



RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



www.richmondschool.net

February 2009

Margaret Jeff

It is with great sadness that I have to report the recent death of Margaret, following a long term illness. She had worked in School for over 30 years, 25 of them as a Cook in our Middle Kitchen, and will be remembered for her kindness and fun loving nature.

Our thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues.

Building Update

Work on the Sixth Form Centre and the new sports hall is progressing well and it is now possible to get an idea of how good the new facilities will be. The Sixth Form Centre is due to be ready by 5 June and the Sports Hall by 17 June.

These new facilities (Phase I of our new build) will make an outstanding contribution to improving student life. The Sixth Form team is excited by the prospect of moving into the College centre. We are especially pleased with the huge Study Centre and Bistro areas. The ICT facilities will be excellent in both areas and are part of a £2.5m ICT budget for the whole scheme.

The revised planning application for Phases 2 & 3 has been submitted and we are hopeful that we will receive planning approval at the March Planning meeting.

'Oxbridge' Successes

Six students are celebrating after receiving 'Oxbridge' offers:

- Rosanna Wright (Natural Sciences) – Cambridge

- Emily Cottrell (Theology) – Cambridge
- Max Golding (Maths & Computer Science) – Oxford
- Lucy Taylor (Classical Archaeology & Ancient History) – Oxford
- Megan Moore (Classics) – Cambridge
- Kathleen Brennan (Theology) - Cambridge

Entry to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is particularly competitive, with almost all applicants being predicted straight A grades at A Level and candidates having to undertake additional written tests and challenging interviews.

The School has an ongoing programme to support prospective 'Oxbridge' candidates, which includes:

- Year 12 students who are likely to apply are invited to join a number of lunchtime sessions – March onwards;
- Attendance at a Conference at Newcastle University about admissions etc – April;
- Visits to Oxford and Cambridge – June;
- Those who are now attending 'Oxbridge' come into school during July and talk to Year 12 students;
- Year 13: lunchtime sessions and preparation intensifies;
- Mock interviews with subject staff and either Head or Deputy – December.

This process is currently being reviewed with a view to giving Year 11, 12 and 13 students who may consider applying for 'Oxbridge' places as much help as possible.

Phil Beaver - Head

Year 10 Co-operatives

The Year 10 Young Co-operatives Well Paid Trade Group continues to flourish.

They recently appeared in the National Young Co-operatives News magazine with an article about July's Fairtrade Day. Well Paid Trade have attended every after school event this year to fly the flag for Fairtrade and sell Fairtrade products.

All profits this year will be divided between Amala and Yorkshire Cancer Research. Please continue to support this 'putting ethics into enterprise' project.

Arlene Garnett – Head of Year 10

Maths Challenge Day

Year 7 students took part in a day of puzzle solving to stimulate their interest in Maths and encourage team work.

The students were taken out of their conventional classrooms to tackle a variety of exercises ranging from jigsaws to 3D paper folding. Staff from feeder primary schools were also invited to join the event.

This activity is one of the initiatives that have come as a direct result of our Science and Maths specialism and its aim was to try to inspire our students by doing things differently.

The event looked at Maths from a practical point of view and how it could be related to the students' surroundings. It was also tackled in such a way that the students got maximum enjoyment from it.

Leslie Richardson – Director of Maths

Examination Preparation leading up to Public Exams.

During the coming weeks staff will be ensuring that all students are given specific examination advice. Once the syllabus has been completely covered the

teachers will begin examination preparation. This may already have begun in some subjects. This will take place in lessons but also at times other than lessons. Many staff offer lunchtime and

after school revision sessions. A list of these sessions and times will be posted on the School Web Site after February Half Term.

Individual Student Interviews by Members of Management Team

A programme is being developed so that each student in Year 11 will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the School's Management Team to discuss the forthcoming examination programme as it relates to them individually and how they can make the best use of time between now and the public examinations.

"Fronter"

Examination preparation support is also available via the system we use to communicate between home and school. This is an internet based system called "Fronter". Students can access "Fronter" via the internet at any time. Many staff now make resources and information for revision available to students via "Fronter". It is an ever increasing means of sending and receiving information to and from staff to students and many departments have exam papers and other revision materials available to students via this system.

Study Leave

Once study leave begins at the start of the examinations we will continue to support the young people with revision sessions and last minute refresher sessions throughout the examinations. Some departments will hold 'warm up' sessions just prior to the exam. Others will hold specific topic revision sessions to support the revision done by students at home. Again, a full timetable of all the available sessions will be publicised on the School web site once it has been developed.

Study Guidance for Year 11

Students in Year 11 will be given a revision planner and other study guidance through the PSHCE programme in school.

There will also be an evening meeting for all Year 11 parents and students on Tuesday 24 March in Middle School Hall from 6.00-8.00 p.m. At this meeting advice and information on more detailed exam preparation techniques will be given. It is

important that parents and students attend this meeting. There will be several workshops covering a range of topics to help students prepare and examples of how parents can support their child in the lead up to the exams.

