



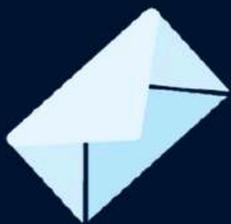
# RISEDALE

A family of learners

## Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

February 2026





### Dear parents/carers and pupils,

There is so much to celebrate from the last half-term! It was amazing to finish on a high with so many pupils going on the cinema visit in recognition of their excellent attendance - a good day was definitely had by all!

We are keen to keep the momentum going with our regular attendance rewards, as this has had a noticeable impact, and with more pupils attending every day comes a greater likelihood of school success. We know from our achievement data that pupils who attend well do well in their qualifications - the link is simple and clear. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, particularly for our Year 11 families; being here consistently in the lead-up to the exams will impact positively on your child's outcomes.



As always, I am proud of our pupils' achievements and the effort that many of them put into representing the school - this could be in sport, on stage, with our primary peer reading initiative, or in the community. However, I am also proud of their achievements in the classroom, and you can see some glimpses into the curriculum and learning on the pages below.

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 this 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**

## 🏆 New Attendance Rewards Programme

Looking back at the first half of the Spring Term, the Risedale Family has truly embraced our new attendance motto: ★ **"Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!"** ★ Following the energetic launch assemblies led by Senior Teacher Mrs Cox, it has been fantastic to see so many pupils rising to the challenge.

### A Term Packed with Rewards

Throughout January and February, the school was buzzing with excitement as pupils worked towards a fantastic range of incentives. Our "fresh start" approach ensured that everyone had a chance to shine, resulting in a packed calendar of rewards:

- **Non-Uniform Days:** Pupils earned two separate non-uniform days (23rd Jan and 13th Feb) by achieving 100% attendance during each designated reward period.
- **The Cinema Trip:** A well-deserved reward for our pupils who maintained 100% attendance through to the end of the term.
- **The Big Raffle:** Excitement reached fever pitch on 13th February with a host of prizes won across the school.
- **Mystery Pop-Ups:** Mrs Davies (KS3) and Mrs Vzor (KS4) kept everyone guessing with surprise reward events, including the delicious Friday Breaktime Butty raffles.
- **"1% Better" & Most Improved:** Special recognition went to Year 8 and Year 11 pupils, boosting their percentages, and to those making the biggest personal "comebacks."



### Looking Ahead

At Risedale, attendance is about more than just rewards; it is about building on our core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**. As Mrs Cox emphasised during the launch, we want every pupil to feel they can achieve and be their **BEST!**

**Attendance Rewards BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

**Non-Uniform Days:**  
REWARD WINDOW 1:  
100% Attendance from Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March = Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March  
REWARD WINDOW 2:  
100% Attendance from Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March = Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March

**The Big Easter Raffle:**  
Draw Date: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March.  
How to Win: Get 100% attendance for a full week to earn a ticket. **More weeks = More chances!**

**Every Minute Counts!**  
Too many "Lates" will disqualify you from the non-uniform days and the raffle.

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**100% Club**

**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

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

As we move into the next half-term, the slate is clean and new opportunities await. [FIND OUT MORE HERE!](#) Whether you are maintaining a perfect record or striving for a personal best, remember....

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

## Art Department Launches #RisedaleBESTartist

In January, the Risedale Art Department officially launched its **#RisedaleBESTartist** campaign, sparking a wave of creativity across the school. The initiative is designed to showcase the diverse artistic talents of pupils both inside and outside the classroom, inviting the entire Risedale Family to celebrate their hard work.

