



# RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Edition 28:

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

October 2007

## FAREWELLS

We said goodbye to a number of long serving colleagues at the end of last term:

Dorothy Clague joined the school in September 1977 and became Head of English in January 1981.

Harry Sargent joined the School in September 1979 as Head of Maths.

Graham Berry joined the School in September 1980 as Head of History.

Barbara Walker joined the school in September 1983 as a teacher of French and then became Head of French until she later 'stepped down' to become a part-time teacher of French.

All are taking retirement after outstanding careers in teaching.

Judith Braddock, who came to Richmond School in September 1988, has now been appointed as Head of French at Aysgarth School.

Our thanks and best wishes go to all of the above colleagues.

## REDESIGNATION AND SECOND SPECIALISMS

Congratulations to all staff, students and parents! We have been declared by the DCSF (formerly DfES) a '**High Performing Specialist School**', an accolade which reflects the hard work, successes and positive, supportive attitudes in our whole school community. As a result of this new status, the Performing Arts is to be broadened to **Creative Arts**, including visual art, and will soon be joined by the **Science and Maths** specialism. We greatly look forward to working closely with colleagues in those subjects to enhance further the range of opportunities for students.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

I am delighted to report that our examination results were outstanding this year and they were a record for the school at several levels. In recent years there has been a steady upward trend in KS3 and GCSE results and we are once again very pleased with our A level results. The majority of our Upper Sixth students gained grades which allowed them to progress onto their first choice destination at University.

We are extremely pleased with our 2007 KS3 results. The level 5+ scores are now consistently

at 85% or better in each of the three core subjects. This is a high target to achieve year on year. Particularly impressive was the fact that 30 students gained Maths level 8. This is the only core subject in which students can score level 8.

In the core subjects, the percentage of students gaining level 5 or over were: Maths 89% (84%), Science 88% (83%), English 85% (82%) – targets are the figures shown in brackets. You will see that the targets set were all exceeded.

	Maths	Science	English
L8	13%	N/A	N/A
L7	37%	17%	21%
L6	24%	38%	33%
L5	15%	33%	31%

2007 saw the best GCSE results the school has ever achieved. From a year group of 254 students, 71% gained 5+ A\*-C grades. 63% gained 5+ A\*-C grades including English and Maths. 84% gained A\*-C in English Literature. Challenging targets set by the Government have all been exceeded (target was 69% 5 A\*-C). There were some stunning individual achievements:

**Matthew Jones** gained A\* grades in every subject studied.

16 students gained 10.5 A\*-A grades. A further 16 students also gained 9.5 A\*-A grades, with 13% of the year group gaining 9 or 10 A\*-A grades across all subjects.

**Rebecca Lovegreen** was awarded a letter of congratulation from the Examination Board for scoring one of the top five marks in her English Literature exam from 365,000 candidates.

**Megan Moore** was awarded letters of congratulation for Classics, English Literature and History. This is an incredible achievement to score so highly in three subject areas.

It is important to emphasise that these results have not been achieved by chance. In the last three years we have used several strategies to lift achievement. These include:

- Revision classes throughout study leave in all subjects available to all students.
- Use of ICT and a wider range of teaching styles in the classroom to improve motivation and learning.
- Regular reporting on progress and targets for achievement.

- Focused revision and study skills assemblies and lessons.

187 students sat A2 and equivalent examinations at Richmond School this year, 96% gaining pass grades. We were delighted to see students achieve what was required to progress onto their next destination, whether it be University or employment and training.

Some particularly impressive individual achievements were:

**Max Shepherd** - 5 A grades.

**Robert Taylor, Chris Adams and Emma Russell** - 4 A grades.

**Toni McHugh and Sara Pattison** - 3 A grades and 1 B grade.

**John Yarrow, Rhiannon Buttery, Robert Burrell, Emily Hallows and Laura Gaskell** - 3 A grades.

**Zoe Blackburn and Tamara Moks** - 2 A grades and 2 B grades. **Chris Westgarth, Helen Yates, Matthew Usher, Viola Asimba, Victoria Lovegreen, Josie Hall, Heidi Richardson, Emily Hallows and Ruby Heselhurst** - 3 A's and 1 B grade.

Number of students	=	187
Pass rate	=	96%
A-B grades	=	44%
Average points score	=	209 = C grade

#### **Oxbridge and top grade leavers' destinations**

Every year we are delighted to see our young people progress onto the next phase of their education. This year we had a number of notable destinations for our highest achieving students.

