



Richmond School & Sixth Form College NEWSLETTER



www.richmondschool.net

Summer 2009

Appointment of Headteacher

I am delighted to announce that Ian Robertson has been appointed to the role of Headteacher at Richmond School with effect from January 2010.

Ian is currently Executive Principal at Hermitage School, Chester le Street and is also a National Leader in Education.

He will be taking opportunities over the coming months to familiarise himself with the School, prior to becoming Head in January.

We are delighted to have been able to recruit such an experienced headteacher and look forward to welcoming him to the school.

We will of course let you have further information in due course.

Parent Governor Elections

There will be a number of Parent Governors in September. Further information will be sent out via the students on 7 September about how to nominate etc. We will also post the information and nomination form onto our Web Site.

A governor term lasts for four years. There is always a need for enthusiastic and committed people to serve as governors. Being a governor can be very rewarding. You don't need any special qualifications – just a commitment to help schools do the best they can for all our children.

Annette Clark – Chair of Governors

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Project

We are delighted with Phase 1 of our new school build. The Lower Sixth have moved into the Sixth Form Centre and are enjoying the use of the New Bistro and Learning Resource Area. The Centre has excellent ICT facilities for teachers to call on and for use by the students. We intend to organise a full opening ceremony in the autumn term.

The new 6 court Sports Hall was due to be handed over to us in early July, however due to a break in and very serious vandalism costing tens of thousands of pounds, it will be delayed until the start of the Autumn term. The Police are investigating.

The Sports Hall should be completed by the start of next term and will be officially opened in the autumn term.

The next phase will be the demolition of the existing sports hall and the construction of the new teaching blocks and glass atrium. This will be followed by the full refurbishment of middle block, landscaping and pitch leveling. The final completion date is to have all the school on one site by the start of the autumn term 2011.

Farewells

The following colleagues are retiring at the end of this term, all of whom have given many years of excellent service to the School. They leave with our thanks and very best wishes for a long and fulfilling retirement:

- Peter Clamp – Teacher of Maths
- Peter Richardson – Inclusion Co-

ordinator

- Sally Sargent – Teacher of Learning Support
- Barbara Martin – Head of Health & Social Care
- John Brigstock – ICT Technician
- Pat Pettican – Senior Science Technician

Other colleagues leaving to take up new posts in other schools are:

- Jon Bielby – Assistant Head of PE
- Jim Brettell – Head of Latin/Classics
- Suzanne Eardley – Teacher of English and Head of Careers
- Phil Smith – Teacher of English
- Nigel Wilford – Teacher of CDT and Assistant Head of Year 9
- Anne Wilson – Teacher of FTT
- Alison East – Teacher of CDT and Primary Liaison Co-ordinator.

Again, our thanks and best wishes go to these colleagues.

Welcomes

The school would like to welcome the following staff who will join us in September:

- Rebecca Weston - English
- Adam Boulton –Lear - English Department
- Christopher McGrath – Design and Technology
- Tom Braham - Design and Technology
- Fiona Saunders to Maths
- Darren Cox to ICT
- Carlijn Meeuwse – Teacher of Latin/Classics
- Jonathan Kellett – PE
- Michelle Reid – FTT
- Tiffany Gibson – Dance (Maternity Cover)
- Kayleigh Hodgson – Psychology (Maternity Cover)
- Jean Robertson – Teaching Assistant
- Katie Towers-Clark – Teaching Assistant
- Kerrie Ramsey – Teaching Assistant
- Leslie Redman – Teaching Assistant
- Karey-Ann Barnes – Teaching Assistant

And finally..... at the end of the academic year

I would like to thank everyone involved in the life and work of the school, parents, students, staff and governors, for all your hard work and goodwill towards the continuing success of Richmond School. That unity of purpose is crucial to our success and long may it continue.

Phil Beaver - Head

Sixth form trip to Russia

At Easter thirty Year 12 and 13 students, accompanied by three members of staff, went on a historical and cultural trip to Russia. We started in Moscow where we took in the symbolic Red Square and the Kremlin, the majestic metro and the bizarre circus, and many other places of interest. The overnight train then took us from the often brutal and imposing architecture and styles of Moscow to the beautiful and graceful city of St Petersburg. Here we toured the canal-lined streets stopping at the house where Rasputin was murdered, Peter the Great's 'museum of curiosities' (aka weird stuff) and the fascinating Hermitage museum housed in Catherine the Great's Winter Palace, amongst other sights. An absolutely terrific time was had by all, including staff, and the students conducted themselves in a way that was a credit to themselves and the school. The whole visit was an excellent experience of a country geographically close but historically and culturally quite different in many ways, the infamous Russian approach to customer service and cuisine perhaps being the best remembered. We are sure this trip will live long in the memories of all the students who went. We would also like to thank the PTA for its support.

