



# RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



[www.richmondschool.net](http://www.richmondschool.net)

March 2008

## HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SCHOOL

We have just learnt that Richmond School is one of only a handful of schools in North Yorkshire to have received the County's 'Highly Effective School' award. As North Yorkshire is near the top of the Local Authorities' performance league table, it means we are amongst the **highest performing schools** in the UK.

Congratulations to students, parents and staff for achieving this award. But as ever, we don't want to stop here.

New developments in Science and Maths through our recently acquired second specialism will bring even higher achievements to this area of the school curriculum. David Bailey and Leslie Richardson, our Heads of Science and Maths, are putting together exciting plans for their subjects.

## BUILDING OUR NEW SCHOOL

I am delighted to report that work is now resuming:

Those passing the school will have seen that **8 temporary classrooms** have been delivered onto site and are in the process of being connected to mains services, Internet etc. These are high spec buildings, two of which have been fitted out specifically for Art teaching.

The **Youth Centre** has now had a complete upgrade and will be used as our temporary Sixth Form Centre. Facilities include a study centre and bistro, together with an ICT room. Sixth Formers will also continue to have access to the School Library for study purposes. Our new Sixth Form Centre will be ready for December 2008.

We have been able to allocate £120k immediately for the upgrade of our **ICT equipment and the purchase of 10 new Star Boards**. (Starboards allow staff to draw on the Internet, video clips and images and sound from a teaching console – a very innovative and exciting development for staff and students). This means that all of our ICT rooms will have new computers installed over the Easter holiday.

The **Sports Hall** is due to recommence at the end of June in order to ensure that those taking public exams in the summer term are able to do so without disruption.

As the work continues, some further redesign of the new **Pavilions block and Middle School** will take place. We are anticipating that this will not delay the project overall because these phases are not due to start until both Upper School and the Sports Hall are completed.

## THE NEW ARTS SPECIALISM

I am delighted to announce that the Art Department is joining with Performing Arts to create a new, broadened Arts Specialism for Richmond School. This follows the School's recent successful bid to take the specialism into its second phase, building on the achievements and experience of the last four years.

For further Creative Arts news, see the Director's full article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## RICHMOND SCHOOL RADIO STATION

Along with the Extended Schools' Co-ordinator, we have just purchased a mobile digital "radio station" for students and staff to use in order to gain a greater insight into the broadcast media. After a demonstration to English, Creative Arts and Media staff we feel that this new development will enhance a number of areas of student life.

The Sixth Form in particular will be involved in developing this project. A group of them will receive training in broadcasting and programme making, skills that they will then be able to pass on to other students. Once established, the radio station will also be a valuable resource for curriculum work across a wide subject range and we look forward to listening to some exciting journalism and drama.

The system is of commercial standard and we hope to develop links with local radio stations.

## TRAINING DAY

This is a reminder that the extra staff training day allocated by the DCSF for KS3/4 planning will take place on **Monday, 14 April**.

School will therefore be closed to all students on that day.

*Phil Beever - Head*

## SCIENCE AND MATHS SPECIALISMS

### Science

The new Science & Maths specialism that the school has been awarded as a result of being a high-performing specialist school will bring the following improvements to Richmond Sixth Form Science:

- New resources to support the introduction of the new A-level Science specifications
- A new Applied Science A-level to broaden the choice of science courses
- An extension in the use of interactive e-learning through ICT
- Entry into Advanced Extension Award (if available) with a support programme for the most able students
- A support group for applicants to Dentistry, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

The Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine support group, which will work alongside the current Oxbridge group, will begin during the 2008-09 academic year. This will involve regular support meetings for students undergoing the application process, which like Oxbridge applications, requires students to apply early. There will also be some outside speakers from current practitioners in these fields, higher educational establishments who offer courses and recent successful applicants to these courses.

*David Bailey - Head of Science*

### Maths

The Maths Department's goal is to inspire our students so they enjoy the subject and its wider application. We will also be working closely with our partner primary and secondary schools and the wider community to achieve this aim.