**Max Shepherd** will read Natural Science at Cambridge.

**Chris Adams** will read Classics at Oxford.

**Toni McHugh** will read Physics at Oxford.

**Robert Taylor** will read Physics at Oxford

**Rhiannon Buttery** will read Architecture at Bath.

**Laura Gaskell** will read Architecture at Nottingham.

**Emma Russell** will read Medicine at Newcastle.

**Tamara Moks** will read Physics at Edinburgh

**Chris Westgarth** will read Government at LSE.

#### **NEW SCHOOL**

We've recently heard that the DCSF (formerly the DfES) has taken inflation into account and awarded a further £750,000 towards the cost of building work.

Shepherds have now fully established their site compound and excavation work for the new Sports Hall is well underway. Work is also in hand to upgrade the Youth Centre which, once completed, will be used as a study space and bistro for the Sixth Form during the renovation of Upper School.

We have arranged for a Powerpoint presentation of the phasing programme to be placed on our Website (within 'New School Updates'), which we hope you will find both interesting and informative.

## **STUDENTS**

Many thanks to parents for supporting our efforts to maintain good uniform standards. The work being done in school and by yourselves seems to be having a very good effect across all years.

We realise that students are involved in a range of activities outside school, some of which we don't get to hear about. If your son or daughter achieves success in his/her given activity, please don't hesitate to contact us so that we can share the good news with others in school and via our website/newsletter. If you have such news, please contact Andrea Busby on 01748-828140.

#### **SIXTH FORM STUDENTS GO TO SRI LANKA**

Two Sixth formers: Tracy Higgins and Hannah Robertson have used their links with Richmond Youth Centre to run a weekly club for children with disabilities called "Youth Ability". As a result, both were invited to go to Sri Lanka for 3 weeks to support activities for the poorest children in Colombo. Prior to going, they did a great deal of fund raising and have been able to send football boots and shirts for the most underprivileged children. Whilst there, they will also be working with Kolupitya children who live on the streets of Colombo, a junior football team in Pettah and a nursery affected by the disastrous tsunami of 2004.

#### **RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENT WINS KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP**

Congratulations to Max Coates, (Year 9) who recently won the seven round Northern Karting Federation (NKF) Championship at the final round of the series held at Wombwell Kart Circuit near Barnsley.

He took the win in a dramatic finale to the series. After 27 races and going into the last race of the championship, three drivers were separated by three points. The final of the NKF, was a race within a race with the prestigious "Cock of the North" title up for grabs. Whichever NKF driver finished highest would win the championship.

Max is currently lying 3rd in the national Motors TV championship with two rounds to go.

*Phil Beever - Head*

#### **HEALTHY SCHOOL AWARD**

On Monday 8 October John Haslam received the plaque celebrating the school's re-award of Healthy School status. This means that the school has achieved the standards attached to the following four themes:

- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education
- Healthy Eating
- Physical Activity
- Emotional Health and Well-being

The work done by Graham Berry, Nicola McKeon, Linda Conroy, Audrey Pledge, and many others

has developed the school's capacity to give students a very good deal here when it comes to information, advice, guidance and facilities that will help them to lead healthy lives and make healthy choices.

There is still much to do, but the new building programme is a fantastic opportunity to make sure that this school is a leader in offering young people a range of facilities and activities that will help them make progress in all aspects of their physical and emotional development in a safe, secure, and attractive environment.

*John Haslam - Deputy Head*

## CATERING

The School has continued its development of the catering services within school, taking on board the latest legislation with regard to healthy eating:

- Nutritionally balanced set meals are offered in all three kitchens.
- A salad bar has been established in Middle Dining Hall, which is proving to be extremely popular.
- Sandwiches (bread, baguette, pitta) with a range of fillings are available in all three dining halls.
- Crockery has now replaced the plastic trays which were previously used in Middle School.
- Sandwiches can be ordered and paid for at break for collection at lunchtime.
- An outside catering trolley serving a range of healthy burgers, jacket potatoes, salad boxes etc. has been established at the entrance to our site in an attempt to encourage students to select healthier food options than some of those obtainable off site.

We are now looking in detail at catering proposals for the new school. Particular thought is being given to the layout of dining facilities, which will be modern and offer a number of satellite serveries. We are keen to ensure that students are able to enjoy well prepared and nutritious food in a pleasant environment without having to spend a long time queuing. For those preferring to use the Youth Centre at lunchtime, these catering facilities are also being upgraded and will allow us to provide an extended menu.

We are also likely to introduce a 'cashless catering' system which gives parents the confidence that the money they give their child for lunch is being spent for the purpose it was intended. Parents will also be able to receive a breakdown of the food eaten by their child.

