



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

February 2024





Dear parents/carers and pupils,

The lighter mornings, and hopefully warmer and drier days, welcome us all to another exciting term here at Risedale. For our Year 9s it is a particularly interesting time, with GCSE Options rapidly approaching. There will be a range of events and enrichment lessons for them to engage in and information plus key dates will follow shortly. For our Year 11s it's the final full-term before their actual GCSE written examinations start. It is good to see them returning from the holiday focused and ready for their learning. The next few months will fly by and we wish them the best of luck.

It is lovely to walk around school and see so many pupils engaged and involved in their learning, and making excellent progress. Our pupils are polite, respectful, and helpful. A fantastic example of this is Harry Iddon who supported and looked after the library whilst Miss Sellers was away and did an incredible job. Well done Harry! I have also been incredibly impressed with the maturity and dedication shown by a significant number of pupils during a range of trips, excursions and experiences that we have been able to offer. They are a credit to themselves, Risedale and most importantly their families. We can all be immensely proud of them.

Please do keep in touch if we can support you in any way. We welcome visitors to the school at any time to witness the amazing things that happen day in and day out. Risedale truly is an amazing school to work and learn in.

Kindest regards,

Mr J Yates - Deputy Headteacher



Risedale pupils get a taste of fashion at The Barbour Factory

On Wednesday 10th January 2024, Mrs K-A Vizor and her Y10 Design and Technology class embarked on a unique learning adventure to the Barbour Factory in South Shields. This wasn't just any school trip; it was a rare opportunity to peek behind the scenes of the fashion industry and witness firsthand how iconic Barbour jackets come to life.

The day started with an exclusive tour of the factory. The pupils were amazed to see how skilled craftspeople turned raw materials into the long-lasting and fashionable jackets that have been popular for many years. Some fortunate pupils had the chance to try the iconic waxing process, which gave them a real understanding of the design and manufacturing processes involved.

After delving into the production process, the group explored the Barbour Factory Outlet. Here, they saw the full range of Barbour's offerings, from classic waxed jackets to contemporary sportswear.

The group then journeyed to the South Shields Beacon, the inspiration for Barbour's "Barbour Beacon" sub-brand. This impressive landmark, a lighthouse overlooking the North Sea, served as a stunning backdrop for lunch and provided a fascinating glimpse into the town's maritime heritage. Despite the January weather being rather wet and wild, everyone appreciated the chance to visit the harbour and enjoy the scenery.

The trip to the Barbour Factory was more than just a field trip; it was a chance for pupils to connect with the real world of design, fashion, and history. They saw the passion and skill that goes into creating a quality product, and they learned how a local landmark can inspire a global brand. This unique experience undoubtedly sparked creativity and curiosity in the Risedale pupils, leaving them with a newfound appreciation for the world of textile manufacturing.



Pupils journey back in time to the Globe Theatre with VR!

Year 7 English pupils at Risedale School recently embarked on a truly immersive learning experience, using virtual reality (VR) headsets to transport themselves back in time to the iconic Globe Theatre.

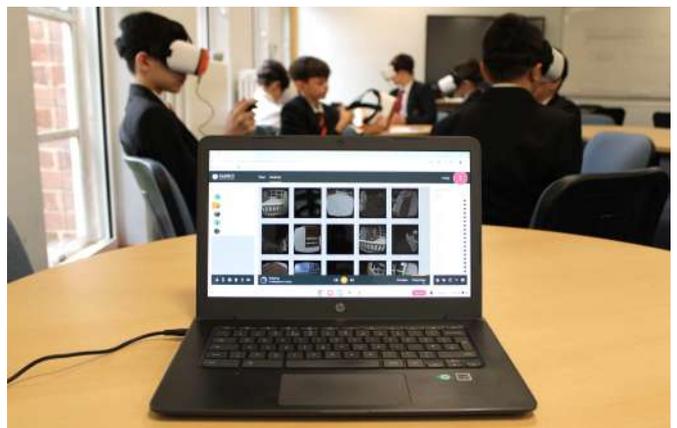


This innovative lesson was designed to bring Shakespeare's plays to life for the pupils in a way that traditional textbooks and classroom discussions simply cannot. By experiencing the Globe in VR, the pupils were able to gain a deeper understanding of the context and atmosphere in which Shakespeare's works were originally performed.

