



RICHMOND  
SCHOOL  
& Sixth Form College

# October 2011

## Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian

The new school year has started well, which I am sure is due in no small part to the outstanding behaviour of students, as was commented upon by an Her Majesty's Inspectorate who recently visited the School. Attendance is also very good, and students are wearing our uniform and looking very smart. I would like to express my personal thanks to parents for their support.

### **Annette Clark**

Many of you will know that Annette Clark has been our Chair of Governors for many years. Sadly for the School, Annette's term of office as a Parent Governor has now come to an end.

Annette has steered the School through numerous changes over recent years - our £32 million pound BSF project will benefit youngsters and the community for many years to come, two Ofsted inspections, the appointment of two Headteachers, including myself, seeing the School gain its best ever examination results, a complete staffing restructure, to name but a few.

Throughout her time as Chair of Governors, Annette has demonstrated many outstanding skills and attributes - extreme patience, tolerance, resilience and the tenacity to cope with all the challenges that our Governing Body has faced, whilst maintaining a great sense of humour.

The School is indebted to Annette for all she has done and her generosity in giving her time and skill to support all that we do.

### **Audrey Carr**

We have just heard that a very good friend of the School, Audrey Carr, died over the weekend. Audrey was an English teacher who worked here as a member of staff for a number of years. She also involved herself in numerous community projects.

Our thoughts are with Audrey's family at this time.

### **Parent Governor Elections**

The following were recently appointed as parent governors:

- Mr Simon Riddell
- Mrs Anne Skeoch

A further Parent Governor vacancy has just become available and nominations will be sent out via students immediately after Half Term.

### **Update on BSF**

Following completion of the third phase of the building work, students and staff have started the new academic year back in the Clarke Hall Building (previously Middle School), and Lower School was handed to the Local Authority at the end of August.

There have inevitably been one or two teething problems but everybody is now enjoying working in first class facilities. The routes between the various buildings are proving a success, with each being easily accessible to the others.

The contractors have worked hard to complete the demolition and have in fact struggled to remove a huge piece of reinforced concrete that formed the foundation of the previous admin and music building. Although this has put pressure on the schedule, it is still hoped that the Contractors will be able to complete the carpark and landscaping work in time for them to be off site by Christmas.

*Ian Robertson*

Ian Robertson  
Headteacher

## Safeguarding

### School Identity Badges

Sixth Form students are now required to wear School identity badges. This is part of our safeguarding agenda and ensures that we are able to identify everybody who is on the School site.

### 'Facebook'

Over the course of the first half term, all students have been advised to use 'Facebook' sensibly, if they are 'Facebook' users. This advice has come as a result of School having to deal with a number of incidents on 'Facebook' recently that have negatively affected the students involved.

Occasionally students use rude and abusive language and make offensive comments about others on 'Facebook', possibly believing that as it is being done 'on line' it cannot be seen or used by others. In certain cases, students have been reported to

'Facebook' and in extreme cases, students have been reported to the Police. Please do support the School's message that, if used sensibly and with parental supervision, 'Facebook' can be a very positive social medium. However, if used in a negative way, it can cause real problems for the students concerned.

Many thanks for your support.

### The Roads Around Richmond School at the Start and End of Each Day

We have become increasingly concerned since the start of this term about events that are taking place whilst students are arriving and leaving the school.

There are a number of dangerous situations occurring and whilst we are working with the various agencies to make the routes in and around the school safer, we urgently need parental support. The following seems to be occurring regularly, particularly at the end of the school day:

- Vehicles pulling up on double yellow lines
- Vehicles doing u-turns in our 'in' and 'out' gates
- Vehicles stopping in the entrance and exit to School whilst their children climb into the vehicle
- Vehicles going into school via the 'out' gate
- Parents driving into our bus park to collect their children but then being unable to move anywhere due to the congestion caused by the buses.
- Buses not being able to get all the way into School because our entrances are blocked by vehicles.
- Parents with young children and students having to weave between traffic as they cross our 'in and 'out' gates.
- Sixth Form students speeding in and out of the site in their cars.



As I mentioned previously, we are working with various agencies and recently met with the Highways Authority, Police, Road Safety Officer and a parent, to observe what was happening and discuss possible solutions.

It would however be appreciated if parents could avoid bringing their vehicles onto Darlington Road wherever possible, perhaps either car sharing, arranging to meet their children somewhere away from the School or parking their vehicles somewhere else and walking to School to meet their children.

Would everybody using a vehicle also please ensure that they only use the School's 'in' gate when coming onto the School site?

