

CATTERICK GARRISON GAZETTE

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH

ISSUE 215 NOV-DEC 2025

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM CATTERICK,
RIPON, TOPCLIFFE AND DISHFORTH



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2025

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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 a series of military articles including those from the British Army Band Catterick taking part in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and HQ Catterick Garrison staff helping selling poppies. We also have articles from the local community groups and news from 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 next edition of the Gazette, please email CatterickGar-iHub-GpMailbox@mod.gov.uk by Friday 11th January 2026.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Kind Regards,
Maj A Green**



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**Please send any correspondence to:
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Plumer Road, Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 3AD**

Submit articles in electronic form – on CD.
Include high quality digital images where possible.
Please keep the text and images separate.

**FRONT COVER:
HQ Catterick Garrison staff Christmas photo**

MY EXPERIENCE AS LEAD GUITARIST AT THE 75TH THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

Cpl Gram Mitchell, British Army Band Catterick

This summer, I had the honour of performing as lead guitarist in the stage band for the 75th anniversary of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. To step out each night onto the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle – one of the most iconic stages in the world – was both humbling and exhilarating.

Performing to more than 8,000 people every evening was an incredible feeling. Across the run of the Tattoo, over 184,000 spectators filled the stands, and yet the energy never once dipped. The roar of the crowd, the atmosphere created by the illuminated castle, and the collective anticipation before the music began gave every performance a magic of its own.

As lead guitarist, I had the privilege of bringing a modern edge to the stage band's sound. The guitar added drive and texture to traditional

orchestrations, and performing solos for the vast audience was a thrill I'll never forget. Each night felt like a chance to connect with people through music in a way that was powerful and deeply personal.

Being part of the 75th anniversary made the experience even more meaningful. The Tattoo has such a rich history and cultural significance, not only for Scotland but for audiences around the world. To contribute to that legacy during such a milestone year was something truly special.

Every night ended with fireworks soaring above the castle and the final notes echoing across the esplanade - a moment that always gave me goosebumps. Playing the Tattoo was more than just a performance; it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I feel incredibly proud to have been part of it.



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



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WHAT ARE YOUR BAND UP TO?

Written by Holly Souter, British Army Band Catterick

The autumn and winter seasons are always a busy time for British Army Band Catterick, with a particular focus on Remembrance events in November, followed by a calendar full of festive performances in December.

Remembrance Day is one of the most significant dates in our calendar, especially for cornet players. Performing The Last Post, whether at a commemorative service, a funeral, or a sports match, is a highly sought-after engagement within the section and one that carries a great deal of responsibility. Our musicians are dedicated to delivering performances that are both technically assured and emotionally fitting for such poignant occasions.

Remembrance can be a difficult time for many, particularly serving personnel and veterans, so our musicians feel deeply honoured to provide musical support at these events. This November, our cornet players have performed The Last Post at six services across Catterick Garrison, Ripon, and the Manchester City Women's football ground, amongst other locations.

Beyond Remembrance, the band have continued to provide musical support for all upcoming Passing Out Parades at ITC Catterick, entertaining the families and friends of new soldiers each week. Our musicians are also looking forward to a brass



quintet performance in Manchester, for an event hosted by 6 MLI Battalion.

Another highlight of the season is our annual Solo Competition, where members of the band prepare and perform their chosen pieces before a panel of judges, all hoping to be named Unit Champion Soloist. It's one of the most anticipated events in our calendar, showcasing the incredible individual talent within the band. Keep an eye on our social media to see who takes the title this year!

On 17th December, our hugely popular Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, Richmond

will return. Entry is free and no ticket is required, but the venue fills up quickly – often with people standing at the back! Join us for a wonderful evening of festive music, community spirit, and Christmas cheer.

Finally, if you think British Army Band Catterick could add something special to your community or event, we'd love to hear from you. To get in touch, email Holly.Souter100@mod.gov.uk, or Direct Message us on Facebook [@British Army Band Catterick](#).

75TH ROYAL MILITARY EDINBURGH TATTOO

In August, British Army Band Catterick performed at the 75th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a spectacular event that draws an international crowd.

One element of the show was a massed military band performance, that combined British Army Band Catterick, British Army Band Tidworth, The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and the Band of the Prince of Wales. The bespoke display that was performed featured Scottish music from across the years, to celebrate 75 years of the show, specially arranged by the Tattoo's in-house arranger. This included music from *Braveheart*, *The Proclaimers*, and smart other crowd-pleasing classics. Alongside the complex display, featuring the bands spelling out 1950-2025, this made for an excellent show.

The band also performed alongside the Massed Pipes and Drums, the world-famous Top Secret Drum Corps from Switzerland, and military bands from Poland, the USA and Ukraine. Intensive rehearsal and preparation was required to make these performances as slick and professional as possible for the 8,800 spectators that came each night.

A poignant moment of each show was when the narrator pointed to a spotlighted audience member, who had been voted a "local hero", and gave a short speech about their nomination. This was followed by a moving performance of a piece called *Travel These Ways*, where all acts, along with a large choir, turned to the audience in darkness, held tiny lights up to the sky, and sang. The song *Travel These Ways* had been carefully

planted in various locations across Edinburgh, to create familiarity with the song, and make it "feel like home", according to the creative director of the tattoo. It was played on the piano at Waverley Station, by a busking violinist on the cobbled streets of the Old Town, and in taxis travelling to Edinburgh Castle.

Particular highlights from the show were captured by the BBC filming team, for it to be later televised on BBC1. Flybys from the Red Arrows and other aircraft wooed the crowd and looked great on the televised version of the show.

The band felt privileged to be a part of this historical, world-class event, and enjoyed a deserved Leave period after the show had concluded, before returning back to Catterick.

HQCG STAFF AND HELPERS POPPY SELLING IN TESCO



HQCG staff doing their bit for the RBL Poppy Appeal in Tesco – what a generous community we have in Catterick Garrison, overwhelmed by the support!

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10 edited digital images
A festive gift to take home

Saturday 23rd November 2022
10am - 4pm
Community Hub, 4000A, Catterick Garrison, DL9 4EP
£100.00 (£70.00 Military Blue Light discounted price)
£20.00 deposit required
30 minute shoot time
10 edited digital images
A festive gift to take home

Wednesday 27th December 2022 6.00pm - 8pm
Festive Cafe
Community Hub, 4000A, Catterick Garrison, DL9 4EP
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Military Blue Light discounted price £30.00
£20.00 deposit required
15 minute shoot
Cafe till 7pm
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OPTION 2 - £60.00
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£20.00 deposit required
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How AFF can help the whole Army family

The Army Families Federation (AFF) is an independent voice for Service personnel and their families. We work to improve the quality of life for the Army family, wherever you are in the world. AFF is independent of the Army and offers confidential advice.

We are here to support everyone throughout their military journey from day one until you head back into civilian life.

We can help with housing, money and military allowances, visa and immigration issues, education and childcare, employment and training, health and additional needs and many other areas of Army family life.

AFF can help whether you're single, married or in a long-term relationship, Regular or Reserve.

As well as helping you, we highlight problems to the chain of command, defence housing, health and education, and civilian service providers.

As the recognised independent voice of Army families, we work with them to improve the support they give you.



Get in touch

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THE HIVE



On behalf of the Chain of Command Army HIVE delivers information support for the whole military community on a wide variety of topics affecting your everyday Service and personal life, including relocation, accommodation, health and wellbeing, childcare and education, employment, finance, deployment, resettlement, and the local area.

The service is free and available wherever you are in the world. HIVE staff can research information on your behalf and are also able to provide confidential signposting to further sources of support.

If you're considering overseas postings or already at post, the iHIVE (International HIVE) also provides location-specific guides and information.

