the one-minute silence, proves that the strong military ties of this community will continue to be honoured by the next generation."***

## Football News: Y10 Boys' vs Outwood Academy Easingwold

The Risedale Year 10 boys played Outwood Academy Easingwold in the Area Cup on Wednesday, 12th November.

Easingwold started strongly with two impressive goals, showing some individual brilliance. Risedale responded and had possession for long periods of the first half, but Easingwold made us pay with their quick counterattacks, scoring another two goals. The halftime score was 4-0 and provided a great test of character for #TeamRisedale.

The boys responded in the second half by embodying the Risedale spirit and striving to be the **BEST** version of themselves. They showed excellent **RESILIENCE**, refusing to let the deficit define their performance. They took **RESPONSIBILITY** for their roles and, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and strong **RELATIONSHIPS** on the pitch, dominated the opponents' half for the remainder of the game. They played with immense heart and showed great **RESPECT** for the opposition and the Area Cup competition by battling hard until the final whistle. Unfortunately, despite numerous chances, we couldn't turn the pressure into goals.

Reflecting on the match, Head of PE, Mr Lawson said, *"I was so proud of every member of the squad. There were some really excellent performances seen throughout, but particularly from Jack Gilroy (10Lawson) and Bryan Robbey (10Douglas), who stood out on their debuts, demonstrating their personal commitment to RESPONSIBILITY by stepping up for the team. Well done, boys. I am proud of every one of you!"*



### HUGE THANK YOU:

### Children in Need Total 2025!

What an amazing effort from #TeamRisedale! We are absolutely thrilled to announce that, thanks to the generosity and spirit of our pupils, parents/carers, and staff, our Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 14th November, raised a fantastic total of **★ £326.30 ★** for BBC Children in Need.

Every single pound donated will go towards helping disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

Thank you for demonstrating such incredible **RESPONSIBILITY** and community spirit. We couldn't have done it without you!

## Pupils Experience Thrilling Professional Basketball Game

The electric atmosphere of professional basketball captivated 15 of Risedale School's Year 10/11 GCSE PE and Sport Studies pupils on Friday, 14th November, as they attended a British Basketball League (BBL) game featuring the Newcastle Eagles against the Sheffield Sharks.

The pupils travelled to the Vertu Motors Arena in Newcastle upon Tyne for a high-energy evening of top-tier sport. The match was a close and thrilling affair, with the Sharks ultimately edging out the home team in a tight finish: 95 (Eagles) to 99 (Sharks).

A highlight of the evening came when the school received a special mention! The pupils were thrilled and excited when Risedale School was given a shout-out on the massive scoreboard for being "IN THE HOUSE TONIGHT."

Mr Lawson, Head of PE at Risedale School, shared his enthusiasm for the trip: *"It was great to take the kids to experience professional basketball.*

*These opportunities are so important to inspire our pupils and to showcase the amazing commitment and athleticism required at this level."*

The pupils were a credit to Risedale School throughout the evening, demonstrating excellent behaviour and sportsmanship, making the trip a great success.



## QE Design & Textiles Workshop

### Risedale Design Pupils Get Hands-On at QE Workshop to Boost Coursework and Inspire Creative Making Skills

Fashion & Textiles and Design & Technology pupils from Risedale School have gained a significant edge in their coursework projects after participating in an inspiring workshop at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (QE) on Wednesday, 19th November 2025.



Twelve enthusiastic pupils attended the session, accompanied by Mrs Vizor (Teacher of Design & Technology) and Mrs Deighton (HLTA).

The hands-on session, generously provided by the QE Textiles Department, focused on developing crucial print and pattern skills, with a specific emphasis on designing and screen-printing fabric. This unique experience allowed Risedale pupils to create personalised, high-quality textiles that can be directly incorporated into their most important project: the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) coursework.

Mrs Vizor highlighted the workshop's academic impact: *"The sheer level of hands-on design and technical skill the pupils gained in a single day, particularly mastering the screen-printing process and using Adobe Photoshop for their patterns, is transformative. These aren't just fun activities; this is direct, high-quality evidence they can incorporate into their vital NEA coursework right now."*



The NEA makes up a major component of the pupils' final grades, requiring them to undertake a substantial, independent design and make project. By securing this hands-on learning opportunity, Risedale is ensuring its pupils have access to resources and expertise that will directly elevate their portfolios and final prototypes.



