# THE OLD RISHWORTHIAN NEWSLETTER

+44 (0)1422 822217 ✳ RISHWORTH SCHOOL ✳ OCTOBER 2026




## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rishworth School Ball

**Saturday 28 November**

Fine dining, live entertainment and dancing, in support of Calderdale Mountain Search & Rescue. £65 per person. Book by 10 November.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

### Rishworth Christmas Fayre

**Friday 13 November**

Christmas stalls, Santa, raffles, Winter Funderland and street food. £2 per adult, under-18s free.

SCAN HERE TO BOOK

## Welcome

### A Message from Layla Ford, Alumni Events & Engagement Manager



Welcome to the very first edition of The Old Rishworthian Newsletter.

Whether you left Rishworth five years ago or fifty years ago, you remain an important part of our story.

My role as Alumni Events & Engagement Manager was created with a simple goal: to strengthen the relationship between former pupils and the School while creating more opportunities for Old Rishworthians to reconnect with one another.

Over the coming months and years, we want to celebrate the incredible achievements of our alumni, share stories from across the generations, preserve the rich history of the School and create meaningful ways for our community to stay involved.

This newsletter is just the beginning. We'll be sharing alumni successes, school updates, upcoming events, volunteering opportunities and ways to support future generations of Rishworth students.

Thank you to everyone who has already shared their stories with us. Reading through the updates in this first edition has been a wonderful reminder of the diverse paths Old Rishworthians take after leaving the classroom.

I hope you enjoy reading it, and I encourage you to stay in touch and share your own news for future editions.

Not yet registered with our alumni community?

Join the Old Rishworthian network here:

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

# School Updates

## An Exciting Start to the Academic Year

A lot has changed at Rishworth this term. Mr Tim Bayley joined in September as Headmaster, and Ray O'Toole has taken over as Chair of Governors. The School's promise is still "Small School, Big Outcomes", and its values are Curiosity, Valour, Kindness and Individuality.

**Results and next steps**

Year 11 and Year 13 results were once again significantly above national averages. This year's leavers are heading to Durham, Loughborough, Lancaster, Leeds, Queen Mary University of London and Nottingham, while others have chosen degree apprenticeships, military service and specialist training.

**What's new on campus**

- A new floodlit five-a-side astroturf pitch and a refurbished MUGA
- Upgraded boarding house bedrooms and refreshed common areas
- A refreshed Dining Hall, with more projects planned

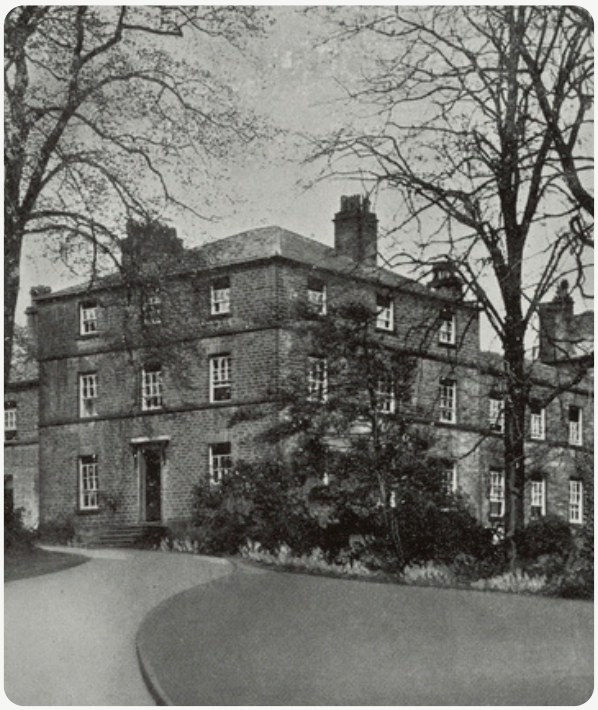
**Life at Rishworth this term**

Year 7 spent a week in Whitby, exploring the coast from Boggle Hole to Robin Hood's Bay, scrambling up becks and going canoeing and bodyboarding. The Rishworth Farmers have produced their own honey, and Sixth Formers visited Huddersfield Town to find out about careers in the sports industry. The Senior XV opened their season against Manchester Grammar, and the school production, Mary Poppins JR, is in rehearsal.

The houses have been busy too. Ringstone won the Junior Giant Jenga, Baitings took the Intermediate Just Dance, and Scammonden won the Senior badminton. Boothwood, as ever, are plotting their comeback.







# Then & Now

Many of you will remember the teams, trips, productions and friendships that shaped your time at Rishworth. Today's pupils are still enjoying many of them, with new facilities alongside the old traditions.

**Which house were you in?** Tell us, and let us know whether Ringstone, Baitings, Scammonden or Boothwood were the ones to beat in your day.

## Share Your Memories

*Did you take part in a trip, sports team, school production or club that you'll never forget?*

*We'd love to hear your memories for a future edition.*



# Alumni Spotlight

## Emily Newell (Class of 2017)

From Rishworth classrooms to NHS leadership and academia, Emily Newell's journey demonstrates the impact Old Rishworthians continue to have within their professions and communities.

