



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

July 2025





RISEDALE KIT Newsletter

KIT Newsletter Issue 43: July 2025

Dear parents/carers and pupils,

I cannot quite believe the academic year is almost over! When I reflect on my first year at Risedale, it is with pride at what we have achieved in so many different ways. We have made changes to routines to support improved progress and behaviour for learning, implemented more regular training and development for our staff to ensure pupils benefit from strong practice, established a new vision and values as a whole school community, navigated an Ofsted inspection, improved standards of behaviour and attendance, and introduced character education as part of our personal development curriculum.



My proudest moments as Headteacher have, without doubt, been those which have seen pupils showing themselves at their **BEST**: just this week, Sports Day was incredible, with a wonderful atmosphere of support and encouragement, plus some healthy competition! Many pupils demonstrated excellent skills and athletic prowess, whilst others pushed themselves out of their comfort zone. Our amazing school production, 'Little Shop of Horrors', showcased some real hard work and tremendous performances from pupils, as well as the excellent efforts of the backstage and technical crew. I was immensely proud to see our pupils shining on the stage with such confidence and commitment. These two events marked a great end to the year and illustrated how important personal development opportunities are.

The whole school changes we have made this year demand lots of energy and resilience from staff and pupils, so I thank everyone for their efforts so far in ensuring we are fulfilling our vision of supporting everyone here to be the **BEST** version of themselves. We will refresh and go again in September!

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.

Have a wonderful summer!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Lucy Greenwood - Headteacher



#TeamRisedale     #BEST

RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE RELATIONSHIPS

Dalby Forest Wellbeing Festival 2025

Risedale Pupils Shine at Dalby Forest Wellbeing Festival ★



Risedale School's commitment to pupil wellbeing was on full display on Thursday, 5th June, as 14 enthusiastic pupils from Years 7, 8, and 9 embarked on a memorable trip to the annual Dalby Forest Wellbeing Festival.

Accompanied by staff members Lisa Smith (School Counsellor), Mrs Vizer (Teacher of Design and Technology), and Mr Lamont (Pastoral Support Officer), the Risedale pupils joined fellow attendees from other North Yorkshire schools for a day brimming with activities designed to boost mental health, resilience, and confidence. 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. Attendees participated in a variety of engaging activities, including navigating an inflatable obstacle zone and tackling mini team-building challenges. The highlight for many was the vibrant colour run, where laughter filled the air as pupils were showered with brightly coloured powder. Beyond the physical pursuits, pupils also explored an event and activity village, engaging in interactive workshops and discovering a "chill-out" zone and Wellbeing Forest Walk, all aimed at promoting positive strategies for overall wellbeing.

Staff Praise Pupil Enthusiasm and Teamwork

The Risedale staff were incredibly proud of the pupils' conduct and participation throughout the day.

Lisa Smith, Risedale's School Counsellor, highlighted the core benefits of the event: *"It was wonderful to see our pupils actively engaging in so many different ways to support their wellbeing. Events like these are crucial for helping them explore new activities and build positive **RELATIONSHIPS** in a fun and supportive environment."*

Mrs Vizer, who eagerly joined in the festivities, shared her excitement: *"What an incredible day! It was fantastic to take part in the colour run alongside the pupils – it was a truly vibrant and joyous experience for everyone. They all showed such **RESILIENCE** and determination - I was so proud!"*

Mr Lamont, Pastoral Support Officer, commended the pupils' exemplary behaviour: *"Our kids were absolutely brilliant all day; so polite and enthusiastic. They took turns, enjoyed all the activities, and were a real credit to Risedale School. Their **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESPECT** for each other and the activities were truly impressive."*

The 2025 Dalby Forest 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 Risedale's values in action.

Brilliant work #TeamRisedale 💙💜💛❤️



Armed Forces Day

Celebrating Our Service Children: A Day to Remember at Catterick Garrison

What a cracking day we had at the Service Children's Armed Forces Day on Wednesday 11th June! With spirits high and the sun shining brightly, 30 of our wonderful service children joined over 700 other young people and staff from local schools for a truly memorable event at Ypres Lines, Catterick Garrison. It was a day dedicated to celebrating the incredible work of Armed Forces personnel and the unique experiences of their children.

A Day of Growth and Connection

The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement from the moment we arrived. Various stalls offered engaging insights into military life, from the Royal Military Police (RMP) showcasing their roles to the Artillery demonstrating their impressive capabilities. A definite highlight for everyone was the delicious ice cream generously provided by 'Operation Ice Cream' – a perfect treat under the warm sun. The Army really pulled out all the stops with the food, and a special shout-out must go to the Gurkha curry, which was a massive hit with both staff and pupils alike!

The Risedale pupils were an absolute credit to the school throughout the day, truly demonstrating the social skills, empathy and kindness we strive to foster. They displayed impeccable politeness and respect, asking thoughtful questions at every stall, showcasing their curiosity and desire to accumulate knowledge and cultural capital. It was heartwarming to see them quickly make new friends from different schools, building healthy **RELATIONSHIPS**, and even taking some of our future Year 7s under their wing. This mentorship perfectly illustrates their journey towards becoming **RESPONSIBLE**, **RESPECTFUL**, and **RESILIENT** citizens, ready to embrace change and learn from new experiences.





