



# December 2011

## Newsletter



RICHMOND  
SCHOOL  
& *Sixth Form College*

Dear Parent/Guardian

Once again the Autumn term has been very busy for staff and students. I have been delighted with the way everyone connected with the School has settled into a new school routine, including movement around the site now that we are in the Clarke Hall Building, the addition of Year 7 students onto the Darlington Road site and all students in Years 7 to 11 remaining on site at lunchtimes. It is also pleasing to see that student behaviour on site remains outstanding and that teachers are reporting that the majority of students are very much focussed on their studies. The Aiming High Assemblies at the end of term will no doubt be a celebration of a great deal of achievement by many students in every year group.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support this term. Equally, may I wish you a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Ian Robertson  
Headteacher

### **New Build**

We are due to take possession of the final phase of our build on 16 December, which is the landscaping and carpark areas immediately in front of the School. Our main front entrance to the School will also be

opened, which will make our Main Reception more easily accessible.

We are grateful to our main contractors, Shepherd Construction Ltd for their hard work over 5 years. They have always been considerate of the various demands made of a busy school and have tried to work with us to ensure minimum disruption.

We are aiming to officially open our redesigned school in Spring 2012 and there will be an opportunity for parents and members of the community to come and see what has been achieved.

### **New Staffing Structure**

Alongside this Christmas Newsletter you will find a document entitled 'New Staffing Structure', which explains the new roles within School from January 2012.

### **Appointment of Parent Governor**

Mrs Louise White has been appointed to the Parent vacancy.

### **National Curriculum Levels Explanation**

See document attached to the back of this Newsletter.

### **Poppy Appeal 2011**

School raised £269.68 in the recent Poppy Collection.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the collection.



## Charities Evening and Associated Events

The School is delighted to report that our recent charity events have raised £4,954, which will be divided amongst our various charities as follows:

Action for Children	£16.82
The Great North Air Ambulance	£99.03
Alzheimer's Research UK	£23.55
Cancer Research UK	£153.19
Newcastle Hospitals NHS Charity	£16.20
Dogs Trust	£10.00
Chinchillas4life	£48.80
Tilly Lockey	£337.52
Help for Heroes	£1,326.95
South Tees Hospital	£14.00
Muscular Dystrophy Campaign	£57.15
RSPB	£13.50
St Teresa's Hospice	£43.26
The Stroke Association	£29.60
BBC Children in Need	£1,264.70
Amala (India)	£1,500.00

Thank you and congratulations to all of those students and staff who have helped to raise such a magnificent sum.

## Uniform

The standard of uniform across the School has improved significantly over the last year, however we still believe it can be improved further, ensuring that **all** students are complying with uniform requirements at all times. I would therefore like to highlight the following points:

1. Boots are not to be worn other than in snowy conditions.
2. Cardigans and non-school jumpers are not to be worn as an alternative to a coat or jacket.
3. Canvas plimsolls are not to be worn.

We are currently looking to source our own 'school skirt' and will keep you posted of any developments.

We feel it is extremely important that students take a real pride in their appearance and dress in a smart and business-like fashion. This really does help to create an environment in which expectations of children

in all senses (dress, behaviour, application to study) are the highest possible, thus enabling every child to achieve his/her full potential.

Thank you in advance for your support in this.

*Jenna Potter – Deputy Headteacher*

## Bad Weather Procedures

Although we issued guidance regarding bad weather procedures in our last newsletter, we felt it was worth reiterating the points again.

The following is a reminder of the procedures we adopt when having to close the school:

### Start of Day

6.30 am – The Headteacher will liaise with colleagues, bus companies, the weather forecasting service etc to determine whether it is safe to open the school.

7.00 am – If necessary, the Headteacher will announce closure via:

- Local radio stations
- School Website

Parents will recall that last year we were caught out because conditions deteriorated very rapidly after 7.00 am and it proved necessary to close School at 8.00 am. Please therefore keep checking our Website for any updates.

