

Thursday 23rd May 2024

Dear parent/carers,

## **SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - May 2024**

As the summer term gets close to the halfway mark we have had an incredibly busy few weeks, not least because the GCSE exam season is now upon us. I wish all of our Year 11 pupils the very best of luck as they endeavour to complete their school career with us and achieve the very best that they can.

With my tenure fast approaching its close as Headteacher of this fantastic school, I reflect on everything you have helped me achieve over the last 8 years. Change is never easy and I am grateful to governors, staff and pupils for welcoming the new Head, Lucy Greenwood, as she embarks on this incredible journey of leadership. I know she will be able to count on your support going forward.

I am proud of your school helping to develop incredible people amongst our staff and some have managed to gain promotions in other schools. Well done to them! We are also seeing some internal promotions as the school develops its staff further. Well done to Michael Gunnell who is our new Support for Behaviour and Head of House with Jacob Shepherd being our new Literacy Coordinator. We have also welcomed our new Senior Science Technician, Beth Newall, our new Exams and Data Officer Annelie Whitfield, our new Administrator for SEND and Pupil Support Louise Hardy and Chris Reid, who is currently on supply supporting Geography who will join us in September as our new Geography teacher. We also welcome another big change for Simone Meades who has gained the position of full-time Year Team Manager, along with Jade Clarke who will be our part-time Year Team Manager, both of whom will replace Sam Wright who is moving on to new adventures, a bit like myself!

Our learning focus this term has helped to re-energise most of our pupils and punctuality to both school and lessons has massively improved thanks to your support and clear sanctions at school. Teachers in all areas have said that they have noticed a marked improvement in engagement and lesson starts since the clamp down which will continue as part of our normal school routines.

I cannot help but be personally a little overwhelmed and somewhat saddened at my decision to leave Risedale this year but I know it is the right one. I have had 8 wonderful years and I do feel torn that I am leaving a community that has supported me throughout. I know I will dearly miss our school. However, I have no doubt that I will have more to say in the next Headteacher's Letter as that end date for me approaches. But rest assured, my focus will remain fully on supporting every child and member of staff at Risedale while I remain at the helm as your headteacher until the day I leave.

Wishing you and your family a pleasant half-term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

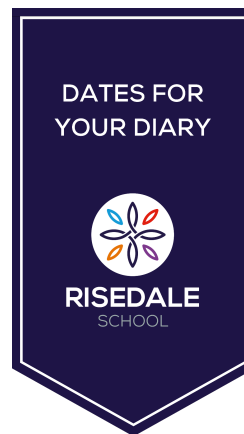


**Colin D. Scott**  
(Headteacher)



## Dates for Your Diary

27 - 31 May	Half-Term Holiday ( <a href="#">Y11 Revision Sessions</a> )
Monday 3 June	Start of Summer term 2 (pupils return)
3 - 7 June	Y10 Work Experience Week
15 - 16 June	DofE Bronze Expedition
Monday 17 June	Y10 Exams Start (ends 05/06/24)
Wednesday 19 June	Y10 QE Sixth Form Taster Day
	Y6 Welcome Evening
Thursday 20 June	Y7 Consultation Evening from 3:30 pm
Monday 24 June	Area Athletics Championships
Wednesday 26 June	GCSE National Contingency Day
Friday 28 June	Y11 Prom
Monday 1 July	Y6 Transition Time (ends Wednesday 3 July)
Tuesday 2 July	Y10 Darlington College Taster Day
Wednesday 3 July	Sports Day (Reserve Friday 5 July)
Friday 19 July	Last Day of Term

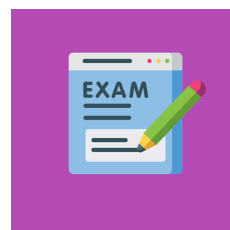


>> Visit our website for a detailed list of [Calendar & Term Dates](#) and more [Exam Information](#).

## Y11 GCSE Exams and Revision

The GCSE exams are now well underway, and we know this can be a stressful time for both pupils and parents.

We believe that being in school provides the best possible environment for our Year 11 pupils to excel. **Therefore, all Year 11 pupils are expected to attend school every day and remain in school until 3pm (even if they do not have an exam in the afternoon).** To ensure everyone is aware of our ongoing expectations for attendance and the support available, we kindly ask you to read the following letter:



>> ["Year 11 Attendance & Support During the GCSE Exam Period"](#) (Sent 22/05/2024).

