



Thursday 13th February 2025

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - February 2025

This half-term started with treacherous weather conditions, but I was proud of our staff and pupils for overcoming the challenges these presented and getting into school as soon as we felt it safe to re-open. I am particularly grateful to our site team, who worked tirelessly to clear the school paths and car park.

I am very pleased to welcome our new members of staff who joined the Risedale Family this half-term: Ms Kath Bennett (Teacher of English & Media Studies) and Mrs Kelly Young (Food & Art Technician). Both of these staff members have made a great start and are supporting our pupils to flourish in these subjects. I would also like to formally acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Tracy Harris (Careers Adviser), who joined us in the Autumn term to work alongside Mrs Helen Porritt (Careers Leader). Mrs Harris has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge around careers to Risedale and offers our older pupils independent careers advice and guidance. Mrs Harris recently introduced the weekly lunchtime Careers Café which has been amazing - speakers from different careers sectors have been giving our pupils an insight into their jobs and workplaces. I would encourage all pupils to sample these Tuesday sessions.



I am pleased to also share with you that we have two new Governors on the Risedale Governing Board as of this half-term: Mr Nick Horn and Captain Ray Nyambira, both co-opted governors, who bring a wealth of skills and experience to the board. Mr Horn, who has served as a Headteacher, Local Authority Adviser and is an experienced Governor, was appointed as Chair of Governors at the last meeting. I would like to pay tribute to Mr John Glahome, who has stood down as Chair after many years of service, but fortunately still remains with us as a valued co-opted Governor. Mr Glahome has given so much time and energy to the demanding role of Chair and the whole Risedale Family thanks him for this.

Our consultation on Risedale's Vision and Values concluded in January when Governors considered stakeholder feedback on this and agreed the final version of these. I am planning to share these with you after the half-term break as the team has been working hard on the graphics/visuals that will accompany them.

Finally, I would like to celebrate the improvements in behaviour for learning we have seen since the launch of the new behaviour policy in January. Our behaviour data shows a significant reduction in sanctions including suspensions and this is down to staff implementing their training and the policy diligently. It is also down to pupils responding positively to the new system!

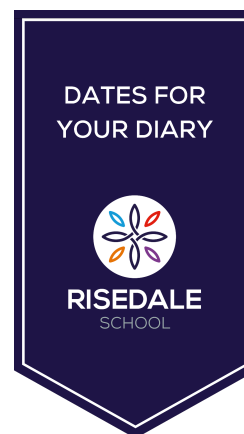
Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday,

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 24 February	Start of Spring Term 2 (pupils return)
Thursday 27 February	Careers Day
Thursday 6 March	Y11 Consultation Evening (3:30-6pm) LETTER
Thursday 27 March	Y9 Consultation Evening
31 March - 4 April	Y10 Work Experience Week
Thursday 3 April	Y9 Options Evening
7 - 18 April	Easter Holidays
Monday 21 April	Bank Holiday (Easter Monday)
Tuesday 22 April	Start of Summer Term 1 (staff & pupils return)



Website Link >> [Calendar & Term Dates](#)

Attendance Update and Important Information

You may remember the [Attendance Letter](#) we sent you in January and we are pleased to report that we are starting to see an improvement in attendance here at Risedale. A big thank you for your ongoing help with this. Our Education Welfare Team has been supporting the school by conducting home visits and meeting with parents/carers to help remove any barriers pupils may have to come to school.

Next half-term, you will receive a letter with your child's overall attendance so far this academic year. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss your child's attendance before then, please don't hesitate to contact their Form Tutor or Year Team Manager.

As part of our commitment to pupil safety and to ensure accurate registration at the start of each day, we've recently implemented an automated text message system. You will receive a notification if your child is marked absent from school.

Reporting Your Child's Absence: if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, it is essential that you inform us before 8:30 am on *each* day of their absence.

To do this, you can either telephone the school on 01748 833501 and select option 1 to report an absence OR send an email to absence@risedale.org.uk. By phone or email, please include the following information:

- Parent/carer's first name and surname
- Pupil's first name and surname
- Pupil's tutor group
- Nature of illness
- Approximately how long the illness may last

If you are unsure if you should send your child to school please visit [NHS: Is My Child Too Ill For School?](#)

We also encourage you to visit our dedicated [Attendance, Absence and Punctuality](#) page on our school website. This page contains valuable information, including a helpful document from the DfE, [Working together to improve school attendance](#).