If you're Service Personnel, a partner or wider family member, veteran or MOD civilian, HIVE support is available face-to-face through a worldwide network of Information Centres and also online. Find out more:



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Your Local HIVE is: Catterick

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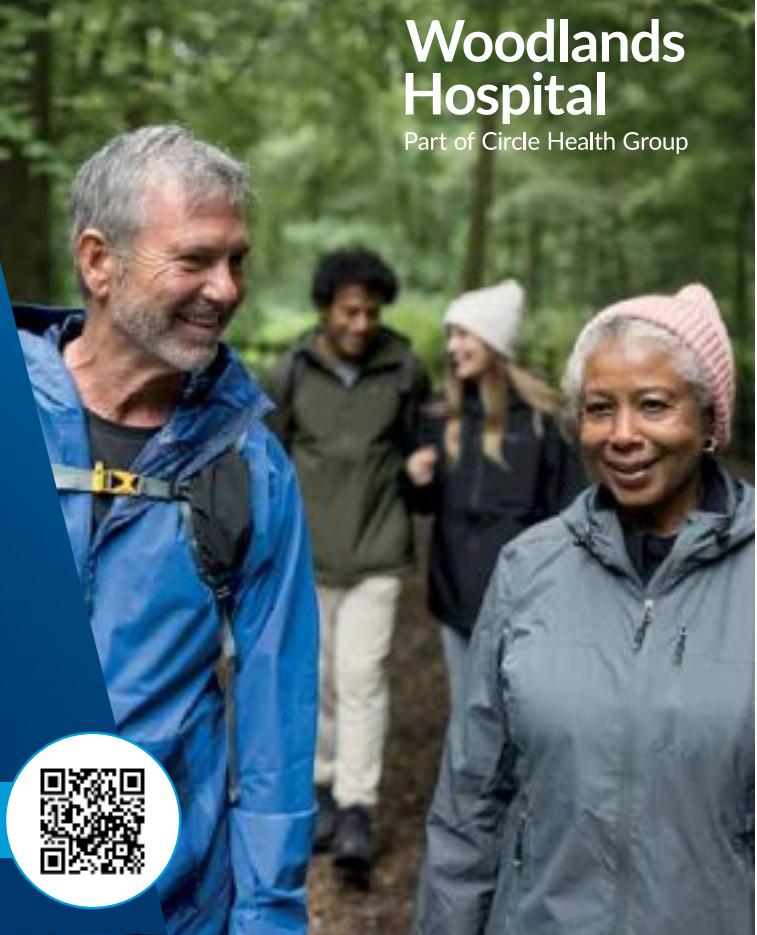
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OBITUARY FOR WILLIAM HARRY BROOKS

William Harry Brooks – known as “Billy” too friends who served in the Lancashire Fusiliers & 2 Parachute Regiments, Special Airborne Service.

Formerly of Colburn Catterick until around 2015.

Sadly passed away aged 77 on the 22nd of August 2025 from natural causes residing at North Close, Spennymoor.

Close family friend of Phillip, Tracy & Emma from North Close.

Anyone who new Billy and would like to contact Phillip & Tracy please phone 07976 697150



CATTERICK GARRISON FOOTBALL CLUB

Written by Neil Rooney, Club Development Officer

On a beautiful Summer's day at the end of June, Catterick Garrison Football Centre held it's annual end of season Presentation Day.

The day brought the club together to celebrate another fantastic season. Each child received their individual trophy and there were special awards for Player of the Year, Players Player and Top Scorer.

There were numerous events on the day for all the children and their families to enjoy: Summer Raffle, Tombola, Football Zone, Soak the Coach, Bouncy Castles and fun fair games. Refreshments were provided by the Masham Cider Press and Lol's Mobile Kitchen.

Some of the notable winners included our Clubman of the Year, Sophie Murphy. Junior Clubman of the Year was shared by sisters Katie and Emily.



The Dougie Green Memorial Shield went to Omar and our Number 4 award went to Alfie.

As the new season has started it has been a busy start for the club. We have been able to split some of the age groups into 2 teams, with the potential to do the same at other age groups.

This is dependent on volunteers to come forward to start coaching. The Club have a coaching bursary to help you on your journey therefore if you are interested then please contact cgfc.clubdevelopment@outlook.com

In September we hosted another FA Referee's Course, which attracted 28 candidates from across North Riding. The Club supported 2 coaches, Ethan and Michael, in achieving their Referee's qualifications and this strengthens the pool of

referees we can call upon for match days.

At the end of September a number of our Wildcats and Squad Girls were invited by Durham Women's FC to be mascots at their WSL 2 league match v Crystal Palace.

The Club are part of Durham's Sister Club Programme which meant our girls had a day to remember, walking out with the Durham players and shaking hands with the match officials and the Palace players.

We would like to thank Durham Women for their hospitality, especially the players who were very friendly and chatty towards our girls.

For more information on the club please contact us on cgfc.clubdevelopment@outlook.com



CLERVAUX FOLD

Written by Lone Helliwell, Fold Manager

We have just received funding to work with Service Women from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. Would you be able to promote the courses for us please. We will start the first 8 week course in November, carrying on from that there will be a series of twelve eight-week courses during the next two years.

The course will run each Thursday evening with up to 18 women each time. The evening will start at 6pm with a shared meal followed by three craft workshops to choose from. The women may choose to work on a single project throughout the eight weeks. Such as making a stool in Greenwood Work. Pottery, Felting plus other crafts are able to be experienced in one session.

They will be working with master craftspeople with years of experience in the therapeutic value of crafts. At the end of each course we will hold a day of activities with a display of their work so they can invite families and friends to witness their achievements and have a go themselves, with opportunities for the course participants to demonstrate their new skills.





Give your child an educational “home base” with online school

As every military family knows well, “home” doesn’t have to be tied to one specific place. But did you know the same can be true for your child’s school?

As exciting as new postings are, you’re not alone if you worry about uprooting your children again to navigate new curriculums and make friends from scratch. While boarding school offers consistency, it also comes at the cost of keeping your family together.

Now, families in the forces are choosing the best of both worlds with online learning.

At leading online school King’s InterHigh, for example, your child can get an educational “home base” that travels with you, wherever you’re posted. With the same teachers, classmates, and curriculum through-out their school journey, your child can succeed in the classroom, make friends for life, and chart a path to their future goals.

Consistency meets quality

There are so many advantages to growing up in the military, from adaptability to global awareness. That being said, each new posting also comes with a cycle of challenges for young people: settling into a new school, the anxiety of being the “new kid,” and keeping up grades despite disruption.

But what if school was the one thing that didn’t change? At King’s InterHigh, students can log into their live, interactive online lessons from anywhere in the world, with timetable options across three time zones. The teachers who understand them, the friends they chat with, and the routine that keeps them grounded are all there waiting, no matter how often your family is re-stationed.

The best thing is that there’s no need to compromise on quality to get that flexibility. With over 20 years of experience in online education, King’s InterHigh is part of the premium education group Inspired. Built on the highest standards and practices of more than 120 independent schools worldwide, this Cambridge-accredited school brings students all the benefits of a traditional classroom, from UK and internationally qualified teachers to collaborative study.

Plus, your child also gets the extra advantages of learning online, like recordings of every live lesson, cutting-edge tools such as VR, and even the option to sit IGCSE and A Level exams remotely from home. When your child has an excellent education that travels with them, they can enjoy everything military family life has to offer without falling behind in their studies.

Community meets support

While academics are important, there’s more to thriving at school than great teaching. For many military children, one of the hardest parts of each posting is saying goodbye to school friends. With online school, on the other hand, bonds and connections aren’t tied to location.



“My good friends from King’s InterHigh, I still speak with a decade on,” says alumnus Dr. Kieran Bjergstrom, now a quantum physics entrepreneur. Joining King’s InterHigh means joining a vibrant global community spanning more than 120 countries, including many fellow military families. With more than 100 online clubs to choose from each year, community events like house competitions, and in-person trips and meet-ups around the world, your child can make friendships that will last a lifetime.