*Audrey Pledge/Nicola McKeon*

## PERFORMING ARTS

### *Before summer...*

The summer term ended with some terrific events, especially the uplifting **Africa Arts Event** on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July. Every student in Year 8 took part in a

two-day workshop, choosing from batik, Urobo tribal hats, mask-making, acrylic technology, photography, Nigerian drama, Zulu dance, Ghanaian percussion and fusion music. It all culminated in a fantastic display on the last afternoon, with an unforgettable finale: a stage full of Richmond students stomping in gumboots, singing in the Shona language and dancing in unison with the awe-inspiring '**Mighty Zulu Nation**'. Thank you to all staff who led and supported workshops – you richly deserve the spontaneous standing ovation which the students gave you!

Year 7, meanwhile, enjoyed the **County Arts Festival 07** run by Connecting Youth Culture, in Northallerton on 5<sup>th</sup> July. As well as watching a performance of Indian dance and music, they chose from a huge range of workshops, including capoeira (Brazilian martial arts dance), circus skills, graffiti banners, street poetry, felt-making, samba drumming, animation, didgeridoo, slapstick, salsa dance and maculele, a South American stick dance – to name just a few...

Another memorable highlight last term was the extraordinary performance of '**Carmen**', the finale of the **Swaledale Festival**. Stunning arias from the professional opera singers brought out the most incredible singing from our student and staff choir; on one of the few balmy evenings in June the atmosphere in a packed Grinton Church was electric. If this is what being in the Festival will always be like, long may we be a part of it!

Two excellent soirées entertained audiences just before the holiday: the **Summer Showcase** on 10<sup>th</sup> July and the **Summer Concert** on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Showcase presented work by the Year 7-9 Drama Clubs, the AS-Level dancers, the Street Dance Club and our More Music Please musicians (students in Years 8 and 9 doing an accelerated GCSE). Perhaps the most unusual item was a masked physical theatre sequence which squeezed the whole plot of 'Romeo and Juliet' into a single Elvis song ('A Little Less Conversation', fittingly enough). The Concert had a richly varied programme of music, featuring our string ensemble, flute choir, brass ensemble, wind band, choir, a fantastic Year 9 trio of acoustic guitars and vocals (playing their own material), a flute duet and solos on violin, piano, trombone and bassoon.

This rounded off a busy end of term in Music, with many students performing in other musical groups in the area. Three ensembles played in the Town Hall on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July as part of the **Summer Bands Concert** organised by Arts in Richmondshire. Other recent recitals include the **Associated Board High Scorers Concert** for those students achieving Distinction in their Instrumental Grades, a wedding, the **Music Centre Gala Concert at the Sage** and the **Durham Miners Gala**. Students have also attended courses with **County Wind Band & Orchestra**.

Individual successes include **Michael Ash** and **Scott Richardson**, both now in Year 11, performing with the Tees Valley Youth Choir at the finals of both Choir of the Year and at the National Festival of Music for Youth Competition. **Daniel Overin**, now in Year 8, has also achieved a place in the National Youth Choir. **Bethan Andrews**, now in Year 11, has won the role of Katie O'Brien in a professional production of 'Fifteenth Street', the musical based on the Catherine Cookson book. This runs from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 1st December at Darlington Civic Theatre.

All our students entered for **Associated Board Music Exams** have continued their excellent standard by maintaining a 100% pass rate this year. These exams are now recorded nationally and have UCAS points awarded once students progress beyond Grade 6.

Our dancers have also been very active lately. There was a dance performance at every achievement assembly at the end of term, and our **Youth Dance Group** created a spectacular carnival piece for the County Arts Festival parade in Northallerton in July. Over summer Dance students kept up their technique by attending **summer schools** run by Yorkshire Dance and by Get Moving. Many of our students successfully auditioned for **North Yorkshire County Dance Company**; half of that company is comprised of Richmond School students!

Our **liaison work** with partner schools covered Dance, Drama and Music right to the end of the summer term. Particularly enjoyable projects were Middleton Tyas Primary School's production of '**Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs**' and Richmond C of E Primary's '**Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**', for which Ruth Ademokun-Jones choreographed and rehearsed the dances.

On the staffing front, we welcome back **Carol Gedye**, who will be bringing her wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the Music department. **Gillian Higgins**, having proven herself an excellent Performing Arts Administrator, has left these shores to start a new life in Canada. She was a true anchor for the team and we wish her all the very best in the future. Her successor, **Janice Freedman**, has a strong background in performing arts as well as in management, and we are delighted to welcome her to the team.

