

Richmond School



Press Release

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DANCERS AT RICHMOND SCHOOL WARM UP FOR A TWO YEAR ARTS PROJECT

A WORLD class dance troupe has teamed up with students in North Yorkshire for a two year project designed to stimulate the arts.

Internationally renowned Rambert Dance Company will work with Year 11 and Sixth Formers at Richmond School in one of a handful of such projects across the country.

Dance company director Mark Baldwin will mentor the students through an initiative entitled Aspire, as part of North Yorkshire County Council's flagship Arts in Education initiative.

They will develop a cross-arts project entitled Your Time Your Place relating to culture, heritage and diversity and linked to music, visual arts and new media.

Head of Dance at Richmond School Victoria Hargest said: "This is an amazing opportunity for our students to work with such highly respected dancers and choreographers and gain such valuable insight into contemporary techniques.

"We see it as something that will be organic in nature; it will grow, develop and form itself."

She said she was thrilled to be able to offer the project to next year's Sixth Form who would be starting their AS syllabus in September.

In 2003 Richmond School won specialist status for Creative Arts attracting extra funding for teaching and projects.

Interest in dance has boomed with many students taking GCSE and A Levels, going on to study at university and securing jobs in the profession.

Students have already enjoyed a trip to the theatre to see Rambert in action. "They were absolutely astounding," said student Steph De'Ath, 17, who has been dancing for the past ten years.

"And I can't believe we will be actually working with them; we are really looking forward to it."

Miss Hargest said dance was something that allowed students to be creative and express themselves in a physical way. "It allows students the opportunity to think in ways you don't get in other subjects," she said.

“It builds their self-esteem and confidence, enhances performance skills and keeps them active and physically fit.”

The School is also involved in a project with the North Yorkshire County Company Dance Group which had staged lectures, demonstrations, workshops and performances to encourage young people – particularly boys – to get involved.

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