

Friday, 4th April 2025

Dear parent/carers,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - April 2025

As the springtime is now in evidence all around us and the Easter break approaches, I have been reflecting on things we can celebrate or look forward to in school. Our new Behaviour Policy has had a real impact on the climate in school, and we have seen a significant reduction in suspensions and incidents. Our Year 11 pupils successfully completed their mock examinations, and many of them are feeling more prepared for their real exams, which are due to start in a few weeks. The school production "Little Shop of Horrors" is on the horizon, and the cast has been rehearsing diligently for the summer performances. Many of our pupils recently celebrated Eid and have been talking about their celebrations in school, which is wonderful to hear. We have had sporting successes this term, a visit from our MP Rishi Sunak, and national recognition for our work in computing. What a term!



We also have some new staff joining us, and this is a cause for excitement and celebration. Our new Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis, started with us a couple of weeks ago. Dr Ellis joins us with a wealth of knowledge and expertise (including both personal experience and a recently acquired PhD!) around military families and is here to support Service Pupils with their transition into and out of the school and help them to make the most of school. She is working alongside our dedicated Service Children's Advocate, Mrs Johnson, and is keen to meet as many pupils and families as possible.

Mrs Lumsdon, our new Head of Expressive Arts, will be joining the Risedale Family after the Easter break. Mrs Lumsdon is a Music specialist and has significant experience leading performing arts in schools. We are excited to see what energy she will bring to the expressive arts in school as a new Head of Faculty. Mrs Lumsdon will lead Music, whilst line managing other curriculum leaders in the faculty, which comprises Art, Drama, Music and PE.

Another cause for celebration is our new Vision and Values, which we have spent time sharing with all stakeholders this term. Pupils are now being given the opportunity routinely to consider how they can be the **BEST** version of themselves and how they can show our four values: RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, RESILIENCE and RELATIONSHIPS. In the summer term, we will see some new wall art in key locations in school that highlight these. A reminder of the letter sent last month to parents/carers about this can be found here: <https://bit.ly/RisedaleVisionValues>.

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday, and thank you for your support.

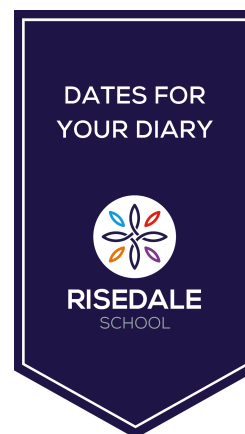
Greenwood.

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

7 - 18 April	Easter Holidays (Y11 Easter Revision Sessions)
Monday 21 April	Bank Holiday (Easter Monday)
Tuesday 22 April	Start of Summer Term 1 (staff & pupils return)
28 April - 2 May	Wellbeing Week
Monday 5 May	Bank Holiday (Early May Bank Holiday)
Thursday 8 May	Y11 GCSE Exams Begin (Exams Website page)
Monday 19 May	Y7-10 Reading Test
Thursday 22 May	Y7 Consultation Evening (3:30pm to 6pm)
26 - 30 May	Half Term Holiday
Monday 2 June	Start of Summer Term 2 (staff & pupils return)

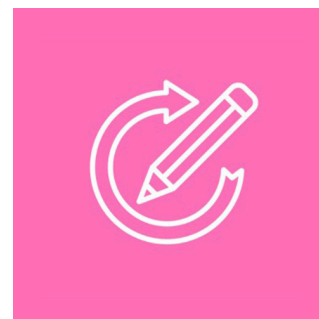


Website Link >> [Calendar & Term Dates](#)

Attention Year 11 Pupils and Parents/Carers: Boost Your Exam Performance with Extra Revision Sessions This Easter!

We are excited to offer a substantial number of revision sessions specifically designed to supercharge your success in the upcoming GCSE exams.

Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity! We strongly encourage all Year 11 pupils to attend as many sessions as possible, both during the school day, after school and throughout the **Easter Holidays**. These essential sessions are your chance to deepen your understanding, solidify your knowledge and gain the confidence you need to excel in your exams.



A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, who are generously giving their time to organise and conduct these crucial revision sessions.