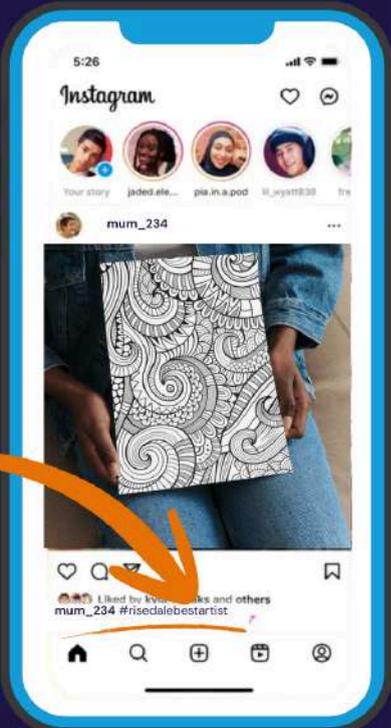
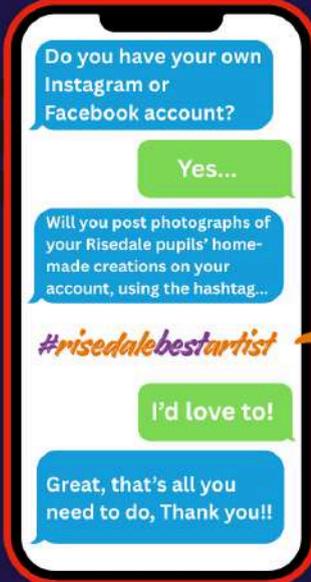
**A Virtual Gallery for All:** The campaign encourages pupils, parents, and carers to share photographs of artwork or crafts on social media and use the hashtag #RisedaleBESTartist.

- **Who can post:** Pupils are encouraged to share their own creations, while parents and carers can post on their behalf.
- **How to join:** Simply use the hashtag #RisedaleBESTartist on social media to add to the school's growing online collection.
- **Privacy First:** To keep the focus on the talent, no personal information is required—just the art!

We know from speaking to pupils and parents/carers that Risedale pupils LOVE doing creative activities at home, such as drawing, doodling, crochet, painting, model making, and more! It makes us sad that we don't always get to see these home-made masterpieces!

**Pupils, parents/carers and all supportive family members at home, we need you to SHARE!**

**#RisedaleBESTartist**



The graphic illustrates the campaign's goal of sharing home-made art. It features a central illustration of a woman flexing her arm, symbolizing strength and pride. To the right, two smartphone screens show a text conversation and an Instagram post, demonstrating how the campaign is implemented. The text conversation shows a parent being asked to post photos of their child's art on social media using the hashtag #risedalebestartist. The Instagram post shows a user named 'mum\_234' posting a photo of a child's mandala drawing.

**Monthly Photography Drop-In for KS3:** To support the launch, Head of Art, Ms Westwood, has introduced a monthly Photography Drop-In specifically for Key Stage 3 pupils. These sessions are designed to help pupils capture high-quality images of their sketchbook work so they can share their progress with family members or post to the online gallery.

**Building the "BEST" Together:** The initiative reflects Risedale's core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**. By celebrating pupil achievements in the arts, the school aims to strengthen the bond within the Risedale Family and provide a platform for young artists to take pride in their hard work.

Whether it's a painting from a school lesson or a craft project built at home, **#TeamRisedale** is ready to see your creativity!

## Bold Creativity in the Art Talent Programme!

Risedale's Art Talent Programme offers a unique opportunity for pupils in Years 8, 9, and 10 to dive deeper into ambitious creative projects. By exploring sophisticated techniques and working on a larger scale, pupils are encouraged to develop both their technical skills and their individual artistic voices.

Year 8 pupils Caitlin Arling, Kacey Clarke, Theo Hodgkinson, Aleah Perkes and Isabelle Smith describe their recent project:

*"In the Art Talent Club, we have been making giant skull paintings. First, we did a pencil transfer from a giant photograph so that we had a basic outline to work from, then we added acrylic paint with brushes, scrapers and finger painting techniques to add colour. We loved the crazy effects; it was very satisfying to do. We finished the colour stage by adding inky splats and drips. To finish our paintings, we added a monoprint outline on top of the paint - this involved rolling ink directly onto the table, transferring it onto a big skull photograph, before tracing around the edges so that the outlines and shadows stood out again. Rolling ink onto the table made us feel really*



*free, as we wouldn't normally be allowed to do things like that in a classroom. The whole activity was crazy, fun, wild, inspiring and conflicting! We were ecstatic with our paintings in the end."*



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Ms Westwood, Head of Art, commented:

*"I am incredibly proud of the ambition and dedication these pupils have shown. This project required a difficult balance of technical accuracy and total creative expression. Seeing the Year 8 pupils embrace unconventional techniques like monoprinting with such confidence was wonderful—the final pieces are truly impactful and full of energy."*

**Join the Programme:** The Art Talent Programme is open to all pupils in Years 8, 9, and 10. If you would like to work on ambitious projects and experiment with new media, please join Ms Westwood in Room 38 every Wednesday until 4:30 pm. **#RisedaleBESTartist**



## ⚽ Charlotte Watkins: Player of the Match!

Risedale School is incredibly proud to celebrate the sporting achievements of Year 11 pupil Charlotte Watkins (11Vizor).

