



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

July 2026





RISEDALE KIT Newsletter

KIT Newsletter Issue 49: July 2026

Dear parents/carers and pupils,



As the summer term comes to a close, it is important to take a moment to reflect on how we have lived out our vision and values.

Opportunities for our pupils to be their **BEST** and show **resilience** have been frequent, as this newsletter demonstrates. Ways to participate in the arts, sport and extend their knowledge of the world and people have been abundant throughout the year. We are proud of all our pupils' achievements and of the **relationships** they have built with staff and each other. Many pupils have stepped up this year to take more **responsibility** for their learning, attendance and behaviour, with the majority attending school well, on time, with equipment and full uniform,

focusing on learning and interacting **respectfully** with others. For those who have slipped up or find organisation more challenging, we now have our 'One-Stop' uniform and equipment shop.

Two of the biggest highlights of the term were arts-based. The school production: 'Magic & Mischief' allowed the cast and crew to entertain audiences for a two-night run, making us laugh and showing dramatic skill. Celebrated singer Roderick Williams' workshop was incredible, inspiring pupils to work hard and practice regularly if they have musical ambition. Another highlight of the summer was the Year 11 Prom, which really did show our mature Year 11s at their **BEST** - a fantastic night was had by all!

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 the new academic year brings yet more opportunities for our pupils to shine and be the **BEST** versions of themselves.



Kindest regards,

Mrs Lucy Greenwood - Headteacher

#TeamRisedale  #BEST

RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS

Swaledale Festival Brings World-Class Musicians to Risedale 🎵

On Thursday, 4th June, the Risedale School Main Hall was transformed into a concert venue as we welcomed two of the UK's most celebrated classical performers: baritone Roderick Williams and accompanist Susie Allan. Arranged in partnership with the Swaledale Festival, the hour-long interactive performance brought together all Year 7 pupils, selected Year 8 & 9 pupils, and GCSE Music pupils from Year 10.

Embracing our **"Family of Learners"** ethos, the audience expanded beyond our own walls to include 47 young pupils from Hipswell Church of England Primary School alongside several guests from the local community.

While classical music might not feature on the daily playlists of many young people, pupils were introduced to the music through the school's Character Education programme during tutor time earlier in the week. The response from the pupils was fantastic, they demonstrated outstanding **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** during the performance, listening intently before driving a lively and inquisitive Q&A session at the end.



At the conclusion of the afternoon, Susie and Roderick were presented with flowers as a token of our appreciation. The event gave everyone the space to build new **RELATIONSHIPS** through art, inspiring attendees to be the **BEST** version of themselves. Reflecting on the visit, Senior Teacher for the Expressive Arts Faculty, Mrs Lumsdon, said:

"We are so privileged to host artists of this calibre. It was wonderful to see our pupils rise to the occasion and embrace this world-class opportunity with such open minds. Music has a unique power to connect people, and having all the pupils singing along together was a truly magical moment that shows what our family of learners is all about. I am incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves."

Sowing the Seeds of Success: Year 10 Biology Investigation 🌱

Our Year 10 Triple Science Award pupils turned their focus to the living world, launching a fascinating investigation into plant life cycles.

The pupils were completely hands-on in the laboratory under the guidance of Ms Dunphy, investigating the precise environmental conditions required for seed germination. To understand exactly what triggers a dormant seed to wake up and start growing, the class explored the critical roles played by water, oxygen, and temperature.

Isolating the Variables: Scientific inquiry requires high levels of control and precision. By carefully isolating each environmental variable across distinct test environments, the pupils were able to set up a rigorous experiment to analyse which factors are absolutely essential for growth. They worked meticulously to ensure their test environments were perfectly controlled, demonstrating excellent scientific technique.

This practical was a brilliant showcase of our BEST values at Risedale:

💙 **RESPONSIBILITY:** Pupils took full ownership of setting up their test environments, ensuring that variables were isolated precisely so as not to ruin the validity of their data.

💜 **RESPECT:** Working safely and considerately in a busy biology lab, pupils respected both the specialist equipment and the ideas of their lab partners.

💛 **RESILIENCE:** Fine-tuning multiple test environments requires patience and close attention to detail. The pupils didn't rush, ensuring everything was set up to the highest standard.

❤️ **RELATIONSHIPS:** Collaboration was key to setting up this multi-variable experiment, with pupils working together seamlessly to ensure every scenario was covered.

Well done to Ms Dunphy's Year 10 biologists for showing such great teamwork and fantastic scientific inquiry during this practical lesson!



Risedale Pupils and Staff Shine at the Race for Life! 🏃🏆🌟

The Risedale Family was out in full force at Darlington South Park on the morning of Sunday, 7th June, bringing incredible energy, determination, and community spirit to this year's Race for Life.

Caitlin Digs Deep to Complete Race for Life 5k Challenge 🏃🏆🌟

Risedale pupil Caitlin Arling (8Gückel) took a major stride forward in her personal "14 things before 14" journey by completing the 5km Race for Life. Aiming to tick "earn a medal" off her bucket list, Caitlin demonstrated outstanding **RESPONSIBILITY** by turning her personal goal into a fundraising mission for a fantastic cause.

The event saw a massive, vibrant crowd gather for the start line. Dressed in her pink t-shirt and race number, Caitlin joined the sea of runners as part of the "A-Team". From the moment the horn blew, Caitlin remained entirely focused on the challenge ahead and gave it her absolute all.

