



RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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March 2009

New School – Progress

I am delighted to report that both the Sixth Form Centre and the new Sports Hall are on schedule.

We have now been able to take a number of Year 11 students around the Sixth Form Centre and the feedback from them has been excellent. We also aim to show some Year 12's around later this week.

The Sixth Form Centre will be open in time for the new Year 12 Open Day on 26 June.

The programme of costs for the redesigned new rectilinear block and the current Middle School have now been submitted by Shepherd Construction within budget, which is good news.

We understand that the planning application for both of the above buildings will be considered at North Yorkshire's May meeting.

The programme is such that demolition work on the old sports hall and the dance/drama studios is scheduled to begin in mid July.

Removal of Asbestos

We have been informed that some urgent work is required to be undertaken in the boiler room under the external stairs in Middle School.

The work had originally been scheduled to take place several weeks ago and we are grateful to the Local Authority for rescheduling it to the holiday period in order to minimise disruption.

Having had a meeting with Local Authority representatives and the company undertaking the work I am now totally satisfied that it presents no risk whatsoever to students, staff and others. There will be stringent control measures in place and the work will be undertaken within a controlled zone where the hazardous waste will be correctly packaged prior to disposal into a secure unit.

The bulk of the work will be completed within the two week holiday period but it is likely that it will extend into the first week of the new term.

Similar work has already been undertaken in a number of schools throughout the County and the Local Authority's Health and Safety Officer has been fully involved.

I wanted to write and let you know in advance of the work commencing, so you are reassured that there is no danger involved.

Phil Beaver - Head

Maths News

Students from Years 9-11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. This year they managed to gain 9 Gold awards, 20 Silver awards and 29 Bronze awards. Four students have qualified for the next stage - The European Kangaroo Qualifiers - which will be taking place in March. They are Rosie Kipling (Year 11), Sammy Rawson (Year 10), Jenny Snape (Year 10) and Jonathan Coustick (Year 9). Many congratulations to them and good luck in the later rounds.

Students from Years 11-13 have also taken part in the Senior Maths Challenge, 3 gaining Gold awards, 8 gaining Silver awards and 9 achieving a Bronze award. Max Goulding qualified for the British Maths Olympiad, meaning that his score was in the top 1000 in the country.

Upcoming events between now and summer are the Team Maths Challenge, the Junior Maths Challenge and our Primary School 'Maths 24' Day at Lower School.

Grinton 2009

The Maths Department has just returned from its annual A2 trip to Swaledale. 38 students participated in an intensive two days of lectures and tutorials run by the Richmond Sixth Form staff. Although hard work for all involved, it was extremely rewarding and we hope that the Year 13 students are well-prepared for their revision programme.

Year 12 students will have a similar one-day experience on Friday 3 April to help prepare them for the AS Maths exams.

Les Richardson – Director of Maths

Lower School Green Team

The "Green Team" is a product of the Lower School Council, promoting environmental awareness and taking responsibility for "Green" issues around the Lower School site. The "Green Team" was launched on 5 February in a special assembly. There are 2 members of each tutor group in the team. Each classroom and office now has a blue bag for recycling paper and every Year 7 student has a water bottle with the school logo on it. Other initiatives include promoting the switching off of lights and computers to save energy and lowering the overall temperature of the buildings. The students are also investigating the potential for becoming a plastic bag free site.

Thank you for the support and encouragement they have already received.

Lower School Student Council

Dentistry, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

The Dentistry, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine Support group was created with the help of funding from the School's recently acquired Science and Maths specialist status. It provides exciting opportunities and additional support for students in Years 11-13 who want to study Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine at University.

In February, ex-Richmond School student, Erica Moks, spoke to the group about her experience of applying successfully to Vet School, and of her life at Liverpool Vet School. This month the group is looking forward to meeting a current Medical School student, Sarah Drake, who will be giving them the benefit of her experience. Future meetings include visits from current practitioners, including Professor Ian Watt from the University of York Medical School, and Catherine Dunlop from Swale Veterinary Group, based in Richmond. In addition to visiting speakers and support group meetings, students gain the benefit of an online support room which has a wealth of useful information.

Anyone interested in joining the group should speak to Mrs Eastwood.

Caroline Eastwood – Science Teacher

Creative Arts Department

The school is committed to supporting the following events as part of the **Swaledale Festival** from 23 May to 6 June 2009:

- Tuesday 26 May at 7.00pm - **Mooncalf Theatre Company: Reflections** - St Agatha's Church, Easby. Our talented drama students are creating some superb original work. Having explored the area round the ancient church at Easby, the players will perform a new piece created from whispers and secrets of the past, adding their own secrets to those which came before.
- Thursday 28 May at 11.00am - **Tasmin Little Violin Masterclass** - Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond. This is an

exciting opportunity for string players to learn about technique, musicality and performance from a master musician - and for everyone who just loves listening, to have their understanding and appreciation of music greatly enhanced.

- Monday 1 June - 1.00-4.00pm **Ian McMillan Workshop** and at 8.00 p.m. **Sharp Stories: the Ian McMillan Orchestra** - both at St Andrew's Church, Grinton.

