

And so, as the 'year unlike any other' draws to a close I have found myself reflecting hard on the experiences we have had and how we can draw on all the positives and learning lessons to ensure the best possible provision for our students next academic year.

I am sure that whoever we are and whatever role in school we have- student, parent, teaching staff member, support staff member or Governing Board member, we have found ourselves having to 'dig deep' to find reserves of extra energy, resilience, creativity and compassion to get through what have been undeniably 'tough times'. We have all learned a lot and as staff we relish the challenge of supporting all students back to school in September.

The community aspect of our work has never been stronger and our summer newsletter showcases this in real style. At **52** pages, it is a genuine 'bumper summer read' and is really heart-warming. Our students and staff have gone above and beyond to embrace the many challenges posed by the recent pandemic and have come out smiling. There are tales of personal and group success, creative solutions to tricky problems, students learning new skills and enjoying excellence as a result and so many examples of compassion, kindness and thinking of others.

It really is time now for some rest, relaxation and recharging of batteries before the beginning of the new academic year- I do hope that you are able to have a well-deserved break with friends and family. Whilst we will be closed over the summer, we will continue to work on the fine detail of our September plans throughout the holidays and will be in touch with any important updates as our plans come to fruition.

With very best wishes and probably the biggest vote of thanks to you all for your support and well-judged feedback- I cannot express how grateful we have felt during a time when we have all been challenged more than ever before.

Best wishes

Jenna Potter  
Headteacher

Don't miss the heart-warming news of Imogen, Bethany and Emma, on page 7, where you can link to hear them being interviewed on BBC Radio Tees telling the story of how they saved the lives of three chaffinch chicks.



**The Show Must Go On - staff pulled out all the stops for Year 11s, find out how on Page 52.**



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## A BIG CHEER FOR ELLIE AS SHE CLOCKS UP 851km

Ellie Hughes, in Year 7, has taken the 100km Challenge for Cheer to fundraise for Lazer Cheer, the cheerleading club she is a member of. Throughout June, the club challenged its members to walk, run or cycle 100km to encourage them to take ownership of their fitness ahead of the new season. With no cheerleading training for over three months, it has been very important for the athletes to keep their fitness levels up until they are able to get back to training.

Ellie has been cycling and walking each day, with her brother Matty, a former student, to keep her company. Ellie quickly smashed the 100km target, so Matty set her a new personal target of trying to travel the distance to Disneyland Paris, as she was meant to be there with school at the start of June. She managed to accomplish this, covering a grand total of 851 km. She is very proud to have raised £100 from her efforts. She has cycled in all weathers, from glorious sunshine to torrential rain and winds.

Matty said: "Battling against the element did not deter Ellie, she continued to drag me out on my bike at every possible opportunity. My seat is very unforgiving after several bike rides each day! Although I can't wait to have a bike ride back to myself, it'll be weird not having Ellie constantly talking in my left ear asking me to play yet another 'guess the Disney character' or 'name an animal starting with every letter of the alphabet'! It has been wonderful to support Ellie to help the running of the Lazer Cheer club, which she lives and breathes, it is such an important part of her life."

Mrs Carruthers, Ellie's PE Teacher, said: "Ellie made a real impression in Year 6 when she attended Richmond School to take part in a Netball transition club. She has then continued to impress me in PE lessons throughout the year as we have covered many sports, such as rugby, gymnastics or badminton - she is a very talented athlete. Ellie is a hard-working and dedicated student and it came as no surprise to hear that she was taking on this challenge."

Ellie is one of a number of our students who are dedicated cheerleaders with Lazer Cheer club, some of whom were honoured to travel to America in February to compete in the Cheersport Nationals, where they won the Junior 1 title.

The club has raised £2092 so far and has as a donation page at

[www.gofundme.com/f/lazer-cheer-academy-100-km-june-fundraiser?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1&fbclid=IwAR0E4486\\_TKAbkgADGaaKep4cjQRga4Rl8LKvt666v\\_D0HzMf3AB9EPko](https://www.gofundme.com/f/lazer-cheer-academy-100-km-june-fundraiser?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&fbclid=IwAR0E4486_TKAbkgADGaaKep4cjQRga4Rl8LKvt666v_D0HzMf3AB9EPko)



Like our facebook page to keep in touch with all our news at

[www.facebook.com/RichmondSchoolandSixthFormCollege](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondSchoolandSixthFormCollege)

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## MATILDA SINGS TO SUPPORT NHS CHARITIES

Well done to Matilda Martin, in Year 8, who sings with the Dales Community Pop Choir and has helped to raise over £1,200 for NHS charities.

Charlotte sang Mr Blue Sky with the choir and you can listen to it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=smh0wfGjd6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smh0wfGjd6I) Turn to page 47 to find out about the former students who also took part.



## WHAT'S NEXT? 'TRIED & TESTED' ACTIVITIES TO ENTERTAIN YOUNG CHILDREN

We appreciate that it can be challenging to keep young children entertained at the moment, so we are delighted to bring you 'Tried & Tested' activities that are quick and easy to organise and children will find fun, inspiring and with plenty of variety to keep them engaged.

Thank you to Miss Roberts, one of our Modern Foreign Languages teachers, for coming up with this great idea, and for trying out and sharing these activities with her young children and us. The activities are suitable for young children but older siblings will love joining in too!



For a recipe for no-flour peanut butter cookies for a quick and tasty treat or to create a lego marble run visit [www.richmondschool.net/whats-next-tried-tested-activities-to-entertain-young-children/](https://www.richmondschool.net/whats-next-tried-tested-activities-to-entertain-young-children/)

To find out about activities with pegs or how to play the memory game visit [www.richmondschool.net/whats-next/](https://www.richmondschool.net/whats-next/)

## THE GARDENING HERO

A green-fingered student is keeping his community's gardens neat and tidy during lockdown. Reece Edwards, in Year 10, is helping six people, including key workers, the elderly and some people who are shielding and finding it hard to do it themselves during these difficult times.

Mrs Wand said: "As Reece's tutor, I have often had cause to be proud of him for his helpfulness and his kind and caring attitude towards others in school. It is so lovely to hear how he has been demonstrating these admirable character traits by helping people in his community during lockdown. By giving his time and a great deal of effort, he has also been giving a lot of joy to others. What a truly wonderful thing to do!"

Reece is doing a wide range of tasks including: cutting grass, weeding, planting, digging up tree trunks and weeds, hedge cutting, hoeing, planting, raking, burning garden rubbish and spreading farm manure on vegetable patches. When he does his gardening work he does full days, usually 6-8 hours at a time.



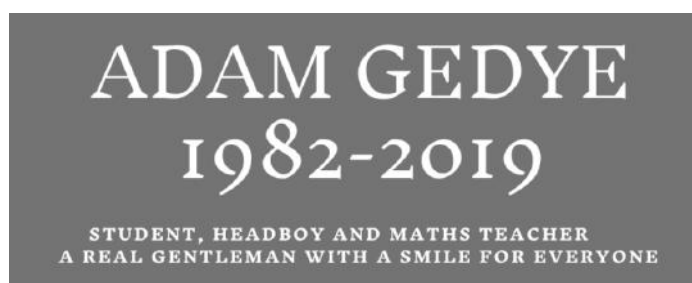
Reece said: "I volunteered to do tasks because I thought that it would help the people that are shielding and give them somewhere nice to sit when the weather is good. It has also given me something to do with my free time and I really enjoy gardening and love being outside. I'm learning new things all the time, while also not being stuck in the house during lockdown. It's good to know that I'm helping others and doing something that's greatly appreciated by them and that they are able to enjoy their gardens."

Well done Reece for your fabulous work!



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## THE ADAM GEDYE SUNDIAL



Over the last few months, work has been progressing on the Adam Gedye Sundial which is located in the north-east corner of the school grounds. Adam was a student at Richmond School, who became the Head Boy, and then returned to the school as a Teacher of Mathematics. After a long illness he died at the end of the last academic year.

A dedicated team has been working on this project so that the school has a lasting memorial to Adam, as well as a large sundial that can inspire generations of young people in the years ahead.

We are enormously grateful to A.D.Calvert Architectural Stone Supplies Ltd of Leyburn who have donated all the beautiful dressed stones required in this project.

The cost of the other materials and the build is around £2,500. Our thanks go to our students who have already raised a significant proportion of this money, but we still have some way to go.

If you wish to contribute towards this project then we would be delighted to accept your additional support.

You can donate directly to the Adam Gedye Sundial account at HBSC at:

Branch Sort Code: **403819**

Current Account Number: **11593404**

Account name: **Adam Gedye Sundial**

Alternatively cheques, made out to **Adam Gedye Sundial**, can be sent or delivered to the Finance Office at Richmond School.

We are very much hoping to surpass the money needed for this project and Mrs Amy Gedye has asked for any surplus money to be donated to the Marie Curie charity who offer care support through terminal illness.

Our thanks go to Mr Lunn and Mr Boulton-Lear who have produced a great video about the project which shows how the work on the sundial is progressing. You can watch it here

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KtC3vsYB4cNYMnjYA>



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS PRAISED FOR TIRELESS EFFORTS TO DELIVER NEWSPAPERS TO THOSE IN SELF-ISOLATION

A big shout out to our students who are doing their utmost to help people who are self-isolating to keep in touch with the outside world. Zoe Gleave and Tiar MacKenzie (Year 12), and Finlay McKechnie (Year 11) deliver newspapers for Premier Cross Lanes and they have been praised for their unfaltering commitment to ensure that their customers receive their orders each day.

Sue Casey said: "Our paper boys and girls have been amazing, they are just as important as the rest of the key workers. During the lockdown they are working additional shifts and haven't taken any time off their rotas. They are brilliant, they never let me down. For some of the elderly that have been isolating, this is their only link to the outside world. So thank you to Zoe, Tiar and Finlay, as well as Jack, Olly and Jack, who also do a great job working alongside them."



The students start at 7am on weekdays and 7:30am on a Saturday and Sunday and their rounds take them around 40 minutes. The students are busier than ever as more customers are requesting their papers be delivered to their homes since the start of the Covid-19 situation. In addition, the students are now also responsible for collecting payment for the papers which the customers leave out for them, as they are not able to venture out to visit the shop in person to pay their bills.

It is clear to see the difference that the home deliveries can make, especially to those who are elderly or vulnerable and unable to leave their homes.

Customers who receive their newspapers from the students also offered their thanks:

"Well said and big thank you to all – I'm one of those under lockdown and appreciate their dedication."

"I heartily agree – we, I believe, have Tiar, just an amazing young lady. On the dot every week day without fail. Our paths rarely cross as she is a crack-of-dawn paper lassie. Thank you."

## YEAR 8 STUDENTS LEAD BY EXAMPLE

A huge well done to Josh and Amelia Luchford who were quick to react to the vast amount of rubbish that was left at the Falls. Having walked down to the river with their Mum, they were amazed and upset about the litter left behind. At Josh's instigation, they went home, picked up black sacks and gloves and headed back to the river. They clambered down on the rocks, along the riverside road, where they managed to collect two big sacks of rubbish including a brand new BBQ and unopened bags of charcoal! Josh helped Amelia climb to parts his Mum couldn't reach, encouraging her all the way.

This prompted conversations about the drug canisters, what they were and why would people use them, the disrespect of visitors to our area and the harm the rubbish would cause wildlife.

After finishing their work they bumped into the Mayor who praised the twins for helping.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## TOP MARKS FOR STUDENT WHO SIGNED UP TO HELP PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS

Millie Aston, a Year 12 student, has passed the British Sign Language (BSL) introductory course, achieving 100% in all ten modules. Seventeen-year-old Millie was prompted to study for the qualification after encountering hearing loss herself and appreciating first-hand how challenging and alienating deafness can be.

Millie said: "I was born deaf and couldn't hear or speak until the age of four and the thought of learning sign language has always fascinated me. Having struggled with hearing from a young age, I really empathise with others who experience hearing impairments and how isolating it can be.



"I believe it is an important skill as it allows you to communicate with so many more people. I am hoping to get in touch with people who use sign language so I can help them, but unfortunately this is going to be difficult at the moment."

Millie started the BSL course after finishing her GCSEs and has been studying since the summer, alongside working hard for four A-levels, dedicating many hours of her time to the sign language course. The course features ten modules, each with an online test at the end of the training, followed by a large final exam once all the elements have been completed.

Les Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, said: "We are immensely proud of Millie and everything she has put in to achieving this qualification. She is working incredibly hard at school, studying four A-levels, so it is testament to her work ethic and strong community spirit that she has done so well."

BSL is the most common form of sign language used in the UK and in 2003, the UK government officially recognised it as a language in its own right. It is now used by thousands of people every day.

Accredited by the CPD Certification Service, the BSL course is delivered by the British Sign Language Association and is designed to be studied over a one-year period. It includes lessons such as: fingerspelling, numbers, colours, deaf awareness, family and relationships. It involves a combination of hand shapes and movements, lip patterns, facial expressions and shoulder movements, with its own grammar.

It is estimated that over 24,000 people across the UK use sign language as their main language.

Visit [www.british-sign.co.uk](http://www.british-sign.co.uk) for further information.

## JOSHUA AND PHILIPPA HIT HALF-WAY POINT OF CHARITY CYCLING CHALLENGE

Joshua and Philippa Kind have set themselves a challenge of cycling 200 miles in July. Throughout lockdown, they have been busy learning new skills and keeping fit by following Joe Wicks, running and getting out on their bikes. Joshua has already done two runs, a 25 miler in May and the 21-mile Summer solstice run in June. Philippa and Josh both completed a 100 mile cycling challenge in June and Philippa suggested doing another challenge in July to raise money for a charity. They doubled the distance to 200 miles and as Philippa is an animal lover and felt that animal charities are also calling for help at this time, they chose one close to home - The Blue Cross Rehoming Centre in Thirsk.



Keep up the great work and keep on pedalling! We look forward to hearing how you got on after the summer holidays. Donations would be gratefully received at their JustGiving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/anne-kind>

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## QUICK-THINKING STUDENTS SAVE LIVES OF CHIFFCHAFF CHICKS

Three caring students have rescued a trio of dying chiffchaff chicks and nursed them back to life after finding them as tiny bundles of half-starved fluff. Emma and Bethany Farrow, in Years 7 and 8 and their friend Imogen Laws, in Year 8, nurtured the tiny chicks, spending painstaking hours feeding them every half hour to keep them alive with food taken from a small paintbrush and using a pipette to place tiny droplets of water onto the tip of their beaks. The girls also taught them how to perch, creating a training area with branches in the bath tub to learn this skill! You can see fabulous videos of the birds, including a great news piece by the Yorkshire Post at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5ShBgK1KPq9JfyaD7> and do listen to the girls being interviewed on BBC Radio Tees on the station's Make A Difference page at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08k5dj9>



The girls came across the birds while out on a social-distancing walk when their dogs led them to a pile of feathers and sticks in a nest where there appeared to be some dead birds. Among them, three were huddled together and moving so they carefully picked them up and lightly blew on them to see if they were alive. After ringing the RSPB and waiting to see if the chicks' parents returned, they wrapped them in a coat and took them home where they put them in a box with a towel for warmth.

The girls spent nine days hand-rearing the birds, initially with mushed-up dog biscuits and hard-boiled egg for protein. They were all surprised they lasted the night. They called them Pumpkin, who was the chunky one, Rio – he was the slimmer one and Smudge – the smallest one. Sharing the feeding duties, sisters Bethany and Emma got up at 6am to do this every day and until 10:30 at night. Imogen came when she could to help feed them too, but as they had to keep social distancing she couldn't come as much as she wanted.

The chicks eventually started recognising where the food came from and happily tweeted when the girls came to get them from the airing cupboard, where they were staying to keep warm. They fed them egg biscuit feed, mealworms and waxworms with tweezers. They put them in a different place to teach them how to perch, and put in large branches with leaves in the bath. Soon they could hop onto the top branch and would sit huddled together for hours. Not long after this, they began to fly between the branches and eventually they started flying onto them as the girls went in to feed them.

Bethany said: "It was a worrying but joyful moment when, after nine days, the chicks were strong enough to be released into the wild. We carefully put them in a small box and took them outside. After just a minute they had all hopped out and one of them was already up the top of a massive tree. All day, we kept a look out for them expecting them to come back; they returned every now and then and we were able to feed them a little bit.

"A week has now gone by since their release and all three chiffchaffs have been seen occasionally coming back to the garden to feed. They are fully independent now and doing nicely! We miss them but hope they will be happy and safe."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "I am overwhelmed with this wonderful news about Bethany, Emma and Imogen. Their special and caring act of kindness to save these beautiful birds and devote so many hours of time to hand rear them is tremendous, without which they almost certainly would have perished."

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## KATIE AND EMILY RUN 5KM A DAY FOR A MONTH TO SUPPORT HOSPICE CARE

Katie Wood, in Year 12, has devoted time to run 5km each day for a month and, in doing so, has contributed to raising £4,870 to support hospice care. Katie and her sister Emily, a former Headgirl, now studying at Newcastle University, ran a range of routes around the Melsonby and Aldbrough area and sometimes out towards the A66.



Pictured from left to right: Emily and Katie

Katie and Emily were prompted to fundraise after sadly losing their Grandma to ovarian cancer just a few weeks into lockdown. It was a very difficult time for the family as she had lived with them for the past three years. Katie and Emily became carers for their Grandma as their Mum was so busy working for the NHS. They were very grateful for the help and care provided by Herriot Hospice Homecare.