Showing immense **RESILIENCE**, she dug deep and executed a brilliant sprint finish right at the end to cross the line triumphantly.



On Facebook, Cancer Research UK Race for Life said, *"Thank you so much for being part of the Race, Caitlin. We hope you had a fantastic time. ❤️"*

Caitlin's hard work was rewarded with a well-deserved finisher's medal, which she wore with a proud smile. Everyone at Risedale is incredibly proud to see Caitlin continually striving to be the **BEST** version of herself while building positive **RELATIONSHIPS** and supporting the wider community. We look forward to seeing which challenge she conquers next on her journey to 14!

#TeamGill Raises Over £1,500 in 10 Year Anniversary Tribute ❤️



There was also a fantastic turnout from current and former Risedale staff, who reunited at South Park to take part in the race as **#TeamGill**.

This year's run was deeply poignant, marking exactly 10 years since the group's first Race for Life in memory of beloved teacher Gill Harden. The team gave it their absolute all on the day, cheered on by a wonderful crowd of former pupils, family and friends.

A decade on from that first run, the generosity of the extended Risedale Family has blown everyone away all over again, with the team raising a phenomenal total of over £1,500 for Cancer Research UK.

Thank you all for showing what the Risedale Family is all about! ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Dalby Forest Wellbeing Festival 2026 🌈🌳

Risedale School's commitment to pupil wellbeing was on full display on Thursday, 11th June, as a group of enthusiastic pupils from Years 7 and 8 embarked on a memorable trip to the annual Dalby Forest Wellbeing Festival.

Accompanied by staff members Mrs Vizer and Mrs Deighton, the Risedale pupils joined fellow attendees from other North Yorkshire schools for a day brimming with activities designed to boost mental health, confidence, and positive identity. The day perfectly echoed Risedale's vision to support every pupil in becoming the **BEST** version of themselves, fostering a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment.

The festival provided a dynamic environment for growth and fun, though this year came with an extra challenge: the typical British weather! Despite a relentless downpour, the pupils threw themselves into a variety of engaging activities. They tackled an inflatable obstacle zone, participated in interactive workshops, and completed mini team-building challenges.

The highlight for many was once again the vibrant Colour Course. The pupils braved the elements to navigate the forest run, laughing as they were showered with brightly coloured powder paint that mixed with the raindrops.



Reflecting on the damp but brilliant experience, Mrs Vizer said: ***"It rained every second we were there, but we loved every minute. I'm so proud of #TeamRisedale - they really showed our school values and gave it their BEST!"***

By diving headfirst into the challenges, supporting one another through the downpours, and keeping their spirits high, the pupils perfectly demonstrated the Risedale core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

The Wellbeing Festival once again proved to be a resounding success, offering Risedale pupils a fantastic opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, strengthen their sense of community, and embrace the importance of looking after their mental and physical health. It was a day filled with laughter, teamwork, and invaluable life lessons, clearly demonstrating **#TeamRisedale** in action—even in the pouring rain!



DALBY FOREST WELLBEING FESTIVAL 2026



#TEAMRISEDALE



ART: Food Photography Competition 2026!

We are absolutely blown away by the incredible talent shown in our recent Art homework competition! Our pupils took on the challenge of 'food photography', experimenting with food styling to capture some fantastic shots. We were especially impressed by those who went 'above and beyond' to cook their own food for the task, really giving it their **BEST!** Safe to say, judging was a very tricky—and very hungry—affair!

ART: FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026

Y7

WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

1st PLACE - SOPHIE MORAGHAN
 2nd PLACE - AVA SIMS
 3rd PLACE - SOPHIA BEATTIE
 RUNNERS-UP: AYLA HALL AND PIPPA LAKE-BOLAND



Y8

WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

1st PLACE - ADAM CLARKE
 2nd PLACE - MARTYNA PASIK
 3rd PLACE - ALEAH PERKES
 RUNNERS-UP: AND KACEY CLARKE



Y9

WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

1st PLACE - ALEX DUNPHY
 2nd PLACE - WILLOW CURTIS
 3rd PLACE - CHARLIE SMITH
 RUNNERS-UP: MIA CASSIDY AND [redacted]



RUNNERS-UP.....





AYLA HALL AND PIPPA LAKE-BOLAND

RUNNERS-UP.....





MARTYNA PASIK ALEAH PERKES

RUNNERS-UP.....





WILLOW CURTIS CHARLIE SMITH

RUNNERS-UP.....



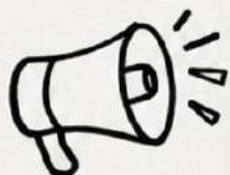

MIA CASSIDY AND [redacted]

PICTURE LIBRARY



A huge congratulations to our winners, runners-up, and every single pupil who entered, earning positive Bromcom points for their fantastic effort. **#RisedaleBESTArtist**

A massive thank you to our Art & Food Technician, Miss Priestley, who did a brilliant job downloading hundreds of photos, figuring out who was who, helping with the judging, and assembling the beautiful presentation slides.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE TO NEW YORK!



