



RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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BSF

The design of the school is now reaching completion and will go through to planning shortly. We are very excited by the designs and the next issue for us to address is how the building project will be phased in over the next two years. The Governors and Management Team's highest priority will be to ensure that there is no disruption to students' education during this period. The Design Team are looking to phase in the various elements of the build and the new Sixth Form Centre will be the first priority, with completion during 2007/08 along with a new sports complex.

OFSTED

Your son/daughter should have brought home the Ofsted Report last week. Please contact us at School if your copy hasn't got to you and we'll arrange for one to be posted out.

'OXBRIDGE' APPLICATIONS

We have been delighted that four of our Year 13 are holding conditional offers from Oxbridge. These are: Chris Adams to read Classics at Oxford, Max Shepherd to read Natural Science at Cambridge and Toni McHugh and Rob Taylor, both to read Physics at Oxford. We wish them good luck!

LOST PROPERTY

The amount of lost property being found around school has increased over the past few months and has become unmanageable in terms of its storage.

We have just displayed the current 'lost property' to students in the hope that some of it at least could be reclaimed.

So that we are able to manage things better, we have decided that any lost property will be held in school for one month and any that is unclaimed within this period will then be sent to a local charity shop.

Please label all clothing, because this means that we can get lost items back to the student concerned.

Phil Beever - Head

We are holding a Scholastic Book Fair in the School Library from 12 - 15 March. Students from Year 8 upwards will be able to browse and buy books at breaks and lunchtimes. This was a very successful event last year with many students taking the opportunity to purchase books, posters and stationery. The added bonus for the Library is that for every £1 spent we can earn up to 60p in free books. Prices start at only £2.99 and leaflets showing book samples will be given out to students nearer the time.

RICHMOND SCHOOL SPORT - SPRING TERM 2007

Senior rugby

Congratulations to the Senior team who have proceeded through to the quarter finals of the Yorkshire cup.

Hockey

Individual Honours

Congratulations to Bethan Blackburn who has been selected to represent the county at Under 14 level.

Team News

Congratulations to the U14 Boy's Hockey team who won the Area Championships. The results were:

U14s Boys Area Tournament:

Richmond 1 - 0 Bedale

Richmond 5 - 0 Risedale

Richmond 2 - 1 Northallerton (Final)

Richmond are Area U14 Champions

Cross Country

Individual Honours

At the recent area trials the following students were selected for the Area Cross Country Team:

U12	Daniel Overin Jack Stones Sam Devlin Chloe Richardson Emma Morris
Juniors	Holly Richardson Rosie Clarke
Intermediate Seniors	Verity Pratt Alec Wann Louis Potter Graham Wilderoder Adam Scott

Many Congratulations!

Self Defence

Girls in Years 10 and 11 have been given the opportunity to participate in a ten week self defence course at school.

The Risedale School Sports Partnership, of which Richmond School is a partner, has been successful in accessing a Big Lottery Fund grant for Out of School Hours Activity.

As part of the bid writing process students were consulted as to the type of activities they would like to see offered, with many girls wanting to move away from the traditional team games. Classes are run by senior instructor, Steven Smith. Steven holds belts in Taekwondo and Judo. All girls are thoroughly enjoying the sessions, which are being held on a Thursday after school.

Rebecca Shaw - School Sport Co-ordinator

PERFORMING ARTS

The mix of events, performances and workshops in Performing Arts since our last newsletter report has been as lively as ever.

'Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat' wowed audiences in its sell-out run. Congratulations to director Matt Kirkham, musical director Su McCormack and to the cast and crew for creating three nights of brilliant entertainment, and a huge thank-you to all colleagues and parents who helped make this production such a colourful success. The burning question now: what will

be chosen for next year's show...? (Watch this space!)

Amid all the 'Joseph' rehearsals, the Music Department found time to stage an **Autumn Concert** and a **Christmas Concert**, both extremely well received and a real showcase for the musical talent at this school. The **Brass Group** played at the switching on of the Richmond Christmas lights, and also at a Christmas concert for the Richmond Ladies Luncheon Club. Also at Christmas our **junior musicians** – the Lower School choir, strings and recorders – entertained the senior citizens at Ryder's Court, and some of our students performed solos in Geoffrey Bush's 'Christmas Cantata' with the Richmond Choral Society at St. Mary's Church.

More student success on the national stage: we were proud to see **Michael Ash** (Year 10) sing with the Darlington Choir in the televised finals of the BBC Choir of the Year, which took place in Cardiff in December.