All the while, students at King’s InterHigh have unwavering, tailored support from their teachers. If your child has a special educational need like autism or ADHD, for example, the prospect of finding a new school with the right support every time you’re re-posted can be even more daunting.

King’s InterHigh eliminates the worry with Inclusive Teaching Plans for personalised accommodations, additional workshops for wellbeing and academic skills, and more. “The last two years have boosted my confidence in my potential,” says online A Level student Olivia, who achieved five 9s and two 8s in her IGCSEs at King’s InterHigh after leaving traditional school due to her OCD.

And, as students approach their final school years, King’s InterHigh’s expert-led futures programme is there to guide them through university applications and career planning. Students achieve outstanding grades year after year, with 2025 graduates heading to top universities like Cambridge and Yale.

Explore King’s InterHigh for your family

For many military families, finding the right school has traditionally meant compromise: between quality and affordability, between consistency and family unity, and between academic ambition and practical reality. Online schooling with King’s InterHigh removes the impossible choices, and when your child’s education is secure, everything else can fall into place.

I was reluctant at the beginning when I heard about online education,” says Mexico-based mother Sharmila, “but why does school have to be brick-and-mortar? King’s InterHigh is preparing my children to have a better future than what they were learning before.

King’s InterHigh is the leading British international online school, welcoming students aged 7 to 19 worldwide. To learn more, visit kingsinterhigh.co.uk.

RESILIENCE THROUGH CRAFT

A new course for servicewomen funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – *Servicewomen: Seen & Heard*

Clervaux Fold is set in 78 acres of lovely woodland, meadows and farm, just outside Croft-on-Tees. Join us for an enjoyable eight-week course in a warm, creative space for you to develop new friends, share experiences and learn new skills.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- Held on Thursday evenings and one Saturday, starting at 6pm with a shared meal followed by a choice of three different craft workshops
- Crafts will vary and include green woodwork, pottery and felting. Choose different crafts each week or spend more time in your favourite session
- Maximum 18 people per course
- End-of-course activity day with a display of work. Invite family and friends to witness your achievements and have a go themselves, with opportunities for you to show off your new skills
- Courses run throughout 2025–2026



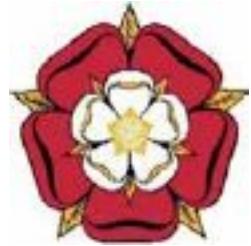
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Visit our website:
rmt.org/clervauxfold

CATTERICK GARRISON MILITARY CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS PROJECT



Written by Karen Hollinshead, HQ Catterick Garrison
17th & 18th September 2025

On the wet, damp days of 17th & 18th September an amazing army of 47+ volunteers on Day 1 and 25+ on Day 2 arrived to support the clean up of graves and improve upon the work we began in October last year at Catterick Garrison Military Cemetery.

This is another successful project complete that has hugely improved the War and Non-War Graves at the Catterick Garrison Cemetery!

THANK YOU to all involved!

THE BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES

This area was hard to manage with weed growing rampant along the channels that had been dug out many years ago. We prepared the ground and placed slate to suppress weeds and enhance the graves. The visitors and families who saw us on site really liked the results!



DAY 1 – Wednesday 17th Sept (47+ Volunteers) split into x5 Teams we had plans to split into areas and begin various tasks – here are the pictures to tell the story.....



Setting up the refreshment and registration tent with the amazing team to help!



Despite the rain moral was high and we had time for some fun!



The lovely housing teams who came up with the idea of creating a 'Reflection Garden' that would be a quiet area for families to sit in peace and enjoy the new planting and new bench and planters all made by CLC Teams.



The cremation site that was started last year with the creative features and planting, now with new plots for future memorial stones.



Families amongst our teams joining in!

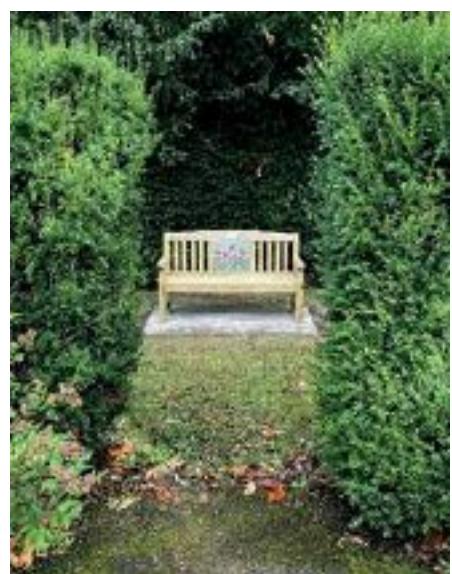
DAY 2 – Thursday 18th September- Today the weather was a little kinder and more volunteers (25+) arrived ready to prepare the ground for gravel that will suppress weed and enhance the appearance of the graves.



Credit to the Tivoli Team who worked two days non stop this year and last year- Amazing!



Arrival of the gravel – 8 tons used in total!



This picture diary tells the story of how Project 2025 progressed. THANK YOU to the amazing volunteers who made this a success!

The end of a productive two days – lets do it all again next year!



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At Strathallan, we understand the anxieties of separation, the challenges of change and the pressures of military life. Our sector-leading pastoral care includes a dedicated team that specialises in supporting children from military families, ensuring they thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Set on a safe, 153-acre rural campus around an hour from Edinburgh and Glasgow, Strathallan has been delivering game-changing education for over 100 years. With A-Levels, Highers and Advanced Highers, over 80 co-curricular activities and £22m invested in facilities, this is a home-from-home where ambition is nurtured and confidence grows.

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RISEDALE SCHOOL



Football: U13 Girls' v Thirsk

PROUD! Our U13 (Year 7 & 8) Risedale girls' football team celebrated a superb first match on Wednesday, 8th October, against Thirsk School. For many of our players, this was their debut in a proper competitive fixture, and they handled it with incredible spirit.

Match Report from Mrs Niblett

(Team Coach & Pupil Support Manager)

The girls started so well, making some great saves and showing solid defending against a strong team. We saw lots of pace in the midfield; the girls were constantly switching quickly from attack to defence to support each other, and there were several shots on target.

After a few vital half-time jelly babies, the team showed amazing commitment in the second half and exploded into action, scoring three fantastic team goals! Even though we didn't secure the win, the girls' heads didn't drop for a second. They continued to play with smiles on their faces, and it was clear to everyone that they were having so much fun. I was so impressed with the **RESILIENCE** and spirit of **#TeamRisedale!**

A big thank you goes to our captain on the day, Leah Metcalfe, who led the girls with outstanding positivity and encouragement.

The clear 'Player of the Match' was Frankie Young. Her contribution was immense; she brought strength, intensity, and an undeniable desire to win, showing an unbelievable work rate throughout the match. Well done, Frankie!

I was immensely proud to have this group of girls representing Risedale School.

Risedale's Goal Scorers: Ava Sims – 1 goal. Ava Clifton – 2 goals.

A big thank you to Mr Lawson (Head of PE) for his support and encouragement, and to the staff and pupils at Thirsk School for hosting us.

Year 11 Pupils Paddle to Success at Tees Barrage

Year 11 pupils from Risedale School successfully navigated the waters of the Tees Barrage International White-Water Centre during a recent educational trip, directly applying the school's core values.

The practical adventure was a crucial component for pupils undertaking the Cambridge National in Sport Studies qualification, specifically supporting their coursework on 'Increasing Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities.' The two-hour sessions were successfully completed by the cohort, split across two days on 2nd October and 9th October.

For many pupils, this trip was their first experience of an adventurous activity. They pushed past initial nerves to master essential skills like paddle control and teamwork in the placid water course, demonstrating outstanding **RESILIENCE**. Furthermore, by working together to navigate and assisting their peers, the pupils reinforced



the importance of strong **RELATIONSHIPS** throughout the day.

