

Richmond School Newsletter

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR
TO ALL
STUDENTS, PARENTS, STAFF AND GOVERNORS**

HIGH PERFORMING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

We've just heard from the DCSF (formerly the DfES) that we have been redesignated as a Creative Arts College. This is wonderful news and a testament to the hard work of all the departments involved. It means our £200k annual budget for Creative Arts continues for another 3 years.

We are also delighted to announce that because of our High Performing School status, we have been awarded our second specialism for Science and Maths. This is excellent news because it will mean a further £90k per year for developments in these two subjects.

Congratulations to our Science and Maths' colleagues for all the hard work that they put in to achieve excellent examination results this year, which contributed to the award. The bid was successful because it focused on student achievement and innovative teaching and learning. It is very pleasing to have over £290k devoted to our contrasting specialisms and feel it fits well with our aspirations to become an outstanding school.

EXTRA STAFF TRAINING DAY

The DCSF (formerly DfES) has just announced that there is to be an additional staff training day, when the School will be closed to students. This will take place on Monday, 14 April 2008. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

DEPARTURE

The School says farewell at Christmas to Sonia Barton, who has been a Leisure and Recreation tutor since September 1997. Sonia is leaving to devote more time to her young family. She departs with our thanks and very best wishes.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

We are delighted with the progress made by Shepherds Construction and our building project management team (Atkins, Faithful and Gould) on our £32m new school. The project this term has seen the major works on the Sports Hall and Youth Centre begin.

In February we move out of Upper School in preparation for the building work to start on the Richmond VIth Form Centre where the Sixth Form will be based from September 2008. To have new buildings created and then put to "work" as soon as they are completed is an exciting situation to be in. We are liaising very closely with Shepherds to ensure that there is little disruption to teaching and no distractions during external examinations. The experience we gained during the £2m building projects two years ago (D&T block, Arts block and coach park) has meant the school has systems in place to anticipate potential problems.

We are keeping our Website updated with news about the build and hope parents and students will use this facility (www.richmondschool.net).

FUND RAISING

Parents will be aware that we held our annual Charities event on 14 November. As usual students were invited to design and run a fund raising activity during the evening, the profit from which went to their chosen charities.

The following day saw the annual Staff v Student Charity Football Match. Last year the staff achieved a historic victory – historic because it doesn't happen very often! The students rose to the challenge this year and regained their title.



The School raised £3,052 to support 19 charities including AMALA, Children in Need, Cancer Research, Diabetes UK, RSPB and the Air Ambulance. The annual Poppy Appeal has also raised £307.00.

Many thanks to all students and staff for their tremendous efforts.

BAD WEATHER – CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL

If there are extremely bad weather conditions, snow, floods, etc., please check the School Website, where information will be posted on the Announcement Board (right hand side of the home page). We will also use local radio stations to get the information out to parents.

Phil Beever - Head

RICHMOND SCHOOL - NATIONAL SIXTH FORM HOCKEY CHAMPIONS!

Richmond School has won the National Sixth Form Championships following an exciting final in Bedford last week.

The team fought hard through the qualifying rounds to face Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in the final. Against a college of 2500 students (compared with Richmond's 400 sixth form students) Richmond never trailed. Matt Brown put them 1-0 up, scoring from a penalty corner, but Symonds then drew level with a well taken goal. Half time saw the scores standing at 2-2- following another goal from captain, Matt Hodgson.

The second half was incredibly tense as both sides had numerous chances. 'Man of the Match', Will Jones, led from the back to keep Peter Symonds at bay and it was left to Duncan Bottrill to grab the winner for Richmond with ten minutes left.

It is an incredible achievement for the School to be crowned the best sixth form team in the country. Richmond School runs hockey teams for all ages and has often been successful at regional level, winning numerous County cups. To have National Champions coming from this area shows how talented the players are. They look forward to continuing their success in further competitions this year.

Squad: Ryan Albrighton, Duncan Bottrill, Martin Brown, Matt Brown Adam Cunningham, Matt Hodgson (Capt), Dan Hodgson, Will Jones, Aaron Pepe, Sam Pritchard, Luke Seabourne, Dan Smith, Alex Wann.

Adam Gedye - Team Manager

SAM CLISSOLD

Our best wishes go to Sam who is in France training for the British Alpine Racing Ski Clubs Championship. He will take part in the slalom, giant slalom and Super G events.

Sam started skiing at the age of three and currently has the lowest points (the lower the better) in the British Alpine seeding system of any 1995 born skier.

He will also represent Richmond School at the Inter Schools Ski Championships in Camonix in March and at the 2008 British Championships.

This year Sam was third in the Welsh Championships and the fastest skier of his age at the Inter-Schools and the English Championships. He took third place in the Grand Massif contest at international level.

Sam recently won the Richmondshire Local Sports Council's under-14 male Young Sports Person of The Year.

CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ONLINE PROTECTION (CEOP)

The above Centre is running a campaign in the lead up to Christmas aimed particularly at parents and carers, given that many will be thinking about buying internet and digital technologies as gifts for children.

As part of this campaign a registration facility is available on the *ThinkUKnow* website where regular updates will be available over the New Year. These updates will include information on new technologies, emerging risks and safety tips to help keep children safe online.

To learn more about how to keep your children safe online and register to receive free updates on a monthly basis, visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

PTA - GIFTAID

Do you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax? If so, when you give money to Richmond School PTA we can now claim back the full tax on your donation from the Inland Revenue because we are a registered charity!

Richmond School PTA provides money for many different activities in school not covered by normal education funding. We have helped buy equipment for school clubs, purchased extra resources for various departments and contributed to school trips. Over the past year the PTA have given over £8,000 to fund twelve different areas in school, including:

☺ Kayaks to restart the Canoe Club £500.00



☺	Equipment for the Circus Club	£379.69
☺	CD players for Languages	£594.00
☺	Goalkeeper's hockey kit	£466.86
☺	Jackets for football teams representing the school abroad	£250.00
☺	Folk evening event on a 6 th Form Visit to Russia	£152.00
☺	Music stands for the Orchestra	£180.00

donation of £10 will become £12.80 once the tax has been reclaimed, but any amount will be gratefully received. Donations should be returned to the School Reception, clearly labelled Richmond School PTA - Gift Aid.

Please return the form via your son/daughter to School Reception.

The PTA raises funds by catering at school events, running various special days and organising raffles. We realise some parents cannot contribute their time to these activities so we have also set up a gift aid system for donations. Please could you consider supporting us using the Gift Aid form below so that we can reclaim the tax on your gift, making it go further. A

Thank you for your support

Gift Aid Co-ordinator - Richmond School PTA

Richmond School PTA Gift Aid Form

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Post Code:

Parent of:

