

Welcome to our December Newsletter - It has been very humbling to have seen all the kindness and generosity displayed by the students and staff of Richmond School over the course of this term. In total, £3052 has been raised for the Great North Air Ambulance Service in memory of Mr Clark. A further £11,000 was donated by Applegreen plc and further information about this tremendous contribution is on page 3. I must say one final 'well done' to Unity Shrimpton for her busking, Will Arnold for his inclusive sports activity, Oliver Stewart for his raffle and Shakari Walters for her baking and guessing the number of sweets in the jars.

We have also enjoyed making up 55 present boxes to bring cheer into the lives of the elderly as part of the Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington Christmas appeal. On 7th December, staff donned their Christmas jumpers and fancy dress outfits to take part in a very festive staff dance, turn to page 15 to find out more! As is tradition, and to the delight of students across the school, staff wore Christmas jumpers again to on 11th December to raise money for Save the Children.

We very much hope that you have been enjoying our Music and Art advent calendar, which we hope goes some way to replace our annual Christmas Concert and Carol Service for this year. We very much look forward to re-establishing these and the other whole school events that are such an important part of our work. Our students' artistic talents have also been showcased across the local area with a selection of designs from our Christmas card competition being on display at The Station, Tesco and Richmond Library.

Our Sixth Form student leaders have excelled themselves over this first term, clearly very at ease in the 'virtual world'. They have led the filming for our two virtual open evenings, successfully conducted virtual question and answer sessions about Sixth Form life for our current Year 11 students, created two assemblies for the wider school and interviewed and appointed our new Year 10 leaders - all in the space of a term! I have very much enjoyed the interviews I have conducted with our Year 12 students and look forward to doing the same for the Year 7s in the new year. I have to compliment them on the way they have settled into secondary school life, particularly in light of the extra demands being placed on them due to COVID-19 regulations.

Thank you for all your support and feedback over the term - we are constantly striving to improve and your views are very helpful and important to us. We look forward to next term- it will no doubt continue to be a challenge for us but hopefully there will be some light at the end of the tunnel. I wish you all a very relaxing and happy Christmas,

Jenna Potter
Headteacher



Our students are spreading joy across the community - find out more on page 3.



Training the next generation of life savers - more than 200 Year 8 students received vital first-aid training. More on this story on page 31

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IN THE COMMUNITY

STUDENTS' FESTIVE DESIGNS SPREAD JOY ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

Our students have pooled their artistic talents to create a stunning collection of Christmas designs which will be shared with the local community during the festive period. Their outstanding artwork is adorning Richmond Library, Tesco at Catterick Garrison, as well as a dedicated display area at The Station. In addition, ten of the designs have been made into Christmas cards and have been sent to staff and residents at care homes in Richmond.

The students created their artwork in response to a competition to design the school's Christmas card, as well as the official card for Cllr Clive World, Chairman of Richmondshire District Council. With over 100 entries, from Year 7, 8 and 9 students, the judges were spoilt for choice to select the two winning designs. Connie Lord's reindeer in the snow displayed such close attention to detail and was chosen for the school's card, with Cllr Lord selecting Elsa Wright's beautiful robin for his artwork. Both designs were commended for their individuality and tremendous visual appeal.



Ten designs were chosen to create Christmas cards for all the residents and staff at The Terrace, Nightingale Hall, Greyfriars and Queens Court. These were produced and printed at school and delivered to the care homes and sheltered accommodation, with The Terrace and Nightingale Hall also receiving further artwork to display in communal areas.

Jenna Potter said: "The standard of our students' designs was exceptionally high and it is lovely for their artwork to be recognised by sharing their designs in the community for members of the public to see. We are acutely aware that for people in care homes it is a very challenging time and we hope the residents and staff will enjoy receiving cards from our students."

Julie Sutherland, Community Champion at Tesco, said: "I was blown away when I saw the students' Christmas pictures, they are outstanding and we are delighted to be able to display them. They really brighten up the store and bring a smile to our customers' faces when they visit us."

Jenny Rasbeary, Gallery Co-ordinator at The Station, added: "The Station prides itself on supporting local artists and so it is with great pleasure that we have been able to give this opportunity to so many local students. The partnership between Richmond School and ourselves has meant we are able to display designs of Christmas cards from emerging artists from Richmond itself. Many have a local theme that I am sure our visitors will appreciate and bring them some Christmas cheer. In such difficult times, we are so pleased that we have still been able to go ahead with this exhibition, so please do come down and support the building and local art."

Cllr World said: "I would like to thank the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 at Richmond School, who took part in the Christmas card competition. I was very impressed with the standard of artwork produced by the students and choosing just one entry was not an easy task. I am delighted to be using Elsa's design for my official Christmas card this year."

Visit www.richmondschool.net/students-festive-designs-spread-joy-across-the-community/ and enjoy browsing through a gallery of our students' designs.



IN THE COMMUNITY

NIGHTINGALE HALL THANK STUDENTS FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are thrilled to share these lovely photographs from the residents and staff at Nightingale Hall Care Home in Richmond. We delivered cards created by our talented Year 7, 8 and 9 students and it is wonderful to see the residents enjoying their beautiful designs. It is great to hear that the Christmas cards were hand delivered by the elf on the shelf! It is so lovely to know that the residents are delighted with them.



IN THE COMMUNITY

AMAZING DONATIONS TO GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE

There has been an amazing response to an appeal to support the Great North Air Ambulance Service in memory of Mr Clark. Following the devastating and untimely passing of Mr Clark, our much-loved and highly regarded Deputy Headteacher, his family announced they would like any donations in his memory to help the vital work of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) in the area.

Mr Clark's family and the school community have been astounded by the tremendous response to the appeal.

OLIVER RAISES A FABULOUS £606

What a fantastic response to Oliver's raffle which has raised £606 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service in memory of Mr Clark. Huge thanks to all the staff, students and Oliver's friends and family who purchased tickets. Oliver was invited to draw the raffle and the winning ticket belonged to Emily Lawson, History teacher at Richmond School.

Oliver said: "I cannot believe how much the raffle has raised for the Great North Air Ambulance. I am really pleased that my idea will do so much good for the charity."

Oliver, Will Arnold and Unity Shrimpton were interviewed for a video about their fundraising efforts. The Great North Air Ambulance Service released this on their social media soon and you can watch them at www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1029454164144927



DONATION OF £11,000 TO PURCHASE A LUCAS 3 MACHINE

Nadine Stacey, a former pupil at Richmond School, whose daughter is a current student, is Head of UK Operations at Applegreen plc. Applegreen support many community projects and were looking to support a charity when the tragic news of Mr Clark's accident was announced.

The company generously donated £11,000 to purchase a Lucas 3 machine, a specialist piece of equipment that delivers chest compressions for patients suffering cardiac arrest. Applegreen are the leading roadside convenience retailer, with 164 sites, including Welcome Break, across the UK.



Nadine said: "At Applegreen we are delighted to support the GNAAS during these unprecedented times. We are grateful to all healthcare workers, essential service providers, staff and suppliers at this difficult time. We are proud to continue fuelling and supporting the UK's essential services through this pandemic. We will look forward to supporting the GNAAS in the future and have further projects in the pipeline."

IN THE COMMUNITY

UNITY SINGS MR CLARK'S FAVOURITE SONGS TO RAISE £432

Unity, a talented musician and singer, came up with the wonderful idea of performing some of Mr Clark's favourite songs. In just two weeks, Unity learned twelve songs by heart and stuck to a full timetable of daily busking during the last week of October and the first week of November.

Undeterred by the torrential rain and heavy winds of the half-term break, when others would have given up, Unity took shelter under a canopy in the marketplace, determined to carry on.

She embodied so many of the school's values, not only independence but unfaltering resilience too. Her performance was rich in creativity and excellence. After singing for over 20 hours Unity has raised £430.



WILL'S INCLUSIVE CHALLENGE TOPS £1,200

The aim of Will's inclusive event, a 'walk, run and cycle' challenge, was to encourage as many as people as possible to take part in an outdoor activity, whilst enjoying our beautiful countryside – something that Mr Clark loved about the Richmond and Dales area.

Displaying great independence, Will not only set up a gofundme page, but created a presentation to be shown to students during tutor time. He demonstrated creativity by thinking of other ways to reach a wider audience with his project, and spoke to the Dales Bike Centre to support his project and share his news on their facebook page.

He also produced a fabulous go-pro video of his 21-mile mountain bike trail in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.

What really stands out though, is the respect and consideration that Will has shown for everyone by making this event suitable for all abilities so it is as inclusive as possible. Many people donated and took part in the event and Will has raised £1,200.



KARI'S SWEET IDEAS RAISE £102.50

Congratulations to Kari Walters, in Year 10, who has raised £102.50 for the Great North Air Ambulance, in honour of Mr Clark. Unable to go ahead with a bake sale, Kari came up with the idea of asking students and staff to guess the number of sweets in two jars and baking and icing a Christmas cake to raffle. She made a second cake for a raffle at Millings Care Home at Bedale where she works.

Kari was delighted to hear that a further £100 has been donated to her fundraising by sixth form entrepreneurs Evey Taylor, Archie Forbes and Kaelan Richards. Having made £200 profit from their enterprise project, they decided to donate £100 to Kari's project as they were so impressed with her resourceful ways of fundraising.

Kari said: "Mr Clark was one of the most inspiring teachers I have ever met. I have only been at Richmond School for just over one year and it was Mr Clark who showed me around the school. He made me really welcome and he also knew my Dad, as he went to the school. Mr Clark was always there to say good morning to and if I was feeling down one day and I saw him at break or lunch time he would always make me smile."



IN THE COMMUNITY

BBC LOOK NORTH TRIBUTE TO MR CLARK

There was a fitting tribute to Mr Clark on BBC Look North when Hannah Clark spoke about her dad and how the school's new 3G sports pitch will be named the Dave Clark Arena in his honour.



Unity Shrimpton and Will Arnold shared their memories of their much-loved teacher as well as news of the fantastic fundraising they have done for the Great North Air Ambulance in honour of Mr Clark. You can watch the footage at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZaPPANnVxftpM48X9> . Thank you to Phil Chapman, at BBC Look North, for his help and support.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

A donation of £200 was received from a visitor to the area, via a local campsite. During COVID lockdown, the Fothergill family offered money back to their customers as a form of compensation, due to not all of the facilities on the site being available. One kind gentleman, who stayed with them, has asked that his 'refund' be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Mrs Fothergill said she naturally thought of the fundraising campaign for Mr Clark and would like the money to go to this worthy and fitting cause. What a wonderful gesture and our thanks have been passed on to the gentleman.

Josh Dixon, who left sixth form college in the summer, raised £110 with some of his sixth form friends, just before lockdown last year, when they did a Wii Just Dance activity in the Bistro. The money has been waiting for approval as to which charity to donate the money to and Josh has confirmed it should go to the Air Ambulance in memory of Mr Clark.



WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Sophie Bendelow, of Great North Air Ambulance - "The students at Richmond are showing that out of something so horrendous, something positive can emerge. We are touched by their selfless actions and the support they are being given by Applegreen, the school and the wider community. This money will have a positive effect on other people's lives. It will ease suffering and may save lives. Everyone involved should be immensely proud of that and we thank them wholeheartedly for thinking of us."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher - "At a time when, as a school, we have been genuinely challenged and deeply saddened by the loss of Mr Clark, who was such an important part of our staff team, my faith in the goodness of young people has been reinforced further by the response of our students. They have been thoughtful, creative and resilient, putting to one side their own sadness to think of others. Without any doubt they have exceeded the very high standards that we all expect of them. This is genuinely a time that as a staff we feel humbled to witness their actions. We are also immensely grateful to Nadine Stacey, and her colleagues at Applegreen, for their tremendous donation of the Lucas machine."