Charlotte, who has been a dedicated member of Northallerton Town Juniors FC for two years, played a pivotal role in her team's recent victory against Wigginton in York. Despite the dismal weather and an early start, the U17s girls' team delivered what their coaches described as their "most professional" performance to date.



Among a squad of 14 standout players, Charlotte was awarded Player of the Match for her solid defensive display, her positive forward play, and her impressive overlapping runs.

Reflecting on the achievement, Charlotte said, *"I love playing for Northallerton Town Juniors FC. I really wasn't expecting to get Player of the Match. I felt so proud – it was a great match."*

Charlotte is currently studying GCSE PE and hopes to pursue a career as a Sports Therapist after she leaves Risedale.

Congratulations, Charlotte! Your hard work on the pitch and in the classroom is a fantastic example to the Risedale Family.

## ⚽ Pupil Voice in Action: New Footballs Kick Off the New Year

At Risedale School, we believe that listening to our pupils is key to building a positive school community. Following recent feedback through our Pupil Voice initiative, we are delighted to announce that a fresh delivery of brand-new footballs has arrived for Years 7-11.



To ensure every pupil has the opportunity to stay active during social times, we have implemented a new system:

- **Dedicated Equipment:** Each year group has been assigned their own specific colour-coded footballs.
- **Zoned Areas:** Each year group has an allocated area to play in, ensuring a safe and fair environment for all.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils putting our core values into practice. By looking after the new equipment and sharing the pitch space effectively, pupils are demonstrating a fantastic level of **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT**.

**What's Next?** This is just the start of an active term! We are currently planning upcoming House and Year Group Football competitions. Keep an eye on the tutor time notices for more details on how to get involved.

## Risedale Artists Bring Robots to Life!

Our Year 9 pupils have been channelling the "Grandfather of Pop Art," Eduardo Paolozzi, to create some fantastic ceramic artwork! 

The pupils have been getting hands-on with clay, constructing robot faces by building up layers and relief textures onto clay slab tiles. By adding slabs and stamping in patterns, they transformed flat surfaces into detailed, industrial-style artworks.



Head of Art, Ms Westwood, was delighted with the results:

***“The intricate relief surfaces the pupils made to create these unique mechanical textures were brilliant. It’s amazing to see how each pupil interpreted Paolozzi’s ‘man-meets-machine’ style in their own way, giving their robots such wonderful individual character and expression.”***

Fantastic work, Year 9! The finished pieces are a real credit to your creativity.

 **#RisedaleBESTartist** ✨

## Peer Reading at Risedale School 📖 ✨



Throughout January and February, Risedale School was alive with the sound of shared stories as we hosted our successful Peer Reading programme in partnership with Hipswell Church of England Primary School.

The initiative began with a brilliant introductory session where Year 5 pupils joined our Risedale peer readers to discuss their favourite book characters and collaborate on a vibrant display board. This initial spark set the tone for the following six weeks, which were dedicated to building confidence, improving literacy, and—most importantly—making reading an enjoyable, social experience.

It has been truly wonderful to watch the relationships flourish between the year groups. Our Risedale pupils stepped up as fantastic mentors, providing targeted support and guidance that helped the Year 5 pupils find new joy in the pages of a book.

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils involved in these reading journeys and look forward to seeing these community bonds continue to grow.

## Year 9 Options: Shaping Future Success

On Thursday, 22nd January, we were delighted to welcome so many Year 9 families to the school for our Options Evening. Seeing the hall packed with parents, carers, and pupils was a testament to the strong community spirit here at Risedale, and it was a pleasure to see the room buzzing with such positive energy.



The evening provided a valuable opportunity for our pupils to explore the diverse range of subjects and qualifications available to them at Key Stage 4. It was a chance for families to speak directly with staff, ask questions, and begin making informed decisions about the next two years of their education.

Following the event, all Year 9 pupils participated in dedicated one-to-one sessions with their Form Tutors to finalise their choices. These discussions are a vital part of our commitment to ensuring that every pupil feels supported and confident in their decisions as they take this significant step toward their future success.

