



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Newsletter

January 2025





Dear parents/carers and pupils,

Happy New Year to all of our Risedale Family!

I am glad to share our latest KIT newsletter with you at the start of the Spring term and, whilst it has been very wintry so far, we can look forward to the lighter evenings and mornings as well as some Spring flowers appearing imminently. Spring is traditionally a time for green shoots and growth and that is what we see currently at Risedale. The future is bright and we have seen our own green shoots of improvement over the last term which we will be nurturing and encouraging amongst staff and pupils going forward to ensure Risedale is a beacon of good practice. We also see the green shoots of dedication and study from our Year 11 pupils, who were busy learning how to revise effectively before Christmas and have been preparing for their mock exams (PPEs) over the break in readiness for these commencing on the 27th of January. Their teachers will be focusing on readiness for these in upcoming lessons and homework tasks and we hope they find the courage and commitment to approach their exams with hard work and dedication as these are what lead to success.



The last half-term was incredibly busy and rewarding and we are so proud of our wonderful pupils and all they achieved. I would like to give a special mention to those pupils who represented the school in the Service Children's Community Choir at the Albert Hall and at the Festival of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral. They made Risedale and our wider school family so proud! I would also like to recognise all the efforts our pupils and staff made to raise money for charity. This shows their kindness and compassion.

Please enjoy reading our KIT Newsletter and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and your family.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Lucy Greenwood - Headteacher

#TeamRisedale

Festival of Remembrance 2024, Ripon Cathedral

Risedale School Honours the Fallen at the Festival of Remembrance

On Wednesday 6th November, Risedale School was privileged to participate in the annual Festival of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral, alongside other schools across North Yorkshire. This moving ceremony, organised by Service Children's Champion Angela Campbell, was attended by over 600 children and commemorated the sacrifices of our nation's heroes and supported the families of those currently serving.



In preparation for the event, Risedale School pupils joined students from other schools for a visit to the Green Howards Museum in Richmond. Here, they explored the history of World Wars I and II, learning about the lives of soldiers who bravely served their country. Each school "adopted" a soldier, honouring their memory and sacrifice during the Festival of Remembrance service.

"It was an incredible experience to be part of such a moving and meaningful event," said Stacey Johnson, one of Risedale School's Service Children's Advocates. *"Our pupils were inspired by the stories of those who came before us and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of remembrance. A huge thank you to Angela Campbell for organising such a special day for all of us."*



The Festival of Remembrance is live-streamed annually on Ripon Cathedral's YouTube channel. You can access the recording of this year's event here: [Festival of Remembrance for North Yorkshire Forces Children](#).



In addition to the Cathedral event, Mrs Johnson also participated in other Remembrance activities. She sang with the Military WAGS Choir Catterick at the Durham Cathedral Festival of Remembrance on Saturday 9th November and represented Risedale School by laying a wreath at the Hipswell Village Remembrance service on Sunday 10th November.

By participating in these events, Risedale School continues to foster a sense of patriotism and respect for those who have served their country.



Service Children's Community Choir Sings at the Royal Albert Hall

Remembrance weekend was a whirlwind experience for a group of talented young singers from Risedale School. Mason Bassett, Neve Davies, Emily-Faye Fort, Ria Glenn, Libby Hellens, and Charlie Smith joined the Service Children's Community Choir to perform at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall.

The choir, led by Risedale School Governor, Beki Bulmer, and other dedicated music leaders, delivered a powerful rendition of "Lean on Me" alongside the acclaimed English-Italian singer-songwriter, Jack Savoretti. The performance was part of the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance, broadcast live on BBC 1.



In addition to their Royal Albert Hall performance, the choir was interviewed by Paddy O'Connell on BBC Radio 2 and featured on local ITV news.



Upon returning to school, pupil Ria Glenn (10Vizor) expressed her excitement, saying, ***"It was amazing! Jack Savoretti was so lovely and we all had an unbelievable weekend. I'm shattered now!"***

Libby Hellens (8Laheney) said, ***"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I'm very proud of the whole choir. We all performed our very best."***

A heartfelt congratulations to Mason, Neve, Emily-Faye, Ria, Libby, and Charlie for their incredible achievement. Your hard work and dedication have made Risedale School immensely proud.

If you missed the programme you can catch up on BBC iPlayer [HERE](#). (The Choir's performance starts at 24 mins.)

Remembrance Assembly 🌹

Risedale School Honours Local War Hero on Armistice Day



On Monday 11th November, Risedale School held a series of poignant Armistice Day assemblies to commemorate the sacrifices of those who served their country. This year's Remembrance was particularly special, featuring the remarkable story of local hero George Herman Bennions, a World War II flying ace and former teacher at the school.

Joined by three local veterans from the Catterick Historical Archive; Knile Prescott, Paula Rogers, and Mark Hill MBE, the school community paid tribute to the fallen. These veterans, who often support the school's educational initiatives, also lent their expertise to judge the Remembrance Poster Competition.

A highlight of the assembly was the presence of Bennion's family, including his daughter Shirley and grandson David. Shirley shared personal memories of her father's experiences, including his time as a decorated RAF pilot. George Herman Bennions, affectionately known as "Ben" achieved twelve confirmed victories, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) on the same day he was severely injured in combat. His citation in The London Gazette praised his leadership and bravery, noting that he had "destroyed seven enemy aircraft and possibly several others," with his courage and influence described as having a "splendid influence" on his squadron. Shirley also brought along his wartime medals, allowing the pupils to see these symbols of bravery and sacrifice up close. This personal connection offered the pupils a unique insight into Bennion's extraordinary life and legacy. Additionally, Shirley presented the school with three autobiographies of her father's life, which will be added to the school library.

