



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

March 2010

Newsletter

It does not seem eleven weeks ago since we were challenged with the snow and ice of one of our worst winters for some time. I am delighted that such severe weather is behind us and we can continue to see significant school improvements and student's achievement in more favourable climatic conditions! It is always a delight to see students making progress and gaining personal achievements, both in school and outside of the formal classroom experience. This term has been no exception and I congratulate the many students who have been a real credit to themselves and the school; this newsletter features just some of the success stories of the term. I would also like to say thank you to colleagues and parents who have given tremendous support in enabling our students to enjoy their school days and make such progress.

Best wishes.

Ian Robertson Head Teacher

Good Luck and Thank You

Leaving Richmond School at the end of this term will be Mr Williams and Mr Davenport, both from the Music Department.

Staff Appointments Update

The following staff will be joining the School in September:

Music – Alan Mellors

Food Technology – Leah Blewitt

English – Katy Whitehead

Lower School Garden/Wildlife Area

The Lower School Student Council would like to create a garden/wildlife area on a patch of land at Lower School. The area will be used for study and research for Science and also for the Nature Club. We are planning to spend two Saturday mornings clearing and preparing the site. The dates are 24 April and 8 May.

We would like to ask you for your help. If you are able to, please come along to either or both sessions with suitable tools. We plan to start at 10am and finish at 1pm. Tea and coffee will be available.

Any help you are able to give us will be very much appreciated. Please leave a message at Lower School reception if you are planning to come along. Parents keen to attend must be accompanied by a student. The number is 01748 822554.

Thank you.

Sandra Johnson – Assistant Head of Lower School

Mathematics Department News

This term, the following activities formed part of the Maths Department's **Gifted and Talented programme**:

134 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge with great success. The students achieved

the best ever results for the school. In particular, Sammy Rawson, Year 11, earned the "Best in School" award and now goes on to the prestigious Maclaurin national round. Jenny Snape and Max Dalton, also from Y11, progressed to a further competition. 12 students achieved gold certificates, 28 silver and 42 bronze. Very well done to all concerned.

69 students from Years 13, 12 and 11 took part in the UKMT Senior Challenge. In particular, Michael Ash, Year 13, earned the "Best in School" award. Michael achieved a gold certificate. 3 students achieved silver and 12 bronze.

4 students from Years 8 and 9 will take part in the UKMT Regional Team Challenge at Durham University later in March. We hope to emulate the team from last year who reached the national finals in London.

Problem solving with Paul Godding: Top set Year 7 students took part in an interactive problem solving session in association with Teesside University on 29 January. Paul is one of the UK's leading providers of this type of educational programme.

5 Year 10 students took part in a 2 hour Maths Masterclass at Teesside University after school on 10 February.

4 Year 8 students have taken part in the Teesside University "Ri maths Challenge" over a series of Saturday mornings during March. The sessions culminated in a celebration of achievement event where families of the participants were invited.

30 Year 10 students travelled to Leeds University, to the Festival of Science and Maths, to take part in a "Cryptic Challenge" exploring the mathematics of cryptography on 24 March.

Also as part of the Leeds University Festival of Science and Maths, 12 Year 7 and 8 mathematicians took part in a Pop Maths Quiz and lecture at Leeds University on Saturday 13 March. The teams came 7th and 11th out of 20.

Other news:

Maths Challenge Day - All Year 7 students had their normal timetable suspended for one day when the Maths Department ran a challenge day at Lower School on January 22. The students took part in a carousel of four events during the day - practical puzzles, a Maths and IT session, paper folding and building structures. The day was a great success and feedback from the students and staff was very positive. The day ended with a celebration of achievement and prize giving.

AS/ A2 Intensive courses - Year 13 mathematicians took part in an intensive 3 day study visit from 11-13 March. As always, the mathematics was challenging, enjoyable and beneficial to all!

Year 12 students will take part in a Core Maths revision day on Thursday 1 April.

UKMT Junior Challenge: The Maths Department is running after school sessions with able Year 6 students from local primary schools to prepare them for the UKMT Junior Challenge on 29 April. Selected students will join able students from Year 7 to take part in the Challenge.

Cross phase teaching - In conjunction with the Swaledale Schools Choral Project, the Maths Department has been visiting local primary schools in February and March, delivering lessons on tessellations and Escher. This has proved a success and been popular with students. We hope to



see the designs the students have produced on display during the performances.

Leslie Richardson – Director of Maths

Music Department News

Richmond School Choir, made up of 27 students from Years 8 to 13 made their first appearance at the annual Wensleydale Tournament of Song held in Leyburn on Thursday afternoon. Singing two spiritual style numbers, they achieved an 'outstanding' mark of 91 and won the class, beating choirs from Bedale and Wensleydale Schools. This is their second recent success, after winning their class at the Darlington Music Festival on Saturday 6th March. All the students involved have put in hours of hard work and their success was very well deserved. Congratulations to everyone!

