



**RICHMOND
SCHOOL**
& Sixth Form College

January 2010

Happy New Year!

School Closure

I certainly did not expect to be starting a first term at Richmond School by closing the premises for such a significant period. I can assure you that such a decision is never taken lightly and the health and safety of students and staff is always of paramount importance in any decision. For your information I have placed on the school website the reasons for the closure on 4, 5, 6 and 13 January. Furthermore, the information details our strategy of how we do make every effort to remain open despite this not happening on these occasions. On Wednesday 13 January, on arriving at school at 7.00am, having travelled along treacherous road conditions in the immediate vicinity of the school, I could not enter the car park area due to widespread black ice. Such conditions were also on all the footpath areas. The site management team and our private contractors were busy spreading grit. However by 8.00am this had had no effect and the site was far too dangerous. Together with road closures around the school due to the ice, several employees who travel from a distance were not able to get into work and numerous road accidents on major roads left us with no alternative but to close. Hopefully we will not experience such extremes of weather again.

Cancellation of Training Day

The school calendar indicates a staff training day for **12 February 2010**. This will no longer take place and we shall be **open as normal to students**.

Dates For Your Diary

Year 11 GCSE Trial Examination Results & Progress Checks

Examination certificates will be sent home to you by post after 4 February. Students, in the main, will not have been told their grades prior to you receiving them at home. The Year 11 Progress checks will arrive home a few days later via your son/daughter.

Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 27 January 2010 in Middle Hall (6-7pm)

Parents' Evenings

Year 9 – Wednesday 3 February 2010

Year 7 – Wednesday 24 February 2010

Parental Survey

Our agenda at the school is one of continual improvement. I have stated to students, staff and governors that my ambition is to see Richmond School consistently recognised as an outstanding provider of education for all learners. I value the views of parents as we embark on this journey and have therefore asked an independent organisation to produce a Parental Questionnaire. It is our intention to distribute this questionnaire before the half term break. Please do make every effort to complete it and return it to me.

Creative Arts Specialism

Forthcoming events include.....

One Act Drama Festival – The Georgian Theatre Royal

Open to all amateur student and adult drama groups, the competition is a preliminary round of the prestigious All England Theatre Festival. Richmond School's Mooncalf Theatre group will be performing *Technical Hitch* on **Tuesday 2 February at 7.30pm**. Further details are available from The Georgian Theatre Royal website www.georgiantheatre.com.

A Drama and Dance Double – The Georgian Theatre Royal

Wednesday 10 March at 7.30pm

Richmond School presents an original drama based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland*. This performance follows a history of fantastic devised work that Creative Arts students have produced for their A2 performance exam. Carroll's story of distorted reality and twisted characters provide a perfect stimulus. This performance will be a world away from Disney's portrayal and may contain adult themes and strong language.

Year 12 Dancers will showcase Solo Choreography based on stimuli as diverse as Tennyson's poem *The Lady of Shalott*, a study of Animalistic Behaviour, and sculpture by Tony Cragg. Group Choreography by Year 13 dancers is inspired by Gormley's image of *Testing the World* and the women's suffrage movement in Britain.

There may also be some Year 13 Solo performances based upon the style of leading contemporary choreographer, Richard Alston.

Tickets are available from the Georgian Theatre Royal at a cost of £6.00.

www.georgiantheatreroyal.com.

Swaledale Choral Project 2010

Seven Planets and a Cosmic Rock is a collection of very singable pieces about our solar system, originally commissioned for a performance by the National Youth Choir of Scotland in 2007. Students from eight local schools are participating in the project, which will conclude with evening performances being held in Richmond School Middle Hall on **Thursday 24, Friday 25 and Saturday 26 March at 7.30pm**. Please keep a look out on the school website for ticketing information.



A Drama Double – The Georgian Theatre Royal

Dramatic intensity is guaranteed when these talented actors present their climactic performances for Theatre Studies AS Level on **Wednesday 31 March at 7.30pm**. This year students will be presenting *Accrington Pals* by Peter Whelan and *Abandonment* by Kate Atkinson. The school's reputation for high-quality drama at the Georgian has been sealed by recent cutting edge AS Level performances and this double bill promises to be every bit as energetic and exciting. **Warning!** You will be challenged, provoked and intrigued!

Tickets are available from the Georgian Theatre Royal at a cost of £6.00

www.georgiantheatreroyal.com.



An Evening of Music Making – The Georgian Theatre Royal

On **Tuesday 27 April at 7.30pm** our A Level musicians will showcase a range of styles from Classical to Rock, Voice to Guitar. In addition, small ensembles from the school will also entertain you with music for all tastes.

Tickets are available from the Georgian Theatre Royal at a cost of £6.00.

www.georgiantheatreroyal.com.

And finally.....

On a final note may I offer my congratulations to all students who were involved in the recent production of 'Oliver'. This was a terrific performance highlighting some of the wonderful talent that exists in the school.



Best wishes

Ian Robertson

Ian Robertson
Headteacher

Richmond School & Sixth Form College
Darlington Road
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 7BQ

Tel: 01748 850111

Fax: 01748 828106

E-mail: admin@richmondschool.net

Web: www.richmondschool.net