Shirley, along with Knile Prescott who narrated the story, brought Bennions' remarkable legacy to life, a story that blended heroism in the skies with a deep commitment to his community.

Mr Houlgate, Head of History, expressed his awe at the fact that such a distinguished figure had once taught at Risedale. "To think that we have had somebody working at Risedale, who made such a significant contribution to the defence of the county, is truly remarkable," he said.

The school is now considering how pupils and staff might find a way to remember George Bennions' contribution to our post-war freedom and security permanently.

To further engage pupils with the historical significance of the day, the school held a tutor group Remembrance poster competition. The creative submissions from pupils across all year groups showcased their understanding and respect for those who have served.

Following the assemblies, the veterans from the Catterick Historical Archive, along with Shirley and David, judged the pupils' Remembrance artwork.

Mark Hill MBE commented, "The submissions were outstanding, making it very difficult to choose the winners. Well done to all the pupils who participated!"



The assembly was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals. The fact that the assembly was pupil-led added special significance to the event. The pupils' involvement demonstrated their understanding of the importance of remembrance and their commitment to honouring those who have served. As Catterick Garrison's secondary school, Risedale School holds a special connection to the armed forces. With many pupils whose parents serve, Remembrance Day is always a poignant and important occasion. By honouring the memory of local heroes like George Herman Bennions and observing a one-minute silence at 11 am, the school has instilled a sense of respect in its pupils, ensuring that the lessons of the past continue to inspire future generations.

To find out more about George Bennions, "One of the Few" please click [HERE](#).

The results from the Remembrance Poster Competition were as follows:

KS3 Winners:

1st Place: 8Laheney (Seacole House 🧡), **2nd Place:** 8Metcalf (Pankhurst House 💜),
3rd Place: 7Westwood (Attenborough House 💙), **4th Place:** 9Fletcher (Seacole House 🧡)

KS4 Winners:

1st Place: 10Vizor (Turing House ❤️), **2nd Place:** 10Sandell (Attenborough House 💙)
3rd Place: 10Bennett (Pankhurst House 💜), **4th Place:** 11Houlgate (Turing House ❤️)

A special commendation was also given to the pupils of The Risedale Centre for their exceptional work.

A Heartfelt Thank You

A sincere thank you to all the staff, pupils, and the local community who contribute to making Remembrance such a significant part of Risedale School life.

Alumni News: Lucy Patey Darlington College Rugby Star 🏉

Risedale School is incredibly proud to announce that former pupil Lucy Patey has been selected to take part in a prestigious rugby sevens tournament in New Zealand.

Lucy, a talented rugby player currently studying Sports Science at [Darlington College](#), will be facing top international teams and experiencing the thrill of competing on the world stage.

Congratulations Lucy! Everyone at Risedale is very proud of your achievements and wishes you all the best for the future.

You can read all about Lucy's adventures by reading the article published on the Darlington College [website](#) on 5th November 2024 or you can read the transcript below.



Darlington College Rugby Star Lucy Patey Set to Face the Haka at Prestigious Sevens Tournament in New Zealand

A college athlete is hoping to face the haka after being selected to play in a prestigious rugby sevens competition in New Zealand.

Darlington College second-year level 3 sports science student Lucy Patey is part of an EggChaser Academy squad which will travel to the other side of the world in December.

The EggChaser Sevens is an international men's, women's and youth rugby sevens tournament, which will be staged in Auckland from December 8-17.

EggChaser Sevens Academy began in the UK as the only direct route to professional sevens. Currently, with more than 2,000 players within the programme, aspiring young players can earn the opportunity of a professional contract with the Lions or Lionesses when they leave school.

Lucy, of Catterick Garrison, plays second row for Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Club but because she is fast and agile, as well as strong, she was urged by her coaches to take part in North East trials for the EggChaser Sevens.

The 17-year-old was successful and played in an U18s tournament in St Ives, Cambridgeshire, helping the team win the whole competition, after which she was selected to go to New Zealand.

"About five years ago, a friend asked me to play rugby just to make the numbers up in Richmond and I have stuck with it ever since," said the former pupil of Risedale School, Catterick.

"I love being in the scrum, it just comes naturally to me, it's such fun. I am good with the ball and breaking through the line and to be representing the country at sevens

in New Zealand is very cool. I love sevens, the faster pace, you are constantly on the go, which is even more enjoyable.

"I've only ever been as far as Switzerland so am really excited about going to New Zealand. My parents are very supportive and my college tutors have been great and will help me catch up on the work I miss while I am there. I really hope we get to play New Zealand and get to face a Black Ferns haka."

Lucy trains five days out of seven, with her team once a week, playing matches on Sundays, as well as running and gym work.

After Darlington College, she is hoping to study for a degree at Hartpury University, Gloucestershire, with the ultimate ambition of playing for the local premiership club side Gloucester, as well as the GB Sevens Team and the England Roses 15s side.

Eventually, she'd also like to become a strength and conditioning coach for rugby and other sports.