Coincidentally, just days after they lost their Grandma, at the end of April, their brother's girlfriend Gillian was trying to raise money for the Northern Ireland Hospice because they had helped her look after her Mum, Maria, in her final few weeks, about a decade ago. Gillian and her sister started the fundraising with the aim of raising £1,500, and by the end they raised £4,890. Katie and Emily raised around £300 of this amount from generous sponsorship from family and friends.

Katie said: "It was quite a commitment running every day for a month, however it was great knowing that we would be helping those in need. Although the charity isn't local, it felt right to do it and in remembrance of my Grandma. Emily and I are hoping to organise something similar in the future to raise money for Herriot Hospice, but for now we are giving our legs a rest." Twenty-one people took part in the fundraising for The Northern Ireland Hospice, mostly from Northern Ireland but also some from New Zealand, London and Richmond.

## YOUNG STUDENT IS A COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Although just 12 years old, Harriett Wilson has shown independence and a maturity beyond her years in her quest to help make things better in her community. During lockdown she has not only fundraised for the Dogs Trust Charity, but she has written to Rishi Sunak expressing her concerns about the amount of plastic pollution and put forward ideas of how to address this.



Harriett's quest to reduce plastic pollution stemmed from a conversation she had with Mrs Potter during her Year 7 interview when they discussed how they would both like to see a reduction of plastic pollution in school. Subsequently, Harriett's tutor group homework was to learn about the government and the role of local MPs, prompting her to write to Rishi Sunak. As well as being an advocate for plastic reduction in school, Harriett has a great passion for sea life and how this is been put at risk through plastic pollution. In her letter to Mr Sunak, Harriett raised her concerns about the problem of plastic and litter in our towns and roadsides which can be harmful to wildlife and the environment. She went on to suggest that all schools should make thermos water bottles a compulsory part of their school uniform, to help reduce plastic waste. Harriett was very pleased with Mr Sunak's response, who took the time to explain a variety of measures that the government has already put in place to reduce plastic waste and litter and also other initiatives for the future.

Mrs Potter, Headteacher, said: "I am most impressed with Harriett's drive and enthusiasm to support others and how she is championing the importance of reducing plastic pollution. She is a great role model to other students by demonstrating our school values, especially independence and resilience, and showing great respect for others and also the environment."

During lockdown, Harriett has been helping the community by doing a bake sale to support the work of the Dogs Trust Charity. An avid animal lover, Harriett chose the Dog's Trust as she has the delight of a new puppy in her family and appreciates how awful it must be for dogs that need to be put into care. Harriett, and her friend Bailliea, made a selection of butterfly cakes which they sold from an outdoor cake stall in their village. With donations from kind neighbours, £27 was raised for the Dog's Trust.

Harriett said: "I have a dog now and I hate the thought of dogs being lost, unwanted or neglected and I feel that I have done a little bit to help." This is not the first charity event for Harriett, she has previously raised money for the charity Save Our Seas Foundation. She is already planning her next project, this time for the RSPCA, with plans to do a 5km run on 19<sup>th</sup> July – she has set up a JustGiving page 'animal lovers on the run' [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steve-wilson53](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steve-wilson53)

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## HENRY GROWS HIS OWN AND OFFERS TIPS FOR A WINDOW SILL VEG PATCH

Henry Wright, in Year 7, is making the most of the great outdoors during lockdown by growing his own vegetables. The family were fortunate to be offered an allotment just after lockdown began, after they had been on the waiting list for a while. Henry, and his sister Elsa, in Year 8, started to go up daily to dig and prepare the soil. At home, they started everything off in their greenhouse, planting lots of seeds to get ready for planting out.

They enjoyed planting runner beans, peas, carrots, onions, beetroot, radishes Brussels sprouts and broccoli seeds, putting them in the beds as they were ready. Henry has also been in charge of the strawberry patch, as well as planting raspberry and blackberry bushes. He has also planted kale, cauliflower and pumpkin seeds to go to the allotment in the next couple of months for the family to enjoy later in the year.

He is particularly proud of the leeks he planted and also has cucumbers, tomatoes and chillis growing in the greenhouse. The cucumbers are nearly ready for picking.

Caroline, Henry's Mum, said: "Having this safe place to go to during lockdown has been hugely beneficial. We are all doing something useful together and producing food at the same time." Henry added: "I love learning how food is produced and being outside as well."

The family have shared crops with others and also preserved food for eating later. A favourite recipe at the moment is Swiss Chard picked and eaten that night before it goes droopy. They cut off the stems and chop into small chunks before frying with a diced red onion and some pine nuts before adding the shredded leaves.

Henry has also been doing an experiment with house plants. He has been cutting off small sections, planting them in water and in a sunny spot and seeing if they will grow roots, which can be then planted to make another plant. This is some gardening that just needs a window sill.

Even if you don't have the luxury of an allotment or a vegetable patch there are many herbs and vegetables that you can tend to on window sills or in small beds in the garden. With a few pots you can still have salad leaves and fresh veg within snipping distance of your kitchen table! Why not take a look at [www.kew.org/read-and-watch/windowsill-veg-herbs](http://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/windowsill-veg-herbs) for some ideas on getting started.

It's really satisfying to grow your own and home-grown always tastes so much better and fresher than anything you can buy in the shops!



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## AMELIA'S GREAT RICHMONDSHIRE BAKE OFFS!

Amelia Woodward, in Year 11, has been keeping busy during lockdown by doing lots of home baking for people in her community. She has baked a wide variety of cakes and biscuits, tasty treats which everyone is enjoying and appreciating.

Amelia said: "I love baking and lockdown has been the perfect time to do lots of it. I remember Miss Tucker giving me encouragement to keep improving my baking techniques in Food Preparation lessons and it has really motivated me. I wanted to help and put others first."

"Favourites have been fairy cakes for the children and apple crumbles for the elderly people. It's been lovely to make people smile through these difficult times. I also loved making my Mum's birthday cake. My favourite recipe is for scones, but I've also enjoyed making brownies, cookies, roulade, millionaires shortbread and lemon drizzle cake."

Amelia's friends, family and neighbours have been delighted with their doorstep deliveries. She also brought joy to her grandparents and friends when she baked a delicious afternoon tea for the VE Day celebrations. Her most recent bake sale raised £160 for the Alzheimer's Society. Amelia's Grandad has dementia so she wanted to support him with her fundraising.

Amelia would like to pursue a career in baking and takes inspiration from Bake Offs, Henry and Liam, and, of course, Mary Berry. She is combining her passion for baking with her love of photography and is putting photographs of her creations into a portfolio.

Nick and Wendy, Amelia's parents, said: "We are once again proud of Amelia's hard work and generosity. Amelia loves being in the kitchen and has baked herself out of boredom during the lockdown."

Hannah Tucker, Food Preparation and Technology teacher, said: "Amelia's passion for baking is incredible. I am so pleased to see that she is now using her passion to bring some joy to others during this difficult time."

"Amelia is an excellent baker and I am sure the people that she is delivering to will be delighted with the range of things she has made them. I am very proud of her!"

Amelia is pleased to share her recipe for Grandma's Millionaires Shortbread which is from an old family recipe.



### Grandma's

#### MILLIONAIRE'S SHORTBREAD



##### For the biscuit base

4 oz caster sugar  
8 oz butter  
12 oz plain flour  
Pinch of salt

Rub all ingredients together to make shortbread then press into a tin  
Bake at 160 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes. Leave to cool.

##### For the caramel filling

4 oz butter  
4 oz moist brown sugar  
4 oz golden syrup  
small tin condensed milk

Boil gently for 5 to 7 minutes stirring all the time  
Pour on top of cooled biscuit and leave to set and cool.

##### For the chocolate topping

Melt 8 oz chocolate and spread over the cooled caramel.  
Mark into squares before placing in fridge to set.

BY AMELIA WOODWARD

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## AGE UK PRAISES YOUNG VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION

Four kind-hearted, young volunteers are helping the elderly and vulnerable in Richmondshire by supporting Age UK with home deliveries of essential provisions. George Smith, a Year 13 student, his sisters, Connie and Hannah, and friend Arte Dawson, all former-students, are devoting time each week to offer their valuable support.



The lockdown in March resulted in elderly and vulnerable people needing assistance to get their food shopping and prescriptions. In addition, as family, friends and some carers could no longer visit, cooking a daily hot meal became a major issue for many people. Hannah, Connie, George and Arte wanted to do something to help. By volunteering for Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington (NYD), they have offered support by delivering shopping, food parcels and daily hot meals.

Two-course hot meals and shopping are provided, seven days a week, by Thorpe Farm on the A66 and the White Swan, Gilling West. George, Hannah, Connie and Arte collect the shopping, already boxed up, and deliver it for free to customers who live in the Richmond and Leyburn area. They have also delivered free food parcels supplied by Vicky Pattison and her Help the Elderly project.

The four volunteers have been helping two to three times each week, since the lockdown started in March, working two-hour shifts over lunch time and then different times when delivering shopping. Providing a vital lifeline to those in need, they join a team of four who deliver around 30 meals each day, and up to 50 roast dinners on a Sunday, across the Richmond and Barnard Castle area.

Hannah said: "A lot of the people we are delivering to are self-isolating and currently have no contact with the outside world, so it's nice to have been a friendly face for them as we deliver." Connie added: "It's been lovely to be able to help people and see how much they appreciate it." They all agreed that they have really enjoyed getting to know some of the people they have delivered to and hope to stay in touch.

George, Hannah, Connie and Arte are among the youngest volunteering for Age UK NYD, and are part a great team of volunteers, from all walks of life and different ages who support the lonely, isolated and elderly across Richmondshire. Age UK NYD are really grateful for all of their time and efforts. Kate Marriott, Richmondshire Coordinator for Age UK, said: "I am very proud of George, Hannah, Connie and Arte for wanting to get involved and for continuing to deliver the hot meals and shopping for all of this time, especially as they are still studying and have returned to work. They have built some lovely relationships with the elderly people they deliver to and they have learnt that volunteering can be a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. I really hope that their experience will inspire more young people to get involved in volunteering for Age UK NYD."

Leslie Richardson, Head of Richmond Sixth Form College, commented: "It is wonderful to hear of the kindness and community spirit our present and former students are showing. Delivering food and medicines is a vital service, particularly in the rural areas these young people are very familiar with. We are extremely proud of George, Hannah, Connie and Arte- four of the nicest people you could wish to meet! All of them were very highly regarded when they were students here and we know that they will have a long-lasting connection with this area and Richmond School and Sixth Form College. "

Age UK NYD, like many charities at this time, is facing extraordinary challenges to deliver much-needed front line services to older people who are especially vulnerable. Age UK NYD is a local independent charity committed to enhancing the health and wellbeing of older people by promoting quality-assured activity, information and care; ensuring that older people have opportunity for choice and continued independence. More information can be found at [www.ageuknyd.org.uk](http://www.ageuknyd.org.uk) and on their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ageukdarlington](https://www.facebook.com/ageukdarlington)



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## ELSA RUNS 155KM FOR BARNARDO'S YOUNG CARERS

A dedicated and kind-hearted student ran 155km to support the work of Barnardo's Young Carers. Elsa Wright, a 12-year-old student at Richmond School and Sixth Form College ran 5km every day in June after reading about Carer's Week and the amazing support that carers provide in the community.

Elsa said: "I chose to support Barnardo's Young Carers after learning that many carers are children and how much more challenging their lives have been than usual as a result of lockdown. I read there are around 700,000 young carers in the UK who provide assistance, care and emotional support to another family member. I hadn't realised that so many children were taking on such a huge responsibility."

Elsa set herself a target of £100 and is delighted to have more than doubled this, raising a total of £215 at her JustGiving page [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elsawrun](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elsawrun). Barnardo's supports around 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the support is needed more than ever to improve children and young people's lives all over the UK. Elsa's donation could pay for two food vouchers to feed three families of four for a week or for five mental health and wellbeing packs to help children who are feeling isolated or anxious. These packs include books, toys and activities to help children who normally attend groups in person to cope with feelings of anxiety and isolation.

Elsa is a keen runner and would normally be out with the school running club each Monday evening and doing local park runs. During lockdown, she has been keen to keep herself fit, focused and healthy, and running 5km each day has helped her do that while also raising money for a great cause.

Using a set route, which takes her around Easby, and is over 5km, Elsa ran at the end of the school day, Monday to Friday, and early mornings at the weekend, through sunshine, rain, wind – sometimes all the elements at the same time! Her big sister and Dad took it in turns to accompany her and enjoyed the challenge too.

Ms Johnson, Assistant Headteacher who leads the school running club, said: "I am so proud of Elsa's efforts. To commit to running 5km each day for a month, whatever the weather, shows great determination and dedication. Elsa's resilience has really impressed me, especially that she did an extra 5km for good measure!"



Awarded to

**Elsa Wright**

For being a Barnardo's  
**Stay at Home Hero!**  
and raising an incredible

**£215**

Thank you for taking on this challenge  
for Barnardo's and helping us to  
continue our vital work with  
vulnerable children across the UK

*Thank you*

**Believe in  
children**  
Barnardo's

Distance  
**5.98 km**

Avg Pace  
**6:38 /km**

Moving Time  
**39:42**

Elevation Gain  
**65 m**

There's lots of information about Barnardo's at  
[www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-families/young-carers](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-families/young-carers) and further information about Carers Week at  
[www.carersweek.org/](http://www.carersweek.org/)

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS SUPPORT BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Following the death of George Floyd, a group of our Sixth Form students have been reflecting on the racial injustice found in our country. Lottie Gleisinger, in Year 13, has shared news of their work with us and their recent involvement in the BLM demonstration in Richmond.

Mrs Potter, Headteacher, said: "As a school and college, we were hugely impressed at the commitment of our students to the BLM campaign. They have subsequently engaged in a very useful debate with staff and I am delighted that they will be involved in shaping aspects of the curriculum so that serious issues of racial equality are better represented. We know that the very best school improvement work occurs when students play a key role."

Lottie reported: "We felt compelled to show our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and organised a gathering to show how important we felt it was to be part of such a significant moment in our lives.

"It was important to us that in joining with another local anti-racism group, our protest was peaceful and respectful of our local community. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were extremely conscious of the need to abide by the social distancing rules. However, we were determined that we were going to put our message across, even in these difficult times, as this is an issue that has been raised to the fore - it is happening now.

"It was a proud moment to see so many students from Richmond School and Sixth Form College attend the protest. One of our Year 12 students, Rania Abdulghani, made a profoundly moving speech. She spoke of her first-hand experiences of racism and highlighted the importance of how education must illuminate the systemic nature of racism in our society. We need to show a willingness to learn, listen and, ultimately, change in order to make progress.

"At Richmond School, we have children from many ethnicities. The Black Lives Matter movement has given us a chance to really think about how, as a school, we represent all of our students. We feel passionately about this and know that it is a necessity to talk about this in our own community.



"After our protest on Sunday, it is clear that many of our students want to effect change. To paraphrase Dr Martin Luther King Jr, 'If we keep pushing, the arc of history will bend ever closer towards justice'. We can't view this as an issue that BAME communities have to contend with separately."

Photographs by Lang Hall



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## RUGBY HONOURS FOR RICHMOND'S OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Two students, two teachers, an ex-student and a former teacher are among fourteen volunteers honoured by Yorkshire RFU for their contribution to rugby in Richmond. Every year, Yorkshire RFU ask clubs to nominate their outstanding volunteers and their contribution is recognised at the Mitsubishi Volunteer Awards Evening. This year, the event was virtual via video, and hosted by The RFU's Chief Executive, Mike Tindall MBE and England World Cup Winner, and the President and Chair of Yorkshire RFU.



Sid Rye and Amy Simpson, Year 10 students, have been recognised for their dedication to supporting and coaching the Under 6 Micros at Richmondshire RUFC. With 20 children, aged between two and six, the students are kept busy. Under the watchful eye of Gareth Hastie, Micros Coach and Captain of the Second Team, Sid and Amy, as team leaders, are responsible for setting up the training sessions and helping to coach the young players. Gareth said: "With so many children to look after, their support is invaluable. They are highly respected by the children who really appreciate and enjoy their encouragement. They are great assets to the club and do a terrific job."



Sid said: "Coaching the Under 6s has been great. It has helped me to get involved within the community and also learn new skills and dealing with coaching rugby at grass roots level." Amy added: "Since helping with the U6s, I've enjoyed seeing the young children develop through the season and become more confident with the people around which has helped their skills. It's nice to see children of that age getting outside in a friendly environment, no matter what the weather, and having fun. Helping Gareth has also given me confidence with dealing with people which will help me in the future."



It is wonderful that so many people are championing rugby in Richmond, including former student of Richmond Sixth Form College, Graeme Newton. Graeme, Managing Director of Randall Orchard Construction Ltd, is the Chairman and a former player at Richmondshire RUFC and said: "We are privileged to have a committed group of volunteers at our club, from the parents who relentlessly ferry our young players to matches and serve welcome refreshments, to our coaches who dedicate hours training our players, come rain, wind or shine, not forgetting those who do jobs behind the scenes. I am delighted that so many of them have been recognised by the Yorkshire RFU for their contribution to rugby."