Mrs Vizor added, *"The pupils had the most amazing day! They showed incredible maturity throughout the session, were so enthusiastic, and were a real credit to Risedale. This special opportunity to experience Further Education has truly inspired their creative futures, and we are incredibly grateful to the QE Textiles Department for what we hope will be a continued creative collaboration!"*

On Instagram, [QE Art Department](#) said, *"What an absolutely lovely day spent with Textiles and DT students from @risedalefamily helping them with the coursework projects. We did all things print and pattern, both by hand and in Adobe Photoshop. So impressed with the work produced and the loveliest group of students! Well done, everyone. Hope to see you again next year! ❤"*



## CyberFirst Trailblazers: Inspiring the Next Generation of Digital Defenders

The computing department was buzzing with activity on Thursday, 27th November, as Year 9 pupils stepped into the roles of digital investigators. As part of the CyberFirst Trailblazers event, pupils engaged in hands-on challenges designed to debunk the myth that Computer Science is "just coding" and showcase the breadth of technology careers.

### Investigating the Digital World

The workshop pushed pupils to think critically through several high-stakes simulations:

- **Digital Detective:** Using digital forensics and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), pupils tracked down "Patient Zero" in a fictional outbreak. This task highlighted the critical importance of digital footprints and required immense **RESILIENCE**.
- **The Ransomware Challenge:** Pupils used Micro:bits to intercept radio transmissions during a simulated ransomware attack. They had to collaborate and crack the code to "unlock" the devices, demonstrating brilliant teamwork.
- **Safety & Ethics:** A mature discussion took place regarding online safety and the potential impact of social media bans, where pupils showed great **RESPECT** for one another's perspectives.

The pupils truly demonstrated being their absolute **BEST**, approaching every challenge with curiosity and maturity throughout the day.

Mrs Rodgers, Head of Computer Science and IT, said:



*"It's vital that our pupils see the practical, exciting applications of technology. The CyberFirst Trailblazers event has provided an incredible, hands-on insight into a fast-growing industry and hopefully inspired our next generation of digital defenders."*

Plans are already underway to host more workshops to help demonstrate the value of the CyberFirst program and the diverse opportunities available to our pupils in the tech industry.

## Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football Friendly



### **Match Report from Mrs Niblett (Girls' Football Team Coach)**

The U13s Risedale School girls' football team gave their **BEST** during their friendly match on Tuesday, 2nd December 2025. A big thank you to Richmond School & Sixth Form College for hosting the event.

The team started with a strong display of **RELATIONSHIPS** and defensive discipline. For the first 15 minutes, the girls worked seamlessly together, supported by an exceptional performance from our goalkeeper, Hallie Nicholas (8Davies), who successfully made at least 8 crucial saves on target. Despite this commitment, Richmond gained momentum and scored four goals.

Crucially, our girls demonstrated outstanding **RESILIENCE** and refused to be defeated. This led to a fantastic breakthrough goal from Ava Clifton (8Dovaston) — her fierce determination secured Risedale's first point. This individual effort was soon followed by two excellent team goals, scored by Ava Sims (7Reid) and Maizie-Leigh Parry (8Davies).

The final score was a 7-3 loss, but Team Risedale's spirit remained high, even playing in the bitter cold. I commend the girls for their enduring resilience and for upholding our values of **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** throughout the entire game.

**★ Player of the Match - Ava Clifton (8Dovaston):** Awarded for embodying **RESILIENCE** and determination. Ava's positive influence kept the team motivated, and her incredible work rate was instrumental in securing our first goal.

**★ Captain - Isla Lewis (7Shephard):** Isla was chosen as Captain based on her consistent demonstration of **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** through her outstanding commitment to training and her continuous weekly improvement. A superb effort, Isla!