Outside our own departments, the Performing Arts staff join many others in paying tribute to the recently-departed Head of English, **Dorothy Clague**, who has retired after many years of inspirational teaching and leadership. She has nourished in legions of students a love of drama, theatre and performance, and will be much missed. We wish her successor Tracey Westgarth well in her new role and look forward to continued collaboration between English and the Performing Arts.

### *Since summer...*

This term has seen a couple of exciting new projects take off. Year 10 students are making a **documentary film**, led by professional film-makers, which will receive a screening at a Screen Yorkshire festival. We are delighted to have set up a link between our 6<sup>th</sup> Form and the charity **Daisy Chain**, which supports severely autistic children and their families, partly through arts activities – plans are afoot for our students to create sound installations and soft sculptures, and to volunteer to lead arts workshops in singing, percussion and model-making. Several trips have already been run, to see **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre** and the **RSC's Macbeth**, among others. Our **GCSE and A-Level dancers** performed at Year 6 Open Evening, while the **Flute Choir** performed for the Officers' Wives Concert at Marne Barracks in September.

### *Upcoming events...*

The **North Yorkshire Schools Drama Festival**, run jointly by us and the Georgian Theatre, will include the premiere of a new play, '**Lollers**', by our very own Matt Kirkham. Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm; Georgian Theatre Box Office 01748 825252.

The **Autumn Concert** is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm, Richmond School Lower Hall (Station Road); entry is free.

**A-Level Drama** students present a powerful piece of devised theatre based on Angela Carter's book '**The Bloody Chamber**', on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, in the Richmond School Drama Studio; tickets £3/£1.50 on the door.

Our **Flute Choir** performs with **Richmond Choral Society** at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm. Tickets are £7, children 16 and under free, from Tourist Information 01748 850252/825994.

Our **Carol Concert** is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm, Middle Hall. Entry is by ticket only; tickets are free, from Reception.

**BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL...** Come and enjoy '**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**', our extravaganza for 2007! Sondheim's bawdy Roman romp, with togas, tarts and tribulations – truly 'something for everyone!' Richmond School Middle Hall, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm; tickets available from Reception, and on 01748 850111. You'd be crazy to miss it!!

*Liz Moss - Director of Performing Arts*

## **RICHMOND SCHOOL SPORT**

### **Autumn Term 2007**

A very busy start to the term for everyone involved in sport at school, with a wide variety of opportunities for all year groups, and many fixtures taking place already!

Many parents will have heard that unfortunately Martin Burgess has recently sustained a broken foot and ligament damage. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery and thanks to those staff who are covering as many of his fixtures as possible.

#### **Boys' Football**

Year 7 Football News

Manager: Mr Bielby

Area v	SFX	Won 3v0
Friendly v	Thirsk 'A'	Won 4v0
Friendly v	Thirsk 'B'	Won 5v1

#### **Girls' Football**

Manager: Miss Abbey

U14 Girls Football

v. Wensleydale - won 10-1  
v. Risedale - won 13-4  
v. St John Fisher (1st round County Cup) - lost 6-0

#### **U16 Girls Football**

v. Wensleydale - lost 12-2  
v. Risedale - won 6-3

#### **First XV Rugby**

##### **Northallerton College**

Northallerton usually have a reasonable team and we have had close run matches against them recently. Unfortunately they could not raise a team to play us in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup this year. We were awarded the game as a 'walk over'.

##### **Hartlepool Sixth Form College**

Won 33-29

In the first half we conceded 21 points with only 3 points reply. Basic errors and a couple of missed tackles allowed Hartlepool to score three tries. In the second half the Richmond forwards took control of the game scoring three tries from driving mauls set up in open play and from lineouts. Jack Stapleton kicked penalties to secure a great win with a very spirited comeback in the second half.

##### **Ignatius Park College**

Lost 33-15

The First XV hosted a team from Queensland Australia on their European tour. We played a very good game at Darlington Rugby club and although we struggled to cope with the speed and strength of the Australian players we put in a very creditable performance.

##### **St Peters School, York.**

Daily Mail Cup - Round 2 - Lost 50-5

St Peters is a strong rugby school with several very experienced players in the team. With their eyes set firmly on gaining a place in the final at Twickenham, we struggled to cope with the speed and strength of their players. Positives from the game were: a very creditable forward performance in the scrums and lineouts, good spirit and endeavour right to the end resulting in an excellent try by David Rutherford from a well placed cross kick by Ben Richards.