Jack Moore and Rachael Harrower, PE teachers, and both experienced players, are in the roll of honour for their commitment to rugby at school and their work with the RFU's CBRE All Schools Programme. Jack has been instrumental in coordinating the programme at school, creating better links with the RFU through community coach Richie Young, and the festivals they have organised to get more young people playing more rugby. A highlight for Miss Harrower has been supporting the opportunity for girls being able to play rugby, which is now extremely popular with the Year 7 and Year 8 students in school. See page 24 For more information about Miss Harrower and Mr Moore's involvement with rugby.



Mr Moore commented: "The impact rugby has on people's teamwork skills, from communication, to cooperation, to leadership and respect are all added reasons we encourage participation in our young people. For anyone who has ever been interested in trying rugby, I couldn't recommend it enough. There are plenty of opportunities both in school and at a local level. Find your nearest club and get involved."

Watch Yorkshire RFU's video that celebrates the important work of its volunteers in the rugby community at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9Dmv8MxC4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9Dmv8MxC4&feature=youtu.be)

The volunteers honoured for their contribution to rugby in Richmond are: Andrew Down, Julia Greaves, Gareth Hastie, Rachael Harrower, Kat Hastie, Nick Hunter, Charlotte Lewis, Tracey Mcanally, Jack Moore, Jon Moulding, Graeme Newton, Andy Nimmo, Debbie Pollard, Sid Rye, Amy Simpson and Roger Swainston. For further information about Richmondshire RUFC visit [www.pitchero.com/clubs/richmondshire/](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/richmondshire/)

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS TACKLE THE 8:5:3 CHALLENGE TO BUY NEW EQUIPMENT FOR RICHMOND DALES SWIMMING CLUB



Congratulations to all the students who are part of Richmond Dales Swimming Club who, along with other club members, have raised over £6,300. The students completed the 8:5:3 challenge to raise money to fund new lane ropes at Richmond Swimming Pool and new diving block tops at Catterick Leisure Centre. 8:5:3 represents the letters in the club's name (8-Richmond, 5-Dales, 3-ASC) and using the numbers, each individual came up with their own physical challenge to complete. The only rule was they needed to include all three numbers. For example, Megan Tait, in Year 8, chose to do an 8km bike ride, a 5km run and a 3km row, 5 times a week for 3 weeks – an incredible achievement.

Members were asked to encourage their family and friends to become involved and to get sponsors for their challenges. As well as raising much-needed funds to purchase the new lane ropes and blocks, this was also a way for those taking part to have some fun! If you would like to donate please visit their Just Giving Page at [www.tinyurl.com/y7ouykfv](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7ouykfv)

Keith Hall, Club Development Officer and Coach at Richmond Dales ASC, said: "We are extremely proud of all of our athletes who have remained active and committed throughout this really difficult period. The individual challenges were extremely imaginative and helped to keep the swimmers fit and focused. The funds raised so far really did exceed our expectations so we would like to thank all of our parents and supporters, some of whom took part in challenges themselves. We still have more to do so any further support would be greatly appreciated but this challenge has been an overwhelming success."

The club has been supporting its members during the lockdown to help maintain their fitness. In addition, it has brought live 'Olympic Special Guests' Zoom meetings to its Monday Education sessions, where past and present Olympians spend time with them, answering their swimming questions. Ross Davenport, James Guy and Chris Cook have hosted them so far, sharing their experience and knowledge.

Well done to all the students who took part: Roan Cappleman, Georgia Hadley, Carys Meaney, Holly Simeon, Chloe Iddon, Darragh Meaney, Charlie Wallace, Maggie Longstaff, Meghan Tait, Sophie Finlay, Daniel Cutter, Thomas Smith. Steffy Cappleman, of Areté Learning Trust, was one of the master swimmers.

For further information on Richmond Dales ASC visit [www.rdasc.org.uk](http://www.rdasc.org.uk) or their facebook page [www.facebook.com/mondarmyRDASC](https://www.facebook.com/mondarmyRDASC).

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SIGN UP FOR THE 2020 LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE

Calling all students to sign up for the North Yorkshire Police Lifestyle Challenge - it will make your summer holidays fun and exciting, could lead to you winning a fantastic prize and is guaranteed to make a difference in your community! You need to register by 31<sup>st</sup> July and if you have a few hours to spare each week, then your mission (should you choose to accept it!), is to take one of five challenges – volunteer hero, community, crime buster, care and respect or educating others. Last year, the 'Fabulous Four' – our students Joshua and Philippa Kind, Lucy Denton and Hannah Horton - won a Lifestyle award for clearing out and replanting a neglected and historical garden in Crakehall. The challenge is open to all 8 – 18 year olds who are resident in North Yorkshire and, adhering to social distancing guidelines, the young people can get together with up to six of their friends – either virtually or in person.



Joshua and Philippa's Mum said: "The Lifestyle Challenge gave them a focus during the holiday and with other local teams also involved they became quite competitive. It was interesting to watch how their project developed and how they evolved as a team, playing to each of their individual strengths, becoming more confident as time went on.

"They not only had to agree on a project idea but also had to document their discussions/meetings, contact relevant organisations, liaise with the public and keep in contact with the police who supported them throughout. The Lifestyle Challenge improves confidence and certainly teaches those all-important life skills".

To find out how to sign up for the challenge visit <https://northyorkshire.police.uk/what-we-do/public-campaigns/lifestyle/?fbclid=IwAR2x6MK0Vlqg2823lfsNMkxd6RSvyFyLNZdnLzUk4G8DhI28AC29gOHDKDs>

## HENRY MAKES SCRUBS AND MASKS TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Henry Bushell, in Year 11, is a great example of the enormous contribution young people make to help others in their communities. Henry has been working alongside his Mum and other volunteers, including his Mum's friend Mel Websdale, to make scrubs for healthcare workers in local care homes, doctors' surgeries and NHS hospitals. When the volunteers started making scrubs, towards the end of March, they were buying the fabric themselves until Mrs Websdale set up a 'go fund me' page and immediately raised over £600. Fabric was ordered from suppliers all over the country, as companies were struggling to keep up with orders as there were, and still are, many individuals across the UK who are sewing scrubs for their local hospitals.



As demand increased, Henry offered to help by making scrub trousers. Although having only sewn in his Textiles classes in Years 7 and 8 at school, he was a fast learner. Henry is now making face masks for a local barber and hairdresser. He made his first one for his Dad and has since made masks for himself and friends. Henry said: "I was more than happy to help but I never expected my sewing skills to come in useful in this way!"

The volunteers have supplied scrubs to Quaker Lane surgery, The Terrace House Nursing Home, James Cook Hospital, Darlington Memorial Hospital, The Friarage Hospital and a hospital in Harrogate. Sets have also been made for individual Doctors and Nurses who can't get hold any through their normal channels.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, commented: "I am very impressed with Henry's motivation and drive to produce scrubs and masks which are in such demand by healthcare professionals and other key workers. It is extremely kind of him to devote so much time to support others and I admire and applaud him for this, as I am sure do those who have benefited from his valued work."

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY HELPS TO SMASH THE JOHN O'GROATS TO LANDS' END CHALLENGE

Well done to the staff and students who walked, cycled or ran to help raise £10,000 to buy an all-terrain electric wheelchair for Marcus Weston, in Year 10. Organisers hoped to encourage people to collectively run, walk or cycle 874 miles throughout the day, logging their miles on Facebook. However, they were stunned when 376 people took part, clocking up an impressive 2672 miles across sixteen UK counties and five countries, including Canada and Oman!

The day began for Marcus with a visit from Richmond Firefighters who covered 65 miles by running alongside the fire engine, while the team toured the streets of Richmond with a collection bucket to spread the word. The virtual event was a real coming together of the community with many staff and students joining in: Miss Abbey and Ms Dunwoodie cycled 50 miles; The Sandell family cycled 34 miles; the Lundberg family walked 56 miles; the Roberts-Ball family walked 23 miles; the Kind family cycled 78.52 miles; the Rye family walked 31.5 miles; the Rogerson family walked 30 miles, and Mr Buckley went for an 18 mile hike, with many more members of the school community taking part with their friends and families.

Marcus is an extraordinary young man, with a heart of gold and a determined personality. He is one of only 400 people worldwide living with Cardio-Facio Cutaneous Syndrome (CFC Syndrome), a rare genetic condition. In spite of many health issues, this hasn't stopped Marcus raising thousands of pounds for a range of charities, including the British Heart Foundation, The Sick Children's Trust, Butterwick Hospice, and many more. Last year, together with brothers and fellow students James and Andrew Lunn, he received a British Citizen Youth Award for his fundraising efforts for the Butterwick Hospice.

Weston's Wheels was set up earlier this year to raise funds to buy an all-terrain, electric wheelchair for Marcus. Although he is able to walk, he cannot manage any sort of distance or pace, so going for a family walk is out of the question unless it is flat enough to push his standard NHS wheelchair. The target has almost been reached so the family will be able to place their order for the Trekkinetic GTE powered wheelchair to allow them to explore further afield, as well as enjoy walks to local beauty spots without having to take the car.

The Weston family would like to say a huge a thank you to every single person who helped spread the word, took part and donated. Sarah Atkinson, organiser of the Land's End to John O'Groats challenge and close friend of the family, said: "With all the depressing things going on in the world at the moment, isn't it lovely to see the power of kindness and community."

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westonswheels?](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westonswheels?fbclid=IwAR1A_WPVBNNcoVEZu-dote0M47MAjRZpnXsqpOq3SXDsh-y70r-FdjzBE)

[fbclid=IwAR1A\\_WPVBNNcoVEZu-](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westonswheels?fbclid=IwAR1A_WPVBNNcoVEZu-dote0M47MAjRZpnXsqpOq3SXDsh-y70r-FdjzBE)

[dote0M47MAjRZpnXsqpOq3SXDsh-y70r-FdjzBE](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/westonswheels?fbclid=IwAR1A_WPVBNNcoVEZu-dote0M47MAjRZpnXsqpOq3SXDsh-y70r-FdjzBE)



# PERFORMING ARTS

## A GREAT HIT FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AS IT CELEBRATES 1,000 MUSICAL LESSONS

Our Music Department has really embraced modern technology in these uncertain times and is now ready to celebrate its ONE THOUSANDTH live lesson! Instrumental lessons in all disciplines, strings, wind, percussion, piano, guitar and vocal moved online as soon as the school closed in March, resulting in very little disruption to the students learning.

Students are able to log into an instrument-specific calendar each week, choose a suitable 25-minute slot that would be convenient for them, then take part in a live interactive, online lesson, much as they would in school.

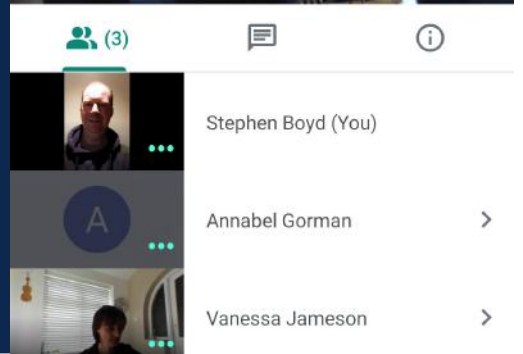
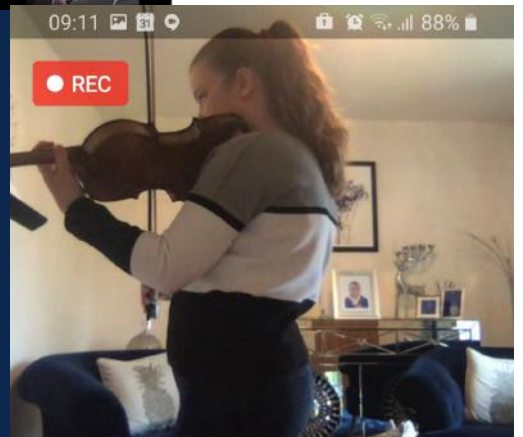
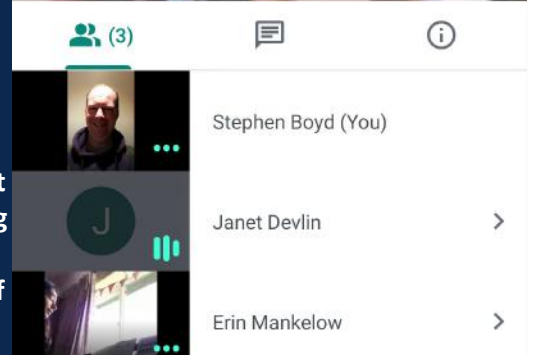
Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music commented: "I am delighted with both our students and staff for the enthusiasm and professionalism with which they have adapted to our new way of learning. The continuity of having a weekly live music lesson has meant that many of our students have continued to improve their skills during the lockdown, some even going on to take virtual or remote Graded examinations with great success. I want to thank the students and staff for their unwavering support of our musical development at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. I could never have envisaged back in March we would be ready to deliver our one thousandth live lesson in the summer term!."

Parent Viv Horton also commented: "Hannah says 'she's felt that her music lessons have seemed relatively normal apart from our rubbish internet sometimes!' For me personally, working at home and having the privilege of being able to hear Hannah's piano and flute lessons has brought me a little piece of joy in these uncertain times. I can't thank the teachers enough for their continued dedication to our children's musical development."

The instrumental staff too are encouraged with the students' engagement in lessons. Percussion Teacher Jose Williamson said: "Continuing with online instrumental tuition has been such an important factor for us. It has given our students a little bit of normality in very stressful times and allowed them to continue to build their skills. Music binds us all together, and though the world has stopped for a little while... the beat goes on."

Dave Harris, Guitar Teacher, said: "The online lessons have been a great and rewarding way to connect with the students and it has been satisfying, as a teacher, to see the students progress so well in these uncertain times. All of the students that have been able to attend these virtual lessons have overcome the technical issues, not only in the limitations of the technology but of their own instruments and now have a greater understanding of them. I have really enjoyed seeing the students develop as musicians and I'm really looking forward to when we will be able to meet again in person."

If you would like your child to become part of Richmond School's Instrumental and Vocal Programme, please contact Stephen Boyd [sboyd@richmondschool.net](mailto:sboyd@richmondschool.net).



# PERFORMING ARTS

## UNITY WRITES AND RELEASES A STUNNING SONG DURING LOCKDOWN

Unity Shrimpton, in Year 12, has released a song that she has written and released during lockdown. Her stunning composition, called 'No More' is inspired by unjust behaviour surrounding racism and any acts of discrimination. The emotive song, with powerful lyrics and a beautiful melody, really showcases her voice and guitar playing. You can listen to Unity's song at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA5ns0aztmw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA5ns0aztmw)



Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, said: "I am really impressed with Unity's original song that is very current in its theme. I particularly like the 'live lounge' effect she has achieved and how she sings with such feeling and passion. I have invited Unity to come into the studio soon to record 'No More' as well as some covers that she also sings, accompanying herself on the guitar and also the piano. This is fabulous material for Unity's composition element of her Performing Arts CTEC qualification."

### **Unity has shared the messages and inspiration behind her song with us.**

On the 9th of June, I was feeling particularly creative and knew that I wanted to write a song that evening. After this epiphany, I began to procrastinate and scrolled through posts on social media, whilst making a conscious effort to find something that could help to fuel my imagination. It was then that I discovered the video of George Floyd's murder. I sat and watched a man die over the course of 9 minutes, not through morbid curiosity but with horror.

I could not comprehend that humans were capable of such evil things. It was the middle of the night and I wanted to scream. Nothing could describe the way I felt, knowing that the deeds were done and there was nothing I could do to stop the inevitable. I felt nothing but hatred for those who assisted, defended and supported the death of George Floyd, needless to mention the sick officer who applied all his weight on the man's neck and listened (so contently) to Floyd plead for his life, saying 'I can't breathe' 11 times, until he fell silent.

The opening lines of 'No More' reflect the rage and hurt that I felt (and still feel) when watching the video, and the great efforts I made in the restraining of words that I so desperately needed to say. Immediately after, I knew I had to let off this steam that I had built up so quickly somehow, and what better way to do it than to write it down and create something with a clear message. Racism and discrimination in every possible form is absolutely not, and never will be okay. If you have listened to this song, you should be familiar with the 'do do do's that were included at multiple points throughout. It represents people's tendencies to overlook certain issues and deny them of the attention they both need and deserve. Later, education is mentioned. I believe that if change can be considered, let alone come, it is everybody's duty to firstly do their research and understand to their fullest the importance of change.

Reflecting on today's society, I'm honestly so ashamed that this is still a huge issue that is yet to be resolved. Now, more than ever, we must take action and ensure that we do everything in our power to put an end to this. Although the song in particular was constructed after viewing Floyd's murder, it speaks for all cases of unjust behaviour surrounding racism and any acts of discrimination. To be judged not by the content but by the colour of your skin, something that a person can not change, is intolerable. A death sentence should not come into question. Our voices need to be heard, and we need to act now. After we act, we need to act more.

That is exactly what my song pushes.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## TRIPLE BILL FOR FINLAY!

### Starring with the world-famous

**8 Bit Big Band** - Only weeks after playing with the Showcase Musical School's Virtual Orchestra, Finlay McKechnie enjoyed his debut performance with The 8-Bit Big Band, the internationally acclaimed jazz and pop orchestra. The Year 11 student was invited to join the virtual group after responding to a post on the band's Instagram. Musicians from across the globe performed an arrangement of 'Lifelight' as the first-ever Big Band Virtual Community Orchestra. You can listen to the fabulous recording [here](#)

Finlay said: "The band has been around for many years, led by Charles Rosen, the composer and conductor of the band. Their first album 'Press Start', featuring jazz versions of music from video games such as Mario and The Legend of Zelda, was released in 2018. The majority of performers in the recording are professional musicians so it was a huge privilege to play alongside them and I really enjoyed performing with an ensemble of this size.