Our school website's [Examination Information](#) page remains a valuable resource throughout the exam period. You'll find the official timetable for all written GCSE and vocational course exams (Summer 2024) along with other helpful materials to support your child during this crucial stage.

All pupils have been given a paper copy of their personal GCSE timetable however we do encourage you to go over the exam schedule with your child so they feel prepared for the days/weeks ahead. This information is also available to parents/carers on [MCAS](#).

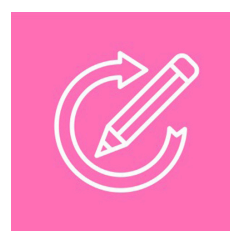
### Boost Your Exam Performance with Extra Revision Sessions!

For subjects with upcoming exams, our dedicated teachers are still running revision sessions. These sessions provide valuable support to help pupils solidify their understanding and boost their confidence. Please encourage your child to attend as many sessions as possible both during the school day, after school and throughout the **May Half Term Holiday**. Dates and times are live and may be updated, so check back regularly:

- [May Half-Term Revision Sessions Timetable](#).
- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#). Lunchtimes and after school.

### National Contingency Days:

- Thursday 6th June - PM
- Thursday 13th June - PM
- Wednesday 26th June - All Day



The awarding bodies have designated these dates as 'national contingency' sessions for changes to examinations in the event of any national or local disruption to examinations. **Pupils must be available up to and including the final date in case of any rescheduling.**

Pupils do not need to remain in school after their final examination. If they have an exam in the morning we would expect them to leave the school site after their last exam. Please get in touch should this cause any issues, and we will of course look to support you.

For any inquiries regarding exams or revision, please contact Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at [Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk).

## Year 11 Prom

**Ticket Payment Deadline:** If you haven't already done so, **please pay the remaining £15.00 for your child's Prom ticket by Saturday 27th May** (total cost £25.00 per pupil). All monies must be paid via ParentPay at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com). Parents of any pupils who did not meet the Prom Passport criteria have now been notified.

- **Prom Date:** Friday 28th June 2024
- **Venue:** The Blackwell Grange Hotel, Darlington
- **Arrival Time:** 6:30 pm (for photos and mingling with mocktails)
- **Event Time:** 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
- **Early Departure:** If any pupil wishes to leave the Prom before 11pm we can contact parents using the phone numbers on the school system, but their approval is required for a pupil to leave.

## Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

All Year 11 Risedale pupils are invited to a special Leavers' Assembly taking place at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 19th June 2024. Refreshments will be provided. Please remind your child to bring their shirt for signing.

If you have any questions regarding the Prom or the Leavers' Assembly, please contact Ms Benson at [Benson.A@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Benson.A@risedale.org.uk)

## PE Kit, Trainers & Football Boots Needed

Year 11 parents/carers,

Before your child leaves Risedale, please donate any unwanted items of PE kit that you no longer need. All PE kit of any size will be gratefully received including trainers and football boots.

This request also extends to parents of pupils in Y7-10 if your child has grown out of their kit - please donate it to Risedale.

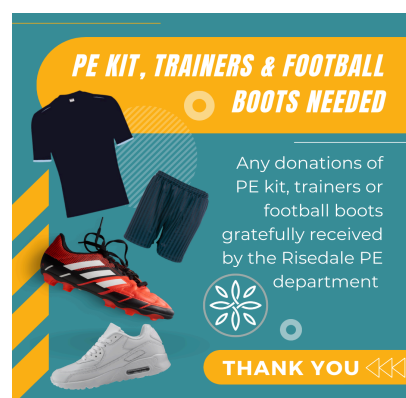
Thank you for supporting the school,

**Miss Brierley - Head of PE** [brierley.s@risedale.org.uk](mailto:brierley.s@risedale.org.uk)

## Chromebook Charging Habits

We kindly ask for your support in reminding all pupils to charge their Chromebooks each evening. A full charge only takes 90 minutes and ensures your child has a worry-free day of learning.

We've noticed some pupils, particularly in KS3, forgetting to charge their Chromebooks over the weekend. To avoid disruptions, please encourage them to develop a nightly charging routine.