IN THE COMMUNITY

OPTIONAL DRESS DAY IN MEMORY OF MR CLARK AND MR GEDYE



IN THE COMMUNITY

STAFF AND STUDENTS SUPPORT AGE UK WITH 55 GIFT BOXES

A huge thank you to our kind-hearted staff and students who responded to Age UK's appeal and have donated items to create 55 boxes which have been packed with some really lovely gifts. These will be given to some of the many elderly people in the area who may have to face Christmas alone and will miss out on social contact with their family and friends. The boxes are beautifully wrapped and we hope will bring a little joy to those who open them.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "We are so pleased to support this wonderful initiative by Age UK North Yorkshire and Durham and I am overwhelmed by the generosity of staff, students and their families who have responded so quickly to the appeal. . Thank you to each and every one of you and also to Mrs Thornton, our data and examinations officer, who spotted the call-out for gifts and swiftly coordinated the donations and arranged for them to be delivered to the Age UK collection point."

Mrs Thornton was assisted by Santa's little helpers, including sixth form students Tia-Louise, Anya, Sujan and Charlotte, who wrapped, filled and labelled lots of boxes, and Mr Giddens and Mr Hendsbee who delivered them to a central collection point and helped to load them into Mrs Thornton's car. Thank you again to everyone involved, what a great team effort!



STAFF AND SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SUPPORT SAVE THE CHILDREN ON THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Once again, our staff and sixth form students have donned their colourful Christmas jumpers to raise money for Save The Children. This is a national event which we support each year and in these difficult times, where more families are struggling and children are living in poverty, we are pleased to donate to this very worthy cause.



The staff have raised £268 and the students £203, making a grand total of £471. Thank you to everyone who took part.



YEAR 7 STUDENTS TAKE PART IN VIRTUAL SERVICE TO REMEMBER

Elsie, Katherine and Gracie have produced some lovely artwork on the theme 'Heroes' for the virtual 'Service to Remember' which celebrates Remembrance Day this year, instead of the usual service at Ripon Cathedral which was planned to take place today. The Year 7 students' artwork is a thoughtful reflection on their own connections with the Services as well as Remembrance Day more generally. The virtual service was organised by the Services Children's Champions in North Yorkshire and included contributions from many local primary and secondary schools. As well as the artwork from the girls, who all have a parent in military service, Richmond School also contributed a recording of Year 7 Services Children singing the National Anthem. With a very quick turnaround time, they worked with Mr Boyd and Miss Dix to produce a recording full of enthusiasm and gusto!



It was really interesting to see Katherine's reflection on Services Children as her heroes. She explored the courage, flexibility and resilience they have to show at times; qualities which we really value at school. Here at Richmond School we have over 170 students from Services families as part of our community and we value the qualities they bring and recognise the service of their families.

Sarah Gleave said: "I am really pleased to have a role this year as Services Children's Advocate at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. It has been fantastic to get to know some of the students already and I really look forward to developing the role over the course of the year."

STAFF SUPPORT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to the members of staff who gave up their time to sell poppies at Tesco on behalf of the Royal British Legion. The staff answered a call out for volunteers to ensure there was sufficient manning for the fundraising to go ahead after the Legion's usual poppy appeal organiser and some of their volunteers were unable to help due to shielding and ill health. One volunteer was Jon Giddens, our Maintenance Manager, who proudly wore his beret and service medals. Jon was in the Royal Signals from 1989-2012, leaving as a Staff Sergeant after serving in a number of postings including Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. For the last five years, Jon has taken part in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in London.



Jon said: "Remembrance Day is an incredibly important time for me and it was very disappointing that I couldn't attend the London event. It is especially poignant this year as it is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals. I therefore jumped at the opportunity to be able to support the Royal British Legion and sell poppies to raise vital funds for the charity. It was wonderful and overwhelming to witness the generosity of the public who were only too willing to donate, in spite of the difficult times. A lot of people commented that they were really pleased to see someone selling poppies as so many of the usual collections were not taking place."

Julie, Tesco's community champion said: "I am so appreciative of the support from the staff at Richmond School and Sixth Form College and other members of our community. Without our team of volunteers the poppy appeal collection could not have gone ahead this year which would have been a huge loss for the Royal British Legion."

We were delighted to be able to help and thank Julie, Tesco's community champion, for co-ordinating the volunteers and making this happen

IN THE COMMUNITY

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Eleanor Donaghy, in Year 13, playing the Last Post which was transmitted throughout the school this morning. All students and staff observed the two-minute silence. Eleanor's rendition was faultless and she was thanked on behalf of all the students and staff. A wreath was placed at the war memorial in Richmond on behalf of students and staff at Richmond School and Sixth Form College.



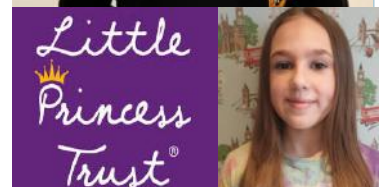
A HAIR CUT TO HELP OTHERS

Grace Dashwood decided to have her long hair cut to help make wigs for children who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. The Year 8 student is no stranger to the process, as this is the second time she has donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust.

Grace said: "The Little Princess Trust provides free human hair wigs to children who are suffering with health conditions that result in them losing their hair. When I donated my hair the first time I also raised £300 for the charity. This time, I decided just to give my hair as I know that it is a difficult time for many people at the moment."

Dani Manning, Grace's tutor, said: "Grace should be so proud of herself for making this kind and generous gesture, especially at a time when people need kindness and generosity the most. Her compassion for others sets a shining example to her peers."

Grace has donated an incredible 10 ½ inches of hair, having grown her hair to the bottom of her back. Well done Grace for doing this, not just once but twice.



NHS THANK EMMY FOR CHANNELLING HER EFFORTS TO RAISE £1,188 FOR LOCAL HOSPITALS

South Tees NHS have recognised the tremendous achievement of Emmy, in Year 7, which resulted in her raising a fabulous £1,188 for her local hospital during lockdown. Emmy rowed 22 miles, the equivalent distance of the English Channel, as well as covering the same mileage on her bike, over a period of just five days. Emmy is a keen sportswoman, being good at cricket, football and hockey, but she had never rowed before, so it was a real challenge for her. Emmy planned the project herself, working out her daily mileage and routes.

Emmy said: "During lockdown I read about Malala Yousafzai and how she was so driven to do good in the world. I also watched Sir Captain Tom Moore walk 100 laps of his garden for the COVID-19 charity. I wanted to do something good for others too."

Emmy has donated the £1,188 to her local hospital and the NHS heroes that work there.

Well done Emmy, this is a terrific achievement and we are very proud of you.



IN THE COMMUNITY

STUDENTS SUPPORTING THE NHS

Richmond Sixth Form College was approached by Friends of the Friarage with a request for students to take part in an online focus group to support their work at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton. The charity are keen to help the NHS where possible during these challenging times and raises vital funds to support the work of the hospital. Three student volunteers were involved – Holly Brydon and Natasha Nixon from Year 12, and Naomi Byard from Year 13.

A market research group was appointed to help the Friends of the Friarage charity to develop its brand, marketing and fundraising activity. The session was run by local marketing agency, Digital Blonde Marketing, who are based in Northallerton, and was delivered as a Zoom meeting.

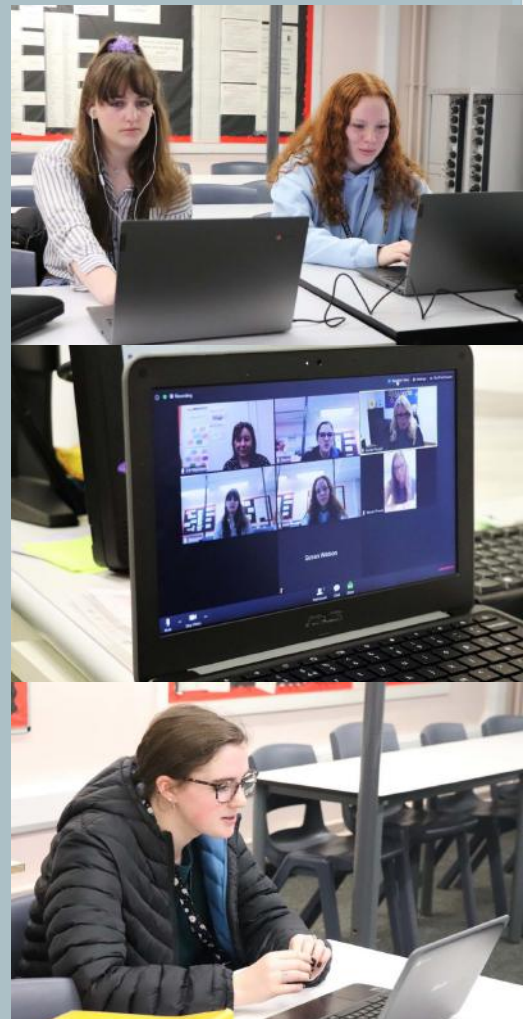
The students were asked about their views of charities in general, and specifically the Friends of The Friarage. They talked about how young people like to get involved with charity work. Students were also asked for their feedback on the logo and branding for the Friends of the Friarage, including the charity's website.

Naomi suggested that young people like to have individual fundraising plans as they cannot always travel to a specific event, for example doing a 5k run during lockdown. Natasha agreed saying: "If we see other people of our age are involved, young people feel encouraged to join in too."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader said: "The students were so proactive and keen to help. Supporting a local charity in this way is something they will be able to add to their CVs and university applications and it shows their commitment to support the local community. The students have also experienced a Zoom meeting which is another essential skill for the future."

Celia Curry, Administrator at the Friends of the Friarage, added: "The views of young people are vital to drive this charity into the future so the trustees are extremely grateful to all the students who have kindly volunteered."

The information gathered will be used to help the charity formulate its plans and brand for the next few years. Follow the Friends of the Friarage's facebook page at www.facebook.com/friendsofthefriarage or visit their website at www.friendsofthefriarage.org.uk/



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY GUIDANCE ON EXPLOITATION ONLINE

The Children's Society have shared some resources with us about exploitation online.

The guidance, which has been nationally approved by the NPCC, talks through the process of identifying online exploitation with details about where to find out additional information.

Please follow the link <https://www.richmondschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Online-Exploitation-resource.pdf> for further information

Exploitation online

Online exploitation and grooming can be difficult to spot.

This booklet shows some of the ways in which children and young people can be exploited online and how you can keep young people safe from this kind of abuse.



**The
Children's
Society**

HELPING TO BUILD A DREAM BEDROOM FOR JOSHUA

Joshua Jessop is a wonderful young man. Each day, the Year 7 student comes to school with a smile on his face, enjoys being with his friends and gives 100% to his lessons. His enthusiasm and determination are tremendous and an inspiration to us all, given that Joshua suffers with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a life-limiting genetic muscle-wasting condition, for which there is no cure.

Over time, Joshua's health will deteriorate and he will increasingly become more reliant on others and machines to do everything for him. To help Joshua be as independent for as long as possible, his parents are hoping to create a ground-floor, wheelchair-accessible, adapted bedroom and bathroom which is going to cost £60,000.

Karen Jessop, Joshua's mum, has set up a justgiving page to help raise the money for the project which will make a huge difference to Joshua over the coming years. You can help by donating at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joshuas-bedroom-build>

Karen said: "Joshua was originally one of our foster children. He was diagnosed with DMD aged just 21 months. We decided to adopt him to be able to give him as many magical memories as possible for the time he has left. It is so important that Joshua has the opportunity to lead as full a life as possible for as long as possible as, over time, his health will deteriorate and he will need more and more assistance. He would really like a Superman themed bedroom and we sincerely hope that with the support of the general public we may be able to make his dream come true.