Well done to all the girls! You are all fantastic and make me so proud! #TeamRisedale

## Risedale Artists Explore Newcastle and Gateshead Galleries

Armed with cameras and creative curiosity, 32 pupils from Years 8 to 11 traded the classroom for the galleries of Newcastle and Gateshead for a cultural adventure on Thursday, 4th December.

The trip, organised by Head of Art Ms Westwood, saw the pupils explore the region's diverse art scene to generate primary photographic research for their coursework. To keep them fully engaged with the art, the pupils also completed a specially designed worksheet as they toured the galleries, hunting for details and analysing the work.

The day began at the Laing Art Gallery, where the pupils split into three smaller groups to rotate through the key exhibitions: *Miniature Worlds, Northern Spirit, and 100 Years of Collecting*.

As they explored the galleries, the pupils had to tackle a mix of quiz questions and visual challenges, such as identifying artists from close-up photos and abstract segments of the artworks.

Reuniting as a full group, the pupils then embarked on an architectural photo-walk down Grey Street and Dean Street. They documented the historic street scenes before crossing the Gateshead Millennium Bridge to the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.

At the Baltic, the group took on the challenge of walking up all the stairs of *Mark Wallinger's Heaven and Hell Staircase*. After reaching the top, the pupils made their way back down through the converted flour mill, stopping to explore the various contemporary exhibitions along the way.

Here, the focus shifted from observation to interpretation. As the pupils watched art films and viewed modern installations, they were challenged to describe what they saw and record how the artwork made them feel.

Ms Westwood was impressed by the maturity and enthusiasm shown throughout the day.

***"Whilst walking round the galleries and various exhibitions, we could hear the pupils having some really interesting discussions,"*** she said. ***"They were talking about the artworks with a lot of thought and passion, which was lovely to see and hear."***

**Competition Winners:** Following the trip, the worksheets were tallied up, and we are delighted to announce that the team with the most correct answers was Olivia Bamber (9Dunphy), Evalyn Gee (9Dean), and Taya McKee (9Laheney). Well done to the trio for their sharp eyes and insightful answers!

A special thank you goes to Mrs Gardiner and Mr Metcalfe for accompanying the trip and supervising the groups. The extensive collection of photographs and research gathered during the visit will now be used to develop final pieces back in the Risedale art studio.





## Cross Country Success for Risedale! 🏃

A huge well done to the 12 Risedale pupils who competed in the Area Cross Country Trials on Thursday, 4th December. Every single runner gave it their **BEST** to try and earn a spot representing the area.

A special congratulations goes to Zakk Brown (7Shergold), Theo-Tyler Fort (10Douglas), and John McMahon (10Lawson), who put in fantastic performances to qualify for the next stage.

We are incredibly proud of the whole team for their resilience and effort!

## Year 11 “Walking, Talking” Mock Exam Success

From 8th–12th December, Risedale successfully piloted its very first series of “Walking, Talking Mocks” (WTMs). The initiative saw the entire Year 11 cohort working through live exam papers in English, Maths, and Science.

Pupils sat in the hall under exam conditions, but rather than working in silence, they were guided by a subject specialist using a visualiser (document camera). This allowed teachers to model answers on the big screen in real-time, “walking and talking” pupils through the necessary steps and offering advice on time management and exam technique.



All the sessions were recorded, ensuring pupils can access the walkthroughs later for revision or catch up if they were absent.

The feedback has been amazing, with pupils finding the experience “invaluable” for bridging the gap between revision and the exam hall.

Mr Kirkbride, Senior Teacher for KS4 Standards, commented:

***“At Risedale, we are continually looking for innovative ways to boost pupil confidence regarding examinations. These sessions were a rehearsal for the actual exams and were designed to help build confidence, preparing pupils for both the PPEs in January and the final exams in the summer.”***

A huge thank you must go to our IT Team for the technical support that made these live sessions and recordings possible. We are also incredibly grateful to our teachers for taking to the podium and sharing their expert knowledge in this new and exciting format.

By removing the panic of the “blank page,” pupils have reported feeling far better equipped to tackle the challenges ahead. Well done to all Year 11s for their focus and engagement during this inaugural Walking Talking Mock week!