*Jenna Potter*  
Deputy Headteacher

## **School Sports Facilities**

The School will take back from the Leisure Trust, responsibility for the letting of its sports facilities as from Easter 2012. This is supported by the recent appointment of Tony Potter as Director of Sport, Leisure and Community. It is our aim to develop links with community sports groups and to make more of our facilities available for community use.

## **Bad Weather Procedures**

Although we have been experiencing an Indian summer of late, the possibility of us seeing snow before Christmas is high!

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

### **Start of Day**

6.30 am - Ian Robertson 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.

## **Student News**

**Max Dalton** has recently been awarded the 2011 Lloyd Davies Philosophy Prize in recognition of his essay entitled "Are Liberty and Equality Compatible?"

The **U15 Girls' Football team** is through to Round 2 of the English Schools FA Cup after beating The Allertonshire School 1-0. The girls play Shotton Hall School, Peterlee in the next round..

The **Year 7 Boys' Football team** has made a very promising start, beating Allertonshire 5-3 and Wensleydale School 6-3. Over 35



boys have been attending training and special mentions go to Adam Walker, Joseph Ramsey, Declan Ramsey, Tom Gilroy and Jake Martin Smith for their outstanding performances.

**Netball** continues to see more and more students attending. The club now runs over 2 evenings (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) with a new community club also opened at Richmond School on a Wednesday evening 6-7pm for all girls in Years 7-11. This year we are sending girls to Area trials and have high hopes that a number will be successful.

**The U18 Girls' Hockey team** has started the season well, beating Allertonshire 8-0, to progress to the next round of the National Schools' Hockey Competition. The **U15 girls** performed very courageously at Durham School. They never gave up despite the scorching October weather and worked incredibly hard, but unfortunately didn't manage the win.

**Our Under 16 Girls came third on Saturday, 8 October in the National Ski Finals in Stoke.** The girls involved were Honor Clissold, Chloe Burrows, Katy Jackson and Cara Websdale. They were an absolute credit to the School. They also competed for a place in the British Finals, but we do not know the result of this yet.

### **Cross-Country**

On 21 September we travelled to Wensleydale School to take part in the Area Cross-Country League. Shortly after we arrived the heavens opened - and there was no shelter! Despite the weather and being soaked before the start of the races, we achieved some excellent results. Year 7 girls came first with notable performances from Eleanor West (4th), Abby Blenkiron (5th), Hannah Rye (7th) and Jasmine Dixon (8th).

Year 7 boys also came first. Josh Devlin had an excellent run, winning the race by a considerable margin. Other very good results were Thomas Flower (4th), Joey Remillard (6th), Joe Thirlbeck (9th).

Year 8/9 boys also came first with Miles Worner (2nd), James Donoghue (3rd), Jacob Morton (7th) and Rohan Wardale (8th).

Year 8/9 girls did well to come 4th in their race.

This was a great start to the season.

On 10 October we travelled to Easingwold School for the 2nd event in the League. Unfortunately, we only had 2 Year 7 girls so there was no team on this occasion. However, Jasmine Dixon and Lucy Hartley both ran very well. Year 7 boys did very well, too, claiming 2nd (Josh Devlin), 3rd (Thomas Flower), 4th (Will Banks) and 5th (Joey Remillard).

In the Year 8/9 girls race Niamh Richardson achieved 5th place and Holly Flannery 8th.

In the Year 8/9 boys race, James Donoghue claimed 1st position, while Miles Worner finished 4th, Tom Hall 5th, Owen Goundry 7th and Luke Hack 9th. This was another convincing performance by our runners.

The Area Championships will take place on November 15th. We really need to be able to field teams in all age-groups, including Y10 and Y11. If your son/daughter would like to take part, please ask him/her to contact me.

Reminder - Running Club takes place on Monday after school until 4.45pm.

*Sandra Johnson*

**The Humanities Department** took all Year 7 pupils on a field visit to Richmond in



September. The visits took place over three days and pupils completed tasks to support their work in Humanities. The visits took place in glorious sunshine and all pupils enjoyed visiting St. Mary's Church, the Market Place and the Station. Pupils learnt about the community aspects of Richmond and completed a survey on Richmond's shops and facilities and did a quiz on the history and geography of the town. Lunch was eaten in the Town Hall, where pupils were lucky enough to see some of the hidden treasures of Richmond. In the afternoon, pupils visited the Castle and explored the site thoroughly. The visits were enjoyed by all and this activity has definitely enhanced the learning of the students in Humanities.