The Mathematics specialism will impact on the teaching and learning by:

- providing new resources to support AS and A2 Maths courses
- being a pilot school, giving students the opportunity to gain 2 GCSE's, one in "Maths" as at present and one in "Additional Maths". This starts from summer 2008 and will also include a Functional Maths qualification
- improving the transition of students from primary to secondary education by better primary liaison and project work in Maths across the Key stages
- promoting problem solving and thinking skills by a series of Challenge days, inter school competitions and practical activities led by Richmond School staff
- funding resources to support the secondary curriculum changes in Key Stages 3 and 4
- holding booster and revision classes for students in all Key Stages with intensive

revision classes to prepare for external examinations.

- developing links with the Further Maths Network and continuing to help prepare students for University courses
- running extra curricular Maths clubs for students.

*Les Richardson - Head of Maths*

### **TECHNOLOGY PRIZE**

A group of 32 students from Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 went to Catterick Garrison last week to take part in the First Annual North Yorkshire Rotary Club Technology Challenge. The competition was open to schools throughout the County and proved a huge success.

Entering the competition with no idea of what lay ahead, the students from Richmond School rose to the challenge well. This was to construct a bridge capable of carrying a load across a span. The students had a limited amount of time and equipment and no support from their teachers. However, the Royal Engineers were on hand to give advice and act as hosts and judges for the event.

All of the students who took part did extremely well against tough opponents.

Our Sixth Form Team comprising Tom Fraser, Hannah Robertson, Nick Simpson and Dan Smith excelled by successfully completing the challenge and came away with first prize in the Advanced category.

Congratulations to everybody involved and thanks to members of the North Yorkshire Rotary Club who organized the event.

*Tristan Bainbridge- Technology Teacher*

### **"ASPIRE"**

This is a unique and exciting project which will allow students and teachers to work with a first class Dance Company for two years.

Led by the North Yorkshire County Council's "Two Year Arts in Education" initiative, we have been invited to take part in "Aspire" as one of five schools who are advanced in the Arts. Dance is the focal area and it involves being mentored and trained by the internationally renowned "Rambert Dance Company" and its director Mark Baldwin.

Teachers and students will have the opportunity to work with Mark on a cross art project entitled "Your Time, Your Place" relating to culture, heritage and diversity. The dance work will be closely related to music, visual art and new media.

This is an amazing opportunity for our students to work with such highly respected dancers and choreographers and to gain such valuable insight into high quality contemporary techniques. It is

also a valuable resource for “skilling up” as teachers, our delivery of the Arts.

We are really excited to offer this project to next year’s Sixth Form students who will undoubtedly benefit from this opportunity whilst starting their AS syllabus here in September.

The North Yorkshire County Dance Company is performing in School on Monday 10 March and delivering a lecture demonstration to all Year 8 students. This is an opportunity to raise the perception of dance in our younger students and give them something to aspire to. The County Dance Company includes many students from Richmond School (Years 10-13), showing their talents and how far they have come since Year 8 themselves. The boys in Year 8 will observe the physical fitness involved and be surprised that dance is not what they perhaps thought it was! Some students will then be taking part in a workshop after school with the professional dancer Donald Edwards and the County Company dancers.

*Victoria Hargest – Head of Dance*

### **FIRST XV RUGBY**

The season is drawing to a close. We have had several disappointments with a couple of cancelled fixtures and so have not played as many games as we had hoped. We have grown in strength by playing some high quality sides like Prince Henry’s Grammar School and St Peter’s York. The ‘local’ schools and colleges seem to be well within our range and I am pleased with the results in those games. In the end we have won more than we have lost and if the return fixtures had been played instead of cancelled, I’m sure we would have achieved an even better ‘average’.

