

CATTERICK GARRISON GAZETTE

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH

ISSUE 216 JAN-FEB 2026

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this edition of the Catterick Garrison Gazette.

Within this edition of the Garrison Gazette, we have military articles from Joint Military Command and HQ Catterick Garrison. We also have several articles from E50K, The Beacon and local schools who are so much part of Garrison life.

I would like to thank the Garrison community 'military and civilian' who continue to support the Gazette and wider Catterick Garrison events.

I hope the articles have inspired you to pen a submission for the coming editions of the Gazette highlighting your individual or organisations endeavours. Should you wish to submit an article for the September/October edition of the Garrison Gazette, please email CatterickGar-iHub-GpMailbox@mod.gov.uk by 03rd April 2026.

**Kind regards,
Maj A Green
COS HQ Catterick Garrison**



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**Please send any correspondence to:
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Submit articles in electronic form – on CD. Include high quality digital images where possible. Please keep the text and images separate.

FRONT COVER:
Joint Military Command (North) Cyprus 4 Day International Running Challenge 2025

JOINT MILITARY COMMAND (NORTH) HEADQUARTERS CYPRUS 4-DAY INTERNATIONAL RUNNING CHALLENGE 2025

Written by Maj Kate Hannaford, JMC North HQ Engagement



What a challenge the Cyprus International 4-Day Running Challenge turned out to be!!!

Four days, 48 kilometres, countless emotions – and plenty of early starts to avoid the heat. Add lots of dust and hill climbs to make you question your life choices. Then forgetting about the pain whilst appreciating the scenery and achievement and immediately signing up again for next year!

From the start line at Coral Beach on Day 1 to the medieval castle finish on Day 4, every stage felt like its own mini-adventure. Backed by a brilliant atmosphere, tight organisation, and scenery you couldn't script (the shipwreck backdrop does not exaggerate the coastal drama).

Day 1 – 6km Time Trial

A flat (the last of the flat), fast tarmac blast along the Coral Beach waterfront, starting in ten-second intervals – just you, your pacing discipline, and the sound of the sea. According to the event guide, the route ends with a sweeping view of the shipwreck off the coast, and honestly, it felt like running straight into a postcard. Short, sharp, and a deceptive warm-up for what was coming.

Day 2 – 11km Hill Climb (aka: The Character-Builder)

Launched out of Akamas Gorge, this was pure elevation therapy: rocky climbs, narrow tracks, and a few moments where walking felt faster than running. The route's steep early ascent up towards St Matrona and the ridge trails really hit the legs (the guide warns of the "rocky first 4km" and a "fairly steep descent" before the final push into Pano Arodes). It was tough... but the views were worth every metre.

Day 3 – Trail Half Marathon

The crown jewel and the emotional breaker. Starting in Neo Chorio's church square, the route wound through the village and straight into the Akamas National Forest trails – high ridgeline running with the Mediterranean shimmering on both sides.

But what goes up... comes down *far too quickly*. The steep, punishing drop into Androlikou was the kind of downhill that makes you question your knees' warranty. "More up than down" felt entirely plausible – mainly because the downhill was so steep you could not enjoy it. Still, the wild beauty, the isolation, and the sense of moving across a peninsula on foot made this half marathon something special.

Day 4 – 10km Paphos City Run

Starting at the ancient castle in Paphos harbour early on the last day as the final stage should be: flat, quick, and buzzing with energy. The coastal hotels, early-morning sun, and crowds brought the race home in style. Crossing that line felt like a victory lap – and the perfect bookend to a brutal but brilliant and challenging four days.

The Team

Sharing the experience with my Headquarters North crew made the highs higher and the tough moments survivable. Huge thanks to WO2 Donny McGregor for pulling the team together, and to WO2 Tracey Hetherington, WO2 Tony Heatlie, Maj Kate Hannaford and Lt Col Daniela Aspin for being equal parts competition, support squad, and comic relief. There's something about sweating up a 670m ascent together that accelerates the team bonding.

The Atmosphere

Between the slick organisation, the bus transfers, the medical teams on standby, the friendly volunteers, and the post-race celebrations, the event felt like a mix of military efficiency and Cypriot hospitality.

The awards event back at Coral Beach capped off the challenge with exactly the right level of celebration: enough glamour to feel proud, not enough to hide the fact everyone was walking like they were 95 years old.

In the end...

It was four days of fun, pain, heat, grit, and unforgettable views.

Four days of pushing limits, laughing through fatigue, and finding joy in suffering with good people.

Four days that reminded us of why we sign up for challenges like this in the first place.





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Featured image: Mike Gore, UK Veteran, Start Up Loans Ambassador and co-owner of Virtuoso Golf.

THE BEACON CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

On 03rd December the bi-annual collection of dried and tinned goods was presented to The Beacon residents by the GSM, WO1 Stead and some of the people who had donated.

A massive thank you goes to Julie Sutherland, Tesco Community Champion and the Tesco customers for their substantial donation. Thanks also go to GSU and HQ staff, Chris, and Jackie Lamb, Defence Digital and DST, Anne Makepeace and Jason Davis TSU, Rebecca Timmens, Lindsey Sharp and team from Pinnacle and Steven Horsley and team from Hugh James Solicitors for their unwavering support. The residents and staff were extremely grateful to everyone who donated to the appeal which was co-ordinated by Sharin Martin, QM Clerk and Jez Chapman from the Garrison Support Unit.

