



KIT Letter Issue 21: December 2021

Dear parents/carers and pupils,

As we approach the festive season, it is on all our minds, I'm sure, that we hope this year can be more 'normal' than last year. This sums up the term as a whole. Staff, pupils and families have all worked tremendously hard to make their time and opportunities at Risedale count. This letter epitomises what a fantastic school community we have. Just scroll down to all our good news stories! We have remained Covid safe whilst at the same time opening up a myriad of amazing new challenges for our young people. It has also been wonderful to see so many new faces join us too.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday.

Sarah Matthewman Deputy Headteacher



Format change to KIT Letters:

We've now split our KIT letter into 2 sections starting with **' Important Notices '** for parents and carers, followed by our **' Good News Stories '**. We hope that you will find this new format easier to read and enjoy the content.

> > > Your 'Important Notices' for parents/carers start here < < <

Snow Closures



As the winter progresses, we can expect a heavy snowfall at any time. While we make every effort to keep the school open, there may be times when we have to close, either for a full day or during the day.

We understand that the majority of our pupils live within walking distance of Risedale and can get to school in most circumstances. However, many of our staff team live further afield and have difficulty getting in during heavy snow, occasionally making it difficult to maintain our pupil to staff ratios. There are a number of other health and safety issues we need to consider to ensure the safety of everyone while they are in school.

In the event of snow, please note the following:

- **Risedale School will open in the first instance.**
- **Check your text messages** - we will let you know if school is going to be closed for the day as early as we can. We will also let you know if school closes during the day



by text. If you do not receive school text messages, please let the office have your mobile number.

- **Please do not telephone the school** - we try to keep these lines open so that staff can contact us to let us know their situation. If the school closes during the day, staff that live near to school will stay with children who cannot be picked up quickly; please travel safely on these occasions and remember the children will be in good hands.

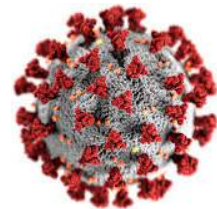
Remote learning expectations for snow days:



If we do announce a snow day closure your child will be set work via Google Classroom for the timetabled lessons they have that day. As with other remote learning times we recommend, as far as possible, that your child sticks to the routine of the school day.

COVID-19 in-school testing - January 2022

As per current government guidelines, Risedale School will be offering one Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test on-site at the beginning of the Spring Term in January. We plan to test pupils in Years 7, 8, and 11 on Tuesday 4th January (Training Day) and Years 9 and 10 on Wednesday 5th January.



All parents/carers must read [‘Planned COVID testing in-school for January 2022’](#) to find out all the details and timings that your child will need for their allotted testing day.

COVID-19 at-home testing - REMINDER

We know how important it is for you to be able to send your child to school so please keep encouraging them to test twice weekly, 3-4 days apart, and report each result to:

- NHS Test and Trace:
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- Risedale School: [Home Test Result Form - PUPILS](#)
- Report all positive test results to school: As your child will be absent from school, you must report this in the normal way, contacting the school as soon as possible, making it very clear that this is because of a positive LFD test result.



PLEASE NOTE: Staff and pupils should continue to test twice-weekly over the Christmas Holiday. If for any reason you run out of test kits you can order more here >> [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) or collect from your local pharmacy.



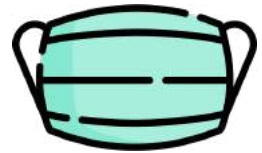
Contact tracing and self-isolation

On Tuesday 14 December a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, who are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should now take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day, for 7 days, instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. For more information please read the letter '[Daily Testing for Contacts of COVID-19](#)' that we sent to all parent/carers and staff on Wednesday 15th November.

Further information from the Government can be found here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Face coverings at Risedale - REMINDER

Please remind your child to bring a face covering to school every day. All pupils, staff and visitors must wear a face-covering in communal areas and when using public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt. If you believe your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering please email the school enquiries@risedale.org.uk with their name, tutor group and condition so we are aware of the reason.



Joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme



In November our DofE Manager, Mrs Hailwood, sent a [letter](#) to parents of all Y9/10 pupils about the opportunity for them to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. If you would like your child to join the DofE programme please ensure that you have paid the first instalment by the end of February 2022 so that we can enrol your child onto the programme.

Y10 and 11 Elevate Study Skills Programme

Starting in the new year, pupils in years 10 and 11 will be taking part in the Elevate programme; an award-winning educational programme providing study skills workshops and seminars designed to help motivate pupils to improve their marks and fulfil their potential. The first workshop will take place on 19th January 2022.

As part of the programme, Risedale School now has exclusive access to the Parent Webinar Series. Elevate will be running monthly webinars to help parents support their children at home, looking at topics such as exams, stress, technology, time management, and more.



>> Parents can register for FREE at: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register> <<



NYCC - Home to School Transport Policy

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has asked us to share the following message with all parents as this information will be particularly relevant for those with pre-school siblings, or those due to transfer to the Secondary phase in the future. NYCC will send a further reminder on this before the start of the next admissions round for entry in September 2023:

“We write to remind schools and parents of the following information in relation to the LA’s Home to School Transport Policy which we suggest parents should take into account when deciding which schools to nominate as their preferred place for Reception and Y7.