Senior Teacher, Mr Kirkbride, commented: ***"The engagement from our Year 9 pupils has been exceptional. It is a privilege to support them as they begin to take ownership of their learning and prepare for the opportunities that lie ahead."***

If you wish to review any of the information shared, our dedicated [Year 9 Options](#) page remains live on the school website. This includes the full 2026-2028 Options Booklet, available in both English and Pashto.

## Year 10 Engineering: Workshop Update!

Our Year 10 Engineering pupils have been busy turning raw materials into finished products as they make fantastic progress on their Sheet Metal Box projects.

The workshop has been a true hive of activity recently. From the initial precision of marking out component parts to the hands-on stages of cutting, hammering, and filing, our pupils are mastering the fundamental skills of the trade. It is inspiring to see such high levels of focus and craftsmanship on display as their designs begin to take shape.

### Bringing the Learning Home

The excitement isn't just staying in the classroom. We were thrilled to see the positive feedback from our school community on social media. One parent shared: *"Dylan loved it! Told me all about it as soon as he got home 😊"*



It's wonderful to hear that our pupils are heading home eager to share their workshop triumphs. We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by this cohort.

Keep up the brilliant work, Year 10!



## Pupil Leadership: Holocaust Memorial Day 💜

At Risedale School, we believe the most powerful messages are those shared between peers. This year, Year 9 pupils Aiden and Alisha took a remarkable lead in our Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.

Driven by their own initiative, Aiden and Alisha developed a moving resource for the entire school. Their work highlighted the bravery of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the life-saving actions of individuals like Oskar Schindler, showing that resistance against hatred takes many forms. By sharing these stories of courage, they perfectly illustrated our core Risedale values of **RESPONSIBILITY** in remembering our history, **RESPECT** by challenging prejudice in our daily lives, and **RELATIONSHIPS** by building a welcoming community for all.

We are incredibly proud of Aiden and Alisha. Messages shared by pupils with their peers resonate so much more deeply, and their dedication shows the true spirit of Risedale. Thank you, Aiden and Alisha, for your leadership and empathy.



## A Double Celebration for Evalyn Gee



At Risedale School, we are always incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our pupils beyond the classroom. In January, we shared a special "double celebration" for Evalyn Gee (9Dean), who demonstrated outstanding commitment to both community service and the performing arts.

### **Serving the Community**

The month began with a significant milestone for Evalyn and the North Yorkshire Police Cadets.

Evalyn took part in a formal Attestation ceremony at Catterick Garrison, officially "passing out" as a cadet. This ceremony marked

her formal commitment to the force and the wider community—a clear display of **RESPONSIBILITY**. Regarding the new cohort, North Yorkshire Police - Richmondshire shared: *“A huge well done to all the young people who took their oath... Their enthusiasm, confidence, and teamwork are brilliant to see. We can't wait to see them out and about in the community.”*

**POLICE CADETS PHOTO:** Evalyn is the first cadet on the left, in the front row.



### **Success on Stage**

Continuing her busy month, Evalyn then moved from the parade square to the stage for the Gilling West Players' production of *Dick Whittington*.

Louise, from The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy, praised Evalyn's tireless work ethic in the lead-up to the show. Evalyn showed great **RESILIENCE**, balancing her school life with a demanding rehearsal schedule. Performing alongside fellow Risedale pupil Emily-Faye Fort (11Vizor), who starred as Alice, Evalyn helped ensure the production was a fantastic success.

### **In Evalyn's Own Words**

Reflecting on her achievements this month, Evalyn said: *“I'm really proud to be involved with both the Police Cadets and the Dance Academy. They are my favourite out-of-school activities, and they've given me so much confidence. I love that I get to learn such different skills and then use that confidence when I'm performing.”*

### **A Credit to the Risedale Family**

Evalyn's achievements are a fantastic example of our school values in action. By building positive **RELATIONSHIPS** through teamwork and showing **RESPECT** for her community and her craft, she is truly flourishing and being her **BEST** self.

Well done, Evalyn! You are a credit to the Risedale family.

**PHOTO CREDIT:** [The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy](#) and [North Yorkshire Police - Richmondshire](#).

## ⚽ Year 8 Football: Grit and Teamwork in Plate Semi-Final

On Thursday, 29th January, our Year 8 boys' football team showed fantastic **RESILIENCE**, battling freezing temperatures in a tough Area Plate semi-final against SFX.