At Risedale School, we love celebrating the achievements of our former pupils. In this edition, we catch up with Grace Hall-Twist (Class of 2024), who is taking a massive leap this summer. From leading the Risedale Girls' Football Team to training as a Fire Cadet, Grace is now heading across the Atlantic to spend the summer as a Counsellor at Camp Blue Bay in New York, USA, through the Camp America programme! We spoke with Grace to hear all about her upcoming adventure.

MEET
GRACE

COUNSELLOR



QUICK-FIRE PROFILE

- YEARS AT RISEDALE:** 2019 – 2024
- CURRENT STUDIES:** Darlington College (Plumbing)
- RECENT MILESTONES:** Passed her driving test, former Fire Cadet Leader.
- SUMMER DESTINATION:** Camp Blue Bay, New York, USA

FAVORITE BOOK
IS CHARLIE AND
THE CHOCOLATE
FACTORY



FROM
CATTERICK GARRISON,
NORTH YORKSHIRE
ENGLAND



LIFE AT RISEDALE & BEYOND

Looking back at her time at Risedale, Grace remembers the support system fondly: "Food Technology and Sport Studies were the lessons I enjoyed the most. I felt supported and understood, which helped me stay confident."

That confidence grew through sports and community service. Alongside her PE teacher, Ms Brierley, Grace helped run the girls' football team. She also became a Fire Cadet Leader—an experience she credits with sharpening her leadership skills ahead of managing a busy camp full of young children.



WORDS OF WISDOM

For current Risedale pupils who might want to do something adventurous but feel too nervous, Grace has some simple advice:

“Just go for it. Step out of your comfort zone, even if you're doubting yourself or overthinking every little thing. I want people to know that you don't have to be the most confident person to do something big. I wasn't. But pushing myself has opened so many doors.”



THE BIG AMERICAN ADVENTURE

So, what exactly does her role look like? "Camp Blue Bay is a lot like the camps you see in films like 'The Parent Trap' or 'Camp Rock,'" Grace explains. "My role as a Camp Counsellor is to join in with the kids, help sort out any problems, and make sure they have the best experience possible. I'm especially looking forward to swimming in the lake and s'mores by the campfire!"

When asked what she would miss the most while travelling alone for the first time, her answer was immediate: "My dogs! I'm with them every day, so being away from them for a whole summer is definitely going to feel strange."



Everyone at Risedale School wishes Grace the absolute *best of luck* in New York! We can't wait to hear all about it when she returns to North Yorkshire to finish her plumbing course.





CLASS OF
2026
LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY



Class of 2026: Wishing Our Year 11 Leavers the Best of Luck!

Congratulations to our incredible Year 11 Class of 2026 on completing their GCSEs and reaching this fantastic milestone! We are immensely proud of the resilience and hard work they have shown throughout their time with the Risedale Family.

As a wonderful example of the strong bonds built here, check out tutor group 11Bennett holding up their personalised leaving gifts. Their tutor, Ms Bennett, bought the whole group Mr Men and Little Miss books tailored to reflect their individual personalities. What a brilliant, nostalgic, and meaningful way to say goodbye!

As all of our leavers take their next steps, we wish them the absolute best of luck — you will always be a part of Risedale, and we know you are going to achieve great things! 💙💜💛💖



Operation Ice Cream Delivers Sweet Treats to Every Risedale Pupil 🍦



The school grounds were filled with smiles on Monday, 15th June, as the famous British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) Operation Ice Cream van made a special visit to Risedale School.

The event was organised by Dr Ellis, Risedale's Service Pupil Manager, to celebrate Armed Forces Day this month. Because the service community is such a vital and cherished part of Risedale School, Dr Ellis and the school ensured that no one was left out, with every single pupil receiving a delicious ice cream completely free of charge.



The BFBS Operation Ice Cream van, which travels across the country to support military communities, proved to be an absolute hit as pupils and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine and the surprise treat.

Dr Ellis, Risedale's Service Pupil Manager, said: ***"Our service community is such an important part of Risedale School, so we wanted to make sure everyone was included. It has been wonderful to see the whole school come together today, and I am absolutely delighted that every single pupil was able to enjoy a free ice cream to celebrate Armed Forces Day this month."***

Year 10 Taster Day QE Sixth Form College 🎓

On Tuesday, 16th June 2026, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (QE) warmly welcomed Year 10 pupils for a highly successful and insightful Taster Day. This annual event, a key part of the school's Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme, provided pupils with a valuable and immersive glimpse into post-16 academic life, specifically exploring both A-level and vocational pathways.

Throughout the engaging day, pupils had the unique opportunity to interact directly with experienced college staff and step into the shoes of sixth-form college students. They participated in a diverse range of hands-on activities, diving into lessons such as Law, Business & Economics, English, Criminology, Psychology, Sociology, Politics, and Sport & Leisure. The immersive taster sessions truly brought learning to life, allowing pupils to test out blood pressure monitors in Health and Social Care, explore aviation safety and emergency gear in Travel and Tourism, collaborate on interactive workshops, and even sample some creative decision-making displays.

This firsthand experience was designed to offer crucial insights, helping them understand what a further education environment at QE genuinely entails and how it differs from their current Key Stage 4 studies. The ultimate aim was to demystify the transition, making the prospect of college life more tangible and exciting for the pupils.