Mr Lawson, Head of PE, praised the pupils' conduct and enthusiasm:

*"It's wonderful to see the pupils represent the school. The kayaking session is a key assessment event for their 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activities' module, and every pupil showed fantastic **RESILIENCE** and **RESPONSIBILITY** on the water. They were a credit to Risedale, and their commitment to becoming the **BEST** version of themselves through hands-on learning will prove invaluable for their qualification."*

A big thank you to the expert Tees Barrage instructors for their continued support, and to Mrs Price (Administration Assistant) for dedicating her time to help with the trip and for taking the amazing photos!

"Lost Atoms" GCSE Drama Theatre Trip

Our Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama pupils had an exciting trip on Thursday, 9th October! They visited the York Theatre Royal to see Frantic Assembly's powerful production, "Lost Atoms".

This high-quality live theatre was a truly inspiring experience and a compulsory element of the GCSE Drama course. It provided an incredible



opportunity for our pupils to see excellence in physical theatre firsthand.

Mrs Southworth-Gedye, Head of Drama at Risedale School, shared her thoughts on the experience:

"This was a truly inspiring experience for our Year 10 and 11 pupils. The sheer quality of the 'Lost Atoms' production, particularly the innovative staging and precision of the performers, provided a brilliant and exciting influence for them to take into their own practical work."

The Risedale Family Raised £138 on Hello Yellow Day!

We are delighted to announce that our pupils and staff raised a fantastic total of **£138.00** for YoungMinds on **#HelloYellow Day** (Friday, 10th October), coinciding with World Mental Health Day.

The school was a vibrant sea of yellow, as pupils and staff swapped out a single uniform item for something bright and contributed their £1 donations. This simple act carries the big message that young people are never alone with their mental health challenges.

Beyond the fundraising, the real power of Hello Yellow Day lies in its visibility. Seeing the entire school community intentionally wearing yellow transforms the environment into a clear, unified message of support. It serves as a gentle, yet powerful, reminder that everyone has mental health, and it's okay to talk about it. This collective

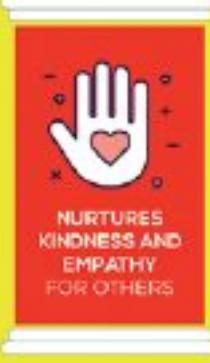


RISEDALE
A family of learners





HELLO YELLOW DAY RAISED



£138.00

FOR YOUNGMINDS UK



#TeamRisedale



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ISSUE 215 CAT GAZ 27

show of solidarity reinforces the notion that mental health conversations are welcome every day of the year, not just on World Mental Health Day.

The day was a huge success, generating important conversations around mental health and reflecting the supportive environment nurtured by our dedicated team of Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors, who do vital work around the school every day.

Lisa Smith, our School Counsellor, commented: *"It's fantastic to see the whole school embrace Hello Yellow Day. More importantly than the funds raised, days like this help to reduce the stigma around mental health and open up vital conversations among our pupils, letting them know that support is always available here at Risedale."*

The £138 raised will go directly to YoungMinds to fund their vital work, including their Parents Helpline. A massive thank you is extended to every pupil, parent, and carer for your generosity, which demonstrates Risedale's commitment to our core value of **RESPONSIBILITY** and our shared goal of ensuring all young people feel supported.

Restart A Heart Day **Year 7 Pupils Become Lifesavers on** **Restart a Heart Day!**

Risedale School proudly participated in Restart a Heart Day on Thursday, 16th October, with its newest cohort of Year 7 pupils undertaking vital CPR training. This engaging and empowering annual event, delivered in partnership with the

Yorkshire Ambulance Service, equipped young people with the essential skills to save a life.

Every year, Risedale School commits to ensuring its Year 7 pupils receive comprehensive CPR instruction, fostering a community of confident and capable potential lifesavers. This year was no exception, as pupils enthusiastically engaged in hands-on sessions led by dedicated off-duty staff and volunteers from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

The importance of early CPR cannot be overstated. A cardiac arrest patient's chance of survival dramatically increases if CPR can begin



before the ambulance service arrives on scene. Initiatives like Restart a Heart Day are crucial in spreading this life-saving knowledge far and wide. This year alone, Yorkshire Ambulance off-duty staff and volunteers taught CPR to more than 40,000 pupils at secondary schools across Yorkshire, marking 12 years of this incredible campaign.

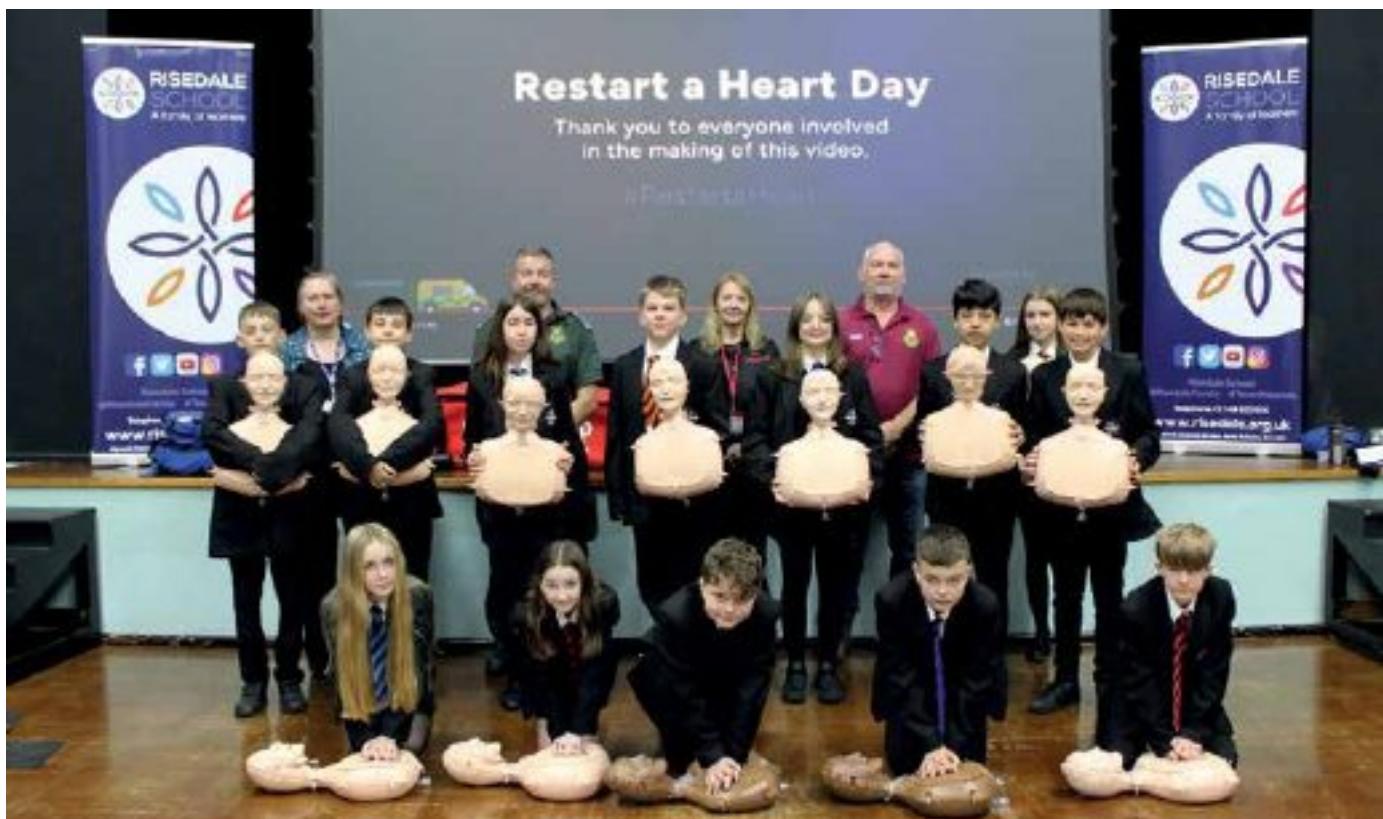
Ms Dunphy, Head of Social Studies, shared her thoughts on the day: *"We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 pupils for embracing this vital training. Seeing their dedication and understanding of how to perform CPR gives them a critical skill that could one day make all the difference. It's empowering for them, and reassuring for our community, to know they have this knowledge."*

The training provided Risedale's Year 7 pupils with practical experience in chest compressions and rescue breaths, teaching them how to recognise a cardiac arrest and respond effectively in an emergency. The day was not only educational but also instilled a sense of responsibility and confidence in our young learners.