The first half was a cagey affair, with the score sitting at 2-1 by the break. Risedale's standout moment was a masterclass in **RELATIONSHIPS** and teamwork: Flynn Hampson whipped in a dangerous free kick to Billy Maclean, who made a selfless run to square the ball for Alfie Davies to finish clinically.



Despite the narrow 2-1 result, the boys demonstrated great **RESPECT** and sportsmanship throughout. They gave a brilliant account of themselves and the Risedale family. Well done, **#TeamRisedale** - and good luck to SFX in the final!

## Oscar's Miniature Warhammer Wonders



Year 9 pupil, Oscar Baker, has developed his artistic talent by painting fantasy Warhammer figures at home. This is an incredible skill that requires a steady hand and a lot of patience; using tiny brushes to apply specialist paint to models, using techniques like dry brushing and lining to bring out the texture and detail in each character's individual armour and weaponry.

What fantastic dedication and skill! Well done, Oscar! A brilliant example of **#RisedaleBESTartist** in action.



## 🍕 The Risedale Pizzeria: Year 10s Rise to the Challenge!

Our Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition pupils turned the classroom into a pizzeria this week! They put theory into practice by creating handmade pizzas from scratch, showing great **RESILIENCE** and **RESPONSIBILITY** in the kitchen.

The technical skills on display were incredibly impressive. The smell in the Food Tech Room was divine, and the final results tasted even better than they looked. It was a fantastic way to see science and creativity come together on a plate.



Well done to all our budding chefs! A delicious example of our pupils being the **BEST** versions of themselves! 🌟



## Science Lesson Highlights 🧪

**Year 7: Solutions** Ms Dunphy's class explored the world of solutions, demonstrating that solubility is the amount of solute that dissolves in a specific solvent.

**Year 7: Friction** Mr Higham's class has been investigating friction. They used Newton meters to measure the frictional force on an object moving on different surfaces.



Our young researchers did a fantastic job collecting data and testing their theories!



## Year 8: Masters of Thermodynamics 🌡️

Our Year 8 scientists were deeply immersed in a hands-on investigation into the fascinating world of thermodynamics in Dr Shepherd's lab.

Pupils carefully documented every fluctuating degree on their thermometers as they witnessed the distinct energy shifts between exothermic & endothermic reactions. Well done Year 8!!



## Year 9: Respiration in Action 🧫

Pupils in Mr Higham's class developed their knowledge of anaerobic respiration across different organisms. Working scientifically, they investigated respiration in yeast by accurately counting the bubbles of carbon dioxide produced in two-minute intervals.

Our young biologists showed great focus while collecting their data—fantastic work, Year 9!



## Year 10 Triple Science: The Eye 👁️

Ms Dunphy's Year 10 Triple Science pupils were in the lab for a hands-on investigation into the structure of the eye.

The session allowed the pupils to explore biological structures up close, helping them connect their classroom learning to real-world anatomy. It was a productive morning of high-level Science—well done to everyone for their precision and focus.



## 🏉 Year 10 Rugby Tournament



On Monday, 2nd February, the Year 10 Rugby team travelled to the Area Rugby 10s Tournament to face off against Wensleydale, Richmond, and Thirsk.

In their opening match against Wensleydale, the boys secured a 2-1 victory thanks to a powerful close-range finish from Zach White and a clinical burst of speed from Jack Gilroy, who reacted quickest to a loose ball to touch down.

The momentum shifted slightly in the second game against Richmond. In a tough encounter where the freezing weather began to impact handling and ball security, Richmond managed to capitalise on errors to take a 2-0 win.

The final game against Thirsk turned into a high-intensity battle for second place. Risedale started the stronger side, but a last-ditch tackle from Thirsk forced a crucial error and allowed them to relieve the pressure. While Year 9 pupil John-James Johnson managed to pull one back with a fantastic run from the halfway line, Thirsk eventually edged the contest. Risedale finished the day with a hard-earned 3rd place, showing immense heart throughout.

*"I am incredibly proud of the **RESILIENCE** and **RESPONSIBILITY** shown by the boys today,"* said Head of PE, Mr Lawson. *"Playing in such tough conditions is a real test of character, but they worked together as a team, showing the positive **RELATIONSHIPS** and **RESPECT** that define us. They truly were the **BEST** versions of themselves—well done #TeamRisedale!"*

## Year 7 Football: A Performance Full of Resilience

### Match Report from Head of PE, Mr Lawson

On Tuesday, 3rd February, the Year 7 boys' football team faced off against Northallerton in a hard-fought Area Cup Quarter-Final.