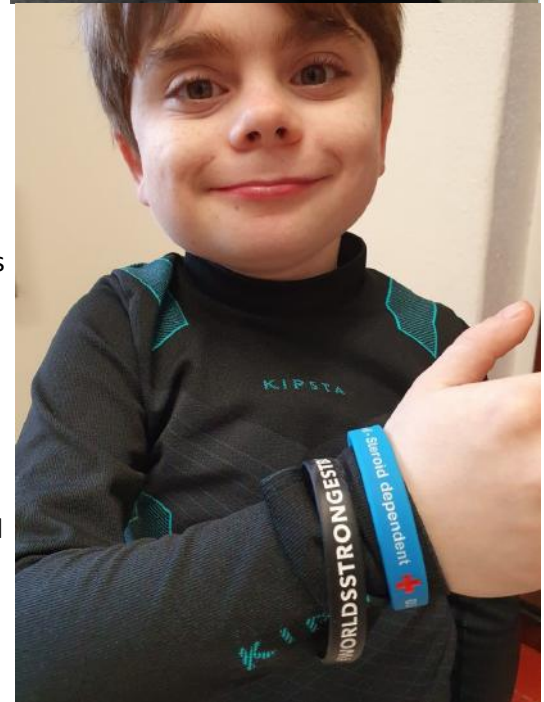
"The total build cost for the extension will be in the region of £60k and hopefully we can get some assistance through the council but it will still leave a massive shortfall which is why we've tried to set a target of £20k to reach by the New Year. We realise that things are particularly difficult for everyone at this time and value the support of the local community no matter how small, let's hope we have plenty of acorns donated to allow the oak to grow. Rosie Tupper, in Year 13, has kindly volunteered to offer some help with decorating the murals on the walls.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "Throughout a hugely challenging first two months at school, Joshua has amazed us with his determination and positivity. He has really got 'stuck in' to life at secondary school and has involved himself fully – always with a smile on his face. Joshua is a genuine role model for the other students across the school and college- his resilience and positive approach are exceptional!"

Joshua's family receive support from Duchenne UK who have recently supplied Joshua with steroid dependent wristbands. Joshua takes a daily dose of steroids and the wristband is designed to alert people that the wearer is steroid dependent and may need to be given extra steroids if they become unwell, sharing the link to the Duchenne Emergency website that will allow healthcare professionals to access information immediately relevant to DMD.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is a genetic disease that causes muscle weakness and wasting. Children born with DMD have a fault, known as a mutation, on their dystrophin gene. For people with DMD, the fault on the gene means that they cannot produce dystrophin, which is a protein that protects muscles. Without dystrophin, muscles get damaged more easily and so muscle strength and function is weakened. DMD almost always affect boys, and they tend to be diagnosed before the age of 5. Classified as a rare disease, there are around 2,500 patients in the UK and an estimated 300,000 worldwide.

You can keep in touch with Joshua's journey by following his facebook page at: facebook.com/joshuasjourney4life."



PERFORMING ARTS

DESTINED TO DANCE – A FABULOUS SHOWCASE

We are delighted to unveil a showcase of the fabulous work our students from Year 7 through to Year 13 have been working on during this half term. The Dance department is extremely proud to present a snippet of the amazing performers we have at Richmond School and Sixth Form College who have demonstrated the six school values of Creativity, Excellence, Independence, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork to an exceptional standard. Miss Paul, Mr Birdsall, Miss Pemberton and Mrs. O'Malley have explored various themes and styles of dance from Bollywood, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre and Contemporary Dance, and the culmination of the showcase really shows off the versatility and talent of our students.

You can watch the showcase at <https://youtu.be/DsGWvV7Z8ps>

Mrs O'Malley, Lead Teacher for Dance, said: "The students make us so proud with their efforts and achievements gained in such a short period of rehearsal time. We have been working tirelessly in lessons to showcase the high standards and capabilities of our students and have been really impressed with their tenacity, teamwork and infectious enthusiasm. We hope you enjoy watching 'Destined to Dance' and have a wonderful Christmas break in readiness for more fun in the New Year."



PERFORMING ARTS

STAFF CHRISTMAS DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!



Enjoy some festive frolics from the staff who donned their best Christmas jumpers, reindeer onesies and elf costumes to bring you their fun-filled Rudolf dance, starring Ms Dunwoodie as Rudolf, the senior leadership team as the other reindeers and Mr Potter as Father Christmas. Thank you to all the staff who took part, braving the cold and rain to record the dance. A huge thank you to the naughty elves, Mrs O'Malley, Miss Pemberton and Mr Birdsall for choreographing the dance and making the event a reality.

You can enjoy the fabulous video at <https://youtu.be/33iYxiynZbc>



With special thanks to sixth form students Toni Carr, Kaelan Richards and James West for giving up their time to film the dance for us.

We hope this spreads some Christmas cheer and we wish all our students and their families a relaxing break.

Merry Christmas everyone and a happy new year.



PERFORMING ARTS

DON'T MISS OUR MUSICAL ADVENT CALENDAR AND VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW!

We are so sorry that we are unable to put on our usual Christmas extravaganza concert and traditional carol service this year but, undeterred, we have pulled out all the stops to ensure you can still experience the fabulous music by our talented students, under the direction of our fabulous music teachers. It's the perfect tonic for you to watch to get you in the festive mood and you can play it as many times as you want over the Christmas break. The show is a compilation of our musical advent calendar which we hope you have been enjoying. The video will be released on our facebook and website in the next couple of days so please keep your eye out for it.



Since 1st December, we have been posting daily musical treats on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/RichmondSchoolandSixthFormCollege/ There are still a few days to go, so please do continue to open the remaining doors and enjoy a wonderful performance by our students – there has been a terrific mix of Christmas-themed music from traditional pieces to well-known classics. To add to the ambience, each video features a stunning Christmas design created by one of our students. Just scroll down the page to catch any days that you have missed.

We are also delighted to share our virtual Christmas music show with The Terrace, and Nightingale Hall care and Greyfriars care homes and sheltered accommodation in Richmond for their residents and staff to enjoy. We appreciate that carol singers aren't allowed to visit and entertain them this year so we hope they will enjoy watching our students' performances.

It has taken many hours to create the 24 videos, not only for the students to rehearse their pieces but also the time taken to ensure the recordings went as smoothly as possible, as well as the editing of the sound files and footage to create the fabulous videos. We are all extremely grateful for the huge amount of time that has been devoted to this fantastic project which has brought so much pleasure to so many people in our community.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, said: "Our students have risen wonderfully to the new challenge of performing not to a live audience but a camera and microphone. I am delighted we have so many musicians at Richmond who want to share their music with everyone, and I am always very excited by the quality they bring. I would like to thank Mr Harris, Mr Millman and our new Music Teacher, Miss Dix as well as all our visiting instrumental and vocal teachers for their support with all our musical projects in the current climate. A huge thanks also need to go to our Year 13 musicians Unity and Archie who have worked so hard on their own studies but also found the time to support us in the recording studio, mixing and editing. I look forward to 2021 when we will hopefully see you all again in Richmond School for one of our tremendous musical evenings! Merry Christmas."

Mr Boyd has worked tirelessly on this project with such enthusiasm and commitment - Thank you so much, it would not have happened with you.

BREAKING NEWS!!!! We are delighted that BBC Radio Tees are going to play a selection of our students' musical advent calendar pieces on their evening shows on Friday 18th, Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd December. Unfortunately, we can't confirm which tracks will be chosen. You may like to tune into Rachel Teate's show, on BBC Radio Tees (95.0 frequency) between 7-10pm on these days. We are very excited to have this opportunity and immensely proud of all our students who have taken part in this hugely successful musical project.

PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 7 DRAMA LLAMAS IMPRESS WITH SCARY SHOWCASE

The Year 7 Drama Llamas' debut performance was a scary affair! Their impressive showcase demonstrated how this newly-formed group have worked together incredibly well to create a stunning production that really highlights their creative flair and teamwork. Don't miss their show which you can watch at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/UhMGpfqonj1ECeCQ8> With only four rehearsals under their belt, the students, under the direction of Miss Paul, came up with much of the content themselves, working out their lines and creating the Halloween theme.



Miss Paul said: "The students were provided with a poem as their stimulus and have worked together, whilst contributing a range of ideas to develop the script and use it to devise a performance. They have practised a range of skills and techniques such as freeze frames, narration, body language, facial expression, levels, vocal skills and much more, with the aim to of building tension."



Miss Paul concluded: "Although the Drama Llamas were unable to meet during the second lockdown, we can't wait to be reunited and create more amazing theatre. Well done team!"

PERFORMING ARTS

ANOTHER GREAT PERFORMANCE BY FINLAY WITH THE VIRTUAL VIDEO GAME ORCHESTRA

Finlay McKechnie, in Year 12, is continuing to perform with the Virtual Video Game Orchestra who have just released their fourth project "Between Heaven and Earth" from the video game Fire Emblem: 3 houses. The piece features 149 recording submissions from musicians across the global video game music community, with Finlay being one of the younger members of the group. You can listen to the recording at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aE-cqI1nexw&feature=youtu.be



Finlay is a keen musician and is studying A-levels in Music, Classics, Maths and Further Maths. Finlay said: "This is another fantastic piece of music and was once again really fun to record. If you play an instrument and think recording music for a group like this could be for you, I highly recommend it. I'd *like to* go into music, but I'm not sure how well the live music industry will survive in the future.

Finlay started to work with the Virtual Video Game Orchestra during the first lockdown and is already working on several other videos that are in production and he has plans to record some more soon. Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, said: "I am so pleased with Finlay's dedication to music making, especially considering the current difficulties for the Arts across the world. The independence and creativity Finlay has shown by involving himself in these projects and then performing to such a high standard is a joy to see!"



SPORT

CAMERON OVERCOMES INJURY TO SCOOP 2020 NATIONAL ENDURO CHAMPIONSHIP

A Richmond teenager has overcome an injury to win the Motul National Cross Country and Sprint champion for 2020. Cameron Baker Haste, a Year 11 student, suffered dislocated and broken bones at the start of the season and it is testament to his sheer grit, determination and skill that he didn't let this setback deter him, coming back stronger to scoop the championship.

Just before the first lockdown, Cameron had a simple fall off his bike dislocating and breaking his finger, forcing him to take nine weeks out to recover. The lockdown fell in his favour, even though with regard to his riding it was a painful and frustrating time. However, with riding, practice and events cancelled, Cameron was not missing out on competitions while he recuperated and it made it a little easier to accept the fact of not being able to ride.

The challenge for Cameron was going from being super-fit, both mentally and physically, to not being able to do any training. However, this has taught Cameron a great life lesson to learn how to stay mentally strong and to be patient and deal with the fact his injury prevented him from doing what he loves and is most passionate about.

Cameron said: "It has certainly been a different year, with so many ups and downs with recovering from my injury, Covid lockdowns, trying to keep mentally and physically fit as well as family illness. There have been a few hurdles to overcome along the way for me to bring home the trophy and I am so delighted to be crowned the 2020 Edge Offroad's Motul National Cross Country and National Sprint Champion. It has definitely been a case of 'no pain, no gain'!

"It has been a difficult and sad time for so many and Covid has affected so many sports. In enduro, it has been hard to practise, race, meet up with racing peers as well as get some parts for the bike. I have learned that "without risk, there is no reward" and I certainly took plenty of risks and the reward is winning the championship, a great feeling. I just need to keep it up now in 2021. I couldn't have achieved this success without the support of all my sponsors and family with everything they do. A special thank you goes to my main sponsors; Sonya Jarvis at Edge Offroad, Eurotek and Motul UK."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, concluded: "This is an amazing achievement for Cameron and highlights his drive, resilience and tenacity to persevere and not give up when faced with such a setback. We look forward to watching Cameron's talent develop in 2021."