Risedale School extends its sincere gratitude to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service for their continued partnership and dedication to educating our pupils in these invaluable life-saving techniques.

Risedale Football Teams Shine at Bedale Tournament

Risedale was well represented at the Bedale Football 7s Tournament on Thursday,





16th October, with both the KS4 Girls' and Boys' teams showcasing great effort and skill.

Girls Take 5th Place Overall

A huge well done to our KS4 girls' football team! The squad showed exceptional defensive resilience from the start, shutting down both Stokesley and Richmond to earn valuable 0-0 draws in their opening two fixtures.

In their third match against reigning champions Northallerton, they rallied back after going two goals down, with Ria Glenn scoring a fantastic team goal to make the final score a respectable 2-1 result.

The team's determination paid off in the final league game against Easingwold. Goals from Skai Nicholson and Ria Glenn secured a crucial 2-0 victory! This was thanks in part to the tireless efforts of Ellie-Mae Reid, who was outstanding in midfield, tackling hard and driving the attack.

The Thrilling Finale: Finishing third in their group, the girls faced Bedale in the cup fixture. After conceding, fantastic defending from Mia Wilson, Holly Irving, and Daisy Kelso kept the team in the game. Ellie-Mae Reid later earned and calmly converted a penalty to secure a 1-1 draw, winning the tie on points. This success earned them a fantastic 5th place finish overall out of 10 schools!

I am incredibly proud of the whole team. Thank you to our two captains, Charlotte Watkins and Ava Hughes-Francis. A special mention goes to our fantastic goalkeeper, Ava, who only conceded 3 goals in all 5 games and motivated the entire team throughout the tournament. A big thank you also to Charlotte's Dad for his support and for bringing the team some half-time chocolates.

And thank you to Mr Godfrey (Year 11 Pupil Support Manager) for cheering the girls on at the final games.

Mrs Niblett summed up her feelings: *"I can't wait for your next fixture, girls. You are a pleasure to coach, and I'm really proud of you all!"*

Match Report from Mrs Niblett (Team Coach & Pupil Support Manager)

Boys Compete with Determination and Class

The KS4 Boys 7-a-side team faced a challenging group full of talented and hard-working opposition.

Every game showed the tenacity and commitment of the Risedale boys, who competed fiercely and made it difficult for the opposition. The highlight of their performance had to be Aidan Mackintosh's

sublime finish past the keeper after a great passage of play and a superb assist from Matthew Senivota.

Mr Lawson praised the squad's effort, saying, *"They made it difficult for every team they faced. While we definitely left some goals out there, the boys displayed great promise for the rest of the season."*

Match Report from Mr Lawson (Team Coach & Head of PE)

Presentation Evening 2025 Risedale School Celebrates Success at Annual Awards Evening

Risedale School recently hosted its Annual Awards Presentation Evening, welcoming pupils, families, and distinguished guests to celebrate pupil excellence, perseverance, and hard work.



The ceremony, held on Wednesday, 22nd October, centred on the school's new vision and values theme: being 'our **BEST**'. Headteacher Mrs Greenwood highlighted the school's commitment to developing pupils' **RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, and healthy RELATIONSHIPS.**

Addressing the audience, Mrs Greenwood said: *"It is wonderful to be able to welcome you all this evening to celebrate the many achievements of our pupils, who are instrumental in the growing reputation and success of our school. I am so proud to work here and to have the privilege of working each day with so many amazing, kind, and hard-working pupils and an incredible team of staff. These pupils are a credit to everyone here and are deserving of all the praise they receive."*

Special guests included Catterick Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Anderson, Veteran Mark Hill MBE, Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell, Lin Ryan from the Soroptimist Society, Chair of Governors, Nick Horn, as well as Headteachers and staff from other local schools, Risedale governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils.



The evening featured the inaugural Year 11 Graduation Ceremony, where the Class of 2025 received individual certificates of achievement. Lt. Col. Anderson gave an inspiring speech, unpicking Risedale's values and encouraging pupils to *"continue to be curious in order to keep learning."*

A total of 24 Awards for Excellence and 18 Specialist Awards were presented, and the evening was compered by Year 11 Pupil Ambassadors Daniel Hibbins and Kaydee Smith.



Among the high achievers was Mollie Thirlwell, who achieved an impressive double grade 9 in her GCSE English exams and secured a remarkable five awards at the Presentation Evening. Her wins included prizes for Excellence in Science, Geography, and German, as well as the Key Stage 4 **BEST** Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Mollie said, *"I absolutely loved my time at Risedale School. Since Mrs Greenwood's appointment, there have definitely been noticeable and positive changes. The school will always be a very special place to me."*

Other notable winners included:

- Tyler Cassidy, who received four awards, recognising his Excellence in Mathematics, Music, RPE, and Social Studies.
- Nathanael Hall won the prize for Excellence in Engineering as well as the Robert Stephenson's Rocket STEM Award.
- Lucas Kirk was presented with the Governor's Sports Award for his performance on the football field and the athletics track.
- Lacey Hanson received the Paddy Dunne Memorial Award for balancing academics with representing Team England at the World Cheerleading Championships.
- Tallulah-Grace Tomlinson was awarded the Soroptimist Cup for citizenship and outstanding leadership.
- Dylan Hughes received the Gill Harden Award, recognising exceptional effort, determination, and resilience.
- Mlak Bakar received the prize for Excellence in Drama as well as the Year 11 **BEST** School Values Champion Award. Mlak was praised as a true star of Risedale for quietly and respectfully developing positive relationships with everyone.

- Calum Sankey, who received the prize for Excellence in English. A true Risedale superstar, his pass in English Literature was an exceptional achievement, and his Djing alongside Mr Hill at the school sports day will be greatly missed!

Musical interludes showcased the talent of Year 10 pupils, including a performance of Debussy's *Clair de Lune* by self-taught pianist Cain Darnton, and a 'Classical Mash-up' by Alex Stephenson.

The ceremony concluded with Mrs Greenwood thanking staff and pupils, and encouraging the award winners to "never forget the **BEST** version of yourselves that you have celebrated tonight."

Feedback from Social Media

On Facebook, Risedale Governor Beki Bulmer said:

"Tonight, I was privileged and honoured to have been invited to the Risedale School Presentation evening.

What a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of each and every young person as they graciously accepted their awards and certificates, especially the new awards introduced this year.

Good Luck to everyone from Year 11 as you move off into the second chapter called 'LIFE', and I hope you remember being part of the Risedale Family favourably.

The musical interludes were superb - well done to both pianists.

I have volunteered as a Governor at Risedale for the past year, having also volunteered for 2 years prior to Lockdown and COVID.

I've always supported the local schools my children have attended, and my youngest son has always said his 2 years at Risedale were the best 2 years of his education.

Volunteering makes such a difference to schools. There are so many ways you can support: joining the Parent Teacher Association/Friends of School Group, listening to pupils reading, becoming a Governor, painting a fence, supporting at a disco, and so much more.

I also volunteer at Le Cateau Community Primary School and would urge you to contact the school your children attend and get involved.

As Tesco says – "Every little helps" – any contribution, no matter how small, is valuable and useful toward achieving a goal."

KS3 Halloween Disco: A Spooktacular Success!



Mrs Greenwood wanted to share a huge thank you following our fantastic KS3 Halloween Disco on Thursday, 24th October!