For safety reasons, pupils should not bring their chargers to school. Carrying them in rucksacks can damage both the charger and Chromebook.

As a reminder, the [Chromebook Agreement](#), signed by both parents and pupils, outlines the expectation of nightly charging and safekeeping in protective cases at school.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Temporary Admin Team Office Hours

A reminder about our temporary Admin Team office hours during the GCSE exams.

**New Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM (weekdays).**

Our team remains available to answer your questions via telephone on 01748 833501 and via email at [enquiries@risedale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk) during these hours.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. We will return to our usual office hours of 8:30AM - 4:30PM once the exams have finished.

## Overdue & Missing Library Books

Our school library is missing over 100 books! These valuable resources are essential for our pupils' learning and enjoyment, and replacing them creates an unexpected expense. To encourage the return of overdue and missing books, we send daily reminders via email to pupils and Form Tutors follow this up every half-term.

However, if a lost book isn't returned, a £5 charge (as per the Charging Policy) will be necessary to ensure the library remains stocked with the materials that benefit our pupils most. Our Librarian, Miss Sellers, is always happy to accept an alternative, suitable book or a replacement book.

Please use the half-term holiday to search for any missing books and ask your child to return them to the library. Thank you for your support.



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## Community Messages from External Providers

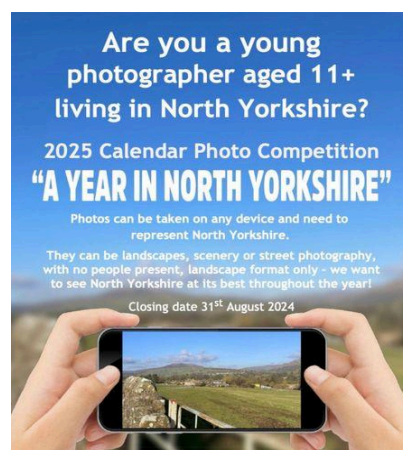
### Calling all Risedale School photography enthusiasts!

North Yorkshire Youth is running a photo competition to create their 2025 Calendar, and they're looking for talented young photographers like YOU to capture the essence of North Yorkshire!

Think you can take stunning photos of landscapes, street art, or anything that shows off our amazing region? Then this is your chance to SHINE!

Submit your entries by 31st August 2024 by emailing your photos to [stef@nyy.org.uk](mailto:stef@nyy.org.uk)

Imagine seeing your work displayed on a calendar for the whole year! This is an incredible opportunity to showcase your talent and creativity. So grab your camera, get out there, and start snapping!





## School Immunisations – Additional Clinics

Additional clinics are being run throughout North Yorkshire for young people in Year 8 and above who have missed their HPV, DTP and Men ACWY vaccinations. MMR catch-up vaccinations are also available for children aged 5-16 years.



>> You can access a list of venues/dates/times [HERE](#).

- <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/td-ipv-vaccine-3-in-1-teenage-booster>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/menacwy-vaccine>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine>

## Developing Inclusive Communities: SEND Inclusion Survey

North Yorkshire Council is aiming to get a broad consensus on the essential elements and format for a SEND Inclusive Practice Framework. The Framework will aim to guide teachers and school staff in reviewing inclusive practice in their school, to ensure schools can create learning environments that are inclusive to all children and to give a common set of expectations about what a school could be doing to meet the needs of children aged 5-16 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. All nine questions are optional, and all responses are anonymous. Please do not include any details that could identify you, your school, children or anyone else.



>> Link to SEND Inclusion Survey for Parents: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/a48aen>

If you need to contact anyone regarding this survey, please email [SENDInclusionSurvey@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:SENDInclusionSurvey@northyorks.gov.uk)

## FREE Mental Health Webinars from Charlie Waller

Whether you're someone who looks after children and young people – as a parent, carer, or educator – or a young person or someone who is interested in mental health, Charlie Waller has a webinar for you.

If you feel you've missed out on any previous webinars from Charlie Waller all you need is this password – **MHAW24** – and you can catch up with their five most popular recordings to date! These will only be available until the end of May – so make sure you don't miss them.



>> Access previous webinars [HERE](#).