Keep up to date with Cameron's racing progress at:

https://instagram.com/285_bakerhaste?igshid=18v12fl09ut2m

<https://instagram.com/teambakerhaste?igshid=psq5vspf97hg>

<https://www.facebook.com/Teambakerhaste/>



SPORT

YEAR 11 STUDENTS AIM HIGH AT GCSE ATHLETICS ASSESSMENT

As a part of the GCSE PE course, students are required to be assessed practically in a number of sports. In ordinary circumstances, students would be assessed in three practical sports, including one which must be a team sport, and one which must be individual. The third can be either a team or individual sport. This year, because of COVID, students will be assessed in two activities which can both be team or individual.

The course allows students to be assessed in a variety of sports, which they would not cover in their PE lessons. This is one of the great aspects of the GCSE PE course as it enables a high proportion of students each year to be assessed in sports that they passionately train for outside of school. This year students have submitted evidence for equestrian events, skiing, dancing, gymnastics, and rugby league, plus other disciplines.

Every year, a large number of GCSE PE students are assessed in athletics, in which they must compete in two different events. Having already filmed the majority of their skills progressions, as a part of their PE lessons, our Year 11 cohort headed to Eastbourne Sports Complex, in Darlington, to secure the necessary competition footage.

The students conducted themselves fantastically on the day and showed what a superb group they are. They behaved impeccably, encouraging their peers as well as showing some real grit and determination in order to try and gain the best marks possible for their GCSE. Some students also demonstrated their maturity and teamwork by competing in events that they weren't to be assessed in to make the competition such a success.



DOUBLE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR RISING RACING STAR

A teenager who has scooped a duo of go-karting championships has his heart set on forging a career in racing. Jude Cole, a Year 9 student, is a relative newcomer to go-karting, yet has proven to be a natural behind the wheel and, in only two years, has risen up the ranks to become the name to watch out for on the track.

Jude took first place in two North East regional championships, in the 12-17-year-old category at Teesside Autodrome, followed by The Cumbrian Kart Club event at the Rowrah track in Cockermouth. This is an outstanding achievement in his first year of competitions, where he is racing against some children who have been competing since they were six-years old.

During the early weeks of lockdown, with the racing calendar on hold, Jude and his Dad, Chris, spent time prepping and servicing his go-kart, before starting racing again at the end of May, taking part in test days at Teesside Autodrome. Sponsored by CC Automotive Ltd, Jude is a proud Yorkshire man, and is delighted to be racing in his new custom-made overalls which are emblazoned with the Yorkshire rose. He drives a 2018 Mad Croc kart which features an Italian chassis and, depending on the circuit, is capable of speeds of between 60 and 90mph.

Jude said: "Karting is in my blood. My Dad used to race rally cars and he has been my inspiration. From the sound of the engine to sitting in the cars, it gave me such a 'wow' factor that has been with me from an early age. I have such a hunger for racing and it is my dream, as I get older, to go into rally driving and perhaps make it my career."

Jude is also inspired by Max Coates, a semi-professional racing car driver and alumnus of Richmond School and Sixth Form College. Max started karting at the age of 8 and has risen through the ranks, becoming the Renault UK Clio Cup graduate champion in 2016. Jude enjoys going to friendly fun endurance races at Teesside karting, organised by Max.

Adam Boulton-Lear, Jude's tutor, said: "This is absolutely brilliant news! Jude loves karting. He is always showing me pictures and talking to me about his karting. It is great to see him doing well."



ACADEMIC

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF PARLIAMENT

During Parliament Week, students across the school are taking the opportunity this week to learn about our democracy, the workings of parliament and how they can take action to ensure their views are heard. Assemblies have focussed on the UK parliamentary system and how debate and questioning are used to create legislation and to scrutinise the work of the government in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In their topic of the week activities, Years 7-11 have investigated and discussed the work of parliament over the years in tackling race inequality, learning about the work done by Baroness Doreen Lawrence and Olaudah Equiano in developing legislation to improve equality in the UK.



Sixth formers have also spent time looking at the Presidential election in the USA, the key issues and the differences between the two electoral systems. It is vital that students understand the role they have to play in our democracy and although they may not be able to vote until they are 18 there are still actions they can take to ensure their views are heard by MPs and the government through things such as writing to their MP and petitions to parliament. Find out more about Parliament Week at <https://www.ukparliamentweek.org/en/>

LOGAN BROADENS HIS CODING SKILLS AND EXCELS AT INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Logan Hankin, in Year 11, is developing his interest and skills in coding by studying independently with the Institute of Coding, Accenture, the University of Leeds and Lancaster University. Logan completed a course in 'creating a great user experience for mobile apps' before the summer and has continued to study over the summer holidays and since returning to school. He has done remarkably well and has now achieved eight qualifications. The courses have covered subjects such as: Computer programming for everyone, learning to code for the web, introduction to virtual, augmented and mixed reality and creating a great user experience for mobile apps to name a few.



Logan is planning to do further courses independently these include but are not limited to learning more coding languages including Python and C#.

Logan is hoping to go on to study maths, chemistry, physics and computer science at 'A' Level, with Richmond Sixth Form being his first choice.

Congratulations to Logan on showing such determination and commitment to his studies.

ACADEMIC

UNITED AGAINST BULLYING

This year's anti-bullying week followed the theme 'United Against Bullying'. Mr Braham, Lead Teacher of Technology, approached Year 13 students Joely, Sujan, Katie, Rania and Uchenna to work together to create an assembly. The sixth form students created a fabulous presentation, having planned, filmed and edited the assembly which covered topics such as the definition of bullying and how it can be identified, alongside case studies and examples of short and long-term effects which individuals could sometimes experience. Most importantly, it gave a very strong message that bullying is not tolerated within school and college and how important it is for students to report any incidents so they can be dealt with swiftly. You can watch their presentation at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QXL6Vf8PVTiWcFYAA>



Joely, project leader and headgirl, said: "We ensured the assembly was educational for students but also reinforced Richmond School's values and the small community feel in which students can confide in trusted members of staff to resolve any issues which may arise.

"Here at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, we'd like to think that bullying is a very rare occurrence; however, if the scenario were to occur we would like students to know it will be quickly resolved and prevented from happening again, ensuring their time here is happy and enjoyable."



Mr Braham said: "I am very impressed with the content and quality of the students' assembly which was pitched at exactly the right level and reflects how important it is that our students know the steps to take if they or their friends ever experience bullying."



For further information about anti-bullying week visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

ACADEMIC

SPOTS AT THE STATION FOR PROMISING YOUNG ARTISTS

Two young artists have been offered the opportunity to have their artwork exhibited at the forthcoming Spot on the Wall exhibition at The Station in Richmond. Rosie Tupper, a Year 13 student and Christian Swift, a former student who left in the summer to further his studies at Leeds Art University, are privileged to have their work showcased alongside over seventy talented artists and photographers.

Rosie is an aspiring comic artist and after completing her A-levels she is planning to take a foundation year in Arts and Design at Arts University Bournemouth. For her Spot she has created a piece called 'Hands'. Rosie said: "I chose to draw hands because they are visually very intricate, but they also can hold many different kinds of symbolism depending on the position. In addition, hands are about as 'everyday' a subject as you can get and I hope my artwork will appeal to a wide audience. As a medium, pencil is great for capturing volume and gradient as well as sharp details."

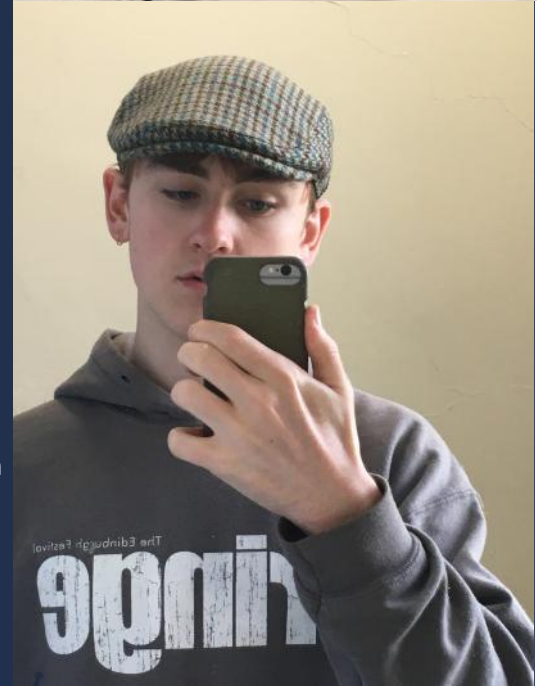
After achieving A* in his A-level Art in the summer, Christian is now furthering his studies at Leeds Art University. Christian likes working with graphite pencil and enjoys art that is done with intention. Over lockdown, he listened to Lana del Ray whilst drawing a lot of horses. He has created a piece called 'Sternocephalicus muscle, striving forward motion' for his Spot.

Jemma Gregory, The Station's Communications Co-ordinator, said "Our ethos is thoroughly rooted in the idea that art is for everyone. Spot is a perfect example of this. Whether you're an amateur or professional artist, you are welcome here, your work is valued and important. For the first time, we have introduced SPOT new talent, donating free places to some of our most promising up-and-coming artists – providing a platform to showcase their talent in our beautiful gallery. We are excited to be working with Richmond School and Sixth Form College again on another amazing project and cannot wait to see Christian and Rosie's work."

Through the annual Spot on the wall exhibition the Station gathers a fantastic range of artwork together to give visitors an ever-changing display of art to enjoy and purchase, in a wide range of media. Whether the artist is a first-time exhibitor, or they have been exhibiting for years, as a profession or a hobby, they sit side-by-side on the walls of the prestigious old station building. As a piece of art is sold, the artist can replace it with another so the exhibition looks fresh and different every time a visitor returns. The exhibition opened on 3rd December 2020 and will run until 3rd February 2021.

Ann-Marie James, Lead Teacher for Art at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, concluded: "Rosie and Christian are both outstanding artists who have always pursued their own individual ideas outside of school despite busy schedules with other subjects.

"Rosie has a particular talent for illustration and character design while Christian has displayed excellent skills in both fine art and design. This amazing opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience is really exciting for such young, emerging artists."



ACADEMIC

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS END THE YEAR ON A HIGH

The Young Enterprise sixth form group went from strength to strength during 2020 after developing a product range of animal-themed stationery including calendars and notebooks. The team, made up of Evey Taylor, Archie Forbes and Kaelan Richards, all from Year 13, have finished with an impressive profit of £200.

The team have decided to share their profit equally between two worthy causes. They will donate £100 to the World Wildlife Fund (the original objective of the Young Enterprise project) and £100 to Kari Walters' fundraising project in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance, in memory of Mr Clark. The team are so impressed with Kari's idea of guessing the number of sweets in the jar, complemented by her home-baked and iced Christmas cake, that they have decided to contribute to her cause.

The team have 50 animal notebooks left in stock and they would like to donate them to Richmond School so they can be given to students for prizes – Mrs Potter has agreed to use them as recognition prizes as part of the Star Performers scheme.

Evey Taylor from Year 13 said: "I am so pleased to be able to donate funds to both the World Wildlife Fund and the Air Ambulance. As a team, we also wanted to recognise the enterprise skills demonstrated by Kari Walters in Year 10 and support her cause. I think giving a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance would be a really great idea and express the company's strong relationship with Richmond School and the school's values.

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, said: "There have been multiple positive outcomes from this Young Enterprise team. It has been a privilege to be part of it and watch them grow over the past 12 months. The team have developed leadership and life skills to take into their future careers. They have worked together well - and made a substantial profit. Overall, what has impressed me the most is the kindness of the team as they are always thinking about how they can help others. They have a real "pay it forward" attitude. I feel so proud of them and the way they have represented Richmond Sixth Form College."

The team are now focusing on their plans for the future and aiming to apply their business and enterprise skills in higher education. Evey is applying for Business degrees and degree apprenticeships. Archie is applying for degrees in Business and Music Production, and Kaelan is applying for Law degrees.

Ms Mannion would like to thank Adam Hodgson and Ben Richardson, who were part of the team until recently when they left to take up apprenticeships.

