

Richmond School



Press Release

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Michael Curnow and Dean Woodward, of Bedale, enjoy the café culture at Richmond School's new sixth form centre

A NEW £300,000 sixth form and youth centre has opened its doors as the transformation of a North Yorkshire school gathers pace.

The dual-role centre gives teenagers their own independent space to study and enjoy student life as they work towards vital exams.

Richmond School is currently undergoing a £32m rebuild which is expected to be completed next year.

The ambitious plan involves constructing brand new buildings and a host of renovation work.

Until recently sixth formers had been housed in a listed building that is about to undergo restoration.

So a new temporary home has been provided in a refurbished youth centre which now boasts a smart café, study area and offices.

Once the permanent sixth form centre is completed next year, students will move into that and the current facility will revert to being a full-time youth centre, a role it currently fulfils in the evenings.

Headteacher Phil Beever said: "We wanted to provide the sixth formers with something really good while the new large-scale project goes ahead.

"This new temporary sixth form centre gives them an internet café, brand new computers and somewhere appealing to meet friends."

Head of sixth form at Richmond School Keith Allan added: "It is important that they get a real taste of student life in a college atmosphere.

"The sixth form should be an integral part of the school – and our students don't mind helping out with pupils – but they definitely need somewhere they can retreat to that is their own space."

He said education had to move with the times so a silent study area had been provided where students could access the internet but also listen to music on their headphones.

“In the old days you were expected to sit in the library and study in silence but there is evidence now that listening to music stimulates the brain and actually helps students learn,” he added.

Twenty five per cent of students at Richmond School come from outside the town.

Michael Curnow, 16, and Dean Woodward, 17, travel every day from their homes in Bedale and say the new facility is proving to be a big draw for potential students.

“It is really good and very modern,” said Michael. “It feels much more grown up than school does as you have your own space.”

Dean added: “It is something different from school. You can socialise more and meet new people which is a really important side of being a student.

“A lot of the students here have come up from the school together and know each other. But we have found the sixth form to be really welcoming and we have quickly settled in.”



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