



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

# February 2010

## Newsletter

### Official Opening of Sixth Form Centre

We were delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon William Hague MP (who performed the unveiling of the plaque) and guests to the event on 22 January. It gave me the opportunity to congratulate and thank all of those who had contributed to making this building a first class facility for our Sixth Formers.

A number of Sixth Form students played a key part in the official opening and I was overwhelmed by the number of comments from those present who said that they were welcoming, articulate and very enthusiastic about the way in which the new facility supported their post 16 studies.



(L to R: Rt. Hon William Hague MP & Mr Ian Robertson)

### Kirkland Rowell Questionnaire

I would like to thank all parents for completing the recently distributed questionnaire. If you still have the questionnaire at home please do return it to school as soon as possible. Your feedback is really important to us and will help in our school improvement strategies in the future.

### Parent Forum

A Parent Forum is a group of parents that meet on a termly basis to contribute to school

improvement strategies. It is an opportunity for parents to meet with the Headteacher and members of the School's Leadership Team to share ideas about the developments that are being discussed, that will lead to an outstanding educational provision in the future.

A Parent Forum is not a venue to discuss individual student or family concerns but it does address whole school or year group issues.

If you would like to join a Parent Forum then please do get in contact with me by returning the tear off slip at the bottom of this newsletter.

### Congratulations

Our congratulations go to the following students:

**Max Coates (Year 11)** - after racing Karts since the age of 8 Max is to progress his motorsport career into racing cars by signing up to compete in the Junior Ginetta Championship, which is one of the British Touring Car support series.

Max has been looking to make the move into racing cars for some time and has jumped at the chance to race in the Junior Ginetta series. It is a high profile event with each of the 10 rounds being shown live on ITV4 and average attendances of 35,000 spectators.

**Honor Clissold (Year 7), Anna Offord (Year 10), Cara Websdale (Year 8) and Sophie Offord (Year 13)** - we are celebrating sending our first ever "Richmond School Ski Team" to the British Schoolgirls Championship in Flaine, France.

The girls put up an outstanding performance and came 11th out of 39 schools in the Giant Slalom.



(L to R: Sophie & Anna Offord, Cara Websdale & Honor Clissold)

Honor also won both disciplines in her age group. The team was one of only two state schools who took part in this prestigious competition.

Honor also won the Giant Slalom at the Anglo Scottish Races in early January and came 3rd in the Slalom. She also represented Great Britain in Czechoslovakia on the 21/22 January, winning both disciplines, and was overall champion at the British Schoolgirls' Races 2010. Honor has been selected to represent Great Britain at the Children's World Championships in Panarotta, Levico in March.



(Honor Clissold takes first place on the podium)

Keeping it in the family, Honor's brother, **Sam Clissold** (Year 10) is also a successful skier and recently qualified for the French National

Championships (L'Ecureil D'Or) over the course of a series of races throughout January. Sam also came 3rd in the Slalom at the Anglo Scottish Races, competing alongside his sister.

This is a tremendous achievement by the girls. It is fantastic to see Richmond School developing opportunities for students in sports that are not part of the mainstream and we are proud of our successful School Ski Team and individual athletes.

**Maddy Winzer (Year 11)** - became County Champion at the recent Cross Country Championships against a very strong field.

Maddy will shortly compete in the English Schools' competition.

**Rebekah Heyes (Year 9)** - has just been selected as a potentially talented disabled athlete through the 'Partnership Playground 2 Podium Identifying Ability Day'. This means that she will now be eligible to represent the district at the North Yorkshire County Assessment Day taking place on Wednesday 14 July 2010.

**Michael Ash (Year 13)** - has secured a year's scholarship at Hereford Cathedral next year to play Bass. As well as taking part in the Cathedral life, including services and concerts, Michael will also be involved in the Three Choirs Festival and Cathedrals Tour.

Well done to all of the above students!

### And Finally...

I would like to thank all parents for their support during this half term. On a personal note I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my new colleagues and students in the school. I look forward to the next half term.

**Ian Robertson - Headteacher**

### Sixth Form History Activities

In February, The History Department took Nineteen Year 13 students to York University for a seminar on American Civil Rights with University lecturer Dr. Alex Goodall.



The History Department has also now recruited 40 students to take part in the Sixth Form History visit to Moscow and St. Petersburg in Easter 2011. Mr Copland will be leading the trip.