It must be emphasised that revision sessions in school before and during study leave are intended to support the revision and preparation done at home. Students should not rely on these sessions alone but should spend a considerable amount of time planning and doing revision independently as well.

We are confident that our young people will achieve good examination results. However we do not want to leave this to chance and we hope that students will make full use of the support and guidance given by staff, attend revision sessions and plan and organise their study time outside of school wisely.

Dave Clark – Deputy Head

Creative Arts Business

Welcome to my first newsletter as Acting Creative Arts Co-ordinator.

The team is involved in numerous projects and events.

The Drama Department has hosted a workshop with Nobby Dimond for the Year 13 students to aid their A2 work and there has also been a weekend workshop at Marrick with the Year 12 & 13 students.

Both Dance and Drama Departments have visits to London planned, to take in workshops, shows and educational events. The Music Department is close to its tour with details of the itinerary being finalised.

The department had hoped to take part in the Music for Youth Competition at Harrogate but due to higher than usual entries we have been asked to send in a recording instead!

I would also like to thank James Davenport for taking on the role of Head of Music and Ed Williams for an extra day's teaching commitment to the school.

All departments have performances planned for you to attend. Please check the School Website, Georgian Theatre programme and posters for events advertised.

Su McCormack – Creative Arts Co-ordinator

Dance

The Northern Contemporary Dance School delivered a modern and exciting class to our KS4 and KS5 students this term, which led to an audition process for the Northern School Contemporary Youth Training. The following students were successful in being invited to audition: Claudia McQue, Louise Hill, Becky Young, Alex Brend, Rosie Stephenson, Steph Reay, Rosie Purkiss McEndoo, Rhiannon Jones, Harriet Arnott and Amanda White.

Congratulations to the girls and good luck for the audition.

Year 13 students were invited earlier this month to the Dales School to assist in dance movement therapy work with students who have physical and mental learning difficulties. They were so professional and sensitive to the young people's needs that they have been invited back to deliver another session with a performance.

Mid Day Supervisors

The School is seeking to appoint Mid Day Supervisors (1½ hours per day). This is a key position within school and would be good experience for anybody with aspirations to work with children, including posts such as teaching assistants.

Anybody interested in undertaking this work can find full details on our Website, under the 'Vacancies' section.

Sports' Update

Although it's our intention to produce a Sports Newsletter at Easter, there have been a number of newsworthy successes over the past few weeks which we felt it appropriate to report in summary:

Rugby

Ex Richmond School Student, Calum Clark, has been named Captain of the England U20 side.

The Leeds Carnegie flanker will take the team into the RBS U20 Six Nations tournament which kicks off on Friday 6th February. The first match is against Italy at Worcester.

Calum became the youngest forward to appear in the Guinness Premiership at his first match for Leeds in 2007. He has represented England at U16, U18 and U20 levels. Congratulations and good luck, Calum.

The Year 8 boys have qualified for the Semi Final of the Yorkshire Cup and will play Ermystead School within the next two weeks.

The following students have been selected to represent Yorkshire within their respective age groups: Tom Hodgson (U17), Arun Keens (U14) and Ben Hodgson (U13).

Karting

We have a school team in the semi finals of the British Schools Karting Championships.

Badminton

The U14 and U16 Boys' teams have qualified for the Richmond and Hambleton Area finals after winning the Risedale School Sports Partnership event.

Football

The U14 team has qualified for the final of the County Cup, beating St John Fisher by 3 goals to 0.

The U19 team is in the last 16 out of 636 teams entered in the National Cup, and is also in the County Cup quarter finals. The team remains unbeaten this season!

The U12 Boys' 5 a side team won the Area Tournament and has represented the Area in the County round, finishing 3rd overall.

'Girls Active'

Lydia Armstrong and Ellie Braithwaite attended the 'Girls Active' event, representing Richmond School at Bewerley Park on 29 January. They met Dame Kelly Holmes and will now introduce the 'Girls Active' scheme to Richmond School, hopefully forming a committee to encourage more girls to become involved in PE and sport.

Gymnastics

The U13 Girls' Gymnastics team finished in 3rd place in the Area Competition and 1st place in the group event to qualify for the North Yorkshire Youth Games in June. Congratulations to Abi Benthall and Karis Barnes who put in excellent individual performances.

School Dates – 2009/10

(3 Sept – Staff Training Day)
(4 Sept – Year 7 Start)
(7 Sept – Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 start)

Term Dates: 4 Sept -23 Oct
Half Term: 26 Oct-1 Nov
(5 Oct – Staff Training Day)

Term Dates: 2 Nov-18 Dec
Christmas: 21 Dec-3 Jan
(27 Nov – Staff Training Day)

Term Dates: 4 Jan-11 Feb
Half Term: 15-21 Feb
(12 Feb – Staff Training Day)

Term Dates: 22 Feb-31 March
Easter: 2-18 April
(1 Apr – Staff Training Day)

Term Dates: 19 Apr-28 May
Half Term: 31 May-6 June
(3 May – May Day Public Holiday)

Term Dates: 7 June-23 July