Cindy McAulay, Support Assistant from The Beacon expressed their appreciation in a letter:

Once again, the veterans at The Beacon have received donations from in and around the Garrison. Our veterans normally arrive with no personal belongings, food, money or clothes as they have all been on the street, homeless, before they get allocated accommodation here at The Beacon.

WO2 Chapman, RQMS and his fabulous staff members always organise events/collection points at least twice per year to enable us to offer our veterans non-perishable foods and toiletries on arrival. These donations really do make a difference as without these things, we would struggle to ensure that they have food whilst we initially book them in. Some of the veterans are not in receipt of benefits, have not got any applications to local housing, are estranged from their families or have personal issues with their physical and mental health.

Every year we receive donations which have been donated by the local community or military staff. Coffee mornings, charitable events etc are some ways that they manage to offer us support.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the locals and the Garrison staff members for trying to enhance the lives of our veterans and without their kind assistance things would be so difficult for us to put in place.

For more information contact Riverside, The Beacon, Marne Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3AU Tel: 01 748 832042 Follow [Riverside @RiversideUK](https://www.riverside.org.uk/) <https://www.riverside.org.uk/>



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THE GARRISON COMMANDER'S BIG BREAKFAST 2025

On 11th December we held the annual Commanders Big Breakfast. A joyous occasion attended by military and civilians who work for HQ Catterick Garrison, or who are connected through their workplace to the HQ Team. Guests, including Mayor Carl Tate, were greeted by Santa aka 'Santa' and Russ Dudley the piper.

Once inside, guests were treated to music and games ran by the brilliant British Army Band Catterick. The raffle was made more entertaining by Corry Star Sean Tully aka 'Antony Cotton'.

As the event ended the Garrison Commander gave his address and thanked those who made the event so enjoyable. Astral Blanchard and the catering Team from the Richmond Centre for providing the food and excellent service and Julie Sutherland aka 'Tesco Julie' for providing raffle prizes and generally supporting all garrison units throughout the year. Steven and Caitlin from Hugh James Solicitors were also thanked for their continued sponsorship of the events Garrison run. Thanks also went to Maureen Levigo and Coleen Jenkinson Smith from the Richmond Centre for generously donating raffle prizes. WO2 Mark Smith, RQMS Chapman, the GSU staff and Richmondshire Lines staff did an excellent job setting up and helping on the day and the event was beautifully co-ordinated by Sharin Martin who worked hard to ensure everything at the event ran smoothly and was successful. Thanks also goes to Shannon Kirk from GSU for all the photos taken on the day.

The raffle and sale of tickets raised £2215.00 which will be split equally between SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity and our chosen charity for this year Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Thank you to all who attended and we wish you all a Happy New Year.





Risedale School Earns Prestigious NCSC CyberFirst

We are so proud to announce that Risedale School has been officially accredited as a CyberFirst School by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC):

This esteemed recognition highlights our unwavering commitment to fostering the next generation of cybersecurity talent and equipping our pupils with the essential skills to thrive in our increasingly digital world.

The CyberFirst Schools programme, a cornerstone initiative of the NCSC, identifies and champions schools that demonstrate excellence in cybersecurity education. Achieving this status means we have met rigorous criteria, showcasing our dedication to providing a structured and inspiring approach to computing and cyber skills.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be recognised as a CyberFirst School," said Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood. *"This accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, particularly our Head of Computer Science, Mrs Rodgers, and the incredible enthusiasm of our pupils. In today's digital landscape, cybersecurity is not just a box to be ticked; awareness of it is*

crucial for all young people and adults in order to keep everyone safe and workspaces protected.

This status will significantly enhance our ability to prepare our pupils for the challenges and opportunities of the future."

Mrs Rodgers, Head of Computer Science and IT, commented, *"Our aim has always been to make computing engaging and relevant. The CyberFirst framework provides us with invaluable tools and connections to truly inspire our pupils and show them the real-world impact of their learning."*

By investing in foundational cyber education, Risedale is playing a pivotal role in addressing the critical skills gap and empowering young people to become the digital defenders of tomorrow. We look forward to embarking on this new chapter and preparing our pupils to navigate the complexities of the digital world safely and successfully.

Remembrance at Risedale 2025

Risedale School's Week-Long Programme of Remembrance Honours Serving Families and our Shared History

Risedale School proudly observed its annual week of comprehensive Remembrance commemorative activities in November, ensuring every pupil played an active part in honouring the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community. With the school located right in the heart of Catterick Garrison, the 2025 Remembrance programme featured significant community engagement and a powerful Armistice Day service.

The school's deep commitment to Remembrance began in October when the Royal British Legion launched its annual Poppy Appeal. The school supported the appeal by selling poppies, and many Risedale pupils, fulfilling their roles as cadets, contributed significantly to the fundraising efforts by selling poppies in the local community and at Tesco.

Festival of Remembrance, Ripon Cathedral

The school's formal remembrance activities officially began on Friday, 7th November, at the annual North Yorkshire Council Festival of Remembrance, held at Ripon Cathedral. The event, now in its 13th year and organised by North Yorkshire's Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell, was attended by more than



PHOTO CREDIT: Mrs Rodgers, Head of Computer Science and IT at Risedale.





600 children and young people from 25 schools across the county.

Risedale was proudly represented by 15 Service Children, accompanied by Service Pupil Manager Dr Ellis, Mrs Johnson, and Mr Morris. The Risedale staff noted that the pupils' conduct at this large-scale event was exemplary. They were all respectful and a credit to the school.

Wreath Laying and Community Commitment

The school continued its external commitments over the weekend. On Sunday, 9th November, Dr Ellis attended the Hipswell Village Remembrance Service, where she formally laid a wreath on behalf of Risedale School, establishing the school's presence at the local memorial event.