Northallerton took an early lead, but **#TeamRisedale** responded with pressure. A stunning Jayden Duffy free kick seemed destined for the top corner, only to be denied by Northallerton's tactical decision to place two players on each post for free kicks, and one of their players smartly headed the ball clear.

Despite a clinical counter-attack from the opposition, Risedale kept pushing. Zakk Brown's excellent ball control won a late first-half free kick, which saw Max Gilroy inches away from scoring—only for it to be cleared off the line again! It left the boys wishing for goal-line technology, though unfortunately, it's not available for Year 7 school games yet!



While Northallerton extended their lead, Risedale's persistence paid off when Theo Turner buried a clinical penalty. Though it ended 3-1, the grit and **RESILIENCE** shown by the whole squad were top-tier.

Well done, boys—a brilliant effort! Good luck to Northallerton in the next round, and thank you for being great hosts.

## Leading the Way: Risedale Sets the Standard for Pupil Wellbeing

Risedale School is proud to celebrate its unique position as the only school in the local area to employ a fully qualified, registered counsellor - a distinction that places the school at the forefront of national efforts to improve mental health support for young people.

This high standard of provision is especially significant following a breakthrough in the government's [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#). As highlighted by the [British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy \(BACP\)](#), new amendments to the Bill aim to ensure that school-based mental health support is delivered by practitioners on a professional Accredited Register. Risedale has been meeting this gold standard since Lisa Smith joined the "Risedale Family" as a registered counsellor in February 2021.



### A Comprehensive System of Support

While having a registered counsellor is a key asset, it is only one part of Risedale's "Whole School" approach. The school prioritises early intervention, offering a robust network of first-line support available to all pupils before a referral to 1:1 counselling is considered.

Through an integrated in-house referral system, staff and parents can request targeted support for pupils, including access to:

- **The Hub:** A central space for social skills, friendship groups, and resilience building.
- **Creative Arts Therapy & Thrive:** Helping pupils explore emotions and build mental fitness in a supportive environment.
- **The Risedale Centre:** A specialist area specifically designed to support pupils with SEND and those with more complex emotional or mental health needs.

School Counsellor and Senior Mental Health Lead, Lisa Smith, commented, *"Being a registered counsellor within the school means I can provide a safe and professional space for our pupils, but the real strength of Risedale is that I am part of a much wider team. Our system ensures pupils get early help, and if more intensive support is needed, I am here to step in. If required, I can then manage the transition to specialist external provision like CAMHS. It means we see the 'whole picture' of every child. My goal is to ensure that no pupil feels they have to face their struggles alone, and being a permanent part of this community since 2021 has allowed me to build the trust necessary to make that happen."*

This layered approach—from peer support via Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors to clinical counselling—ensured Risedale achieved the ["Silver" School Mental Health Award](#) from the Carnegie Centre in 2025.

Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood, commented, *"At Risedale, we believe that for a child to be their 'BEST' self academically, they must first feel supported emotionally. We are incredibly proud to be the only school in the area with a registered counsellor, but we are just as proud of the daily work done in our specialist support areas. As the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill moves forward, it's clear that Risedale's comprehensive model is already doing what the national government is now asking of all schools. Lisa's expertise is a cornerstone of our 'Risedale Family' ethos, ensuring our pupils are resilient, happy, and ready for the future."*

>> Please visit our dedicated **Health and Wellbeing** page for more information and support. We are committed to ensuring every member of the Risedale Family has access to the right help at the right time.

## 🎨 Year 8 Sketchbook Spotlight: Aleah Perkes

We are very proud to share this fantastic A3 double-page sketchbook work from Aleah's Renaissance project! Head of Art, Ms Westwood, was so impressed by Aleah's exceptional skill, careful attention to detail and a thoughtful approach.

Aleah has expertly blended oil pastels and acrylics to create a rich, atmospheric background that perfectly sets the stage for her study. The sketchbook pages beautifully connect her own studio photography and use of chiaroscuro with hand-rendered typography and clear written analysis. It's a brilliant example of a pupil engaging deeply and creatively with art history.