"It was great fun playing more challenging music, especially as it was video game music. The band has played all over the world, including the Sydney Opera House, however they mostly perform in and around New York. The video features two special guests, who are both famous YouTube musicians – one is Adam Neely, who plays bass guitar and has played for his band 'Aberdeen', who toured worldwide in 2019 as 'musical ambassadors'. Aberdeen also happens to be my favourite band of all time!"

Finlay is an accomplished saxophonist and plays soprano, alto, tenor and baritone varieties. His favourite is the baritone saxophone.

Mr Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, added: "In school, Finlay is a wonderfully talented and enthusiastic musician, a member of just about every ensemble he can be. During the lockdown, Finlay has continued his terrific involvement online with some tremendous collaborations with world-renowned musicians. His latest venture with the 8 Bit Big Band is further testimony to Finlay's dedication and love of music-making, ultimately bringing joy to all who listen!"

Find out more about the world-famous 8 Bit Band [here](#).

### Joining the Virtual Video Games Orchestra

Finlay's most recent performance is with the Virtual Video Games Orchestra, a well-known group based out of Boston. He came across this exciting orchestra via a connection with the 8-Bit Band and jumped at the opportunity of playing with another ensemble. In this performance, Finlay plays all four saxophones; soprano, alto, tenor and baritone, demonstrating his versatility and skill as a performer. You can listen to the Virtual Video Games Orchestra [here](#)



Finlay said: "I really enjoyed playing in this group, the music is fantastic and so powerful. We have had some great feedback to the music, receiving video messages from Chuck Norris and Greg Grunberg (an actor from the recent Star Wars film) saying how good our performance was."

Finlay's first performance with the [Showcase Musical School's Virtual Orchestra](#) was featured in our May newsletter.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## STUDENTS EXCEL IN ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE BALLET EXAMS

Congratulations to nine of our students who have received fabulous results in their recent ballet exams. The students attend Janet Seymour's School of Theatre Dance and were faced with the postponement of their exams when the Royal Academy of Dance examining body sent all their examiners home due to the impending Covid-19 crisis just three days beforehand.

It was a huge relief when it was agreed that the students could take their exams remotely. Well done to: Alana Hodgson, Eva Midgley, Taryn Hodgson, Olivia Richardson, Beth Butler, Isabel Bainbridge, Eva Clinton, Evie Gill, Hannah Kettlewell and Olivia Richardson.



For Alana and Eva, it was really important that they could take their exams as they are leaving the area for University and Vocational Dance College in September have both been dancing with Janet since the age of three and were able to complete their Grade 8 examination, the highest level available.

Alana said: "I absolutely love dancing at the Janet Seymour school of Theatre Dance, which I've done since I was three. It has provided me with so many opportunities, including performing in shows, being in the pantomime and going on a German Exchange Trip. We are so lucky to have such a talented and versatile teacher living here in the Dales.

"Janet goes above and beyond to help us all and at the moment my class is having five lessons a week on Zoom. We are all so grateful and I can't wait to continue dance classes with her when I'm home from university."

Eva added: "My result for Grade 8 Ballet was a really lovely way to end my 15 years dancing with Janet, and I shall miss everyone at the dance school very much when I move to take up my place at Northern Ballet School in Manchester."

Ellen Stewart, in Year 8, was unable to take the exam but will be doing hers soon and we wish her the very best of luck.

Danni Fox, Lead Teacher of Dance, said: "Eva is a professional, hard-working and adaptable dancer who is always striving to improve her technique and training. She has become a real asset to the dance department at Richmond School over the years after studying with us from KS3 level, through to GCSE and CTEC Level. As well as remaining focused with her dance studies within school and sixth form, Eva has always shown complete commitment to her training with Janet Seymour, which evidences her dedication to her future career.

"We are so proud of Eva's achievements and can't wait to watch her begin to carve out her own career within the dance industry as she leaves us this summer for further professional dance training to study at the Northern Ballet School."

Les Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, said: "This is wonderful news for Eva and Alana and I am confident that Eva will do incredibly well as she pursues her further studies in Dance. I am also incredibly impressed with how Alana has managed to achieve such a high standard of ballet whilst working so hard for her A-levels and, in addition, dedicating time to her Headgirl duties, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as international Irish dancing.

"This is testament to Alana's drive and commitment and we wish her all the very best with her plans to study Medicine next year."

# PERFORMING ARTS

## IZZY AND EVE HEAD TO DANCE CITY

Izzy Walton and Eve Walker are delighted to have secured places at Dance City, the highly regarded Dance School, in Newcastle, to study a three-year BA (Hons) Professional Dance course. The Year 13 students have danced with us since Year 7 and their passion has just grown and grown over the seven years.

Danni Fox, Lead Teacher of Dance, said: "Izzy and Eve have always shown something very special in terms of their ability and passion for the subject. Both girls continued to thrive throughout their GCSE training and had no doubts when it came to choosing their options for Sixth Form. During their time with us studying the CTEC Performing Arts course, they have developed into autonomous, self-regulated performers with a keen interest and understanding of the performing arts industry."

"They have shown complete dedication to the Dance department as a whole, from leading classes for younger students in Evolution Dance Company, to organising, scheduling and presenting their own Dance Showcases. The unconditional offers they received are testament to their professionalism and passion for the Arts. I have no doubt that both girls will be successful in their further training at Dance City and will go on to have promising careers in the industry."

Eve has shared her experiences of the dance audition process, which we hope will be valuable advice for any students interested in furthering their studies in Dance.

**What did you think of dance city/ the audition?** When I first attended my audition I was unsure whether this would be the place for me, however after dancing in the building and working alongside their incredible teachers I began to feel really at home and comfortable in the environment. The audition was a mix of ballet, contemporary and solos which I enjoyed. I felt nervous to begin with but soon felt at ease and relaxed into it. Throughout the audition day, the idea of studying here was becoming more and more perfect for me. I think it was the teachers that sealed the deal for me as they all seemed so knowledgeable and understanding. The audition day overall was a great learning opportunity as well as an audition itself.

**What do you think made you successful in the audition?** I think my curiosity and enthusiasm helped me gain my unconditional offer. I've never been afraid to ask questions... so I did ask quite a few! I spoke to ex-students about their time at Dance City and tried to learn as much about the course as I could. I also feel like my determination during the ballet class helped me with the audition. Ballet is like an enemy to me; I respect it and understand it's important however it doesn't give me the 'fire in the belly' moment when dancing in its style. I think because I treated the day as more of a workshop I was able to enjoy the movement I was performing more, and this helped with my success on the day.

**Are you planning on taking the offer?** YES! I have accepted my unconditional offer and will be starting on the 14th September. I have secured my own studio apartment not far from Dance City and hope to make a new home in Newcastle. I am enthusiastic to meet new, like-minded people as well as find a little part-time job too. After my three years at Dance City, I hope to study for my Masters Degree, possibly in London or Leeds. I am so excited for the next stage in my education, I can't wait!

Eve concluded: "Dance at Richmond School has not only given me opportunities to gain great grades, but has also lead me along the right path for my future career."



# SPORT

## GRACE CROWNED TOP-SCORING PLAYER

Congratulations to Grace Dobson who, with 49 goals under her belt, has been crowned this season's top-scoring player for Darlington Football Club's under 11 squad. Grace, a Year 6 student at Leyburn Primary School, is joining us in September and is really looking forward to playing football at school. A keen athlete, Grace runs most evenings as part of her training programme to be match-fit at all times.

Grace has been playing football since she was five and has been with Darlington Football Club for 18 months, having been invited to go for two training sessions before being selected for the team. She commits to two training sessions a week with a game every Saturday morning. Her position is left wing and having clocked up almost 50 goals this season she is a force to be reckoned with!

Grace, who was also picked to play for the Darlington County team this season, said: "I love playing football and I hope to play for England one day!"

Miss Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "This is great news! Grace's commitment to training and her tremendous performance on the pitch are impressive.

"She will be a great asset to the sports teams at Richmond School, especially the football team. I look forward to welcoming Grace to the PE Department in September."



## CAMERON IS BACK IN GEAR

Enduro-racing champion, Cameron Baker Haste in Year 10, is back in gear after recovering from an injury to his hand. At the start of a race in February, Cameron dislocated his finger and snapped it at the bottom, near his knuckle and was put in a cast and advised not to use his hand for nine weeks. However, his hand is now much better and Cameron is able to train again at main sponsor's Edge Offroad play days, local training grounds, MX tracks and other enduro motor club tracks.

Cameron said: I was really disappointed when I injured my hand and was out of action for a while, especially as I had been doing so well in the National Cross Country Championship, with Edge Offroad. It's great to be able to get out on my bike again and back to my training schedule. I can't wait until we are allowed to start competing again."

You can read a full report on Cameron's injury and recovery at [www.richmondschool.net/cameron-is-back-in-gear/](http://www.richmondschool.net/cameron-is-back-in-gear/)

Photography: Thanks to Ulrika Baker-Haste and Jim Forsyth Photography



## AWARD-WINNING PE TEACHERS

We are delighted that Mr Moore and Miss Harrower have been honoured by Yorkshire RFU for their contribution to rugby at Richmond School and with the RFU's All Schools Programme. News of the award, and how two Year 10 students, a former student and other members of the community have been recognised for their volunteering at Richmondshire RUFC, can be found on page 14. Mr Moore and Miss Harrower give up their time for the benefit of our students, sharing their expertise and experience with them. Here we find out more about their involvement in the rugby world and why they are so passionate about the game.



### INTRODUCING.....MR MOORE

**Did you play rugby at school, if so, from what age and for which teams?** I played rugby in PE lessons and always loved it, but because the school didn't play rugby fixtures (we only had one football team per year group and nothing much else), I went down the football route and that took up most of the time.

**Do you play for a team now?** Having 'retired' from the world of football, but as someone who keeps themselves relatively fit in the gym, I was hounded quite often to go and play rugby by a lad I grew up with who plays socially at Bishop Auckland RUFC. I eventually went along to train and played my first and only game in the 3rd XV. After this, they must have seen something in me as I started the next few weeks playing for the 2nd XV in the CANDY League, before being called into the first XV. I've loved every minute of being involved at Bishop Auckland and have met some great people through it. I would recommend the club to anyone.

**Which teams do you coach/work with at Richmond School?** Since starting at Richmond I have taken more and more rugby. This has meant over the last couple of years I have taken every year group at some point. This year, I have taken every year group from 7-11, with Steve Speakman taking the Sixth Form team.

**Tell us about the work you do with the RFU's CBRE All Schools Programme** - The CBRE All Schools Programme has been fantastic for school and has meant I have created better links with the RFU through community coach Richie Young and the festivals they have organised to get more people playing more rugby. These links have seen the whole PE department complete the RFU's HEADCASE online training to ensure our students are as safe as possible when playing the game, as well as CPD opportunities for staff which will continue going forward. It has also provided the school with a wide variety of equipment from playing kits, to boots, and coaching equipment. The quality of the programme and coaching has been first class.

The projects this year included taking four students (Connie Lord, Anna-Rosie Hall, Jake Lerigo and Dale Hammond) to Wetherby RUFC to design their own unique playing shirt. Canterbury have kindly sent 20 of these to school free of charge. It is a beautiful shirt that the students have created and gives them a real sense of pride and ownership when representing the school which is wonderful. It was a privilege to accompany Connie Lord and Miss Harrower to Twickenham when the shirts were launched on the pitch in front of around 80,000 people!

**Why do you believe rugby is so important in the sporting arena and what skills and values does it instil in our students who play the game?** Rugby is a sport that people can sometimes have misconceptions about. Yes, it is a physical game, but I truly believe the benefits of taking part in this great sport will always outweigh any negatives people might raise. Having seen the developmental benefits of becoming involved in a sport such as rugby, I cannot emphasise enough the reasons to get involved. Like all team sports, the chance to meet and create life-long friendships is enough for most. The impact it has on people's teamwork skills, from communication, to cooperation, to leadership are all added reasons we encourage participation in our young people.



# SPORT

The RFU's core values are Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. Each of these is vital to the success of the game, but as far as I'm concerned, to be successful in life too. I have often been told how I can 'bang on' about respect, but it is a value that is so important to instil in our young people and society. Having respect for yourself, your teammates, your coaches, the volunteers who work behind the scenes, the opposition, as well as authority, which is all commanded in the rugby environment, is incredibly important in the development of good people. All of the values though are as important as the last, and I could go on and on about them. For anyone who has ever been interested in trying rugby (or even getting involved as a non-player) I couldn't recommend it enough. There are plenty of opportunities both in school and at a local level. Find your nearest club and get involved.

## INTRODUCING.....MISS HARROWER

**When did you first play rugby?** I didn't start playing rugby until I was in my first year at York St John University. I went on to play for Leeds Leos, York RI, Darlington Mowden Park and York RUFC. I've played rugby league for Leeds Akkies, Whinmoor, Yorkshire and GB Teachers.

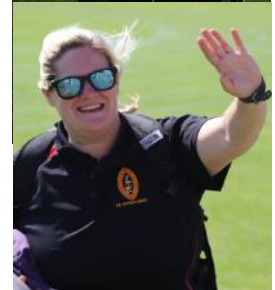
**Wo do you play for now?** I play for York RUFC, although I have tried to retire around four or five times!

**Which teams do you coach at school?** I coach the Year 7 and 8 girls' teams who have been fabulous, their technique and skill have developed so much over the last year and the sense of camaraderie is brilliant. The All Stars Programme has been great to inspire and engage the girls to play rugby.

**Has there been a rugby highlight for you in school?** The girls actually having the opportunity to play against other schools has been a highlight for me. This has been possible because of the RFU getting into local schools and upskilling the PE staff who might not have any rugby knowledge or be confident to teach it. When I set up a team, eight years ago, there were no other local girls teams to play.

**Why do you believe rugby is so important in the sporting arena and what skills and values does it instil in our students who play the game?** In rugby, there is a position for everyone no matter your size, speed or strength. Every club I have played for, at every level, has a sense of belonging as soon as you step through the door. Everyone works so hard for each other on and off the pitch due to the nature of the game, there really is no other sport where you need to have each other's 'backs' as much as you do in Rugby (either code). The natural skills and qualities students gain from playing rugby are, communication, teamwork, leadership, trust and respect. None of this back chatting with the ref! Utmost respect for everybody in the game, whether players, officials or volunteers and once you play you are a part of the 'rugby family' forever.

We are sad to share the news that after eight years at Richmond School, Miss Harrower is leaving us to move to a position closer to home. She has been a highly valued member of the PE department and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike.



## \* STOP PRESS\* GOOD LUCK TO CAITLIN IN NATIONAL WESTERN RIDING SHOW \*STOP PRESS\*



Sending the best of luck to Caitlin Holcroft, in Year 7, who is currently tying at the top of the leaderboard in the Western Equestrian Society's national youth online show. There are two more rounds to complete and we look forward to sharing a full feature about Caitlin's passion for western riding in the next newsletter.



## SUCCESS FOR ROSE IN BOWES MUSEUM ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Rose Jury, in Year 9, who is a winner in Bowes Museum's 'Portraits Through Objects' competition. Rose's stunning photograph, titled 'The Peaceful Outdoors', is a composition of carefully selected objects inspired by nature and the seashore, which will now take pride of place at an exhibition at the Museum later in the year.

Rose said of her entry: "I decided to take inspiration from the seashore and the Lake District when putting my photo together, as both places are where I have lots of good memories and are places that I love to go to."

"I think that the sea and the Lakes are beautiful so wanted to include aspects of those places in my photograph, along with some other objects that are important to me and show different parts of my personality and interests. I am extremely pleased that I have been selected as one of the winners and that others liked my photo."

Mrs James, Lead Teacher for Art, said: "Rose is a highly creative student who spends hours crafting the standard of her pieces when she works. She has produced some excellent outcomes throughout the year and this photographic piece is beautifully composed and carefully considered in every aspect. The attention to detail and the range of objects Rose has used to portray her character is really impressive for a student of her age."



Rose's photograph will be exhibited online on the Young People section of the Bowes Museum website and will also be displayed in the Museum, when it reopens following its closure during the lockdown.

The competition was set for Year 9 GCSE Art students as part of lockdown, linking with their portrait coursework. Students were encouraged to enter their photographs on the theme of 'Portraits Through Objects' in the age 13-16 age category. Further information about the competition is on the Museum's website at [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Learn/Young-People/Bouts-Art-Competition](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Learn/Young-People/Bouts-Art-Competition)

## LOGAN COMPLETES LEEDS UNIVERSITY AND INSTITUTE OF CODING COURSE

Logan Hankin, in Year 10, has enhanced his skills during lockdown and has successfully completed the Leeds University and Institute of Coding course in 'creating a great user experience for mobile apps'.

We are very impressed with Logan's achievement and commend him for demonstrating many of the school values, showing independence in his initiative to research the course, creativity as demanded by the course content and excellence in achieving such great results, without any help or support.

Logan has a keen interest in Python coding and is currently completing two other online courses to further develop his coding skills.



## CORA AND NATASHA TAKE PART IN THE ARETÉ LEARNING TRUST BIOLOGY CHALLENGE

Well done to Cora Aked and Natasha Nixon, Year 10 students, who took part in the Areté Learning Trust Biology Challenge, along with students attending Stokesley School and Northallerton School. The challenge was inspired by the many and varied competitions that universities have for A-level students and came about when staff were thinking about how to provide opportunities to challenge and inspire students during lockdown.