"It was really fun," said one pupil. ***"I felt like I was really there and could walk around."***

"This was such a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for our pupils," said Senior Teacher and Head of English, Miss Roberts. ***"It helped them to connect with Shakespeare and his life in a much more personal way. They were engaged, excited, and eager to learn more."***

This is just one example of how Risedale School is using technology to create engaging and effective learning experiences for its pupils. With VR, the possibilities for learning are endless, and we are excited to see what the future holds.



Rugby News

Risedale and Thirsk play a thrilling match in a tense Rugby encounter.



On Wednesday 24th January, Risedale School's Year 9 rugby team, supported by some Year 8 pupils, locked horns with the team from Thirsk School and Sixth Form College in a nail-biting match that ended in a thrilling 10-all draw. The encounter, described by PE Teacher Mr Lawson as "a fantastic game of rugby between two extremely even teams," showcased immense resilience and skill from both sides.

The game started with Risedale quickly taking the lead through their explosive running skills creating offload opportunities and allowing their teammates to break tackles early on. This put them on the front foot, exuding confidence with the ball in hand. However, Thirsk's experience at the breakdown proved crucial, as they turned over possession and marched up the field, capitalising on their clinical play. By halftime, Risedale found themselves trailing 6 tries to 3, facing a daunting second half.

The second half commenced with both teams showcasing some excellent defensive work and tackling techniques that stifled attacking plays. The tension mounted as Thirsk managed to score again, seemingly putting Risedale on the back foot. But the Risedale pupils refused to yield. Fueled by determination, they dug deep and scored a remarkable four unanswered tries, bringing the game level.

The final whistle blew with the score locked at 10-all, a testament to the incredible work ethic and skill displayed by both teams. Neither side could be separated in this thrilling game and both Risedale and Thirsk can undoubtedly hold their heads high after such a fiercely contested match.

Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE #TeamRisedale 

Risedale School Remembers

Holocaust Memorial Day and Remembrance Poetry Competition

Risedale School held a poignant and impactful assembly on Thursday 25th January to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Led by our Head of History, Mr Houlgate, and dedicated pupils, the assembly explored the horrors of this dark chapter in history and the enduring importance of remembrance.

Joining the school community were three members of the Garrison Veterans' Catterick Historical Archive Group: Veterans Mark Hill MBE, Paula Rogers, and Pete Wine. Pupils delivered a confident and educational presentation, their research and heartfelt words ensuring the victims of the Holocaust were never forgotten. Veteran Pete Wine's unique perspective, gained from visiting Bergen-Belsen in the 1980s, added further depth to the occasion.

Mr Houlgate said, ***"It filled me with great pride to see our pupils standing side by side with local veterans, remembering the horrors of the Holocaust, united in the conviction that we must never let it happen again."***

Honouring Remembrance Through Creativity:

The assembly also celebrated the Remembrance Day Poetry Competition, a collaboration with the Garrison Armed Forces Veterans iHub. Showcasing the remarkable creativity of Risedale's pupils, the competition's poems served as powerful testaments to remembrance and reflection. The winning entries will be displayed in a local museum later this year, amplifying their message to a wider audience.