You can browse new webinars [HERE](#) or jump to a specific topic using the links below:

1. [Connect before you correct: communication styles and emotion coaching](#)
2. [Digital wellbeing: managing screentime and social media](#)
3. [Levelling up: talking to young people about gambling and gaming](#)
4. [Talking mental health: highly sensitive, neurodiverse young people](#)
5. [Being autistic, living a good life: helping ourselves and others](#)
6. [Why relationships are key for young peoples' wellbeing and how to develop them](#)
7. [Talking mental health: open conversations with friends and family](#)
8. [Young people, self-esteem and self-confidence](#)

## Healthier Together

Healthier Together is a new NHS website to help parents and carers make the best decisions about their children's health. Our advice is consistent and high-quality, developed by local health professionals.

You'll find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including advice on what 'red-flag' signs to look out for, where to seek help if required and how long your child's symptoms are likely to last.

**>> Visit the [Healthier Together](#) website today and whenever you're worried about your child.**

## The Go-To Website

The Go-To website provides information and signposting to services, for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, in North Yorkshire. They have created a range of Go-To resources for schools, young people, parents/carers and professionals to help you find the right help and support to stay well, whatever is going on in your life.

**>> Visit [The Go-To](#) website to find out more.**

**>> For more [Health and Wellbeing](#) advice you can also visit the dedicated page on our school website.**

## Fostering North Yorkshire

### Have you ever thought about fostering?

Fostering North Yorkshire is seeking compassionate individuals to join their fostering family and make a lasting impact on a child's life. Could you be that person?

Every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment to thrive. Fostering North Yorkshire offers various fostering opportunities to suit your lifestyle, from short-term placements to caring for siblings or teenagers. Their dedicated team will ensure the perfect match for you and your family.

Many children haven't had a positive family experience, but foster carers can change that. They provide a listening ear, a supportive environment, and a positive influence that shapes a child's life for the better. Could you be the role model they need?

The first step is to contact the team for an informal chat where you can ask any questions you may have and find out more about fostering.

- **Website:** [www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering)
- **Email:** [fostering@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@northyorks.gov.uk)
- **Call the 24-hour enquiry line:** 01609 534 654 (leave a message and they'll call you back).



## North Yorkshire Council:

### Support Sessions for Parents/Carers of Neurodiverse Children

Are you a parent or caregiver of a neurodiverse child (diagnosed or awaiting assessment)? NYC Children and Families Service Early Help is hosting three online support sessions to help you navigate your journey.

You can access the links from the poster and join the sessions here >> [NeurodiversitySessions.pdf](#)

## The Garrison ASSIST Project:

### Supporting Your Neurodivergent Children: Free Workshops for Service Families.

Join the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP) for informative sessions tailored to supporting neurodivergent children in Armed Forces families.

#### Choose your session:

- Monday 3rd June (6:30 PM - 8:00 PM) at Wavell Community Primary School
- Tuesday 4th June (1:30 PM - 3:00 PM) at Cambrai Primary School

Kieran Rose, the presenter, is currently working with the Garrison ASSIST Project to explore the unique challenges faced by neurodivergent children of Armed Forces families, especially autistic children. Kieran is autistic himself and a parent to three autistic children. He will host an informal, relaxed and supportive session where you can come along, listen and ask questions with a view to building your knowledge of how best to support your neurodivergent children.

>> To book your FREE places, please email [garrisonassistproject@gmail.com](mailto:garrisonassistproject@gmail.com) and include the name(s) of the schools your child(ren) attend.

## ONLINE SESSIONS For Parents/ Carers **UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS**

For parents/carers of neurodiverse children  
(with a diagnosis or awaiting assessment)



Presented by  
NYC Children and  
Families Service:  
Early Help

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 18:00 – 19:00**

Supporting you to support your child through  
shutdown, meltdown and crisis

[Click here to join the session](#)

**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 18:00 – 19:00**

Supporting you and your child with their  
emotional and sensory regulation

[Click here to join the session](#)

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 18:00 – 19:00**

Supporting you and your child with sleep

[Click here to join the session](#)

For more information contact

[candfhubhambleton@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:candfhubhambleton@northyorks.gov.uk) or

[candfhubrichmond@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:candfhubrichmond@northyorks.gov.uk)



The Garrison  
ASSIST Project

Supporting your neurodivergent children

Workshop for parents



Kieran Rose  
The Autistic  
Advocate  
Est. 2017

Monday 3rd June at Wavell Community Primary school

At 18:30—20:00

OR

Tuesday 4th June at Cambrai Primary School

at 13:30—15:00

To book your FREE places, please email [garrisonassistproject@gmail.com](mailto:garrisonassistproject@gmail.com)  
and include the name(s) of the schools your child(ren) attend



## About Kieran Rose



Autistic author and researcher Kieran Rose has a career background in SEND education and public sector service delivery for Autistic adults. He is the parent of three Autistic children, all of whom have varying support needs.