The challenge was to research and present a scientific topic within the field of epidemiology, the branch of science which deals with the incidence, distribution and possible control of diseases. Natasha and Cora were commended for their work with Cora's project investigating Occupational Epidemiology and Natasha's considering Covid-19 and the general science, origin and relation to other Corona viruses.



Sandra Johnson, Leader of Transition, said: "The Biology Challenge has been another great opportunity for students to extend their independent learning and study skills, combining research and analysis to develop their knowledge and understanding of topical issues in Biology."

The judges, Dr Andrew Mackenzie and Dr Mike Parrott, said, "We were very pleasantly surprised by both the variety of entries and their quality. Brasenose College, Oxford kindly sponsored the competition and the awards were announced by Professor Owen Lewis, Professor of Biology at the University of Oxford."

## GREAT TIPS TO HELP YOUR INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Our Year 10 and 12 Student Leaders have created a fabulous video that provides valuable advice on how to organise your independent learning, keep on track and stay motivated. We hope our students and their parents and carers will watch the [video here](#).

Working alongside Mrs Weston, Lead Learning Manager, their guidance is really helpful and we guarantee there will be something that will strike a chord and support all our students.

Mrs Weston said: "I am really impressed with the contributions our Student Leaders have made to this assembly with pertinent and relevant advice to guide students in their home learning."



## INVENTIVE STUDENTS DESIGN WORKING MOTORS

Two Year 8 students, Andrew Lunn and Kirsty Tarran have impressed their Science teacher with their understanding of how a motor works and, in particular, the way they went the extra mile to demonstrate this. Both students created impressive videos of their work which can be viewed [here](#).

The students were only just starting to study electricity with the other students in their two classes when the school shut. This gave them minimal opportunity for any practical work in what is, essentially, a practical topic. Despite that, both students managed to produce a working electric motor from a battery, a magnet and a few wires.

Mr Stalley, Science teacher, said: "This is a difficult practical exercise in school with the proper electric motor kits, so to achieve this with what they had available at home was exceptional. Also, there was no suggestion from me that they do this. It was totally their own initiative. Motors are such an integral part of modern life and are often hidden away, so an understanding of how they work is a fundamental part of understanding the world around us today."

Kirsty said: "I wanted to make my own motor to see how well it would work and it looked really cool being able to make a piece of wire move using electricity without touching it. I enjoyed finding all the materials to make it and constructing the wire circuit. The result was cool but I think we might have needed a lighter wire because it didn't spin that fast. So that is the only thing I would have changed."

Andrew said: "I decided to make the electric motor because I miss doing Science practicals in school. I had to make a few adjustments of the motor from the video to make it work from different objects around the house. I was particularly glad that I could do this task because we use motors around the house and in our daily lives and it was interesting find out how they worked and how to make one myself."



Kirsty's motor

Andrew's motor

## LILY TEACHES HERSELF KOREAN DURING LOCKDOWN

Congratulations to Lily Clarkson, in Year 10, on successfully completing a basic course in Korean. In two weeks, Lily has learnt greetings, how to tell the time and to count, as well as many useful day-to-day phrases. Lily was inspired to do the online course, offered by Yonsei University, in South Korea, through the website Coursera. She came across the course when she was looking at MOOCs on Unifrog and decided to apply for it.

Lily said: "I chose Korean because I love Asian culture, food and music, and so decided to learn an Asian language. Out of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and many other Asian languages Korean has the easiest alphabet and was a good one to begin with. I was more curious about it at first, but now I really love the language and have learnt a lot about the culture whilst studying it."



"At school, I learn French. Out of school, Korean is the only language I study seriously, however, I love picking up languages from watching TV shows from different countries. I have learnt some Chinese and Japanese in this way. I hope to continue my study of Korean at university, as well as other Asian languages. I would love to travel and wish to eventually make a career using my languages, possibly teaching English as a foreign language."

The course is self-paced and Lily completed it in two weeks. Before starting the course, Lily had been using the Talk to me in Korean website to study by herself.

MOOCs are online courses and offer a great way to develop skills and knowledge to enhance learning and Unifrog is a helpful search tool for matching students to a MOOC.

# ACADEMIC

## YEAR 8 SCIENCE STUDENTS CREATE IMPRESSIVE VIDEO AND MODELS OF THE ATOM

Mr Sandell and Mr Randall have been very impressed with the high standard of work submitted for a recent Year 8 Science task. Students were asked to draw or make a model of the atom, showing the nucleus (protons and neutrons) and the electrons.

Most of the students decided to draw it, but there were some students who created fantastic models and pictures. Anna-Rosie Hall did an amazing job by taking 202 pictures to produce a terrific video which you can watch [here](#)

Mr Randall said "I am really impressed with how these students have come up with some excellent ideas and shown great creativity in order to make these models of the atom."

A huge well done to: Anna-Rosie Hall, Katie Carruthers, Cain Green, Elsa Wright, Jessie Hankin, John Shanley and Sam Ramsay for their great work.



### HAROLD DOES THE DOUBLE

Harold Raven, a Year 9 student, has again proved himself to be one of the world's top Computing students. Competing against students from over forty countries, Harold was placed 'Best in School' for his age group in the international Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge earlier in the year. This earned him a place in the 'invitation only' TCS Oxford Computing Challenge (OCC) which took place in school in March.



Just before the school closures, we found out that Harold excelled in this challenge too, scoring the maximum points, making no errors at all and, in doing so, secured a place in the prestigious TCS Finals for the second time since he started Richmond School! The TCS Finals is an elite competition for the top 20 students in their respective age groups. The school closures weren't going to stop these talented students, and they were permitted to take part from their own homes under the supervision of an adult.

The organisers at Oxford University said: "The students who have reached the final round are amazingly talented! They qualified for the OCC by scoring in the top 10% in Bebras; they have then solved more problems in the OCC first round than thousands of other qualifying students, and now find themselves in an elite group of very high achievers. Out of around a quarter of a million original Bebras participants, only 84 have made it to these finals – roughly one in 3,000!". Due to the current situation, Harold received his certificate electronically coming 14<sup>th</sup> in his group, an amazing achievement.

# ACADEMIC

## YEAR 10s STAR IN JUNIOR OLYMPIAD PHYSICS CHALLENGE



Twenty Year 10 students recently took part in the Junior Physics Challenge and achieved impressive results. It is one of seven competitions organised by the British Physics Olympiad (BPHO), and this is the first year we have entered our Year 10 students. Over 5,000 students, from 100 schools, took part in this year's challenge. Fifty percent of our students achieved a Gold or Silver award, which is significantly above the national average of 37%.

The competition was open to all students in Year 10 and consisted of two twenty-five minute online multiple choice papers. The BPHO, hosted by the University of Oxford, is a charitable trust set up to engage and challenge students of all abilities in Physics. Due to lockdown, the competition (which would normally take place in a supervised classroom) had to be moved online in students' homes. The 20 students joined a bespoke Google Classroom, which contained all the information for accessing the competition to enable them to take part in the Physics Challenge.

Mrs Harrison, Lead Teacher of Physics, said: "I am so proud of all the students who took part as they were doing this in their own time, under very challenging circumstances. They were also limited to when we were able to access the papers as I had to unlock all the papers for them at various times, as well as having to navigate a new website. They were all amazing and kept in touch via email so we could deal with any issues as they arose. I am particularly impressed with how they handled themselves during the challenge, and of the awards they have received" Mrs Harrison.

Emma Scott, Year 10 student, added: "The Physics challenge was quite different to usual work as it had a large amount of general Physics knowledge and I found that it was refreshing. There was a good mix of questions with a range of difficulty that I found challenging, but within reach. Some questions featured concepts that we had covered in class which was helpful as revision and others were related to concepts we had covered but in relation to different examples which was helpful as it made me adapt my knowledge. When I found out I had achieved a gold award I was very surprised because Science has never been my strongest subject and it was a great confidence booster for my GCSEs next year."

The event will run again next year, along with Senior Physics Challenge for Year 12 and the Physics Challenge for Year 13. Well done to all the students who took part and we are delighted to share photographs of some of them proudly showing their certificates.

Congratulations to: Adam Button, Jocie Daly, Joshua Kind, James Abel-Smith, Nathan Abel-Smith, Danielle Smith, Evie Farnell, Charles Bacon, Eve Pyatt, Matthew Heyes, Isobel Brooks, Owen Miller, Henry Banks, Peter Longstaff, James Slater, Evie Schmidt, Sid Rye, Bella Hesp, Cora Aked and Emma Scott.

## YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHT ULAMILA'S GREAT WORK



Lockdown has been such a challenging time and, at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, we like to highlight students who are thriving and making the most of all the opportunities given.

One such student is Ulamila Turagavagone in Year 9. Ulamila has been getting on with her Business Studies on the google classrooms and producing high-quality work, week in and week out,

Ms Mannion said: "Ulamila's work is so impressive and she has come into her own using the Google classroom.

"We work closely with Uni Connect which is run from York St John University. They have asked us to highlight any students who have really thrived during this difficult time and I realised straight away that Ulamila is such a shining example.

"She is a student who has worked consistently well, completing all tasks and extension work, and shown excellence and resilience, two of Richmond School's values."

Ulamila achieved Student of The Month for Business in March and has had "Well Done" postcards sent home. She has also been awarded Student of the Month for English and PE for her outstanding work during school closure.

Mrs Clish, Lead Teacher of Business added: "Ulamila has consistently impressed the department since beginning her study of Business. Although clearly a talented student, what is really notable is her level of motivation and positive attitude towards her work."

## SUBIN MAKES HIS MARK WITH YORK POLITICS SOCIETY

Subin Pariyar, in Year 13, has made his mark with York Politics Society, after winning their competition to design a logo.

The winner was decided by an online poll and Subin's design attracted an incredible 90% of all the votes.



You can see his logo gracing the Society's facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UoYPolitics/>

Subin said: "I stumbled across the ad for the logo competition after seeing a York Politics Society story on a friend's Instagram. Run by students, it was an open invitation and the only rule was that the logo had to be circular and they were open to any and all new ideas.

The deadline was fast approaching so I didn't have much time and I was working with vector art suites, which I'm not used to. I created two variations so that they could be used for different applications. I decided the design should be simple and easy recognisable."

Jasmine Ormrod, president of the York Politics Society, based at the University of York, contacted Subin to pass on her appreciation and sent him a £20 Amazon voucher as a prize.

Congratulations to Subin and we wish him all the best with his plans to go to Sheffield University, in September, to study Mechanical Engineering.



## YEAR 9 STUDENT EXCELS AT THE LETTERBOX CHALLENGE MARKETING TASK

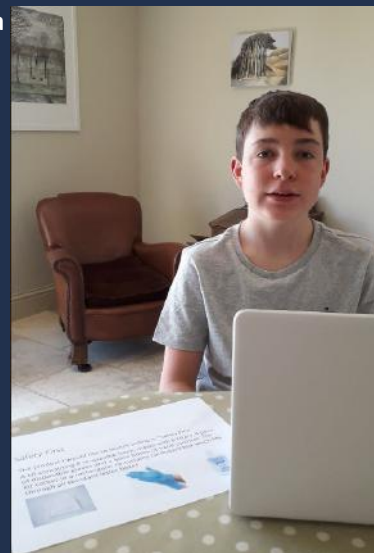
The two Year 9 Business groups are currently working on the Marketing topic. It is always a popular subject which allows students to use their creativity to solve a business problem.

There have been articles in the press recently about consumer demand for products that can fit through letterboxes during the lockdown period. This helps for security of delivery, avoids contact and also promotes social distancing. The students were given the task of developing a new product that could fit through a letterbox. We had some brilliant ideas ranging from chocolates and bath products, branded T-shirts, and a very ingenious hair-brush that doubles as a mirror.

The Business teachers were stunned to see the product idea that Francis Nicholson had come up with 'Safety First'- A kit containing 4 reusable fabric masks with 8 filters, 4 pairs of disposable gloves and a 50ml bottle of hand sanitizer. The kit comes in a rectangular recyclable cardboard box which fits through all standard letter boxes. The idea is original, topical and meets the needs of the target market, with complete information on pricing and delivery.

Mrs Clish, Lead Teacher for Business, and Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, both agreed that this is the standard they would expect from Year 12 students in the first year of the A-level course. Ms Mannion said: "I love setting brand new project work, and I also knew that the Year 9 students were up to the challenge of the task. The idea that Francis developed is excellent."

Mrs Clish added: "One of the great aspects of Business is that students can engage with current affairs, students learn to be aware of external factors, such as the economy and the environment, and how these impact on business."



## JAIME BRINGS HER FAMILY HISTORY TO LIFE

A budding Historian has produced some exceptional work about the home front. Jaime Gilpin, a Year 9 student, went above and beyond, not only making one of the recipes referred to in the task but also spending time doing a lot of amazing family research.

Jaime tackled the recipe for 'Lord Woolton's pie' and was delighted with the results. Lord Woolton was the Minister for Food at the time and the pie was made with home-grown ingredients that were available during the war which, due to rationing, were few and far between. Jaime said: "The pie was made with oats, marmite, flour and vegetables, including cauliflower, parsnips, carrots, potatoes, spring onions. It was remarkably tasty and quite satisfying!"

Jaime really enjoyed her research project and said: "It was really interesting to discover that Kaye Gilpin my Great, Great Uncle served as a Lieutenant in first the Green Howards and then the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regiment, during World War 2. I found that he fought in Burma during the war. The photographs I uncovered show a poignant image of him being kissed goodbye at Richmond Station as he headed to war. There is also a lovely shot of him on his wedding day when he married Ethel Newman. I am very proud that his medals are on display in the Green Howards Museum in Richmond."

Mrs Mawer, Lead Teacher for History, said: I was particularly impressed with Jaime's work because she made it very personal to her. By finding out about her own family's story in the Second World War and making one of the wartime ration recipes, she made it come more to life, gaining a better understanding about what it was like for people at the time."



# ACADEMIC

## LANGUAGE STUDENTS IMPRESS TEACHERS WITH THEIR CREATIVITY AND ENTHUSIASM

The Modern Foreign Languages department has been really impressed with the amount of creativity and enthusiasm that students have for their language learning. Congratulations to those students who have created such brilliant pieces of work as models, reports, baking, paintings, sketches and even videos – the standard of work is excellent and really showcases and demonstrates what they have been learning at home.

Year 7 – Our Year 7 language learners produced a variety of posters, pictures and videos to show off their pets in French and German. It provided their teachers with some very happy viewing.

Year 8 – In German, our Year 8 students have been learning how to describe their town and where they live. As part of a research project, they were asked to find out about a piece of architecture in Germany, Austria or Switzerland. We received a great variety of models, cakes and works of art with some very imaginative pieces of work.

All language learners – The department would like to congratulate our students for their outstanding work ethic at home. The top students have made it to our language champions' leaderboard:



All In languages champions			Outstanding effort	
	FRENCH	GERMAN		
Year 7	Daisy Pyrah Charlotte Harrison Olivia Fenwicke-Clennell	Daisy Pyrah Layla Whelan	Y7	Ellie Hughes Evie Wharton Harriett Wilson
Yr 8	Elsa Wright Ruben Putt Connie Lord Tabitha Aston William Thapa Emily Wallis Ned Land	Elsa Wright Oliver Clarkson Abbey Sankey	Y8	Abbey Sankey
Yr 9	Harry Teale Annabel Gorman Eleni Oliver	Lizzie Arnold Lucy Chandler Hannah Horton Mia Austin	Y9	Mia Austin Lizzie Arnold Lucy Chandler Katie Hare
Yr 10	Emma Scott James Lunn Henry Banks Zander Metcalf Grace Lord Nathan Abel Smith Lily Clarkson Izzy Lunberg	James Abel Smith Malana Cutler	Y10	Ellie Spencer Freya Ball Amelia Brown Tiana Sandhu Emma Scott Josh Kind

If you would like to see the full presentations of the Year 7 and Year 8 students' work, please see [www.richmondschool.net/language-students-impress-teachers-with-their-creativity-and-enthusiasm/](http://www.richmondschool.net/language-students-impress-teachers-with-their-creativity-and-enthusiasm/)  
Well done to our students – keep up the great work!



## YOUNG WRITERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Nineteen Year 9 students have received recognition for their poetry writing. Their poems will be published in an anthology called 'Through Their Eyes 2020 - Beyond The Page'. This year's challenge was to write from the point of view of something or someone.

Richmond School entries included poems written from the point of view of an asylum seeker, someone who was wrongly accused of a crime, a Jewish child imprisoned in a concentration camp, a soldier, a black cat, an orangutan, a trophy wife and a tree.

Mrs Weston, English Teacher, said: "My Year 9 class wrote a stunning collection of poems based on the 'Through Their Eyes' stimulus. The quality of their poems demonstrated their understanding of language, structure and poetic form as well as showcasing their creativity and vivid imaginations. These poems were written before lockdown; however the students have continued to work hard and made terrific progress despite the challenges they have faced in recent months. I am very proud of their efforts and hope that this recognition will give them all a much needed boost."