Football News 🏆 Risedale U13s Shine in Thrilling Cup Matches

Tuesday 12th November, saw a fantastic display of young football talent on the Jaffa pitch as Risedale School's U13 teams took on Thirsk School & Sixth Form College in the first round of the cup.

Year 8 Boys: A thrilling encounter saw Risedale's Year 8 boys take an early 2-0 lead, thanks to goals from Conner Morrell and Lukas Ellis. However, Thirsk fought back, levelling the score at 2-2 by halftime. The second half was just as exciting, with Risedale regaining the lead through a well-executed counterattack finished off by Frankie Dempster.



Thirsk responded once more to make it 3-3, but Risedale's resilience shone through as Lukas Ellis netted a hat-trick to secure a 6-3 victory and a place in the next round.

Year 7 Boys: The Year 7 boys battled to a 6-6 draw against Thirsk but ultimately prevailed in a tense penalty shootout, winning 2-1.

U13 Girls: Despite a valiant effort, the U13 girls fell short, losing 2-5 to Thirsk.

A Special Mention: Year 11 pupil Tyler-Leigh Todd-Parry deserves special recognition for stepping up to referee the girls' match. Tyler-Leigh commented, *"It was my first time refereeing, and it was a brilliant experience. Both teams played really well. I learned a lot from them and hopefully, they learned a bit from me too. I'd definitely like to do it again."*

Risedale School Celebrates Equal Access to Girls' Football



Risedale School has been recognised for its commitment to girls' football, receiving an Equal Access School Award in partnership with Barclays Girls' Football for 2024.

This prestigious award, part of the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships by England Football (BGFSPs) scheme, highlights the school's dedication to ensuring equal opportunities for girls in the sport.

"It's a fantastic achievement for our school," said Mr J Metcalfe, Teacher of Maths and the girls' football coach at Risedale. ***"The girls have shown incredible enthusiasm and dedication, turning up week after week to train and play. Seeing their progress and passion for the game is truly inspiring."***

With over 40 girls actively involved in the football programme and more joining every week, Risedale School has become a hub for female football talent. The team's success last year, marked by strong performances and a determined spirit, is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the players and coaching staff.

"Training sessions are held regularly on Thursdays after school, and we encourage any girl interested in football to come along and join us," added Mr Metcalfe. ***"We aim to create a supportive and inclusive environment where girls can develop their skills, make new friends, and most importantly, have fun."***

By receiving this award, Risedale School joins a network of schools across the country that are working to break down barriers and provide equal access to football for girls. This recognition is a significant milestone for the school and a testament to its commitment to empowering young female athletes.

Children in Need 2024

💛 We raised £564.63 for BBC Children in Need 💛

Risedale School kicked off its Children in Need fundraising efforts with a non-uniform day on Friday 15th November. Pupils donned their favourite outfits for a £1 donation, setting the tone for a day filled with fun and generosity.

At lunchtime, the school hall transformed into a vibrant Children in Need Fair. Pupils eagerly participated in a variety of exciting activities, including a Bottle Flip competition, a Guess Who competition, Name the Hedgehog, a Cuddly Toy contest, a Bake Sale, Bear Pong, a Keepy Uppy Challenge, a "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar" game, and face painting to name but a few.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the exhilarating Ice Bucket Challenge. Brave teachers volunteered to be drenched in icy water, much to the delight of the pupils who had donated to vote for their 'favourite' teacher. Mr Gunnell and Mr Dean were the eventual 'winners' and enjoyed a showering of ice cubes from pupils Willow Curtis and Mabel Thirlwell (8Metcalf).

The whole school community came together to support this worthy cause, raising an impressive **£564.63** for BBC Children in Need.

Senior Teacher, Mrs Hailwood, said: *"The enthusiasm and generosity shown by our pupils and staff were truly inspiring. It was wonderful to see the entire Risedale Family come together to support such a worthy cause. Every penny raised will make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable children."*

You can see more photos from our Children in Need Fair and a video of the ice bucket challenge [HERE](#).

>> To find out more about the fantastic [Charity Work and Fundraising](#) that we do here at Risedale School please visit our dedicated website page. <<



Art and Textiles Trip to York

The Art and Textiles trip to York Art Gallery on Friday 15th November for Year 9 and 10 pupils was a resounding success. Pupils were captivated by the stunning William Morris artwork, the variety of thought-provoking paintings and sculptures in the York Collection, and the innovative ways that artists used clay in the CoCA Gallery of Studio Ceramics. Pupils were asked to reflect on the ways that artists have represented pattern, form and mood in work from different eras. Inspired by the works of these historically significant artists they created a number of their own drawings and artworks which encouraged them to look even more closely at the details and consider the materials and methods involved in making the artwork. All pupils behaved impeccably throughout the visit, demonstrating their maturity and respect for the art on display.



"I am so proud of all the pupils for their enthusiasm and engagement during the trip," said Ms Westwood, Head of Art. ***"They were a credit to the school and really made the most of the opportunity to see such incredible artwork. I would also like to thank Mrs Vizor, Mrs Plews and Mrs Lowe for their support in making this trip possible."***



New Beginnings Art Competition 🌸

Entries to the Autumn Term Art Competition on the theme of 'New Beginnings' were truly inspiring. Pupils from all year groups showcased their creativity and imagination through a variety of mediums including painting, pencil and ink drawing, pastel work, digital media, collage and embroidery. It was wonderful to see all of the different ways that pupils had interpreted the theme; there were vibrant landscapes depicting the dawn of a new day, symbolic mesmerising patterns reflecting transformation and imagery that represented the birth of new life in the natural world.