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic progress and overall wellbeing. We believe that by working together, we can ensure every pupil has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Safeguarding at Risedale: We're Here to Help

Any concerns relating to Child Protection and Safeguarding should be referred to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Sarah Cox immediately at DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk. If Sarah is unavailable, please contact one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. We are

delighted that Stacey Burke (SENDCo/Senior Teacher) and Lisa Smith (School Counsellor) have recently qualified as Deputy DSLs, further strengthening our safeguarding team.

If you have any concerns over the half-term holiday, there is further information available on our website with contact details if necessary www.risedale.org.uk/information/safeguarding

Meet the Safeguarding Team

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)

Senior Teacher: Mrs Sarah Cox
DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk



DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

					
Mr Yates Deputy Headteacher	Miss Burke Senior Teacher SENCo	Ms Benson Pupil Support Manager KS4	Mrs Clarke Pupil Support Manager KS3	Mrs Meades Pupil Support Manager KS3	Lisa Smith School Counsellor

Exciting News: Audio & eBook Trial in the Risedale Library!

Risedale School is trialling audio and eBooks to offer pupils a wider range of reading material. Encourage your child to access the Wheelers ePlatform Digital Library:



- Via [Accessit Library](#) on Chromebooks.
- By adding the ePlatform Digital Library App to their mobile devices (for use outside of school hours only).

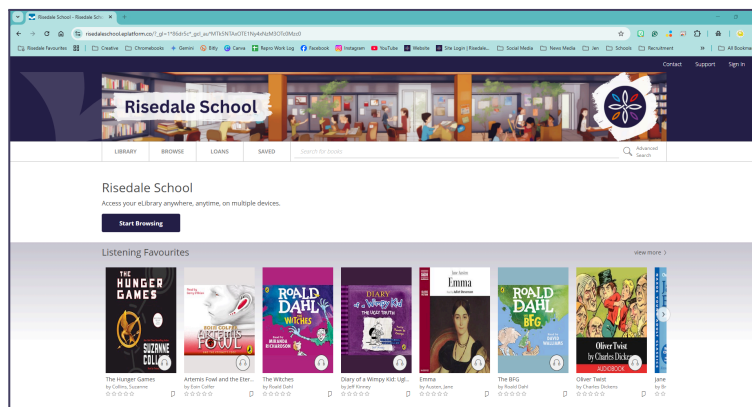
Mrs Rodgers, our Head of Computing, will demonstrate how pupils can access the ePlatform during their IT lessons.

KS3 pupils should still bring a physical reading book to school or borrow one from the library. This trial aims to foster a love of reading in various formats.

You can explore [ePlatform Digital Library](#) by searching for Risedale School.

This FREE service is available to pupils and staff. Translations are available.

Please contact Miss Sellers, our School Librarian, if you have any questions or would like to give any feedback: Sellers.J@risedale.org.uk



Year 11 Revision Sessions

Our fantastic staff are offering lots of opportunities for extra study/revision sessions for our Year 11 pupils in the run-up to their GCSE exams. Please encourage your child to attend.

By visiting our dedicated [REVISION](#) website page you will be able to view:

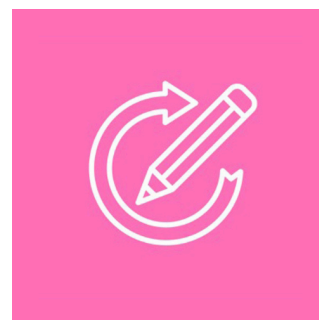
- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#) (Tutor time, lunchtime & after-school).
- Helpful suggested revision links.
- **Year 11 Revision Strategies Presentation:** This presentation, from the English and Maths drop-down session held on Friday 13th December, focuses on three key revision strategies: Flash Cards, Knowledge Checkers, and Past Paper Questions. It includes valuable tips on how to use these methods effectively. [Year 11 Revision Strategies Session | 13/12/2024](#)

Please note that the timetabled dates and times may be updated, so we recommend checking the [Revision](#) website page regularly for any changes.