The season round up is as follows:

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Northallerton College         | Cancelled  |
| Hartlepool Sixth Form College | Won 24-21  |
| St Ignatius Park, Queensland  | Lost 33-15 |
| St Peters, York               | Lost 50-0  |
| Prince Henry’s, Otley         | Lost 50-0  |
| King James’s, Knaresborough   | Won 25-5   |
| Dame Allan’s                  | Lost 44-12 |
| Yarm School 2nds              | Won 21-15  |
| Barnard Castle 2nds           | Lost 36-5  |
| Tadcaster Grammar             | Won 31-0   |
| Queen Elizabeth VIth Form     | Won 30-10  |
| Prince Henry’s Otley          | Cancelled  |
| Ripon Grammar                 | Postponed  |
| Tadcaster Grammar             | Postponed  |
| King James’s, Knaresborough   | Cancelled  |
| Queen Elizabeth VIth Form     | Won 24-22  |
| Ripon Grammar                 | To play    |
| Tadcaster Grammar             | To play    |

Played 11, won 6, lost 5, cancelled 3.  
Next season it is planned to play a 1<sup>st</sup> XV League competition, to include the above teams and others.

The Year 13 students who leave us this year after completing their studies include: Shane Friend, Jack Stapleton, Jordan Twist, Tom Webster, Ben Dakin, Euan Hunter, Hamish McArthur, Joe Gray and Will Morton. Our best wishes to go to them all.

Our team has been well led this year by Lewis Morgan. Lewis leaves us for University where he will undertake a degree in Sports Coaching.

In preparation for our summer tour to Canada, Year 11 students are playing a bigger part in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV as the season draws to a close. This will also be great preparation for next season’s 1<sup>st</sup> XV fixtures. I look forward to next year and will be planning an early spring tour to the Scottish Borders for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. We will no doubt be acting as hosts for a touring team in the autumn. Following our summer tour in Canada we will be included in the circuit of touring schools from the southern hemisphere. This is an excellent way of increasing our competitive games list and we will enjoy repaying the hospitality received during our tour in July and August.

*David Clark – Team Manager*

### **U15 RUGBY TEAM**

The season round-up is as follows:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Egglecliffe       | Won 15-22        |
| Stokesley         | Lost 5-29        |
| Ripon Grammar     | Won 12-39        |
| Area 10-a-side    | Losing finalists |
| Bedale            | Won 60-0         |
| Macmillan College | Won 8-28         |
| Guisely           | Won 51-0         |
| Lady Lumley       | Won 63-0         |
| Woodhouse Grove   | Loss 26-3        |
| Easingwold        | Won 0-39         |
| Erton Park        | Draw 7-7         |

Area Players – Jake Lincoln, Josh Woodhouse, Carl Thompson, George McGuighan, Will Gardner, Tom Smith, Tom Stockton and Sam Atkins.

County Players – George McGuighan (North Yorkshire + County Durham) Josh Woodhouse (County Durham), and Jake Lincoln (North Yorkshire).

The team had a great run in the Daily Mail Vase, eventually losing to Woodhouse Grove School, a private school near Leeds.

Currently the team is one game away from the Yorkshire Cup Final. If we beat Vermuyden School, we will be through to the final on 15 March.

*Steve Speakman – Head of KS3/4*

### **YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY VISIT TO BASF & BOC**

Our Year 12 and 13 A level Chemistry students visited BASF and BOC on Teesside as part of a biannual programme of visits to the Chemical Industry.

At BASF they manufacture intermediate chemicals for nylon production. We were given a presentation about the processes involved and a site visit. We were also given the valuable opportunity to see how spectroscopy is used, something we cannot do at school.

As part of the visit we were given the opportunity of watching and participating in a number of experiments involving liquid nitrogen. Great fun! Most students agreed though that the highlight was when we were shown how liquid nitrogen could be used to make ice cream, which we were then allowed to taste!

Clare Kent – Chemistry Teacher

## PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

### Art successes

The five **top students at A-Level nationally** in 2007 included three from Richmond School, a fantastic achievement. (Richmond School has had an A-Level Art student in the country's top five every year for the last six years!) Several of our students have gained **100% in GCSE Art** in recent years, high above the national average. Almost all of our A-Level students each year go on to study Art & Design on Foundation & degree courses.

**Sally Bingham**, whose photographs have appeared several times in the international press, has beaten massive competition to gain a place at The London College of Communication, on probably the top course of its kind in the country.

