

This matter is being dealt with by:
Mr P Beever

HEAD: Mr P A Beever, BA, M(Ed)
Deputy Heads: David S. Clark; John A. Haslam

Our Ref: PAB/AAP

April 2008



To: **Parents of Year 11 students**

RICHMOND *School*

Dear Parents

Our Aspirations For Our Year 11 Students

As you may be aware, your son/daughter is part of the highest performing year group the School has ever had. We are very keen to ensure that our students gain the best grades they are capable of and thought you would like to know what support is available to them as they come up to examination time. We are also very keen to see them produce the best ever A level results in 2010 and want you to be aware of the plans for the new Richmond Sixth Form Centre.

Departments have organised revision sessions for the Year 11. Staff are available for last minute individual assistance and SAM (Student Assessment and Monitoring) revision packages are available on line. Staff are working with students to fine tune exam techniques over the next few weeks during lessons so they enter the exam hall in a confident frame of mind. We have also just purchased £120k worth of ICT equipment, which was installed over Easter ready for use in the remaining weeks, to assist with study.

For parents this is also a stressful time! For those parents who are new to the external examination 'season', support and encouragement for young people are crucial, as is the odd cup of tea and a sympathetic ear. Please continue to direct your son/daughter to his/her teachers if problems occur, or give us a ring and chat any issues through.

For the parents of those students who are thinking of staying on for A levels, remember we will be making very high demands on your son/daughter. We feel we know them and they know us very well. The next stage in the Sixth Form College plans is about partnership and mutual respect. The students are young adults but still need to know they are cared for and supported by staff who want to go the extra mile. For us it is important that the new Year 12 has a major role in the development of our new Sixth Form College. Our new student and departmental tracking and performance system (ALPS) will ensure that we have an even more intensive drive to raise standards in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form Centre is more than just about buildings; it is about working, learning and developing a new ethos for the future.

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We are investing heavily in the Sixth Form over the next two years. The Sixth Form Centre is now due to open in December this year, complete with state of the art ICT equipment. This is over and above the £120k mentioned already. We have put more pastoral support into Years 12 and 13 and also an even wider extra curricular programme, which is so crucial to students in helping them to gain the key inter personal skills required in later life. Visits and trips abroad have been expanded – the Amala visit (India) and the Canadian Rugby Tour for example. Radio Richmond will be developed by the Sixth Form students as part of a package of new student initiatives. We feel this approach will help students to become even more well rounded individuals, able to face a very challenging 21st Century.

We are particularly pleased that all our efforts, particularly over the last six months, have been recognised by the Local Authority in awarding us the title of 'Highly Effective' (please see the Local Authority quote below). Having gained a second specialism in Science and Maths, the extra funding will allow us, for example, to give specific support to applicants for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry, similar to our 'Oxbridge' coaching and links.

We want to be the best sixth form provider in the area and be large enough to provide a wide range of courses but small enough to know each student and help them reach their full potential.

We look forward to working hard with a very talented and mature year group which has the capacity to be the best Richmond has ever experienced.

Best wishes to you as parents in the coming weeks and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Phil Beever
Headteacher

Northern Echo – 18 March

School is hailed as a beacon of excellence.

Quote from Richard Geogegan, Assistant Director of Education at North Yorkshire:

"We're delighted one of North Yorkshire's high performing specialist schools has achieved a second specialism. Richmond School stands as a beacon of excellence for the County and a source of expertise reaching out to other schools for the benefit of all our children"



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