Mrs Greenwood and Ms Westwood were amazed by the pupils' unique perspectives and artistic skills and so it was decided that ALL entries would be displayed in the gallery area for visitors, staff and pupils to enjoy, with five stand-out prize-winning entries from each Key Stage also winning prizes for their contributions. Well done to all pupils who took the time to create and contribute!

"I am so grateful to all our pupils who took the time to create these wonderful works of art for my office foyer/gallery." commented Mrs Greenwood, "It was so hard to select the prize-winners, as everyone produced something unique that offered a different perspective and depth and meaning. I am excited to get these pieces up and some will be displayed in my office so I can proudly share them with visitors in my meetings."



KS3 PRIZE WINNERS:

- **1st Place:** Paris Johnson (8Conway)
- **2nd Place:** Taya McKee (8Laheney)
- **3rd Place:** Harmonie Tobie (7Dovaston)

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Mabel Thirlwell (8Metcalf) and Frankie Cook (8Dean)

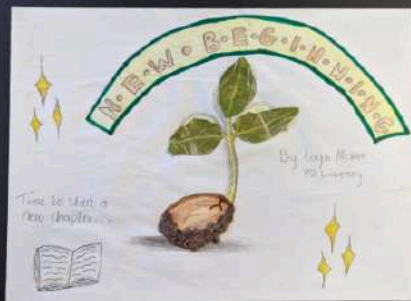
KS4 PRIZE WINNERS:

- **1st Place:** Charlotte Swift (10Bennett)
- **2nd Place:** Taufu Makasiale (10Sandell)
- **3rd Place:** Meadow Moon (10Shephard)

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Tyler-Leigh Todd-Parry (11Miller) and Kaydee Smith (10Bennett)



1st: Paris Johnson

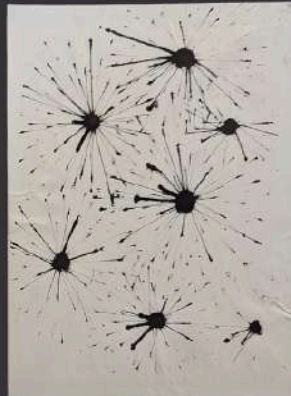
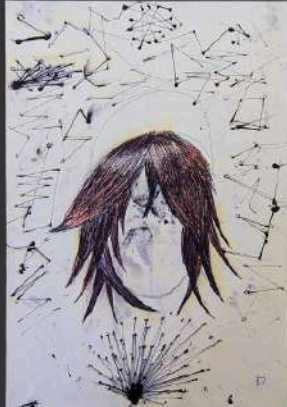
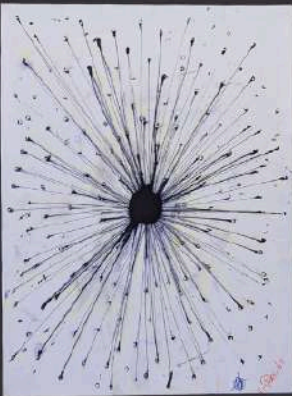


2nd: Taya McKee



HC: Frankie Cook

KS3 Winners



3rd: Harmonie Tobie



HC: Mabel Thirlwell



1st: Charlotte Swift



2nd: Taufu Makasiale



3rd: Meadow Moon



HC: Kaydee Smith

KS4 Winners



HC: Tyler-Leigh Todd Parry

Risedale Girls' U13s Rugby Team Shows Great Promise 🏉

Monday 18th November marked a historic day for our young rugby players as they faced The Wensleydale School and Sixth Form in their debut competitive contact rugby match.

Despite the final score, the girls displayed immense courage, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the game. Their determination was inspiring, and their smiles at the end of the match were a testament to their positive spirit.

As they eagerly anticipate their next challenge, we commend their resilience and unwavering enthusiasm.



Mr Lawson, Head of PE at Risedale, said: ***"The girls were fantastic. They showed great heart and determination, and they should be incredibly proud of their performance. This is just the beginning of their rugby journey, and we can't wait to see what they achieve in the future."***

A Bond Forged on the Pitch: Risedale and Wensleydale U15s 🏉

Risedale School's U15s boys rugby team secured a dominant victory over Wensleydale, triumphing in both halves of a unique fixture combining League and Union formats. The match was a testament to the strong bond between the two schools, fostering rugby development for both teams.



Every player on the Risedale team contributed to the impressive win, making it difficult to single out individuals for special praise. Mr Lawson, Head of PE at Risedale, commended the team's effort: ***"The boys played with great heart and determination. It was a fantastic performance and a great example of teamwork and sportsmanship."***

The fixture not only showcased the talent of young rugby players but also highlighted the positive impact of inter-school competitions. As the two schools continue to strengthen their relationship, it is clear that the future of rugby in the region is bright.

Football Star Charlotte Watkins

Risedale School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Year 10 pupil, Charlotte Watkins, who is a key member of the Northallerton Under-16s girls' football team.

This talented young athlete has been instrumental in the team's impressive performance this season. Despite being one of the youngest players, Charlotte's skill, dedication, and sportsmanship have contributed significantly to the team's unbeaten record in the York League and their progression in cup competitions.