A Week of Historical Insight

Leading up to and following Armistice Day, the theme of Remembrance was reinforced daily across the school. Year 11 Pupil Support Manager, Mr Godfrey, a retired police officer and passionate enthusiast of World War I history, led the school's Remembrance assemblies from Monday, 10th November, to Friday,

14th November. His assemblies ensured that pupils received a rich, historical context for the significance of Armistice Day and the ongoing legacy of the Armed Forces.

Armistice Day Service

The pinnacle of the week was the special Armistice Day Service, which took place on Tuesday, 11th November. Pupils from Years 7 and 8, in addition to all service pupils from Year 9 and Year 10, and all school cadets, took part in a special service, led by Headteacher, Mrs Greenwood, featuring poignant poems read by pupils. The moving proceedings culminated when the entire school community observed a one-minute silence to reflect on the sacrifice of the fallen. The silence was then followed by the traditional, moving sound of The Last Post, played by Squadron Leader Lumsdon. Risedale was incredibly fortunate to have Squadron Leader Lumsdon join them on this special day, and the school extends its sincere thanks for his time.

Remembrance Reflection

"Remembrance is far more than a date on the calendar for us; it's woven into the very fabric of Risedale School," said Dr Ellis, Service Pupil

Manager. *"Being located right here in Catterick Garrison, and having such a high proportion of service pupils, means we have a personal responsibility to ensure this legacy is maintained."*

"I am incredibly proud of the entire Risedale Family and the deep respect they consistently show for those who have fallen, for our shared history, and for those who serve now. This is especially poignant for many of our pupils whose own parents are currently serving; they understand the meaning of sacrifice firsthand. The dignified engagement shown by our pupils throughout the week, whether at the Festival of Remembrance or in the one-minute silence, proves that the strong military ties of this community will continue to be honoured by the next generation."

Children in Need Total 2025

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that, thanks to the generosity and spirit of our pupils, parents/carers, and staff, our Non-Uniform Day on Friday, 14th November, raised a fantastic total of **£326.30** for BBC Children in Need.



Every single pound donated will go towards helping disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Thank you for demonstrating such incredible **RESPONSIBILITY** and community spirit. We couldn't have done it without you!

Pupils Experience Thrilling Professional Basketball Game

The electric atmosphere of professional basketball captivated 15 of Risedale School's Year 10/11 GCSE PE and Sport Studies pupils on Friday, 14th November, as they attended a British Basketball League (BBL) game featuring the Newcastle Eagles against the Sheffield Sharks.

The pupils travelled to the Vertu Motors Arena in Newcastle upon Tyne for a high-energy evening of top-tier sport. The match was a close and





thrilling affair, with the Sharks ultimately edging out the home team in a tight finish: 95 (Eagles) to 99 (Sharks).

A highlight of the evening came when the school received a special mention! The pupils were thrilled and excited when Risedale School was given a shout-out on the massive scoreboard for being "IN THE HOUSE TONIGHT."

Mr Lawson, Head of PE at Risedale School, shared his enthusiasm for the trip: *"It was great to take the kids to experience professional basketball. These opportunities are so important to inspire our pupils and to showcase the amazing commitment and athleticism required at this level."*

The pupils were a credit to Risedale School throughout the evening, demonstrating excellent behaviour and sportsmanship, making the trip a great success.

QE Design & Textiles Workshop Risedale Design Pupils Get Hands-On at QE Workshop to Boost Coursework and Inspire Creative Making Skills

Fashion & Textiles and Design & Technology pupils from Risedale School have gained a significant edge in their coursework projects after participating in an inspiring workshop at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (QE) on Wednesday, 19th November 2025.

Twelve enthusiastic pupils attended the session, accompanied by Mrs Vizor (Teacher of Design & Technology) and Mrs Deighton (HLTA).

The hands-on session, generously provided by the QE Textiles Department, focused on developing crucial print and pattern skills, with a specific emphasis on designing and screen-printing fabric. This unique



experience allowed Risedale pupils to create personalised, high-quality textiles that can be directly incorporated into their most important project: the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) coursework.

Mrs Vizor highlighted the workshop's academic impact: *"The sheer level of hands-on design and technical skill the pupils gained in a single day, particularly mastering the screen-printing process and using Adobe Photoshop for their patterns, is transformative. These aren't just fun activities; this is direct, high-quality evidence they can incorporate into their vital NEA coursework right now."*

The NEA makes up a major component of the pupils' final grades, requiring them to undertake a substantial, independent design and make project. By securing this hands-on learning opportunity, Risedale is ensuring its pupils have access to resources and expertise that will directly elevate their portfolios and final prototypes.

Mrs Vizor added, *"The pupils had the most amazing day! They showed incredible maturity throughout the session, were so enthusiastic, and were a real credit to Risedale. This special opportunity to experience Further Education has truly inspired their creative futures, and we are*



incredibly grateful to the QE Textiles Department for what we hope will be a continued creative collaboration!"

On Instagram, QE Art Department said, *"What an absolutely lovely day spent with Textiles and DT students from @risedalefamily helping them with the coursework projects. We did all things print and pattern, both by hand and in Adobe Photoshop. So impressed with the work produced and the loveliest group of students! Well done, everyone. Hope to see you again next year!"*

Risedale Artists Explore Newcastle and Gateshead Galleries

Armed with cameras and creative curiosity, 32 pupils from Years 8 to 11 traded the classroom for the galleries of Newcastle and Gateshead for a cultural adventure on Thursday, 4th December.