Mrs Porritt, Risedale's Careers Coordinator, expressed her enthusiasm for the pupils' participation: *"I was incredibly impressed with our Year 10 pupils on their Taster Day. Their behaviour, engagement, and RESPECT were exemplary throughout the visit. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and listen to their discussions about the next steps on their CEIAG journey. Their active participation is so important as they will soon be navigating crucial decisions during the remainder of Year 10 and into Year 11, all of which are designed to prepare them for their future academic and career paths."*

The Taster Day serves as a vital component of the wider CEIAG programme, empowering pupils to make informed choices about their post-16 education. By experiencing the college atmosphere, exploring the campus, and engaging with actual course content firsthand, they are better equipped to consider their options and plan their academic futures with confidence.

A huge thank you to Mrs Harris, Mrs Niblett and Mr Metcalfe for accompanying the trip and supporting the pupils throughout the day. Our thanks also go to everyone at QE for hosting such a fantastic day—and well done, Year 10, you were a credit to the school!



Nature Watch at Risedale: Our Oystercatchers

Our resident family of four Eurasian Oystercatchers has been the ultimate talking point on the school grounds recently!

For several years, Risedale has played host to a nesting pair of these wonderful birds. Because Oystercatchers mate for life, live for decades, and love returning to the exact same spot, it's highly likely we are welcoming back the same Mum and Dad every summer.

This season's journey has been an absolute delight. It feels like just yesterday the two chicks looked like fluffy miniature T-Rexes perched on the sports hall roof, waiting to fledge. Now, they are nearly the size of their parents! You can still tell them apart, though, as the youngsters haven't quite grown into their signature long, bright orange beaks yet.

The car park and front lawn have become a daily training ground. The family is full of personality and incredibly vocal—their distinctive cries regularly draw the eyes of fascinated pupils right from their desks during lessons! Pupils have loved watching the two parents give a daily masterclass, demonstrating exactly how to prod and poke the ground for food while their shorter-beaked twins do their best to copy them.



Putting Our Climate Action Plan Into Practice



Their arrival links perfectly with a recent assembly on climate change led by Mr Sherwood (Head of Geography and the Humanities Faculty). He highlighted how Risedale is actively fighting for the environment on our own doorstep—spearheaded by our Facilities Manager, Mr Fox, Senior Science Technician, Mrs Newall, and the Eco Club, who are busy creating more designated wildlife areas across the school grounds.

This hands-on work goes hand in hand with our commitment to sustainability. You can read more about how Risedale is leading the way with our brand-new Climate Action Plan here: [Risedale Leads the Way with New Climate Action Plan](#) 



Thank you to all our pupils for being so respectful of their space as our favourite feathery neighbours learn the ropes, and to the Climate Action Team for making our school grounds a truly welcoming home for local nature!

🎭 Risedale Drama Club Triumphs with Spectacular Production of "Magic & Mischief"! ✨

The Risedale School Hall was transformed into an enchanted woodland setting this June as our talented Drama Club pupils completely wowed audiences with their fantastic summer production, "Magic & Mischief".

Inspired by William Shakespeare's classic comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the fast-paced, hilarious performance ran across two spectacular nights on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June 2026.



Audiences of all ages were thoroughly captivated as a chaotic group of characters accidentally unleashed a wave of unpredictable enchantments. To set things right, the characters had to learn to work together, resulting in a heartwarming adventure that proved the greatest magic of all is friendship.

🌟 Praise for the Cast and Crew

The production was a true showcase of the expressive arts thriving here at Risedale, demonstrating incredible dedication from everyone involved.

"Our pupils have poured their hearts, souls, and a little bit of theatrical wizardry into this production," said Ms Dunphy, Drama Club Director. *"From the incredible set designs to the brilliant comedic timing of our cast, 'Magic & Mischief' showcases the creativity thriving here at Risedale. We can't wait to share it with the community."*

"This was a thoroughly enjoyable production, and the cast were brilliant - they brought such energy to their characters", added Headteacher Mrs Greenwood. *"I am happy to say that I was lucky enough to experience both performing in school productions and directing them as a music teacher, and I know first-hand what joy,*

*confidence and excitement they bring to performers and audience members alike. Seeing our school values of **RESILIENCE** and **RELATIONSHIPS** shine through so brightly on stage has been wonderful."*

Behind the scenes, the production was supported by a massive team effort, with pupils managing technical cues, crafting scenery, and even organising three phenomenally successful cake sales earlier in the month to fund props and scripts. Showing true Risedale spirit, Year 11 pupil Charlotte Swift even returned to school the day after her official Leavers' Day to help paint the spectacular stage sets. Thanks to the fantastic hard work of the entire crew, the stage looked absolutely brilliant!

During the show's intermission, the excitement continued with refreshments and a nightly raffle, with all proceeds directly supporting the growth of our wonderful drama department.

🎨 **Fostering Creativity at Risedale**

The Risedale School Drama Club is dedicated to fostering creativity, confidence, and collaboration among pupils through the performing arts. By providing opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes, the club encourages pupils to explore self-expression and develop a lifelong appreciation for the theatre.

A massive thank you goes out to Ms Dunphy and Mrs Southworth-Gedye, our brilliant cast and crew, the staff who helped behind the scenes, and our wonderful community for filling the audience and supporting the arts. Our pupils truly showed what it means to be the **BEST** versions of themselves!

Pumbaa the Therapy Dog Brings Smiles to Risedale School 🐶

Tails were wagging at Risedale School on Tuesday, 23rd June, following a very special visit from a wonderful four-legged friend.