Tim Grimwood, Gavin Copland, Nicky Hansell – Sixth Form College

Year 9 Crime Awareness Day

On Wednesday 1 July the 'Prison? Me? No way!' team came into school to run a day devoted to raising student awareness of the consequences of committing crimes. Staff from the police, fire and prison service, as well as magistrates and representatives of the mobile phone industry were all involved. Students moved around various workshops including a look at life and work in prison

and a mock magistrates court trial was held.

Students also took part in a street scene reconstruction examining anti-social behaviour and spent time inside a prison cell. The students engaged excellently in the whole day and several won prizes for getting so involved. The event was superbly run by the 'Prison? Me...' team and the students thoroughly enjoyed it, as well as taking on board the serious messages it contained.

Tim Grimwood – Head of Year 9

Senior Six for 2009

Following some very active campaigning and hustings, the Senior Six for 2009 were announced in April:

Head Boy: Matt Clark

Head Girl: Hannah Lawrence

Deputies: Jen Broderick Chris Curry, Nick Guy and Sophie Offord

Maths News

Four students recently qualified for the final of the annual UKMT Team Maths Challenge which took place in London. Kate Lovegreen, Jake McAleer, Jonothan Coustick and Dan Overin were one of 70 teams from across the UK who qualified for the finals out of 1,500 original entrants. Well done!

A Maths Challenge for primary school children was held at Lower School this term. Eight schools took part in the Primary 24 Game Challenge and Croft Primary School took home the winning trophy.

Les Richardson – Head of Maths

Sixth formers visit Auschwitz

Two sixth form students, Danielle Boyd and April Waites, have had the opportunity to take part in a national project called *Lessons from Auschwitz*. The purpose of the project was to give students the opportunity to learn about the events of the holocaust and then to pass the lesson they learnt to other students in the school. Danielle and April took part in a number of workshops before their trip to Poland. Their first workshop involved meeting two

survivors of the holocaust who told of their experiences and what life was really like during this period of history. The students were incredibly moved by the survivors' accounts and were amazed and inspired by the way they were able speak about events in a very factual way, and yet were able to convey the horrific events they witnessed and survived.

April and Danielle then had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. "***When we arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau the magnitude of the place was incomprehensible, no textbooks or teaching could have prepared us for what we saw. It was this more personal encounter that allowed us to properly appreciate the extent of what happened there.***"

"After a guided tour and an emotional ceremony from a Rabbi, April and I left truly moved by what we had witnessed in just one day".

Since their visit to Auschwitz, Danielle and April have delivered a PSHCE session to the sixth form about the lessons they have learnt. They are going to continue to share their experiences with the other students in the school through assemblies and workshops.

Kate Craven – Asst Head of Religious Studies

Cheerleading Success

On Sunday 28 June eight Year 10 girls and two Year 9 girls took part in the Youth Games Cheerleading Competition at Ampleforth College. The team pulled everything out of the bag and came away with the winning trophy after what was a near perfect performance. The team hope to continue with its success next season.

Nicola Walker – Team Coach

Creative Arts Specialism

A2 and AS Drama Scripted Performances at the Georgian Theatre Royal

A Level Drama students had the fantastic opportunity to give an evening performance of their exam work at the Georgian Theatre

Royal earlier this year. A2 students gave presentations of *The Maids* by Jean Genet and *Greek* by Steven Berkoff on 31 March, and our AS students performed *Attempts on her Life* by Martin Crimp and *The Trial* by Steven Berkoff on 23 April 2009. The evenings were well attended and all the students put on excellent performances, which were a culmination of their efforts through the year.

Rambert Dance Company – performance at Ripon Cathedral, 6 May 2009

Dance and Music students from Years 10 and 12 worked intensively with the Rambert Dance Company to create their own piece of work **Your Time, Your Place** inspired by Rambert's most recent production, **Eternal Light**. Rehearsals were held at Ripon Cathedral on Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 May, and two performances of the production were given to a packed audience within the Cathedral itself.

Swaledale Festival – 23 May to 6 June 2009

The school supported a number of events as part of the Swaledale Festival including: Mooncalf Theatre Company - *Reflections*, Tasmin Little Violin Masterclass, Ian McMillan Orchestra, Lizst in Swaledale – a celebration and *Semmerwater* – a musical play.