Kieran has delivered his own specialist Autism training focused on deconstructing and reframing the autism narrative to thousands of Professionals across the UK and Internationally; provides private consultancy to organisations and services across the world; and is a faculty member for the US-based Occupational Therapy charity: The STAR Institute.

He has published a number of groundbreaking academic papers on Autistic Masking (in both adults and children and young people); Interpersonal Victimisation; and Intimate Partner Violence; and has a deep interest in the relationship between stigma and identity development in Autistic people. He is producing more research in these areas and others, including Monotropism and Identity; and experiences of suicide.

Kieran has guest-lectured on Psychology, Social Care, and Education at Undergraduate and Masters level, alongside Autism and Learning Disability specific courses at Universities across the UK; and is a peer reviewer for leading autism journals: 'Autism', and 'Autism in Adulthood'. He holds the title Honorary Research Associate with the University of Sunderland and is an associate researcher of GRIERSON University College London. He was a lead trainer and content creator for the NHS England-funded National Autism Trainer Programme, focused on training inpatient and community based clinical settings and services.

With leading autism researcher and Developmental Psychologist Dr Amy Pearson, he is the co-Author of the highly acclaimed book: 'Autistic Masking: Understanding identity management and the role of stigma'.

Kieran's work can be found at [www.theautisticadvocate.com](http://www.theautisticadvocate.com)







# Dementia Friendly Cafe

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Join us for the Dementia Friendly Cafe, a collaboration between Carers Plus Yorkshire and Dementia Forward at Colburn Community Hub Cafe.

This is open to anyone living with memory loss and their caregivers. Here you can enjoy your lunch, giving you time together out of the home in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Join us for a warm and accepting atmosphere, where you can connect with others, get advice and support if desired, and enjoy a delicious meal together. No booking required.

*E: [naoutreach@carersplus.net](mailto:naoutreach@carersplus.net) | T: 01609 780872*

*This group runs on 01/05, 05/06, 03/07 & 07/08 from 1pm to 3pm*

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**carers  
plus**  
YORKSHIRE

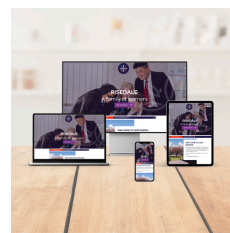
Colburn Community Hub,  
54 Colburn Ln,  
Catterick Garrison,  
DL9 4LZ

**Dementia  
Forward**  
Care and Support for Life

# 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.



## Online Parental Engagement

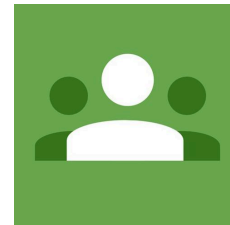
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see the latest available information. Parents can access MCAS via the website or can use the MCAS App which can be downloaded from the app/play store.



When your child joins Risedale you will be sent details to allow you to access your account. If you have forgotten your Parent Login details click [HERE](#).

## Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian' simply complete this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



## Equipment and Chromebooks

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

- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case.
- A pencil case containing the following:  
A **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**, pencil, ruler and eraser to enable pupils to take pride in their presentation (P.R.O.U.D) and earn Epraise points.
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).

<b>P</b>	Write in <b>PEN</b> : black for writing, <b>red</b> for <u>underlining</u> and <b>blue</b> for <b>DIRT</b>
<b>R</b>	Use a <b>RULER</b> for all tables, grids and graphs
<b>O</b>	<b>OOPS!</b> Draw a single line with a ruler through <del>mistakes</del>
<b>U</b>	<b>UNDERLINE</b> titles etc. with a <b>red</b> pen and a ruler
<b>D</b>	Only use a <b>pencil</b> to <b>DRAW</b> with

Always be  
**PROUD**  
of your work