



RICHMOND
SCHOOL
& Sixth Form College

July 2011 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to begin this Newsletter by thanking all parents for your support this year, particularly with regard to the changes that we have made for the development of the school. The data indicates that student attendance is better than in previous years, statistics on behaviour indicate that students are enjoying school, there is less disruption to learning than ever before and far more students have gained recognition for their outstanding achievements in extra curricular activities. This is the progress that we want to continue with into the next academic year. When the summer holidays arrive I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable break. Best wishes.

Ian Robertson

Headteacher

School Building

When we return in September students will be back in the refurbished "Middle School". This building will be known as the Clarke Hall Building after the original architect Denis Clarke Hall. We also look forward to using a refurbished Technology Building (formerly the library).

On the 22 July we formally close Richmond Lower School. The school was originally opened with a cricket match between the school and the Old Boys' Cricket Team on the 27th September 1850. As such we wish to replicate this by holding a cricket match

between the school and the Old Boys on **Wednesday 20 July 2011 at 6.00pm** at Richmondshire Cricket Club. We hope that many students, parents, past students and friends of the school will come along to the Cricket Club in Richmond and enjoy the game. Hopefully, the weather will be kind for the event.

Below is an extract from the "The History of Richmond School" by L P. Wenham describing the match in 1850....

The proceedings opened with a Cricket match between the Old Boys' XI and a team composed of staff and pupils then at the school. As this is the first recorded match between the school and the Old Richmondians we may be excused for including full details of it here.

On Friday, the 27th a match in connection with the opening of the 'Tate Testimonial,' at Richmond was played between eleven gentlemen, formerly pupils of the Grammar School, and the first eleven of the school, on the ground of the latter, which, from the recent rains, was in good order. A tent was erected for the ladies, of whom there was a large attendance. The play commenced by the Old Richmondians taking the bat against the bowling of Messrs Healy and Tickner, who succeeded in lowering the ten wickets for the small score of 15 in 12 overs. The school then immediately began their innings, and succeeded in scoring 40 before they were all disposed of; 18 overs were bowled. The bowling of Mr F Cooke was particularly neat and good. The Old Richmondians

came again to the wickets, with 25 to wipe off before it would be necessary for the scholars to again take the bat; they, however, were disposed of by Messrs Tickner and Trotter, in 9 overs for 17 runs, the School thus winning in one. At 2.30pm the members of the Corporation, together with many other local and county dignitaries, met at the Town Hall where the Mayor (Robert Robson) 'in the presence of the subscribers and a brilliant assemblage of ladies' presented a congratulatory address to his Grace Archbishop of York (Dr Thomas Musgrave – one of Canon Tate's old pupils). The party went in procession to the school and entered the 'school – room' (now the laboratory), where a 'splendid collation and dessert' was provided" Richmond Lower School was formerly known as the "Tate Testimonial" after the Headmaster James Tate (1796-1833).

School Opens for the Autumn Term 2011 on Monday 5 September at 8.55am.

Result Days

- Advanced level Result Day - Thursday, 18 August at 10 am in the Sixth Form Bistro:

A2	8.30 am – 12.00 pm
AS	9.30 am – 12.00 pm

- GCSE Result Day – Thursday, 25 August in the James Tate Restaurant:

Yrs 11/12/13	10 am and 12.00 pm
Year 10	12 – 1 pm

The school was represented at the funeral of former Headteacher **Mr Derek Dutton**. Mr Dutton was head teacher of Richmond School during the transition from Grammar School status to becoming a comprehensive school, until his retirement in 1992.

Congratulations to Students by the Headteacher

Governors will be delighted to note the success of former students as follows:

- N Gibson 2:1 Degree in History from Edinburgh University
- K Dennis 2:1 Degree in Sports Science from Liverpool University
- M Shepherd 1st in Maths from Cambridge

We always welcome news about the success of ex students. Please do let us know if your son/daughter has completed their further education training, moved into an interesting job or is gaining success in another field, such as sport.

Richmond School beat St John Fisher in the final of the **North/East Yorkshire and Cleveland County Cricket Final** and now play Woodhouse Grove School for a place in the ECB Yorkshire Cup 20/20 final. Adam Cocks starred with the bat scoring 68 out of a total of 128-7 in Richmond's 20 overs. Tight and efficient bowling and fielding from Richmond School ensured the victory in the second innings, eventually winning by 15 runs.