The pupils looked absolutely amazing! So much effort went into their costumes and make-up! It was wonderful to see them all dancing and having so much fun! We are thrilled that this was the first

event organised by our new PTA, and it was a massive success thanks to incredible support.

A huge congratulations goes to the winner of the Best Halloween Costume Award:

Jasmine Mason (Year 9) for her amazing Lorax costume!

A big thank you also goes to Julie (Community Champion, Tesco Catterick) for generously donating the Halloween bucket of goodies as a prize!

A special shout-out to the pupils, staff, and parents who helped before, during, and after the event.

Your teamwork was phenomenal:

- Our amazing pupils for selling tickets and providing vital support on the night!
- Mr Hill (DJ & impressive face paint!)
- Mrs Young (Food, decorations and ticket sales)
- Mrs Dovaston (Food, decorations and support)
- Mrs Brown (Photo booth and decorations)
- Lisa Smith (Ambassadors, supplies and door management)
- Mr Palmer (Phenomenal setting up of the hall and clearing away!)
- And our two wonderful parent volunteers who helped make the night run smoothly.

Thank you all again for your phenomenal support and teamwork.



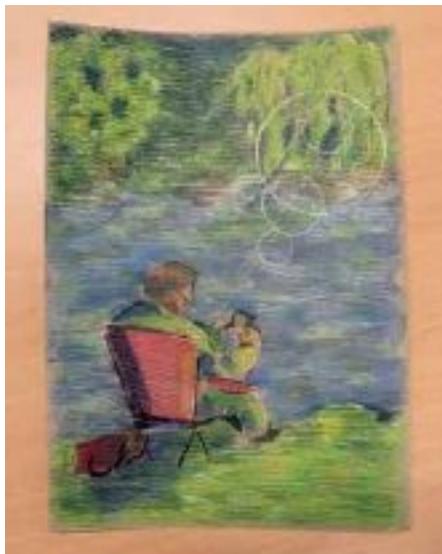
Autumn Term I 2025

Charlotte Swift Wins National "Thank a Teacher" Prize

A talented Risedale School pupil, Charlotte Swift, has won a national prize in the "Thank a Teacher" competition for her stunning painting of her Science teacher, Mr Higham.

Charlotte, a Year 11 pupil and accomplished artist, created a beautiful piece of art depicting Mr Higham enjoying his favourite hobby: fishing. Her entry was chosen as a winner by the "Thank a Teacher UK" charity, which celebrates the invaluable contributions of teachers and support staff across the country. Charlotte is currently taking GCSE Art and is a member of the school's "Art Talent Programme." For her artistic tribute,





she earned a prize package from the Tate Museum, including a sketch pad, paints, brushes, and a digital gift voucher.

Mr Higham was delighted with the tribute.

"I'm extremely honoured to have such a fantastic picture painted of me doing a hobby I love. I had no idea that Charlotte had even composed this painting, let alone that she had won such a high-profile competition. She's a truly talented artist, and she perfectly captured the essence of nature and tranquillity."

"I appreciate every single one of my teachers and all they do to help support me and my learning," Charlotte said. *"Mr Higham stood out to me for his encouragement during mock exams, and everything he has done to help me achieve the best I can. He is not only a brilliant teacher but someone I look up to as a role model."*

Charlotte's success is a source of immense pride for the school. Headteacher Mrs Greenwood commented, *"We are all so proud of Charlotte for this fantastic achievement. Her painting not only showcases her incredible artistic skill but also highlights the wonderful relationships we have here at Risedale. It's a true testament to her hard work and dedication, and to the talent we foster in our Art Talent Programme."*

Charlotte's winning artwork stands as a testament to the strong RELATIONSHIPS between pupils and staff at Risedale School and highlights the incredible talent within the Risedale Family.

Evalyn Gee Dances Her Way to Double Exam Success

Risedale School is celebrating the fantastic achievement of Year 9 pupil, Evalyn Gee, who passed two dance exams in Contemporary Modern Jazz and Ballet at The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy.



Louise Richmond, a teacher at the academy, shared the news, highlighting a particularly successful exam session where many pupils received top results, including Distinctions and Honours. *"I'm delighted to share with you that Evalyn recently took her dance exams. She's such a fabulous dancer who always gives 100% in all of her classes. As well as her exams, she also takes part in many of our additional events such as professional workshops, pantomimes and shows. She is an absolute pleasure to teach, and she worked so hard and achieved a fantastic result!"* she said.

Evalyn's passion for dance began at age three in Cyprus, and she has now been dancing for ten years. For the past five years, she has attended classes every Saturday at The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy. Her hard work and dedication in

preparing for her exams paid off, and she achieved fantastic results in both subjects.

Speaking about her achievement, Evalyn said, *"I was so happy with my dance exam results. I got a Distinction for my Ballet and an Honours for my Contemporary Modern Jazz. I love dancing and always try to get the highest marks in my exams. I'm over the moon when I get top marks like this, and I definitely want to carry on in the future!"*

Her hard work has not gone unnoticed at Risedale. Her form tutor, Mr Dean, said, *"I'm incredibly proud of Evalyn's achievement, demonstrating a determination that few can match in winning awards outside school, alongside meeting deadlines and a positive work ethic in the classroom. With these values, I'm in no doubt that Evalyn will see more successes going forward."*

The whole school community is incredibly proud of Evalyn Gee's success. Her commitment to both her studies and her passion for dance is a true inspiration to her peers.

Year 7 Football Success

What an incredible start for our Year 7 boys' football team! Just four weeks into the new academic year, this newly formed team has already secured a remarkable victory.

On Monday, 22nd September, the team faced Thirsk School in the first round of the cup competition, showcasing not only their football skills but also the school's core values. In a performance that truly showed their BEST,



the boys demonstrated RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, and positive RELATIONSHIPS.

The Risedale boys found themselves a goal down early on from a clever Thirsk finish. However, this early setback only served to demonstrate their RESILIENCE and determination. Showing incredible strength of character, the team fought back, with Theo Turner pulling them level with a well-taken goal.

From that moment on, #TeamRisedale took control of the game. The boys showed great RESPONSIBILITY in their play, dominating possession and creating numerous chances. They quickly scored three goals through Luca Kelly, Cameron McGregor, and Theo again, taking a commanding lead.

Throughout the rest of the match, the boys continued to perform with skill and purpose. Jayden Duffy scored a magnificent free-kick that went in off the underside of the bar, and Jayce Henley added a brace to complete the scoring. A final result of 7-1 to Risedale was a fair reflection of their fantastic performance.

The Risedale team played with immense RESPECT for their opponents, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship. Their teamwork and communication on the pitch also highlighted the strong RELATIONSHIPS they have built as a squad.

"I am immensely proud of the boys," said Mr Lawson, Head of PE. "For a team that came together for the first time, their performance showed outstanding maturity and team spirit. This victory is a brilliant start to their time at Risedale and a true reflection of our core values in action."

Risedale Family Spirit Shines at Packed Open Evening

Risedale School celebrated another record-breaking year for its annual Open Evening, welcoming over 100 families and 300 guests from 10 local primary schools on Thursday, 25th September. The school was alive with activity from the moment visitors arrived, with the school's Rock Band providing dynamic live music in the entrance hall.

The evening's programme began with a welcome talk in the main school hall, led by Headteacher Mrs Greenwood. *"Last year, we did a great deal of work revitalising and embedding our school's new Vision and Values and on raising standards of behaviour for learning,"* she shared. *"Our Vision and Values were clearly on display tonight for our Year 6 Open Evening. We are committed to all*



pupils having the tools to develop Responsibility, Respect, Resilience and healthy Relationships so that they can succeed and have a strong future."