The trip, organised by Head of Art Ms Westwood, saw the pupils explore the region's diverse art scene to generate primary photographic research for their coursework. To keep them fully engaged with the art, the pupils also completed a specially designed worksheet as they toured the galleries, hunting for details and analysing the work.

The day began at the Laing Art Gallery, where the pupils split into three smaller groups to rotate through the key exhibitions: Miniature Worlds, Northern Spirit, and 100 Years of Collecting.

As they explored the galleries, the pupils had to tackle a mix of quiz questions and visual challenges, such as identifying artists from close-up photos and abstract segments of the artworks.



Reuniting as a full group, the pupils then embarked on an architectural photo-walk down Grey Street and Dean Street. They documented the historic street scenes before crossing the Gateshead Millennium Bridge to the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.

At the Baltic, the group took on the challenge of walking up all the stairs of Mark Wallinger's Heaven and Hell Staircase. After reaching the top, the pupils made their way back down through the converted flour mill, stopping to explore the various contemporary exhibitions along the way.

Here, the focus shifted from observation to interpretation. As the pupils watched art films and viewed modern installations, they were challenged to describe what they saw and record how the artwork made them feel.

Ms Westwood was impressed by the maturity and enthusiasm shown throughout the day.

"Whilst walking round the galleries and various exhibitions, we could hear the pupils having some really interesting discussions," she said. "They were talking about the artworks with a lot of thought and passion, which was lovely to see and hear."

A special thank you goes to Mrs Gardiner and Mr Metcalfe for accompanying the trip and supervising the groups. The extensive collection of photographs and research gathered during the visit will now be used to develop final pieces back in the Risedale art studio.

Year 11 "Walking, Talking" Mock Exam Success

From 8th–12th December, Risedale successfully piloted its very first series of "Walking, Talking Mocks" (WTMs). The initiative saw the entire



Year 11 cohort working through live exam papers in English, Maths, and Science.

Pupils sat in the hall under exam conditions, but rather than working in silence, they were guided by a subject specialist using a visualiser (document camera). This allowed teachers to model answers on the big screen in real-time, "walking and talking" pupils through the necessary steps and offering advice on time management and exam technique.

All the sessions were recorded, ensuring pupils can access the walkthroughs later for revision or catch up if they were absent.

The feedback has been amazing, with pupils finding the experience "invaluable" for bridging the gap between revision and the exam hall.

Mr Kirkbride, Senior Teacher for KS4 Standards, commented:

"At Risedale, we are continually looking for innovative ways to boost pupil confidence regarding examinations. These sessions were a rehearsal for the actual exams and were designed to help build confidence, preparing pupils for both the PPEs in January and the final exams in the summer."

A huge thank you must go to our IT Team for the technical support that made these live sessions and recordings possible. We are also incredibly grateful to our teachers for taking to the podium and sharing their expert knowledge in this new and exciting format.

By removing the panic of the "blank page," pupils have reported feeling far better equipped to tackle the challenges ahead. Well done

to all our Year 11 pupils for their focus and engagement during this inaugural Walking Talking Mock week!

Year 11 Pupils Visit Willmott Dixon Construction Site

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Willmott Dixon for hosting a site visit on Tuesday, 16th December, at the development currently underway at Shute Road, Catterick Garrison.

The visit was a resounding success; our Year 11 pupils were thoroughly engaged throughout the experience, impressing the site team by asking some fantastic, insightful questions. It is a rare privilege to have access to a major development of this scale right on our doorstep, providing a unique first-hand opportunity for pupils to explore the realities of the construction and engineering sectors without leaving the local area.



Funded by the Levelling Up Fund and North Yorkshire Council, this redevelopment is set to transform the town centre and seeing it in the early stages proved invaluable for the pupils.

Risedale Careers Co-ordinator, Mrs Porritt, commented: *"I would like to thank Hannah Blenkinsop, Amy Campbell and Chandler Webster for organising this inspiring visit and hosting our pupils from Risedale School. It was amazing to hear about the diverse job roles involved in making this project a reality, even before Willmott Dixon started breaking ground."*

"To be able to look around the site and see how rapidly the project is progressing – and visualise the finished result – was fascinating. It has given our pupils a lot to think about and opened up discussions regarding career pathways they hadn't previously considered."

Risedale's Young Writers Published

A massive congratulations to pupils Halle Murray and Taya McKee! Their compelling original entries have been selected for publication in the highly respected Young Writers Annual Showcase. This is an extraordinary accomplishment that celebrates not only their immense talent but also their dedication to the craft of writing. Having their work chosen for publication among entries from

across the country is a true testament to their unique voices and hard work.

2025 Chess Champion Crowned!

Over the last few weeks of the Autumn Term, pupils turned their attention to the 64 squares of a chessboard with the return of Risedale's annual chess tournament!

Sixteen pupils took part in games during lunchtime, over a series of four rounds. There was serious talent on show as the matches became increasingly tense. As we reached the semi-finals, the tournament became an all-Year 7 affair, with two talented young players facing off in the final game.

In a match that could have gone either way, Ranulph Gray emerged victorious against Jack Cadman. Both finalists were presented with a chess book, and the 2025 trophy was awarded to Ranulph.

There will be an opportunity for pupils to represent the school in the 2026 Delancey Chess Challenge later in the year. This is a fantastic experience and a great way for pupils to take their game to the next level, competing in the grand hall at Yarm School.

Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the 2025 Risedale Chess Tournament and especially to Ranulph on his magnificent victory!



