

September 2025

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Post-16 Careers Guidance Information for Parents/Carers of Year 11 Pupils

I am writing to you, as we have now come to a very busy time of year for our Year 11 pupils, with decisions, dates, and deadlines to be met this term and next, for their Post 16 destinations. A range of information will be distributed to our pupils through Tutor time, assemblies, and through parent/pupil email, culminating in their college applications being completed by 19th December 2025, to avoid disappointment with course availability.

During the Autumn term, Year 11 pupils should be thinking about which colleges they would like to attend and which possible choices of courses they would like to study post-16. At this point, they can make as many applications as they want, to as many colleges as they choose. Mrs Porritt (Careers Co-ordinator) will be available to support college applications, and Mrs Harris (Careers Adviser) will be available on a Friday, conducting 1:1 interviews.

Once the colleges have received their application forms, pupils will be invited forward for college interviews, usually from February onwards. College Open Evenings are starting from late September, and I highly recommend that you and your child attend the college Open Evenings before applying.

Richmond Sixth Form and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form interviews will be taking place here at Risedale School – dates and timings to be confirmed.

Darlington College interviews have to take place at Darlington, due to the vast choice of vocational courses, and interviews are arranged when Heads of Department are available.

Once these interviews have taken place, the pupil will be given a 'conditional offer' of a place on their chosen course(s). This is subject to the pupil's exam results in August – **this does not mean that the pupil has 'got into college' automatically**. They will still need to work hard throughout Year 11 and gain their GCSE grades, especially in English and Maths, with a minimum Grade 4.

Please ensure that our admin team has your current contact details. I will be sending you and your child information about college and post-16 pathways via email and text message. Additionally, I will share information via the school's social media outlets where possible. We also have a Careers Parent Portal, accessible via the school's [Careers](#) webpage, which contains numerous resources for you and your child to share and access. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me on 01748 833501 or at porritt.h@risedale.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs H Porritt
Careers Co-ordinator/ Pupil Support Manager

>> The full list of Local College Open Evenings/Days follows on Page 2 of this letter.





Local College Open Evenings/Days

Date	College	Timings
01.10.25	Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form	5.00pm – 7.30pm
07.10.25	Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form	5.00pm – 7.30pm
16.10.25	Darlington College	5.30pm - 7.30pm
16.10.25	Richmond Sixth Form	
18.10.25	Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form	5.00pm - 7.30pm
18.10.25	Askham Bryan College - York	10.00am - 2.00pm - Book online
18.11.25	Darlington College	5.30pm – 7.30pm
24.10.25	Richmond Sixth Form	5.30pm – 7.30pm
29.11.25	Askham Bryan College - York	10.00am – 2.00pm - Book online
21.01.26	Darlington College	5.30pm – 7.30pm
24.03.26	Darlington College	5.30pm – 7.30pm
8.06.26	Darlington College	3.30pm – 6.30pm

Year 11 Assemblies

- 19.9.25 – Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
- 10.10.25 – Darlington College
- TBC – Richmond Sixth Form College

Year 11 Consultation Evening

- 14.01.26 - 3.20pm - 5.20pm

Darlington College

Year 11 “On Course to College” events

- 12.01.26 – 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- 09.03.26 – 5.00pm – 7.00pm
- 27.04.26 – 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Year 11 “Connect to College”

- 24.06.26 – 9.30am – 4.00pm please book online