Community Collaboration and Appreciation:

Mark Hill MBE commended the assembly and collaboration, stating, ***"It was a profound and moving experience, strengthening the school's ties with the local community."*** He further acknowledged the support of local entrepreneur and Veteran Simon Hilliard, of Ellerton Lakeside Cafe, whose generous prize sponsorship solidified the connection between Risedale and the veterans' community.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

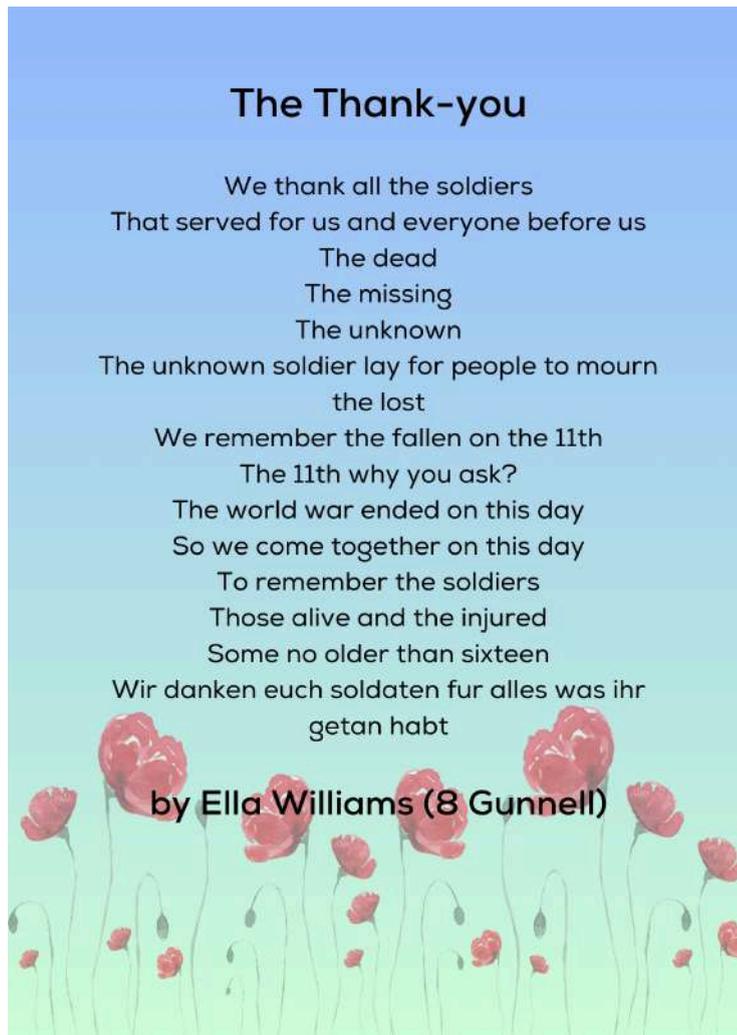


Learning and Legacy:

Risedale School's Holocaust Memorial Day assembly and Remembrance Day Poetry Competition stand as powerful examples of the school's commitment to holistic education. These initiatives not only educate and inspire pupils but also strengthen community ties. Through such meaningful activities, Risedale ensures the lessons of the past are not forgotten and future generations continue to stand against hatred and intolerance.

You can read the other winning poems by visiting our website >> [Latest News](#).

PHOTO BELOW: L-R Head of History Mr Houlgate, Army Veterans Paula Rogers, Mark Hill MBE and Pete Wine accompanied by some of the Remembrance Poem Competition winners and other pupils who delivered the Holocaust Memorial Day school assembly.



I often have to explain to people, though, that while they may have bought a hedgehog house, the animal might only spend one night inside, then leave to make its own nest.

Hedgehogs are on the red list, meaning they're at threat of extinction, and it's crucial that people get involved. Making your garden hedgehog-friendly will have a positive impact on the hedgehog population in your area, and help one of the nation's favourite animals."

Caribbean Cooking Club



Taste of the Caribbean Comes to Risedale School Lunchtimes!

Calling all Year 9 foodies! Are you ready to explore the vibrant flavours and exciting dishes of the Caribbean? Look no further than the brand new Caribbean Cooking Club, launched this term at Risedale School!

Led by the enthusiastic Mrs Louison, the club takes place every Thursday lunchtime in the Food Technology Room, offering a unique opportunity for Year 9 pupils to delve into the culinary delights of the region. With limited spaces available, signing up is essential to secure your spot on this delicious journey.