Mrs Greenwood was joined by two pupils who spoke about their personal experiences and what the Risedale Family means to them. She added, *"Our curriculum is continually expanding, with new subjects like Health & Social Care and Travel & Tourism this year alone, and we utilise advanced technologies such as Virtual Reality headsets, Chromebooks, 3D printing, computerised laser cutters, and a photography studio. Tonight was a wonderful opportunity to show how our dedicated teachers, diverse curriculum, use of technology, and extensive enrichment programme come together to help every pupil succeed."*

Following the talks, visitors had the option to either join a guided tour with a Pupil Ambassador or explore the school at their own pace. Pupils from all year groups helped in the classrooms, offering demonstrations and talking to visitors about their experiences of life at Risedale. Prospective pupils were also given an activity sheet and were encouraged to collect stamps from teachers to win a prize. Attendees also enjoyed taster menu items and refreshments provided by the school's catering staff.

The evening perfectly captured the spirit of Risedale, a place where pupils are encouraged to be their BEST selves, both inside and outside the classroom. Mrs Greenwood concluded, *"I am incredibly proud of our entire Risedale Family; our pupils, our staff, and the wonderful community that supports us. We are making incredible changes, and I am filled with excitement for our future. We are confident that as we continue to grow, Risedale will become the first choice for more and more families."*

For those who were unable to attend, more information about the school and its admissions process is available on the school's website: www.risedale.org.uk.

Risedale Pupils Soar with the Air Cadets

Two lucky pupils from Risedale School recently had the incredible opportunity to take to the skies, experiencing the thrill of flight and even some exhilarating acrobatics, as part of their involvement with the Royal Air Force (RAF) Air Cadets.

Year 9 pupils, Oscar Baker and Carson Doak both enjoyed a spectacular flight experience that few young people ever get. The flights, which took place at RAF Leeming, were a well-earned reward for their dedication to the



up, nudged the controls left, and then turned and started going back down. But what really was the best thing we did was a loop-the-loop, and let's just say it was amazing. We pulled up to five to six Gs, and it's just better than most of the theme park rides you'll go on in a lifetime. It's hard to explain just how unbelievable the whole experience was—it was FANTASTIC!

This opportunity showcases the commitment of the RAF Air Cadets to providing young people with skills, confidence, and experiences outside the classroom. From flying and gliding to adventure training and recognised qualifications, the cadets programme encourages personal development and a spirit of adventure.

We congratulate Carson and Oscar on their amazing flights and look forward to hearing about their next adventures in the Air Cadets!

Risedale Pupils Land Starring Roles in Two Local Pantomimes

Two talented Year 11 performers from Risedale School are set to light up the stage this festive season, having successfully secured coveted roles in two separate local pantomimes. Their success highlights the dedication and theatrical talent flourishing within the wider Risedale Family.

Skai Nicholson is set for an exciting debut, having successfully auditioned for a place in the Young Company chorus for Cinderella at the historic Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond. She will be performing in the professional pantomime, which runs from 2nd December 2025 to 10th January 2026.

For Skai, the role is more than just a festive appearance – it's a key step towards a future career: *"It's my first ever professional show,*

meaning I get to put it in my application for musical theatre college course. I'm so excited."

Meanwhile, Emily-Faye Fort is preparing for a main role in Dick Whittington.

Emily-Faye has been cast as the leading lady, Alice, in the production by the Gilling West Village Players. The pantomime will run from 30th January to 31st January 2026.

She spoke about the joy of performing and the supportive environment of the community production: *"The best part about being in a pantomime is that I've got people who can help me if I struggle, and it's so much fun!"*

The success of both pupils has been met with enthusiasm across the Risedale Family. Their dual casting in both a professional and community production demonstrates the breadth of talent coming from the school.

Head of Drama, Mrs Southworth-Gedye, said: *"We are absolutely thrilled for both Skai and Emily-Faye. They both performed fantastically in our latest school production, "Little Shop of Horrors", and so I know that panto audiences are in for a real treat. Securing roles in such high-quality local productions is a testament to their dedication, talent, and hard work. We wish them both the very best for a brilliant panto season!.... Oh yes, we do"*



RAF Cadets, an organisation that offers young people a unique insight into the world of aviation and the RAF.

Reflecting on his unforgettable journey, Oscar Baker described the day as one of the best experiences of his life.

"It was great. First, we were briefed on what to do and what not to do when we got in the plane. Very quickly, my time came to fly, and it was the best experience ever. I was first taught to do some ups and downs and lefts and rights, which were great. But the real fun thing was that before we landed, we got to do some acrobatics! First, we did a barrel roll, which was super dizzy. After that, we did a stall turn—basically, we went straight



RISEDALE SCHOOL



We are 'The Risedale Family' and together we are 'A family of learners'.

- We are committed to making the Risedale Family inclusive and welcoming for all pupils from all walks of life. We believe it is every pupil's right to an education that allows them to develop a sense of belonging and identity. We want all pupils to leave Risedale as confident, independent and resilient young people who are able to succeed no matter where their goals or ambitions take them.
- 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.



RISEDALE SCHOOL

Hipswell

Catterick Garrison

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Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood (BA, NPQH)

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Volunteer with us

Volunteers are vital to FGC. While volunteering you can make a real difference to your local

environment, enjoy time in beautiful natural surroundings and meet friendly like-minded people. Volunteers help improve habitats and infrastructure, survey species, fundraise and more. Contact reserve staff if you are interested in volunteering.

Employ Action Days

Get your employees out of the office and into nature with Employee Action Days. We offer groups the opportunity to get outdoors and engage in team building activities through practical conservation tasks. This helps improve habitats and infrastructure on the reserve.



Winter Workdays will be taking place one Sunday per month over winter 2025/26. Help with practical tasks on the reserve, including coppicing, dead hedging and ring barking. They are free to attend. Find out more and book your place on Eventbrite. foxglovecovertlnr.eventbrite.com

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OPEN EVENTS

CATTERICK GARRISON VETERAN WINS NATIONAL BUILDING HEROES AWARD

Submitted by Mark Hill MBE

Catterick Garrison, Army veteran and local entrepreneur **Mark Hill MBE**, has been honoured with the **Veteran Community Champion Award** at the prestigious **Building Heroes Awards**, held at the magnificent **Drapers' Hall in London**.

The event, hosted on **Wednesday, 15 October**, brought together more than 150 guests from the construction, infrastructure, and property sectors for an unforgettable evening of celebration, purpose, and generosity, raising over **£23,500** in support of **Building Heroes** and its mission to empower the Armed Forces community.

A Night of Celebration and Impact

The Annual Gala Dinner and Awards Evening united corporate sponsoring partners, supporters, and Building Heroes graduates for a night that celebrated shared purpose, industry collaboration, and the enduring strength of the Armed Forces community.

The event was supported by **Chairman of the Board of Trustees Richard Tucker MBE**, **Patron Major General (Ret'd) Rich Spencer**, and **The Rt Hon Alistair Carns MP**, **Minister for the Armed Forces**, who joined as guest of honour. In his address, the Minister praised the charity's transformative impact, empowering veterans through skills, confidence, and opportunities.

This year also marked the introduction of the **Building Heroes Community, Impact & Collaboration Awards**, recognising outstanding individuals and organisations whose leadership, advocacy, and compassion make the charity's mission possible.

Award recipients included:

- **Armed Forces Network – Allies of the Year:** Multiplex Construction
- **Industry Advocate of the Year:** Charlotte Olver, Vistry Group
- **Inspirational Tutor Team of the Year:** Reaseheath College Tutor Team
- **Veteran Community Champion:** Mark Hill MBE, Founder & Editor, RESHAPE Magazine



PHOTO CREDIT: L-R: The Rt Hon Alistair Carns MP, Mark Hill MBE & Richard Tucker MBE – Building Heroes Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

- **Industry Inspiration Award:**
Lovell Partnerships Ltd
- **Strategic Partnerships Excellence Award:**
Davidsons Homes

Celebrating Excellence Across the Veteran Community

The awards shone a light on excellence across the Building Heroes community – from tutor teams and employer partners to veterans who continue to serve by supporting others through their transition from military to civilian life.

Mark, a well-known figure within the veteran community and founder of **RESHAPE**, was recognised for his exceptional dedication to supporting veterans and their families through his professional work and community leadership.