With effect from September 2019, the LA’s Home to School Transport Policy changed to offer transport to pupils attending their catchment or nearest school (rather than nearer) providing the walking distance is over 2 miles (until the end of the school year in which a pupil turns 8) or over 3 miles (if aged 8 and over). Pupils whose transport was set up under the previous policy (to the catchment or nearer school) will continue to receive that service until the end of their primary or secondary education unless they change address or move schools.

Please note that the nearest school could mean an out-of-county school or a faith school as these are included when determining transport eligibility. The address used to obtain a school place is the address used to determine transport eligibility. Reassessments are made following a change of address.”

Guidance for parents/carers on online sexual harassment and keeping children safe online

The Children’s Commissioner has launched a guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online.



“The things I wish my parents had known” draws together advice from 16 to 21 year olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography. You can download your copy [HERE](#).



Kooth online mental health services

At Christmas time it would be nice to think everyone had access to support should they need it. [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) is here to help throughout December and is also available across the holiday period offering FREE, safe, and anonymous wellbeing support for any young person whatever their concerns or worries. Go to <https://www.kooth.com/> to find out more.



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Good News Stories



Children in Need 2021

This year Risedale School raised an amazing **£1453.56** for BBC Children in Need!

Thank you so much to everyone who baked, skipped and donated their time and money. Here's the breakdown :

- £568.74 Non-uniform day
- £634.58 Let's Skip for Children in Need
- £49.00 Staff raffle
- £37.00 Activities and games in the Library
- £60.00 Pudsey Bear raffle (Pudsey was kindly made and donated by our former Risedale Office Manager Liz Joy)
- £81.67 Arlen's cake sale
- £9.51 Guess the number of sweets in the tub (9Campbell)
- £13.06 Guess the name of the bear (9Campbell)





Remembrance at Risedale

Pupils and staff observed a one minute silence at 11 am on Thursday 11th November for Armistice Day. Pupils were allowed to wear their service uniforms and Mr Thomson delivered assemblies focussing on the theme of Remembrance; helping us reflect on those who have been affected by war, honour those who have served and think about how we can look forward and be hopeful for a peaceful future. Lest we forget ❤️



Catterick Christmas Fest

Families from all over the Garrison area enjoyed a festive day at Catterick Christmas Fest on Sunday 12th December. The event was organised by the Garrison Gathering but was hosted at Risedale School. A big thank you to our Charity Ambassadors who stayed after school to wrap hundreds of selection boxes for Santa's Grotto. The event was a resounding success and we look forward to supporting other community ventures in the future.





Risedale pupils support local primary school



Lovely to see Jake Merrison (11McCormack), Harvey Guy (9Laheney) and William Bell (7Vizor) helping to draw the raffle at Colburn Community Primary School's Military Minds Day on Thursday 2nd December.

Thank you to Mrs Jane Knowlson, Colburn School Headteacher for sharing the photo.

Swimming success at national championships for Thomas Leighton **Thomas Leighton (7Vizor) wins bronze at national swimming championships.**

Dedicated swimmer Thomas Leighton had a very successful weekend at the Swim England North East Regional swimming championships at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield.

Thomas qualified for 10 different events at the championships and competed in 7 of them. He achieved personal bests in 6 out of the 7 events and his highest accolade was winning the bronze medal in the 11yr old boys 50m backstroke.

Coach Keith Hall of Richmond Dales Amateur Swimming Club said, ***"To put this into perspective, this is the highest level of domestic competition that a swimmer of Thomas' age can reach as the English and British Championships are only open to older swimmers."***



"As a competitive swimming club we aim to allow our swimmers to compete at the highest level they can in their sport and Thomas is a very talented swimmer."

He added, ***"This is a very significant achievement for Thomas and as a club, we are extremely proud of him, not only for his performance at this event but for his commitment, attitude and dedication to his sport. Thomas is maturing into a dedicated athlete and we are very excited for his future in swimming. He is a credit to his family, himself and the school."***

Thomas has been swimming for Richmond Dales Amateur Swimming Club for 3 years. He trains up to 5 times a week with training sessions often lasting up to 2 hours. Thomas said:



“When I started swimming it was really just as a hobby but now I’m getting to a higher level it’s really made me determined to do well and try my very best. I absolutely love swimming and can’t wait to represent my club and the school at the next big competition.”

Head of PE Miss Brierley said, *“We are all so proud of Thomas. His dedication to swimming is really something to be admired and commended. At Risedale one of our school aims is to ‘Build resilience, accept challenge and strive for excellence’ and Thomas is a wonderful example of this. Congratulations Thomas!”*

**Thomas receives prestigious environmental award
Thomas Gibbons (9Southworth-Gedye) has been recognised for his outstanding work and contribution to conservation and the environment.**

At a recent awards ceremony, Thomas’ hard work and dedication were justly rewarded when he received the Conserver Award, the highest accreditation possible within the [John Muir Award](#) programme.