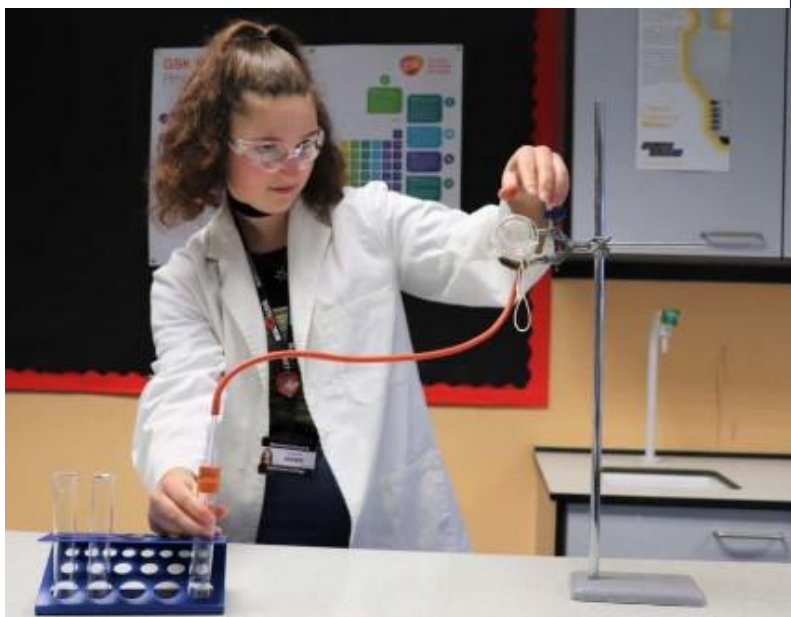


ACADEMIC

YOUNG CHEMIST WITH A WINNING FORMULA

A sixth form student, who aims to become a research chemist, has been ranked top in the country on the highly-acclaimed Best Choice Chemistry programme. Betsie Scott Hall, a Year 13 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, uses the programme to consolidate and further her knowledge in topics covered in class and to prepare for subjects that are still to be covered.

Kevin Sandell, Betsie's Chemistry teacher, said: Betsie is and always has been very enthusiastic about Science and is very focussed on understanding the challenges of Chemistry, both in school and in her free time. She will excel with the challenges and puzzles she is set in higher education and we could very well hear of great things from her.



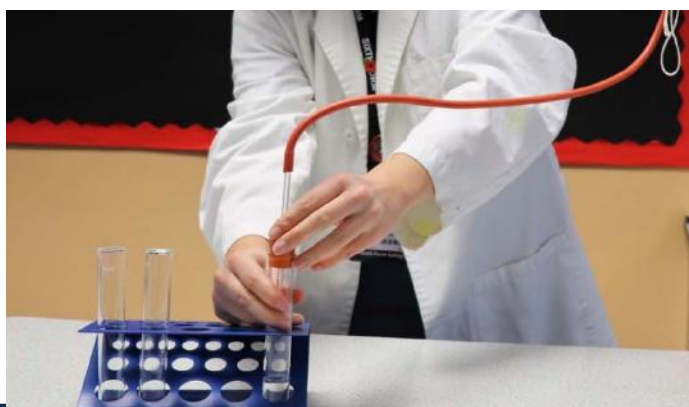
Best Choice was developed by Dr Sheila Woodgate of Auckland University in New Zealand and is used by many independent and state schools across the UK. It is a great resource for students to learn independently, featuring notes and follow-up questions and is broken down into key parts of the syllabus so students and their teachers can target exactly what they focus their attention on.

Betsie, who is studying A-levels in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Classics, is also doing an Extended Project qualification on the extent of responsibility of the workers on the Manhattan project for making the atom bomb. Betsie said, of her interest in Chemistry which started in primary school: "My fascination with the subject was catalysed in Year 7 when I first learned about the periodic table. Since then it's been my favourite subject, but it was only at GCSE when I became driven in it. Chemistry appeals to me because it's such a limitless subject, and has the ability to evolve with even the most molecular of discoveries. I find it really interesting just how much the subject has developed from its origins in alchemy, and what really fascinates me is the question of the permanence of some of our theories in chemistry. When will new technology overthrow what we thought we knew?"

Betsie currently enjoys organic chemistry the most because it is the area in which the utility of chemistry is best displayed. She finds drawing the diagrams of the molecules and mechanisms rather satisfying!

Betsie is hoping to study Chemistry at University and then would love to work as an experimental chemist. More specifically, she hopes to work in environmental chemistry, perhaps working towards solving the problem of renewable energy. Betsie is also interested in nuclear chemistry, so working on making nuclear fusion power plants a reality would be ideal for her.

On discovering that she was ranked as the highest-achieving student nationally in the Best Choice programme, Betsie said: "I was quite surprised. I have been using it quite a lot over lockdown as a more relaxed method of revising previous topics, but I never really took notice of the leaderboard as I didn't know my own identification code. I suppose I didn't re-completed of it until then."



ACADEMIC

REFLECTION ON JOHN LENNON AND WHAT HE ACHIVED

Tuesday 8th December marked forty years since the death of John Lennon. Our sixth form students remembered John Lennon in their Learning for Life lesson with a presentation and discussion about his legacy. Evoking an atmosphere of his amazing music, Unity Shrimpton and Archie Forbes performed a beautiful rendition of Imagine as the soundtrack for the video. (Unity: vocals, piano and guitar, Archie: bass, vocal and mixing). Please do spare a few minutes to watch the video at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/A881mkLbrfjS9Npz7> and hear Unity and Archie's outstanding performance.



John Lennon's anthem for peace has withstood the test of time and the impact of the song is unquestionable. Students are spending time looking at whether the messages are still relevant today in their class discussions. Students are also having an insight into Beatlemania and how the Beatles have influenced music since the 1960s.



YEAR 7 'ACHIEVE'

A group of 20 year 7 pupils have taken the opportunity to be part of the 'Achieve' programme which aims to support young people improve self-confidence, well-being and develop resilience. The programme is run jointly by North Yorkshire Sport, James Kirton (an ex-Olympic swimmer) and Richmond School. We aim to use sport and activity to develop aspiration and motivation and support the pupils to create a brighter future for themselves. The programme will develop essential life skills and build on local opportunities within the community.



The pupils attended a taster session where James Kirton led an inspirational workshop which thoroughly enthused all of the pupils so that they are ready to continue this journey when the programme will commence in January 2021.



Un petit quiz de Noël en français. Amusez-vous bien!

(answers will be posted on Facebook during the first week back and students can also ask their teachers when we return to school in January)

Match each French Christmas word to the correct picture.



1. Un bonhomme de neige

2. Le Père Noël

3. Un ange

4. Une cloche

5. Une bûche de Noël

6. Un renne

7. Une chaussette de Noël

8. Une guirlande

9. Une dinde

10. Une étoile

11. Un lutin

12. Une carte de Noël

13. Une cheminée

14. Une bougie

15. Des chaussures

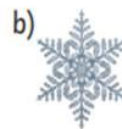
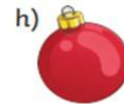
16. Une boule

17. Un sapin de Noël

18. Un flocon de neige

19. Un cadeau

20. Un traîneau



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
d																			

ACADEMIC

LOVE LANGUAGES - ONLINE MASTERCLASS PROGRAMME AT TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Well done to Izzy Lundberg, a Year 11 French and German GCSE student, who has successfully secured a place on the Trinity College, Cambridge 'Love languages - online masterclass programme'. The programme, designed for students aiming for grades 7-9, is designed to bring languages to life, develop confidence and also show the importance of languages in a global context.

Izzy has already attended her first masterclass session on where languages can take you career wise and the second session will be an ab initio taster course in a lesser taught language such as a language from the Asian and Middle Eastern studies course. Places on the programme were highly sought after this year, so many congratulations to her and we hope that the course is inspiring.

As a Pasch Schule, students are given opportunities to apply for German language summer courses. This year all the courses swapped to online courses and Izzy, who had gained a place on a summer school in Weimar originally, spent two weeks in the summer course having German language lessons and working on a joint project with other learners of German from across the globe. A fantastic opportunity that certainly stood her in good stead when applying for the Cambridge programme.



ALL-IN VOCAB CHAMPIONS!

We are delighted to share the Autumn Term all-in-effort leaderboard results. A huge well done to the following students:

	French 	German 
Year 7	Hugo Hadley	Katelyn Andrews
Year 8	Grace Moore	Charlotte Harrison
Year 9	Tabitha Aston / Elsa Wright	Thomas Pyrah / Tabitha Aston
Year 10	Annabel Gorman	Osea Navuso
Year 11	Nathan Abel Smith / Francesca Smith	James Abel Smith / Flynn Hunter

Well done to all of our students who have also worked hard and are regularly completing their online vocabulary tests. Find out more at www.school.all-in.org.uk/

Please note, we still have a number of students who are not logging on and are not completing their weekly test. Please do encourage your child to log on regularly and complete the tasks, as it is hugely beneficial to their language learning.



Christmas Bake-Off - Butterplätzchen



Why not have a go at baking these tasty 'lecker' German biscuits at home during the festive period and take some photos of the process, from making them to baking them to eating them, to feature in the next newsletter or on the school Facebook page.

Make sure someone is about to supervise you cooking them and that you ask for permission first.. Oh, and the recipe and instructions are all in German, so this adds a little extra challenge for you. N.B. You can use vanilla essence rather than 'Vanillezucker'.

Please note the quantities are for a large number of Plätzchen (biscuits) so it is probably wise to halve the ingredients although they are very yummy and we are sure family and friends would also enjoy a little treat.

Viel Spaß!!! (Have fun!) We would love to see pictures of you making your biscuits and your finished tasty delights, so please email any pictures to: jlundberg@richmondschool.net including your name and tutor group.

Zutaten: Ingredients

500g Mehl, 6g Backpulver, 200g Zucker, 1 Paket Vanillezucker, 250g Butter, 2 Eier

Zubereitung: Method

Alle Zutaten in eine Schüssel geben und mit dem Mixer gut verrühren. Den Teig 1/2 Stunde kalt stellen, dann ca. 1/2cm dick ausrollen und Plätzchen ausstechen. Mit Eigelb bestreichen und ca. 10 Minuten bei 180°C backen. You can also decorate your biscuits or cut them into funny shapes before baking them.

ACADEMIC

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE POEM FROM THE FINALISTS OF THE YEAR 7 ANIMAL POETRY COMPETITION

The final of the Year 7 animal poetry competition is here! After an overwhelming response, the English department had the tough job of selecting the nine finalists. Please enjoy reading these wonderful poems below and then vote for your favourite here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VMDZ268> Voting closes on Friday 8th January. First place wins a £25 voucher for Castle Hill books, second place £15 and third place £10.

Saltwater Criminal

It's like a rumour; swimming so fast
No time to escape the agonizing grasp
Already circling you
With a sly killer grin...

More and more come
With tricks up their sleeves
That could be you
With death on your door...

It's a saltwater criminal
On a savage killing spree
With blood on its teeth
And bones on the ground...

It is the definition of crime
And has the thirst for wars
No weapons involved
Just blood and jaws...

Chicken Heaven

We always go in but always get kicked out.
Accept the lucky one who gets taken by the hand.

After we always hear shouting then silence.
But that was just us thinking about the great times
they were having.

They must be dancing and prancing around
until everything goes silent then blacks out.

We see the gods leave and come back in the morning.
They did the same thing accept they picked me!

As they took me into K.F.C...

Pigeon

As I limp along the river and hear god's almighty yell
They laugh at me, they laugh at me, oh the hail.

I used to be a postman didn't you know.
Soaring above the clouds stared at by the almighty yellow.

I used to be the leader of my pack.
We'd scare them away to enjoy a tasty snack.

I used to be a couch potato didn't you see.
When I sat upon the statues and watched the drooping
leaves.

