



RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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May 2008

Best Wishes

A brief period of sunny weather and yes, it's the exam season!

Our best wishes go to all our students taking exams this summer. They have been working very hard and deserve success.

New Senior Team

Congratulations to the following who have been elected by their fellow students and are about to take up their duties as the Sixth Form Senior Team:

Head Girl – Sophie Ingleby,
Head Boy – Matthew Yates,
Deputy Head Girls: Eleanor Papadimos
and Hannah Robertson,
Deputy Head Boys: Tom McMahon and
James Wilson

Our thanks go also to the departing 'senior six', who have led an excellent prefect team and leave with our very best wishes.

Update on the Build

We have now moved out of the listed Upper School building in preparation for asbestos checks and then the total refurbishment begins. We are very happy with the quality of the temporary classrooms, which are light and airy and fully equipped with ICT teaching systems.

The newly installed ICT equipment has been very well received by our students. This is the start of a rolling programme of ICT purchases which are linked to each phase of the build. The Sixth Form Centre will be the first phase. The plans look very

exciting with a bistro/internet café and a large quiet study area. All the listed features of Upper will be retained and enhanced through appropriate colour schemes and furniture.

A new access road is being constructed at present and this will lead to a landscaped car park.

Steel for the new sports hall has been ordered and construction work will resume at the end of the exam period.

The plan is to use the new sports hall for exams in June 2009 because it is remote from the later building phases and therefore quiet.

As a school we are disappointed that the original design for the new Pavilions Block came in over budget. In hind sight it was over ambitious. However the new designs which are currently being generated will provide a very good compromise. We intend to continue to push for a building with excellent facilities for students, staff and the community. When the new designs are fully developed we will hold an open evening for parents and students to have a look at them and make any comments.

The School Governors have been very supportive in their efforts to ensure that the whole process of design through to realisation is robust. They will continue to get reports from the Local Authority and the Project Management team at each Governors' meeting.

More Sporting Success for Richmond School

Senior Mixed Hockey Team

The Sixth Form Mixed Hockey Team recently travelled to Bedford to compete in the National Finals.

The team became National Champions having beaten tough opposition from Peter Symonds Sixth Form College and Shrewsbury School.

This is Richmond School's second national hockey success in recent months because in December the Senior Boys' Hockey team became National Sixth Form Champions.

U19 Football Team – Senior County Cup Champions

The squad of 16 travelled to the final at Stokesley on Friday 9 May and came away 4-1 winners against Whitby Community College.

Not only has the team won the Senior County Cup this year but it has had great success in the National Cup, eventually losing on penalties to Tupton Hall, Chesterfield for a place in the last 16 in the country.

Team coach, Jon Bielby, says: 'I am very proud of the squad's achievements this year. With the dedication and commitment levels shown both in training and on the field of play the squad definitely ended the season with a well deserved trophy and rounded off the season with great success. They epitomised everything important in team sport, with all squad members demonstrating terrific energy and skill levels in each game. I am looking forward to working with a lot of the same players next year'.

Congratulations to all the squads.

Phil Beaver - Head

Leap Into New Technology

On Saturday 7 June, Heather Bennett, our Print Room Technician, will be taking a leap into the unknown by carrying out a charity parachute jump.

What makes this jump unusual is that it will be filmed and the footage turned into a podcast by staff at Richmond School. It will be used to explore the science of freefall and parachutes in science lessons. The podcasting project, which coincides with the recent installation of the new ICT equipment, will support students' learning, both in lessons and outside school.

This event will also begin the build up to the official launch of the School's exciting new specialism in Science and Maths. The podcasting is one of a number of exciting e-learning projects that will be happening over the next three years, funded from the additional money provided to the School by the new specialism.

Heather, who is also the mother of Alexander Bennett in Year 8, is putting the funds raised to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, which relies solely on the generosity of individuals and sponsors, to help save lives across the region (we have recently had to make use of the service to air lift students to hospital). It needs to raise £6,900 per day to keep its two helicopters and highly trained paramedics in the air. Each year they attend approximately 850 incidents requiring emergency air assistance.

To support this, the School will be having an optional dress day on Friday 6 June. The suggested donation for this is £1 per student. If you would like to make an additional donation then you can visit www.justgiving.com/heatherbennett.

David Bailey - Director of Science