Well done, Aleah! 🎨 #RisedaleBESTartist ✨

## Risedale Pupils Champion Safer Internet Day 2026



On Tuesday, 10th February, pupils across Risedale School took an active lead in Safer Internet Day 2026, joining millions across the UK to explore this year's theme: "[Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.](#)"

Pupils didn't just listen, they got hands-on with interactive activities designed to deconstruct the world of Artificial Intelligence. Under the guidance of Head of Computing Mrs Rodgers, pupils participated in "Digital Dilemma" discussions and ethical quizzes, learning how to spot AI-generated content and understand the biases that can sometimes appear in smart technology.

The day's activities empowered pupils to:

- **Question** the content they see in their social feeds.
- **Understand** how voice assistants and chatbots use their data.
- **Apply** the school's core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS** to their digital lives.

By putting pupils at the heart of the conversation, Risedale is ensuring that the next generation isn't just using technology, but mastering it safely and respectfully.

## KS3 Celebration Assemblies

Before the half-term break, we held our Year 7, 8, and 9 assemblies to celebrate the hard work and commitment shown by our pupils.

★ **Stamp Leaders:** Well done to our top earners, recognised for their consistent effort and focus in every lesson.

★ **BEST Values:** Congratulations to those rewarded for demonstrating **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

★ **Special Shout-outs:** A huge well done to the individuals who received a special mention for going the extra mile.

It was a proud week for the KS3 community. Congratulations to all our winners—let's keep this momentum going into the new half-term!



**Mrs Davies, BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS3**

## Year 7 Chefs in Action: Pizza Swirl Perfection 🍕



On Wednesday, 11th February, our Year 7 pupils were busy in the kitchen, demonstrating fantastic progress in their Food and Nutrition lessons. The challenge for the day was a technical one: creating handmade Pizza Swirls from scratch.

Making dough by hand is a demanding task that requires patience and precision. The pupils showed great independence throughout the process, successfully kneading and rolling out their dough to the perfect consistency before shaping it into swirls.

The kitchen was filled with a variety of delicious aromas as pupils added the creative toppings they had brought from home. The final results were not only visually impressive but looked truly professional.

We are incredibly proud of the focus, **RESILIENCE**, and practical skills our Year 7s displayed. It was wonderful to see our young chefs growing in confidence and taking such pride in their independent work.

Well done to everyone involved—keep up the brilliant effort!



## Blockbuster Achievement: 100% Attendance Cinema Trip! 🎬🍿

On Friday, 13th February, we traded the school desks for the big screen to celebrate a blockbuster milestone: **100% Attendance!** 🏆

There's nothing like a private screening and a mountain of popcorn to reward the dedication of this incredible group. Showing up is half the battle, and these stars haven't missed a single frame.

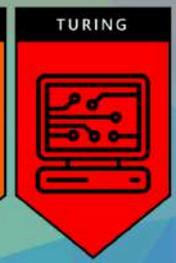
### A Credit to the School

We received some lovely feedback from the team at Savoy Cinemas Catterick Garrison, who were blown away by our pupils. Supervisor Jessica Hargrave said:

***"Today was excellent! I just want to say that the pupils are truly a credit to the school—they were all very polite. I hope they had a lovely time, and we look forward to the next one!"***

It is wonderful to see such dedication; we are incredibly proud of everyone's hard work in achieving their **BEST** attendance this term.





## 🏆 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 Seacole** ❤️ with **40743 Reward Stamps**
- **2nd Pankhurst** 💜 with **40600 Reward Stamps**
- **3rd Turing** ❤️ with **40272 Reward Stamps**
- **4th Attenborough** 💙 with **37488 Reward Stamps**

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

**#TeamRisedale** 💙💜💛❤️

## 🏆 Attendance Champions: Spring Term 1 Winners!

We had some great tutor group attendance winners for the first half of the Spring Term. 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!

We are so proud of the dedication shown by our top tutor groups this half-term. A massive special shout-out goes to the pupils of **7Shergold**, who have been simply unstoppable! They secured the trophy **4 times this half-term**, bringing their incredible total to **11 wins** so far this academic year!

09/01/2026	7Shergold	99.31%
16/01/2026	7Shergold	99.40%
23/01/2026	8Dovaston	99.00%
30/01/2026	7Shergold	98.30%
06/02/2026	7Shephard & 9Dean	98.00%
13/02/2026	7Shergold & 8Westwood	97.80%

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





**RISEDALE**

A family of learners