

Friday, 23rd May 2025

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - May 2025

In my assembly earlier this half-term, as part of a focus on our value **RESPONSIBILITY**, I explored the concept of social responsibility with pupils. It feels as though this is especially pertinent currently, with the worrying news we see every day via the media and endless reports of selfish acts and a lack of thought for others.

In the assembly, I talked about the roots of the word 'social' (coming from the Latin 'socius', meaning 'companion' or 'ally'), the ripple effect of our actions, and the responsibility we all have to one another.

Social responsibility is so important in a school (a 'mini-society'), and in the wider school community. It is important for every pupil to learn how to be a successful member of a society, as this is what parents and school are ultimately preparing them for. We should all be allies and support one another, considering how our actions affect others. Tidying up after ourselves, ensuring others can learn through chatter being kept to a minimum, getting to where we should be on time, taking turns, looking after our environment...all are basic examples of social responsibility.

Sometimes we do not get this right, and we are encouraged to learn from our mistakes, but at many other times, our pupils are the model of social responsibility. I have been heartened this half-term by examples of this, such as acting as a buddy to a new pupil who has moved to us from another country, carrying out duties as a Pupil Librarian or Mental Health Ambassador, volunteering for litter picking, preparing and reading in an assembly for others, and even donating items of uniform or equipment for other pupils to use. Social responsibility is equally seen every day when pupils move around the areas of school where GCSE exams are taking place quietly and respectfully, ensuring that our Year 11s can give the exams their full concentration.

I am reminded, as we all should be, that there is more good than bad in the world, that we should cherish the wonderful things done for the good of others in our school (and wider) community, and continue to teach the importance of social responsibility to all in everything that we do.

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Spring Bank Holiday, and thank you for your continued support.

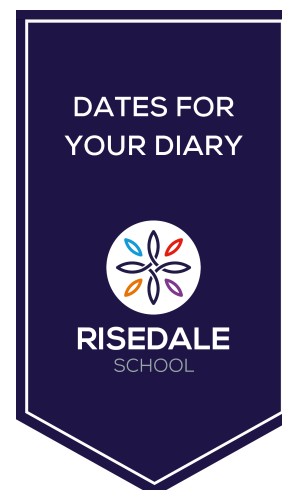
Greenwood.

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

26 - 30 May	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2 June	Start of Summer Term 2 (staff & pupils return)
Tuesday 3 June	Year 7 & 8 Residential Trips Meeting (4pm)
Monday 9 June	Year 6 Welcome Evening (4:30 - 6pm)
Tuesday 10 June	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Wednesday 11 June	Armed Forces Day
16 - 20 June	Year 8 Bewerley Park Residential
Wednesday 25 June	Year 6 'Meet the SEND Team' Event
Thursday 26 June	Year 8 HPV Immunisation - Catch up session
Friday 27 June	Year 11 Prom (Blackwell Grange, Darlington)
30 June - 4 July	Year 7 East Barnby Residential
9 - 10 July	Year 6 'Transition Time'
Friday 11 July	Sports Day
15 - 16 July	School Production "Little Shop of Horrors" 🌱
18 July	Last Day of Term



Website Page: [Calendar & Term Dates](#)

Uniform Expectations

At Risedale, we believe that our school uniform helps pupils to feel part of the Risedale Family.

All pupils are expected to follow our uniform policy at all times and to arrive at school on time and in full school uniform.

The following should be worn at all times:

- A black blazer, except on non-blazer days, OR, if given permission, to be removed by a teacher within a classroom due to the temperature at the time. We will clearly communicate with pupils if they do not need to wear their blazers.
- White shirt and a House tie.
- Plain black skirt or trousers.
- In the hot summer months, black trouser-type/tailored shorts may be worn (instead of skirts or trousers). Sports shorts of any type are not allowed.
- Jumper (optional): A plain black jumper may be worn under the blazer. No logos should be visible.
- Year 11s are allowed to wear their Leavers Hoodies; however, please note that exam regulations require these to be removed during examinations. This is to minimise the risk of malpractice.
- No hoodies are to be worn on the school site by any other pupil - this includes playgrounds.



We respectfully ask you to support us in ensuring that:

- Your child does not wear leggings to school.
- Should your child have piercings, they have at most 2 simple stud earrings per ear and one small, simple nose stud.
- Any piercings are removed for PE.
- For safety reasons, pupils may not wear nose septum piercings anywhere around school at any time.

Your cooperation in ensuring our pupils meet these uniform expectations is greatly appreciated.

Website Page: [Uniform](#)

Proposed Change to the Format of The School Day

We are proposing a change to the format of the school day to **5 x 1-hour lessons** from September 2025. The overall timings/length of the school day will not change.