A Personal Honour

"I was truly honoured to have been selected as a finalist alongside our publication, **RESHAPE**," said **Mark Hill MBE**, following his recognition as **Veteran Community Champion of the Year**.

"Winning was an incredible moment – not just personally, but for everyone involved in **RESHAPE**, which continues to champion the voices and achievements of the Armed Forces community."

The awards were presented by **The Rt Hon Alistair Carns MP, Minister for the Armed Forces**, who praised the efforts of



all those continuing to make a difference beyond military life.

This national recognition follows a year of continued success for Mark, who was also a finalist in two categories at the **English Veterans Awards**, receiving honours for *Volunteer of the Year* and *Entrepreneur of the Year*. These achievements

build on his previous success in 2024, when he received the **UK's Most Outstanding British Army Veteran Award** at the **National Armed Forces & Emergency Services Awards**.

Generosity that Transforms Lives

Building Heroes expressed profound gratitude to its dedicated event sponsors – **Multiplex**, **Wickes TradePro**, **Lovell Partnerships Ltd**, and **Vistry Group** – whose continued commitment exemplifies the industry's belief in giving back to those who have served.

Thanks were also extended to the many companies and individuals who donated prizes for the live auction and raffle, including **Chasetown Civil Engineering**, **SkyDive Netheravon**, **Forest School Training UK**, **The Ritz**, **Browns of Mayfair**, and **A Star Experience**, as well as to **Drapers' Hall** for their excellence in service and partnership in hosting the event.

The £23,500 raised will directly support Building Heroes' programmes – funding training, qualifications, employability support, and pastoral care for at least 15 members of the former **Armed Forces community**. Each learner's journey not only opens the door to a new career in construction but also helps address the UK's critical skills shortage while upholding the Armed Forces' core values of discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

Building Heroes Awards – Veteran Community Champion of the Year. The award was presented by **The Rt Hon Alistair Carns MP, Minister for the Armed Forces**.



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And this isn't something that's "extra" or optional. Every opportunity should be offered to all students and built into the fee structure, because we believe access to enrichment should never depend on a family's ability to pay for add-ons.

Why does this matter? Because young people today need more than qualifications. They need confidence. They need to work as part of a team. They need to lead. They need to fail safely, learn quickly, and bounce back stronger. These are not abstract qualities—they are teachable, and they are developed through co-curricular life.

Whether it's navigating a climbing wall, performing to a packed theatre, building a robot, or leading a cadet parade, these

moments create real, transferable life skills.

They help students understand who they are and what they're capable of. It's often in these spaces—outside of exam pressure—that young people find their voice and their path.

Of course, strong academic outcomes should remain a core part of any good school's offer. At DOYRMS, we're proud to be in the top 5% of schools nationally for student progress at GCSE. But these outcomes are strengthened by the wider opportunities students are given.

That's why I urge parents to look beyond league tables and ask a deeper question: "What kind of person will my child become here?" A school should be more than a place of learning—it should be a launchpad. And the more opportunities it provides, the higher your child will soar.

To learn more about The Duke of York's Royal Military School, please visit www.doyrms.com.



**Alex Foreman, Principal
The Duke of York's Royal
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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW ARMED FORCES COVENANT GUIDE



Picture is of Cllr Kevin Foster, Armed forces champion of the council and Cllr Carl Les leader of the council.

North Yorkshire Council has officially launched its comprehensive Armed Forces Covenant Guide, a document designed to strengthen understanding, awareness, and delivery of support for serving personnel, veterans, and their families across the county.

The guide brings together key information, best practice, and clear advice for council services, partner organisations, businesses, and community groups. Its purpose is to ensure that members of the Armed Forces community face no disadvantage and receive the support they are entitled to in areas such as housing, education, employment, health, and community engagement.

Cllr Kevin Foster, North Yorkshire Council's Armed Forces Champion, led the development of the guide, which has taken over two years of collaborative work with officers, partner authorities, and Armed Forces representatives.

"This guide is a significant step forward in ensuring real, practical delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant across North Yorkshire. It reflects the dedication of staff and partners who have worked tirelessly to create a resource that will make a genuine difference to service personnel, veterans, and their families. I'm proud to have driven this work as Armed Forces Champion."

Cllr Kevin Foster, "North Yorkshire is home to nearly 30,000 armed forces veterans and one of the largest military garrisons in Europe. We recognise the significant value brought to our communities by our military colleagues and the

debt we owe them. "This Armed Forces Covenant Guide is a great way to showcase the services and opportunities across North Yorkshire that are available for all those who serve and have served our country so bravely."

Cllr Carl Les Leader of North Yorkshire Council

North Yorkshire is home to one of the largest Armed Forces communities in the country, including major Army, RAF, and Reserve units. The new guide provides a consistent framework for how organisations across the county can uphold their Covenant commitments.

The council hopes the guide will also encourage more local businesses and community groups to engage with the Covenant, sign up, and play their part in supporting the Armed Forces community.

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, added with lots of dust and hill climbs to make you question your life choices, before forgetting about the pain whilst appreciating the scenery and achievement... to then immediately sign up again 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.

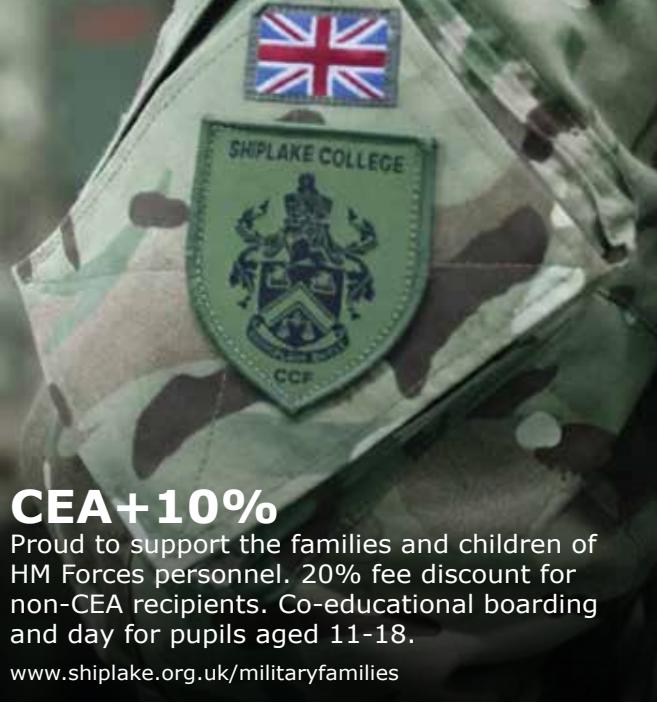
Four days of pushing limits, laughing through fatigue, and finding joy in suffering with good people.

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





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GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Santa loves visiting children from all around the world, especially those from Yorkshire, and those from military families, who are used to celebrating the season in unique ways. This year, he's bringing his magic to The Green Howards Museum, a place full of history, stories, and festive cheer, where families can step into a world of wonder.

This Christmas, Santa Claus has a very special stop planned! Knowing the children of Richmond, the Yorkshire Dales, and Catterick Garrison so well, he has chosen The Green

Howards Museum as the perfect place for his newest Grotto.

Taking place on Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 December 2025, children will enjoy a 30-minute interactive visit with Santa and his cheerful Chief Elf inside the museum.

From the moment they arrive, Santa's Chief Elf will greet families and lead them to meet Father Christmas himself. Together, children and families will join in a festive sing-along before Santa settles down to share a special Christmas story. Every child will then receive a personal gift and reassurance that they've made it onto the Good List this year!

Tickets are £25 per child, with up to two adults able to accompany each child (standard admission applies for adults). Spaces are limited, and this magical experience is expected to sell out quickly, so families are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. With your museum tickets, families can explore the Green Howards' fascinating displays and festive decorations before or after their Santa session.

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