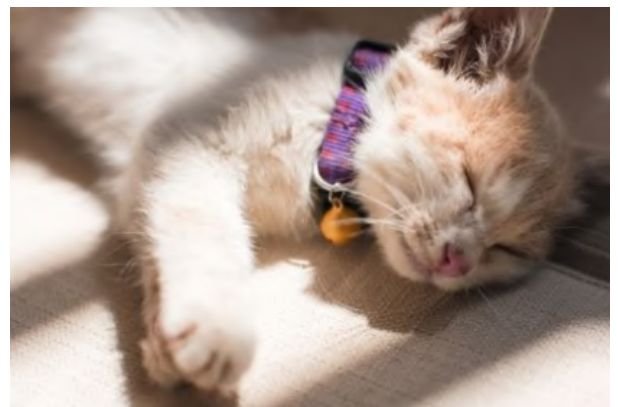
As I limp along the river and puff out my chest
I fall like a leaf and lay down for my one final rest.

The parrot of the night

Winged beauty of dusk, why now?
Flying copier in the night, sing your sweet melody.
At this time, feathers glow mysteriously, was it that glow worm?
Who knows? Not me!

Yellow! Purple! Green and orange! Any colour he wants!
He performs with the fireflies, twisting and turning.
Morning approaches, one last melody and fly away.
Fly home. That's enough for one day, no, night.

Winged beauty of dusk? Must this be the end?
Flying copier in the night, one more sweet melody?
At this time, feathers glow no more.
Was it that glow worm? Who knows? Not me?



What did the fox say?

I'm a mad fox, a bad fox, a sad fox
I'm a fox with socks, a fox with locks, a fox that rocks,
I'm looking for a chicken,
which is paw-lickin'
and one that's worth stickin'
in my porky belly,
which is now a little smelly,
because I have been rolling in puddles,
and coming home to no showers or cuddles,

but best of all,
I'm on a trampoline,
just like a queen,
bouncing up and down,
not putting on a frown,
holding tight onto my crown!

A Cat's Life

I slowly wake up in the morning,
Knowing the day will be boring.
Then I annoy my owner, so it gives me
food,
But my owner thinks I'm being selfish and
rude.

Then I curl up on my owner's lap,
And have a nice, long nap.
Then I play and eat and sleep again,
And sometimes I hunt if it doesn't rain.

Then it is finally night,
And I conjure up all my might,
To sleep and dream the night away,
And then I wake up for another day.



Marching Army

The ground is shaking
The earth is quaking
They leave no stone unturned.
Feelings of terror, fear, flood me
But the admiration sticks.

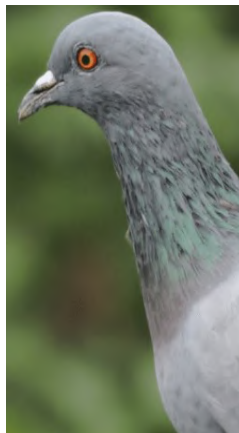
They are more powerful
When they're hungry, stopping
At nothing to feed. I can
Only wish I was them. The
Thunder of the forest.

Sunlight captures their
Dramatic beauty. They're efficient, bold,
With a glinting armour that shines gold.
A weak little thing overwhelmed by the scene –
I may have wings but I am alone.

They're sturdy – they're strong – they're
determined – they're ants

The Snake

Silently sleeping in the mid-day sun
Secretly spying on everyone
Sneakily stalking the prey it has seen
Deceiving us all as it seems so serene
Watching and waiting with envious eyes
Under the rocks is where it hides
Scales that shimmer as it slides over the sand
Smiling slyly while baring its fangs
Coiled like a spring ready to strike
Squeezing and suffocating spirals so tight



The Girog

As the girog walked,
The girog stepped,
Whilst walking,
Its neck was hitting the clouds,
But its legs were bent,
It had a long tongue,
The tongue was fury,
The tongue was long,
Then the girog went for a jog,
Then the girog went over a log,
Then went home to have a nap,
When he woke he had a bap.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIFE SAVERS

Over 200 Year 8 students have received vital first-aid training in how to respond to an emergency and perform CPR. The Richmond School students took part in a series of hands-on training that saw each of them work with a 'Resusci Anne' mannequin to simulate a real-life emergency situation.

Richmond School have ensured all their Year 8 students receive this vital training since the inception of the 'Restart a Heart' initiative by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in 2014. In previous years, a volunteer team of community first responders, firefighters, nurses and paramedics have visited the school to carry out the training with the students. Unfortunately, due to visitor restrictions at school, this was not possible this year, however this did not deter Nicola Walker, Biology Teacher and coordinator of the programme, from ensuring the students didn't miss out.

Mrs Walker not only made arrangements for an interactive video for the students to work through, using the 30 inflatable mannequins which had been generously supplied by The British Heart Foundation, so the students could put the training into practice, but also led all the eight sessions so that the whole year group had the opportunity to be involved.

Mrs Walker said: "As well as now being included as part of the statutory curriculum, the 'Restart a Heart' project provides vital life skills for our young people. Over 30,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest out of hospital in the UK every year and the earlier a patient can receive CPR and a shock from a defibrillator, the greater their chance of survival. There are many people who are alive today because someone successfully performed this simple life-saving procedure."

The students learned about responding as quickly as possible in the event of someone's heart stopping, and how that speed is of the essence when performing Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The students were very engaged with the training and the message of 'Staying Alive' was reinforced when they were performing CPR to the song of the same name by the Bee Gees, keeping in time with the rhythm.

Mrs Walker concluded: "CPR training is so important in people of any age, but for our younger students it instils the skills and confidence to save someone's life. I was really impressed with the students' attentiveness and how they embraced the training and put what they had learned into practice."

Sadly, many lives are being lost every year because people lack the knowledge and confidence to step in and start CPR in a life-threatening situation. The more youngsters who receive the training the higher the effect on cardiac arrest survival rates. It is most satisfying to know that, since 2014, more than 1,200 of our students have benefited from this essential training."



ACADEMIC

THE BRILLIANT CLUB SCHOLARS PROGRAMME 2020 – PROPAGANDA, POWER POLITICS, AND THE MIDDLE EAST

This year's Brilliant Club is more topical than ever, addressing the relationship between politics and social media. In fact, on the launch day of the Brilliant Club, the world was waiting to hear the results of the US presidential election – the course content reflected this and helped students to try to make sense of what they were seeing in the Media.

Richmond Sixth Form College has a strong track record of involvement with the Brilliant Club. This year, 12 students are taking part, in sessions taught by a PhD student from Durham University. Students are having weekly Zoom meetings supported by assignments and academic mentoring.

There are many transferable skills from the course: critical analysis, case study analysis, understanding the political-media relationship and academic writing, to name a few. All these skills support students for the next steps in their career journey.

Beth Wray said: "I am enjoying Richmond Sixth Form and the fact that I am doing the Brilliant Club is an added bonus. Writing the essays for the Brilliant Club assignments is really helping with my essay writing subjects at college, I study History and English Literature A-levels."

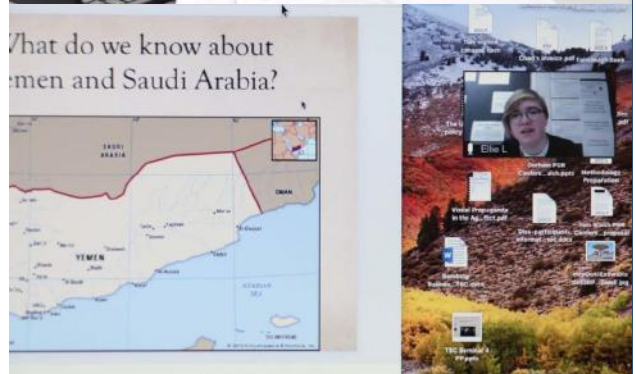
James Limer added: "It has been so interesting learning about social media and politics so far."

Thomas Walsh, the PhD Mentor said: "The standard of the first assignment was very high. I am very pleased with the work submitted by the students in the first week."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader said: "The Brilliant Club is such a great way for students to learn and ultimately help them to access higher education. I am so impressed at how students are engaging in online debates on Zoom, which is a skill in itself."

Ms Johnson, Assistant Head, commented: "This year, of course, is very different. Our students are making the most of this opportunity to extend their learning and challenge themselves whilst at the same time accessing the programme remotely. I am delighted to see that they are engaging with this challenge and committing fully to getting the most out of the experience."

The programme considers issues such as: How often do you look down at your phone a day? We are all now connected, whether we like it or not, to a massive web of different social media networks, news outlets and other "information" sharing apps. Many believe that this is a brilliant thing. In some ways they are right. We are now connected to a vast amount of information, which was previously inaccessible.



ACADEMIC

MYLES' FABULOUS ARTWORK OF WW1 SOLDIER AND STUNNING REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY IN the LIBRARY

We marked Armistice Day with the two minute silence and the Last Post. Mrs Farquhar, our librarian, created a stunning display of books and artefacts about remembrance which students could view in the library. We were very impressed with this fabulous artwork of a World War 1 soldier that Myles Fairhurst has created. Myles, in Year 7, was inspired by the artwork of Martin Brown, the illustrator of the Frightful First World War books in Terry Deary's Horrible Histories collection.

Myles said: "Art is one of my favourite subjects because you can let your imagination run wild on a piece of paper. I enjoy creating artwork from both world wars but I like the style of a First World War soldier. For example, I like the traditional Tommy helmets. When I was drawing this soldier I imagined that he was writing a letter home to his family to tell them that he was fine and needed more chocolate! I created my artwork using my Dad's artist felt tips that work like paint brushes. I also like to draw characters for my stories that I write."

Myles is really interested in History, especially the history of the Battle of the Somme. He has watched Time Team documentaries about the archaeology that is found. - one object linking to one soldier.



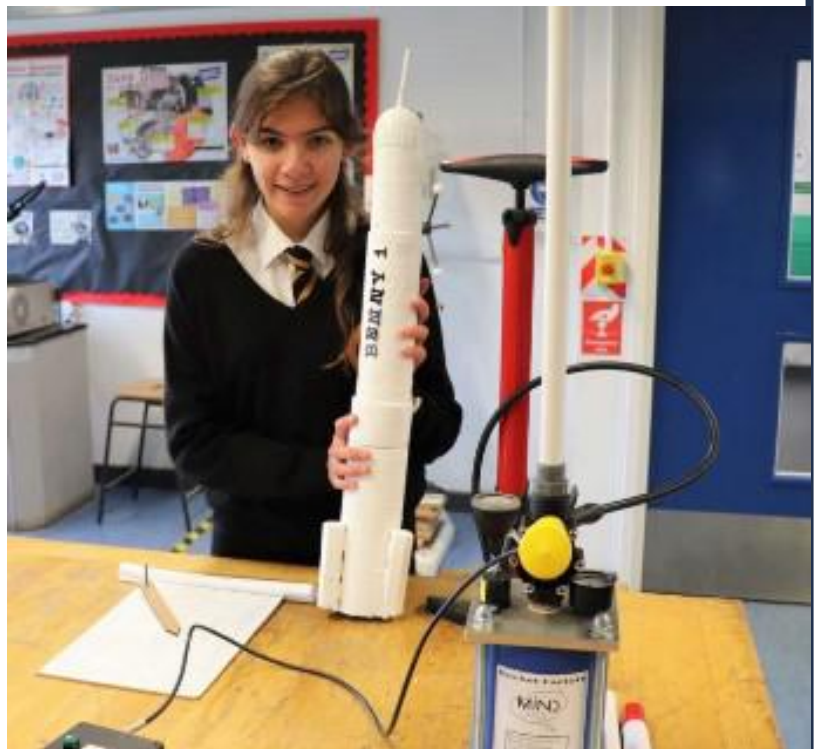
HARRIETT'S ROCKET LAUNCHES TO A HEIGHT OF MORE THAN 20 METRES!