"I'm passionate about Caribbean cuisine and I thought that pupils would really enjoy the experience," explains Mrs



Louison. *"It's a chance to experience something different, something new, and it reflects the wonderful diversity of our school community. Seeing pupils from different cultures coming together each week has been my ultimate goal and I'm so happy that they're enjoying the experience."*



For pupil Kerby Fevriere, the club is a taste of home. *"Being part of the Caribbean Cookery Club is amazing,"* he says. *"The flavours and dishes remind me of being at home, and it's just so much fun learning how to make them myself!"*

So, if you're looking to expand your culinary horizons, experience the cultural richness of the Caribbean, and have fun doing it, then the Caribbean Cooking Club is the

perfect lunchtime destination for you! Sign up today and get ready to tantalise your taste buds!

Risedale Family Coffee Events ☕💕

A huge thank you to all the parents/carers of our Year 8 & 9 pupils who were able to attend one of our Family Coffee Events on Thursday 1st February. It was an absolute pleasure to meet with parents/carers in an informal setting, have a chat over coffee and get to know one another better.

Risedale Family Coffee Events

For parents/carers of Year 11 pupils

Tuesday 12th March 2024

10:30am - 12pm or 6pm - 7:30pm



Our next Family Coffee Event will be for parents/carers of pupils in Year 11.

There will be two sessions to choose from on Tuesday 12th March 2024:

- **Early session: 10.30am - 12pm**
- **Late session: 6pm - 7.30pm**

Meet our Assistant SENCo Emma Blatch, SENCo Stacey Burke, Specialist SEND Teacher Catherine Davies, and our School Counsellor Lisa Smith, as we discuss school life and foster a sense of community among parents.

To RSVP: To reserve your place please complete the [Google Form](#) by Tuesday 5th March Alternatively, email Lisa directly at Smith.L@risedale.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there!

La Chandeleur: Year 9s celebrate "La Chandeleur" in true French style with a crêpe-making extravaganza!

Friday 2nd February marked the French cultural tradition of "La Chandeleur" and some of our Year 9 pupils celebrated the event by making crêpes!

"La Chandeleur" equates to our Candlemass. It marks 40 days since Christmas and the beginning of spring and, according to Christian beliefs, is when baby Jesus was presented to the temple and God by his parents.

French families celebrate "La Chandeleur" by making pancakes, the shape and colour representing the sun at the end of a harsh winter. A French superstition is that if farmers don't eat crêpes at "La Chandeleur", they'll always have a bad harvest. And it's also considered good luck in France if you toss your crêpe with your right hand while holding a coin in your left!

Year 9s have been recently learning about French traditions and celebrations, and to mark "La Chandeleur" at Risedale, Group 9FR1 made their own crêpes with Mr Miller and Mrs Louison and then filled them with a range of sweet and savoury fillings. Yum Yum...or as they say in France, "Miam Miam, c'est délicieux!"



Football News - Risedale Vs Easingwold

Year 7 Boys Shine! ⚽

Risedale's Year 7 boys' football team put in a stellar performance to win their quarter-final match in the Area Plate Competition on Tuesday 6th February! Every single player on the team contributed to the victory, which saw them edge out their opponents 4-2.

The game was a tight affair, but Risedale's teamwork and clinical finishing shone through. They scored some fantastic goals and defended resolutely to secure their place in the semi-finals.

The boys can be proud of their achievement, and they will no doubt be looking forward to the challenge of the next round. Well done to all involved!

Mr Lawson - Teacher of PE

Year 8 Boys Battling Back! ⚽

The Year 8 boys' football team returned to action with a spirited performance and despite not playing together since December, the team put in a brilliant performance displaying impressive teamwork and fast-paced passing. Their attacking efforts were relentless, with the team unlucky not to find the back of the net despite carving out several goal-scoring opportunities.

Defensively the team were incredibly strong, preventing Easingwold from scoring for the majority of the game. However, a late penalty and a deflected goal in the final ten minutes saw the visitors claim a narrow 0-2 victory.