Sally Fryer – Music Department

Year 7

Congratulations to our Year 7 and primary students who have collaborated in a Swaledale choral project entitled "Seven Planets and a Cosmic Rock", which culminated last week in a series of concerts. This event was a great example of primary and secondary collaboration and we have received a great deal of positive feedback about student performances.

Congratulations also to the Year 7 students who have raised £949.37 by running the Sport Relief Mile.

Sandra Johnson – Assistant Head of Year 7

Science Club

Well done to Nathan Sykes (Year 9) who recently became a runner-up in the annual national Salters' Chemistry Club competition, answering questions on historic alchemy. Congratulations also to Jessica Strudwick (Year 13) who was one of 5 winners in "Equations Sudoku" under the Adults section.

Kevin Sandell – Science Department

Parenting Support

After Easter we are proposing to run some parenting support sessions. These will be led by Sarah Watson and Jayne Rosamond who currently work as Parent Support Advisors across schools in Richmond and Catterick and have a wealth of experience in helping parents with the different and sometimes challenging aspects of parenting.

If you think you would be interested in attending some relaxed informal sessions to chat about the challenges of parenting teenagers, including topics such as communication issues, support with self esteem, managing exam stress or dealing with issues surrounding the internet and cyberbullying or would just like the support of other parents, please call, email or text:

Andrea Offord - Extended Schools
Coordinator 07870 906642
Andrea.offord@northyorks.gov.uk

Jayne Rosamond – Parent Support Advisor
07791 791078
Jayne.rosamond@northyorks.gov.uk

Sarah Watson – Parent Support Advisor
07791 790739
Sarah.watson@northyorks.gov.uk



For further information regarding child care, parenting or other support services you can also visit the Families Information Website www.nyfamilies.info.

Andrea Offord – Extended Schools Co-ordinator

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Sainsbury's



Start collecting now.

Vouchers can be handed in to the PE Office or any of the School Receptions.

Many thanks.

PE Department

Sixth Formers take part in Oxford Union World-renowned Debates & Debate to Victory at European Parliament Tournament.

Seven aspiring students from Richmond Sixth Form College were invited to the Oxford Union at the beginning of March to learn of and take part in the University's world-renowned debates.

The students learnt the formalities of the debating process from two past presidents of the chamber, before applying their skills and participating in a mock debate regarding the impact of violent videogames. An 'Emergency Debate' was held at the Union,

concerning the proposed opening of a local lap dancing club, before the main debate of Scotland within the UK, featuring guest speakers from the SNP, Pete Wishart, and Deputy Leader in the Commons, Stewart Hosie.

Former Richmond School student and Oxford undergraduate, Chris Adams, guided the students around some of the colleges.

Inspired by this, the students have set up their own Richmond Sixth Form Debating Union, which meets twice a month. They have also recently taken part in a European Parliament debating tournament, in which they won their debate concerning the future of the UK in the EU.

Gav Copland – Head of Year 12

Fair Trade Success

Students are celebrating after selling £600 of Fairtrade produce over 10 days during Fairtrade Fortnight.

The School has been committed to this initiative since 2008 when the "Well Paid Trade" group was set up under the Young Co-Operatives Scheme.

Since then the group has sold over £7,000 of Fairtrade products in total. The Year 11 and Year 9 students are not only dedicated to this initiative during the school day, they attend every after school activity to sell and promote Fairtrade products and recently undertook a Primary School visit to highlight this initiative further.

It isn't just the students that are getting in on the act, the PTA have converted to using Fairtrade products as have the staff who were encouraged to be part of the "Big Swap" which encouraged the purchase of Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar for the staffroom stashes! The profits raised are



shared amongst charities selected by the Fairtrade Committee every year. This year's beneficiaries are Swaledale Mountain Rescue, the Amala orphanage in India and a donation is also being made to a Romanian children's project.

This is an amazing effort by a brilliant group of students who work ceaselessly on behalf of Fairtrade.



Arlene Garnett – Head of Year 11 & Fair Trade Facilitator

Jogathon at Tesco in Aid of Sport Relief

BTEC National Diploma Sport students arranged a variety of activities for Sport Relief last week. The activities ranged from football and rugby matches to tug of war events and a 24 hour jogathon on a treadmill which was situated outside Tesco in Catterick Garrison. All 33 students were involved designing posters, contacting tutor groups, playing in the matches and collecting money.



10 students decided to run on a treadmill for 24 hours, starting at 5pm on Thursday 18 March and finishing 24 hours later on Friday 19 March. They contacted Tesco, who kindly agreed to allow them to set up the treadmill in the entrance and they began their mammoth run. The students took it in turns to run for 20 minutes each with rest stops in between. Tesco customers were very generous and donated their change which they threw into buckets that were placed around the treadmill. A total of £1,511.33 was raised by all the events that took place which an incredible amount of money in such a short space of time.

The department and the school is very proud of their achievements.

Jane Reid – Head of Leisure & Tourism



Well done to the whole team

