



September 2011

**RICHMOND  
SCHOOL**  
*& Sixth Form College*

Dear Parent/Carer

**Welcome to the Academic Year 2011-2012**

A warm welcome to the new academic year.

We are delighted to welcome all students to the new building and the refurbished "Middle School", now called the 'Clarke Hall Building' after the original architect, Dennis Clarke Hall. Inevitably, students and staff will be familiarising themselves with the new plan of the building; without doubt it is a tremendous place to study. The demolition of the old buildings continues for a few more weeks yet and the landscaping of the grounds will hopefully be completed by the end of the Autumn Term/early Spring.

Many students received outstanding GCSE and Advanced Level results this summer and I wish to congratulate all students on their success. Three students from Richmond Sixth Form College were successful in gaining places at either Oxford or Cambridge University and we wish them well, along with all other students who are embarking on new places to study this Autumn.

Once again our Sixth Form numbers have risen, with over 450 students now engaged in post 16 studies at Richmond School. The Sixth Form Leading Students this year are Ben Lacey, Bea Cartwright, Myran Lynch-Bathgate, Allannah Whiteley, Max Dalton and Matt Hoss.

**Lunchtime Arrangements 2011 – 2012**

Apologies to those students who struggled to get their names registered for the cashless catering on Monday. Unfortunately, Parent Pay had done some upgrade work over the holidays, which meant that the school information didn't synchronise properly. We were unable to resolve this issue until mid-afternoon. To get over this short term problem, we allowed those students who were affected to sign, thus enabling them to get a break time snack and a meal at lunchtime.

Now that we have a split lunch arrangement, no student in Years 7–11 is permitted to leave the school site at lunchtimes.

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## Parent Pay

Unfortunately, there have been problems with Parent Pay at the start of the term and at the time of going to print a number of the issues remain unresolved. This means that some parents are struggling to access their child's account through Parent Pay. The organisation has asked us to pass on its apologies and we have been reassured that everything possible is being done to bring the service back into full operation.

If you wish to use Parent Pay to pay for your child's school meals and have mislaid or cannot remember your user name and password, please call the school and we can let you know what these are. The parents of students in Years 7 and 8 will receive a letter this week, which will be sent home by post, giving you your unique user name and password.

## No Smoking Zone

As you know, we make the health and well being of everyone a top priority and therefore as a response to the Health Act 2006 the School has introduced a "no smoking zone" around the outside of the School. This supports the fact that the whole school site is a no smoking campus. The "no smoking zone" has been introduced in the areas of The Crescent, The Avenue, Darlington Road from the roundabout at Gilling Road to Whitefields, including Fontenay Road, Lennox Avenue and Cross Lanes. All students have been informed and we urge parents to play their part in supporting us in this initiative, which is aimed at improving the well-being of not just Richmond School students but all young people who go to any of the schools in our area.

## Parent Forum

This group meets termly to discuss a range of issues of interest to parents. All parents are welcome to attend, although it would be appreciated if you could drop a quick e-mail ([apledge@richmondschool.net](mailto:apledge@richmondschool.net)) or telephone the School to let us know if you intend joining the next meeting, which is scheduled for 16 October. This will allow us to send an agenda out to you nearer the time and to locate the meeting in an appropriate room.

The other Parent Forum dates are 5 February and 6 May 2012.

## Dates For Your Diary this term

Welcome to Year 7 Parents' Evening	8 September
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations	13 September
Walking & Book Festival – James Tate Restaurant	23 September
Year 7 Humanities Trip	26, 27, 30 September + 3, 4 October
Computing Course to London	27, 28 September
Year 12 Travel & Tourism Trip to Malaga	3, 4, 5, 6 October
Year 6 into 7 Open Evening	27 September
Walking & Book Festival – James Tate Restaurant	30 September
Year 13 Parents' Evening	4 October
Charities' Evening	5 October

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Year 12 Geography Trip to Arkengarthdale	6, 7 October
Year 13 Theatre Trip to Sheffield Crucible	12 October
Year 11 Business Studies Visit to Flamingoland	13 October
Year 7 Maths Challenge	14 October
Half Term Holiday	23-30 October
Year 12 Government & Politics Visit to Parliament	7 November
Years 11-13 Senior Maths Challenge	8 November
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations	8 November
Sixth Form Open Evening (for Year 11 students)	16 November
Hamburg Exchange	22-29 November
Training Day – School Closed	25 November
Year 11 Revision Phase	29 November – 2 December
Year 11 Mock Exams	5-9 December
Year 12 Parents' Evening	6 December
School Production – Dress Rehearsal	12 December
School Production	15-17 December
Carol Concert	19 December
School Closes for Christmas	20 December

### Safeguarding

Parents are asked to come into Reception to collect any student who needs to attend a medical or similar appointment – we cannot simply allow students to 'sign out'.

### Parent Governor

We currently have two vacancies for parent governors. If any parent would like to discuss the role of a governor then they can either contact the Headteacher or North Yorkshire County Council Governor Support Service. An application form for the position of Parent Governor is available either from School Reception or the School Website.

### Charlotte Harker



Charlotte and her pony Charlie qualified for the Trailblazers National Dressage Championships at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire in August. They came 6<sup>th</sup> in the warm up competition and 11<sup>th</sup> in the Championship Class the following day. In both classes there were about 25 competitors. Competitors were from all across the country, having to go through two rounds to qualify and win the second qualifier to get to Stoneleigh.

Yours sincerely

*Ian Robertson*

Ian Robertson  
Headteacher

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