## PROUD! U13 Girls Football Update

### Match Report from Mrs Niblett (Girls' Football Team Coach)

Our U13 Risedale School girls' football team made the long journey to Easingwold School for a cup match on Thursday, 11th December, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. The girls showed real **RESILIENCE** from start to finish and never gave up. We came close to scoring on several occasions thanks to Ellie-Mae Reid (10Lawson), Renesmee Bascombe-Nakoma (9Laheney), and Kayleagh Galloway (9Conway).



Although we didn't get the win, the girls kept smiling throughout — and that's what truly matters.

★ **Special shout-out to our Captain, Ava Clifton (8Dovaston)!** Ava stepped up brilliantly as one of our youngest players, leading the team with pride, confidence, and encouragement.

★ **Players of the Match:** Mr Lawson and I just couldn't choose one, so we selected two players who showed outstanding grit and gave the team the energy we needed — Well done, **Renesmee** and **Florence** Sewell (9Dunphy)!

Thank you for your commitment at the fixture girls - you were all fantastic! I'm already looking forward to our training sessions and matches in 2026. **#TeamRisedale** ❤️❤️❤️❤️

### Christmas Jumper Day

Risedale School was filled with festive cheer on Thursday, 11th December, as pupils and staff donned their most wonderful winter woollies for Christmas Jumper Day. The event was a resounding success, raising **£197.00 for Save the Children UK**.



## Christmas Card Competition Winners!

We were thrilled to announce the results of this year's Risedale School Christmas Card Competition!

The creativity on display was truly heartwarming. Pupils across the school really embraced the Christmas spirit, crafting beautiful designs that were later delivered to our local care homes to spread joy to our neighbours. The standard of artwork made judging difficult, but the winning designs were absolutely stunning!

**Prizes & Rewards:** A massive well done went to our winners! To celebrate their creativity, each winner received a special prize, along with a prestigious SLT stamp.

We also wanted to say a huge thank you to every single pupil who took part. Your efforts demonstrated true community spirit. Every entrant was awarded three stamps for their contribution to this kind cause.

Thank you for showing **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** and making a difference this Christmas!



## Christmas Reward Trips

We were absolutely delighted to celebrate our pupils who demonstrated exceptional effort, exemplary conduct, and our **BEST** values throughout the Autumn Term with two special reward trips.

**KS3: Cinderella at The Georgian Theatre Royal.** On Monday, 8th December, selected Key Stage 3 pupils enjoyed an afternoon of fun and Christmas cheer at the Cinderella pantomime in Richmond. Ten pupils from each year group were selected for demonstrating **BEST** efforts, prioritising those with the top Positive Stamp scores and outstanding behaviour records with zero negative points. It was a wonderful performance and a great way to kick off the festivities... "Oh yes, it was!"

*Mrs Davies (BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS3) said the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the panto and represented the school brilliantly.*



**KS4: The Metrocentre Experience.** On Monday, 15th December, we celebrated our Key Stage 4 superstars with a trip to the Metrocentre. This reward was dedicated to the top 15 pupils in Years 10 and 11 with the highest Positive Stamp totals, as well as our Senior and Mental Health Ambassadors, as a thank you for their selfless and dedicated service to the school community. The pupils enjoyed a variety of activities, from Christmas shopping and movies to visiting the arcade.

*Mrs Vizor (BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS4) said the pupils were so grateful for being recognised for their hard work and represented the school incredibly on their reward trip.*

# Charity Christmas Fair

On Tuesday, 16th December, our school hall was transformed into a bustling hub of festive cheer for our Charity Christmas Fair. The atmosphere was electric, with packed stalls, high spirits, and plenty of noise as pupils enjoyed a well-deserved break — all in the name of a good cause and raising money for charity.

★ **Stall Highlights:** Tutor groups worked hard to organise a brilliant array of activities, including: Santa and his elves in the Grotto, stalls with cakes, biscuits, and sweet treats, a Christmas photo booth, a festive tin can alley, a "Human Slot Machine," games like "Guess the Penguin," "Guess the Film," and "What's in the Box," glitter tattoos, and so much more!