### Day-time Closure

If conditions are such that we have to close during the day, we try to give parents as much notice as possible using the 'Keep Kids Safe' texting service, as well as our School Website. Any students who come to us to say that they cannot get home safely or do not have an alternative agreed location to go to, will be kept at School.

It is important that parents have their own emergency plan to ensure that their children can either get in at home or have a safe alternative to go to. Please discuss this with



your child to ensure that they are clear about what is required of them.

Congratulations to **Michael Eyles** (Year 9) who recently won the Mervyn Hammell Annual Memorial Trophy with his vintage tractor. A huge amount of work and expertise goes into maintaining these vintage machines. Well done Michael.

**Olivia Stones** (Year 8) was a member of the winning Bedale and West of Yore Pony Club Team who took the National Novice Eventing Title at the Pony Club Championships that were held in Cheshire earlier in the year.

Eventing consists of dressage, show jumping and cross country. There were over 40 teams from all over the country competing. She also achieved an individual second place. Well done to Olivia!

Congratulations to **Daniel Osborn** and **Sarah Sanderson** (both Year 11), Richmondshire Outstanding Sports Stars who turned on the town's Christmas lights for 2011 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Sporting Honour for Honor!**

Honor Clissold was awarded the Northern Echo Local Hero Award for Sporting Excellence (Junior) at the award ceremony at Hardwick Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

This is a prestigious regional award and our congratulations go to Honor.

### **Under 16 Girls' Ski Team**

The Ski Club has gone from strength to strength this term and we saw several of our students take part in the ESSKiA regional qualifiers in September. All students did incredibly well and we had several skiers finish in the top 20, including two podium positions from Sam and Honor Clissold.

Our under-16 girls' team, which consisted of Chloe Burrows (Y9), Honor Clissold (Y9), Katy Jackson (Y9) and Cara Websdale (Y10), came first in their age category and consequently qualified for the English

National Finals which took place in Stoke in October. The girls were again successful here, gaining third in their age group, and qualifying for the British Finals, which took place in Edinburgh at the start of November.

Unfortunately Katy took a nasty fall during training and broke her thumb, thus meaning she couldn't complete the actual race. However she remained stoical and supported the other girls to tenth place overall.

This is a fantastic achievement for the girls and the Club, and very well-deserved as the girls (and their parents!) have put in hours of training prior to these competitions.

We are now looking forward to going on to compete in the British School Girls' in France in January. We are always keen for new members, so please do not hesitate to contact Miss Roberts at School should you have an aspiring ski racer in the family.



*Victoria Roberts/Andrea Offord - Ski Managers*



## Sound of Music and the School Carol Concert

Tickets are now available for both of the above events, which will take place as follows:

### School Production: 'Sound of Music'

15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm start.

Tickets can be obtained by:

- telephoning Mrs Farquhar at School on 01748-828170
- e-mailing Mrs Farquhar on [afarquhar@richmondschool.net](mailto:afarquhar@richmondschool.net)
- calling into the Sixth Form Centre and asking for Mrs Farquhar
- asking your son/daughter to see one of the students who are selling tickets after school each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### School Carol Concert

19 December, 7.00 pm start in the Clarke Hall Building. Please, just come along and enjoy the evening.

## AS Textile Students –

### Choose2Reuse Fashion Show

AS Textile students recently wowed the audience at the Choose2Reuse Fashion show at Hambleton Forum on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011. As up and coming designers, and as part of their A Level coursework, students were asked to select and deconstruct unwanted clothing from charity shops to create innovative but feasible waistcoat designs. The students strutted their creations in three fashion shows which were held by North Yorkshire County Council to promote awareness of the importance of sustainability and environmental issues.