Proposed Format:

- 08:30 Tutor time
- 08:55 Period 1
- 09:55 Period 2
- 10:55 Break
- 11:20 Period 3
- 12:20 Period 4
- 13:20 Lunch
- 14:00 Period 5
- 15:00 End of the School Day



The reason for this is to ensure pupils have a greater depth of learning. There will be fewer transitions between lessons, allowing for more time in class. A slightly longer tutor time will help to benefit the character education and personal development of all pupils.

We would like to consult with all parents/carers on this, and so we have included a link to a questionnaire below. Please complete the form by **Friday, 30th May**, indicating your preferred format for the school day (either the current or proposed option). If you have any additional feedback, feel free to use the comments box at the end of the form.

Link to Questionnaire >> <https://forms.gle/ko4PdrLzxnG7XWsB7>

Attendance & Punctuality Reminder from Mrs Cox (Senior Teacher)

As we move further into the Summer Term, I wanted to take a moment to highlight two crucial aspects of your child's education: **attendance** and **punctuality**. Both play a vital role in their academic success and overall development.

Consistent attendance is paramount. Every day in school offers valuable learning opportunities, and even a few missed days can lead to gaps in understanding, making it harder for your child to keep up. Arriving at school on time is just as important as attending regularly. When your child is punctual, they:

- **Start the day calmly:** Rushing in late can be stressful and disruptive, not only for your child but for the entire class.
- **Don't miss vital information:** The beginning of the school day often includes important instructions, introductions to new topics, or the setting of daily goals.
- **Show respect for learning:** Being on time demonstrates a readiness to learn and respect for their teachers and classmates.
- **Develop responsibility:** Punctuality is a key life skill that teaches children about responsibility and time management.

Please ensure your child is at school well before the bell rings, allowing them time to settle in and prepare for the day ahead.

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

Safeguarding: What we can learn from Netflix's "Adolescence"

The Netflix series "Adolescence" has ignited important conversations on young people's experience of the digital world and its impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Smoothwall has produced a range of resources, primarily for parents/carers, where you can find information and advice on the key issues raised in the show. From setting boundaries around screen time to processing upsetting online content, the resources are designed to give parents the tools and knowledge to take the next steps in supporting their child's digital wellbeing - click on the links below to find out more.



- [Resources for Parents/Carers from "Adolescence"](#)
- [Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis](#)

Young Minds: Getting young people through exam season

Exam season always comes around so quickly, doesn't it? This is undoubtedly one of the most stressful, nerve-wracking times in a young person's life, especially if it's their first experience of sitting exams.

We know it's difficult for you as well. Knowing how to support young people during this time can feel confusing and overwhelming. Here are some activities you could use to help a young person in your life get through exam time in one piece.

- [Stress bucket activity](#): help young people identify what exactly is causing them stress and the things they can do to reduce it.
- [Mindfulness activities](#): help young people calm their heightened emotions and cope with anxiety.
- For more tips and advice on managing exam time, check out the guides for [parents/carers](#).

Website Page: [Safeguarding](#)

Year 11 Revision Sessions

Our fantastic staff are offering lots of opportunities for extra study/revision sessions for our Year 11 pupils to support their GCSE exams. Please encourage your child to attend.

By visiting our dedicated [Revision](#) website page, you will be able to view:

- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#) (Tutor time, lunchtime & after-school).
- Helpful suggested revision links.
- **Year 11 Revision Strategies Presentation:** This presentation, from the English and Maths drop-down session, focuses on three key revision strategies: Flash Cards, Knowledge Checkers, and Past Paper Questions. It includes valuable tips on how to use these methods effectively. [Year 11 Revision Strategies Session | 13/12/2024](#)

Please note that the timetabled dates and times may be updated, so we recommend checking the [Revision](#) website page regularly for any changes.

These sessions are designed to deepen your child's understanding of the material, solidify your knowledge, and boost your confidence for the exams. Regular attendance at these revision sessions is key to unlocking your full potential and achieving excellent results.

Additionally, you can download a [FREE Revision Timetable Maker / Study Planner](#) from Get Revising to assist you with your revision planning.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Headteacher, Mr Yates, at Yates.J@risedale.org.uk.

Health & Wellbeing Spotlight

Online Safety and Mental Health:

Our Health and Wellbeing Spotlight this half-term connects with Mental Health Awareness Week (12-18 May 2025), which has a theme of 'Community'.