#### **Year 7 Cross Country event at Risedale**

Congratulations to the team of Year 7 students selected for this event. It was a joint venture organised by the Risedale Sport Partnership and Richmond and Zetland Harriers. One of the aims was that the event would help to identify talented cross country runners. Both teams performed superbly, with the girls winning the team event and the boys finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Charlotte Young - 2<sup>nd</sup>; Dan Osborn - 2<sup>nd</sup>; Beth Vickerman - 4<sup>th</sup>; Dylan Wardale; Olivia Ramezani - 5<sup>th</sup>; Reece Martin; Beth Hodgson; George Battersby; Alice Moss; Matthew Jennings; Sarah Lord; Jo Pollicot; Kym Shipton

The following students have been selected to represent the area. Many Congratulations:

#### **Football**

Under 16 girls: Danielle Boyd

Under 13: Tim Holmes; Dan Jones; Sam Devlin; Lewis Stabler

Under 14: Ben Gamblen; Dale Gracie; Kevin Robinson; Conrad Tack

Under 15: Aaron Mornington

Under 19: Adam Cunningham; Josh Lincoln; Sean Radford; Louis Potter

County: Adam Cunningham

#### **Step Into Sport**

##### **What is Step into Sport?**

Step into Sport is perhaps the only scheme that is directly linked to sport and is an exciting programme, which encourages young people to become involved with sport as a volunteer within their local community.

Through Sport England, the British Sports Trust and the Youth Sport Trust, Step into Sport provides a clear pathway for young volunteers who want a rewarding, valuable volunteering experience to put their talents and enthusiasm to good use.

Step into sport builds on existing structures and programmes such as Junior Sports Leaders Awards (JSLA) and Community Sport Leaders Award (CSLA) to encourage greater volunteer links between school and clubs. Young volunteers will

receive accreditation from the YST once they have completed 50, 100 or 200 hours of voluntary hours.

**This years step into sport candidates are:**

Jack Vickerman, Charlotte Galvin, Danielle Boyd  
Tracey Higgins, Katie Usher

They will be helping with Primary School festivals and events this year. If you would like to be involved and are Year 10 or above, see Mrs. Shaw in the PE office.

**Bewerley Park – Step forward Young Leaders**

Anna Hunter and Daniel Webb attended the three day leadership course at Bewerley Park. They had a fantastic time gorge walking, canoeing and getting very dirty! Hopefully they will use the skills they have learned to assist with events within school.

**Young Sports Ambassador**

Danielle Boyd is beginning to develop her role as Young Ambassador. She will be visiting local primary schools and supporting events and activities throughout the partnership.

**Calling all Dancers!!**

This year's **Dance Factor** competition will be held on Tuesday, 13 November at Richmond School. The competition is for Years 9 -11. To enter, you must choreograph a dance routine. This can be individually or in a group. The performances will be judged and the best two groups will go through to the area finals to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. You can also use the same routine for the Christmas performance!

**Tesco Sport Vouchers!!**

We are collecting vouchers to buy new table tennis tables. Please bring in all vouchers and pass on to the PE Department. There are prizes to be won!!

*Rebecca Shaw - School Sport Co-ordinator*

**HOLIDAY DATES – 2008/09**

Autumn Term starts: 2 September  
Half Term: 27-31 October  
End of Term: 19 December

Term starts: 5 January  
Half Term: 16-20 February  
End of Term: 6-17 April

May Day: 4 May  
Half Term 25-29 May  
End of Term: 20 July

Please note that 4 training days have yet to be decided upon.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

17 October Year 13 Parents' Evening  
31 October Year 11 'What Next' Evening  
15 November Progress Checks Home to Parents  
15 November Charities' Evening  
21 November Year 11 Parents' Evening

28 November Year 12 Open Evening  
6 December School Production  
7 December School Production  
8 December School Production  
12 December Year 12 Parents' Evening  
18 December School Carol Concert – Evening  
21 December School Closes for Christmas

**PTA NEWS**

At the PTA AGM in early September thanks were expressed to Penny Hillary who stepped down as Secretary and to Graham Berry who retired in July and who had been Chairman.

Last year the PTA raised over £4,000, to be spent on enhancing the experiences of students at the School.

The 100 Club is running again this year – new members still welcome (£25 per year, with monthly prizes from £50). Also launched this year, initially with Year 7 parents, is a Gift Aid donation scheme for those who feel they would like to help with fund raising but haven't the time to spare.

Those who have the time and would like to volunteer to help the PTA at various school events or fundraisers should contact Beverley Cartwright, the Events Co-ordinator, via the School, leaving a contact 'phone number or e-mail address.

Next meeting is Monday, 19 November at 7.30 p.m. in the Cricket Club – all welcome.

*Chris Ball - Chair of PTA*