 **A Soaking Success!** A special mention goes to the pupils of 11Bennett for organising the Ice Bucket Challenge. It was a brave effort by the whole team, but a massive shout-out must go to James Pollock, who bravely got soaked in front of a packed audience! 😊

 **Top Fundraisers:** While every House put in a fantastic effort, we are delighted to announce that Pankhurst ❤️ raised the most money with their creative and popular stalls!

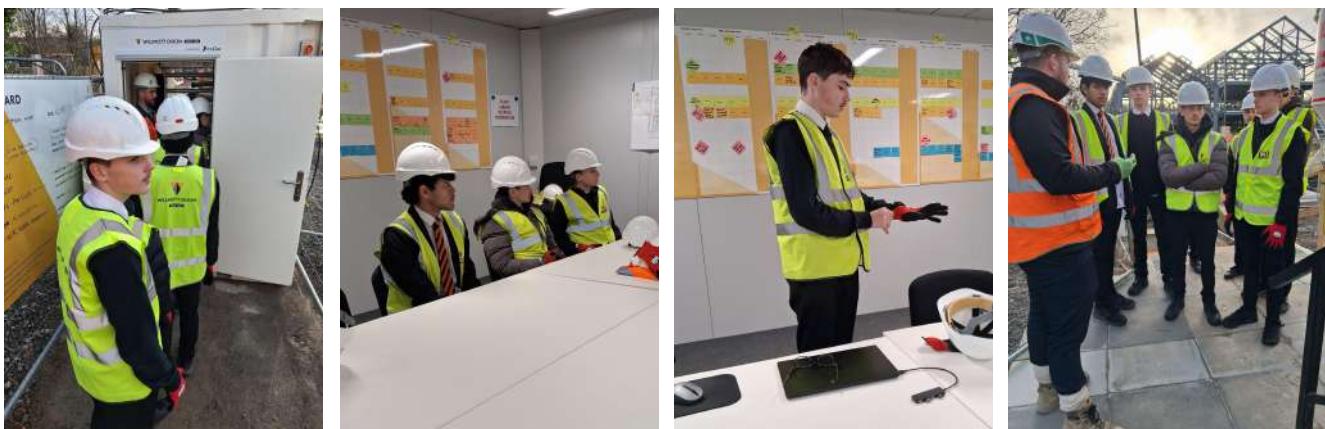
**In total, we raised £207.55, with all proceeds going to the Colburn Hub & Community Cafe & Foodshare Zero Waste to support their vital community work.**



## Year 11 Pupils Visit Willmott Dixon Construction Site

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Willmott Dixon for hosting a site visit on Tuesday, 16th December, at the development currently underway at Shute Road, Catterick Garrison.

The visit was a resounding success; our Year 11 pupils were thoroughly engaged throughout the experience, impressing the site team by asking some fantastic, insightful questions. It is a rare privilege to have access to a major development of this scale right on our doorstep, providing a unique first-hand opportunity for pupils to explore the realities of the construction and engineering sectors without leaving the local area.



Funded by the Levelling Up Fund and North Yorkshire Council, this redevelopment is set to transform the town centre, and seeing it in the early stages proved invaluable for the pupils.

Risedale Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Porritt, commented: *"I would like to thank Hannah Blenkinsop, Amy Campbell and Chandler Webster for organising this inspiring visit and hosting our pupils from Risedale School. It was amazing to hear about the diverse job roles involved in making this project a reality, even before Willmott Dixon started breaking ground."*

*"To be able to look around the site and see how rapidly the project is progressing—and visualise the finished result—was fascinating. It has given our pupils a lot to think about and opened up discussions regarding career pathways they hadn't previously considered."*



**Find Out More:** To learn more about the Catterick Town Centre Redevelopment project, please visit: [Willmott Dixon Catterick Town Centre Redevelopment](#)

## Risedale's Young Writers Published

A massive congratulations to pupils Halle Murray (8Westwood), Taya McKee (9Laheney) and Caitlin Robe (11Bennett). Their compelling original entries have been selected for publication in the highly respected Young Writers Annual Showcase. This is an extraordinary accomplishment that celebrates not only their immense talent but also their dedication to the craft of writing. Having their work chosen for publication among entries from across the country is a true testament to their unique voices and hard work.