Charlotte's father, Alun Watkins, expressed his immense pride in his daughter and the entire team. **"I'm incredibly proud of Charlotte and her teammates,"** he said. **"They've shown remarkable dedication and commitment, and their hard work is paying off."**

The team's success is a testament to the players' unwavering commitment to the sport. Nine of the 15 players attend extra training sessions each week, on top of their regular 1 hour 45 min training session each Thursday, demonstrating their passion and desire to excel.

Risedale School congratulates Charlotte and the entire Northallerton Under-16s team on their exceptional performance and wishes them continued success in the future.



GCSE Pupils Experience UEFA Champions League Excitement

On Tuesday 26th November, a group of our GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sport Studies pupils embarked on an unforgettable journey to The Etihad Stadium to witness the UEFA Champions League clash between Manchester City and Feyenoord.

The trip offered pupils a unique opportunity to experience the electrifying atmosphere of a top-tier football match firsthand. Despite the 3-3 draw, the match was a thrilling spectacle featuring two world-class teams.

"The pupils' behaviour was exemplary throughout the trip," said Mr Gunnell, who led the excursion. **"They engaged enthusiastically with the experience, soaking up every moment of the matchday atmosphere. It was a pleasure to take them."**

A big thank you to the staff who organised and supervised the trip, making it a rewarding outing for everyone involved.



Movember Bake Sale Raises £71.50 for Men's Health



Risedale School's Movember Bake Sale was a huge success, raising a fantastic £71.50 for men's health charities.

The two-day event, held on Thursday 21st November and Friday 22nd November, saw pupils and staff come together to enjoy delicious treats while supporting a worthy cause. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Movember Foundation, which funds initiatives focused on men's mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer.

*"We're thrilled with the success of our **Movember Bake Sale**," said Mr Gunnell, Head of House and Rewards. **"It's fantastic to see the school community come***

together to support such an important cause. The money raised will make a real difference to men's lives."

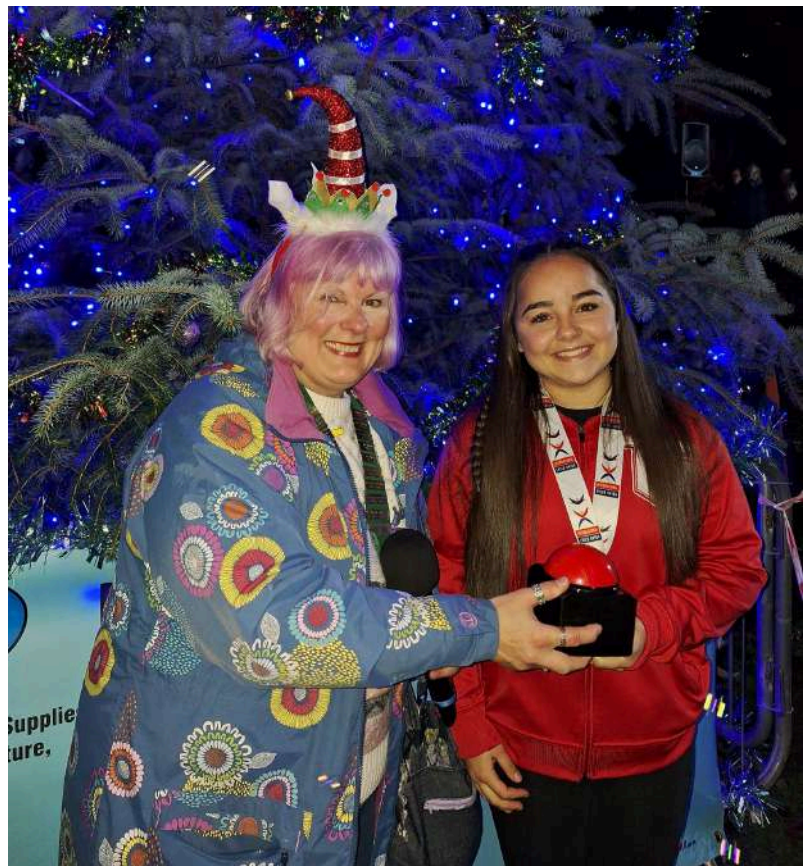
>> To find out more about the fantastic [Charity Work and Fundraising](#) that we do here at Risedale School please visit our dedicated website page. <<

★ Risedale Gold Medalist Turns on Christmas Lights ★

Eva Langdale (10Vizor), a talented young athlete from Risedale School, brought festive cheer to Richmond on Friday 29th November, as she turned on the town's Christmas lights. The event, held in the heart of the town centre, drew a large crowd eager to witness the magical moment.

Eva, a recent gold medalist at the World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida, was chosen to turn on the lights in recognition of her outstanding achievement as England's team captain.

In addition to her international success, Eva, along with her Risedale teammates, sisters Lacey



Hanson (11Dunphy) and Sienna Hanson (9Lawson), is set to represent their club, Lazer Cheer in Catterick Garrison, at the prestigious NCA All-Star National Championship in Dallas, Texas, in February 2025.

The Christmas lights switch-on is an annual tradition in Richmond, and this year's event, with Eva as the guest of honour, was truly unforgettable. The event was organised by The Richmond Duck Club, a local charitable organisation dedicated to supporting the town and young people of Richmond. The event also featured stunning performances from the Methodist School and the Operatic Society and was supported by Richmond Town Council.

Congratulations, Eva! Well done for representing the Risedale family and Lazer Cheer so brilliantly, as you always do.