*Sophia Mawer – on behalf of the Humanities Department*

### Music Dept Newsletter items

Congratulations to the following students who passed their Associated Board Music Exams at the end of last term:

Zach Alderson	Guitar 1	Pass
Sophie Ashcroft	Flute 1	Merit
Victoria Auger	Clarinet 4	Merit
Emily Bearpark	Flute 2	Dist
Karenza Blenkinsop	Clarinet 4	Pass
Jess Buck	Flute 1	Pass
Melissa Calvert	Flute 1	Dist
Thomas Chandler	Piano 1	Pass
Jonathan Coustick	Trombone 5	Pass
Rowena Craddock	Violin 3	Pass
Alistair Ellerington	Violin 6	Pass
Aresa Foster	Flute 4	Pass
Billy Gaines	Double Bass	Dist
Adele Gregson	Flute 1	Merit
Kirsty Layfield	Violin 4	Pass
Megan Lundbert	Horn 3	Merit
Rosie Mackenzie	Piano 4	Pass
Emily Mapley	Violin 1	Merit
Victoria McNichol	Violin 3	Dist
Mark Millman	Euphonium 8	Dist

Liberty Noke	Clarinet 1	Pass
Paola Osorio	Oboe 4	Pass
Tom Pearson	Violin 1	Pass
Joey Remillard	Violin 1	Pass
Gemma Shepherd	Flute 2	Merit
Jonathan Shotton	Trumpet 2	Pass
Mairie Teasdale	Alto Sax 2	Pass

Mark Millman, Phil Guy (Catterick Brass) and Jack Grainger (Cockerton) recently took part in the National Brass Band Championships. Both bands played well but were not placed. Catterick Brass now moves up to the first section when the competition starts again in March.

The Ukulele Band is through to the semi finals of 'Richmondshire's Got Talent'. It will be performing on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Georgian Theatre. Finals are on 19<sup>th</sup> November. We wish the Band all the best. If you know of any more students taking part in the competition, please let us know.

Jenny Ash, Daniel Overin and Sophie Overin are all performing at the Royal Albert Hall, London as part of the School Proms Concert on 8<sup>th</sup> November. They all sing with Tees Valley Youth Choir, Daniel and Sophie are also current members of the National Youth Choir.

Music Ensembles have started again. Due to the split lunch many of them are taking place during the Guidance time.

- Y8/9 Boys' Singing Group  
Monday 3.05 – 3.35
- Guitar Group  
Tuesday 3.45 – 4.45
- Y10-12 Choir  
Wednesday 3.05 – 3.35
- Windband / String Group  
Wednesday 3.45 – 4.45
- Swing band / Brass Group



- Thursday 3.45 – 4.45
- Y7-9 Choir
- Friday 3.05 – 3.35.

Please encourage your child to take part in an ensemble. The benefits of working together as a group is quite unique and the confidence gained will last a lifetime.

The Music Department is also working alongside the Drama and Dance departments this year on the School Production (The Sound of Music). Performances are on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Clarke Hall Theatre. Tickets will be on sale after half term, look out for details on the School Website.

We are always pleased to hear about what our students are doing musically outside of school, so please let us know.

*Sue McCormack/Sally Fryer/Alan Mellors - Music Dept.*

### **The Adventures of Sinbad**

The Georgian Theatre Royal is staging the above pantomime between 8 December and 7 January, in which a number of our students are involved.

Tickets and further details can be obtained direct from the Theatre (Box Office: 01742-825252).

### **Forthcoming Events**

4-6 November	Yr 12/13 Art Visit to London
7 November	Yr 12 Visit to Parliament
7-11 November	GCSE Exams
8 November	Yr 8 HPV Vaccinations
8 November	Yr 11 Parents' Evening
10-13 November	Yr 12/13 D & T Visit to London
16 November	Yr 12/13 Classics Lectures, Newcastle University

16 November	Yr 11 Sixth Form Open Evening
22-29 November	Hamburg Exchange
22 November	Yr 11 Mock Information Evening for Parents
25 November	School Closed
29 November	Yr 10 Modules Information Evening for Parents
5 December	Clothes Show Live to Birmingham
5-7 December	Yr 11 Mock Exams
6 December	Yr 12 Parents' Evening
12 December	Sound of Music Dress Rehearsal
14 December	Sound of Music Matinee
15 December	Aiming High 2 Reports to Parents
15-17 December	Sound of Music Evening Performances
19 December	School Carol Concert
2-8 January	Yr 8-12 Ski-ing to Kitzbuhel, Switzerland