**Alex McDonald** won a major national portrait competition while still in our Sixth Form last year, and had his entry hung in the **Tate Modern**. Last month he won the North East's **Dover Prize**.

By joining the arts specialism, the Art Department hopes to offer students new opportunities which it has been keen to introduce for years: a darkroom, an animation editing suite, printing presses, an artist in residence and life drawing classes, to name just a few. Art staff are also looking forward to working with other teaching departments, using art and design to enhance students' learning.

### Recent highlights in Music, Dance and Drama...

The huge success of '**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**', with its cast of over one hundred... the launch of the **Arts Award**... the **documentary film** made by Year 10 students led by professional film-makers... the **North Yorkshire Schools Drama Festival**, run jointly by us and the Georgian Theatre... the new international arts link with our twin town in **Norway**... the Theatre Studies/Dance **trip to London** to see four major productions in the West End and the Royal Opera House... our students successfully auditioning for the **National Youth Choir**... our singers and flautists performing with the **Richmondshire Choral Society** and with professional opera singers in '**The Marriage of Figaro**' for Richmondshire Subscription Concerts... and by popular demand, the return of the dance floor to the **Swing Band Concert** last week...

### Upcoming events...

Double bills at the Georgian Theatre: AS Drama students perform '**Doctor Faustus**' and '**The Bacchae**' on Wednesday 19 March, 7.30pm, and A2 Drama students perform '**The Importance of Being Earnest**' and '**Huis Clos**' on Tuesday 15 April, 7.30pm (tickets £6 from the Theatre box office, 01748 825252. Visit the Theatre website [www.georgiantheatre.com](http://www.georgiantheatre.com) for more details)... a musical **Grand Concert** in Middle Hall on the evening of 22 April... hotly-contested **Community Idol** heats (think Pop Idol, as run by the North Yorkshire Police – yes, it's true. We warmly invite you to all of our exciting events this Spring!

Liz Moss – Director of Performing Arts

## SUSTAINABILITY

As part of our endeavour to address sustainability issues within School, we are currently considering a number of ways in which we can reduce the volume of paper being used.

We are keen to produce a new look colour version of our Newsletter from September, but are aware that a large number of the paper copies don't currently make it home to parents. We will therefore be writing to all parents within the next few weeks to ask how you would prefer to receive the Newsletter – electronically or as a paper copy.

We already publish all newsletters on our School Website and it may be that some parents would prefer to receive an e-mail from us, alerting them to the latest electronic publication of this and other documents.

We are also about to talk to our student councils about adjustments to the way printing is managed within School. Our printing costs are huge and we currently experience a lot of wastage in the area of printing, with documents being sent to printers without consideration being given as to whether a paper copy is absolutely necessary. We also regularly find large quantities of unclaimed documents in printer bins.

The aim is to set a daily printing maximum for all students, taking account of their Key Stage and the volume of coursework material they need to produce. This is not about taking away student printing facilities, but making them think about the environment and work within a reasonable limit. The limits will be monitored and reviewed over an extended period and student feedback will be sought throughout the process.

We are similarly reviewing staff printing and photocopying needs.

ICT Development Group

## RICHMOND SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Richmond School Amateur Radio Society members are holding a rally at St Francis Xavier

School on Sunday 6 April, by kind permission of the Headteacher.

This is known as The Northern Mobile Rally and involves amateur radio type stalls and radio information for the North East of England. Admission is £1 and all are welcome. People travel from as far as Scotland to the event.

We have also had two students pass National Examinations, Cameron Murray at Intermediate Level and Martin Blenkinsop at Foundation Level. Well done to them. Their hard work has paid off.

Richmond School Amateur Radio Station is one of the only UK state schools on the air and promotes the school worldwide to other radio amateurs, This is a non commercial broadcast method of communication for personal information between licensees only, and does not transmit public radio.