The students who received certificates and will appear in the anthology are: Faith Andrew, Jenna Benson, Mia Brown, Lucy Chandler, Rachel Eldred, Maisie Forbes, Maisy Forbes, Charlie Giddens, Jaime Gilpin, Annabel Gorman, Hannah Horton, Beth Hutchinson, Rose Jury, Diana Murray, Natalie Muxworthy, Sophia O'Callaghan, Eleni Oliver, Joe Palliser and Chloe Thompson. We are pleased to share some of the poetry below, visit [www.richmondschool.net/young-writers-receive-recognition/](http://www.richmondschool.net/young-writers-receive-recognition/) to read more.



### Murderer by Faith Andrew

Left to rot  
Long forgot,  
In the place I now call home.  
Needed a favour  
But forever doing labour,  
For my unforgiving behaviour.  
I did my deed  
And he was left to bleed,  
Onto the cold, cobbled floor.  
Got my money  
But it's never sunny,  
In my clouded over mind  
I was backstabbed  
Then got grabbed,  
I guess you could call it karma.  
My cell is empty  
My overalls filthy,  
In the place I have to call home.

### The Soldier by Charlie Giddens

The sound of the mortar  
grows shorter and shorter.  
As the enemies advance, I'm stuck  
in a trance.  
I'm envisioning an ending  
of doom...  
I'm lights  
out  
in  
three.  
As quick as I left it, I'm back into reality.  
I can't tell  
what's going on  
inside my head...  
Is this what it's like? To be dead?  
The constant ringing of the 'boom'  
I'm promptly wheeled into an operating  
room...  
The pathetic anaesthetic barely numbs the  
pain.  
Whatever is happening,  
Well I must sustain my will  
To Live  
To Fight  
To Survive

### A Tree by Francis Nicholson

I've seen you in this barren space  
Standing majestically tall,  
I've gazed upon your elegance  
From winter through to fall.  
  
I thought of you, here all alone,  
Then these questions arose in me:  
Are you sad? Do you have a friend?  
Tell me, please, Lonely Tree.  
  
'Lonely? I cannot say that I am,'  
It seems I heard it say,  
'For I have lots of company  
That visit night and day.  
  
Above, I have the puffy clouds,  
The warm sun shining bright;  
My arms caress the songbirds  
While they're resting from their  
flight.  
  
In darkness, I'm never alone  
For so many stars appear  
And cradled high in the sky,  
The golden moon is always near.'

# ACADEMIC

## KIRSTY CREATES STUNNING ARTWORK FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

Kirsty Tarran, a Year 8 student, has used old magazines to craft a stunning collage that really highlights her creative skills and imagination. Kirsty was prompted to create the artwork to enhance a shutter in her room, which her Dad made to stop the light coming in at night and early in the morning. Kirsty thought the shutter was a bit dull so she decided to jazz it up and make it a feature. Not only has Kirsty shared photographs of her beautiful artwork but you can also enjoy watching her clever [time-lapse video](#) which she put together to demonstrate the technique she used to create the design.

Kirsty said: "I decided I wanted to make it look like I was looking out into a jungle. I have done two other collages like this before, both of people made using magazine cuttings. The Toucan collage took me two days to complete. I enjoyed creating this piece because it was very calm and repetitive, I liked the colours and how I got to reuse magazines that aren't being used anymore."

Mrs James, Lead Teacher for Art, said: "Kirsty has gone above and beyond developing her creative skills during lockdown. She has completed all the set tasks she has been assigned and has used her own initiative to work independently on her collage skills. Her time-lapse video is a brilliant example of how to complete a magazine collage and could now be used as a tutorial to show other students this technique."

Kirsty also impressed Mrs James with some work her class have been developing on the theme of Sweets and Cakes. This has been a popular topic and, despite the difficult circumstances, students have been working hard on their drawing skills.

Kirsty said: "For the chocolate logos we were asked by Mrs James to find some well-known chocolates or sweets around our house and then blow them up so you could only see a portion of the logo. If you picked Cadbury's you could just do the curly C, or something like that."



## KINDNESS COULD BE THE KEY – RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Kindness could be the key: Kindness was the theme of Mental Health Awareness week. Ms Richardson, Assistant Headteacher, prepared some thought-provoking and supportive resources for our students. Ms Richardson said: "We encourage our students and their families to read through the presentation as looking after our mental health is even more important at this time as it is going to be central to us coping with and recovering from the coronavirus pandemic."

"Research shows that kindness is an antidote to isolation, creating a sense of belonging and is of benefit to all involved. Kindness strengthens relationships and we hope that students will think about ways they can show kindness in their families and communities. We also want our young people to reflect and explore the sort of society we would like to emerge following this turbulent time."

For further information on Mental Health Awareness Week visit <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week> View the presentation here – [Kindness \(1\)](#)



# TRANSITION: YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7

## YEAR 6 TO 7 TRANSITION VIDEOS AND SUBJECT CHALLENGES TO HAVE FUN WITH DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

We hope you enjoy our series of three Year 7 transition welcome videos. Ms Johnson, Leader of Transition is your guide and gives you a behind-the-scenes tour of school, answering questions such as: How is the school day structured? Will I use a planner? What's the library like? You'll also have the opportunity to meet some teachers too. The three videos are here [photos.app.goo.gl/YfZERVpPiBZmBFWq9](https://photos.app.goo.gl/YfZERVpPiBZmBFWq9) and here [photos.app.goo.gl/X2unoBrKyoZhNe249](https://photos.app.goo.gl/X2unoBrKyoZhNe249)

If you haven't seen the terrific challenges that have been set then please read on to find out about hands-on Science experiments in the kitchen, making Maths fun, getting creative in DT, taking five in Music or heading off to China in Geography!



## HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS YOU CAN DO IN THE KITCHEN!

Year 6s will enjoy this hands-on science experiment on how to make an indicator which you can do in your own kitchen, following Miss Weir's great video which guides you every step of the way.

The Science Department challenges you to investigate the acids and alkalis in your home. Take a look at the video at [photos.app.goo.gl/WA2jckZ39xUNDiXC8](https://photos.app.goo.gl/WA2jckZ39xUNDiXC8) as Miss Weir demonstrates how to make an indicator. Indicators are used in science to help scientists discover if a substance is an acid, alkali or if it is neutral. You can make your own one using simple equipment that you will have in the kitchen and some fruit and vegetables. You should do the experiment in your kitchen but make sure you ask permission from an adult to use the food and the utensils. You will also need supervision when using boiling water and knives.

You must only use the substances that Miss Weir mentions in her video. Please do not go around testing just anything you find at home. Once you have completed your challenge then it would be nice to see what you have found out. You could take pictures of your experiment, take a video, create a poster or write a scientific report. It would be great to see what you have done so please do email your work to Miss Weir at [sweir@richmondschool.net](mailto:sweir@richmondschool.net). Miss Weir has also prepared a handout document for you which you can download from [www.richmondschool.net/year-6-to-7-science-challenge-hands-on-experiments-you-can-do-in-the-kitchen/](http://www.richmondschool.net/year-6-to-7-science-challenge-hands-on-experiments-you-can-do-in-the-kitchen/)

### YEAR 6 SCIENCE CHALLENGE



## MAKING MATHS FUN!

Mr Lunn has created three Maths challenges for Year 6 students joining us in September.

There's one called 'Sticks' but involves spaghetti! We hope students enjoy this challenge which they can find at [photos.app.goo.gl/Moo7WcANm8FDJyTC6](https://photos.app.goo.gl/Moo7WcANm8FDJyTC6) or take a look at the curve stitching task at [rich.maths.org/5366](https://rich.maths.org/5366) that mixes Maths with some creative handiwork!

There are also challenges called Building Houses and Frogs Problems that you can try at [photos.app.goo.gl/5aLrdxCna5AESXZS6](https://photos.app.goo.gl/5aLrdxCna5AESXZS6) and [photos.app.goo.gl/xCTXmudSCupbyt6h7](https://photos.app.goo.gl/xCTXmudSCupbyt6h7)



# TRANSITION: YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7

## GET CREATIVE IN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Experience a taste of Design and Technology by taking part in Mr Braham's fun and inspiring challenges to demonstrate and build on your skills. Take a look at Mr Braham's videos at

[photos.app.goo.gl/3pAiW5azaVWYrdWr5](https://photos.app.goo.gl/3pAiW5azaVWYrdWr5) where he presents a great tutorial about Design and Technology, the types of projects that are tackled in Year 7, with a step-by-step guide to three different projects for you to try at home, ahead of starting with us in September. From making paper planes, redesigning an object to make easier to use, to designing road signs - You can complete one, two or all three of the challenges over the summer holidays! Any questions, or to submit your projects please email Mr Braham on: [tbrham@richmondschool.net](mailto:tbrham@richmondschool.net)



## THE TAKE FIVE MUSIC CHALLENGE

The Music challenge for Year 6 students, who we will be welcoming in September, involves doing something each day, Monday to Friday.

You'll have plenty of opportunities to have fun and find out what you enjoy about music, from listening to the radio, finding songs that are about colours, doing a musical word search and learning about instruments, to creating your own playlist.

All the details about your Take Five are on the website link [www.richmondschool.net/take-five-a-great-music-challenge-for-year-6-students-joining-us-in-september/](http://www.richmondschool.net/take-five-a-great-music-challenge-for-year-6-students-joining-us-in-september/)



## FIND OUT ABOUT CHINA

Year 6 students joining us in September have a great opportunity to complete a research project about the geography of China. There are some great tasks and you can select an option that suits you – present your findings as a newspaper article, a travel guide, a booklet or even as a podcast or video.

The choice is yours! You've plenty of time to do this and we'd like you to bring your project into school with you in September. All the details of the challenge can be found here [www.richmondschool.net/calling-all-young-geographers/](http://www.richmondschool.net/calling-all-young-geographers/)



## MR COLDWELL'S WELCOME: WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR FIRST DAY

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s to school on 7th September. Mr Coldwell, Lead Learning Manager, has put together an informative welcome broadcast for students and their parents and carers about what to expect on the first day - with lots of helpful advice and tips to help dispel any worries and make the first day run as smoothly as possible. You can watch the video at [photos.app.goo.gl/PZSGUzW4tNy8uLk29](https://photos.app.goo.gl/PZSGUzW4tNy8uLk29)

Mr Coldwell provides a check list of all the essential equipment students need to hand, from pencils and highlighters to glue sticks and water bottles, to outlining what happens on the first day in terms of the students getting to know their tutor group and the lesson plans.

The equipment list is still evolving so parents and carers should look out for further updates which will be emailed to them.



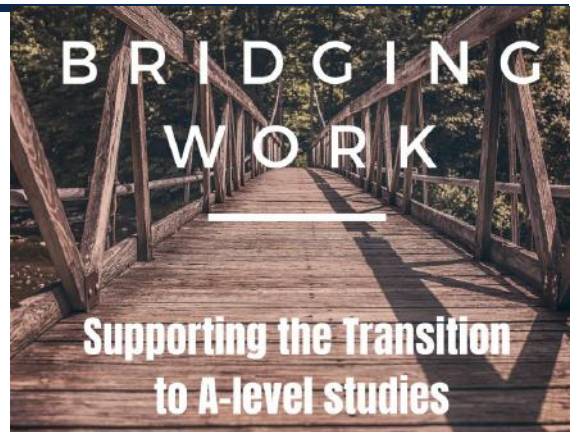
# TRANSITION: SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

## SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO A-LEVEL STUDIES

We offer a comprehensive Bridging Work Programme for our students who are planning to join us in Sixth Form. The programme 'bridges the gap' between GCSE and post-16 study to give students a flavour of the type of work they will be covering. The transition from GCSE to post-16 study can be a challenging one, and we want to provide students with as much support as we can.

The study skills required of a successful student are varied, and involve students taking an active role in their progression and development. We firmly believe that getting off to a good start will aid students on their journey to success, allowing them to develop into independent and responsible learners. When studies commence in September, students will be expected to have completed the Bridging Work in each of the subjects they have chosen to study.

Completing the Bridging Work prepares students for those subjects that they have chosen so they can start positively and 'hit the ground running'. Each department offers a range of tasks to complete prior to students starting their chosen courses. These vary in nature from course to course. It might involve learning some basics, reviewing some fundamental GCSE ideas, some reading or some research. This should be undertaken with diligence and an open mind, as the first step in the new post-16 journey. Our aim in Sixth Form is to support students to further develop all of our six core values- Independence, Excellence, Resilience, Creativity, Respect and Teamwork. The Bridging Work Programme is an important part of this.



Sandra Johnson, Leader of Sixth Form Transition, said: "We are delighted with the exceptional Bridging Work that our Year 11 students produce, ahead of joining our Sixth Form. They are really engaging with subject tasks and tackle them with great enthusiasm. They not only deliver excellent work, but also demonstrate how they embrace independent learning which is so important for post-16 study. It really impresses us how they become involved with the activities and their feedback highlights how valuable they find the work and the fun they have doing it.

"By completing the tasks that have been set by different subject areas, Year 11s should be much better informed about what studying a subject might be like and also be better prepared to continue their studies, having had the opportunity to develop study skills and discover strengths and interests relevant to Sixth Form"



Grace Morris, explains why she found the Bridging Work so valuable: "I really enjoyed the bridging work for a number of reasons; it was such a great opportunity to look into the subjects that I was interested in taking at A-level and has helped me make my mind up. Another reason is, at a time when a sense of purpose was lacking, due to the cancellation of exams, being able to take the next step was so valuable. The Bridging Work has made me look forward to starting in September even more so than I already was and by having this structure to my day I have thoroughly enjoyed having things to do that interest me and stimulate my brain.

"Some of the work I am particularly proud of is the project I did on Mime for Performing Arts. I also like the Personal Language History I did for English Language. Furthermore, I am pleased with the videos I submitted for Drama."

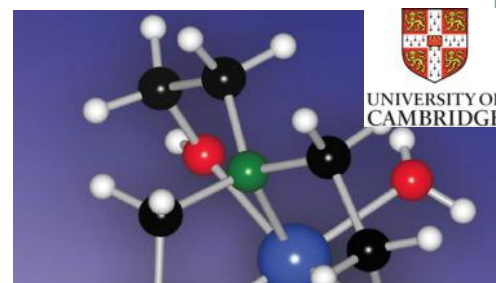
For more information on how to access the Bridging Work, please email Sandra Johnson at [sajohnson@richmondschool.net](mailto:sajohnson@richmondschool.net) and to find out more about our Sixth Form Transition process visit [Sixth Form Transition](#).

Our comprehensive Sixth Form Prospectus will guide you through all the subject choices and features dedicated sections on careers support, extra-curricular and enrichment activities, and much more, to give you a flavour of life at our college. Take a look at the prospectus and detailed Year 12 curriculum information [here](#)

## DANIEL FOCUSES ON MATERIALS SCIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Daniel Baines, in Year 12, was awarded a place on the very competitive EDT Headstart course at the University of Cambridge to study Materials Science for a week. Daniel was one of only 34 students from across the UK who were offered places.

As the course cannot go ahead, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Daniel will be engaging with some online activities through the University of Cambridge. This will include webinars on atomic structure, mechanical properties, and biomedical materials.



**What is Materials Science?** Materials Science is an interdisciplinary subject, which combines elements of physics, chemistry, engineering and biology. It is the study of how the properties of a material are affected by its structure and the way it has been processed, and the subject has applications in every aspect of our daily lives, from computer chips to prosthetics and from buildings to clean energy. To apply, the course asked for a good understanding of Maths, the highest academic grades and a passionate interest in science which Daniel demonstrated in his application.

Daniel said: "This course is undoubtedly a great opportunity for all involved. Since I am still very much undecided as to what area of expertise I would like to go into in the future, and I am keen to develop my knowledge into a field of work that is only just becoming more important than ever, what with solving the ever growing problem of climate change."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader commented: "Daniel did so well to be selected for this course and he should feel proud of this and I know that the attributes he clearly demonstrated will help him with his UCAS application."

## GEORGE'S WORK EXPERIENCE LEADS TO COVETED PLACE IN DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB'S ACADEMY TEAM

George McCowie, in Year 11, has secured a coveted place in Darlington Football Club's Academy Team. George first experienced life at the Academy a year ago, when he did his work placement there, and he quickly realised that this was where he wanted to further his studies and career. This is a fabulous achievement to reach such an impressive standard in a highly competitive field.



George has been playing for Darlington Football Club for five years, starting in the Under 12s team. From September, he will be studying for a Level-3 Extended Diploma in Sport (equivalent to three A-levels), whilst playing in the National League with the Academy Team. He is looking forward to the opportunity of training alongside Darlington's First Team. While doing his work experience at Darlington, George played and trained with the club, which was demanding as he had to keep up with the team members who had been training constantly on their fitness. He also had his heartbeat analysed during his time at the club. He was involved behind the scenes, learning how the club is run, and he helped with the ordering of large batches of tickets for the club.

George said: "I knew when I spent my work experience week with the Academy that it was something I would really like to do. I love playing football and this course will enhance my own development in sport and football in all areas. I am looking forward to pre-season training and I can't wait to get started."

Paul Thomas, Director of Youth Darlington Football Club, added: "We are delighted that George has decided to sign his national league contract with Darlington FC. George has played for the academy since he was 12 and now will start his journey into full time football and education with us. Every year we have seen a development in his game and hopefully now with his own hard work and mentality we are hopeful the full time aspect will really make him kick on."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, concluded: "George was so highly motivated to carry out his placement and it has really paid off for him as he clearly made a long-lasting impression. We wish him all the best for the future."