Click the links below to see the revision sessions that we have on offer. Remember, dates and times are live and may be updated, so check back regularly:

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

- [Year 11 Easter Holiday Revision Sessions 2025.](#)
- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#) (Tutor time, lunchtime & after-school).
- Helpful suggested revision links.
- [Year 11 Revision Strategies Presentation.](#)

Remember, regular attendance at these sessions is key to unlocking your full potential and achieving outstanding exam results!

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

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

Attendance: Punctuality Reminder - Arriving On Time for School

As we approach the end of the Spring Term and look forward to the Easter break, we wanted to send a reminder regarding punctuality when we return to school.

On 20th March, we sent an email addressing a slight increase in late arrivals. We understand that routines can sometimes shift, but we want to reiterate the importance of arriving at school on time.

Just to recap:

- Pupils are expected to be ready for Tutor Time at 8:30 am.
- The school is open from 8:20 am, providing time to settle in before Tutor Time.
- The register is taken within the first 5 minutes of Tutor Time and each lesson thereafter.
- Persistent lateness can be used in legal attendance proceedings.

We appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring your child arrives promptly. A punctual start to the day is crucial for a positive and productive learning environment.

Please take a moment during the Easter break to discuss the importance of punctuality with your child and reinforce the need to arrive at school on time. Please also be aware that late marks can be used as part of any attendance concerns for your child and used in the legal attendance pathways.

You can find more information regarding school times, attendance, absence, and punctuality on our school website under the "[Times of the Day](#)" and "[Attendance, Absence, and Punctuality](#)" sections.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and if we can help you in any way, please get in touch.

Mrs Cox (Senior Teacher) Cox.S@risedale.org.uk

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our top priority. If you have any concerns regarding Child Protection or Safeguarding, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Cox, immediately at DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk.

In Mrs Cox's absence, please contact one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Mr Yates, Miss Burke, Ms Benson, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Meades, or Lisa Smith.



Out-of-School Support:

We understand that concerns may arise outside of school hours, including during the Easter break. For access to important information and contact details for relevant agencies, please visit our dedicated Safeguarding page on the school website: www.risedale.org.uk/information/safeguarding

Meet the Safeguarding Team

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)

Senior Teacher: Mrs Sarah Cox

DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk



DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS



Mr Yates
Deputy
Headteacher



Miss Burke
Senior Teacher
SENCo



Ms Benson
Pupil Support
Manager KS4



Mrs Clarke
Pupil Support
Manager KS3



Mrs Meades
Pupil Support
Manager KS3



Lisa Smith
School
Counsellor

Meet Our New Service Pupil Manager: Dr Ellis

“As a former Service Child and pupil at Risedale School, I appreciate the unique challenges that service pupils face as they negotiate their time at school. As a mother of a service child, I also empathise with the experiences of military families as they navigate service life alongside their children's educational needs. My recent role as an academic researcher at the University of Winchester focused on understanding and improving the educational experiences of service pupils. This experience deepened my commitment to helping pupils from service backgrounds achieve their full potential.”



Self-Identification of Service Families

At Risedale, we understand the unique and distinct challenges facing military pupils and their families. We are passionate about meeting our service pupils' academic and pastoral needs so that they are not educationally disadvantaged by their status as service pupils. To provide flexible and tailored support to our service pupils, we ask families to inform us at the earliest opportunity if their child is a service pupil. We also understand that the experiences of military life differ between families. By informing Risedale that your child has:

- one or more of their parents/guardians serving in the regular armed forces, including pupils with a parent/guardian who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service - this includes pupils with a parent/guardian who is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England
- been recorded as a 'Service child' in any school census in the past 6 years
- a parent/guardian who is a veteran who has served at any point in the child's life
- a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

We can better understand pupil needs and help mitigate the potential impact of mobility on pupil education. This enables us to offer tailored pastoral support, particularly during times of family separation, including deployments. Early identification of pupils from military backgrounds allows us to create an inclusive, supportive environment where our service pupils are celebrated and encouraged to achieve their potential.

For more information, please review [Service Pupil Premium: What You Need to Know](#).

>> If you would like to share your status with us, please email our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis, at Ellis.S@risedale.org.uk.

NEW FEATURE: Health & Wellbeing Spotlight



We're excited to introduce a new feature to our [Health and Wellbeing](#) website page and our Headteacher's Letters: the 'Health & Wellbeing Spotlight'!