*Paul Hunt - Radio Society Co-ordinator*

### **RETIREMENT OF GARY LEWIS**

Gary has worked for the past fifteen years as Police Youth Action Officer, with responsibility for Police/Schools liaison. He has led a number of preventative projects and initiatives as part of the School's PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and with the help and support of staff at the School has helped to maintain a level of awareness in the students on issues around personal safety and the law.

It is unfortunate that at this stage there are no plans to appoint a replacement officer to continue this work on a full-time basis. However, PC Sue Dent, who is an experienced Richmond based Police Officer, will assume responsibility for maintaining links with the School, in addition to her wider responsibilities.

Gary has asked that we pass on his thanks to parents, guardians and staff at the School for their support in his attempt to establish often untried and new initiatives in the School, with the ultimate aim of preventing our young people from getting into trouble and keeping them safe.

He has written "Most of all, I would like to thank the students. We live and work in one of the safest communities in the UK, with very low youth offending rates. This is due in no small part to the positive attitude of our young people and their willingness to learn respect for other people and the law".

*John Haslam - Deputy Head*

### **'FRONTER' - COMING SOON**

Many of you will have heard about the School's use of 'Fronter', which is a virtual learning environment that allows staff to deposit teaching materials for students to collect electronically via the Internet. A number of departments are also now setting and marking homework using Fronter, particularly with the Sixth Form.

The latest Fronter update provides an area for parents and we hope by the beginning of next academic year to be in a position to start using this area as a way of keeping parents informed of various aspects of their child's school life including information about extra curricular activities such as sporting practices and fixtures (home or away details, finish times, etc.). We will obviously keep you informed of developments but please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you think it might be appropriate for us to make available via either Fronter or the School Web Site.

*Audrey Pledge/Stephen Fletcher*

### **MATHS NEWS**

The Sixth Form Maths students have just had the opportunity to attend a three day residential study event to prepare them for their A2 examinations. This involved interactive lectures and tutorials prepared and delivered by staff. This will be followed up by intensive revision study days and University Maths' lectures as well as the opportunity to take part in individual and team Maths' challenges.

Year 9,10 and 11 students from Richmond School took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge and achieved our highest ever number of certificates!

5 students achieved a gold certificate - Michael Ash, Sammy Rawson, Tayzy Inkster, Tim Bray and Chris Morris. Michael Ash achieved the "Best in School" award and he, Tayzy and Sammy all progress to the next round of the competition. 21 students achieved a silver certificate and 39 a bronze.

Well done to everyone.

*Les Richardson - Head of Maths*

### **OTHER SPORTS' NEWS - SPRING TERM**

#### **British School Ski Championships**

Richmond School has just become the British Inter Schools Ski Champions thanks to the talent of Sam Clissold and his sister, Honor. Congratulations to both of them.

#### **Joe Selected to Play Rugby for Yorkshire**

Congratulations to Joe Larder in Year 12 who has been selected to represent Yorkshire U17 Rugby. He has played a number of games already and is in the squad which is preparing to tour New Zealand next season.

#### **Football 2007/8**

It has been a relatively successful season so far, with all teams competing well. Participation levels at training sessions have been high, even during the poor weather we've had this year.

Unfortunately we haven't been as successful in the County Competitions this year, with only the Year 8 team reaching the latter rounds, eventually losing in the semi-final to an excellent Joseph Rowntree side. However we're doing extremely well in the

Area Competitions, with the Year 7, 8 and 11 teams all reaching Area Cup finals and Year 9 and 10 reaching Area Plate finals. The Area 7's Competition is fast approaching for Years 7–10 and the Year 11 team have already won their Area Plate competition in style earlier in the school year.

It's also been a real honour for me to have coached the senior football team for the first time this year. They have not only shown high levels of skill and ability, but tremendous attitude and commitment throughout the season. We reached the quarter finals of one of the County Cups and are still in the semi-finals of the other County competition. Our most memorable success of the season this year has come in the National Cup, where over 500 teams across the country entered. We reached the last 32 stage which is an amazing feat and something we can be proud of as a school. We eventually lost on penalties to a school from Chesterfield, which was a great shame because I thought we were the better team on the day!