The school welcomed Pumbaa, a fully trained support dog from the national charity [Pets as Therapy](#), who was brought in by volunteer William. Pupils in the Risedale Centre had the unique opportunity to spend time interacting with Pumbaa in a dedicated, hands-on session.

The initiative was designed to provide powerful emotional, social, and sensory support from a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) perspective. Pupils benefited from the calming sensory experience of stroking Pumbaa, which helped lower anxiety, boost communication confidence with a non-judgmental listener, and give their self-esteem a wonderful lift.



The session was a resounding success, and both staff and pupils are incredibly grateful to Pumbaa, William, and Pets as Therapy for bringing so much joy and comfort to the school.

CLASS OF 2026 PROM



HALL GARTH
HOTEL DARLINGTON



Congratulations to the Class of 2026! Year 11 Prom 2026 🎓🎉

Risedale School's Year 11 pupils celebrated the end of an era in spectacular fashion on Friday 26th June at the Hall Garth Hotel in Darlington. The Class of 2026 dressed to impress for the highly anticipated annual Prom, enjoying a brilliant evening of celebration, style, and non-stop dancing.

A major highlight of the evening was the crowning of the 2026 Prom King and Queen, with the honours going to 🏆 **James Pollock and Alix Campbell** 🏆 amid cheers from their peers.

The event's success was made possible by the dedicated Risedale staff who organised the evening, alongside the hospitality team at the Hall Garth Hotel, who ensured the night was truly special for the departing year group. Pupils also enjoyed a photobooth experience provided by Double O Events, capturing fun keepsakes to remember the night.

Official photography for the evening was provided by Risedale's own Teacher of Design & Technology, Mrs Vzor (Kav Photography), who was on hand to capture all the magic of the event.

Reflecting on the celebration, Senior Teacher Mr Kirkbride praised the pupils and everyone involved in making the evening such a success:

"School staff extend a massive congratulations to the entire Class of 2026 for their achievements and their exemplary behaviour throughout the evening. It really was a night to remember. Congratulations to the Class of 2026!"

📷 [Click here to view and download high-res photos via Kav Photography](#) 📷

Tea, Cake, and a Great Cause: Pupils Host Charity Afternoon Tea 🍰🍵

On Sunday 28th June, Year 9 pupils Olivia and Rosie hosted a highly successful Charity Afternoon Tea at Colburn Village Hall, raising vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award.



The dedicated 14-year-old duo managed the entire event from start to finish. They baked a delicious spread of sandwiches, cakes, and scones, beautifully decorated the venue, and ran a fundraising raffle, all while working tirelessly to look after their guests. The event even welcomed a very special VIP guest: the newly elected Mayor of Colburn Town Council, Cllr Paul Anthony Towers.

Cllr Towers was full of praise for the pupils' hard work, sharing on social media: ***"The girls did a fantastic job; the sandwiches, cakes, and scones were delicious... Not an easy event to put on, and they are only 14! Massive well done to you both."***

Year 10 Pupils Explore Future Paths at Darlington College



On Tuesday 30th June, Risedale School's Year 10 pupils took an exciting step toward their futures by participating in a series of immersive taster sessions at Darlington College.

The event was designed to give pupils a hands-on preview of post-16 college life and help guide their upcoming application decisions. Pupils were given the independence to choose their own paths for the day, exploring a wide variety of practical subjects such as Fashion & Textiles, Catering, Sport and Construction, to name but a few.

The busy day saw Risedale pupils mixing with peers from three other local schools. Each pupil participated in two separate, 90-minute specialised sessions.

Careers Coordinator, Mrs Porritt, expressed immense pride in how the pupils conducted themselves.

"Our pupils represented Risedale brilliantly; in fact, I was incredibly proud of them," said Mrs Porritt. "It was wonderful to see the smiles on their faces as they came out of their taster sessions. Seeing that spark of excitement makes this job so worthwhile. You can see the moment the penny drops, and they realise, 'Wow, college applications are just around the corner, and it's time to start planning my future!'"



Risedale School extends a huge thank you to all the welcoming staff at Darlington College, as well as the dedicated Risedale staff whose support made this valuable experience possible for our Year 10 pupils.

Risedale Celebrates Two Fantastic Days of Year 6 Transition



Risedale School has officially welcomed its newest cohort of learners, as Year 6 pupils from across the community completed an action-packed two-day transition experience.

The two days gave the rising Year 7s a brilliant taste of secondary school life. Pupils threw themselves into engaging, hands-on lessons, sampled the superb daily school menu at break and lunchtimes, and made plenty of new friends during free time on the top yard.

Throughout their time on site, the pupils rose spectacularly to the "48-Hour Challenge," actively earning praise stamps from teachers by consistently demonstrating the core Risedale values: **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

The transition concluded on a high note with an uplifting Celebration Assembly. The entire year group came together to give a massive round of applause to all the pupils who had been nominated by teachers for standing out in their various subjects. Special recognition and prizes were also handed out to the top praise-stamp earners from each tutor group, celebrating those who truly went above and beyond to embody the school values.

A huge well done to the Class of 2031—you have been an absolute credit to yourselves and your primary schools, and we cannot wait to see you all properly in September!