Despite the result, Mr Allen was brimming with pride for the players. ***"The work rate and sportsmanship displayed by the boys were truly remarkable,"*** he enthused. ***"They played for each other, showcasing some brilliant football on the pitch and I look forward to watching their next game."***

With their determination and camaraderie shining through, Risedale's Year 8 team is sure to be a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming games. Watch this space for further updates on their journey!

Mr Allen - Teacher of Science



U13 Girls Show True Grit and Determination! ⚽

The U13s girls were also in action in their quarter-final match of the Area Plate Competition. The game was end-to-end throughout with some great play from both teams.

Finding themselves 5-3 down with minutes to go, the girls showed incredible resilience, determination and skill to score in the last minute to make the score 5-5 and take the game to penalties!

Team Coach, Mr J Metcalfe, commented, ***“Nerves were***

high but the girls triumphed 5-4 after a marathon 9 penalties each!” He added. ***“It was a nail-biting finish to the match but they did it! I’m so proud of the way the girls are progressing. Well done Team Risedale!”***

Special mentions go to Ellie-Mae Reid (Y8) for her 4 outstanding goals and to Mabel Thirlwell (Y7) for some amazing saves, especially in the shoot-out!

Training for the girls takes place every Wednesday after school for all year groups so why not come along!

Mr J Metcalfe - Teacher of Maths

Reflecting on all the matches of the day, Head of PE, Miss Brierley, said, ***“Overall it was a great day for Risedale School football! All our teams showed spirit, determination, and skill. Keep up the good work!”*** #TeamRisedale 💙💜💛❤️

Year 9 Rugby Tens Triumph!

On Wednesday 7th February, five local schools clashed on the pitch at Wensleydale RUFC for the annual Year 9 Rugby Tens tournament, and Risedale put on a performance that left everyone cheering! Our boys watched intently as the first matches unfolded, then plunged into four back-to-back battles that tested their character, resilience, and fitness.

Every encounter was a fierce fight, demanding everything from our team. But Risedale rose to the challenge, unleashing explosive runs and scoring dominant tries in every game. While a narrow loss marked their first match, the boys bounced back with two thrilling wins and a hard-fought draw, securing a well-deserved second-place finish.



Teacher of PE, Mr Lawson, commented, ***"I'm incredibly proud of every player who took part. They displayed true sportsmanship and represented Risedale with outstanding spirit. Seeing their faces beaming with smiles at the end of the tournament made it all worthwhile. A huge congratulations to the entire team – you were simply magnificent!"***

Harry steps up to keep the school library running smoothly



While School Librarian Miss Sellers was away, the library remained in capable hands thanks to the dedication of Year 8 Pupil Librarian, Harry Iddon. Harry ensured the library continued to operate seamlessly, earning him a well-deserved reward and praise from staff and pupils alike.

To express their gratitude, Harry received a set of new books by his favourite author. His commitment even extended beyond his official duties, as Ms Dunphy, Head of Social Studies, remarked, ***"Harry worked tirelessly to keep the library running - and to keep the teachers in check! We couldn't have done it without you!"***

Mrs Davies, SEND Specialist Teacher, echoed the sentiment, ***"Harry was an absolute star! He stepped into Miss Sellers' shoes and kept everything in perfect order. I relied on him to return books, organise shelves, and troubleshoot any issues. Thank you Harry for keeping us right."***

Miss Sellers was overwhelmed with pride and appreciation. Upon her return, she found the library immaculate and efficient. Staff and pupils showered Harry with praise for his exceptional work, which he continues to perform with quiet confidence.

"Harry did a better job than I do! Thank you, Harry," Miss Sellers exclaimed, summarising the collective gratitude.



