



January Newsletter 2011

RICHMOND SCHOOL & Sixth Form College

Happy New Year!

As ever, the school is looking forward to a busy and exciting New Year. The continuous drive to raise standards in all aspects of school life is our focus, with the additional responsibilities of planning for a new school day and curriculum in 2011–2012. At the end of this academic year we look forward to moving back into Middle School and completion of the building programme. The refurbished Middle School, originally designed and opened in 1950, will be renamed the Clarke Hall Building, after the original Architect, Denis Clarke Hall. The acclaimed designer won international recognition for his visionary buildings in the 20th century.

We also look forward to celebrating the many and varied success stories of our students; either as individual achievements unfold or as teams and groups of students demonstrate their talents in a variety of ways. It is pleasure to record the success of our Year 13 students who have been offered places at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities for September 2011:

- Nick Robinson has been offered a place at St. Peter's College, Cambridge to read Philosophy;
- Sam Hornby has been offered a place at Keble College, Oxford University to read Physics
- Peter Yates has been offered a place at Lincoln College, Oxford University to read History

On the sports field in 2011 we follow with interest the career of GB Triathlete, Maddie Winzer, and the England cricketer Lewis Stabler. Equally, we await with interest to see how well the Year 10 Cricket team does in the semi final of the Lord Taverner's Cup when the players travel to Marlborough College, Wiltshire in April.

Snow Closure Friday, 7 January 2011

Unfortunately, due to the snowfall during the middle of the day on Friday, 7 January, along with the deterioration in road conditions, a decision was made to close the school early - at 2.30pm. This decision was influenced following the advice of several bus companies who wanted to collect students early to ensure that they could travel home in safety. It is always a difficult decision to close the school early and one that certainly has its logistical challenges. The most important matter is of course the safety of students.

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The school does now use text messaging to inform parents of any decision regarding early school closure, along with the website. Students are told that they must remain in school with staff if they cannot get home due to parents being at work or not available at the time of closure. If any parent has recently changed their contact numbers please do ensure that school is kept up to date with new telephone numbers.

School Term dates 2011 – 2012

The dates for the academic year 2011-2012 have now been set and are as follows:

Autumn Term Starts	5 September
Half Term holiday	24-28 October (inclusive)
Christmas holiday	21 December – 5 January (inclusive) (Students return on 9 January)
Half Term holiday	13-17 February (inclusive)
Easter holiday	2-13 April (inclusive)
May Day holiday	7 May
Half Term holiday	4-8 June (inclusive)
Summer holiday closure	23 July onwards
Training days (closed for students)	1 + 2 September 2011 25 November 6 January 30 March

Aiming High Effort Grades December 2010

The first round of reporting a student's progress toward academic targets took place at the end of the Autumn Term 2010. This new system has received many positive comments from parents and students. However, we do value your views and would like to ask for any comments via the tear off slip attached to this newsletter. The system focuses on the amount of effort a student applies towards his/her studies. Any student receiving an E3 grade in a particular subject means that he/she is doing well and applying a satisfactory amount of effort into the studies. Any students with either an E1 or and E2 grade awarded for his/her effort is clearly working hard and doing well. Students who have gained either a combination of all E1 and E2 grades or all E2 grades will go into a prize draw for their year group. Lucky prize draw winners at the end of the Autumn Term were as follows:

Year 7	Lucy Warren; Jennifer Batchelor
Year 8	Aresa Foster; Rebecca Beatson
Year 9	Carys Andrews; Rebecca Hornby
Year 10	Bethany Addison; Jacob Smith
Year 11	Elizabeth Moulding; Hayley Fearnley
Year 12	Ben Whitaker-Sharpe; Alex Brend
Year 13	Naomi Moks; Stephanie Reay

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Year 11 Prom 2011

The Year 11 Prom will take place this year on Friday, 24 June 2011. Attendance at the Prom is a privilege for students and their teachers and a real highlight of the year. To attend the Prom students must have an attendance record of at least 92%, completed all coursework on time and attended all revision sessions as directed by teachers, returned all textbooks to subject areas and have a good behaviour and uniform record during Year 11. These criteria are called the '**Passport To the Prom**'. This year will be the last Prom to be held at Richmond Lower School.

Ian Robertson
Headteacher

Safeguarding – Collecting Students from School During the School Day

Any parent collecting students during the school day for medical and other appointments are politely asked to collect them from Reception. Please accept that as a school we are doing everything possible to ensure that students are safe and looked after at all times.

Jenna Potter
Deputy Head

Aiming High

Parent comment on the new style reporting system:

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Signed :

Student Name: Tutor Group:

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