Flamingo Land Ultimate Reward Trip! 🦩

On Tuesday, 7th July, 60 of our amazing pupils had a fantastic day out at [Flamingo Land Resort](#)! The sun was shining, and everyone had an absolute blast exploring the park, making brilliant memories, and sharing plenty of laughs together.

From screaming their way through adrenaline-pumping rollercoasters to visiting the incredible zoo animals—including lions, rhinos, and of course, the famous flocks of flamingos—there was so much for them to see and do. It truly was the ultimate day of fun!

This special trip was all about celebrating our pupils who have consistently shown the very best version of themselves this year, living out our core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS** through their top reward stamps and excellent behaviour. They set a wonderful example for our school family, and we are so proud of them.

A massive thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to organise and support the day to make it such a success! **#TeamRisedale** 💙💜💛❤️





🏆 Sports Day 2026 💙💜💛💖

This year's Sports Day was an absolute triumph, with pupils showcasing incredible talent and determination, leading to a thrilling back-to-back victory for **Pankhurst House** 💜!

What a fantastic Sports Day we had on Wednesday 8th July 2026! The spirit of the event was stronger than ever. As a true **Family of Learners**, we couldn't be prouder of how our pupils and staff came together to ensure everyone was supported to be the **BEST** version of themselves.

Our incredible staff worked tirelessly across the fields to run an amazing array of events, manage logistics, and keep the energy electric from the early morning crossings right through to the final presentation. Our wonderful SEND Team looked after our pupils brilliantly, ensuring the day was fully inclusive by providing alternative activities and a dedicated quiet area under the trees for those needing a calmer space to enjoy the day.

A special shout-out also goes to our brilliant Year 11 helpers, who showed great **RESPONSIBILITY** by returning to school to support the events and guide our younger pupils.

The true highlight of the day was the immense variety of sports on offer, giving every young person a chance to find a real sense of accomplishment. Pupils threw themselves into an exciting mix of activities, including the classic team Tug of War, the ultra-competitive House Football 5-a-side, and crowd-pleasing Football Dribbling and Penalty challenges. There was also a massive amount of fun and skill on display across the hilarious Zorb course, the Nerf Throw, the Tennis Challenge, and our amazing Cheerleading showcase, alongside traditional favourites like the Long Jump and high-stakes sprint finishes.

Throughout it all, Mr Hill, "DJ History", kept everyone informed and motivated as our resident announcer and entertainer, creating an unforgettable festival atmosphere.

A message from Head of PE, Mr Lawson: *"I am incredibly proud of all our pupils today. The standard of competition across such a huge variety of sports was fantastic, but what stood out the most was the outstanding sportsmanship and teamwork on display. Seeing everyone give 100% for their Houses while cheering each other on is exactly what #TeamRisedale is all about. Well done to everyone!"*

Our pupils showed immense pride in their school, demonstrating our core values of **RESPECT** and **RESILIENCE** at every single station—pushing through tough challenges, celebrating each other's successes, and learning from mistakes. The sidelines were full of empathy, kindness, and healthy **RELATIONSHIPS** as everyone cheered on their friends, ensuring every young person embodied what it means to be a thriving part of our **Risedale Family**.

Congratulations to Pankhurst House 💜 - your perseverance and commitment truly paid off to keep the trophy for another year. Thank you to the kitchen team for the refreshments, our Admin team and first aiders for keeping us safe, and absolutely everyone who took part to make the day a spectacular celebration of our **#TeamRisedale** spirit 💙💜💛💖.



Connecting with the Global Forces Community Through STEM! 🌍✨



On Monday, 13th July, our Year 7 Service pupils stepped up to the microphone as Producer and Presenter Chris Kaye from BFBS, the armed forces broadcaster, visited our school to record them. This exciting initiative connects military families worldwide through fun, bite-sized Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) education facts recorded by our very own pupils.

The "Summer School" feature starts on the first week of the summer holidays on the BFBS Catterick Breakfast Show! Tune in Monday to Friday at 8:15 AM to hear their daily lessons on 106.9 FM in the garrison, by asking your smart speaker to "play BFBS Catterick", or by listening on the free BFBS app and online at www.bfbs.com/radio/stations/bfbs-catterick

Opportunities like this are a wonderful way for our Service children to build confidence while connecting directly with the international military community.

"It was great to see our pupils growing in confidence," said Dr. Ellis, Service Pupil Manager. *"Thank you to BFBS for the opportunity to connect with the wider military community."*

Excellent work, Year 7. We can't wait to hear your voices on the airwaves this summer!

🎈 Mega Inflatables Reward Session 🎈

On Tuesday 14th July, we celebrated our amazing pupils with an action-packed day of fun, laughter, and plenty of bounce!

Our incredible PE department hosted sessions throughout the day, making sure every single year group and every child got their turn to tackle the ultimate inflatable lineup:



- 🏃 **The Giant Assault Course** – Speed, stamina, and lots of sliding!
- 💪 **Gladiator Duels** – Testing balance, timing, and friendly rivalry.
- 🤼 **Sumo Suits** – Generating the biggest laughs of the day!

🏆 **Special Shoutout to our Lunchtime Golden Ticket Winners!** 🏆 Lunchtime featured an exclusive extra session for our attendance champions. These "Golden Ticket" winners were the first 50 pupils through the school gates the morning after the last England football match. As a reward for their fantastic commitment, they got a well-deserved second turn to dominate the courses!