The John Muir Trust is a community-focused conservation charity dedicated to the experience, protection and repair of wild places across the UK. The award itself encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

To achieve the Conserver Award Thomas had to complete 20 days/125+ hours working and supporting projects in the Dales National Park over a minimum of six months.

Thomas said: *“I was so pleased to receive the award. It was hard work but really enjoyable. I love anything to do with protecting the environment and getting involved with green projects in my local area.”*



Thomas is a Dales Young Ranger and a member of the Youth Environment Forum, run by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, part of Green Futures.



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Rosie Russell-Cohen, Youth and Communities Officer for the Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust said: ***“As a key member of the Youth Forum, Thomas is part of the select group that helps plan environmental events, raise awareness about environmental issues and makes decisions about what the project does and how it is run.”***

Thomas’ Form Tutor and Head of Drama Mrs Southworth-Gedye said, ***“We’re all really proud of Thomas here at school. It’s humbling to hear how dedicated Thomas is to his role as a Young Ranger and the time he dedicates to our local area is inspirational. I’m sure that Thomas will be a great advocate for conservation and ecology for many years to come.”***

As part of the presentation, Thomas received a certificate and personal letter from David Butterworth, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (Yoredale) commending his efforts.

You can find out more about joining the Young Rangers here: [Young Rangers - Yorkshire Dales National Park](#)

Risedale's Rising Star

Congratulations to Grace Baker (9Westwood) who recently starred in two theatre productions at The Station and at the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond.

On 12th and 13th November Grace played Dot (Dorothy) Richardson, in 'The Station Master' at The Station in Richmond. And then, from 17th-20th November Grace also starred in the musical comedy show 'The Addams Family' at the Georgian Theatre Royal with Richmond Operatic Society.

Congratulations Grace. We can't wait to hear what you'll be starring in next - keep up the fantastic work!



National Space Centre Trip



On Thursday 25th November Mr Ahmed and Mr Craggs took Risedale's Y11 Triple Science pupils to the National Space Centre in Leicester.

Pupils experienced an amazing show at the planetarium before putting their knowledge to the test in a World Crisis Management workshop looking at incoming asteroids and comets. The final part of the day involved exploring the museum and learning about the journey into Space. [#STEM](#)





GCSE PE Rock Climbing

Our GCSE PE pupils had an amazing weekend at High Adventure Outdoor Education Centre completing a 2 day intensive rock climbing course as part of their NEA practical assessment. Mr Hindhaugh reported that the pupils' behaviour was exceptional and the group achieved some fantastic results.


On Facebook, High Adventure Outdoor Education Centre said: ***"Thanks for a great weekend. A fantastic group of young people who gave so much effort to achieving their goals and grades."***

A parent said: ***"A fantastic experience for them all, my son absolutely loved it and came home full of stories and enthusiasm. Thank you very much to all involved."***

Well done everyone!



House Aerodynamic Challenge

Well done to all our pupils and staff for making the House Aerodynamic Challenge a resounding success. Over 150 pupils represented their Houses throughout the week and the competition was fierce. [#TeamRisedale](#) 



The results were as follows:

- 1st Seacole 40 points
- 2nd Pankhurst 30 points
- 3rd Turing 20 points
- 4th Attenborough 10 points

Well done everyone!

Mr Hindhaugh - House System Leader

VR Headsets in Science

Pupils in Year 9 have been learning about atoms and molecules and to bring this topic to life the class were able to use our virtual reality (VR) headsets.





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Head of KS3 Science Risedale School Mr Ahmed said: *"The VR headsets are such a great learning tool to use for this subject. It allowed the pupils to see and virtually move around the 3D structures of different atoms and molecules. It really makes Chemistry come alive!"*

Risedale School and RAMP in the News

On Saturday 6th November, Risedale's Director of Facilities, Gill Morrissey, was invited by the Richmondshire Area Motorcycle Project (RAMP) coordinator, Kev Mason, to officially open the refurbished facilities based at Risedale School's Youth & Community Centre. The project has recently been re-energised with the purchase of new bikes, clothing and equipment to offer more young people in our community the opportunity to take part in a 6 session training course. The course covers bike maintenance as well as teaching safe riding skills and has been developed and run successfully by Kev and his team. The course is run on a Saturday morning from the Risedale Youth Centre.



Kev and Gill originally set up the first project back in 2006. During this time Kev and his trusty team of experienced volunteer motorbike riders have supported over 500 young people in the local community to learn the skills and knowledge to ride safely and maintain a motorcycle.

New applications for courses can be requested directly from RAMP or by contacting the school who can pass on your details to the project coordinator. You can also read the article in full [HERE](#).

Cross Country Success

Well done to the #TeamRisedale pupils that took part in the Area Cross Country Trials on Thursday 16th December. We had some fantastic results and are very pleased to report that Riley Harrison (10Pearson), Nathan Naylor (10Pearson) and Léa Westen (10Ahmed) all qualified for the County Cross Country Championships. A fantastic achievement!

Well done everyone, **Mr Hindhaugh - Risedale PE**