After graduating with a Master of Pharmacy with First Class Honours, Emily began her career within the NHS and has since progressed into specialist and leadership positions. Today, Emily is a Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield and Pharmacist Lead for Anticoagulation and Thrombosis at Calderdale and Huddersfield Hospitals, managing anticoagulation services across Calderdale and Kirklees.

However, one of Emily's most meaningful connections to Rishworth is a personal one.

Emily attended both Lower School and Sixth Form at Rishworth, leaving in 2017 alongside fellow Old Rishworthian Jacob Bower. The pair met during their time at school and are now engaged to be married.

Reflecting on her time at Rishworth, Emily said:

> **"While Rishworth undoubtedly prepared me academically for my career, it also gave me something even more special. I met my future husband there."**

Looking back, Emily remembers the friendships, support and experiences that helped shape both her professional and personal life.

> **"The experiences I had there played a significant part in shaping both my professional and personal life, and I am proud to be able to say that I am an Old Rishworthian."**

From a successful healthcare career to a lifelong relationship that began at Rishworth, Emily's story is a wonderful reminder of the lasting influence of a Rishworth education.

# Alumni Updates & Achievements



## Katie Ashford (Class of 2022)

Katie is in the final year of her Film and Broadcast Production degree at Edge Hill University and is already gaining valuable industry experience. Recent highlights include an internship at the Ann Arbor Film Festival in the USA, work as a Media Store Assistant at Edge Hill, and IMDb credits as a Vision Mixer, Camera Operator and Director on a range of productions. Katie hopes to pursue a career in broadcasting as a Vision Mixer or Director.



## Madi Johnson (Class of 2023)

Since leaving Rishworth in 2023, Madi has continued her studies at the University of Huddersfield and is now in her final year. Alongside her studies, she has been selected for both the Women's Second Football Team and the Mixed First Hockey Team, representing the university in two sports during the same academic year. Congratulations to Madi on this fantastic achievement, and we wish her every success for the season ahead.



## Christina Froggatt (Class of 2008)

Since leaving Rishworth, Christina has built a successful career in engineering and technology and is now Research and Development Lead at Moorfield Nanotechnology. Her work helps develop technologies used across sectors including healthcare, automotive, defence and aerospace, while outside of work she remains actively involved in community groups and local events.



## Will Uttley (Class of 2020)

Since graduating from Leeds Conservatoire with a 2:1, Will has been building a freelance career in the music industry. Recent highlights include working as a drum technician for The Caymans while supporting The Wombats at Halifax Piece Hall, alongside sound engineering and stage crew work at Kendal Calling Festival. These experiences have helped Will establish himself within the live music industry, and we wish him every success for the future.



## Glyn Potts MBE DL (Class of 1997)

Since leaving Rishworth, Glyn has built a career dedicated to supporting young people and communities. Now Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Youth Federation, he also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Cadet Force and holds a number of leadership roles across education and the voluntary sector. In recognition of his contributions, Glyn was awarded an MBE for services to young people and community development and is a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester.



## Chris Hallam (Class of 1972)

After a successful career in catering equipment sales and running his own businesses for 19 years, Chris retired in 2019. Earlier this year he celebrated his 70th birthday and continues to embrace the adventurous spirit he credits to Rishworth, with achievements including marathons, the Inca Trail, white-water rafting on the Zambezi River and, most recently, flying in a Spitfire. Chris now lives on the Isle of Wight with his wife and continues to travel extensively.

# Get Involved



## Your school needs you!

Our pupils would love to hear from Old Rishworthians. You don't need to be a CEO or live nearby, and even an hour of your time can make a difference. Here's how you can help:

### Careers Morning: Wednesday 27 January 2027

Our annual Careers Morning lets pupils hear directly from professionals across a range of industries. Volunteers deliver two 30-minute talks to groups of Year 11 and Year 12 students, covering their career journey, their industry and what they've learned since leaving school. We're also looking at lunchtime careers sessions through the year, so there will be more ways to share your expertise.

### Work Experience:

Year 10: 17-21 May 2027
Year 12: 7-11 June 2027

We're always keen to hear from alumni who could host a placement. All placements need to meet safeguarding requirements, with appropriate insurance and risk assessments in place. A pupil can't work one-to-one with a single adult, so we'll talk you through how to make that work.

### Mentoring:

Support a Sixth Former or boarder with advice on university, apprenticeships or starting out in your industry.

### Share your story:

Tell us what you've been up to since leaving Rishworth. Big or small, we'd love to feature it in a future edition.

### Want to know more?

Email Layla at lford@rishworth-school.co.uk.



# Noticeboard

Congratulations to Emily Newell and Jacob Bower (both Class of 2017) on their engagement. You can read their story on page 3.

Got something to celebrate? Engagements, weddings, new arrivals, promotions and milestones, we'd love to share them with the OR community. Fill in the form via the QR code below to share your news.

# Mark Your Diary

- PTA Christmas Fayre: Friday 13 November 2026
- Rishworth School Ball: Saturday 28 November 2026
- Careers Morning: Wednesday 27 January 2027

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To update your details or stop receiving alumni emails, click HERE