A massive thank you to our Head of PE, Mr Lawson, for coordinating such a smooth, high-energy day, and well done to all our pupils for bringing the best attitude and energy. What a brilliant way to celebrate you all!

KS3 Celebration Assemblies: Rounding off a Brilliant Year! 🎉

As we approach the end of the academic year, it has been a fantastic week of celebration at Risedale, marking the hard work, growth, and commitment of our Key Stage 3 pupils. Our Year 7, 8, and 9 recognition assemblies were a wonderful opportunity to gather as a school family and reward those who consistently give their **BEST**.

🌟 Living our BEST Values

At Risedale, our core values are at the heart of everything we do. We were incredibly proud to present awards to pupils who have acted as outstanding role models this term by demonstrating **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE** and positive **RELATIONSHIPS** 💙💜💛❤️.

★ Achievement Stamp Superstars

We also celebrated our "Top Earners"—the pupils who have accumulated the most achievement stamps over this final half-term. These awards highlight the day-in, day-out consistency, effort, and focus that these pupils bring to their lessons and right across the school community. They set a brilliant example for their peers!

🎊 Special Shout-outs and Summer Celebrations

The assemblies concluded with our special shout-outs for those individual pupils who have truly gone the extra mile and made a lasting impression on their teachers. To top off the celebrations, our deserving winners were delighted to collect their well-earned prizes.

It has been an incredibly proud final term for the Risedale Family. Huge congratulations to all our winners for their dedication, hard work, and positive attitudes. We hope everyone has a fantastic, safe, and restful summer break!

Mrs Davies BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS3



Year 10 GCSE Artists Capture Inspiration on Whitby Trip

Risedale School's GCSE Art pupils took their learning outside the classroom on Wednesday 15th July, embarking on an inspiring photography trip to the historic coastal town of Whitby.



Led by Head of Art, Ms Westwood, and accompanied by school staff, Mrs Deighton and Miss Priestley, the Year 10 pupils spent the day exploring the town to capture primary source photographs for their GCSE coursework. The trip is a vital part of their current unit, which requires them to practically investigate themes of their choice, including 'Food', 'Coast', and 'Streets'.



Whitby's rich visual contrast provided the perfect backdrop for the young artists. From the dramatic, sweeping coastal landscapes and historic architecture to the bustling streets, vibrant arcade lights, and classic kitsch seaside sweet stalls, there was no shortage of creative inspiration.

Ms Westwood, Head of Art, was delighted with how the day went:

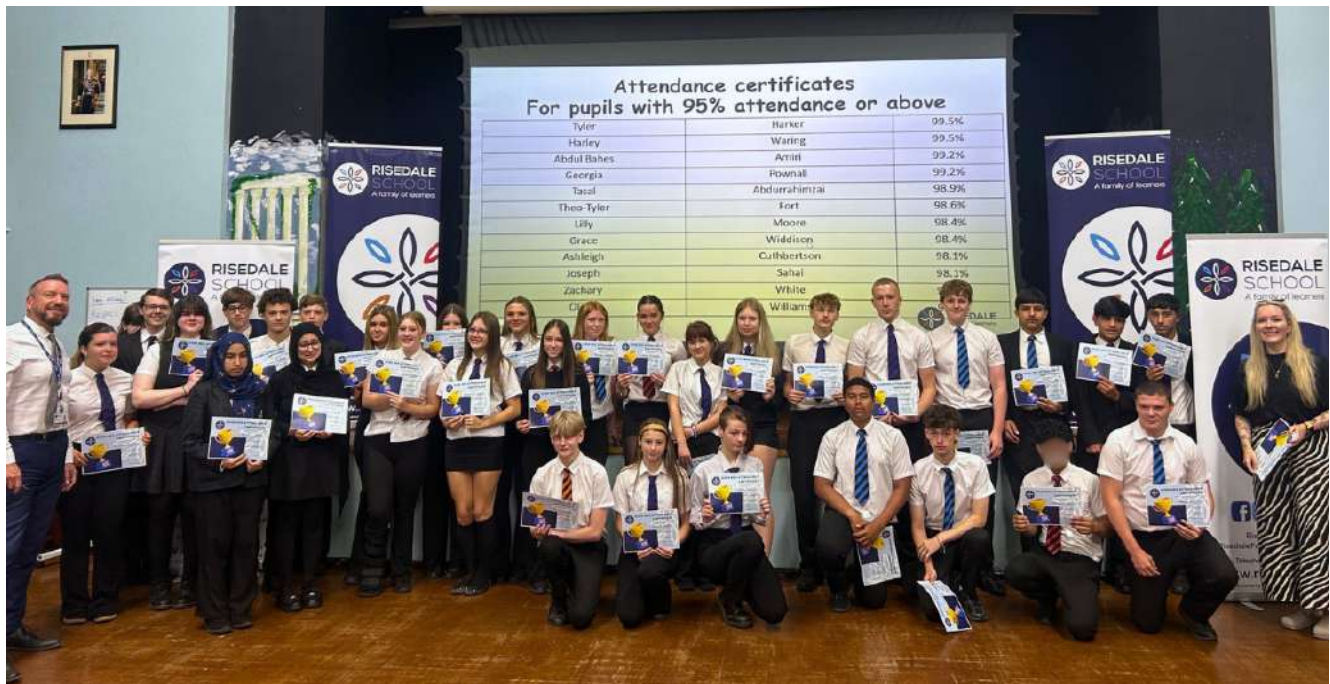
"Whitby is such a vibrant town with a unique mix of nature, history, and contemporary culture. The pupils did a fantastic job of exploring the streets, looking at the world

through a creative lens, and capturing some brilliant photographs. I can't wait to see how they develop these images into their individual projects back in the classroom."