These sessions are designed to deepen your child's understanding of the material, solidify your knowledge, and boost your confidence for the exams. Regular attendance at these revision sessions is key to unlocking your full potential and achieving excellent results.

Additionally, you can download a [FREE Revision Timetable Maker / Study Planner](#) from Get Revising to assist you with your revision planning.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Headteacher, Mr Yates, at Yates.J@risedale.org.uk.



Uniform Bank: Risedale Parents / Carers...We need YOUR HELP!

Please donate your pre-loved uniforms to the Risedale Uniform Bank.

Help us build a sustainable future for Risedale School pupils.

If you have any preloved, unwanted, or outgrown uniform items like blazers, ties, shirts, trousers/skirts or PE kits, including trainers and football boots, we would greatly appreciate your donations.

Drop off your unwanted, clean items at the school reception.

Your donation will help families save money and reduce waste.

Thank you for your support!

#TeamRisedale

We are collecting donations for our **UNIFORM BANK**

If you have any preloved, unwanted, or outgrown uniform items like blazers, ties, shirts, or PE kits, including trainers and football boots, we would greatly appreciate your donations.

THANK YOU

Community Messages from External Providers

Information for parents/carers of pupils with SEND:

FACE newsletter and a list of live talks. The first session is FREE and focuses on supporting healthy screen use. Find out more and book sessions by visiting www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk.



February 2025

Newsletter

Thursday
20th Feb
19:00 - 20:00
FREE

FREE SESSION

Supporting Healthy Screen Use

A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens

Monday
3rd Feb
10:00 - 11:30
£24

Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
11th Feb
19:00 - 20:30
£24

Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday
18th Feb
19:00 - 20:30
£24

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness

Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.

Tuesday
25th Feb
19:00 - 20:30
£24

Understanding the Teenage Brain

A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Understanding Anger	10 FEB 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	11 FEB 10am
Facing Defiance	14 FEB 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN 7pm 25 FEB 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN 7pm 24 FEB 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 FEB 10am 3 MAR 7pm
Improving Family Communication	3 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
AUTISM: Improving Communication	4 FEB 10am 4 MAR 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	4 FEB 7pm 3 MAR 10am
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	10 FEB 10am 10 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	17 FEB 10am 17 MAR 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 FEB 7pm 18 MAR 10am
Anxiety Explained	18 FEB 10am 18 MAR 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	18 FEB 7pm 17 MAR 10am
Decreasing Depression	24 FEB 7pm 25 MAR 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	25 FEB 7pm 24 MAR 10am

Support Sessions for Parents of Neurodiverse Children:

Are you a parent or caregiver of a neurodiverse child (diagnosed or awaiting assessment)? NYC Children and Families Service Early Help is hosting three online support sessions to help you navigate your journey.

You can access the links on the poster and join the sessions via this link: [Neurodiversity Sessions Online \(Spring 2025\).pdf](#)

Support for parents to access their child's UK eVisa:

The DfE has asked us to share the following information with parents/carers.

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status called an #eVisa.

If you use a BRP, BRC or visa vignette in your passport to prove your rights in the UK, go to [Online immigration status \(eVisa\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/online-immigration-status) to find out what you need to do.

ONLINE SESSIONS
For Parents/ Carers
UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

For parents/carers of neurodiverse children (with a diagnosis or awaiting assessment)

Presented by
NYC Children and Families Service:
Early Help



WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY, 18:00 – 19:00
Supporting you to support your child through shutdown, meltdown and crisis
[Click here to join the session](#)

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE, 18:00 – 19:00
Supporting you and your child with their emotional and sensory regulation
[Click here to join the session](#)

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY, 18:00 – 19:00
Supporting you and your child with sleep
[Click here to join the session](#)

For more information contact
candfhubhambledon@northyorks.gov.uk or
candfhubrichmond@northyorks.gov.uk

Support & Guidance for Service Families & Veterans

For the past year, North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre has been dedicated to providing comprehensive support through our face-to-face drop-in advice sessions specifically designed for serving personnel, their families, and veterans.