Our School Counsellor, Lisa Smith, will be curating this section each half term, spotlighting key resources and information on relevant topics. To kick things off, Lisa has highlighted the Charlie Waller Trust's valuable resources for pupils navigating exam stress. You can find practical tips and strategies to manage anxiety and build confidence during this challenging

time. We encourage you to explore these resources and check back regularly for new articles and insights from Lisa to support your wellbeing.

Coping with Exam Stress: Please visit the [Charlie Waller Trust](#) to explore helpful tips and strategies (Filter to "Student or Learner" and "Exams").

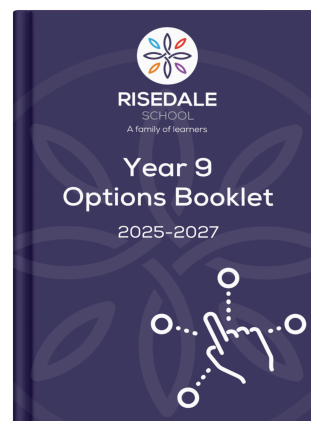
Year 9 Options

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended our Year 9 Consultation Evening and Options Evening this half term.

For further information regarding the Options process, please visit our dedicated [Year 9 Options website page](#), where you can find a digital copy of the Options Booklet and a link to the presentation from last night's Options Evening.

All Option Forms should be submitted by Friday, 25th April.

If you have any questions regarding Y9 Options, please don't hesitate to contact Senior Teacher Mr Kirkbride at Kirkbride.M@risedale.org.uk.



Google Workspace for Education: Parent/Carer Agreement

Pupils currently have Google Workspace for Education accounts, which they use on Chromebook devices for completing classwork in school. The core Google Workspace for Education services are approved by the DfE and comply with GDPR. These core services include Google Classroom, Google Drive, Gmail, Google Docs, Google Sheets and Google Slides. Further information about core Google services can be found at [Google Workspace Terms Of Service](#).

Some additional services which can be beneficial in an educational context, such as Google Maps, Google Earth, and Google Translate, do not fall under the Google for Education agreement. They require parental consent for any users below the age of 18.

We feel that these additional services can provide an enhanced education experience and would request your permission to enable Google for Education's additional services for your child. Further information about Google's additional services can be found at [Service categories available to Google Workspace for Education Users](#).

Permission will be assumed unless you contact us via email at enquiries@risedale.org.uk or send a letter addressed to Risedale School, Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 4BD to tell us that you do not wish for your child to access the additional services mentioned above.

By giving permission, you are agreeing to the following:

- Your child will have access to Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Translate and any other additional services which the school feels would be beneficial.
- You have read and understood the Remote Learning Policy published on the school website.

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

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

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

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

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



Community Messages from External Providers

FEAST: Redeem your vouchers for free holiday activities and food this Easter

All families whose children receive benefits-related free school meals have been issued vouchers to access free places on FEAST activities this Easter. You should have received this via email or text, from a platform called Holiday Activities.

Head over to the FEAST website at [North Yorkshire Together](https://www.northyorkshiretogether.co.uk) to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on some of the fantastic activities on offer in our area.

To learn more about FEAST, and for information on activities, eligibility, paid-for places and how to manage your bookings, visit the website at www.northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service: Family Activity Days

With the Easter holidays just around the corner, North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service has a range of experiences planned to get young people and their families active and in touch with nature this spring.

Family Activity Days are the perfect solution for spending quality time together taking on a challenge in the great outdoors, making memories that will last a lifetime. Join the team on a canoe journey at either Bewerley Park in Pateley Bridge or East Barnby near Whitby and get 10% off your Family Activity Day booking using the code 'Hello10'.

Adventure Club will keep your young people busy with activities that could include climbing, caving, high ropes, river scrambling and water sports such as canoeing and sailing. They'll make new friends, challenge themselves and learn a whole range of different skills. All while having lots of fun!

There are also three exciting courses available for young people to try this Easter – rock skills, paddle sports and sailing. Find out more about what's on and when at www.outdoored.co.uk/schoolholidays and get ready for an unforgettable outdoor experience like no other!