*Mrs J Drake – Assistant Head of Design and Technology*

## You may be entitled to money back on the cost of your child's holiday activities!

### Me Too!

This is a funding scheme to help children access after school and holiday activities. If you are currently claiming benefits such as Free School Meals, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Job Seekers Allowance or Working Tax Credit you may be entitled to vouchers worth 90% of the cost of out of school activities. For more information please contact Andrea Offord – Extended Schools Coordinator on: 01748 850111 ext 8126 or mob:07870 906642

### Working Tax Credit:

If you work and pay for childcare you may be entitled to help with childcare costs through the Government's Working Tax Credit Scheme. Depending on how much you and/or your partner earn you could receive up to 70% off childcare, up to a maximum of £175 per week if you have one child and up to £300 a week if you have two or more children.

Parents who qualify are lone parents or couples who work at least 16 hours or those who normally would be working but are on maternity, or off sick or are on disability



benefits. In addition to this your childcare provider must be properly Ofsted registered or approved. One of the main local providers, the Richmond Leisure Trust Burst Camps, which take place around the district during the school holidays, is registered as part of the Ofsted voluntary register. If you would like further details on how to claim you can find the link to the Working Tax Credit guide under Burst Camp on [www.rltrust.org.uk](http://www.rltrust.org.uk) or you can ring Matt Prosser at Richmond Leisure Trust on:01748 824581.

*Andrea Offord – Extended Schools Coordinator*

## Lost Property

A huge amount of lost property is handed in to Reception each day, much of which remains unclaimed. Because of the volume we receive it is not possible to retain it for very long. If your child has told you that they have lost an item of clothing, please ask them to come and look in the Reception cupboard.

All items of lost property that have names in them are returned to the students via their tutor trays.

Any unclaimed lost property is eventually given to the Air Ambulance Service.

## Parental Portal

As mentioned in the recent letter to parents, our Parental Portal is now up and running and will be used to inform you of:

- Aiming High data – 3 times per year
- Attendance information
- Student timetables
- Homework that has been set
- Messages home
- Newsletters and other correspondence

If you have not yet let us have an e-mail address, or if this has recently changed, then

please e-mail [parents@richmondschool.net](mailto:parents@richmondschool.net) as soon as possible with the e-mail address and the names and tutor groups of your children so that we can amend our records.

If any parent currently has access to the Internet but is not confident in using it and feels they need support in order to log on to the Parental Portal, the School is happy to provide this either via an on line tutorial or through individual support, in which case you should telephone Mr C Turnbull, our IT Manager, on 01748-828118.

## Richmond Ukulele Band – Winner of Richmondshire’s Got Talent

Congratulations to the Band members on winning “Richmondshire’s Got Talent” against stiff opposition. The audience loved the performance, which was terrific entertainment.



Also, congratulations to Eleanor Seddon (Year 7) and Jake Mawhinney (Year 13) who were second and third respectively.

## School Dates

The **holiday dates for 2012/13** have been agreed as follows:



## 2012

Term starts	4 September
Half Term	29 October-6 November
School closes	21 December

## 2013

Term starts	7 January
Half Term	18-22 February
School closes	28 March
Term starts	15 April
School closed	6 May (Bank Holiday)
Half Term	27 May-4 June
School closes	23 July

There are two training days yet to be allocated but these will be notified to you in the next newsletter.

### **Ex Richmond School Student – Emma Hopwood**

Emma is studying for a BSc in Equine Science at Hartpury College, Gloucester. She is currently on a year's work placement at a racing stable in Epsom.

Her main duties are the operation of an equine spa (to prevent and treat injuries to lower leg muscles) and working at the associated stud with the mares and foals as well as breaking in young racehorses. She is also groom to a racehorse, Marcus Antonius, and on her first race meeting at Folkstone he won his race!

Emma is pictured leading him into the winners' enclosure



### **Public Transport**

Richmondshire District Council, together with North Yorkshire County Council, are seeking residents' and visitors' views on public transport information provision in the area.

We have been asked to forward the link below to give parents, students and our staff the opportunity to complete the survey, which will run until 31 January 2012

The address link is:

<http://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/surveys/publictransport/>