# CAREERS

## YEAR 12 STUDENTS TAKE UP A WEALTH OF WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

It goes without saying that this year has presented challenges. Work experience, in its traditional form has not gone ahead. However, our Year 12 students have not been deterred by such matters and a number of them have gone out and found online work experience opportunities. Here are a few examples:

### Young Professionals Programme - Joely Weston

This is one of the top programmes in the UK. For this course there were 1400 applicants for 500 places, and they had to close it after one day! Joely attended a week-long programme (all delivered online), which included presentations from leading companies such as Rolls Royce, PwC, Ernst & Young, and a keynote speaker, the Chief Nurse from the NHS.

Joely said "I've been really enjoying it and learning a lot. It has got me thinking about other avenues after A levels. I'm really interested in finding a degree apprenticeship in marketing or business."



	Monday 22nd	Tuesday 23rd	Wednesday 24th	Thursday 25th	Friday 26th
09:00 - 10:00	Serial Entrepreneur Judy Naske St Tropez Brand	NHS - Chief Nurse Key note talking about careers in the healthcare sector	EY - The GIG Economy and how technology is changing the way we work	EY - Interview Preparation and how to stand out in the job market	PwC - Mega Trends and what the future of work could look like
10:00 - 11:00	Rolls-Royce Vice President Warwick Matthews	Brownie Jacobson LLP - Getting into the legal profession + other careers in the sector (marketing, IT, business & finance and more!)	EY - An introduction to the corporate world - how business works	CIMA - Psychometric Testing, online tests and the recruitment process	PwC - Skills for the future, what will employers be looking for?
11:00 - 12:00	IBM Cloud Platform Leader Lucas Wager	RAF - Linguists Masterclass, learn to speak a new language and an insight into how the RAF communicates	Young Professionals - How to network	CIMA - Psychometric Testing in practice, have a go at mock tests	PwC - Resilience - what is resilience and how to build it
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	CIMA Vice President	Capgemini - Personal Branding for Students	Apprentice Panel Discussion	PwC - Digital Interviews	QA - next steps and your options after school
14:00 - 15:00	Capgemini Billie Major UK Board Member	Capgemini - Side Hustle (running your own business)	Hot House Music School! Creativity in Music	Capgemini - Recruitment hints and tips	Young Professionals - Wrap up of the week
15:00 - 16:00	Young Professionals - Overview for the rest of the week	Capgemini - Inclusivity and Resilience	Young Professionals - CV & Cover letter writing	RAF - Key employable skills	Young Professionals - Wrap up of the week

### Uptree - Liam McCarthy and Joe Hughes

Liam and Joe attended an online STEM and cyber security Work Experience Day hosted by GCHQ. It involved an introduction to GCHQ and its culture, a panel talk with key business figures, speed networking with professionals, a cyber security group task and a careers and pathways talk. GCHQ's mission is to keep Britain safe.



They bring intelligence and technology together to counter increasingly sophisticated threats. GCHQ intelligence helps keep our forces safe, prevents terrorism and crime and protects against cyber-attack.

The work experience included speed networking, a cyber security task and a pathways Talk. It was made available through UPTREE, our new work experience partner. At the end of July, Joe and Liam will be taking part in the STEM and cyber security Application Masterclass.

Liam said: "I really liked it! It was very informative about the organisation and what to expect. I'm looking forward to applying later this year."

# CAREERS

## County Records Office - Bella Hall

Bella applied for work experience at the County Records Office, and they were able to offer a project which could be undertaken online from home. This entailed looking at their website and comparing that to what is available from a selection of other Record Offices. Bella had to come up with some recommendations for improvements for the site.



Bella said "Over the past few weeks, I have been making progress on my work experience project in between my classwork commitments. I've been watching the video courses and making notes for the project. I'll be typing up those notes in a more professional and formal response for the project soon."

## Multi-Industry Networking – Charlotte Addison, Harry Mawer, Joely Weston and Tom Watson

Tom attended an online event on 9th July where he engaged with top employers whilst gaining valuable work experience of various careers including STEM. The employers involved included PwC, IBM and Deloitte.



## Purple Creative Studio - Millie Brown

Millie wanted to learn about Graphic Design as a career, and Purple Creative came up with a series of activities that mirror client briefs, including a Photoshop and Logo challenge. Millie also had to look at the competitors of the briefs listed and evaluate their current websites to see how she could make each website better with her designs.



Scarlett MacFarlane, Millie's supervisor from Purple Creative said: "Millie's work is fabulous. Millie is very meticulous and has a keen eye for detail which is always a good skill to have when you wish to do design, as the simplest of details can make a real difference to the final look and feel of a design."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, said: "These Year 12 students have shown a great deal of resilience and self-motivation. They have also demonstrated change management skills as they have found positive opportunities instead of set-backs."

## GCHQ - Joe Hughes and Nick Chapman

Joe and Nick are no strangers to GCHQ, this is the third time they have attended their highly-sought-after courses. They have attended two week-long courses, Cyberfirst Defenders in Year 10 and Cyberfirst Futures in Year 11, both hosted at Newcastle University where they boarded in university accommodation.



The Year 12 course, named Cyberfirst Advanced, is the third course run by The Smallpeice Trust, inspired and led by the National Cybersecurity Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ. The courses are funded by GCHQ, with QA the training provider. Each year, the students have to take a test and are then awarded a certificate which is recognised by SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework).

# CAREERS

This advanced course involves gaining an understanding of cyber security as a career; cyber security, computing, networking and engineering skills; assessment under SQA framework to ensure personal development and an opportunity to hear from industry professionals. It includes digital forensics, encryption, open source intelligence, penetration testing and a digital treasure hunt.

A major benefit of completing the courses is that the students qualify for a £4,000 bursary when they go to university, as long as the degree can be used in the cyber security field, which in reality is a huge range including English, Mathematics, Computer Science, Foreign Languages and many other courses.



Nick hopes to go to university to study Computer Science, specialising in Cyber Security, with a view to following a career in this field of work. Nick said: "This course gives you valuable experience in the world of cyber security, and it gives a great first step in learning the skills needed to be successful in starting a career in this field."

Joe said: "By attending these courses I have gained an insight into the world of cyber security as a career. It initially enabled me to make an informed choice regarding my choice of A-levels and I am taking Computer Science, Physics and Maths, ahead of studying Computer Science at university.

"I then intend to do a Masters in Cyber Security in preparation for my career. Being able to include all this experience in my personal statement for my UCAS application will hopefully support my application to university. I would like to thank Mr Stephenson for informing me when these courses became available so that I could apply."



## \* STOP PRESS\* APPRENTICE SUCCESS: CONGRATULATIONS TO ETHAN HAYDEN \* STOP PRESS \*

News has just come in about Ethan Hayden, Year 11 student, who has accepted a four-year apprenticeship with PH Machin Plumbing. Ethan sent his CV and covering letter to all local plumbers and PH Machin got in touch to offer him a two-week trial at the end of June.

Ethan successfully completed his trial and has been offered an apprenticeship which he has accepted. He has already started working full time and his course starts in September. Ethan spoke to the coordinator, who will run the course at college and will come to see him at work. He told him that he has been really lucky as he considers them to be the best company in North Yorkshire to have an apprenticeship with.

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader said: "We are over the moon to hear about Ethan. He has been so motivated to find an apprenticeship and he has been very proactive, sending out his CV to lots of companies. Ethan went on a Year 10 residential last summer to York St John University, he played a very active part in the event and this really helped to build his confidence and employability skills."



# CAREERS

## SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS EMBARK ON APPRENTICESHIPS

Three students are celebrating after successfully achieving highly-sought-after apprenticeships. In spite of a sudden and unexpected end to their studies, they have shown initiative and determination in securing the first step of their careers, in Electrics, Marketing and Civil Engineering, and are being praised by their employers for their maturity and strong work ethic.

### Josh Wrightham: Apprentice Electrician at OS Electrical Services

Josh Wrightham, age 16, applied for his apprenticeship with Richmond-based OS Electrical Services on 10<sup>th</sup> May and immediately impressed Ollie Scott, Managing Director and a former Richmond School student.

Ollie said: "Josh stood out for a few reasons, he has a good standard of predicted grades, which he would need to be successful in completing the college side of the apprenticeship programme, and also had been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.



"The main thing that jumped out at me was the impressive amount of work experience he already had at such a young age, through school placements and having also worked in several part-time jobs, whilst at school. This shows he is not afraid to work hard, gets his hands dirty, and knows what is to be expected of an employee."

As an apprentice electrician, and only a few weeks into his job, Josh has already learnt how to connect up double socket outlets, chasing out boxes and cable routes, and learning how to use basic hand and battery power tools. Attending one day each week at college and four days on site, his apprenticeship will take around four years to complete.

Ollie added: "Josh is doing really well so far, and is managing to exceed any expectations I had of an apprentice at his stage. He is learning quickly and always eager to help, asking the right questions and gaining some basic understanding of the day to day work of an electrician."

Josh said: "I decided to apply for the apprenticeship, because I like doing practical work and becoming an electrician looked like a really good opportunity. So far, I have really enjoyed it and have learnt many new skills already."

Liz Mannion, Careers Leader, said: "In Year 10, Josh did a week of work experience in the IT Department at Richmond District Council.

"This has boosted his CV and helped to give him the employability skills to be able to start an apprenticeship."



# CAREERS

## Olivia Dickenson, Marketing Apprentice at May Green Marketing

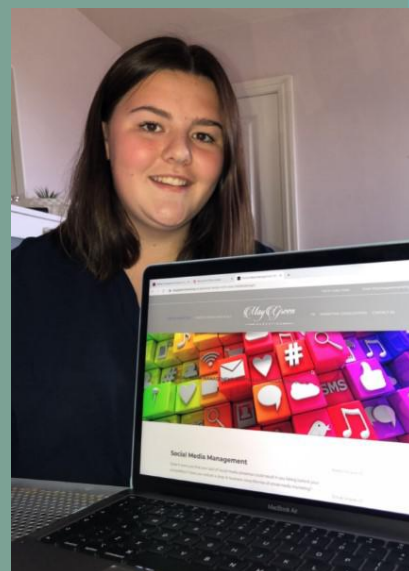
Well done to Olivia Dickenson from Year 13, who has secured an apprenticeship and started a few weeks ago. She is working in the Social Media Team at May Green Marketing, based in Newton Aycliffe. Olivia managed to apply, be interviewed and start the job during lockdown and this is a brilliant achievement in itself. This really shows how highly motivated and resilient she is. She is now studying remotely for her apprenticeship standards.

Olivia says “I am loving it! I work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and on a Wednesday I have webinars for the learning side of my apprenticeship. Every day is so different. Each morning I do all my social media posts for the day and schedule them all to go out. On afternoons it varies, sometimes I can be working on a blog post, doing some work for customers’ websites, or attending meetings. The job is fantastic, and I couldn’t find nicer people to work with.”

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, commented: “I feel so proud of Olivia, she was extremely prepared with a letter and CV and had also done a mock interview. Last year, Olivia asked for an additional day of work experience to learn more about Marketing. She spent a day with the Marketing team at Catterick Racecourse on a busy race day, and this gave her additional knowledge and skills to add to her CV. All this effort has really paid off.”

Mrs Clish, Lead Teacher of Business, added: “Olivia is a determined student whose interest in all things business was evident throughout her time studying the subject, first at GCSE and then at Sixth Form. I know that she will make the most of this opportunity and have every expectation that she will be very successful in her future career. Well done Olivia.”

Thank you to [May Green Marketing](#) for giving Olivia this wonderful opportunity.



## Dan Luck, Degree Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering at JBA Consulting

Dan Luck has gained a degree apprenticeship in Civil Engineering at JBA Consulting, based in Leeds. JBA is a dynamic and growing environmental engineering consulting company. The company is experiencing great project successes and has been recognised by numerous high-profile industry awards, including the ‘BCIA 2019 Project of the Year’ for their flagship flood defence scheme at the Foss Barrier in York.

Dan feels JBA is ideal for his career aspirations and said: “I want to develop a career as a Civil Engineer in a large organisation. I have always had an interest in the built environment, especially large buildings and the process that is involved from design to completion. This challenging degree apprenticeship will provide me with the skills and training to develop my career.”

In Year 12, Dan gained valuable work experience at The FT Group (Walter Thompson Ltd) working as an Assistant Quantity Surveyor. He spent time out on site and in the office helping with calculations using his maths skills. Dan said: “I am confident using numbers, I have always enjoyed challenging Maths problems. In Richmond Sixth Form, I took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.” Dan also has the essential team-working skills needed for the world of work. He has developed these through playing football at a high standard in the Wearside league. As a junior, Dan played for teams such as Darlington, York City and Hartlepool FC. More recently, he has played in the men’s team at Richmond Town FC.

Dan added: “I am looking forward to getting started in September. I will be attending Leeds Beckett University one day a week but I am not sure, with the current circumstances, whether this will be face-to-face or through online learning.” <https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/civilengineering/>

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader said: “We are all so pleased for Dan. He has been very focused in finding this apprenticeship. His combination of a strong academic profile, excellent communication skills and self-motivation will ensure he does well in his future career.”



## APPRENTICES GRADUATE WITH TOP HONOURS

A group of successful apprentices in Richmondshire have been honoured with awards to celebrate the huge contribution they are giving to local employers and the community. Sponsored by Richmond's Company of Fellmongers, former students were due to collect their accolades at the annual Apprenticeship Awards Evening, sadly cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation. However, the Fellmongers wanted to acknowledge the achievements of these young people and delivered the awards to each of the apprentices, along with a cheque for £100 to help them start their careers.

The awards recognise those who have successfully completed apprenticeships and are helping to future-proof the skilled workforce in years to come. The driving force behind this initiative is Mr John McDonald, a retired Headteacher, who is totally committed to apprenticeships and has developed the awards event and taken it from strength to strength. Local organisations supporting the initiative include leading local employers. Randall Orchard Construction, Mowbray School, Mainsgill Farm, Froneri UK, Broadacres, ProPharma Group Ltd and North Yorkshire County Council.

John McDonald said: "Fellmongers have always known that the future depends on training good apprentices – young people with talent and ambition who work hard. This part of our tradition is something we want to continue and each year we celebrate the achievements of our apprentices in our area – we like to say 'well done and welcome to adult working life.'"

Ryan Jacques, apprentice stonemason/bricklayer at Randall Orchard Construction said: "I am really honoured to have received the Fellmongers' award and am most appreciative of Randall Orchard for recommending me. The apprenticeship scheme is a great way for me to learn my trade as a stonemason and bricklayer and also to continue my studies, so it offers me the best of both worlds."

Graeme Newton, Managing Director at Randall Orchard Construction and an alumnus of Richmond Sixth Form College, added: "We really appreciate the contribution apprentices make to Randall Orchard. They are an essential part of our strategy to nurture skilled tradesmen who are the backbone to making our business successful. Richmond School can always be relied upon to support their students with exceptional careers advice and work experience opportunities so they have an appreciation of the realities of the workplace and what is expected. We value the character of the individual very highly – the right attitude and a good work ethic go a long way in any industry, and Ryan perfectly demonstrates those important qualities."

Nominations for awards are received directly from apprenticeships or the companies training them, regardless of trade. Their applications are carefully considered and then a work visit is arranged so the Fellmongers can meet the apprentice and find out about their training and how they are progressing. The awards are unique in their undertaking, giving the apprentices the opportunity to have their own graduation, in the same way that a university graduate is awarded with a degree certificate. As even more young people develop their careers through apprenticeships, the awards recognise the contribution that they make to the local economy.

Liz Mannion, Careers Leader, concluded: "It is wonderful to see how our students with apprenticeships have been progressing since leaving school, and how their confidence has grown. The Fellmongers demonstrate a massive commitment to our students every year. John MacDonald works hard to recognise every apprentice in the Richmond area. It is extremely generous of the Fellmongers to acknowledge the students in this way and recognise the importance of the apprenticeship career path."

A Fellmonger is one of the oldest professions. Dealers in hides or skins, they were originally an ancient craft and trading company with their origins in the Middle Ages. In present day, they carry out social and charitable activities. More information on the Fellmongers is available at [www.fellmongers.org.uk](http://www.fellmongers.org.uk)



## THE MUSICIAN NOT TO BE MISSED

We are delighted to share 'I Wish', a powerful and poignant original song composed and performed by Stefan Wardale, alumnus of Richmond School. With emotive and heartfelt lyrics and beautiful vocals, coupled with Stefan's stunning piano and guitar playing, the song not only showcases Stefan's musical talents as a composer, singer and instrumentalist but also his ability to tell a story with passion and sincerity. Listen to the song at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trns0msU97c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Trns0msU97c)

Many will remember Stefan for his outstanding performance in the lead role in the acclaimed school production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, in 2017. More recently, Stefan has been receiving tremendous reviews, performing on multiple occasions in Leeds and Browson Beat music festivals and as the Narrator with the Cleveland Chamber Orchestra's 2019 performance of Raymond Briggs' 'The Snowman'. An accomplished vocalist, pianist and guitarist, Stefan has recently achieved a high distinction in his ABRSM Grade 8 Piano exam. After leaving Richmond School in 2018, Stefan went on to study A-levels in Music, Popular Music and History at QE College. For the last four years, he has attended the prestigious Leeds College of Music Saturday school, performing with bands, solo and session work, as well as studying composition. After a successful audition in February, Stefan was accepted on to a degree course to study Popular Music at Leeds College of Music.