Mr Dawson's Year 8 Design and Technology group have been developing designs of rockets as a part of their baseline assessment. As an additional and self-inspired homework task, Harriett developed a metre-high model of one of her designs – the results are impressive!

Harriett carried out the work at home with materials sourced from the family kitchen. The investment of time can be seen in the quality of the structure from its outer wrap of white tape to the knock down nature of the three rocket stages. Harriett gave a short account of her work to her peers in the DT class, describing the elements that were used to make the rocket along with a brief mention of the way in which it was constructed.

Harriett was delighted to have witnessed the launch of a test firing on the school's pneumatic rocket launch pad taking off at high speed up to a height of more than 20m.

Mr Dawson said: "Harriett is a genuine Star Performer doing all that she can do in order to be the best that she can be. What more can we ask?"



CAREERS

STUDENTS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY ONLINE WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

We are most impressed with our sixth form students who are working really hard to gain work experience during these challenging times. Two recent examples are Joely Weston and Josephine Cooper, in Year 13, who have taken advantage of online opportunities with international companies GSK and Coca-Cola.



Joely attended the Coca-Cola European Partners Application Masterclass on 13th November via Zoom and said: "The online masterclass with Coca-Cola European Partners was an amazing opportunity to learn more about the brand itself, application processes and the working world. We learnt about application processes such as video interviews and tips for CV writing, which will be useful when I apply for jobs in the future. Not only video interviews were covered but also the traditional face-to-face interviews where we were told what Coca-Cola as a company would look for in an applicant which is similar for other companies too. As well as this we were given the chance to ask any questions we had and have discussions with those who ran the masterclass. Overall, the opportunity gave me an insight into the brand of Coca-Cola but I also learnt skills and valuable knowledge which I'll be able to transfer into application processes in my future career."

Josephine's time with GSK, during half-term, was extremely beneficial. Josephine said: "I spent time in production areas at GlaxoSmithKline and 3M as part of their apprenticeship assessment centres. In both I was amazed by the use of computer-integrated manufacturing to efficiently manage supply, production and distribution. The study of A-level Design and Technology has provided an important understanding of theory, but seeing operational areas helped me appreciate the diverse processes required to create everyday items we often take for granted."

DIGITAL FIRST AID: JOINT WORKSHOP - HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE AND CAREERS

Our A-level Health and Social Care students recently learned about first aid through a workshop that was delivered via a Red Cross First Aid Trainer on the Zoom platform. The workshop covered the following areas:

- Essential first aid skills, including how to help someone who is unresponsive and breathing/not breathing, bleeding heavily or has a burn.
- How to assess and manage risks to make informed choices when helping others.
- How to become more confident and willing to help in a first aid emergency.

Students discussed barriers to helping people and how to overcome these barriers. There was also useful information about different ways to contact the emergency services. Students also worked in groups on two different emergency scenarios, and talked about how they would respond.

Zoe Gleave said: "It was a very interesting session and there are definitely aspects that I was unaware of before." Jenna McCarthy added: "I learned a lot and feel more confident to know what to do in the future when faced with an emergency situation."

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, said: "The students participated well and learned a lot. The workshop was useful for the Health and Social Care curriculum and also some of the students are keen to go into careers in the NHS and it has given an insight into how to assess and manage risks when helping others. A very big thank you is extended to Mr Flanagan and Mr Thornton from the IT Support team as, without their expert technical help, the Zoom meeting could not have gone ahead! It really is appreciated."



KEY PARTNERSHIPS FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

NEXT STEP YORK is a personalised activity programme for Year 12 students in the North of England, providing an opportunity to explore university options and receive specialist support with their current studies. Richmond Sixth Form College is delighted to be a NEXT STEP YORK partner.. You can watch the really informative pre-recorded video for our college at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iMZnAD_TKcMizkHmj2cnYFy_yvVCK1Pc/view








As a Next Step York participant, you'll be welcomed to join their community as a pre-entry student. This means you'll have the opportunity to experience what life and learning are really like at York. Following the virtual launch event in December, there will be wide range of further opportunities between January and July. By completing the Next Step York programme, students unlock exclusive access to a range of additional benefits and receive a **GUARANTEED INTERVIEW OR OFFER** to study at York.



PARTNERSHIPS WITH UPTREE - Uptree is a platform for companies and young people. With Uptree companies create unique experiences of work and engage with talent early.

It is a free professional networking platform designed to help you get started in the world of work. Get work experience, find apprenticeships and other opportunities, and begin your dream career. There are some great resources where you can find out more about this programme at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm5BvsqJE08> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfAISHHztlc>

Below are some examples of recent and future opportunities with Uptree:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arm: Application Masterclass (Online) <p>Tue 1 Dec 2020 @ 1:30 PM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology: J.P. Morgan Glasgow Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Wed 2 Dec 2020 @ 1:00 PM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM: Arm Cambridge Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Thu 3 Dec 2020 @ 10:00 AM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund Management And Investment: Equitix Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Wed 9 Dec 2020 @ 10:00 AM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance: PwC Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Thu 10 Dec 2020 @ 10:00 AM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law: Dentons Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Thu 21 Jan 2021 @ 10:00 AM</p>	View Event
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising And Marketing: Ogilvy Work Experience Day (Online) <p>Tue 9 Feb 2021 @ 10:00 AM</p>	View Event

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS There are some fantastic opportunities available through degree apprenticeships.

Receive on-the-job training, as you would with a conventional apprenticeship but study towards a degree at the same time. You get paid a wage for working and your tuition fees are covered.

An increasing number of our students are taking the degree apprenticeship route following their A-levels. Turn to Page 42 to find out how Megan Lightfoot chose this option and is studying for a degree as a quantity surveyor with Tom Willoughby Ltd.

Follow the college's unique sign-up link or QR to create your account today!
<http://uptree.co/a/signup/student/richmond-school-1-52336>

CAREERS

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a local employer who is considering taking on apprentices from July 2021, or do you know any companies or organisations who are looking to do this?

Richmond School are looking to strengthen links with local employers who could provide apprenticeship opportunities for young people who are leaving after GCSEs in Year 11 and A-levels in Year 13. In building a strong network of local businesses, the school aim to support both students and employers by starting conversations and application processes as early as possible.

Current students have undergone a particularly challenging time recently having to adapt to different ways of learning, and missing out meaningful school interaction for a large part of their school and college year. We are keen to provide as much support as possible to those students due to leave school in summer 2021, to ensure they have the best opportunities available to them. We already have many students whose preference is to secure an apprenticeship.

In the first instance we are keen to hear from any local employers who will be taking on apprenticeships from July 2021 onwards, as well as organisations who would consider this in the future. Please can we ask for contact details to be sent initially to Ruth Hamer, Careers Advisor by email to rhamer@richmondschool.net

We are extremely proud of the students who have taken up apprenticeships recently and we have loved hearing from their employers who have been delighted with their performance, work ethic and eagerness to learn. Students have gone on to pursue apprenticeships in many areas of industry including construction, hairdressing, catering, electrics, plumbing, engineering, IT, marketing and surveying.

We are pleased to share some feedback from companies who have supported our students with apprenticeships:

Paul Ward, Managing Director of Swale Scaffolding, said: "Matty has settled so quickly in to his first work environment and he is already proving to be great asset to our team. He presents at work each day with a great air of enthusiasm and has a real spring in his step as he travels around the yard in his gleaming new uniform. If Matty keeps this high standard up he will have a great future with Swale Scaffolding Ltd.

"We would also like to pass on our sincere thanks to Richmond School in helping us with the first intake of what we hope to be an annual apprenticeship recruitment drive with the school."

Graeme Newton, Managing Director of Randall Orchard, said: "Graeme Newton, Managing Director at Randall Orchard Construction and an alumnus of Richmond Sixth Form College, said: " 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.

"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."

Anna Clinton, owner of Saks, said: "We are excited to welcome Olivia to the team. She has been joining us for training since October last year so she already feels like part of our family. We are really impressed by the commitment she has already shown and are looking forward to seeing her progress with her qualifications."

Joanne Sinnott, Operations Manager at Tom Willoughby, said: "Megan joined Tom Willoughby's straight from A-levels in September, with the intention of starting a Degree Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying in September 2021. Megan is a very capable young woman who has taken to her role extremely well.



NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAM

Laura Smith is proof that you should follow your dream and never give up. When many would have looked for an easier option, Laura remained steadfast, determined to become a midwife. We are thrilled to share the news that Laura, a former student, has graduated with First Class Honours in Midwifery.

Laura's pathway to midwifery began when her family moved to the area from Germany and she applied to Richmond Sixth Form College. Ms Johnson, Assistant Headteacher, said: "Laura joined us after studying abroad, so it was a big step for her to join Sixth Form not knowing anyone from our school or our feeder schools. However, from the start, I knew there was something about Laura that convinced me she would succeed and my gut feeling proved to be right!"

Laura had set the bar high, she worked very hard, but it was tough for her as the grades for midwifery were much higher than nursing. She was most appreciative of the support from Ms Johnson and Ms Mannion who helped with her university application and interview practice. Laura was thrilled to be offered a place to study midwifery, but then just missed out on the grades.

Friends were suggesting she should settle for nursing as it wasn't so competitive and would be less challenging for her. Not giving up, still focused and determined, Laura went to Darlington College and studied Applied Science for two years. Ms Johnson continued to support her with her interview technique and she was offered a place at Nottingham University. Sheffield Hallam also gave her an offer, but deferred to the following year. Sheffield was Laura's first choice, and although it was a difficult decision to wait a year, Laura knew Sheffield was where she really wanted to go. She took a job working at the Black Lion in Richmond and then headed off to university at the age of 21. Laura had just finished her second year when one of her lecturers suggested she should have a dyslexia test, which diagnosed her with mild dyslexia. This was something else that Laura had unknowingly coped with throughout her education and another hurdle to overcome in her quest to become a midwife.

Julie Smith, Laura's mum, said: "We can't thank the staff at Richmond Sixth Form College enough who were so supportive of Laura, however I must single out Ms Johnson and Ms Mannion who gave 100% commitment to helping Laura with practice interviews and building her confidence. They really believed in Laura and nothing was ever too much trouble, they always made time for her even though I knew how incredibly busy they were."

While working as a student midwife, a patient said the following about the care Laura gave her: "Laura made a real difference, I felt safe, confident and in control. When I thought I couldn't do it, Laura talked through it beautifully. Amazing woman!"

We are extremely proud of Laura and everything she has achieved and congratulate her on graduating as a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery with First Class Honours. She has just started her first job as a midwife at Doncaster's Women's hospital and is loving every minute. Laura is an inspiration to anyone who has a dream, and is proof that with sheer determination, and a little more time, a dream can come true.



LEEDS CAN WAIT—TOMMY PUTS WORK BEFORE UNIVERSITY

You may remember Tommy Callendar from an article this time last year when we reported that following his Year 12 work experience at Harris Irwin Architects he had impressed the company so much that they offered him a gap-year job before heading off to university to study architecture.

Tommy opted to study architecture over other subjects such as computer science and applied physics as a result of the work experience he had at Richmond-based Harris Irwin in 2019. He said: “I had a short placement when I was at Richmond Sixth Form College and then came back to work here last summer and really enjoyed it.

“I always wanted a career doing something creative where each task is different and had many career choices in that respect, that was until my placement with Harris Irwin. During this placement I was tasked with designing a three-bedroom house and I found the process of this incredibly enjoyable and engaging. This inspired me to look further into a career in architecture and now I have a place waiting for me at Leeds University in 2021.

“Harris Irwin is a great place to work in. Everyone is friendly, I am getting paid so I can save to help with university costs next year and I am learning things which will stand me in great stead when I start my course, so it’s an ideal situation.”

Harris Irwin Director Ian Holme said: “Harris Irwin has always been keen to encourage and mentor young architectural talent in our area and Tommy is a great example of this. We’re delighted to have him on the team for the next 12 months and are looking forward to helping him develop so he has a fantastic head start when he starts university next year.”