Can I finally take this opportunity to wish all the boys who are participating in the "Barcelona Football Tour" good luck in the Easter holidays and let's hope for a successful end to the season with lots of silverware being won.

*John Bielby - PE Department*

### **Hockey**

The U18 Boys' Team followed up its recent success in winning the VIth Form National Hockey Championship by becoming North Champions in the prestigious National Schools' U18 Competition. Unfortunately a very good team from Worksoop College proved stiffer opposition and beat Richmond 6-1 in the quarter finals. Congratulations to the squad, which has had an excellent season.

*Adam Gedye - Team Manager*

The Sixth Form Mixed Hockey Squad has had an unbeaten run into the national finals of the Mixed Hockey Cup – we travel to Bedford for the finals on Wednesday 19 March.

The U16 Girls' Squad has had a successful season under the guidance and coaching of Les Richardson and will complete this with a final game on Tuesday v Ripon Grammar. Thanks to Les for her time and dedication with this group of girls.

The Year 10 Girls' Squad played Ripon Grammar School recently and were unfortunate to lose 2–0. However they then competed in the Inter Area Rally at Queen Mary's School and did not let in a single goal or lose a match. They were equal first on points, second on goal difference. It was an exceptional performance by all....on grass.

The Year 9 girls played their final game v Cundall Manor and won 2 – 0.

The Year 8 girls played Ripon Grammar recently and were narrowly defeated 1–0. They then played Carmel, winning 2–0. The team's next match is against Wensleydale, following which they will take part in the Inter Schools' Rally at Richmond School – hoping for a good result.

### **Rugby**

The U15 Rugby team beat Vermuyden School from Goole, 30-8 yesterday and are through to the Yorkshire Cup Final this Saturday at Harrogate Rugby Club.

A fantastic achievement.

### **Swimming**

Congratulations to the Year 7 swimmers who won the Area Swimming Championships and to the Intermediate and Senior teams who all finished in the top three positions.

### **Junior Team**

Daniel Osbourne, Daniel Overin, Daniel Overin, Josephine Barker, Arte Dawson Will Henderson, Elizabeth Macnamara Lia Bowyer, Naomi Atwood and Charlotte Young

### **Intermediate team**

Jacob Atwood, Will Henderson, David Young, Isaac Dawson, Rebecca Henderson, Naomi Moks Rachel Fay and Eleanor Fay

### **Senior Team**

Alec Wann, Adam Hillary, Tom Thorogood Catherine Henderson, Charlotte Galvin, Fiona McCormack and Jess Strudwick

### **Individual Honors**

Congratulations to the following students who have represented the Area/County for their chosen sport this season:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Football    | <i>Under 16 Girls:</i> Danni Boyd<br><i>U13 Boys:</i> Tim Holmes, Dan Jones, Sam Devlin and Lewis Stabler<br><i>U14 Boys:</i> Ben Gamblin, Dale Gracie, Kevin Robinson, Conrad Tack (County) and Ryan Brown<br><i>U15 Boys:</i> Aaron Mornington, Will Gardner and Chris Fergus<br><i>U19 Boys:</i> Adam Cunningham (County), Josh Lincoln, Sean Radford and Louis Potter |
| Netball U16 | Rosie Clarke  |
| Hockey      | <i>Under 13 County:</i> Emma Morris and Ellie Braithwaite<br><br><i>Under 14:</i> Anna Hunter and Jenny Snape<br><br><i>Under 16:</i> Victoria Gaskell, Charlotte Galvin, Danni Boyd, Beth Marsh and Catherine Henderson.   |

Cross Country *Year 7:* Charlotte Young, Dan Osbourne (County), Dylan Wardale and Nathan O'Conner.

*Years 8/9:* Chloe Richardson (County), Daniel Overin (County), Sam Devlin and Holly Richardson (County)

*Years 10/11:* Rosie Clarke (County) and Naomi Moks

*Years 12/13:* Adam Scott, Toby Heywood and Alec Wann (County)

Rugby: Area Rugby Representation:

*Under 12* - no age category - Dan Osborn has represented the Area and North Yorkshire a year above his age category... at Under 13.