Stefan is a versatile performer, a creative, jazz and popular musician, mature beyond his years who can effortlessly move between genres and improvise from the piano/keyboards and guitars. As well as being a soloist and lead singer and musician, Stefan loves performing with his Dad, Andy, sometimes on piano and guitar and both as singer and accompanist. As their duo 'Urban Birdsong' they play at various events and weddings, and at festivals, including Secret Salons, as part of the Georgian Festival last August. Listen to an impressive collection of their recordings of pieces by Ed Sheeran, Elvis Presley, Arctic Monkeys at [www.urbanbirdsong.co.uk/hearusplay.html](http://www.urbanbirdsong.co.uk/hearusplay.html)

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher of Music, said: "Stefan is a terrific, versatile musician comfortable in both performance and composition. His superb performances in examinations, concerts and shows are testament that he has a very bright future ahead of him. We are looking forward to watching his career progress and are delighted he is being recognised for his undoubted talent!"

We were pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with Stefan and find out more about his passion for music and how he is devoting more time to creating his own compositions.

**We love 'I Wish', have you written any other songs?** I have several songs on the go, but 'I Wish' is my first recorded mixed and published song. I got recording equipment for my 18th Birthday and have spent many hours writing, recording and mixing during Lockdown. I've been writing songs since 2017, despite not finishing most of them, I kept them in a file and have taken ideas from some of them which I incorporated into future ideas. Songwriting takes a lot of honing. People say that it's like running a rusty tap. You have to get rid of a lot of the rusty water before the clean water comes out. I feel like it's all about what works for you or what doesn't work. I've found that writing from the piano works best for me. I tend to have an idea for lyrics that I've written and then bring it to the piano where I work on a melody line and chord pattern. Once I have the idea worked out on the piano I usually bring it to the guitar too, to see if I can add anything which would complement what I have written.

**Where do you draw inspiration from for your lyrics?** I draw a lot of inspiration from songwriters such as Freddie Mercury and Matty Healy of The 1975. When writing songs, as well as writing about my own personal feelings, I like to write songs which I like to feel other people would be able to relate to. In my recent song, it's one which is very personal to me, which is why I enjoy it so much. I always want to write music which moves me in a certain way, whether that's happy or sad.



# ALUMNI

## A JOB WELL DONE - LET'S KEEP RICHMOND TIDY

"Let's keep Richmond Tidy" said former student Evie McFarlane, after stepping in with her friend Chloe to help clear an enormous amount of litter left by visitors to Richmond Falls. Working with other volunteers, the community-spirited teenagers collected bags of rubbish at the popular beauty spot.

Kris Dowson Hird, a Richmond resident, said: "I don't have kids, but if I did I could not be prouder of these guys! After the visitors left all their rubbish and broken glass, these amazing young people, both male and female, came to clear the Falls. They did not want recognition, but cleared away the mess from the fools that came to ruin our town. After all the negativity regarding young people, it is about time people could see how much some of the young people are a credit to this town! They deserve a huge pat on the back."



Evie said: "The photographs show the rubbish we cleaned up at the river today. Thank you to everyone for helping and I hope this litter problem can be resolved quickly because it is becoming worse and worse as each day goes by. I'd just like to say thank you for everyone's kind messages and the most generous gifts. It is amazing how much kindness Richmond Town has for their citizens. Let's keep Richmond tidy!"

Thank you to Mr Dowson Hird for his photograph.

## FORMER STUDENTS HELP TO RAISE OVER £1,200 FOR NHS CHARITIES

Former students, Dr Julia Brown, Kathy I'Anson, Christine Dent and Leonie Garrard, are all members of the Dales Community Pop Choir. The group have been working hard during recent weeks and have put together fabulous arrangements of Mr Blue Sky and Shine, which they have released to raise funds for NHS charities. Dr Julia Brown re-wrote the lyrics of both songs to reflect the importance of social distancing – the messages being 'Stay Inside' and 'Stay Alert'. Richmond School and Sixth Form are also represented in the choir by current student Matilda Martin, in Year 8.



You can listen to the songs at [Mr Blue Sky](#) and [Shine](#). If you would like to donate you can do so at [the choir's just giving page](#). You can find out more about the choir at their [Facebook page](#).



# ALUMNI

## INTRODUCING MR SWALEDALE, A STUNNING FILM BY FORMER STUDENT GEORGIA HIRD

Congratulations to Georgia Hird, former student, who has graduated with a first class honours in Film and Television Production. For her final project, Georgia produced an exceptional documentary about John Waggett, a Swaledale farmer, whose warmth and character she perfectly captures against a backdrop of the spectacular Swaledale scenery, to show what life in the dales is really like. Georgia's style is truly engaging with fabulous imagery, as John tells his story about what makes Swaledale so special to him, as well as sharing tips on rounding up sheep and dry-stone walling, you'll even see a calf being born!. You can also hear the wonderful Muker Band playing the soundtrack to the dale, 'Swaledale'. You can enjoy the film at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=plyX7F18DpE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plyX7F18DpE)



Georgia said: 'I wanted my final project at Teesside to be something very close to my heart and something that hadn't been seen before. Swaledale is such a special and loved place to so many people and John Waggett is the epitome of it. He is one of few dales folk left to still speak in broad Swaledale dialect but aside from this, he is such a unique and genuine person. The two put together give you a raw take on the dales and farming, that to us really isn't anything out of the ordinary, it's just our way of life. I hope that my documentary shows people what dales life and farming is really like and what a beautiful dale we live in. My thanks go to John for playing the starring role of himself and to Norman and all at Muker Band who provide the soundtrack to the dale that is Swaledale.'

Adam Boulton-Lear, Lead Teacher for Media, said: "Georgia was always a really hard-working and dedicated student and that has paid off. Her documentary is really well put together and very professional. I'm really pleased for her and can't wait to see where her career takes her."

Georgia attended Richmond School and Sixth Form College from Year 7 to Year 13, leaving in 2017 to start her degree at Teesside University.



YOUTUBE.COM  
Mr Swaledale - The Documentary



Georgia, 2nd from right on her last day at college

## FORMER STUDENT AND DANCE TEACHER SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE AWARD

Congratulations to our former student, Charlotte Porter of the Charlotte Jacqueline School of Dance who was featured in the Darlington and Stockton Times for being shortlisted by the Royal Academy of Dance for their prestigious Early Career Dance Teacher award.

Charlotte is in the final four from over 300 nominations and the winner will be decided by a panel of three industry specialists in conjunction with an online public vote. It's a tremendous achievement to reach the shortlist and please join us in wishing Charlotte the very best of luck.



# ALUMNI

## NAOMI ROBERTSON, RIVER ISLAND'S WOMENSWEAR KNITWEAR DESIGNER

Naomi Robertson attended Richmond School from 2003 to 2010. During the COVID-19 pandemic, along with other colleagues, Naomi was furloughed from her post, for several weeks, and moved back to Richmond to spend time at home with her parents. It was lovely to hear from Naomi and discover that she has been putting her design skills to great use during this difficult time, creating bespoke, hand-embroidered T-shirts in aid of the charity MIND.

Naomi said: "Initially, I was keen to become an NHS volunteer during the pandemic but this was not possible. As a creative designer, I decided to embroider a T-shirt to show support to Key Workers, the NHS and for people's general wellbeing. I then had requests from my friends and family for one, so I decided to embroider more and raise money, donating all the proceeds to the charity MIND. The charity is giving much valued support to people during these challenging times. I have raised almost £500."

We love hearing how our alumni progress after leaving us. Whilst at university, Naomi won two prestigious awards, before taking up her role at River Island. Please read on to find out more about Naomi's successful studies and exciting career in fashion design.....

After A-levels in Design Technology, Dance and Classics, Naomi attended the University of Northumbria, gaining a First Class Honours Degree in Fashion Design specialising in Textiles and specifically knitwear. She found knitwear exciting as it enabled her to create a fabric as well as a garment. Naomi's final collection was exhibited on the catwalk at the London Student Fashion Week. Whilst at university, she was fortunate to be the recipient of the Mulberry Prize. This consisted of a three-month placement at Mulberry HQ in London and, following this, she spent time at a knitwear design company called Sibling. It was at Sibling that Naomi got the opportunity to attend numerous major fashion shows. She was also fortunate to be the recipient of the Barbour Prize. For the award, she designed a jumper that was later sold in Barbour shops around the country. As a winner of this prestigious award, Naomi met Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House. Prince Charles is the President of the National Wool Board and so he has a special interest in wool garments.

On leaving university in 2014, Naomi gained a position at River Island where she started as a Design Room Assistant and progressed through three promotions to Womenswear Knitwear Designer. With her job as a Designer, Naomi is fortunate enough to travel the world, from China, Hong Kong, South Korea to Italy, Paris and Turkey, on development and inspirational trips.

Naomi said: "I gained an interest in the world of fashion from Textiles lessons with Mrs Drake where my creativity was encouraged and I was supported in following my personal interests. My success at university enabled me to begin a career in fashion design. Like so many former students, Richmond School will always be a special place for me as I made so many friends who I still have today and fond memories of all the experiences we shared."

We are looking forward to welcoming Naomi back to school in the future to speak to groups of students who have an interest in the world of design and fashion. Naomi concluded: "There is a very strong sense of community in the current climate and it is more important than ever to offer support to others. I would always be happy to help anyone interested in the fashion business by offering any advice I can and attending school to engage with students. I may be able to help younger students who are making decisions about their career paths.

"I am really looking forward to giving something back to Richmond School, who helped shape the person I am today."



# ALUMNI

## CHARLOTTE RIDING FOR TOP RACING TRAINER

Charlotte Tindale, age 16, an accomplished horse rider and former student at Richmond School, has recently returned from studying in Ireland after coming top of her class with the Racing Academy and Centre of Education in Ireland (RACE). She was due to graduate in June, however due to the Covid-19 situation, her jockey licence is temporarily on hold until she is able to complete two final modules. Charlotte is a talented rider and renowned as a hard worker and has secured a job as a work rider at Johnston Racing, working for [Mark Johnston](#), the highly acclaimed racing trainer, based at his flagship yard in Middleham in Wensleydale.



This is a great achievement for Charlotte who is riding out with some of the UK's top jockeys. Mark Johnston is one of the UK's leading trainers, having become the first flat trainer to send out more than 200 winners in a season in 2009, a feat which he has repeated eight times since. Charlotte will be training on the extensive gallops at the 300-acre yard where there are some of the finest facilities in the country for the care and training of racehorses.

Charlotte left Richmond School in 2019 to study for a year-long-course at RACE. She has the opportunity to return to RACE in the future, to complete a further year studying Bloodstock, an area in which she takes great interest.

While studying at RACE, Charlotte had a busy training and study schedule. Starting at 7am the morning was spent doing horse-related practical work and then school work in the afternoon until 5pm, with physical training in the gym from 7-9pm. Charlotte achieved top results so she was chosen to be placed with a racing trainer for her morning studies until she returned to England at the onset of the lockdown.

Charlotte's passion for riding and horses started when she was just a toddler and she has always wanted to be a rider. She started her career at an early age in Shetland pony racing. She progressed to racing horses and had experience riding for Karl Burke Racing, Ben Haslam and finally Mark Johnston, who referred her to RACE for her licence. To find out more about the RACE Racing Academy and Centre of Education in Ireland visit [www.racingacademy.ie/cms/](http://www.racingacademy.ie/cms/)

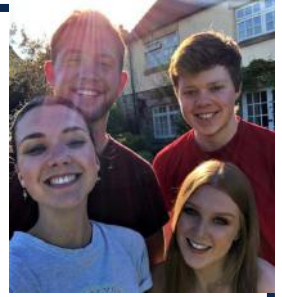


To register to become a member of the Richmond School Alumni or a friend of the school please visit our [Alumni and Friends](#) page on our website and follow the [sign-up link](#).

# ALUMNI

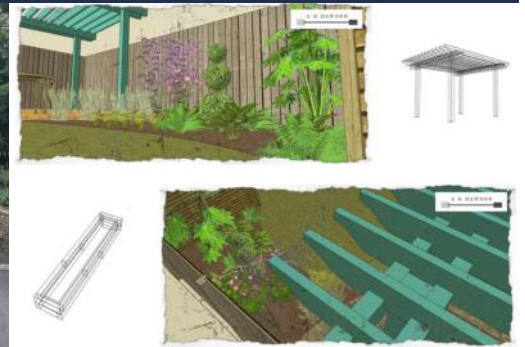
## THE GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

We hope you have enjoyed reading about the wonderful work that George Smith, outgoing Year 13 student, his sisters Hannah and Connie and friend Arte Dawson have been doing for Age UK (see page 11). Hannah, Connie and Arte are former students of Richmond School and Sixth Form College so it's a great opportunity to catch up and find out what they have been doing since they left us and also to hear what George's plans are for next year.



**Arte** left Richmond School in 2012. He studied horticulture at Askham Bryan College then graduated from Leeds Beckett University with a degree in Landscape Architecture. He set up his own business in September 2017, A H Dawson Garden Design & Maintenance, and is continuing to work throughout the lockdown period.

<https://www.facebook.com/ahdawson.garden>



After leaving Richmond Sixth Form College in 2015, **Hannah** trained in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at Bird College in London. She has recently returned from teaching in Ireland and is now working for Janet Seymour's School of Theatre Dance, teaching online dance classes for children and adults via Zoom.

She is also studying with the Royal Academy of Dance to become a certified ballet teacher.

**Connie** left Richmond Sixth Form College in 2017 and has recently completed her final year of an Archaeology degree at Newcastle University.

She is considering a Masters for the next academic year.



**George** has just completed his A-level studies at Sixth Form and has accepted an offer from Sheffield University where he hopes to study for a degree in Computer Science in September.

# CELEBRATING OUR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

Staff weren't going to let the lockdown prevent them from creating their traditional and eagerly-awaited video for their Year 11 students. Since 2013, they have produced a Year 11 video which they work really hard to perfect, and this year would be no exception, with all staff agreeing that the show must go on!

The video is always a highlight for the Year 11 students, marking the end of their time at school. Each year, the directors, Lead Teacher of Media and English teacher, Mr Boulton-Lear, and Ms Dunwoodie, Assistant Headteacher, inject their creative flair to produce another showstopper. As Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "This year, we agreed that if we couldn't bring the students to the video, we would take the video to the students, in fact a series of four videos, as the response to the call out for staff to be involved has been so overwhelming."



Ms Dunwoodie said: "We are always delighted with the number of volunteers who take part, but this year there has been an outstanding contribution from the majority of staff. Many of them have stepped out of their comfort zone and we have been so impressed with their energy, sense of fun, creativity and support. At a time when Year 11 have missed out on so much; we all need something to make us smile and showcase our wonderful community spirit. We can all learn a lesson from lockdown from our video - when people are apart, it can bring us all closer together."

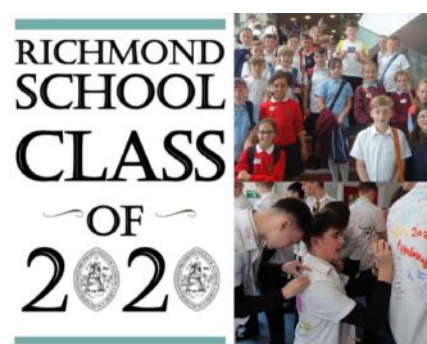
Jenna Potter, Headteacher, added: "A Year 11 video was more important this year than ever and Mr Boulton-Lear and Ms Dunwoodie have been relentless in their demands of us all over recent weeks. Over the years, our videos have developed a real 'Richmond School' feel and demonstrate the great sense of family and community between staff, students, parents and carers. Due to the number of staff taking part, the four video instalments were premiered at hourly intervals in time-honoured fashion on Friday evening, which would have been the prom night". The videos can be enjoyed at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV1g7SEcW2Jy0iAJI2c5Ww](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV1g7SEcW2Jy0iAJI2c5Ww)

Grace Morris, a Year 11 student, said: "The video is such a lovely idea and it has given us something that makes us feel as though we are marking the end of Year 11. When the prom was cancelled, it meant all the coming of age celebrations couldn't take place, but the videos and the year book are really special for us in what has been a difficult time. Thank you so much to all the staff for coming together to give us these fabulous memories."

## YEAR 11 STUDENTS ARE CELEBRATED IN SPECIAL YEAR BOOK

We are putting the finishing touches to a special one-off Year Book that celebrates our wonderful Year 11 students. Mrs Potter and Mrs Weston were delighted when Natasha Nixon, in Year 11, proposed the idea to create a lasting memento for the students. A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes to gather information from students and teachers, as well as many images for a photo gallery, to celebrate the students' five years at school. The book will extend to 48 pages and we hope the students will be pleased with the end result. Final arrangements are being made for the distribution of the year books and all Year 11 students will be contacted soon with further information. You can see some of the images featured in the Year Book at

[www.richmondschool.net/year-11-students-are-celebrated-in-special-year-book/](http://www.richmondschool.net/year-11-students-are-celebrated-in-special-year-book/)



Mrs Potter, Headteacher, said: "Our Year 11 students had a very abrupt end to their five years and lost the opportunity to celebrate their time with us at school in the usual manner. We have done our best to mark this important milestone in their lives by quickly arranging the shirt signing on the last day of term, followed by the staff pulling out all the stops to produce the Prom videos. I was therefore thrilled when Natasha got in touch with the idea for a year book, which I hope the students and staff will look back on for many years to come. We will miss the students, who have been a terrific group. I wish them the very best and look forward to welcoming many of them back to our Sixth Form in September."