Foxglove Covert – Risedale Pupils Master Conservation & Forestry Skills!

At Risedale, we are incredibly proud of our ongoing partnership with Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve, providing our Key Stage 3 pupils with unique, hands-on learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Under the guidance of Mrs Deighton, groups of pupils take part in an immersive six-week programme designed to build both environmental awareness and practical expertise. The initiative is split into two key areas:

- **Conservation Excellence:** Three weeks dedicated to essential maintenance and protection of the reserve's diverse ecosystems.
- **Forestry & Crafts:** Three weeks focusing on traditional woodland skills and crafts.



This programme is a fantastic way for our pupils to develop teamwork, positive **RELATIONSHIPS, RESILIENCE**, and a deeper understanding and **RESPECT** for the natural world.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging so well with the sessions at Foxglove Covert. A huge well done to everyone involved so far – we can't wait to see what our next group of pupils will get up to in 2026!

Celebrating Success: Risedale Recognition Assemblies

During the final week of the Autumn term, Risedale School held a series of special Recognition Assemblies to celebrate the hard work and achievements of pupils across all year groups.

In Key Stage 4, over 20 awards were presented to Year 10 and 11 pupils for their academic and personal progress. The assembly also celebrated 100% attendance with certificates and spot prizes, including cinema tickets. Senior Teacher Mr Kirkbride expressed his pride in the "maturity and confidence" shown by the older pupils.

The Key Stage 3 assemblies similarly honoured outstanding effort:

- **Year 7** were commended for their fantastic transition and the strong impression they have made since joining the school in September.
- **Year 8** were praised for their drive and determination throughout the term.
- **Year 9** were encouraged to maintain their focused mindset as they begin to make their GCSE Option Choices.



PHOTO CREDIT: A standout moment of the week was the national recognition of Jacob Strand (Year 9), who received a 2025 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge Gold Award, placing him in the top 10% of participants across the country. Congratulations Jacob!

Kindness and Community: Risedale School's Festive Roundup

Community Spirit and Giving

The Risedale Family showed incredible generosity during the festive season, beginning with Christmas Jumper Day on 11th December, which raised **£197.00 for Save the Children UK**. The school also launched its "Parcels for the Community" appeal, collecting a vast array of food, toiletries and gifts. These donations, along with **£207.55** raised at the **Charity Christmas Fair**, were delivered to the **Colburn Hub & Community Cafe & Foodshare Zero Waste** to support local families in Catterick Garrison.

Spreading Joy Locally

Pupils reached out to the wider community through a **Christmas Card Competition**, creating beautiful designs to brighten the season for local residents. On the final day of term, pupils Bethany and Riley visited **Hillcrest Care Home** to personally deliver the cards, successfully establishing a new volunteer link between the school and the home. The experience was particularly impactful for Bethany, who has been inspired by the visit to pursue a future career in the caring professions.

School Celebrations and Rewards

Festivities peaked with the **Christmas Lunch** on 17th December, featuring a traditional roast and a festive raffle. Risedale Centre pupils joined the fun with baking workshops and a "cosy screening" of *The Christmas Chronicles*. Finally, the school celebrated pupil excellence with **Christmas Reward Trips**, taking Key Stage 3 pupils to see *Cinderella* at The Georgian Theatre Royal and treating top Key Stage 4 "superstars" to a trip to the Metrocentre.

Giving back is a cornerstone of the Risedale Family. These activities perfectly demonstrate our core values of **RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**, proving that our pupils truly strive to be the "BEST version of themselves."



Congratulations to the whole Risedale Family – what a fantastic 2025 we had!



TO EVERY WOMAN WHO WORE THE UNIFORM

We understand that your military experiences are unique.

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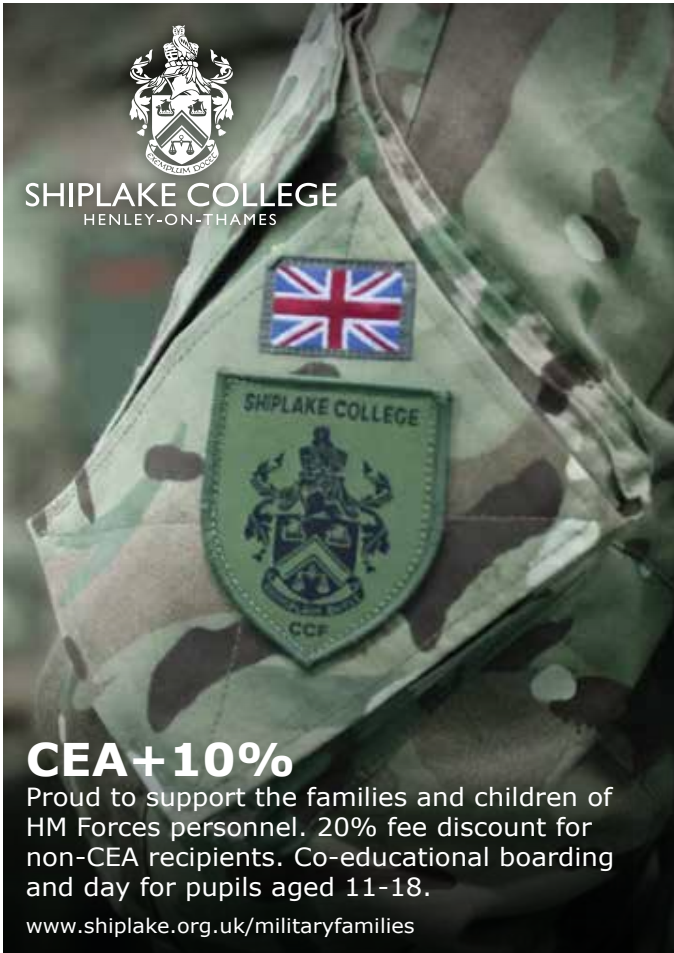
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VOLUNTEER PACKING DAY BY E50K – 28 NOV 2025

Volunteers from all organisations came together on Friday 28th November to pack 'welcome boxes' for Service Families as a moving in survival kit.