*Under 13:* Steven Lord, Will Henderson, Jamie Metcalfe, Arun Keen and Sam Devlin

*Under 14:* Tom Larder, Jake Owen, James Slater, Dan Waites and Darren Catterick

*Under 15:* Tom Smith, George McGuigan (County), Tom Stockton, Joe Gray, Carl Thompson, Jake Lincoln, Josh Woodhouse (Co Durham), Sam Atkins and Will Gardener

*Under 16:* Sion Dennis, Dave Emmerson, Harry Reddick, Tom Hodgson, Tim Jackson, Connor Esler, Rob Stanwix, Andy Finchamand and Tom Heap.

### **Lottery Grant for Gymnastics**

We are celebrating our Lottery success following a successful application for an Awards for All grant of £7,000.

Rebecca Shaw, School Sports Co-ordinator, applied for a grant to kick start extra curricular gymnastics activities. The grant will enable her to enter a team in the Youth Games and the Area Gymnastic Competition later this year.

Rebecca felt that part of the reason we got the grant was because of our rural location and our intention to encourage more children to get involved in sport. Rebecca has already used some of the money to buy new gymnastics mats, a springboard and trampette and intends setting up Richmond's first gymnastic club shortly.

*Rebecca Shaw - School Sport Co-ordinator*

### **PTA NEWS**

The PTA has continued to provide refreshing support to our school events and has raised over £700 this year so far.

Recently funds have been donated to the Maths Challenge (£193), Chemistry visit (£100) and the Amala visit (£500). Funds are currently healthy and if anyone has suggestions for schemes/purchases etc. that would benefit our students then please get in touch. PTA funding is used to supplement the School income providing money for specific purposes to enrich the educational experience. Our donations are not made to individual students but to groups, departments, clubs etc.

The 100 Club is running again this year but our major source of revenue this term will be a raffle. We have several major prizes and many small ones on offer. Tickets will be issued via students before the Easter holidays and we would be grateful if you would sell them and return the slips and money to School before 11 April. The draw will take place at the Music Concert on 22 April.

The PTA exists to benefit all so we would be grateful for your assistance in making this event a success.

If you would like to assist the PTA in any other way, such as helping out at a function or joining us in a meeting to put forward some ideas, please get in touch with me at School or join us at our next meeting in the Cricket Club at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 17 April.

Thank you.

*Christine Ball - Chair*

### **EXTENDED SCHOOLS**

This term Extended Schools has been looking at ways in which we can work with other partners and agencies to widen opportunities for students in study support and enhancement. For example we

are well on the way to setting up a school radio station.

Other projects include:

- Boxercise for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form girls - in partnership with the Schools Sports Partnership.
- Life guarding course for Sixth Form students, in partnership with Richmond Leisure Trust.
- Documentary film project with a group of Year 10 students - in association with the Performing Arts Department, Rural Arts and independent film makers.
- Opportunities for students working towards Young Leaders Sports Awards, to gain valuable practical coaching experience - in partnership with the Youth Service.

Other areas we have been looking at in collaboration with other schools are issues surrounding transition from primary to secondary school and parental support. As a result we are building on last year's successful Year 6 team building activity days and confidence building workshops. Year 7 students have been busy making a short film for Year 6 students about moving on to secondary school and we are currently updating information booklets for parents and students.

To help provide information to parents about extended services in schools and referral on to support services there is now an Extended Schools notice board and information folder in middle school reception.

*Andrea Offord - Extended Schools Coordinator for Richmond and Swaledale*

### **FELTING WORKSHOP**

On 6 March 30 students from Years 9-13 took part in an after school Felting Workshop led by Ms Conroy, Mrs Smith and Mrs Fawcett. Felting is an ancient process whereby sheep's wool is used to create clothing, shelter, accessories and now Art work!

Inspired by the work of International Felt artists, students created their own Art work which they can include as part of their A level and GCSE coursework. At the end of the workshop comments from students included "Brilliant" – "Exciting"!

*Linda Conroy - Art Teacher*