The poster features the FEAST logo at the top, followed by the text 'Holidays just got better' in a large, bold font. Below this, there are several small images showing children and adults engaged in various activities: a child climbing a rope, a group of children sitting around a table, a child jumping over a hurdle, and a group of children sitting on a bench. To the right of these images, there is a text box that reads: 'Looking for something fun to do in the school holidays? FEAST has got you covered! There's sports, art, food and loads more going on. If you're 16 or under and live in North Yorkshire, you can join in on the action, with free places for those who get benefits-related free school meals. Get involved, try something new, and make the most of your holidays! Discover what's on offer at [feastny.org](https://www.feastny.org)'. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and logos for North Yorkshire Together, HolidayActivities, and North Yorkshire Council.



REMINDER: Support Sessions for Parents of Neurodiverse Children

Are you a parent or caregiver of a neurodiverse child (diagnosed or awaiting assessment)? NYC Children and Families Service Early Help is hosting another online support session on Tuesday 29th April, 18:00-19:00. This session will focus on "Supporting you and your child with sleep".

You can access the link on the poster and join the sessions via this link:

 [Neurodiversity Sessions Online \(Spring 2025\).pdf](#)





Support for Service Families of Children with Autism

Are you a service family?

Does your child have a diagnosis of autism, or are they awaiting a diagnosis?

Dales Academies Trust, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, are working on a new project which aims to provide additional support to families in these unique circumstances. We would love to hear feedback on your experiences and any challenges which you may face.



Please scan the QR code to complete a short questionnaire, which will enable us to provide targeted support and advice.

SCAN ME

Service Families Autism Project Parent / Carer Survey

The Dales Academy Trust, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, are working on a new project which aims to provide additional support to service families of children with autism. They would love to hear feedback on your experiences and any challenges you may face as a family of a child with autism. To participate in the survey, you can access the link on the poster [HERE](#).

ONLINE SESSIONS For Parents/ Carers **UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS**

For parents/carers of neurodiverse children
(with a diagnosis or awaiting assessment)



Presented by
NYC Children and
Families Service:
Early Help

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY, 18:00 – 19:00

Supporting you to support your child through shutdown, meltdown and crisis

[Click here to join the session](#)

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE, 18:00 – 19:00

Supporting you and your child with their emotional and sensory regulation

[Click here to join the session](#)

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY, 18:00 – 19:00

Supporting you and your child with sleep

[Click here to join the session](#)

For more information contact
candfhubhambleton@northyorks.gov.uk or
candfhubrichmond@northyorks.gov.uk

FACE Family Advice Sessions for Parents



Easter Timetable

all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Facing Defiance	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	8 April 10am
Understanding Anger	8 April 7PM
Anxiety Explained	14 APR 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	14 APR 7pm
What is ACT	15 April 10am
Introduction to OCD	15 April 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	22 April 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	22 April 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	24 April 7pm
Improving Family Communication	28 April 10am
Autism Improving Communication	28 April 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	29 April 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	29 April 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	6 May 7pm

An online talk by Jane Keyworth

Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

Thursday 3rd April 10-11:30am

Tuesday 29th April 7 - 8:30pm

Talks are recorded and available to watch for up to 48hrs after the session £24



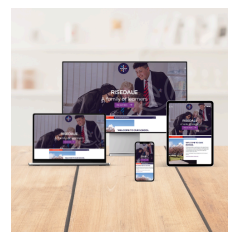
Book online
facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to **PARENTS**
on the **Homepage**



General Reminders for Risedale School

School Website

It is recommended that all parents familiarise themselves with the school's website www.risedale.org.uk. There, you can find lots of important information such as [calendar and term dates](#), [letters to parents](#), [uniform](#), [policies](#), [exam information](#), [wellbeing](#) and our [latest news](#) to name but a few.



Uniform

At Risedale, we take great pride in our school uniform and strive to make it as affordable as possible by limiting the number of branded items we offer. Our website provides guidance on the [Uniform](#) policy, which is an integral part of our school's identity. It is mandatory for all pupils to wear the correct uniform at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.



Online Parental Engagement

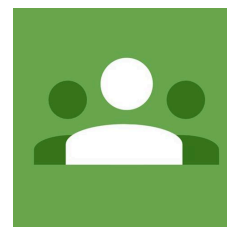
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see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



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

Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian' simply complete this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



Equipment and Chromebooks

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school to start the day positively and be prepared to learn.

- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case.
- A pencil case containing the following:
A **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**, pencil, ruler and eraser to enable pupils to take pride in their presentation (P.R.O.U.D).
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).

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

Always be
PROUD
of your work