Approximately 15 students will be invited to attend a workshop to create, rehearse and perform a musical in one day!

- Wednesday 3 June at 5.00pm - **Liszt in Swaledale: a celebration.** The King's Head Hotel, Richmond. Older students will serve canapés dressed in 1841-style costumes.
- Thursday 4 June (rehearsals) and all day Friday 5 June (rehearsals and evening concert) – **Semerwater: a Musical Play** - St Andrew's Church, Grinton. This is a major community project involving a large group of students. Familiar local characters will be joined by leading chamber group, London Concertante and some top vocal soloists to première a work written especially for them by renowned author, poet and Reeth resident Ann Pilling and composer David Gordon.

Su McCormack – Creative Arts Co-ordinator

History Department On Tour

The History Department ran a successful field visit to Fountains Abbey to support the Year 12 AS unit on Henry VIII. Students had a tour of the abbey and did some work into historical sources and all had an enjoyable time.

Meanwhile, Modern World GCSE students enjoyed a trip to London to visit the Imperial War Museum. GCSE students studying 'Medicine Through Time' visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds in

order to carry out some revision work in preparation for the GCSE exams in the summer.

In addition, 31 Sixth Form students will be travelling to Russia during the Easter Holidays to visit the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. This biennial History trip is being run by Tim Grimwood with Gavin Copland and Nicky Hansell in support.

My thanks to parents and staff for supporting these exciting visits.

Pete Jackson – Head of History

BTEC National Diploma in Sport

On 5 March, 20 Sixth Form students studying the BTEC Diploma in Sport volunteered to help run a cross-country event at Catterick Racecourse. This flagship event involved 1200 local primary school children. Richmond College students assisted with time-keeping, marshalling and general supervision of children. The BTEC students performed admirably and were crucial to the success of the event. Hilary Conway, the Partnership Development Manager for schools, said 'without them the event could not have taken place'.

Students on the course are gaining valuable experience in working with children in a variety of situations and this experience will help to support their preparation for University and personal statement applications.

Jane Reid – Head of Leisure & Tourism

Fashion Relief!

Well done to all those who contributed towards Fashion Relief and managed to raise over £400 for Comic Relief. Special thanks go to textile students, Coral Bell and Katie Mannock (Year 12), who were the 'comperes' for the evening and the driving force behind the organisation of the event.

Additional thanks go to our very talented Year 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 Textile students whose exciting designs were 'strutted' by our glamorous and entertaining models.

Technical support and stage management were expertly provided by Robin Batey, Chris Curry and Michael McVay.

The evening was also an opportunity to showcase the talents of Richmond School dance and music students. Dance acts Ram Jam and Disco Divas and bands Rosie and Josh, Workstation Deviation, The Knights, Wood and the Milky bar Kids really rocked Middle Hall.

Mrs J Drake & Miss G Adamson
Textile Technology Department

Healthy Schools

Active Girls

It is sometimes hard to encourage girls to get involved in physical activity so it is great to see the development of a few projects which are trying to encourage more female physical activity.

Cheerleading may sound very stateside, but over here it is becoming more popular, and it is an excellent way of expending energy. A group of girls is training every Monday lunchtime and the popularity is growing.

Two female students have been to the Girls Active event at Bewerly Park, and have returned with some inspired ideas for engaging girls in physical activity and sport. They are now finding out from girls what they do and don't like about sports. They will submit proposals once they have collected opinion and looked at feasible options for the future.

Among Year 10 and 11 girls a greater range of options has gone down well.

School Nurse

Lastly, we are very grateful that each Tuesday a school nurse, Claire Keast, is visiting the school to meet with young people who wish to consult her about a medical problem. This is an important service which has been suspended for a few months.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination

The School Health nurses are just completing the third set of school visits for this programme. The data on vaccine coverage has shown that overall, North Yorkshire has achieved 90% coverage of the vaccine, which is good news.

It has also just been announced that there is sufficient vaccine and funding to complete the vaccination of all girls up to the age of 18 by the end of the academic year (2009/10), rather than spreading the programme for the older girls over 3 years as had initially been planned. The arrangements for the vaccination will be that 17 and 18 year old girls (who would be in school Years 12 and 13) will be invited by their General Practitioners to be vaccinated in local surgeries. Girls in Years 8, 10 and 11 will be offered the vaccination in School.

Website

We have just added 'Healthy Schools' as a section to our existing Website, which will soon contain information about Extended Schools, PSHCE, School Meals, Sporting Activities and General Health.

'Free School Meals

Details of how to apply for 'free' school meals, together with a downloadable application form are now available under the 'School Meals' heading, together with a range of packed lunch menus that meet nutritional guidelines. Alternatively, please contact either the School or North Yorkshire County Council if you would like to receive a paper copy of this information.

John Haslam - Deputy Head

School Website

We are currently in the process of reviewing our Website provision and would welcome parental and student comments regarding its format, ease of access and range of information available. If you have suggestions for improvement please contact Andrea Busby (abusby@richmondschool.net).

Audrey Pledge- Admin Director