“Thank you for supporting Eva and giving her the honour of being the “light bringer”. It was a lovely evening and the lights were beautiful xx,” said Carissa Langdale, Eva's proud mother, on Facebook.

Photo Credit to [The Richmond Duck Club](#) Facebook page.

Service Choir Shines at Richmond Christmas Fair

The Service Children's Community Choir brought joy to Richmond on Sunday 1st December, with a stunning performance at the town's Christmas Fair and Market. The choir, which includes young singers from the local community, captivated the audience with their harmonious voices and energetic delivery of Christmas carols and songs.



This performance was particularly special as it marked the debut of several new members. With the support of more experienced singers like Risedale School pupils Ria Glenn and Emily-Faye Fort (10Vizor), the newcomers performed with confidence and joy.

“We had a brilliant time performing on Sunday,” said Ria and Emily-Faye. ***“We love singing with the choir and all our friends. We love supporting new members and helping them settle in and enjoy it as much as we do.”***

The choir has been practising hard under the guidance of Risedale School Governor, Beki Bulmer, and other dedicated music leaders including Music Director Ben Noble. Their recent performance at the Royal Albert Hall's Festival of Remembrance with Jack Savoretti was a major highlight, and their success at the Richmond Christmas Fair further solidifies their reputation as a talented and inspiring group of young musicians.

Area Cross Country Championships

Risedale Pupils Race to Success at Area Cross Country Championships.

On Thursday 5th December, a group of talented athletes from Risedale School represented the school at the Hambleton & Richmondshire Area Cross Country Championships. The top 15 finishers in each race qualified for the North Yorkshire Cross Country Championships.



In the Year 7 2000m race, Scarlett Boyle impressed with an 8th-place finish in the girls' category. Josh Griffin also performed well, securing 10th place in the boys' race. Billy Maclean and Joey Ormston narrowly missed out on qualification, finishing 17th and 22nd, respectively.

Lexie Maclean and Ellie-Mae Reid competed in the Year 8/9 3000m race, finishing 20th and 21st.

In the Year 10/11 4000m race, Jacob Gardner and Christopher Allan secured 14th and 15th place, respectively, qualifying for the next round. Oliver Lavery finished 17th, just missing out on a place.

Mr Lawson, Head of PE, praised the athletes' efforts, saying, ***"All the pupils should be extremely proud of themselves, especially the Year 10s who competed against older athletes."***

The school congratulates all the athletes on their outstanding performances and wishes the qualifiers the best of luck in the upcoming North Yorkshire Cross Country Championships.

★ The Great Nicholson Scone Competition ★

Risedale Pupils Bake Up a Storm in Second Annual Scone Competition

Risedale School's second annual Great Nicholson Scone Competition was a resounding success, honouring the memory of beloved Food Technology teacher, Julie Nicholson.

In November, pupils were invited to submit their best scone recipes to Mrs Vizor. From the many creative and delicious entries, a select group of talented bakers were chosen to compete in the final round.

The Bake Off, held on Tuesday 10th December, saw a variety of delicious scone creations, ranging from classic to innovative. After careful consideration, a panel of judges, including Headteacher Mrs Greenwood, awarded the top prize to two talented teams.

The Star Bakers of December 2024 were:

★ **Emily-Faye Fort and Ria Glenn (Year 10):** Their festive treat of savoury scones, topped with bacon and brie, delighted the judges.

★ **Alfie Hollis and Dylan Hughes (Year 11):** Their campfire-inspired s'more scones, served alongside piping hot homemade hot chocolate, were a unique and delicious entry.

Each team received a trophy and a box of sweets as a prize.



Mrs Greenwood praised all the participants, saying, *“I am so proud of all the pupils who took part. You can see all the practice and hard work each of the teams has put in. It was so difficult to pick the winners. Everything we tasted was absolutely delicious and it’s clear how enthusiastic and talented our Star Bakers are.”*

Teacher of Design & Technology, Mrs Vizor, who organised the event, said, *“It was my absolute privilege to run the scone competition again. All the pupils worked so hard and everything was presented so beautifully.”*



Everyone got their scones successfully made within the allocated time and they all tasted amazing, which was a fantastic achievement."

The competition not only celebrated Mrs Nicholson's passion for baking but also fostered a sense of community and friendly competition among the pupils. Risedale School remains committed to honouring Mrs Nicholson's legacy and inspiring future generations of bakers.



Christmas Jumper Day 2024 🎄

Risedale School was filled with festive cheer on Thursday 12th December as pupils and staff donned their most wonderful winter woollies for Christmas Jumper Day. The event was a resounding success, raising an impressive **£235.55** for Save the Children UK.

A dazzling display of creative knitwear filled the school, with pupils and staff showcasing a variety of festive designs. From reindeer and snowmen to twinkling lights and Santa hats, there was something for everyone to admire.

Save the Children UK shared their appreciation on Instagram, saying, **"Fantastic! There's some wonderful**



woollies there! Thank you so much for your support and we hope you have a tinsel-tastic #ChristmasJumperDay."

The school's participation in Christmas Jumper Day not only brought joy and festive spirit to the school community but also contributed to a worthy cause. By raising money for Save the Children, pupils and staff helped to support vulnerable children all over the UK.