## 2025 Chess Champion Crowned!



In a match that could have gone either way, Ranulph Gray emerged victorious against Jack Cadman.

Both finalists were presented with a chess book, and the 2025 trophy was awarded to Ranulph.

There will be an opportunity for pupils to represent the school in the 2026 Delancey Chess Challenge later in the year. This is a fantastic experience and a great way for pupils to take their game to the next level, competing in the grand hall at Yarm School. More information will come out about this closer to the time.

In the meantime, Chess Club takes place every lunchtime in Mr Carter's room and is open for players of all ages and standards.

Over the last few weeks of term, pupils turned their attention to the 64 squares of a chessboard with the return of Risedale's annual chess tournament!

Sixteen pupils took part in games during lunchtime, over a series of four rounds. There was serious talent on show as the matches became increasingly tense. As we reached the semi-finals, the tournament became an all-Year 7 affair, with two players from 7Shergold facing off in the final game.



# Celebrating Success: KS3 Recognition Assemblies

We would like to extend a huge congratulations to the award winners from our end-of-term KS3 Recognition Assemblies. Pupils were celebrated for their outstanding effort and commitment, receiving accolades across Subject, Tutor, Pastoral, and Headteacher categories.

## ★ Year 7: Monday, 15th December

Our Year 7 pupils have made a fantastic impression since arriving in September. Thank you for embodying the Risedale values so well—we are incredibly proud of the start you have made.



## ★ Year 8: Tuesday, 16th December

We have been particularly impressed by the drive and determination Year 8 have shown during the Autumn term. You are really pushing yourselves to succeed, and it is paying off! Keep that momentum going — we are proud of the energy you are bringing to the school community.



## ★ Year 9: Wednesday, 17th December

Year 9 have also shown impressive determination lately. As you begin to think about your Option Choices, this is exactly the mindset you need. By pushing yourselves now, you are opening up so many exciting doors for your future.



## 🏆 A Special Shout-Out to Jacob

A huge congratulations to Jacob Strand (9Conway), who received a 2025 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Gold Award! This is a phenomenal achievement, awarded to those who score in the top 10% of participants across the whole country.

Well done, Jacob!



## Christmas Lunch 2025 🎅

The dining hall was filled with music and laughter as KS3 and KS4 pupils sat down for their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 17th December. We hosted two sittings, ensuring that everyone—whether they ordered the festive roast or brought a packed lunch—could sit together and enjoy the celebration with their friends. With Christmas tunes playing and a raffle to top it off, it was the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit!



**A huge thank you to our amazing canteen staff;** not only did they provide a delicious lunch on this day, but they look after us so well all year round. A big shout-out also goes to the staff members who stepped in to serve the lunches — we couldn't have done it without you!

## Foxglove Covert - KS3 Pupils Master Conservation & Forestry Skills!

At Risedale, we are incredibly proud of our ongoing partnership with [Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve](#), providing our Key Stage 3 pupils with unique, hands-on learning opportunities outside the classroom.



Under the guidance of Mrs Deighton, groups of pupils take part in an immersive six-week programme designed to build both environmental awareness and practical expertise. The initiative is split into two key areas:

 **Conservation Excellence:** Three weeks dedicated to essential maintenance and protection of the reserve's diverse ecosystems.

 **Forestry & Crafts:** Three weeks focusing on traditional woodland skills and crafts.

This programme is a fantastic way for our pupils to develop teamwork, positive **RELATIONSHIPS**, **RESILIENCE**, and a deeper understanding and **RESPECT** for the natural world.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging so well with the sessions at Foxglove Covert. A huge well done to everyone involved so far - we can't wait to see what our next group of pupils will get up to when the programme resumes in 2026!



## Festive Cheer at the Risedale Centre

The Risedale Centre SEND department celebrated the festive season with a wonderful series of creative events during the last week of term. Pupils took part in special sessions for baking and decorating Christmas cookies, alongside a lively lunchtime craft workshop.