Other Student News

The School is indeed fortunate to be able to celebrate the success at national and regional level of students across a range of sports:

- Maddie Winzer - Year 12 GB Triathlete
- Max Robson - Year 8 GB Triathlete
- Robert Shield - Year 12 GB Karting Championships
- Jake Brooks - GB Freestyle Kayaking Championships
- Honor Clissold Year 8 – No 1 girl in the UK for Ski-ing
- Sam Clissold - Year 11 GB and Olympic Skiing Team
- Sarah Sanderson - Year 12 GB Water Polo Team
- Olivia McPharlane - GB Gymnast



- Sam Edge – Year 11 GB Freestyle Kayaking
- Lewis Stabler - Year 11 Yorkshire and England Cricket
- Courtney Trainor - Year 8 National competitor Shetland Pony racing
- Neville Graham - Year 11 England Snooker Team
- Max Coates - Year 12 Ginetta GP Junior Touring Car Series
- Chris Dove - Year 12 National Swimming Championships
- Tom Larder – Year 12 Durham County Rugby Player
- Dan Osborne – Year 10 Durham County Rugby Player
- Adam Cox – Year 10 Darlington Football Club
- Stephen Male – Year 10 Durham County Cricket Team
- Josh Dowson – Year 8 Durham County Cricket.
- Nicola Gill – Year 12 North of England Hockey
- Rosie Kipling – Year 13 Junior Captain – Richmond Golf Club
- Ryan Howe - Year 13 Yorkshire Golfer

These youngsters present themselves as role models for other students within the School and we aim to celebrate their success through a group article in the Press, if possible, before the end of term.

New School timetable

Further to the information we sent out recently regarding the new school day, we are now finalising details of the timetable for all students, taking account of the new structure of the school day and the 50 period fortnight.

We will be sending out the option allocations to next year's Year 9 and Year 10 students within the next day or so, if you haven't

already received them by the time this newsletter is published.

With regard to the Guidance sessions, these will take place each day from 3.05-3.35 pm and will be structured around the following:

- Assembly x 1
- Guidance x 2
- Activities x 1
- Tutor Time x 1

Year 7-9 Guidance Sessions will be based on the Lifeskills curriculum from this year.

Year 10 students will follow a GCSE short course called "Preparation for Working Life" and will lead to a Short Course GCSE accreditation in this topic. This will be followed next year with another short course GCSE which will give all students an additional qualification.

Year 11 students will follow a Guidance curriculum based upon careers advice, GCSE preparation, and preparation for transition into Post 16.

Sixth Form students will follow a work related learning curriculum called 'Work Skills' which will take place 3 afternoons per week.

The other afternoon session for all students will include Assemblies on a weekly basis.

Sixth Form students will also have assemblies slightly less frequently, but on a regular basis, as we see this as an essential part of the school working week. We have an assembly calendar of themes and this will link closely with school, national and international events and issues.

In the activities sessions there will be different activities and learning opportunities for the students, such as Quiet Reading,



Homework Buddies, Classwork Buddies, This Week in the News discussions, Reading Workshop withdrawal, Aiming High discussions with tutors, "PAUSE time" (**P**unctuality, **A**ttendance check, **U**niform, **S**tudent planner signing, and **E**quipment check), Inter tutor group challenges and competitions, revision planning and homework.

Staff are also planning year group activities such as music rehearsals and choir etc. This is not an exhaustive list but includes some of the tutor led sessions scheduled at the end of each day (3.05-3.35 pm).

We believe that this time will enhance the curriculum when led by the tutors, following a structured and interesting series of activities and assemblies each week.

David Clark – Deputy Headteacher

Uniform

Very many thanks to parents for ensuring that the School's high uniform standard is maintained. We are absolutely clear that a smart uniform sets the right tone for each school day and presents the most positive image of your children and of the School.

The School and PE uniform lists, together with the dress code, provide clear information about uniform expectations and are attached to the back of this newsletter.

Many supermarkets and chain stores market school uniform and advertise their clothes and shoes under the banner of 'Back to School'. Some parents have bought canvas shoes or jean-style trousers in the past, thinking that they are appropriate. They are often inappropriate. Please do check our uniform list carefully before purchasing anything. Please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's tutor or pastoral manager if you have any queries regarding the purchase of uniform for September.

Medical Details

Please ensure school is kept aware of any changes to your son/daughter's medical details, regardless of whether medication needs to be taken in school or not. The contact person for medical issues is Mrs Colleen Harrild. Please contact her on the school number (01748-850111) if you wish to discuss a medically related matter.