We raised
£235.55
Thursday 12th December

RISEDALE
A family of learners

Save the Children

Christmas Jumper Day

Festive Reward Trips for Our Top-Performing Pupils

Risedale School recently celebrated the outstanding achievements of its top-performing pupils with two unforgettable reward trips. These festive adventures to York Christmas Market and the Georgian Theatre Royal were a testament to the school's commitment to recognising and rewarding hard work and dedication.

A Magical Christmas Market:

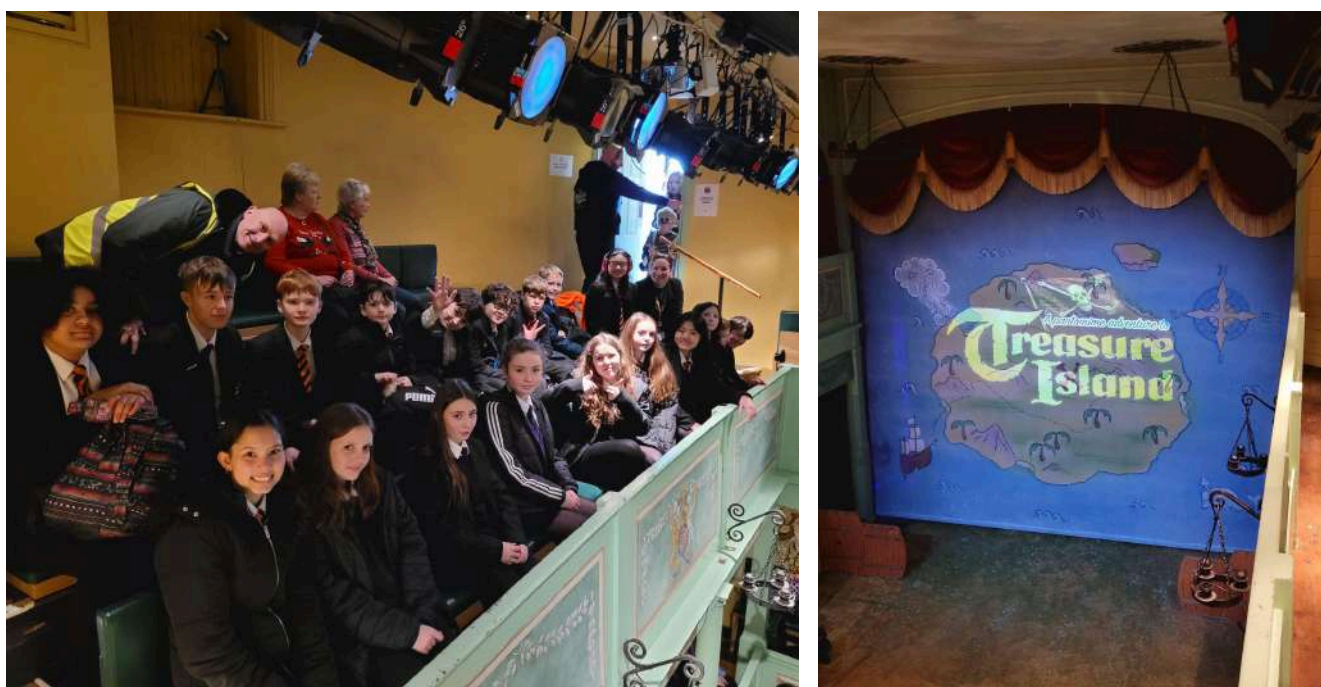
On Thursday 12th December, the 29 highest Epraise-scoring pupils from Years 10 and 11 embarked on a journey to the enchanting York Christmas Market. This festive extravaganza offered a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in festive cheer,

explore charming stalls, and indulge in delicious treats. All the pupils had a fantastic time and particularly enjoyed their complimentary hot chocolate.



A Pirate Adventure:

On Friday 13th December, the top 7 Epraise scorers from Years 7, 8, and 9 set sail on a pirate adventure at the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond. They were treated to a captivating performance of "Treasure Island," a classic tale of pirates, treasure, and adventure.



Head of House and Behaviour Specialist, Mr Gunnell, expressed his delight at the success of the trips. He said, ***"It was a pleasure to see so many of our top-performing pupils rewarded for their hard work and positive contributions to our school community. These experiences were a fantastic way to celebrate their achievements."***

Mr Gunnell extended his sincere gratitude to all the staff involved in organising and accompanying the trips, particularly thanking Mr Meacher for his exceptional efforts in planning the Panto trip. He concluded by saying, ***"I hope these experiences will inspire our pupils to continue striving for excellence and to embrace all the opportunities that Risedale School has to offer."***

Year 11s Gear Up for Success with Effective Revision Strategies

On Friday 13th December, Year 11 pupils participated in a productive revision drop-down session hosted by the English and Maths departments. The event focused on introducing and reinforcing three key revision strategies recommended by the school.

During the session, pupils were exposed to a range of techniques designed to enhance their learning and retention. These strategies included Flash Cards, Knowledge Checkers, and Past Paper Questions. Additionally, the departments provided valuable tips to optimise the effectiveness of these methods.

Following the introduction, pupils had the opportunity to apply these strategies to various tasks and activities related to core topics in Maths and English. This hands-on approach allowed them to solidify their understanding and build confidence in their abilities.

"It was great to see pupils revising together, sharing ideas and benefiting from the revision strategies that were shown," commented Mr Carter, Head of Maths.