Located in and around Catterick, including the Hambleton and Richmondshire areas, this initiative aims to deliver essential guidance to clients with a military connection.

Our dedicated advisers offer a wide range of generalist advice on crucial topics such as benefits, energy, debt, and housing. Recognising the unique challenges faced by our clients, we also provide specialised support related to various forms and applications. This includes assistance with Personal Independence Payment (PIP) forms, Work Capability Assessments, Attendance Allowance, Disability Allowance forms, and Mandatory Reconsiderations, among others. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and we are committed to addressing a variety of client needs.

In addition to our advisory services funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, we have secured funding from the Veteran's Foundation for specialist legal advice, ensuring that our clients receive comprehensive support tailored to their individual circumstances. For those who prefer a more private setting, we can arrange appointments for confidential discussions either in person or over the phone.

Our adviser on this project has established strong connections with numerous partner organisations that serve the military community. This collaboration allows us to make direct referrals within this network, enabling us to provide a more holistic and integrated service to our clients.

We are dedicated to empowering our clients with the knowledge and resources they need to navigate their circumstances effectively, ensuring that they receive the support they deserve.

We have a dedicated helpline: 01748 902020

E-mail: catterick.connection@northyorksica.org.uk

Online referral form: <https://www.cany.org.uk/catterick-connection-referral/>



Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP): Parents Working Party Invitation

As a reminder, we sent an email to Service Families on 30/01/2025 regarding an invitation to join the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP) parents' working party.

If you missed the email or would like to review the information, please click the link below.

LINK TO LETTER: [GAP: Parents Working Party Invitation](#)

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact Matt Blyton directly at garrisonassistproject@gmail.com.



Tealight Making Drop in to commemorate International War Animal Day

£8.00 per person *

*Admission to the museum is free for children
under 10 years old.

Adults and children aged 10 and older are required
to pay the additional entry fee. Children must be
accompanied by an adult.

**10am - 3pm
Saturday
22nd
February**

XIX

The
**Green
Howards**
Museum



The Green Howards Museum in association with the Donkey Breed Society.

Trinity Church Square, Richmond, DL10 4QN

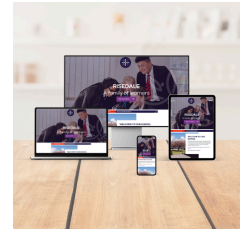
Tel: 01748 826561

WWW.greenhowards.org.uk

General Reminders for Risedale School

School Website

It is recommended that all parents familiarise themselves with the school's website www.risedale.org.uk. There you can find lots of important information such as [calendar and term dates](#), [letters to parents](#), [uniform](#), [policies](#), [exam information](#), [wellbeing](#) and our [latest news](#) to name but a few.



Uniform

At Risedale, we take great pride in our school uniform and strive to make it as affordable as possible by limiting the number of branded items we offer. Our website provides guidance on the [Uniform](#) policy, which is an integral part of our school's identity. It is mandatory for all pupils to wear the correct uniform at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.



Online Parental Engagement

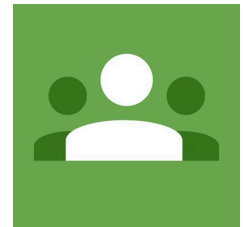
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see the latest available information. Parents can access MCAS via the website or can use the MCAS App which can be downloaded from the app/play store.



When your child joins Risedale you will be sent details to allow you to access your account. If you have forgotten your Parent Login details click [HERE](#).

Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian' simply complete this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



Equipment and Chromebooks

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school to start the day positively and be prepared to learn.

- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case.
- A pencil case containing the following:
A **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**, pencil, ruler and eraser to enable pupils to take pride in their presentation (P.R.O.U.D) and earn Epraise points.
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).

P	Write in PEN : black for writing, red for underlining and blue for DIRT	<p>Always be PROUD of your work</p>
R	Use a RULER for all tables, grids and graphs	
O	OOPS! Draw a single line with a ruler through mistakes	
U	UNDERLINE titles etc. with a red pen and a ruler	
D	Only use a pencil to DRAW with	