Jenna Potter – Deputy Headteacher

Sports Newsletter

See attached document

Creative Arts Specialism

Student achievement

On 17 June, Mooncalf Theatre (our Sixth Form company) performed a new musical play, **Cabaret Mack-Beth**, to a packed house at the Georgian Theatre Royal. This was Mooncalf's first independent, two-act production at a professional venue, after several years of touring workshops and performing one-act plays in the Swaledale Festival. Joe Tankard (Year 13) was fantastic in the title role, leading a highly professional cast. The super-slick jazz band, conducted by Mr. Mellors, deserves a special mention for making this show come to life. Well done to all.





The support acts for **Richmondshire Has Talent Showcase** on 24 June were both Richmond School students: Freya Mawhinney (Year 9) deserves praise for her singing and Nicholas Heitler (Year 10) for his original comedy monologues.

The Georgian Youth Theatre staged an outstanding production of **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** on 27 and 28 June, with a cast composed mainly of Richmond School students. Ben Lacey (Year 12) excelled in the lead role of McMurphy, supported by top-notch performances by Ben Cain (Year 13), Nick Dawson (Year 12), Leo Finighan (Year 11), Sammy Hedges (Year 12), Oliver Mort (Year 12), Sam Rowe (Year 13), John Rowe (Year 11), Cordelia Stephenson (Year 12) and Luke Thompson (Year 12). Sarah Brewitt (Year 12) was Stage Manager. Congratulations to all involved.

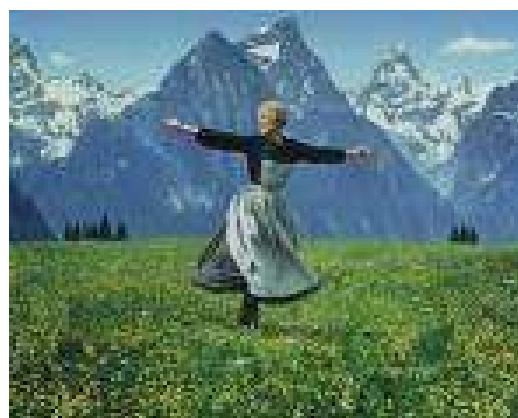
Our own **Breakin' Point Boys Dance Company** will perform in Aiming High assemblies later this term, along with our first cohort of **Year 9 BTEC Dance** students, who will also be showing film clips of their

excellent work and receiving their certificates for their achievement.

Claire Bramley (Year 9) and Victoria Auger (Year 7) performed with the **Music Centre Intermediate Band** at the County Show at South Otterington recently. Claire and Sammy Rawson (Year 12) are taking part in the **County Band** music course later this month (concert at Harrogate Ladies College Thursday 14 July at 7.30pm). Max Dalton (Year 12) and Danny Salmon (Year 11) are on the **County Orchestra** course (concert at Harrogate Ladies College Friday 15 July at 7pm). Tickets are available from County Hall, Northallerton.

Twenty student musicians will take Associated Board and Trinity exams in mid July, and we wish them every success.

Drumroll please... the school production for 2011 will be... **'The Sound of Music'**! (15 – 17 December.) We are excited to be mounting a large-scale musical as the first Richmond School production to have a Year 7-13 cast, finally made possible by the move to one site. **Auditions will be on Wed 7, Thur 8 and Fri 9 September, 3.45-5.30pm**, in the Hall of the Clarke Hall building. If you are interested in getting involved in this show behind the scenes, we would welcome you with open arms – please contact any member of the Creative Arts team.



For the **Swaledale Festival**, Jenny Ash (Year 13) and Max Dalton (Year 12) took part in **Alexander Markov's Strings Masterclass** on 8th June, citing him as an 'inspiring and fantastic performer'. This followed a clarinet and saxophone workshop



from **Absolution Saxophone Quartet** on 6th June, hosted by Richmond School and attended by Will Stockbridge (Year 10),

James Wilson (Year 9), Jess Grainger (Year 9) and Sophie Overin (Year 9), along with students from Barnard Castle School. All students rose to the creative challenge of improvising and performing with professional musicians.



Our new ensembles are off to a good start: **Flute Choir** on Tuesday lunchtimes and **Acapella**, our choir for male voices, which has a promising number. More boys who enjoy singing are welcome to join – Wednesday lunchtimes in JG17. Wind Band, Choir, Brass and Guitar Group are rehearsing items for the **Creative Arts Showcase on Mon 11 July**.