The pupils also worked incredibly hard, preparing cheesecakes for the school's Christmas Fair. Year 10 pupil, Bethany Webster, had the pleasure of presenting the delicious results to Headteacher Mrs Greenwood, who was delighted with their hard work.

To finish the celebrations, the department hosted a cosy screening of *The Christmas Chronicles*, where pupils received Christmas gifts, generously donated by The Infantry Training Centre, Catterick Garrison, to bring Christmas joy to the pupils of Risedale School.

Reflecting on the successful events, SENCo Miss Burke said: ***"Our SEND pupils are such an important part of our school community. I want to say a big thank you to all the teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to support our young people. Working with such fantastic people reminds me of just how lucky we all are to be part of the Risedale Family."***



## Celebrating Success: KS4 Recognition Assembly

On Thursday, 18th December, our Key Stage 4 Recognition Assembly showcased exactly how our pupils are striving to be the **BEST** versions of themselves.

It was a morning of celebration, with over 20 awards presented to pupils who demonstrated our core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**. We also recognised pupils who have achieved 100% attendance with certificates and spot prizes, including free cinema tickets for one lucky winner.



Mr Kirkbride, Senior Teacher, Head of KS4 Standards, commented on the event:

*"I was so proud to hand out so many awards to our wonderful Year 10 and 11 pupils. They are really demonstrating their maturity and confidence, and I look forward to celebrating even more success in the New Year."*

## Year 11 Basketball Team Shows Grit in Area Final 🏀



The Risedale Year 11 Basketball team travelled to Thirsk School & Sixth Form College on Thursday, 18th December, for the area final, vying for the chance to represent Hambleton and Richmond in York.

Despite a valiant effort, the boys were narrowly defeated by a strong Thirsk side. Both teams displayed excellent tenacity and a high level of skill throughout the match. Risedale's offence was spearheaded by Jay Newman, who scored an impressive 17 points, and Thomas Leighton with 12 points (both 11Vizor).

Head of PE, Mr Lawson, reflected on the performance:

*"I strongly believe that our trip to watch the Newcastle Eagles in November helped model the game for our pupils, preparing them to showcase their talent today. I am incredibly proud of the boys; they gave their absolute **BEST**! We wish Thirsk good luck in the next round and thank them for hosting us."*

## Celebrating our Pupils by Giving Back

The festive spirit was in full swing as pupils Bethany and Riley represented Risedale School on a special visit to Hillcrest Care Home on the last day of term. The pair arrived bearing gifts, delivering the beautiful entries from the school's recent Christmas card competition, much to the delight of the residents.

While the morning was about spreading joy, it also marked a meaningful end to the term. Risedale is committed to celebrating pupil success by giving back, and this visit has successfully established a lasting volunteer link with the local community. The experience was particularly impactful for Bethany, who has been inspired by the visit to pursue a future career in the caring professions.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for proving that the best way to celebrate the season is by supporting others. Risedale is honoured to give back this Christmas!



## Christmas Giving - Parcels for the Community 🎁

The spirit of giving was alive and well at Risedale School this Christmas. Through our 'Parcels for the Community' appeal, pupils donated a wonderful selection of festive treats, toiletries, and cupboard essentials.

All the donations were delivered to **Colburn Hub & Community Cafe & Foodshare Zero Waste**, where they were shared with local families in need.

In addition to the physical gifts, we were delighted to donate the proceeds from our Charity Christmas Fair. Pupils and staff raised a fantastic **£207.55**, and we know these funds will make a real difference to our neighbours and support the vital work of this community hub.



### Our House Fundraising Champions:

- **Seacole House** ❤️: Donated the most food and gift parcels.
- **Pankhurst House** ❤️: Raised the most money on their stalls at our Christmas Fair.



**Thank you to everyone in the Risedale Family who contributed — your kindness and generosity will have made a real difference. You are AMAZING!!! 🎁**



# RISEDALE

## House System



### 🥇 House News: The Race for the Top!

At Risedale, we love celebrating pupils who strive to be their **BEST** in everything they do. Every positive stamp collected doesn't just reward the individual—it brings their House one step closer to the top of the leaderboard!