HQ Catterick Garrison sponsored a Community Award to recognise the amazing work and support Julie Sutherland the Tesco Community Champion provides for our Garrison Communities.



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Continuity through every posting: Why **military families** are turning to online schooling

For military families, frequent relocations are often part of the journey. While new postings bring exciting opportunities, they can also create challenges when it comes to children's education.

Changing schools, adapting to new curriculums, and rebuilding friendships can be difficult for students who move regularly between bases in the UK and overseas. For many families, maintaining stability in education becomes a priority. The education you choose today will shape the person your child becomes tomorrow.

King's InterHigh delivers live, interactive lessons taught by experienced teachers, following the British curriculum from primary through to GCSEs and A Levels. The curriculum is taught across three global time zones (UK, Middle East and Southeast Asia), so families have full flexibility to choose a time zone that best fits their needs and can switch to another time zone if they prefer. Our Key Stage 5 students can also opt to study the IB Diploma Programme on a UK timetable.

Students are taught by UK and internationally qualified teachers and get the personalised, innovative, supportive education they need to thrive. Students log in each day to attend scheduled lessons, participate in discussions, and complete coursework just as they would in a traditional school setting. All lessons are recorded so students can easily catch up on missed lessons — 24/7, without pressure.

For Julie Scholey Smith, a parent that travels around the world, King's InterHigh helped to encourage her children to take ownership and responsibility of their learning:



What's surprised us most about online schooling is how clearly it shows things like motivation, independence, and support, things that exist in all education, but are harder to miss online. Making sure both children are supported alongside their teachers, while keeping on top of work, can take a lot of energy. Some days everything flows, other days it takes more encouragement to keep everyone engaged, including us. Online schooling seems to ask for that independence earlier.



When asked about the differences she has noticed in her two children currently learning at King's InterHigh, she stated: "They seem comfortable with themselves, confident in their own skin, and able to adapt to new environments with ease. They're constantly pushing their comfort zones in life."

With over 12,500 alumni since 2005, King's InterHigh is a DfE- and Cambridge-accredited school that gives families all the rigour and opportunity of an elite independent school with the flexibility to study anywhere at any time. For many military families, this flexibility can help remove some of the disruption that often accompanies postings.

Beyond academics, King's InterHigh offers more than 100 clubs alongside online and in-person events around the world, giving students opportunities to connect with like-minded peers. For families living in close-knit military communities, this can be a natural extension of their local social circles, allowing students to broaden their networks while connecting with a global cohort of peers.



Learn more about King's InterHigh and how it supports globally mobile families at: kingsinterhigh.co.uk

FROM ADVENTURE TRAINING TO VETERANS VIEWPOINT



By Mark Hill MBE – Veteran & Entrepreneur | Founder & Editor of the Town & Dale Magazine

Adventure Training in the Army was always something to look forward to. It was time outdoors, time away from routine, and time to have some fun.

But it was never just about fun. Behind every activity was purpose. Adventure Training brought people together. It built teams, developed leadership, and strengthened communication under pressure. It gave individuals the chance to grow in confidence, resilience, and trust, while reminding teams what they were capable of when they worked together.

Those same principles sit at the heart of something we've recently launched at our Catterick Garrison Veterans iHub coffee mornings.

Veterans Viewpoint is a community project encouraging Veterans to get outdoors, explore the Yorkshire Dales, take their own photos, and share their experiences in their own words. The aim is simple but powerful: to reduce loneliness and isolation, support mental health and wellbeing, and help Veterans reconnect with purpose, place, and community through shared outdoor experiences.

Fresh air, exercise, and time outdoors play a vital role in both physical and mental wellbeing. Sometimes stepping outside the everyday routine is exactly what helps people reset, reconnect, and move forward.

As part of the Veterans Viewpoint project, we are also launching a community Outdoor Lifestyle and Adventure magazine, **Town & Dale**. Its aim is to inform and inspire our Military community to explore what's on the Garrison's doorstep, the towns, dales and villages of the Yorkshire Dales.

To help bring the project into everyday spaces, we have commissioned five Veterans Viewpoint photos into a series of collectible postcards. Each design has been printed in runs of 1,000, creating 5,000 postcards in total, with a further 5,000 on the way. On the reverse, each postcard includes a short message about Town & Dale and Veterans Viewpoint, and where a stamp would normally sit there's an iconic stamp-style QR code. Scan it, and it takes you straight to our website, where readers can explore the digital magazine and the latest stories.

The postcards are free to pick up and keep. They're being displayed and distributed across the Garrison and beyond, including Richmond

and key locations throughout the Yorkshire Dales National Park. They work as a small souvenir of a visit, while also acting as a simple signpost to discover more places, more routes, and more Veteran-led stories.

Get involved

Town & Dale is community-led, and we're inviting others to take part. If you've explored the Yorkshire Dales, we'd love to feature your photos and your write-up for a future issue. Whether it's a village wander, a classic dale walk, a waterfall hunt, a café find, or a family day out, your viewpoint could help inspire someone else to head beyond the Garrison and into the Dales.