Places are filling up on the six-day **Music Tour to Denmark and Sweden** at Eastertime in 2012. Musicians interested in joining this tour are reminded that deposits need to be in by early July, with the balance due in October and January.

Our dance company, **Metamorphosis**, continues to grow, with six Year 7s joining this term and already learning great things from their older role models. Dancing in this company provides a highly stimulating challenge for gifted and talented students.

Community Liaison

On 13 June Richmond School hosted a **Primary Dance showcase** to share work Miss Holroyd has been doing with primary pupils from Reeth & Gunnerside, Richmond Methodist and Croft, embracing a range of styles from Lindy Hop to African dance to Bollywood. Parents also saw work inspired by superheroes and Maori Haka from our Year 7s. Our young visitors did themselves huge credit and are excited about studying dance at Richmond School in Year 7.



Upcoming performances

Mon 11 July, 7 – 8 pm: Creative Arts Summer Showcase, Sixth Form Centre Hall, admission free

November, date tbc, 7.30pm: Autumn Concert (Music), Hall in Clarke Hall building

Sat 12 November: 'Help The Heroes' Concert, Zetland Centre (more details to follow)

Thur 15, Fri 16, Sat 17 December, 7.30pm: 'The Sound of Music', Hall in Clarke Hall building

19 December, 7.30pm: Carol Concert, Hall in Clarke Hall building

Liz Moss – Director of Creative Arts



“24 Game”

52 children from feeder primary schools took part in a maths competition at Richmond School. The competition, the “24 Game”, is designed to promote an interest in numbers. 13 teams battled it out in the problem-solving contest organised by teachers in the Mathematics Department. The eventual winners were pupils from Richmond Methodist School, with Middleton Tyas a close second and St. Mary’s RC in third place. The event also gave youngsters the opportunity to meet and work with pupils from other schools in the run-up to transferring to secondary school. Primary Liaison Co-ordinator Sandra Johnson said: “I was really impressed with the way the children worked together in their teams. There was a real spirit of co-operation as well as competition and it was good to see all these youngsters enjoying their maths. It was also a very successful event in terms of promoting the links between our schools.”



Sandra Johnson – Primary Liaison Officer

Extended Schools

Transition - Year 6 activity days held at Colburn Leisure Centre went very well. We were able to group children according to their proposed tutor groups and the slightly smaller groups allowed the children to really get to know each other.

Once again the A level Drama and BTec students helping on the day proved to be great ambassadors for the School and we had some fantastic feedback from all of the primary schools that attended.

Richmond and Swaledale Sports Coach Holiday activities run by Mike Layfield have been very well received. The profit made from the Easter Holiday events will go towards funding his post. A full programme of events is planned for the Summer holidays.

We have now set up a system whereby the BTec students can volunteer to help. This helps us to provide holiday activities with quality coaching at a price that is affordable to all. In return we are able to provide the students with certification for their portfolios to say that they have delivered sessions over a period of time.

Andrea Offord – Extended Schools Co-ordinator

Equestrian Team

The students involved in the Equestrian team have been out and about this term, Year 10 girls Bethan Smith, Kim Chapman, Paige Martin and Lauren Taylor went to Bishop Burton College on 18 June to compete in the 80 cm team competition and came 3rd, just missing out on qualifying for the National Schools Championships. We also had Jess Robinson competing as an individual and Paige Martin came 6th in the 90cm individual class.

Many of the students have attended tuition which this month has been both flatwork and jumping.

Charlotte Harker has qualified to compete at the Trailblazers Dressage Championship at Stoneleigh in the Summer holidays, as has Bethan Smith for the Trailblazers Show Jumping, so good luck to both of them!

Tracey Fox – Team Co-ordinator



Parent Forum Meeting Dates

The Parent Forum will meet on the following dates next academic year:

10 October 2011

23 January 2012

25 June 2012

School Dates 2011-2012

5 Sept	Term begins (all students)
24-28 Oct	Half Term – School closed
25 Nov	Training Day – School closed
21 Dec	School closed for Christmas
9 Jan	Term begins (all students)
13-17 Feb	Half Term – School closed
30 Mar	Training Day – School closed
2 Apr	School closed for Easter
16 Apr	Term begins (all students)
7 May	School closed for May Day
4-8 June	Half Term – School closed
23 July	School closed for summer