Please Note: In accordance with our school's [Mobile Phone Policy](#), pupils were granted special permission to use their phones strictly as cameras to gather visual references for their art coursework.



Year 10 Celebration Assembly 🏆🎉



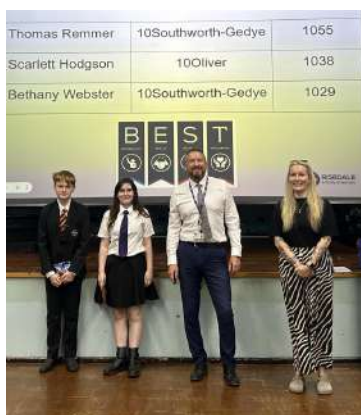
On Thursday, 16th July, it was the turn of our Year 10s to take the spotlight! We gathered to celebrate the fantastic hard work, progress, and commitment shown by our pupils as they wrap up their first year of Key Stage 4.

We are so proud of everyone, with huge congratulations going to all our winners who were recognised for:

★ **Top Achievement Stamps:** For their fantastic day-in, day-out effort and focus both in class and right across the school community.

👏 **Living our BEST Values:** For acting as superb role models and demonstrating **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE** and positive **RELATIONSHIPS** ❤️💜💛❤️.

★ **Celebrating Excellent Attendance:** Congratulations to all those pupils who have shown incredible dedication to their learning by being in school, on time, every day, truly living our attendance motto: ★ **Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!** ★



★ **Well done to all our Year 10 superstars!** ★

Keep up the amazing work as you head towards Year 11!

Mr Kirkbride Senior Lead KS4 and Mrs Vizor BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS4

Risedale Pupils Shine on Stage at The Georgian Theatre 🎭



Huge congratulations to three of our talented Risedale pupils who took to the stage this week with The Georgian Youth Theatre, Richmond, in their stunning production of "Back to Oz"!

Skye Murray, Skai Nicholson and Alex Dunphy lit up the stage in this bold reimagining of Oz — a land in crisis, with a cracked Yellow Brick Road and a smoke-choked Emerald City, as a brave young cast fought to restore magic and hope to a world scarred by industry and climate change.

The singing, the acting, the sheer stage presence – all three were absolutely outstanding and did Risedale proud!

We are so lucky to have such incredible performing talent among our pupils. Well done, all of you — we can't wait to see what you do next!

Rewarding Our Attendance Positive Behaviour Superstars! 🍕 🎬

To celebrate the last two days of term, we hosted some incredible rewards!

On Thursday, 16th July, 45 pupils headed out on our special cinema reward trip:

- ✨ 16 achieved a flawless 100% attendance and zero lates all year, bringing a buddy along!
- ✨ The rest achieved an amazing 99% attendance—missing no more than a single day since September.

Meanwhile, back at school, our top-performing tutor groups with the **BEST** attendance won a massive pizza lunch celebration! 🏆 🍕



On Friday, 17th July, the rewards continued in school with a special movie screening in the hall for 115 fantastic pupils who achieved under 15 negatives all year! 🎬 🍿

We are so incredibly proud of the dedication, hard work, and positive attitude our pupils have shown from September 2025 right through to July 2026. What a way to wrap up the school year! Keep shining, everyone! ☀️



🏆 House Competition Winners 2026 - **TURING!** 💙💜💛💖

We are delighted to announce the results of this year's House System competition. After a closely fought competition, it gives us great pleasure to declare **Turing House** 💖 the 2026 Risedale School House Champions!

The final House Point totals are as follows:

- **1st Turing** 💖 **with 72623 Reward Stamps**
- **2nd Seacole** 💛 **with 72189 Reward Stamps**
- **3rd Pankhurst** 💜 **with 69965 Reward Stamps**
- **4th Attenborough** 💙 **with 64454 Reward Stamps**

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

🏆 Attendance Champions: Summer Term 2 Winners!

At Risedale, every day counts. As we wrap up the year, we are incredibly proud of everyone living our attendance motto: ★ **Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!** ★

A massive, special shout-out to the incredible pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the entire academic year! To not miss a single day from September to July is an outstanding achievement. You are true role models! We also want to celebrate all pupils with 100% attendance this term, alongside those who have shown fantastic improving attendance. Your hard work and dedication to turning things around are brilliant!

☀️ Weekly Champions & The Grand Winners: **7Shergold!**

Throughout Summer Term 2, we loved celebrating our weekly tutor group winners for their combined commitment to the **RISEDALE FAMILY**.

But a huge, ultimate congratulations goes to **7Shergold!** By winning the Attendance Cup an impressive 18 times, they have secured the most victories of the entire school year. What a fantastic example to set!

A heartfelt thank you to all of our pupils, parents, carers, and staff for supporting great attendance this year. We couldn't do it without you.



Have a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer break.
We can't wait to see you all refreshed and ready in September!

Well done #TeamRisedale 💙💜💛💖



RISEDALE
A family of learners