Send your Yorkshire Dales photos and short reviews or articles to townanddalemagazine@mail.com

The value of adventure, connection, and purpose doesn't end with service. It simply evolves.

Veterans Viewpoint, Connected by Service

Issue 1 of Town & Dale will be out in the New Year. You can follow our progress and visit the website at www.townanddale.co.uk.



Richmond in Richmondshire

Discover Richmond – Where History Meets the Dales

Step into Richmond, North Yorkshire – a market town rich with history, culture, and breathtaking views. Explore the mighty Norman Castle, wander cobbled streets, enjoy the charm of independent shops and cosy pubs, and follow the River Swale as it tumbles into the Yorkshire Dales.

Our *Visit Richmond* digital magazine is your free guide to the best of Richmond and Richmondshire – from heritage and hidden gems to food, walks, and local stories.

Visit Richmond. Discover, Explore, Belong.

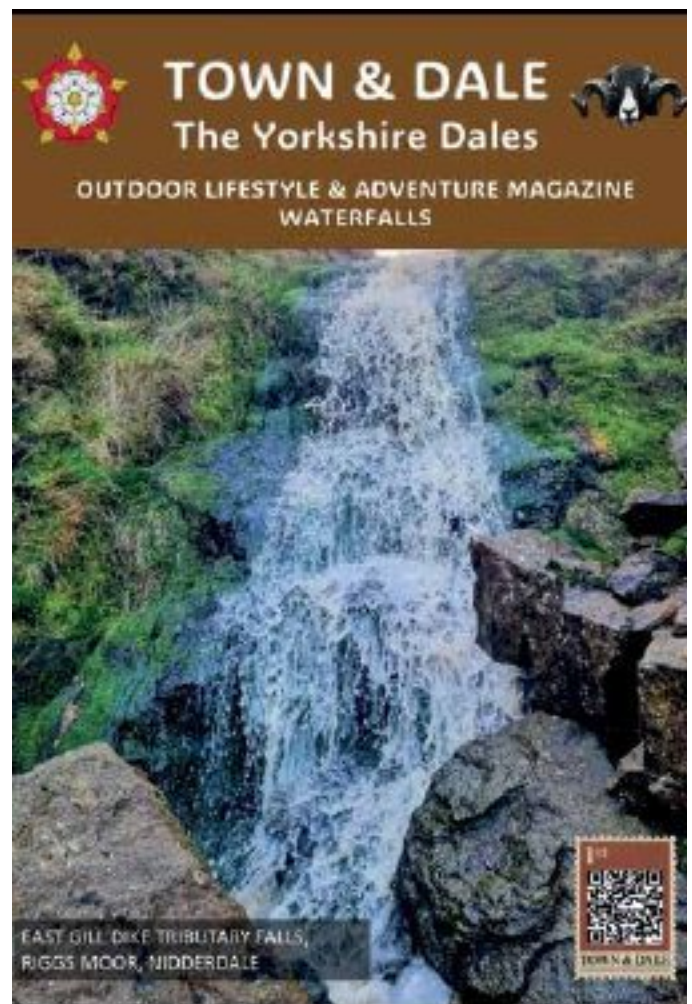
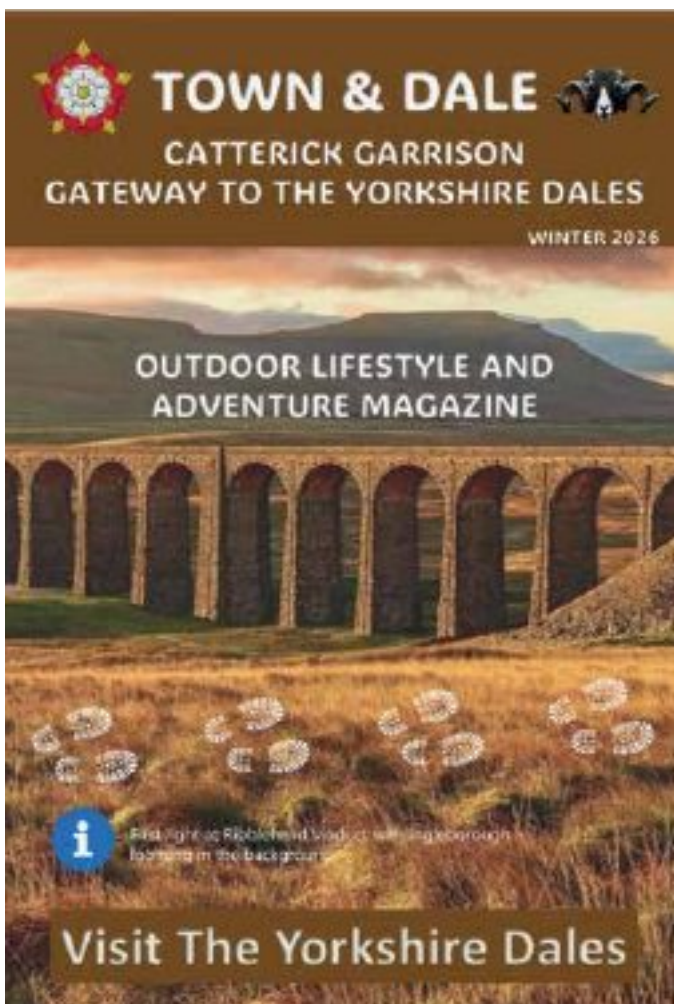


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BEHIND THE MOTTO: 'LOOKING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE, LOOKING BACK WITH PRIDE'

Alex Foreman, Principal of The Duke of York's Royal Military School, explains how the school's unique blend of tradition and innovation is shaping confident, capable young people ready to seize the opportunities of tomorrow.