**Pete Jackson – Head of History**

## School Dates – 2010/11

Staff Training Days*	1+2 Sept
School Starts for all Students	3 Sept
Staff Training Day*	22 Oct
Half Term Holiday	25-29 Oct

School Starts for all Students	1 Nov
Staff Training Day (Twilight)*	26 Nov
School Term Ends	17 Dec

Staff Training Day (Twilight)*	4 Jan
School Starts for all Students	5 Jan
Half Term Holiday	21-25 Feb

School Starts for all Students	28 Feb
Staff Training Day*	1 April
School Term Ends	8 April

School Starts for all Students	26 Apr
May Day – School Closed	2 May
Half Term Holiday	30 May - 3 June

School Starts for all Students	6 June
School Term Ends	22 July

\* School closed for Students

\*(Twilight) School closed for staff and students  
- staff will be undertaking a series of after school/evening training workshop sessions.

## Mobile 'Phones

Mobile telephones are now part of daily life, and have changed the way in which individuals and organisations communicate. Figures suggest that around 90% of students own a mobile 'phone and that the average age at which children receive their first mobile telephone is eight years of age. As communication technology continues to develop Richmond School is determined to be aware of these changes and their implications for behaviour.

Richmond School is concerned at some of the negative impacts which mobile 'phones, including camera 'phones, can have on school discipline and student safety. This is not simply a case of ring tones disrupting lessons or students being distracted by texting. Mobile 'phones are sometimes used to convey inappropriate text messages as a form of bullying and harassment. Some students have used mobile 'phones to invite aggressive parents to school, so the parent can challenge a teachers' right to manage misbehaviour. Students with mobile 'phones may also find themselves bullied or have their 'phones stolen. A particularly extreme and dangerous practice is where mobile 'phones are used to record and transmit images of bullying, assault or other violence.

- Richmond School believes students should be discouraged from bringing mobile telephones to school. For many reasons it is unnecessary and therefore unacceptable for students to have telephones switched on at any stage during the course of the school day.
- Under no circumstances should students use their mobile 'phones to contact home asking to be collected from school if they are feeling unwell. The procedure is that they report to School Reception and are assessed by the First Aid staff, who will then make any necessary calls home.
- If a student does have a mobile 'phone in their possession whilst on school site it must be switched off and out of sight.
- The use of personal electronic equipment to listen to music/play games is strictly forbidden during lesson times and in areas such as the library, study centre or school buildings.
- The school accepts no liability for any loss/damage or any personal equipment whilst on school premises or during a school visit.
- In talking to parents and students we do recognise that mobile 'phones provide an emergency form of contact before and after school. However, during the school day students have access to a public pay



telephone and staff are on duty all day to assist in cases of emergency.

- If a student breaks this rule the mobile 'phone will be confiscated and left at reception for the student to collect at the end of the day.
- If a student continues to break this rule then parents will be contacted and asked to collect the 'phone. Persistent breaking of this rule could lead to a fixed term exclusion.
- Richmond School is determined to maintain good relationships with students whilst ensuring we can all enjoy a safe environment free of bullying, harassment and confrontation.

### Forthcoming Events

**Year 7 Parents' Evening –**  
Wednesday 24 February

**Year 10 Parents' Evening –**  
Wednesday 17 March

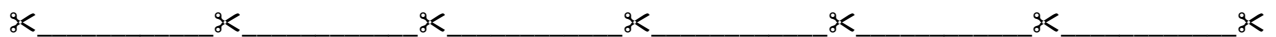
**Year 8 Parents' Evening –**  
Wednesday 31 March

### New Build

Work is progressing well on the new section of our school, which will accommodate, Reception, Library/Resource Centre, dining facilities and kitchen, Science and ICT teaching rooms, Staff Room & offices, and create a link to Middle School. This is despite the snow and ice that inevitably delayed work in January.

Anybody now visiting the school will see that all of the groundworks have been done and the steel framework is in place. It is hoped that the building will be largely enclosed by the end of the month, allowing internal works to proceed.

We are looking forward to taking over occupancy of this building in September 2010.



**Please return this slip to Mr I Robertson, Middle Reception, Richmond School & Sixth Form College**

I would like to join the Parent Forum.

Name: ..... (please print in capitals)

Contact Number: .....

Student Name(s) & Tutor Groups: .....