A Strong Sense of Belonging and Accomplishment

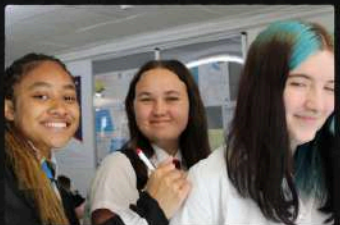
The infectious joy of the day saw everyone dancing away without a care in the world, a testament to the high spirits and fantastic organisation. This event was a brilliant way to acknowledge and celebrate the unwavering dedication of the Armed Forces in keeping us safe, and for our pupils, it undoubtedly cultivated a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment.



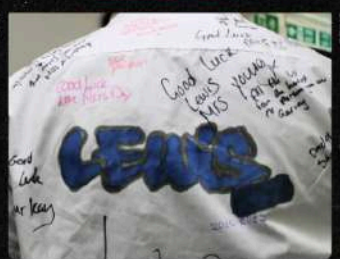
Reflecting on the day, Risedale's Service Children's Advocate, Mrs Johnson, said, *"Honestly, it was just brilliant! A really lovely day, full of sunshine and, of course, our amazing kids. The children were brilliant; their energy was infectious, and it was just what we all needed – a real breath of fresh air and a wonderful reminder of the strong service community we've got here."*

A huge thank you to Angela Campbell (Service Children's Champion) and the Catterick Garrison Headquarters for organising such a fantastic and impactful event. It was truly a day that fostered connection, understanding, and immense gratitude. Fingers crossed for the same time next year!

More information and support for Service Children and military families can be found on our dedicated website page: [Service Children.](#)



CLASS OF
2025
LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY



Year 8 Bewerley Park Residential

From 16th June to 20th June, forty-one Year 8 pupils embarked on an enriching five-day residential trip to Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre, which provided an invaluable context for the practical application and development of our school values.

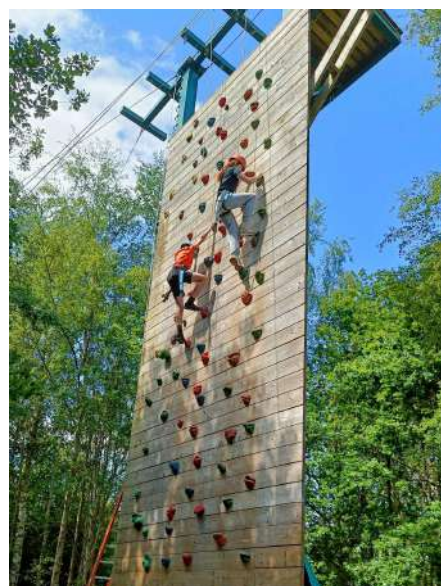
All pupils demonstrated **RESPONSIBILITY** by following safety instructions diligently during all activities and being accountable for their actions and decisions, particularly in challenging and unfamiliar situations like caving or climbing.

Staff were very impressed with the way the whole group showed **RESPECT** for the environment, for the instructors and especially for their peers; encouraging one another, celebrating successes, and offering support during difficulties.

The outdoor environment inherently presented challenges that required pupils to develop significant **RESILIENCE**. This included overcoming physical exertion during mountain biking, persevering through initial discomfort or fear in caving or climbing, and bouncing back from minor setbacks or frustrations, such as falling off a paddleboard, and trying again.

The Bewerley Park residential was a powerful catalyst for strengthening and forming new **RELATIONSHIPS**. Great teamwork skills were developed noticeably during the course of the week. Activities like climbing, caving, and even the river walk demanded effective collaboration. Pupils learned that **"TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More"** was not just a motto but a practical necessity. They supported each other, communicated effectively, and worked collectively towards common goals. Pupils relied on their peers for support and encouragement, especially in activities where belaying required immense trust.

All the staff on the trip agree that the week has brought out the very **BEST** in all pupils by broadening horizons and exposing them to new experiences and challenges they may not have encountered before. They have watched their confidence growing daily as they overcame fears, realised their potential and experienced the satisfaction that comes from pushing personal boundaries. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils, and while this has been the first residential visit of this type for many years, we hope that it won't be the last.



Year 10 QE Taster Day

Pupils visit Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College for a Taster Day, exploring A-level subjects and gaining valuable insights into post-16 academic life.

On Tuesday, 17th June, 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 the A-level pathway.

Throughout the engaging morning session, pupils had the unique opportunity to interact directly with experienced college staff. They participated in a diverse range of activities and delved into various subjects and topics that are typically studied at A-level. This hands-on experience was designed to offer crucial insights, helping them understand what a sixth-form education at QE would genuinely entail and how it differs from their current Key Stage 4 studies. The aim was to demystify the transition, making the prospect of further education more tangible and less daunting.

Mrs Porritt, Risedale's Careers Leader, expressed her enthusiasm for the pupils' participation. ***"I was incredibly impressed with our Year 10 pupils on the 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 Key Stage 4, 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 and subject content firsthand, they are better equipped to consider their options and plan their academic futures with confidence.

Thank you to everyone at QE for a fantastic day, and well done, Year 10!



Alumni Spotlight: Fatoumatta Sisay

From The Gambia to Darlington College, via Risedale School, Fatoumatta Sisay's journey is a powerful testament to resilience, determination, and the life-changing power of education.

Fatoumatta's story is one of incredible courage and commitment, highlighting her journey from The Gambia, through Risedale School (which she left in 2023), to academic success at Darlington College. A truly ambitious and inspiring former pupil, Fatoumatta is now on a remarkable journey of continued growth and achievement.

Congratulations Fatoumatta! Everyone at Risedale School is very proud of your achievements and wishes you all the best for the future.



A Beacon of Determination: Trilingual Student's Remarkable Journey from The Gambia to Darlington College

A trilingual student has been hailed a 'beacon of determination' after leaving her home in Africa to study in the UK.

Fatoumatta Sisay attended a taster day at Darlington College after moving to North Yorkshire from The Gambia and fell in love with business studies.

The daughter of a British soldier, she has served with distinction and is well on her way to securing top grades in her Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business, an important step towards fulfilling her dream of running her own businesses one day.

The 18-year-old left her home in The Gambia in 2021 to join her father who was serving with the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, a light mechanised infantry battalion.

When they moved to Catterick Garrison, Fatoumatta attended Risedale School and visited several colleges before deciding on Darlington College.

“My dad came to the UK first and decided we should join him,” said Fatoumatta, who speaks English, Wolof and Mandinka.

“I was excited to be living with my dad again full-time, but was sad to leave my friends and other family. It was a great opportunity to get a better education. I do get a bit homesick sometimes, but I also feel at home here, where I now have lots of friends.”

“It was easier than I thought adapting. I’d seen the UK in the movies and expected to get bullied, but that never happened, and everyone at Risedale and Darlington College was so welcoming and supportive.”

She said she had thoroughly enjoyed her Darlington College course and had been securing distinctions in her work.

Fatoumatta recently attended a two-week work experience placement in Malta with Zara clothing, as part of the Turing programme, and has now secured a place at Leeds Beckett in Leeds to study a degree in business management and finance, when she will become the first in her family to attend university.

“The dream is to run my own businesses,” she said. ***“I’d like to run a fashion business with my cousin, Ida, who wants to be a designer. We’d specialise in African wear. I also love baking and cooking, so would be happy to run a bakery, and I might end up helping my sister Agie with an accountancy firm too.”***

Business and management lecturer Lee Smith said: ***“Fatoumatta is a beacon of determination and inspiration.”***

“She has faced and overcome the challenges of a new country, culture and language with quiet determination and extraordinary resilience, and her dedication to her studies has been nothing short of remarkable.”

“Fatoumatta has shown an unwavering commitment to excellence. Her academic performance has developed, achieving consistent distinction-level grades, which are a testament to her tireless work ethic and growth mindset.”

He said she caught the bus at 6:50am, arriving an hour early to college, ready and eager to learn. Her attendance stood at an exemplary 98 per cent, the highest in her class, and her ***“cheerful presence uplifts both peers and staff alike”***.

“Always smiling, always positive, she embodies the spirit of the college and creates an environment where fellow students feel motivated and valued,” he said.

“Fatoumatta’s dedication extends beyond the classroom. She undertook a demanding retail placement while observing Ramadan, and her strength, integrity and humility during this period were truly inspirational.”

“Fatoumatta is more than a student; she is a role model, a trailblazer and a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance, kindness, and belief in oneself.”

This article was originally published by [Darlington College](#) on 18th June 2025.

Alex Achieves Distinction in Grade 4 Drum Kit Exam



Risedale School is proud to celebrate the outstanding musical achievement of Year 8 pupil Alex Dunphy, who has been awarded a Distinction in his Grade 4 RSL Graded Certificate in Music Performance (Drum Kit), scoring an impressive 94% overall.

Alex has been drumming for 10 years and is an active member of several local bands. His passion and dedication allow him to extend his musical enjoyment beyond school, leading to a wide range of performance experiences. ***"I really enjoy the chances that playing drums has given me,"*** Alex shared. ***"I've had the privilege to play in loads of great venues. This April, I even performed with the Durham Miners' Association Brass Band at Durham Cathedral for King Charles."***

Alex expressed his gratitude, stating, ***"I'd like to say a big thank you to Mr Williamson. His drum lessons are fantastic; he's such an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher."***

Alex receives his drum tuition weekly at Risedale School through the North Yorkshire Music Service. His teacher, Mr Williamson, praised his efforts:

"Alex has worked incredibly hard to achieve his Grade 4 Distinction, dedicating nearly a year to mastering different styles, genres, and techniques during his drum lessons in school. He's also developed numerous techniques by playing along with backing tracks and learning independently at home. For his exam, we submitted a video of Alex performing, which was then sent to Rockscool for marking. I am very proud of what Alex has achieved this year; he truly deserves this success. It's only when pupils strive for the top level of perfection that the highest marks are awarded, and that's exactly what Alex did! Congratulations!"

For more information about music tuition in schools through the North Yorkshire Music Service, please visit: www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-music-service

Cyanotype Pride Workshop 🏳️‍🌈



For the second consecutive year, Risedale School pupils once again embraced the power of the sun in a captivating cyanotype workshop held on Wednesday, 25th June. This special session included pupils who were instrumental in supporting the school's Pride celebrations this June and those who consistently go above and beyond to care for others in the school community. Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, the workshop saw these pupils explore this fascinating alternative photography technique for the first time, led by Design & Technology Teacher Mrs Vizor and returning visiting artist Elaine Vizor.

The workshop introduced the historical roots of cyanotypes, also known as blueprints. This process, invented by Sir John Herschel in the 1840s, was originally used for reproducing scientific documents. This distinctive early photographic method utilises light-sensitive iron salts to create striking blue and white images.

"It was wonderful to see the group engage with the cyanotype process," Mrs Vizor commented. "Having my Mum, Elaine, return to guide them through this unique art form made it an even richer experience. The pupils really enjoyed themselves, and the cyanotypes they produced this year were truly impressive."

The session began with Elaine Vizor introducing the cyanotype process to the pupils. They started by creating small cyanotypes on specialised photosensitive paper, familiarising themselves with the technique. As their confidence grew, they progressed to larger-scale projects, experimenting with different materials and expanding on the techniques.

Elaine Vizor shared her enthusiasm for the group: ***"It was a fantastic experience working with the Risedale pupils. It's incredibly rewarding to see their enthusiasm for this art form, and their creativity shone through in the diverse range of designs they produced. We covered a lot of ground, and it was clear they were a highly engaged and motivated group of young people. It was also incredibly rewarding to see my daughter, Mrs Vizor, continuing to inspire the next generation through art and textiles, especially when recognising such positive contributions to the school community."***

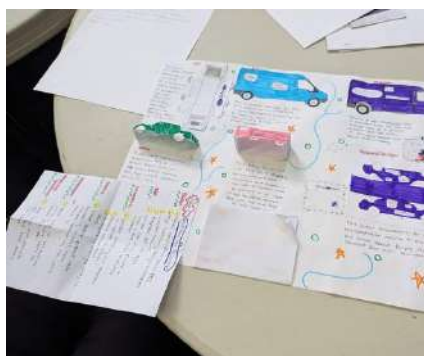
Year 8 Modern Work Experience Day

On Thursday, 26th June, Risedale School had its very first Year 8 Modern Work Experience Day. We were delighted to welcome staff from CLC Group, the Station Cinema Richmond, Purple Creative Studios, and NYBEP, who delivered and supported various pupil projects and activities.

These projects were specifically designed to help pupils understand how different job roles interact within various job sectors when working for a business. This gave them a real-world link to working life and helped them hone their employability and transferable (soft) skills. This hands-on experience will be crucial in preparing them for their careers programme in the next academic year.

On social media, Phil Upton, Director at Purple Creative, shared his enthusiasm for the event: *"We loved being part of something that encourages young people to explore new industries, and it was inspiring to see such creativity and teamwork. Events like these are a great reminder of how much talent there is right here in our community."*

Careers Leader, Helen Porritt, added: *"It was a fantastic day working with these inspirational companies who gave up their normal working day to support our pupils in understanding what would be required from future employees working within these job sectors. It was great to see our pupils sharpening their skills and giving their BEST."*



Year 11 Prom 2025

The Class of 2025 had a wonderful night at their Year 11 Leavers' Prom.

Year 11 pupils marked the end of their academic journey at Risedale School with a glamorous night at The Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington on Friday, 27th June. The Leavers' Prom was a resounding success, filled with laughter, dancing, and memories to cherish.

A huge congratulations to Risedale sweethearts, Lennon Boila and Lilly Peates, who were crowned Prom King and Queen!

Special thanks go to our amazing Teacher of Design and Technology, Mrs Vizer (Kav Photography), who captured the magic of the evening with her fabulous photography skills. The school also extends its gratitude to The Blackwell Grange Hotel for their hospitality in hosting this special occasion.

Check out our Prom Video 2025 [HERE](#).

CLASS OF 2025 PROM

THE
Blackwell Grange
HOTEL

PROM



Pride Month at Risedale School 🏳️

Risedale Celebrates Pride Month with a Splash of Colour and Community Spirit!

June was a vibrant and inclusive month at Risedale School as we proudly celebrated Pride Month 2025. Our commitment to fostering an environment of acceptance and understanding was evident, with the Pride flag flying high above our school throughout the entire month.



Pupils and staff embraced a packed schedule of activities designed to educate, entertain, and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. During Tutor Time, pupils learned about LGBTQ+ history, identities, and the importance of allyship.

Our Pride Movie Month proved to be a popular lunchtime hit, with daily segments of *Pitch Perfect*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, and *Pitch Perfect 3* filling the air with laughter and music until all three films were enjoyed in their entirety.

On Thursday, 26th June, during Tutor Time, pupils enthusiastically participated in a fun Find the Pride Flag Competition. Pupils eagerly scoured the school, jotting down locations of various LGBTQ+ flags displayed around classrooms and other school areas, and then raced to submit their answers to Mrs Vizor. Sweets were awarded as prizes to the winners!

The pinnacle of our Pride celebrations was undoubtedly the 'Dress with Pride' Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 27th June. The school was awash with a kaleidoscope of bright colours, rainbows, and Pride-themed outfits as pupils enthusiastically participated, each donating £1 to a worthy cause. The festive atmosphere continued with pupils enjoying glitter face painting and a delicious Rainbow Bake Sale. All money raised from the non-uniform day, face painting, and bake sale went directly to support our very own LGBTQ+ Club, who do so much to support the school and our pupils. **In total, the Risedale Family raised £284.00!!!**

Teacher of Design & Technology, Mrs Vizor, shared her enthusiasm for the month's events: ***"Pride Month at Risedale has been truly amazing! It was wonderful to see so much engagement and positivity from all the pupils. Their enthusiasm for participating in the activities, from wearing their colourful non-uniform clothes to finding the flags, was incredible. It really showcased their openness and support, and I couldn't be prouder of how the Risedale Family embraced the spirit of Pride."***

Risedale School remains committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and our core values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and positive **RELATIONSHIPS** for all its members. Our Pride Month celebrations were a testament to this ongoing dedication.

Catterick Historical Archive Brings History to Life for Year 8 Pupils



During June and July, Year 8 pupils from Risedale School swapped classroom walls for the open skies of Catterick Garrison as they took part in a special series of outdoor history sessions, delivered by the Catterick Historical Archive. These engaging and immersive walks, themed around the old Catterick Camp Railway, brought local history to life, connecting pupils with the people and places of the past that shaped their community.

The field trip began at Colburn Business Park, formerly known as 60 Squadron, where pupils gathered around veteran and local historian Knile. He set the stage by explaining the strategic significance of the area during its formation and wartime. From there, the group made their way along the Memorial Walk, where they explored the stories of those who served at Catterick Garrison during both World War I and World War II.

Following the now-vanished track of the Catterick Camp Railway, a line once vital to the movement of troops and supplies during both World Wars, pupils were encouraged to imagine how the landscape would have looked over a century ago. As they walked along roads and footpaths that trace the original track, they identified visible remnants of the railway's presence: raised embankments, the curve of old cuttings, and the layout of the main road where they once ran alongside each other.

Pupils were provided with a specially designed map featuring historical photographs of what once stood in various locations. Seeing these images, of long-demolished buildings, military theatres, and steam trains crossing what are now busy roads, offered a powerful visual resource. It helped bring the past to life, allowing pupils to compare today's surroundings with the bustling wartime infrastructure that once dominated the area. From the worn stone walls of the former coal yard to the faint outlines where sidings and platforms once stood, the pupils experienced a tangible link to history, seeing for themselves how the modern environment still carries the imprint of its military railway past.

As the pupils continued toward Hildyard Row, better known locally as The White Shops, they met their next guide, veteran and historian Paula. Her insights into the area's history added another valuable layer of local heritage to the day.

The journey pressed on, with pupils tracing further remnants of the railway line and noting where embankments still remain. A stop at the Cambrai School car park revealed the former site of railway sidings and a coal yard, where the original coal yard walls still stand as silent witnesses to the past. Veteran and historian Peter shared his detailed knowledge of the site's historical significance.

One of the most poignant stops on the route was the raised embankment where the old Camp Station platform once stood, opposite the historic Sandy's Soldiers Home. The group then headed toward the fence line near the newly built Catterick Integrated Care Centre (CICC), behind Perron House. There, Knile recounted how the area had once served as a German Prisoner of War Camp during the First World War, a striking reminder of the layers of history beneath their feet.



The walk culminated above the Camp Centre roundabout, offering a panoramic view steeped in historical meaning. Pupils learned that today's Aldi store sits on the former site of a Post Office, and its car park was once part of Coronation Park. From this vantage point, Year 8s were shown the past locations of the Bus Station, BT Telephone Exchange, Morgue, Camp Fire Station, and even the rail line that once ran through the roundabout and up toward Piave Lines and supply stores.

Continuing the journey, from Camp Centre, the group travelled toward Catterick Racecourse. After crossing the field south of the River Swale, pupils came upon the old railway bridge that once supported trains as they crossed the river. At this historic site, pupils engaged with a series of pre-set questions designed by Head of History, Mr Houlgate.

The area is steeped in layered history. After crossing the bridge to the north side and descending the embankment steps, pupils gathered around an interpretive information

board. The bridge, now known as the Brompton-on-Swale Bridle Bridge, features three striking silhouetted figures: a First Century Roman legionary, a First World War private soldier, and a modern British infantryman, linking different eras of military service. Nearby, another board shared details of Roman Cataractonium, sparking discussion about the ancient history of the site.

The group then paused at the recently erected memorial to the tragic 1944 Catterick Bridge railway explosion, reflecting on the event and its local impact.



The field trip concluded with a visit to LOCOMOTION Railway Museum in Shildon. After lunch, pupils gathered for a presentation by Anne Hoops, the museum's Senior Explainer. This was followed by guided tours led by knowledgeable museum staff. Pupils were then given free time to visit the onsite cafe and souvenir shop, rounding off a day that brought together maps, old photos, memories, and meaningful moments from across centuries of military and transport history.

Throughout the field trip, pupils were not only able to learn from passionate and knowledgeable guides, but also to see first-hand the physical traces of history all around them. The outing was an enriching experience that brought local wartime and transport heritage vividly to life, promoting curiosity and appreciation for the past.

The Catterick Historical Archive, along with veterans and historians Knile, Paula, Peter, and Mark, extend their thanks to Risedale School and the team at LOCOMOTION for making this unforgettable trip possible.

Mark Hill MBE | Veteran | Catterick Archive



Alumni Spotlight: Bishwadhan Rai

From the Classrooms of Risedale School to Royal Academy Acclaim

Risedale School proudly shines its alumni spotlight on Bishwadhan Rai, an extraordinary artist whose compelling work is currently gracing prestigious exhibitions at London's [Royal Academy](#) – a truly amazing achievement! His art provokes thought on themes of memory, belonging, and British Asian identity.



Bish's artistic journey began right here at Risedale School, where he was a pupil from 2011 to 2015. It was within these very classrooms that his foundational talents were nurtured, notably under the guidance of our very own Head of Art, Ms Westwood.

Ms Westwood vividly remembers Bish's early promise and passion, and she continues to follow his artistic journey. ***"I'm incredibly proud of everything Bish has achieved. Even during his early years at Risedale, his creativity and dedication to his art stood out. To see him now exhibiting at the Royal Academy, exploring such profound themes through his sculptures, installations, and films, is truly remarkable. I love following Bish on social media; his work is a real source of inspiration, not only for our budding artists but also for our whole school community. Risedale pupils really can achieve amazing things at the highest level, and Bish is a shining example of this. It's a testament to his sheer hard work and unwavering passion."***



After his time at Risedale, Bishwadhan followed his passion for art by studying for a Foundation Diploma at Darlington's [Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College](#) (2017-2018). He then went on to earn his BA in Fine Art from the [Slade School of Fine Art, UCL](#) (2018-2022), and is now graduating with a highly coveted Postgraduate Diploma from the [Royal Academy Schools](#) (2022-2025).

Bishwadhan's compelling body of work has already been showcased in numerous significant exhibitions, and he has won awards and been featured in noted art publications. Bishwadhan was born in Sunsari, Nepal, in 1999. His work is deeply personal and focuses on issues of immigration; his feelings of loss and the intricate confusion of adapting to a new home are central to his artistic practice. He meticulously delves into the complex relationships people can have with both their mother country and their settled country, exploring the continuous endeavour to forge a sense of belonging. Installations, sculpture and moving images are key mediums for Bishwadhan, driven by a profound desire to question and rectify popular modes of representation for British Asian communities in his art.

Bish's journey is a powerful testament to the transformative power of art education and unwavering personal dedication. His work offers a poignant examination of both personal and collective human experiences, solidifying his well-deserved place in the art world. We can't wait to see what will happen next for him!

Year 9 Pupils Join Jamie Oliver's World Record Cook-Along

Risedale School Pupils Join Jamie Oliver's World Record Attempt in Pasta Champions Culinary Challenge.

Risedale School's Year 9 pupils showcased their culinary prowess on Tuesday, 1st July, as they actively participated in celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's ambitious Guinness World Record attempt for the largest multi-venue cookery class. The event saw pupils from Risedale, already immersed in Oliver's "10 Skills Programme" within their Key Stage 3 curriculum, rise to the challenge, demonstrating essential cooking skills and a passion for fresh, homemade food.



Risedale School champions Jamie Oliver's philosophy, which advocates for widespread access to cooking education to combat reliance on convenience foods. As Jamie Oliver himself states, ***"Everyone should have the opportunity to learn to cook; without it, we become dependent on others to feed us, or on convenience foods to fuel us – neither of which is sustainable."***

The record-breaking challenge, which involved participants and schools across the country (and potentially globally) simultaneously preparing a homemade pasta and tomato sauce dish, was a natural fit for Risedale's existing curriculum. The "10 Skills Programme" focuses on equipping pupils with practical cooking abilities, fostering independence in the kitchen, and encouraging them to share their culinary creations with friends and family.

Mrs Dovaston, Head of Food Technology at Risedale, expressed immense pride in her Year 9 pupils' performance. ***"I am very proud of the Year 9 pupils and their continued resilience in Food Technology lessons this year,"*** she commented. ***"They worked very hard in the Pasta Champions Challenge, supporting each other to follow the method, making fresh pasta and tomato sauce, as part of this nationwide challenge. The pupils all enjoyed the experience, learning and developing new skills. They were proud and keen to eat the results at lunchtime!"***



The event not only provided a thrilling opportunity for pupils to be part of a global record attempt but also reinforced the valuable life skills they are developing through their food technology lessons. Risedale School continues to demonstrate its commitment to empowering pupils with the knowledge and abilities to make healthy and sustainable food choices for their futures.

Year 10 Darlington College Taster Day

Risedale School's Year 10 pupils participated in a Taster Day at Darlington College on Thursday, 3rd July, as part of their Key Stage 4 Careers Programme. The immersive experience allowed pupils to take part in various activities and tour the facilities, offering valuable insight into the technical qualifications they can pursue after Year 11. This visit will directly support their college applications in October.



"Our Year 10 pupils were a credit to Risedale," praised Helen Porritt, Careers Leader. *This taster day was a fantastic opportunity for them to engage directly with Darlington College tutors. Their enthusiasm has sparked exciting discussions about their future paths. We're incredibly grateful to Darlington College for hosting such an insightful and engaging day."*

Geography Field Trips

Year 8: Catterick Town Centre Regeneration

Year 8 Geography pupils recently embarked on a hands-on exploration of urban regeneration, focusing on the significant £21 million Catterick Town Centre Regeneration Project.



During their geography lesson, pupils visited Shute Road to observe the project's progress first hand. They witnessed the demolition of derelict buildings and the emergence of brownfield sites, now ready for new construction.

To assess the regeneration's impact, pupils conducted an environmental quality survey directly on the site. This was complemented by two further surveys: one completed in the classroom using pre-demolition photographs, and another utilising architects' drawings to evaluate the proposed scheme. Pupils then plotted their results on radar diagrams, enabling them to draw conclusions on whether the Catterick Town Centre Regeneration project is likely to improve the environment of Shute Road and its surrounding areas.

Well done, Year 8! Your engagement and learning during the field trips were excellent. Experiences like this, learning outside the classroom, are incredibly valuable.

Year 7: Exploring Rivers at Colburn Beck

This half term, Year 7 geographers put their classroom knowledge of rivers into practice by embarking on an insightful field trip to Colburn Beck. This nearby natural setting, just a short walk from school, served as an ideal outdoor classroom to deepen their understanding of river processes.

During their field trip, pupils observed key hydrological concepts firsthand. They investigated the differences between permeable surfaces and impermeable surfaces, and infiltration



and surface runoff, understanding their direct links to flooding. Furthermore, they closely examined the shape of the valley sides and the river channel itself, discussing the natural processes that influence these formations.

The trip also provided an excellent opportunity to study various flood prevention strategies, with pupils identifying different types of engineering, including both hard and soft methods. It was truly remarkable to discover just how much practical geography exists within walking distance of the school!

A big thank you to all the staff who supported the field trips; we couldn't do it without you!

Mr Sherwood (Head of Humanities Faculty)

Year 7 East Barnby Residential

A day-by-day diary from Mrs Hailwood.

Day 1: Monday 30th June

For the first time since 2008, 35 Year 7 pupils arrived at East Barnby Outdoor Centre, excited for a full week of adventures and outdoor activities. After a short introduction by the centre staff, we were shown to our dorms for what turned out to be our first challenge - making beds. More practice needed at home, I think!!

Following a tour of the site and lunch (for those who hadn't already eaten it on the coach), challenge 2: squeeze each of our hot, sweaty bodies into a wetsuit in 30° heat, and a short drive to the beach.

It was definitely worth it, because it was a perfect afternoon for cooling off bodyboarding. Everyone gave it a go and we all had great fun.

After a very busy day, just before midnight, finally, all quiet in the dorms ZZZzzzzzzz

Day 2: Tuesday 1st July

The boys' dorm was up bright and early! Today's activity was canoeing on the River Esk. It was a real challenge for some of us to get our canoes going in a straight line, but communication, teamwork and resilience were the keys to success.

Day 3: Wednesday 2nd July

Wednesday involved a day at Scaling Dam Reservoir, mastering the art of sailing and windsurfing. It poured with rain, but other than that, the conditions were just right; our pupils showed real strength of character and quickly grasped the techniques.



Day 4: Thursday 3rd July

Thursday brought truly fabulous views as pupils spent the day rock climbing. Many had to conquer a fear of heights, but everyone gave their best effort, with some even revealing themselves to be natural climbers. When not scaling the rock face, they learned to belay each other responsibly and offered strong encouragement to their peers.

Day 4: Thursday 3rd July

For our last morning at East Barnby, some pupils chose to take part in one final adventure and headed off for a river scramble. Apart from being a lot of fun, they learnt to assess challenges, make safe choices, and help each other to ensure everyone was supported. Others headed for the beach for a more relaxing morning and a last dip in the sea.

Over the five days, all the pupils worked incredibly hard to develop their teamwork skills and we saw their resilience develop with each challenge. It has been a great way to round off their first year at Risedale School, and we look forward to many more adventures together in the future.

I would like to thank all of the pupils for their enthusiasm and our amazing staff, Mr Allen, Mrs Cox, Miss Douglas and Mrs Vizor, for giving up their time and supporting everyone throughout the week.



A Truly Bouncing Rewards Day at Risedale! 🏆

What a blast we had at Risedale's inflatable rewards day on Monday, 7th July! Over **250 pupils** were rewarded with time on the inflatables in groups, celebrating their fantastic achievements from the past term, and for some shining stars, their **BEST** efforts throughout the entire year. It was an **'inflated'** success, packed with fun and laughter for everyone involved. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make the day **'jump' to life**, and to all our pupils for their incredible enthusiasm!

Mr Gunnell (House System & Rewards Manager) **#TeamRisedale** ❤️💜💛❤️



Super League Rugby at Headingley Stadium 🏉

Risedale School Pupils Enjoy Leeds Rhinos Rugby Extravaganza at Headingley Stadium, Leeds.

On Friday, 11th July, a group of Risedale pupils, including members of our school rugby team, dedicated pupils from GCSE PE, Sport Studies and Core PE lessons, embarked on an exciting trip to Headingley Stadium. They were there to witness a thrilling men's and women's Super League double-header featuring Leeds Rhinos against St Helens.

#TeamRisedale was firmly in the corner of Leeds Rhinos. This wasn't just because Headingley is the closest stadium; it also holds profound significance as Mr Lawson's home ground during his rugby career! For Mr Lawson, it was a special return to perhaps inspire the next generation of players. This was an incredible opportunity for the pupils to experience such a fantastic and iconic stadium firsthand.

A particular highlight for the pupils was the amazing experience of going onto the pitch, a moment that undoubtedly created lasting memories and offered a unique perspective of the professional game.

While the Rhinos didn't secure a win, the trip was a resounding success in further igniting the pupils' passion for the game and providing valuable support for their academic studies. The pupils' behaviour throughout the day was exemplary, a true testament to the "BEST" values we strive for at Risedale.

We are excited to continue offering similar enriching experiences, such as trips to Champions League and Super League fixtures, in the upcoming academic year.



Little Shop of Horrors 🌱



Pupils Deliver Unforgettable Performances as Risedale School's 'Little Shop of Horrors' Takes Centre Stage.

The stage at Risedale School was transformed as pupils delivered a truly captivating performance of the cult classic musical, "Little Shop of Horrors." The annual school show proved to be a resounding success, delighting packed houses on Tuesday, 15th and Wednesday, 16th July.

The week kicked off with a special preview on Monday, 14th July, as Risedale welcomed pupils from local primary schools. This offered a wonderful opportunity for the younger children to experience a secondary school production firsthand, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from both the pupils and their accompanying staff clearly showed how much they enjoyed the performance.



Bringing the Characters – and the Plant – to Life

"Little Shop of Horrors" tells the darkly comedic tale of Seymour Krelborn, a meek floral assistant who stumbles upon a unique, talking plant with a rather peculiar diet. As the ravenous Audrey II grew, so did Seymour's fortunes, leading to hilariously macabre consequences. The cast expertly brought this fantastic story to life, delivering memorable songs and quirky characters with impressive energy and stage presence.

Emily-Faye Fort captivated audiences as the shy Seymour, while Skai Nicholson shone as the sweet yet unlucky Audrey. Jak Atkinson

brought the musical's botanical star to life with skilled puppetry, and Alex Dunphy added layers of humour and grit as the opportunistic Mr Mushnik.

Our Dedicated Team Behind the Scenes

The magic on stage wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of the entire cast and crew. This year's show was once again directed by Head of Drama, Mrs Southworth-Gedye, and produced by Head of Social Studies, Ms Dunphy. Their vision and hard work ensured a polished and engaging performance.

"I'm incredibly proud of the entire cast and crew for bringing 'Little Shop of Horrors' to life with such energy and enthusiasm," said Mrs Southworth-Gedye. *"This production truly embodies our vision of supporting every pupil to be the BEST version of themselves. The immense effort and teamwork required meant every single pupil, whether on stage or behind the scenes, rose to the challenge, developing their **RESILIENCE, RESPONSIBILITY,** and a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment. It truly showcases the incredible talent and dedication we have here at Risedale."*

Ms Dunphy added, *"We are immensely grateful to Tony Wilcock from The Georgian Theatre Royal. His technical support and expertise were absolutely crucial in making the show look and sound as fantastic as it did. His contribution truly elevated the entire production."*

Risedale School's production of "Little Shop of Horrors" was a resounding success, leaving audiences enthralled and highlighting the immense talent and collaborative spirit within the Risedale Family. With such a dedicated team and talented performers, the future of Risedale's stage shows continues to look exceptionally bright.





What a fantastic Sports Day we had on Wednesday, 16th July 2025! The spirit of the event was stronger than ever, and we couldn't be prouder of how our pupils and staff made the day a huge success.

A big thank you to all the parents/carers, pupils and teachers for your patience and flexibility with the schedule change. Your support made sure the day ran smoothly and allowed everyone to enjoy all the events.

Throughout the day, our pupils showed pride in their school, demonstrating our values of **RESPECT** and **RESILIENCE**, and the determination to succeed in every race, throw, and jump. From sprint finishes to cheerleading acrobatics and the intense tug of war, every event showcased the incredible talent and character of our young people.

Congratulations to **Pankhurst House** ❤️ for winning the day in a thrilling and close competition, just ahead of **Attenborough House** 💙. Your perseverance and commitment truly paid off!

A special well done to everyone who took part. As we discussed in our pre-Sports Day assembly, you all embodied the true meaning of the Olympic Creed: **"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle."**

Thank you again to everyone who made the day a memorable celebration of sport, community, and **#TeamRisedale** spirit 💙💜💛❤️.



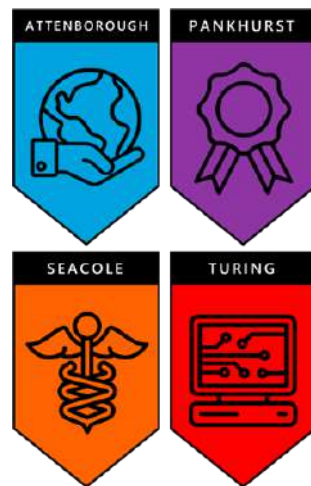
House Competition Winners 2025 - SEACOLE! 🧡

End-of-Year House System News from Mr Gunnell

I am delighted to announce the results of this year's House System competition. After a closely fought competition, it gives me great pleasure to declare **SEACOLE** the 2025 House Champions!

The final House Point totals were as follows:

- **1st Seacole 🧡 with 44,764 points**
- **2nd Pankhurst 💜 with 44,763 points**
- **3rd Turing 🧡 with 43,473 points**
- **4th Attenborough 💙 with 38,519 points**



Congratulations to **SEACOLE HOUSE 🧡** for their outstanding achievement, and a special mention must also go to **PANKHURST HOUSE 💜** for their exceptional win on Sports Day.

Well, that's a wrap! It's my last ever post as Head of Rewards and House System at Risedale School, and what a phenomenal year we've had! We've thrown ourselves into an incredible array of competitions, proving that our school spirit is truly unmatched.

Think back to the intense puzzle solving, the quick-fire quizzes, and the sheer creativity of our paper aeroplanes and pumpkin carving competitions. We've seen strategic minds at work in Scrabble, artistic flair in our photography competitions, and incredible community spirit during Movember. And who could forget the epic showdowns in dodgeball and tricky towers, all leading up to an unforgettable Sports Day!

The best part? Seeing the genuine enthusiasm and enjoyment on everyone's faces. Knowing that 1300 reward prizes have been claimed from the Epraise shop just shows how much effort all our pupils have put in. (And yes, Attenborough, we did notice your unique approach to gamesmanship across all competitions, it certainly kept things interesting!)

A huge, heartfelt thank you must go to our incredible **Heads of Houses: Mr Allen, Mr Metcalfe, Mr Hill, and Mrs Rodgers**. Your unwavering hard work and infectious enthusiasm have been the backbone of every event, and I couldn't have done it without you.

And to every single pupil: thank you for making this year so memorable. Keep bringing that fantastic energy and continue to shine in everything you do!

Celebrating Attendance 🏆

As we wrap up the academic year, we wanted to give a huge shout-out to the pupils of **7Westwood**, who, by winning the Tutor Group Attendance Cup an impressive **19 times**, have proudly secured the most attendance victories throughout the entire academic year! Their exceptional dedication sets a fantastic example for the entire school community.



Well done #TeamRisedale 💙💜🧡❤️
It's been a fantastic year!



RISEDALE
A family of learners