Our motto isn't just words on a crest—it reflects the very heart of our mission. "Looking forward with confidence, looking back with pride" speaks to who we are: a school built on over 200 years of proud tradition, yet relentlessly focused on the future our students will shape.

With fees of only £592 per term, for those eligible for the MOD's Continuity of Education Allowance (allowing mobile parents to send their children to boarding school), we offer what I believe is one of the most compelling educational experiences in the country. Our inclusive offering is one of exceptional academic education and an unrivalled, outstanding co-curricular programme designed to stretch, challenge, and inspire.

Our students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities that rival many schools: modern science labs, an Olympic-standard athletics track, a professional-style theatre, and more. But what truly sets us apart is not just what we provide—it's how we personalise that experience.

I task every member of staff to truly know each student, who are affectionately known as

'Dukies'. Not just their academic ability, but what makes them tick—what inspires them, what they care about, and how they learn best. We are committed to unlocking the potential in every child. Because when a student feels seen, understood, and supported, there is no limit to what they can achieve.

Our academic results are a testament to this ethos. 85% of our students achieve A*-C at A Level, and 95% go on to university, with 40% securing places at Oxbridge and Russell Group institutions. At GCSE, we're in the top 5% of schools nationally for progress where our students outperform the national average by two-thirds of a grade.

But education here goes far beyond the classroom. We offer over 60 clubs and societies a week, alongside world-class opportunities in sport, the performing arts, and leadership. These are not extras—they are part of the fabric of our school, included in our fees, and embedded in our belief that a well-rounded education builds not just qualifications, but character.

Our school's name and military heritage instils a deep sense of respect and pride—but our vision is modern, ambitious, and inclusive. We honour our past, not by standing still, but by using it as a foundation for bold, forward-thinking education. We need to know where we have come from, to know where we are going.



I warmly invite you to visit our school, speak to our students, and see what makes The Duke of York's Royal Military School such a special place to learn and grow. This is more than a school—it's a community where every student is known, every talent is nurtured, and every future is possible.

To learn more, visit www.doyrms.com or contact admissions@doyrms.com to arrange your visit.



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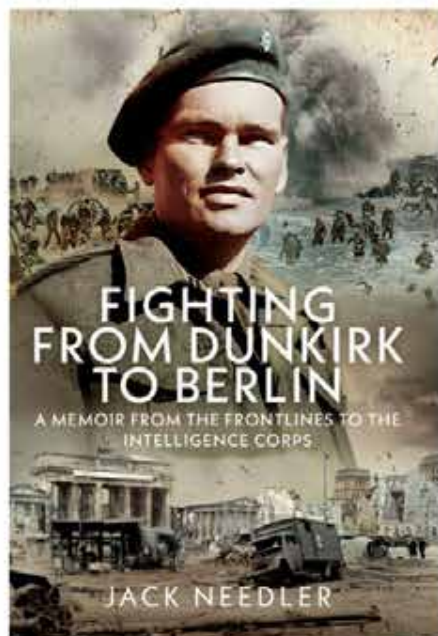
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Fighting from Dunkirk to Berlin: Jack Needler

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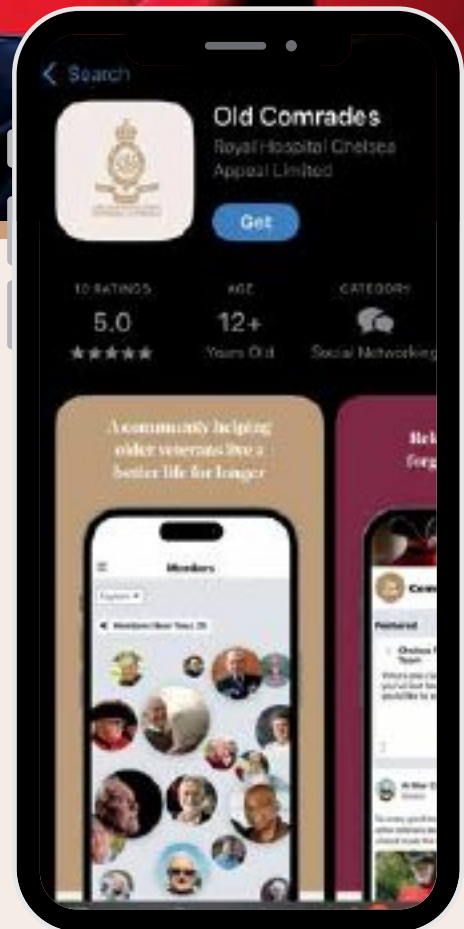
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-Chelsea Pensioner, Ivan



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- Risedale offers an exciting and engaging education, delivered by dedicated, expert staff who are passionate about supporting everyone to achieve their aspirations.
- Our curriculum is continually expanding, enabling us to deliver a more diverse range of subjects and meet the individual needs of our pupils. This year alone, we have introduced Health & Social Care and Travel & Tourism into our curriculum.
- We organise lots of educational and personal enrichment and reward visits, and have an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities.
- Our school utilises advanced technologies to foster innovative teaching and learning methods. We have access to Virtual Reality headsets, Adobe Creative Cloud, Chromebooks, a media suite equipped with state-of-the-art green screen technology, a photography studio, computerised laser cutters, 3D printing facilities, and computer embroidery tools, to name but a few.



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