Art Activity Days – 1&2 July 2009

Year 8 students were able to participate in a wide variety of art activity workshops on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 July. In addition Year 7 enjoyed a sunny trip to Pickering and participated in the Culture Shock Festival, a hands on activity day celebrating cultural diversity and expressive arts.

Year 7 Performing Arts Showcase – Monday 6 July 2009

Students from Year 7 worked extremely hard in rehearsals to recreate songs from hit musicals such as *Grease*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Hairspray* and many more. The showcase was well supported and the audience received very polished performances from all those involved.

Creative Arts Showcase – Tuesday 7 July 2009

Students studying Art, Dance, Drama and Music in Years 8-13 also had the opportunity to showcase their hard work to an appreciative audience, and gave a wide variety of accomplished performances.

Youth Dance Company

Dance will be creating a Youth Dance Company again in September where students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 can audition to create the company. The idea is that the successful dancers will create works which will not only make regular performances in the school, but also create some site specific work in varying venues around North Yorkshire. The students will also work with dance professionals to learn varying styles of dance.

School Production

The next School Show will be **Oliver!** Auditions for the principal roles and chorus have been held and rehearsals will start in September.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Auditions for the performance of *King Lear* at the Schools Shakespeare Festival in October have been held and again rehearsals will start in September.

This will be my last newsletter as Director of Creative Arts and my thanks go to all those who have supported me during this time. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Liz Moss back to the specialism following her maternity leave, and as Head of Music I will continue to play an active role in what promises to be another busy and exciting year ahead.

Su McCormack - Director of Creative Arts

Another successful round of Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity for Year 10 students to experience the world of work. The intention is not to prepare students for their future careers but to allow them an insight into what it is like to go to work. Feedback from employers was extremely positive and revealed students'

enthusiasm, diligence and their conscientious approach to work.

This year 232 students successfully completed a two week placement and we are immensely grateful to the 253 different organisations who provided these placements. Many of these placements were based locally, although some students travelled much further afield. The success of these placements hinges on the willingness of students to participate combined with support offered by staff in school, employers and parents.

Sue Eardley – Head of Careers

Clip on Ties

Parents will recall that we moved to clip on ties last year as a significant number of students were not wearing the regular ties correctly. This change has proved very successful. Because some students are continuing to wear the normal ties, I thought it appropriate to let parents know that this is not an option any more – all students **must** wear a clip on tie.

Dave Clark – Deputy Head

PTA News

The PTA ran a successful Spring Ball in March and have provided refreshments and raised money through raffles at the various music and dance concerts in the summer term. Our AGM will be in the new Sixth Form Centre on Monday 28 September at 7.30pm – all welcome.

On the following Friday we are running a quiz night for Year 7 and their parents as a way of integrating the year group and their families with each other.

On Saturday 21 November we are having a PTA ceildh with Steam Radio Ceildh Band – further information will be available next term – please check Forthcoming Events on the school website.

Chris Ball – Chair

Languages Department Update

The Languages Department has had a busy couple of terms with visits and activities.

We ran three very successful Year 7 visits to Brittany in May and June. Many activities were carried out, such as a visit to a French market, a coastal walk, an afternoon of fun and games on the beach, a BBQ, an aquarium visit, picnics and finally a trip to Disneyland, Paris. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and photographic evidence of all three trips can be found in Lower School.

We also had a visit from French students from Richmond's partner town, St Aubin in Brittany. Both English and French partners enjoyed an evening of Irish dancing and pizza at Lower School. The French students were hosted by students in Year 9 and above, so a big thank you to those families who took part.

Years 9 to 13 were also lucky enough to watch a performance from The Flying Theatre Company of Romeo et Juliette revisited. This performance was supported by the Performing Arts Department and much fun was had by all.

Back in January, our A-Level German students flew off to Berlin for a few days of intensive German. Again, the trip was a success and the students came back with much more confidence, especially in their spoken ability.

Finally, the return leg of our German exchange took place. This saw 33 students from our partner school, Johann Rist Gymnasium, Hamburg, spend a week in Richmond with their partners and their families, so thank you very much to all of those who hosted. The week was action packed and both German and English students enjoyed a late night shopping trip to the Metro Centre together.

We hope to be able to continue with our many activities and visits in the coming school year and are continually grateful for the support we receive from parents.

Tor Roberts – Assistant Head of French

Return Dates – September 2009

Year 7 students return on Friday 4th September.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 return on Monday 7th September.

Year 12 returns Tuesday 8th September.