Our School Counsellor, Lisa Smith, would like to highlight a helpful blog post from the Mental Health Foundation about how online safety and our mental health are closely linked. In today's world, our online interactions are a big part of our community. This article looks at how things we do online, like social media, can affect how we feel and gives us ideas for staying safe and healthy online. It's a really useful read for understanding how to look after our mental wellbeing in our digital lives.

>> [Read the blog here.](#)



Our Current Job Vacancies:

Higher Level Teaching Assistant with SEN

- Salary: £24,186.42 - £25,706.96 - Pro-Rata (£27,900 - £29,654 FTE).
- Grade: F with SEN (Point 9-13).
- Contract: Established. Term Time Only + 1 week / 37 hours per week.
- Closing date: 23:59 Sunday 01 June 2025.
- Interview date: Week commencing 09 June 2025.
- Start date: As soon as possible.

APPLY HERE: [HLTA with SEN \(TES Job Site\)](#)



RISEDALE SCHOOL
A family of learners

JOB VACANCIES

available at Risedale School
APPLY TODAY



RISEDALE SCHOOL
Hipswell
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 4BD
01748 833501
www.risedale.org.uk
enquiries@risedale.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood (BA, NPOH)
11-16 Comprehensive School

Teacher of History

- Salary/Grade: Main Pay Scale (Upper Pay Scale will be considered) £31,650 - £49,084.
- Hours: Full-time.
- Contract: Established.
- Closing date: 23:59 Sunday 01 June 2025.
- Interview date: Friday 06 June or Monday 09 June 2025 TBC.
- Start date: September 2025.

APPLY HERE: [Teacher of History \(TES Job Site\)](#)

Teacher of Maths

- Salary/Grade: Main Pay Scale (Upper Pay Scale will be considered) £31,650 - £49,084.
- Hours: Full-time.
- Contract: Established.
- Closing date: 23:59 Sunday 01 June 2025.
- Interview date: Friday 06 June 2025.
- Start date: September 2025.

APPLY HERE: [Teacher of Maths \(TES Job Site\)](#)

Website Page: [Recruitment](#)

Uniform Bank: Risedale Parents / Carers...WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please donate your pre-loved uniforms to the Risedale Uniform Bank. Help us build a sustainable future for Risedale School pupils.

If you have any preloved, unwanted, or outgrown uniform items like blazers, ties, shirts, trousers/skirts or PE kits, including trainers and football boots, we would greatly appreciate your donations.

Drop off your unwanted, clean items at the school reception. Your donation will help families save money and reduce waste.

Thank you for your support! **#TeamRisedale** 



Community Messages from External Providers

Outdoor Learning – May Half-Term Holiday Activity

Ready for a fun-filled, action-packed May half term?

The team at North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service are gearing up to welcome young people back to their centres for more holiday activity fun and excitement this May half term. As well as their popular Adventure Club happening at both centres on 27, 28 and 29 May, there's a three-day mountain bike skills course running at Bewerley Park.

Young people will be coached by expert staff who will take their riding to the next level at some of the best MTB venues around, as well as gaining knowledge about planning a ride, bike safety checks, basic trailside bike maintenance, group riding techniques, hydration and nutrition. Suitable for ages 11-15, places are limited, so get in touch if you'd like to secure a spot.



Adventure Club will keep your young people busy with activities that could include climbing, caving, high ropes, river scrambling and water sports such as canoeing and sailing. They'll make new friends, challenge themselves and learn a whole range of different skills. All while having lots of fun! For Adventure Club booking,s there's a 10% discount for siblings or booking more than one day. Suitable for ages 8-13.

Find out more about what's on and when at www.outdoored.co.uk/schoolholidays and get ready for an unforgettable outdoor experience like no other!

Let's Talk Skills Survey

There's still time to take part in Let's Talk Skills. Please complete the survey by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalk

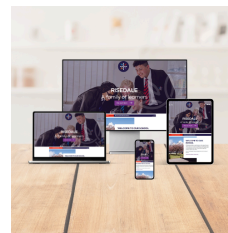
Whether you haven't accessed learning since leaving school, or you often undertake training opportunities, North Yorkshire Council wants to hear your views about the types of courses you would like to see on offer in the future. They also want to know about any barriers to learning you might face and what motivates you to learn as an adult.

Your participation in this survey will help shape the future for North Yorkshire residents, enabling them to upskill, boost job prospects, improve mental health and much more.

General Reminders for Risedale School

School Website

It is recommended that all parents familiarise themselves with the school's website 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

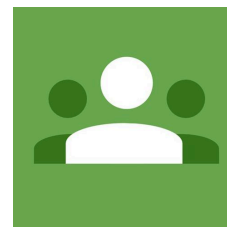
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see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



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

Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian', simply complete 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).
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).

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

Always be
PROUD
of your work