Senior Teacher, Miss Roberts, echoed this sentiment, emphasising the importance of early preparation and the enthusiasm displayed by the Year 11 pupils.

As the pupils approach their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) in January/February, the school plans to continue promoting these effective revision strategies across all subjects. The goal is to encourage our Year 11 pupils to maintain their momentum and apply these techniques to their studies at home.

To access the resources from the revision session please follow this link >> [Year 11 Revision Strategies](#)



Christmas Giving Triumphs: A Community Comes Together 🎁

This term, the House Donation Drive Competition ignited the true spirit of Christmas at Risedale School. Pupils generously donated a mountain of tinned food, festive treats, cereal, chocolates, and children's books. These essential items were delivered to Colburn Hub & Community Cafe & Foodshare Zero Waste, where they will be distributed to those in need in the local community this Christmas.

The response was amazing! Pupils embraced the spirit of giving, whether by bringing in physical donations or by using their hard-earned Epraise points to contribute by buying items from the Epraise shop. An impressive 1010 Epraise points were spent on donations, demonstrating the dedication and kindness of our pupils.



A huge congratulations to Turing House ❤️, the overall winners of the competition, and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated. Competitions like this remind us of the incredible community spirit here at Risedale School. Watching our pupils come together to make a difference for others is a privilege and a proud moment for the entire Risedale Family.

Well done, Risedale, and thank you, everyone!

Elf Olympics

On Tuesday 17th December, the Elf Olympics brought festive cheer and excitement to Risedale School! Pupils who ranked in the top 20 for Epraise points in their year group were invited to take part in this fun-filled competition. The event featured a variety of Christmas-themed party games, from snowman wrapping and Santa sack stacking to the hilarious blindfolded snow shovelling.



Pupils were sorted into randomly selected groups, creating an amazing opportunity to work together as a team. ***"It was wonderful to see them come together, share laughs,***

and enjoy a well-earned afternoon of fun with others who have also excelled this term," said Mr Gunnell. *"As Head of House and Rewards, I was incredibly proud to watch the camaraderie and encouragement, especially as older pupils enthusiastically supported younger pupils throughout the games."*

A huge thank you to all the pupils who participated and made the event so enjoyable, and an equally big thank you to the staff who helped organise and run the activities. What a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our pupils this term!



Christmas Lunch 🧑🏻‍🍳

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible canteen staff for the wonderful Christmas Lunch we enjoyed on Wednesday 18th December.

We are so grateful for the delicious feast you prepared for our pupils and for the care you show the Risedale Family all year round. We truly appreciate all you do!

A special shout-out to Ms Benson and our Senior Pupil Ambassadors for setting up the dining hall, and a big thank you to all the staff who volunteered to serve the pupils – your efforts made the day extra special.



Senior Pupil Ambassadors Shine in "A Christmas Rescue!" 🎄

In the last week of term, Risedale's Senior Pupil Ambassadors delighted the entire school with their original Christmas play, "A Christmas Rescue!"

The talented young thespians, showcasing their creativity and dedication, wrote, directed, and performed the heartwarming production. The play even featured special guest appearances from Senior Teacher Mrs Hailwood and Headteacher Mrs Greenwood.



"I'm so proud of the pupils," said Mrs Hailwood. ***"It was all their idea, and they really enjoyed performing for their fellow pupils. It's been a wonderful way to end the term before the Christmas holidays!"***

Our Senior Pupil Ambassadors are an invaluable asset to our school. They consistently go above and beyond, supporting various school events and always lending a helping hand to their peers.

The festive play was a resounding success, bringing joy and laughter to pupils and staff alike. Well done to our Senior Ambassadors - you are a credit to the school!

A Magical Movie Reward Afternoon

Pankhurst House ❤️ emerged victorious in this term's thrilling House Competition at Risedale School, culminating in a well-deserved movie afternoon on Thursday 19th December.




The competition saw pupils across the school engage in a variety of activities, earning Epraise points for their efforts and demonstrating exceptional behaviour. An impressive **68,498 Epraise points** were awarded throughout the term, a testament to the hard work and dedication of both pupils and staff.



Furthermore, a special movie afternoon was held in The Risedale Centre for SEND pupils who were nominated by their mentors for their resilience and received a golden ticket to join the festivities.

A massive thank you to all pupils and staff for making the Autumn term such a resounding success.

See our Current House Point Totals! To view the most up-to-date house point totals and see how each house is progressing throughout the term, visit our dedicated [House System](#) website page. #TeamRisedale 



Celebrating Attendance Excellence

Last half term, we had some great attendance figures from our tutor groups. Each week, we celebrated the group with the highest combined attendance, recognising their dedication and commitment to their studies. These consistent efforts not only contribute to individual academic success but also foster a positive and productive learning environment for the entire school community.

A special mention must go to the pupils of  7 Westwood  who won the Tutor Group Attendance Cup an impressive 5 times. Their exceptional dedication serves as an inspiring example for the entire Risedale Family.

Congratulations to all tutor groups, and a special shout-out to those who claimed the weekly prize!

Congratulations to our winners:

08/11/2024	7 Westwood	97.08%
15/11/2024	8 Dean	96.96%
22/11/2024	7 Westwood	97.08%
29/11/2024	7 Westwood	97.92%
06/12/2024	8 Dean	96.67%
12/12/2024	7 Westwood	94.17%
20/12/2024	7 Westwood	97.08%



RISEDALE
A family of learners