In Dance, our expanded extra-curricular offerings have been very popular: Miss Lumb's open level **ballet** class on a Monday, Mrs Townend's **street dance** class on a Wednesday and Miss Lumb's street dance for Year 7 on a Friday. It's great to see so many enthusiastic students, boys and girls alike, turning up for these sessions and giving it their all!

The Year 7 students who recently acted in '**A Celebration of Winter in the Dales**' at the Georgian Theatre Royal received praise from theatre staff and audience members for their maturity and the high standard of their performance. This group was directed by Daisy Leverington, the Education Officer at the Georgian. Ms Leverington also takes the Year 7 Drama Club on a Thursday. Richmond School is pleased to be sponsoring her work at the Georgian and in the community through the funding we receive as a specialist Performing Arts school.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, our production of '**The Winter's Tale**' for the **Student Shakespeare Festival** will have been performed at the Georgian Theatre on 7 February. This prestigious national event involves over a hundred theatres, a thousand schools and 25,000 students, all performing Shakespeare across the country on the same evening. Our cast of 21 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 attended a workshop in January

led by an RSC director, who praised their professional attitude and the quality of their physical theatre adaptation, directed by Amy Southworth. We have also been honoured with an invitation to give an encore performance on 7 March at the annual national conference in Harrogate of the **Specialist Schools and Academies Trust**, to represent the high standard of work produced by students in specialist arts colleges.

The Drama Department hosted a performance of **'Antigone'** by Splendid Productions on 9 January, preceded by their intensive professional-level workshop. This provided valuable enrichment for GCSE and A-level students in both Greek tragedy and Brechtian epic theatre techniques. This was a repeat visit from Splendid Productions, who have commented on how much they enjoy working with students from Richmond School. (Do you notice a theme developing here...?)

Our Theatre Studies A-level students attended the Spring season launch at the Georgian Theatre, as they will be contributing not one or two but *six* plays. First up: **Becky Harrison** (Year 13) directing **'4.48 Psychosis'** for the One-Act Play Festival on Friday 23 February at 7.30pm. Then on Tuesday 27 March the A2 group present their graduating performance, a double-bill of abridged versions of **'Peer Gynt'** and **'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf'** – a compelling mix of mythological fantasy and psychological drama. The AS students will have their turn on 24 April – for more details of all these shows see the Theatre's brochure or visit www.georgiantheatrEROYAL.co.uk. (Ring the Box Office on 01748 825252 for reservations.) Performing in a unique professional theatre truly brings out the best in the students, who are sure to rise to the occasion magnificently!

Other upcoming events: the Music Department invites you to their **Spring Concert** on Wednesday 28 March at 7pm, and to the **Swing Band's** joint concert with Stokesley School in April (date to be confirmed). Supporters are also welcome when the **Swing Band** and the **Wind Band** play at the **National Festival of Music for Youth** at St Aidan's School in Harrogate on 3 March, from 1pm to 4pm (admission free). The Drama Department invites you to a Year 10 performance on 27 February of scenes from **'Teachers'**, and to a Year 11 performance on 13 March of devised work on the theme of **'Nightmarish Visions'**, in the

Drama studio. The Dance Department invites you to a **GCSE Dance showcase** on Thursday 29 March at 6pm in the Dance studio.

Finally, some staffing news: we are very pleased that **Amy Southworth**, who has been with us as a maternity cover teacher, has been appointed to the permanent post of Assistant Head of Drama. Head of Drama **Matt Kirkham** has been asked by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust to consult on best practice in liaison work, a recognition of his establishing and running the Drama GCSE at Wensleydale School. In Music, we welcome our trainee teacher from Durham University, **Cara Curran**, who will be with us until June.

Our students have really done us proud this half-term. Thank you for supporting them in all their endeavours in the performing arts. As always, we hope to see you in an audience, soon!

Liz Moss - Director of Performing Arts

PARENTS' GUIDE - USING 'FRONTER'

It has been suggested that it would be useful for parents to know how to help their children log onto 'Fronter' at home, for those who have been set work via this process. The log on procedure is attached, for your information.

Paul Williams - VLE Officer

SCHOOL DATES – 2007-2008

Term begins	
Year 7	4 September
Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 13	5 September
Year 12	To be notified
Half term holiday	22-26 October
Training day	30 November
Term ends	21 December
Term begins	7 January
Half term holiday	11-15 February
Training day	20 March
Term ends	21 March
Term begins	7 April
May Day	5 May
Half term holiday	26-30 May
Term ends	18 July