**The current Positive Stamps awarded to each House are as follows:**

- **1st Pankhurst** ❤️ with **30823 Reward Stamps**
- **2nd Seacole** ❤️ with **29827 Reward Stamps**
- **3rd Turing** ❤️ with **29252 Reward Stamps**
- **4th Attenborough** ❤️ with **28948 Reward Stamps**

>> For more information, please visit our dedicated [House System](#) website page.

**#TeamRisedale** ❤️❤️❤️❤️

### 🏆 Attendance Champions: Autumn Term 2 Winners!

We had some great tutor group attendance winners for the second half-term of the 2025-2026 academic year. Each week, we 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 Risedale Family.

### Congratulations to Our Weekly Winners!

Here are the tutor groups who won the top spot each week. **A special shout-out to 7Shergold, who won the trophy 4 times!**

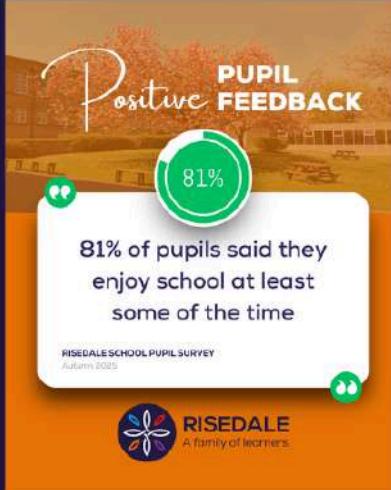
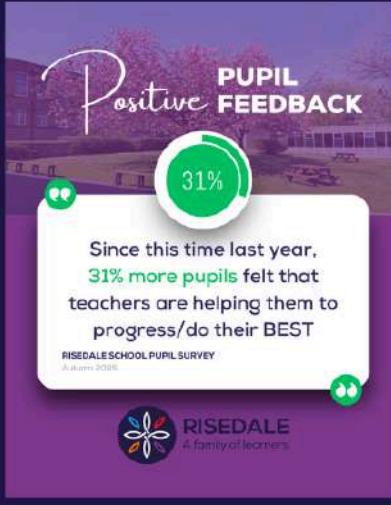
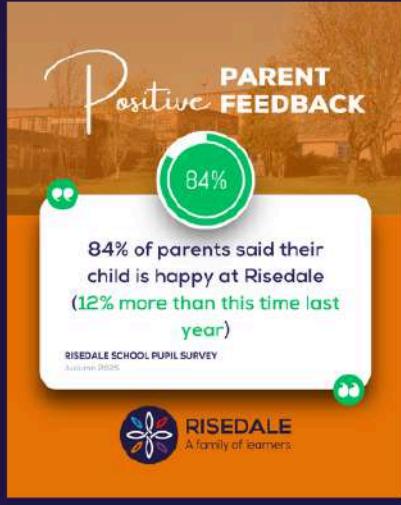
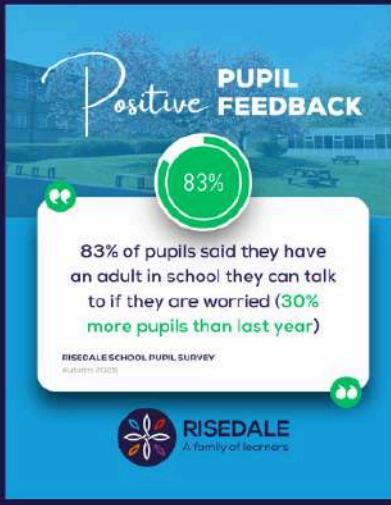
07/11/2025	7Reid	97.87%
14/11/2025	7Shergold	97.7%
21/11/2025	10Douglas	91.33%
28/11/2025	7Reid	97.70%
05/12/2025	7Shergold	96.67%
12/12/2025	7Shergold	96.60%
19/12/2025	7Shergold	96.70%

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



Thank you

# Positive Stakeholder Voice Feedback 2025





**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners