



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

April 2026





Dear parents/carers and pupils,

The last half-term saw some significant achievements, from Charlotte being elected as a member of the Youth Parliament, to pupils receiving rewards for showing our values and in recognition of their attendance, to girls' football success, and much more.

Preparing pupils for life after Risedale is a responsibility we take very seriously, and it was heartening to see the whole school taking part in our annual Careers Day, talking with employers, colleges and universities about their options after Year 11. Some employers even sent positive feedback to me, commenting on the excellent engagement and attitudes shown by our pupils. Year 10 pupils also experienced a day at York St John University, which has shown them what life as a higher education student is like. Our careers programme continues to inspire everyone to consider future pathways and how to be successful in securing their chosen pathway.



It has been wonderful to see so many Year 5 pupils in school this year. Workshops for our feeder primary schools have taken place (maths and science creating a real buzz in recent weeks), and our new peer reading scheme has been so successful that we are extending this to another primary school. Pupils and staff have worked hard to give the Year 5s an excellent experience of Risedale so that they can look forward to coming here in Year 7!

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

Our Peer Reading Journey with Hipswell Primary 📖 ✨

This term, the Risedale library transformed into a vibrant hub of mentorship and shared discovery as we successfully completed our six-week Peer Reading programme with Hipswell Church of England Primary School.

The initiative paired our dedicated KS3 Reading Ambassadors with Year 5 pupils for weekly sessions aimed at boosting literacy and building community ties. From the very first session in January, it was clear that this was about much more than just books; it was about our Family of Learners coming together.



Living Our BEST Values

Throughout the six weeks, our pupils truly embodied the Risedale values:

- **RESPONSIBILITY:** Our Ambassadors took their roles seriously, providing patient guidance and taking ownership of their mentoring sessions.
- **RESPECT:** The mutual kindness between the year groups created a supportive and encouraging environment for everyone.
- **RESILIENCE:** It was wonderful to see the pupils' determination to help one another, showing great patience and focus while exploring new vocabulary and themes together.
- **RELATIONSHIPS:** The most rewarding part of the programme was watching the confidence of both year groups grow as they formed genuine bonds.

Reflecting on the success of the programme, our School Librarian, Miss Sellers, said: *"It's been wonderful to see our pupils being the BEST versions of themselves—supporting, encouraging, and inspiring one another every single week. The atmosphere in the library was electric, and seeing the 'reading buzz' grow has been a real highlight of the term."*

We are incredibly proud of our Ambassadors for being such positive role models and for the kindness they showed their younger partners. We would like to thank the staff and pupils of Hipswell Primary for their enthusiastic participation. While this 6-week journey has finished, the friendships and literacy skills developed will undoubtedly continue to flourish.

A Sizzling Success:

Our Chinese New Year Buffet! 🇨🇳 🥢

On Tuesday, 24th February, our school canteen was transformed into a festive hub as pupils and staff gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year with a spectacular themed buffet.

The event was a huge hit, with a fantastic turnout from across the school. The consensus



from both pupils and staff was unanimous: the food was absolutely delicious! It was wonderful to see the school community coming together to enjoy such a vibrant and tasty lunchtime celebration.



A massive thank you goes to Jane and our incredible kitchen team. Their hard work and dedication in preparing such a wide variety of dishes made this special event possible. We are so lucky to have you!

We hope everyone enjoyed the festivities, and we look forward to our next themed lunch event.

Risedale School Hosts Dynamic Careers Day

On Wednesday, 25th February, the Risedale School hall was transformed into a bustling hub of ambition as the school hosted its annual Careers Day. Welcoming a diverse range of local employers and education providers, the event offered pupils from Year 7 through to Year 11 a unique window into the professional world.

Engaging with the Experts

Equipped with curiosity, pupils navigated the stalls to learn exactly what makes different industries tick. The hall was alive with conversation as they challenged providers with insightful queries regarding the types of jobs available, the essential transferable skills needed for the modern workforce, and the various entry-level qualifications and apprenticeship routes on offer.

By engaging directly with professionals, pupils were able to look beyond job titles and understand the real-world progression paths available to them after they leave Risedale.

Reflecting on the Future

The learning continued back in the classroom, where pupils took part in structured discussion tasks to process their discoveries. They explored which companies sparked the most interest,



identified "hidden" job roles they didn't expect to find, and discussed the various pathways available—including Apprenticeships, T-Levels, and Further or Higher Education.

"The event was about more than just looking at jobs; it was about opening doors and broadening horizons," said Careers Coordinator, Mrs Porritt. *"Seeing our pupils engage so confidently with employers—asking about everything from transferable skills to career progression—shows just how ready they are to start thinking about their place in further education and the workforce. We want every pupil to leave feeling empowered about their future choices."*



A Heartfelt Thank You

Risedale School would like to extend a massive thank you to all the employers and providers who took the time to inspire our pupils. Your expertise and willingness to share your professional journeys are invaluable in helping our pupils bridge the gap between the classroom and the career of their dreams.

Alumni Spotlight: From Risedale to Cambodia! 🌍✈️



We are incredibly proud to share a heartwarming update from former Risedale pupil Paige Doak, who has recently returned from a life-changing volunteer expedition to Cambodia.

Paige reached out to Mrs Greenwood to share the success of her journey and to thank the Risedale Family for their support during her recent fundraising efforts. During her time in Southeast Asia, Paige's impact was truly remarkable:

Global Reach: Taught at 5 different schools across Cambodia.

Educational Impact: Delivered 12 hours of intensive learning workshops.

Community Connection: Reached approximately 430 local pupils, ranging from ages 4 to 18!

Paige spent her time teaching vital life skills, focusing on simple first aid and food nutrition. She described the experience as "extremely eye-opening," noting how lovely and excited the local pupils were to engage with the workshops.

At Risedale, our vision is to support every pupil to become the **BEST** version of themselves. Paige's journey is a shining example of our values in action:

RESPONSIBILITY & RESILIENCE: Taking the initiative to travel across the world to help others and navigating the challenges of teaching in a foreign country.

RESPECT & RELATIONSHIPS: Building meaningful connections with a diverse range of pupils and showing deep respect for the Cambodian community.

Kindness & Empathy: Paige's dedication to helping others perfectly reflects the curriculum pillars we strive to nurture in all our pupils.



A Message of Thanks

Paige wished to pass on her gratitude to the staff and the wider Risedale community:

"Thank you to the teachers and the Risedale community for supporting me throughout this wonderful journey."

We are delighted to see our former pupils thriving as Responsible, Respectful, and Resilient global citizens. Well done, Paige!

Goal-Getter: Frankie's Area Football Success



Risedale School is beaming with pride following Year 9 pupil Frankie Dempster's recent success on the football pitch. Frankie has officially been selected for the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Team, an elite squad representing the very best talent in the region. After being put forward for trials by Risedale's Head of PE, Mr Lawson, Frankie successfully navigated the competitive selection process to secure his place in the under-14s squad.

A Dominant Debut

Frankie's impact was felt immediately during his second match for the Area Team on Friday, 27th February at Richmond School. Facing off against the Darlington All Stars, Frankie helped lead his team to a resounding 8-1 victory. Demonstrating the **RELATIONSHIPS** and teamwork we value at Risedale, Frankie contributed significantly to the scorecard with both a goal and an assist.

Dedication to the Game

For Frankie, this selection is the culmination of years of hard work and **RESILIENCE**. His schedule is a testament to his dedication; he currently plays for Richmond Pro Player and Bedale Juniors, training or playing nearly every night of the week—including Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

"I love playing football and playing for my local teams, so when I was selected for the trials for the Area squad, it was a big step and a proud achievement for me," Frankie shared. *"I really hope I might be considered for the County Trials next year."*

By balancing this demanding schedule with his school life, Frankie is a fantastic example of a pupil showing **RESPONSIBILITY** and aspiration.

Well done, Frankie! We look forward to following your journey on the pitch as you continue to be the **BEST** you can be.

KS3 Girls' Football News: Match Report from Mrs Niblett

On Monday, 2nd March, our KS3 Girls Football Team travelled to play their cup fixture away against Richmond School. Unfortunately, the final score didn't go #TeamRisedale's way, but the result certainly didn't reflect the determination, **RESILIENCE** and team spirit shown by our girls throughout the match.



A special mention goes to Frankie Young (7Reid), who played her final game for Risedale School.

Frankie has been a fantastic asset to the team, consistently supporting her teammates with a great work rate and positive attitude. We are incredibly grateful for her commitment to training and the teamwork she has shown whilst representing the school. You will be greatly missed, Frankie, and we wish you every success in your next chapter!

Player of the Match today goes to Maizie-Leigh Parry (8Davies), who has truly secured her position as the school's wing-back. She ran her heart out, showed great technical ability, and gave everything for the team. It was unlucky not to see her on the scoresheet, but her performance was outstanding.

Thank you to Charlotte Watkins (11Vizor) for being the referee for the fixture; without her, the game wouldn't have gone ahead. Charlotte's confidence grew throughout the game, and we hope she can referee future fixtures.

Thank you to Richmond School for hosting us and for a competitive fixture, and a big thank you to Mr Godfrey for driving the bus and supporting the team by being our assistant coach.

We're proud of you, girls — onwards and upwards!

Mrs Niblett (Team Coach and KS4 Pupil Support Manager)

🐸 Year 5 Pupils Leapfrog into Maths!

Mathematics was brought to life at Risedale School on Wednesday, 4th March 2026, as we welcomed an enthusiastic group of pupils from Hipswell Primary for a special session as part of our Primary Partnership Engagement programme.



The Programme is designed to provide primary pupils with an early taste of secondary school life, offering high-energy academic challenges that go beyond the standard classroom curriculum. On this occasion, the Maths Faculty took centre stage to host a workshop focused on logic and problem-solving.

Led by Risedale's Head of Maths, Mr Carter, the visiting pupils dived headfirst into the famous Frog Puzzle. This classic logic challenge requires participants to swap two sets of "frogs" on a line of lily pads using a strict set of movement rules. It is a task that starts simply but quickly demands high-level strategic thinking and pattern recognition.

The session was a masterclass in varied learning styles, ensuring every pupil could engage with the mathematical theory:

- **Tactile Learning:** Pupils worked in pairs at their desks, using physical cubes to represent the frogs, testing their theories and mapping out moves step-by-step.
- **Digital Logic:** Mr Carter utilised the interactive board to demonstrate the mathematical patterns emerging from the puzzle, helping the pupils visualise the "leaps" and "slides" required to reach the solution.
- **Maths in Action:** In the highlight of the morning, the classroom became a "living puzzle." Enthusiastic volunteers donned sports bibs to represent the two teams of frogs, physically jumping across the floor to test the pupils' solutions in real life.



The energy in the room was electric as the Hipswell pupils worked together to crack the code. By transitioning the maths from small cubes on a desk to a full-scale human demonstration, the logic behind the numbers became tangible, memorable, and—most importantly—fun.

Mr Carter, Head of Maths, commented, *"It was fantastic to see the Hipswell pupils so engaged. They didn't just look for the answer;*

they looked for the why behind the patterns. Bringing the puzzle to life with the sports bibs really showed their teamwork and made the logic tangible. They were a credit to their school!"

These sessions are a key part of our commitment to our partner primary schools, helping pupils build confidence and feel at home at Risedale long before their official transition to Year 7.

A huge well done to all the "frogs" from Hipswell—we look forward to seeing you back at Risedale soon!



Protecting Our Community: County Lines Awareness Assembly

A huge thank you to PCSOs Paul Enbom and Katie Whitehead from North Yorkshire Police for visiting our school on Wednesday, 4th March, to deliver a vital presentation on County Lines.

At Risedale, our vision is to ensure every pupil is supported to be the **BEST** version of themselves. This assembly was a key part of that mission, encouraging our pupils to take **RESPONSIBILITY** for their own safety and the wellbeing of their peers. By staying informed about the complexities of exploitation, our pupils are better equipped to become the responsible, respectful, and resilient citizens we know they can be.



Key Takeaways for Pupils:

- **Recognising the Signs:** Understanding the subtle indicators of exploitation and "grooming."
- **Staying Safe:** Practical advice on navigating social pressures and staying out of harm's way.
- **Finding Support:** Clear guidance on which trusted adults and professional services to turn to if they have concerns.

Find Out More:

We encourage parents/carers, staff and pupils to stay informed. For more detailed information on how to spot the signs of County Lines and what the police are doing to tackle it, please visit the North Yorkshire Police advice page: [North Yorkshire Police: County Lines Advice & Information](#)

Keeping our young people informed and empowered is a collective community effort. We truly appreciate the ongoing support from North Yorkshire Police in helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all our pupils.



Risedale's Year 7 Boys Triumph in 11-Goal Thriller!



On Wednesday, 4th March, **#TeamRisedale** travelled to Bedale for the Area Plate quarter final. The game was a rollercoaster of emotions for the boys, and it was great to see the character of both teams demonstrating great togetherness and **RESILIENCE** throughout.

Bedale started the game well and went 1-0 up, but the Risedale pupils didn't seem fazed, supporting one another brilliantly and showing excellent

RESPONSIBILITY for their roles. Their hard work was rewarded with two great finishes from Theo Turner (7Hill) and Max Gilroy (7Reid), allowing Risedale to take a 2-1 lead into halftime.

After the break, Bedale fought back, levelling the score at 2-2. #TeamRisedale rallied again, with Captain Tommy Hall (7Hill) and Max Gilroy, leading the team motivation. However, no one could have anticipated what happened next: straight from the kick off, the ball was passed to Cameron McGregor (7Shephard) who unleashed a strike from inside his own half. With a fortunate bounce, looping over the keeper, Risedale were instantly 3-2 up!

Risedale continued to push with clever wing play from Sean Reid (7Shergold) and goals from Jayden Duffy and Joshua Flude (both 7Reid), building a 5-2 lead with 10 minutes to play. But the game wasn't over; Bedale's striker scored an exceptionally quick hat-trick to level the game at 5-5, sending the tie into extra time (and potentially penalties).

After a cagey first half of extra time, the breakthrough finally came. Cameron McGregor struck again with the match-winner, firing home from just outside the box after the ball dropped to him from a corner!

It was an exhilarating, nail-biting match. #TeamRisedale showed incredible **RESILIENCE** and attitude.

Next up, Stokesley in the semi-finals.

Mr Lawson (Team Coach and Head of PE)

World Book Day at Risedale! 🌍📖

On Thursday, 5th March, the Risedale School Library was transformed into a hub of mystery and competition to celebrate World Book Day.

During lunchtime, School Librarian Miss Sellers hosted a series of head-to-head challenges designed to test pupils' literary knowledge and observation skills. From deciphering "shredded book jars" to scouring the shelves for hidden jigsaw pieces, the concentration was high as pupils across all year groups competed for the top prizes.

The atmosphere was one of quiet determination and excitement as the library challenges were in full swing. We are delighted to announce our competition winners:

Huge shout-outs to our winners:

🏆 **Aiden Kincaid (7Shergold):** A true detective, Aiden managed a double victory by



finding the hidden Yoda and winning the Jigsaw Hunt.

🏆 **Sienna Stevens (11Sandell):** Demonstrated impressive estimation skills to win the "Guess the Sweets in the Jar" competition.

Earlier in the week, pupils also engaged with digital book title puzzles via the "Library Shelf" on Google Classroom, making it a truly school-wide celebration of reading.

A huge congratulations to our winners and to every pupil who visited the library to join the festivities and collect their £1 book tokens. We hope these challenges have inspired everyone to continue their reading journey!



⚽ **Risedale Girls Shine at Area 7s Football Tournament**

On Thursday, 5th March, Risedale's U13 and U15 girls' teams displayed fantastic teamwork and **"BEST"** values at the Area 7s in Bedale. Highlights included a dominant U15 tournament win and a resilient, high-energy performance from the U13 squad.



U15 Match Report: Mrs Niblett (Team Coach and KS4 Pupil Support Manager)

Our U15 girls delivered an incredible performance, perfectly demonstrating how strong **RELATIONSHIPS** and teamwork lead to success. The team played with pride for their school and with a constant smile, making the entire Risedale Family proud.

The tournament highlights included a composed 2-0 victory over Richmond and a thrilling 5-2 win in the final. The individual story of the day belonged to Ellie-Mae Reid, who showed clinical **RESILIENCE** in front of goal, netting a staggering 9 goals across the entire competition. Florence Sewell also came agonisingly close to scoring with a powerful strike that rattled the crossbar.

Our success was built from the back, with Daisy Kelso making fantastic saves and a "defensive wall" formed by Mia Wilson, Leah Kumzinda, and Rosie Dobson. Across the pitch, Louise Savery, Skyla Stamper, and Kayleigh Galloway worked tirelessly, taking **RESPONSIBILITY** by driving the ball forward and tracking back brilliantly to defend when needed.

While every player was amazing, a special thank you goes to our team captain, Mia Wilson, for being such a positive influence throughout the day. We also wish defender Kati Miles the best of luck as she played her final game for Risedale; her new school team is very lucky to have her!

U13 Match Report: Mr Lawson (Head of PE)

The U13 squad competed in five high-intensity games, facing some of the region's best talent. While they were on the wrong side of several narrow 1-0 results, the scorelines didn't reflect the incredible **RESILIENCE** and character on display.

The girls were a credit to the school, showing great **RESPECT** for their opponents while showcasing their developing skills and fantastic attitudes. A standout performer was Isla Lewis, who was exceptional from start to finish. She took full **RESPONSIBILITY** in the heart of the action, consistently breaking up opposition attacks and showing her **BEST** in every single fixture.

Despite the tough results, the U13 girls showed fantastic determination and teamwork. This was a great experience for the team and provides us with a fantastic foundation to build on for our future fixtures. Keep it up, girls!

Supporting Our Service Pupils



At Risedale School, we are committed to ensuring our Service Pupils feel heard and supported every step of the way.

Our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis, is now hosting two dedicated drop-in sessions every week, with Key Stage 3 meeting on Tuesday lunchtimes and Key Stage 4 on Thursday lunchtimes in Library 2. We recognise that while the global climate can sometimes feel unpredictable, the Risedale Family remains a constant, steady environment for our pupils.

Whether you need specific guidance, help navigating a challenge, or simply a friendly face to talk to, Dr Ellis is here to help and listen. We are proud to provide this space where our Service community can connect and feel at home.

For more information on the bespoke support, resources, and initiatives we offer, please visit our dedicated [Service Children](#) webpage.

Year 5 Science Workshop 🧪

Year 5 pupils from Cambrai Primary School visited Risedale on Monday, 9th March, to take part in a Science workshop during British Science Week.

While at Risedale, the Cambrai pupils carried out a practical experiment called 'Red Cabbage Indicator,' which is used to test the pH levels of different substances. They tested various household products, including toothpaste, cleaning paste, and vinegar.



The lesson was led by Science Teacher Mr Higham, with support from our fantastic Technician, Mrs Newall and Risedale star pupil Amber Aitken (7Reid).

Mr Higham said: ***"I was absolutely amazed at the behaviour and level of knowledge from the Year 5 pupils. They conducted the experiment perfectly and achieved some fantastic results. The future definitely looks bright for our young scientists, especially with pupils so engaged with their learning. Thank you so much for being amazing!! You made my day!"***

On Facebook, Cambrai Primary School said, ***"Thank you, Risedale School and your fabulous science department for our Chemistry workshop to celebrate National Science Week! The children LOVED this experience, and they were highly praised by staff for both their superb knowledge and behaviour."***

⚙️ STEM Success at Rotary Tournament 2026

Risedale School pupils once again demonstrated their ingenuity and technical prowess at the 2026 Rotary Technology Tournament, held on Tuesday, 10th March. Hosted through the continued partnership between the Rotary Club of Northallerton and the 1st Close Support Battalion REME, the competition remains a highlight of the school's STEM calendar.

This year's brief pushed our pupils to the limit: designing and building a bridge that had to go up and down and also withstand the weight of a small boat, using only limited materials and their collective brainpower. Risedale was represented by 12 talented pupils who competed against dozens of teams from schools across the region.

The tournament, which promotes the critical fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), challenged the pupils to think like real-world engineers. Whether it was mastering the physics of the challenge or perfecting their final build, the Risedale Family spirit was on full display.



"I am incredibly proud of how our pupils conducted themselves and of everything they achieved," said Mrs Vizer, Teacher of Design & Technology. *"While the technical skills were impressive, it was their RESILIENCE in the face of a difficult challenge that truly stood out. They worked together with such RESPECT for one another's ideas; it was wonderful to see them having such thoughtful conversations and collaborating so effectively to solve the problem."*

By bridging the gap between the classroom and practical problem-solving, our pupils are seeing firsthand how being **RESILIENT**, **RESPECTFUL**, and **RESPONSIBLE** helps them grow. Events like these ensure our pupils are well-equipped to take the next steps on their journey, supported to be the **BEST version of themselves** and ready to thrive as citizens who can embrace change and learn from their mistakes.

Well done to all who took part!

Handmade with Love:

Pupils Craft Perfect Mother's Day Gifts

Ahead of Mother's Day on Sunday, 15th March, the Design & Technology department was a hive of activity and craftsmanship.

Our Technology Teacher, Mrs Vizer, was delighted to share the results of weeks of hard work from our Year 10 D&T pupils, Year 11 Fashion & Textiles pupils, and the members of our Textiles Club. Together, they produced a stunning collection of handmade makeup bags as gifts for the occasion.

The pupils demonstrated fantastic technical sewing skills, incorporating intricate fabric patterns and personalised embroidery (featuring "MAM" and "MUM") into their designs. It was wonderful to see such high-quality, professional results being produced in the classroom.



Well done to everyone for the time and effort that you put into your gifts.
We're sure that you certainly would have made Mother's Day extra special this year!

KS3 Art Critics: The Verdict on 'Snack Attack'

Key Stage 3 Art pupils became 'art critics' for their homework this month. They watched 'Snack Attack', a short animated film by Andrew Cadelago, and wrote a short critical review to share with wider audiences. Overall, Risedale gave this film 3 out of 5 stars, with most pupils recommending it; others were not so sure!

Head of Art, Ms Westwood said: ***"I loved reading all of their reviews, our pupils had clearly enjoyed being able to express and share their opinions and in such a thoughtful and articulate manner."***



KS3 Risedale Art Critics: 'Snack Attack' Animation.

Overall Risedale Rating: 



"A super granny!" "undeniably cute and fun to watch"

"It's a plot twister!" "Tense and a bit funny"

"beautifully portrays the perils of jumping into conclusions"



BEST Year 7 Film Review: Lucas Moon ★★★★★

"For me Colour is really important because it helps show how the characters feel and makes the scenes more interesting. The old lady has dull colours around her, and the boy has brighter colours, so you can tell they're very different. The Composition matters because it's how everything is placed on the screen. The way the characters sit on the bench and how the camera zooms in on the cookies help you understand the story without anyone talking. Finally, the Mood is important because it shows the feelings in each part of the animation. At first it feels tense and a bit funny, but at the end it feels surprising and emotional when the lady realises what really happened."



BEST Year 8 Film Review: Dallas Wright ★★★★★

"Snack Attack 'is a wonderful animated short film from 2012, directed by Andrew Cadelago. It is a five-minute film that beautifully portrays the perils of jumping to conclusions. What I liked most was the clever storytelling without any dialogue. It is a wordless film with the perfect use of movements and sound effects. The animation is beautiful with a charming style that makes the old lady look cute, and the teenager look like a character you can easily relate to. Although "Snack Attack" is undeniably cute and fun to watch, it may not be something that everyone would find interesting due to its simplicity. The story is quite simple, and the moral is quite obvious. However, the cuteness of this animation is in its execution. If someone wants a light-hearted animated movie with a happy ending, then "Snack Attack" is the way to go."



BEST Year 9 Film Review: Alex Dunphy ★★★★★

"What I liked most about the film was how clear and fun the storytelling is, even without words. The twist at the end — when the old woman realises she was eating the teenager's cookies by mistake — makes you laugh and think about first impressions. The best bit was the moment when the misunderstanding is revealed, because it changes how you think about the whole situation and shows the message that we shouldn't jump to conclusions. If I could change anything, I might add just one short scene where the teenager tries to explain himself — but part of the charm is how visual the whole story is. I would recommend this film to others, especially if you like animations with clever visual storytelling and a funny ending."

Year 10 Explore Future Pathways at York St. John University

On Friday 6th and Friday 13th March, our Year 10 pupils visited York St John University as part of the school's Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme. These visits are delivered in partnership with Inspiring Choices, a Uni Connect outreach initiative, providing pupils with a practical introduction to Higher Education.



The two sessions featured campus tours and interactive workshops, giving pupils a clearer understanding of university life and the various academic pathways available to them after Risedale.

A particular highlight of the trip was the visit to the university's Midwifery Suite, where pupils were able to see professional-grade medical training facilities firsthand. Additionally, a dedicated Q&A session with York St John Student Ambassadors allowed our Year 10s to ask candid questions about everything from managing a student budget to the transition from GCSEs to degree-level study.

Careers Leader, Helen Porritt, was impressed by the conduct of the year group: ***"The pupils were excellent ambassadors for Risedale. They engaged well with the sessions and asked some very practical, insightful questions during the student Q&A. These visits are a vital tool in demystifying the university experience and helping our pupils feel more confident about their future post-16 decisions."***

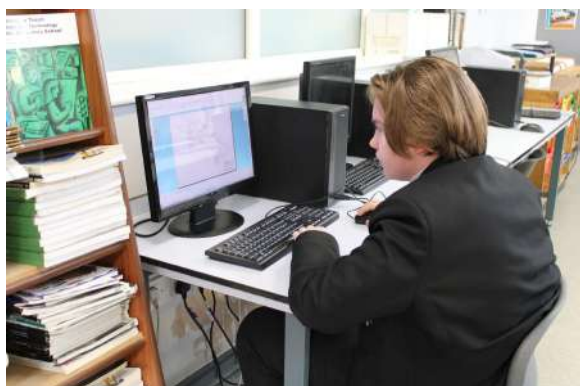
A huge thank you to the staff and student ambassadors at York St John University for hosting us so brilliantly, and to our own staff—Mrs Bowness, Mrs Brown, Dr Ellis, and Mr Metcalfe—for accompanying the trips!

These visits remain a core part of the Risedale curriculum, focusing on 'Cultural Capital and Knowledge for Success'. By providing first-hand experience of a university environment—from lecture halls to specialised clinical suites—we aim to ensure our pupils are well-equipped to make informed choices about their next steps.

Visit our dedicated website page here: [Careers](#)



Year 11 Engineering: Putting Strength to the Test!



Our Year 11 Engineering pupils have been rising to the challenge this term, designing and constructing impressive model bridges for their Non-Exam Assessment (coursework)

The process began with pupils using 2D Design software to create their unique bridge designs after following a brief from the exam board. Their bridge designs were then precision-cut from plywood using a laser cutter. No two designs are the same! To wrap up the project, the pupils put their craftsmanship to the ultimate test—conducting strength and stability evaluations and documenting their progress through professional photography.



The popularity of the subject has reached new heights this year. Mr Kirkbride, Senior Teacher and Head of Technology Faculty, said: *"I've been incredibly impressed with the pupils' dedication. Engineering has been so popular that we have three teaching groups in Year 11, which is almost half the year group! Seeing*

them all working so hard to produce such high-quality work is fantastic! They really have been giving their absolute BEST."

Well done to all our Year 11 Engineers for their hard work and innovation!

Creativity and Commitment Shine at Art Club

It has been an incredibly productive period for the Art Department, with our pupils truly embodying the Risedale **BEST** values through their creativity and dedication.

Ms Westwood's after-school Art Club continues to be a hive of activity. It was wonderful to see a full studio of pupils working collaboratively:

- **Year 11 Exam Readiness:** With their final 2-day GCSE Art Exam taking place on 25th & 26th March, our Year 11 pupils showed immense focus, utilising the time to perfect their portfolios and refine their final ideas.
- **KS4 Open Access Studio Time:** Year 10 pupils took full advantage of the



professional studio environment to develop their independent projects.

- **Art Talent Programme:** Our talented pupils from Years 8, 9, and 10 were busy honing their technical skills and exploring new artistic horizons as part of this specialist programme.



At Risedale, we aspire for every pupil to be the **BEST** version of themselves. Seeing pupils from different year groups supporting one another and taking ownership of their creative journeys was a perfect example of our **"Family of Learners"** in action.

Ms Westwood was delighted with the turnout and the high standard of work produced. Well done to all our pupils for their hard work and dedication!

The Heat is On! Caitlin Arling Smashes Charity Firewalk 🔥👣

On the evening of Wednesday 18th March, while most pupils were relaxing at home, Caitlin Arling (8Gückel) was preparing to face a scorching challenge at the National Coal Mining Museum for England in Wakefield. Caitlin took part in a professional firewalk organised by UK Firewalk, a feat that required nerves of steel and a steady foot. The venue was described by organisers as a very apt setting for walking across hot coals, and Caitlin certainly rose to the occasion.

Caitlin approached the challenge with a level of maturity that impressed everyone involved. After attending a safety briefing to learn the necessary techniques, she stepped up to the glowing embers. Her mum noted that Caitlin took the whole thing very seriously and that **"her confidence and determination were genuinely impressive."** In fact, **"she absolutely smashed it - three times!"** Beyond the personal challenge, Caitlin's Firewalk also raised money for a good cause.

Reflecting on the event, Caitlin said, **"I was a little bit nervous at first, but then when I watched the instructor do it, I thought, Yes! I can do this, and it was an amazing experience - I loved it!"**

The whole Risedale Family is incredibly proud of Caitlin's bravery and **RESILIENCE**. It seems this is just the beginning of her adventurous hobbies, as she is already looking forward to trying out horse riding and quad biking next.

Keep up the great work, Caitlin!



Future Leaders: Charlotte Swift Elected as Deputy MYP 📦 ✨



We are incredibly proud to announce that Charlotte Swift (11Bennett) has been officially elected as the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP) for North Yorkshire Central.

Following the regional elections held on Thursday, 5th March 2026, the results confirmed that Charlotte's vision for the youth of North Yorkshire resonated strongly with her peers. In a very close race, she secured her position as a key voice for young people across the region.

Charlotte's success is a shining example of our Risedale **BEST** values in action. By standing for election, she has shown incredible **RESILIENCE** and **RESPONSIBILITY**, proving herself to be a **RESPECTFUL** leader who values positive **RELATIONSHIPS** and the importance of ensuring every young person's voice is heard.

The UK Youth Parliament provides young people aged 11–18 with a national platform to influence change. Elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) and their Deputies meet with government officials and debate key issues in the House of Commons, ensuring the voices of their peers reach the highest levels of democracy.

In a congratulatory message to Charlotte, Stacey Smith, Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Officer for North Yorkshire Council, praised her efforts:

"Your manifesto was excellent, and it clearly resonated with a lot of young people. You should feel incredibly proud of the ideas you put forward and the confidence you

showed in standing for this role. As Deputy MYP, you'll still have opportunities to get involved, contribute to campaigns, and support the work of the elected MYP. It's a brilliant chance to develop your voice, build experience, and make a real impact."

We are thrilled to have a Risedale pupil representing our school and the wider region as an official member of the North Yorkshire Youth Voice team. Charlotte, you are truly a fantastic ambassador for **#TeamRisedale** and have shown what it means to be the **BEST** version of yourself.

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement, Charlotte! The whole **Risedale Family** is so proud!

Find Out More: To learn more about the UK Youth Parliament and how young people can lead change in our region, visit the [North Yorkshire Council NY Voice website](#).

Risedale Rugby 7s: A Day of Debut Triumphs and Teamwork

A huge well done to all the boys who represented #TeamRisedale at the Rugby 7s tournament on Wednesday, 18th March. It was a day of high energy, great weather, and even better sportsmanship!

Year 7: Second Place on Debut

For many of our Year 7 boys, this tournament was a milestone—their first-ever games of competitive rugby. The team embraced the challenge with incredible **RESILIENCE**, enjoying both the sunshine and the fierce competition.

A special shoutout goes to Eloi Taylor, who truly "caught the rugby bug," scoring some fantastic tries to help lead the team to an impressive second-place finish overall. What a start to their rugby careers!

Year 8: A Masterclass in Teamwork

The Year 8 squad showed great character throughout the day, rallying together in every match. While the overall results didn't go their way this time, they saved their best for last—putting on an absolute masterclass of flowing rugby in their final game of the tournament.

We are incredibly proud of how they stuck together, and we look forward to seeing that same chemistry in their next fixture.

Coach's Final Word: Mr Lawson (Head of PE)

It was a pleasure to see the boys building such strong **RELATIONSHIPS** on the pitch and showing the **RESPONSIBILITY** required to represent the school so well.

Well done **#TeamRisedale!**



⚽ Risedale's Silver Success at Area Tournament

A massive well done to our Year 10 and Year 8 teams who competed in the Area Tournament on Friday, 20th March.

Year 10: Silver Success 🏆

After a 0-0 draw against SFX in their first game, the Year 10 boys showed incredible **RESILIENCE** with 3-1 wins over Richmond and Thirsk in their next two games. There were some great finishes and goals from Corey Hillman, James Lacey, Matthew Senivota and Alex Stephenson.



Despite a tense 2-2 draw with Northallerton, followed by a 2-0 loss against Easingwold, #TeamRisedale secured second place in the tournament overall and were runners-up to Richmond, who were the eventual winners.

Huge shoutout to Matthew Senivota for his incredible 4-goal haul! ⚽⚽⚽⚽

Year 8: Determination on the Pitch

Our Year 8s battled hard as their schedule involved some long waits and then three hard-fought back-to-back games in quick succession in chilly conditions. While luck didn't always go our way, there were two fantastic goals from Alfie Davies and Josh Griffin. Well done, boys!

Head of PE, Mr Lawson, was so proud of the **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RELATIONSHIPS** shown by all the boys on the day. Well done #TeamRisedale.

Risedale Musicians Strike Gold at North of England Brass Band Championships 🏆🎵

It was a golden weekend for the Risedale Family at Durham's stunning Gala Theatre, as a member of staff and one of our Year 9 pupils returned home with top honours from the North of England Brass Band First Section Championships.

Ms Dunphy and son, Year 9 pupil Alex Dunphy, represented their band, the Durham Miners Association Brass Band, with distinction at the annual competition, which draws some of the finest brass bands from across the north of England. The band delivered an outstanding performance to claim first place in the First Section - a remarkable achievement on such a competitive stage.





The accolades didn't stop there for Alex, who had a day to remember. Not only was Alex part of the percussion section that was awarded Best Percussion Section on the day, but Alex also picked up £100 in prize money as the youngest player in the competition - a fantastic individual recognition to cap off a truly memorable performance.

Ms Dunphy said she was incredibly proud of everyone involved and praised the hard

work and dedication that had gone into their preparation. Alex said, *"It is an honour to be part of the brass band movement in the North of England. I am very lucky to have the opportunity to play and learn music from many people in my life."*

The band have won a place in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, which take place in September later this year.

The whole Risedale Family will no doubt be joining together to congratulate Ms Dunphy and Alex on this brilliant achievement. We can't wait to see what they do next!

Sustainable Style: Year 10 Fashion & Textiles Progress 🧵

We are thrilled to share a behind-the-scenes look at what our Year 10 Fashion & Textiles pupils have been up to!

Under the guidance of Mrs Vizor, the class has been tackling a brief focused on sustainability. Pupils are designing and constructing shirts made entirely from upcycled materials, learning the importance of ethical fashion and resourcefulness in the process.

Mrs Vizor has been so impressed by the dedication and technical skill shown by the group. It is inspiring to see our pupils take such a mindful approach to design.



KS3 Spring Term 2 Recognition Assemblies: Celebrating Success!

Before we broke up for the Easter holidays, we held our Year 7, 8, and 9 recognition assemblies to celebrate the fantastic hard work and commitment shown by our Key Stage 3 pupils. It was a wonderful way to end the term, rewarding those who consistently give their **BEST** to the **Risedale Family**.

☀ Living our BEST Values

The heart of our celebrations focused on our core values. We were proud to present awards to pupils who have been outstanding role models, demonstrating **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and positive **RELATIONSHIPS**.

★ Stamp Superstars

We also recognised our "Top Earners"—the pupils who accumulated the most achievement stamps through consistent effort and focus in every lesson. It was a pleasure to see so many pupils rewarded with prizes and Easter eggs for their dedication throughout Spring Term 2.

🚩 Special Shout-outs

The assemblies concluded with special shout-outs for individual pupils who went the extra mile, showing exceptional character and commitment.

It was a very proud end to the Spring Term for KS3, and we look forward to seeing this same level of excellence continue as we head into the Summer Term.

Congratulations once again to all our winners!

Mrs Davies

(BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS3)



#TeamRisedale 

Risedale Rugby: Grit and Spirit Against the Elements



Our Year 10 and 11 rugby stars braved the elements on Tuesday, 24th March, in a hard-fought encounter against Richmond School, showcasing fantastic spirit and dedication to the game.

Despite the challenging weather conditions, both teams put on a display of rugby that was a credit to their respective schools. This fixture was more than just a match; it was a vital opportunity for our pupils to gather footage for their GCSE PE assessments and to further develop their lifelong passion for the sport.

Resilience in a Closely Contested Battle

Our Year 10 and 11 pupils pushed Richmond all the way in a closely contested match that was played in great spirit from start to finish. Although Richmond narrowly took the win, the **#TeamRisedale** squad showed excellent sportsmanship and matched their opponents at every turn.

Coach's Final Word: Mr Lawson (Head of PE)

*"I was incredibly proud of how the boys conducted themselves; they were a true credit to the school. There were so many standout players; however, I was particularly impressed with the work rate of Riley Filius, Thomas Leighton, and Henley Nicholas, and we saw some truly outstanding tackles from Jack Gilroy and Branden Mallinson. The boys showed great **RESPONSIBILITY** in their approach to their GCSE practical work and fostered excellent **RELATIONSHIPS** with their opponents on the pitch. Well done, boys!"*

Risedale Pupils Appointed as Youth Directors for RYCIC



We are delighted to announce that five of our pupils have successfully joined the Richmond Yorkshire Community Interest Company (RYCIC) Shadow Board.

Following their successful applications, Josua Sovui, Ranulph Gray, Paris Johnson, Alisha Kincaid, and Sophie Moraghan are now ready to represent the young people of our region. This is a landmark opportunity for these pupils to step outside the classroom and into the heart of local decision-making.

Shaping the Future of Richmond

By joining the RYCIC Shadow Board, our pupils aren't just observing—they are participating in projects that will define the future of our town. This role allows them to:

- **Influence Development:** Having a say in how Richmond and Hambleton develop for their generation.
- **Build Career Skills:** Gaining "real-world" experience in strategy and community planning for their future CVs and UCAS applications.
- **Lead the Way:** Ensuring that the voices of young people are heard loud and clear in local projects.

A Proud Moment for Risedale

This achievement perfectly reflects our school's commitment to our core pillars of **RESPONSIBILITY** and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

Speaking about the appointments, Senior Teacher Mrs Lumsdon said, *"I am so proud of these five pupils for taking the initiative to get involved with RYCIC. It is vital that our young people have a voice in the future of the area that they live in, and I know they will do a fantastic job representing the Risedale Family."*

Huge congratulations to our new Youth Board Directors. We can't wait to see the impact you make! To find out more about the work of the RYCIC, visit their website: www.richmondryorkshire.co.uk

KS4 Spring Term Success: Celebrating Our Shining Stars ★

On Thursday, 26th and Friday, 27th March, our Key Stage 4 pupils were celebrated in recognition assemblies for their hard work, maturity, and dedication to the Risedale Family. Led by Mr Kirkbride (Senior Teacher) and Mrs Vizor (BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS4), these assemblies highlighted those pupils who have consistently gone above and beyond.

★ Staff Nominations: Shining Stars

The awards presented were particularly meaningful as they were driven by our weekly staff nomination process. Every Friday, Mrs Vizor invites the entire Risedale team to nominate pupils who truly embody our school values.

It was a privilege to present prizes and Easter treats to our top-nominated winners. A huge well done to those pupils who received multiple nominations from different staff members—an incredible achievement that shows the positive impact they have across the whole Risedale Family.

🏆 Living our BEST Values

We were proud to present awards to pupils who have been outstanding role models, demonstrating our school values: **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and positive **RELATIONSHIPS**.

Year 11: Dedication to Revision

Beyond the celebrations, we also want to praise the incredible focus of our Year 11 pupils. Many showed great **RESILIENCE** by attending our special revision sessions during the Easter holidays.

This level of commitment during the holidays is brilliant to see as we head toward the final exams. Keep up that momentum, Year 11—the finish line is in sight!



Alumni Spotlight: The Global Success of Bishwadhan Rai



Following our spotlight last year, Risedale School is thrilled to share the continued international success of former pupil Bishwadhan Rai (Class of 2011-2015).

Since graduating from the Royal Academy Schools in 2025—where he was awarded the RA School Dissertation Prize and the Almacantar Prize—Bish’s career has reached prestigious new heights. He recently completed a residency as the Sainsbury Scholar in Fine Arts at the British School at Rome, cementing his status as a rising star in the art world.

Career Highlights:

- **Awards:** Recipient of the 2025 Patricia Turner Sculpture Award and the Salaman-Seelig Art Award.
- **Solo Exhibition:** Bishwadhan is currently preparing for his solo exhibition, ‘Being There’, at the ZÉRUÛ gallery in London (24th March – 25th April 2026).
- **Giving Back:** Alongside his practice, he has been sharing his expertise as a Guest Tutor at Newcastle University and Camberwell School of Art.

From his early days in Risedale’s Art Department to exhibiting at the BALTIC and the Royal Academy, Bish continues to inspire our current pupils.

Head of Art, Ms Westwood said: ***"Watching Bish's journey from our classrooms to the international stage is incredibly moving. He proves that with passion and dedication, Risedale pupils can achieve anything."***

We look forward to continuing to watch Bish’s career flourish on the global stage.

PHOTO CREDIT: [British School at Rome \(Instagram\)](#)

🐣 The Big Easter Attendance Raffle: Celebrating Our Success!

On the last day of term, Friday 27th March, excitement reached a high at Risedale School as we held our Big Easter Attendance Raffle.

The event was the culmination of our Spring Term attendance drive, rewarding those pupils who showed incredible commitment to their learning. Huge congratulations to over 50 lucky winners who walked away with Easter Eggs!

★ **100% Attendance Heroes:** A massive shout-out to those who didn't miss a single second of school during the Spring Term. Your dedication is inspiring!

★ **Most Improved Attendance:** We are also incredibly proud of the pupils who showed the biggest turnaround in their attendance. Your hard work truly paid off!



Aside from the raffle, it was brilliant to see so many pupils enjoying the final day in non-uniform—a well-deserved reward for everyone who achieved 100% attendance during the final two-week "Reward Window."

As we begin the Summer Term, the attendance slate is wiped clean. Every pupil has a fresh start and a new opportunity to be part of our upcoming rewards and challenges.

Well done to everyone for a fantastic term—let's keep up that momentum!



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

Year 10 vs. Year 11: The Annual Football Showdown

On Friday, 27th March, the final day of term, Risedale witnessed the highly anticipated annual Year 10 vs. Year 11 clash. Played in fantastic spirits, the match served as a perfect celebration before the Easter break and a fitting send-off for our Year 11s as they prepare for the most important term of their school lives.



A First-Half Seesaw

The game was an emotional rollercoaster from the opening whistle. The Year 10s took an early lead through a clever Matthew Senivota finish, but the Year 11s struck back when Chris Allan fired a clinical strike into the roof of the net. The Year 10s regained the momentum just before the break, with Senivota's right boot finding the mark once again to make it 2-1 at half-time.

Second-Half Drama

The Year 11s showed their class after the interval, seizing control of the game. Kalen Jenkin levelled the scoring from close range before Jacob Gardner put them ahead with a spectacular volley following a precision James Pollock corner. With only five minutes remaining, the Year 11s looked certain to take the win—until Theo-Tyler Fort earned a lifeline for the Year 10s by winning a penalty. Player-manager Leon Pond stepped up and calmly dispatched the spot-kick to force the game into a shootout.

The Penalty Shootout

The match went to the spot in a tense finale. The Year 10s took the initiative immediately: Lester Atherton scored his opener, while goalkeeper Zach White became the hero of the hour with two massive saves.

Corey Hillman and Theo-Tyler Fort kept the momentum swinging, and despite a successful strike from Rio Regan for the Year 11s, Leon Pond stepped up once more to seal the victory. His winning penalty sent the Year 10 crowd wild!

Well played to everyone involved for a game played with such great character and sportsmanship. Both teams were a credit to the school, demonstrating our core values: **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and positive **RELATIONSHIPS**.

Mr Lawson (Head of PE)

The Great KS3 Easter Egg House Competition 🥚 ✨

During the last week of term, every KS3 tutor group was given a single egg and the freedom to create anything they liked for the seasonal house challenge: *The Great KS3 Easter Egg House Competition!*

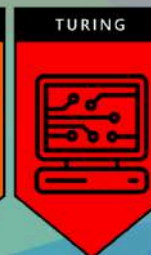
The week was spent working in teams to come up with designs and prepare the entries. It was great to see pupils taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for their projects, working together, strengthening positive **RELATIONSHIPS**, and collaborating to make sure their tutor group was represented.

The School Council assembled to judge the final results based on creativity and teamwork. Congratulations to our eggcellent winners:

- **1st Place:** 8 Davies 💜
- **2nd Place:** 9 Rodgers ❤️
- **3rd Place:** 7 Hill 🧡
- **4th Place:** The Risedale Centre 💜

Mrs Davies, BEST Positive Behaviour Lead KS3, said, *“Well done to everyone who took part and earned points for their houses. It was a really fun competition and a great way to end a fantastic Spring Term for the Risedale Family.”*





🏆 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 Turing ❤️ with 50,378 Reward Stamps**
- **2nd Seacole 🍷 with 49,162 Reward Stamps**
- **3rd Pankhurst 💜 with 47,454 Reward Stamps**
- **4th Attenborough 💙 with 46,294 Reward Stamps**

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

#TeamRisedale 💙💜🍷❤️

🏆 Attendance Champions: Spring Term 2 Winners!

We had some great tutor group attendance winners for the second 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 **7Shephard**, who have been simply unstoppable! They secured the trophy **twice this half-term**, bringing their incredible total to **5 wins** so far this academic year!

27/02/2026	7Shephard	98.82%
06/03/2026	7Shephard	100.00%
13/03/2026	9Rodgers	97.90%
20/03/2026	8Dovaston	96.00%
27/03/2026	7Reid	94.80%

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





RISEDALE

A family of learners