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C E I A G
Careers Education Information Advice Guidance



KS4 Work Experience with Amey

Green Dream Team: Risedale pupils build a sustainable future with Amey

Risedale School's Year 10 and 11 pupils with their sights set on Engineering or Construction got a head start this half-term holiday, thanks to a unique collaboration with [Amey](#), a leading provider of engineering, operations, and decarbonisation solutions for UK transport infrastructure and complex facilities. The "Building a Sustainable Home Project" gave the pupils a thrilling glimpse into the world of green jobs and the skills needed to thrive in this fast-growing sector.

The project wasn't just about hammering and building, it was also about understanding the impact of sustainable practices in construction and engineering. Green jobs are about being employed to do a job that contributes to protecting or restoring the environment, including those that mitigate or adapt to climate change (Office of National Statistics). It is predicted that this will become a fast-growing sector for skilled individuals by 2030.



Reflecting on the week of Work Experience, Year 10 pupil Nathanael Hall said, ***“All the activities and tasks that we took part in were really fun and engaging. After we completed the classroom work and got started on the teamwork activities for the project everything was really fast-paced and fun. I enjoyed learning lots of new leadership and team-building skills especially while working with friends and new people.”***



Michelle Wiggins, Social Value Manager at Amey said, ***“The company and its associated partners were amazed at how hard the Risedale pupils worked with our staff. They came up with some really good ideas and insightful solutions for the project and worked in a mature way. Their presentations were very impressive.”***



The dedicated group included Lennon Boila, Max Greaves, Nathanael Hall, Lucas Kirk, Keira Laver, Kalob McLoughlin, Reece Squire, Jay Stevens, Connor Wall and Jake Wills. Their participation in this project bodes well for their futures, demonstrating their ambition and commitment to a sustainable future.

Risedale Careers Leader, Mrs Porritt, commended the hard work of the pupils by saying, ***“Well done and congratulations for all your hard work over the half-term break. I was so impressed with your commitment and dedication to the project. You are all a credit to the school.”***



This collaborative effort between Risedale School and Amey showcases the positive impact of engaging young minds in practical, real-world learning experiences. It not only ignites their passion for green careers but also equips them with the necessary skills to become the eco-warriors of tomorrow.



For more Careers Education Information Advice Guidance (CEIAG) please visit our dedicated website page: [Careers](#).

Year 11 Pupils Take On Elite Army Training Challenge

On Monday 19th February, some of our Year 11 pupils embarked on an exceptional day of Army-led team-building exercises and an adrenaline-pumping assault course challenge. This adventure served as the culmination of their previous Army Work Experience at Otterburn Training Camp which took place last July.



The action-packed day began with an insightful careers briefing about the Army Foundation College, followed by hands-on STEM activities like building catapults. But the real test was yet to come: challenging team-building tasks tested their communication, leadership and problem-solving skills as they navigated a simulated warzone using obstacles. And their final mission was to conquer the gruelling assault course.



Led by experienced soldiers from the Marne Barracks Outreach Team, the Risedale pupils pushed their limits, demonstrating impressive teamwork and perseverance. The Outreach Team commended them for their exceptional conduct throughout the day.

For some pupils, this wasn't just an exciting experience; it solidified their career aspirations. Witnessing the Army firsthand and having their skills tested fueled their ambition. Among them was Logan Fegan, who has now successfully passed the Army

selection process, turning his dream into reality. He will begin his training at the Harrogate Army Foundation College in September 2024.



"I found the Army work experience last year to be really helpful and enjoyable. It helped me to decide what I want to do in the future," Logan shared. *"I particularly enjoyed the elite training session; it was a fantastic experience."*



Rochanne Hardstaff, Risedale's SEND Administrator, who accompanied the pupils, expressed immense pride in their performance throughout their engagement with the Outreach Team. She hopes Risedale will continue to cultivate this valuable partnership, offering future pupils similar transformative opportunities.

A special thank you goes to the dedicated Army Outreach Team at Marne Barracks: SSGT Hardstaff, CPL Monaghan, CPL Smith, LCPL Johnson, LCPL Chase, LCPL Clark-Cordy, RFN Duggan, and PTE Robinson. They played a crucial role in empowering these Risedale pupils to discover their potential and chase their dreams.





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