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, said: “This opportunity with Harris Irwin highlights the importance of work experience and how it can inspire students. We wish Tommy every success with his role this year and his future university studies.”



ALUMNI

ALUMNA Q & A – ALICE DAWES, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT AT LEADING CHILDREN'S BOOK PUBLISHER WALKER BOOKS

We love catching up with our former students and finding out what they have been doing since they left us. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to chat to Alice Dawes, who for any book lovers out there, has the most wonderful job working for Walker Books, who publish books for a host of well-known children's authors including Michael Morpurgo, Michael Rosen and Sophie Dahl. Find out more about Alice's role and her valuable advice to students who are interested in a career in writing or publishing in our Q & A below.

What A-levels did you study at Richmond Sixth Form College?

English Literature, History, and Maths, and I did an EPQ based on English Literature.

Where did you go to university and what did you study?

I went to University of Kent and got a First in English and American Literature with Creative Writing and a Year Abroad in Hong Kong (I know, what a mouthful!).

Why did you choose a career in book publishing? In the creative writing modules at university, my seminars involved reading, editing, and offering feedback on others' work. I found it so interesting and inspiring – I loved helping other people work on their stories to get them where they needed to be. I then learnt more about publishing from my careers advisor and thought that bookmaking sounded like a dream job. I had to do it!

Did you do any work experience? Yes, in my final year of university I did work experience at three different publishing houses. I did one in the Publicity & Marketing team at Hachette Children's Group, one in the Editorial, Sales, Marketing & Publicity teams at Icon Books which is a small non-fiction book publisher, and another in the Editorial team at Walker Books, where I work now.

What have you been doing since you finished your education? To earn some money after graduating I started temping, doing various office-based admin work while I applied for publishing jobs. I wasn't successful at first (sadly, publishing is a very competitive industry) so I ended up taking a post-university gap year and I am so, so happy I had that time to travel. That year I went to India from January–March and Fiji from May–July. I started applying for jobs when I got back and finally I got a call from Walker Books asking me for an interview.

Tell us a little about Walker Books -Walker Books is a children's book publishing house in Vauxhall, South London. You might have heard of some of our authors like Michael Morpurgo, Kate DiCamillo, Sophie Dahl and Patrick Ness. Our more well-known books include *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *Guess How Much I Love You* and the *Where's Wally?* books. Walker publishes books everything from baby board books to novelty books, picture books, non-fiction, young-illustrated fiction, and young adult fiction.

What is your role at Walker Books? I am an Editorial Assistant in the Picture Book team. My team mainly creates books for 2-6-year-olds, but we are flexible and creative in what we commission. For example, in addition to picture books I am currently working on a non-fiction book about mental health, and a young-illustrated fiction series. In my role I support the senior editors with discovering, developing and editing new stories, and then choosing artists to illustrate them. I work closely with both the authors and illustrators to create their books, and make sure the text and the illustrations are working well together. Stories often go through a lot of changes from when we first read them.

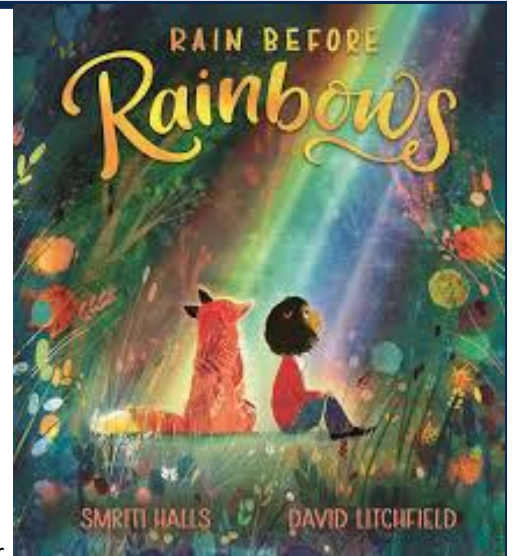
What do you enjoy most about your job? I love editing because every book is different, and as editors we have a responsibility to publish books that aren't just great stories, but influence children and send positive messages. Working with authors to choose the right path for their characters and find the right words to engage a young audience is a fantastic challenge. And the artists are amazing. I feel very privileged to work with illustrators who bring the stories to life. My job is fairly social too since it involves going to book launches, art exhibitions, award ceremonies and book fairs. But ultimately, seeing children pore over these books in shops after months or years of work is something I don't think I will ever tire of.



ALUMNI

How long have you worked there? I've been at Walker for just over two years. I started as a Junior Desk Editor in the Publishing Services team doing a 3-month maternity cover. While I was there an Editorial Assistant role came up in the Picture Book team, which I applied for and was successful. I have been with that team ever since.

We love the book *Rain Before Rainbows*. What was your involvement in this project and what is the background to this story? I'm really happy you like it. This book was signed up a couple of years ago before I started at Walker, so I can't take credit for the beautiful story. Smriti Halls, the author, submitted the text to Walker hoping that it would bring joy and optimism to children going through a tough time. Little did she know that in 2020 the rainbow would become such an important symbol of hope. My role mainly came into play when my team published *Rain Before Rainbows* as a free eBook earlier this year to support Save the Children's #SaveWithStories campaign. I worked with the author, illustrator and their agents during the final edit and promoted the book on social media.



What advice would you give to a student who is interested in a career in writing or publishing?

- * Try to get lots of work experience at different publishing houses and in a range of departments so you can see how each team works together.
- * Subscribing to The Bookseller magazine would be a good place to start learning about the publishing world.
- * Social media is a great platform to follow authors, illustrators and publishers to see what books are being made right now.
- * Visit bookshops, see what books are being published and what people are buying, then sit down with a coffee while you read... It doesn't sound like work, does it? But it's research!
- * Listen carefully to people. There might be a story in there somewhere.
- * Read as much as you can.

What are some of your happy memories of Richmond School and Sixth Form? I loved watching the school shows, that's something Richmond always did really well. *Les Mis*, *Oliver*, *The Sound of Music* ... they were all amazing! And I made friends for life at Richmond who I am still in touch with now. A few really close friends live in London too so we meet up every now and again.

Who were your favourite teachers? The English Lit department has a whole bunch of terrific teachers. Miss Montgomery, Miss Weston and Mr Burton are my heroes. They made me really love books. I also owe so much to Miss Dakin for pushing me to be my best, and to Ms Johnson who always believed in me. I was immensely fond of Mr Gedy, my form tutor from years 7-11. He supported me a lot at school and was always very patient explaining maths problems to me again, and again ... and again. He had such a kind heart. Then of course there's Mr Clark who was always so positive and proud of everybody. He remembered who I was, and my family, even years after we'd all left. That says a lot about a person. Both of them have left incredible legacies at the school.

What were your interests and hobbies at school? I'm not sure if this counts, but in my sixth form English Lit classes with Miss Weston we were all crazy about the Great British Bake Off and we took it in turns to bake something every week. I also played the violin at school. I played in a couple of school shows and went on the school music tour to Holland and Belgium.

What support did you get at Richmond School and Sixth Form College when thinking about your further studies and career plans? I

remember the school careers advisor suggesting Law to me based on my A-Levels. A lot of my friends are lawyers now, but I don't think that career would have suited me. I had no idea what I wanted to do at school. The best advice I was given was to go and study something I enjoyed, and go from there.

A final word? I'm saying this to everybody I know, so it feels right to tell you too! Please buy books from bookshops rather than from Amazon. This is tricky in the lockdown era, I know, but ordering from bookshop.org is a great way to support independent bookshops.



ALUMNI

FORMER STUDENTS ROCK AS THE !EXXTRAS

Five former students, who were friends at Richmond Sixth Form College, have stayed together through The !EXXTRAS, a band they put together in February. Chris Gilbert, Joel Nesbit, Joe Weaver, Will Shepherd and Nathan O'Connor, are the band members and they have just released 'Porcelain', their second single.

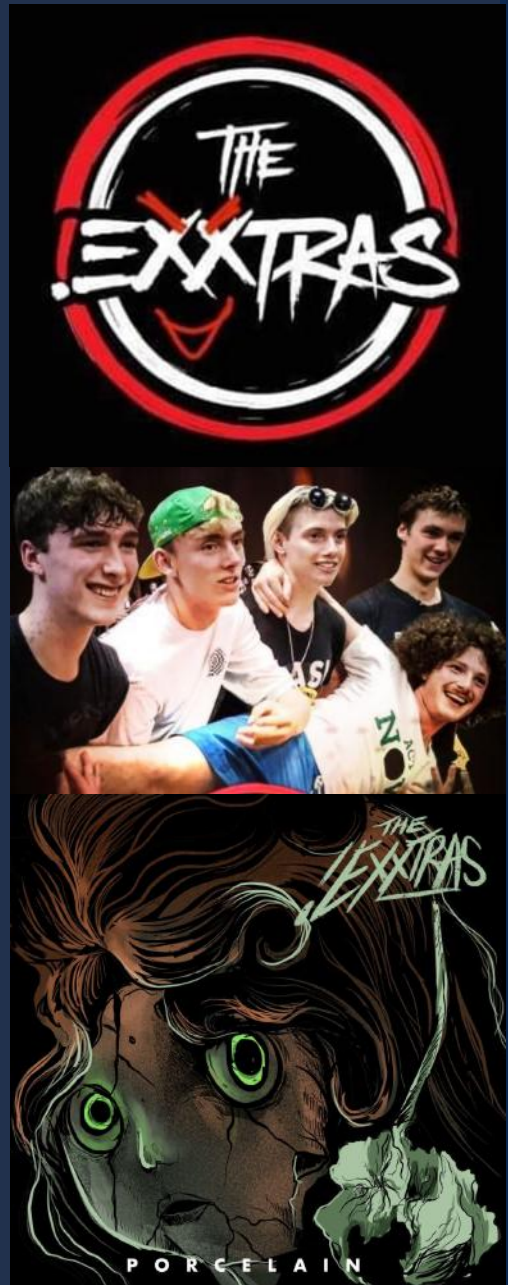
Chris said: 'We have been good friends since being together at college and all just seem to get each other's ideas which is perfect for writing and performing together. It really helps that we know each other so well. We all have different inspirations, from Stevie Ray Vaughn to Pantera, so there are a number of influences coming through in our music, all deeply rooted in the heavy rock genre, which we love. As well as performing our own songs, our playlist also includes covers of bands such as Metallica, Anti-Nowhere League and Rage Against the Machine.

You can find out more about our music at https://open.spotify.com/artist/33ZWQ4yHjPNXO4qwVcQDUb?si=Bt_2tUwtQdeFJ9HVLVlxQw "

As the band members are studying and working in different parts of the country, rehearsing has been challenging since lockdown but they have managed to work together virtually to create new songs and material. Chris is currently studying Music Production at Leeds Conservatoire, Joe is studying Music and Maths at the University of Leeds, Joel is reading Classics at Cambridge, Nathan is studying Maths at Norwich University, and Will is working full time.

Joel is the lead singer, Chris and Will play guitar, Nathan is on bass and Joe is the drummer. The lyrics are all written by Joel but the band's music has all stemmed from one idea that someone brings to a rehearsal and then everyone chips in with their part.

Chris concluded: "The current Covid restrictions are making it difficult for us to play together but it's giving us time to come up with new ideas for our next songs. We can't wait until we are able to perform live on stage again."



BUILDING A CAREER AS A QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Megan Lightfoot is working towards a career as a quantity surveyor after achieving a degree apprenticeship with Tom Willoughby Ltd. Working in the Regional Prime Contract, based at Catterick, Megan is part of team that deals with commercial processes related to jobs for the Military of Defence. Their role is to respond accordingly, whether it be urgent priority jobs or pricing up for larger scale contracts, involving all aspects of procurement and finance.



Megan, who left Richmond Sixth Form College in the summer, following her A-Levels, has started in the role as a Commercial Assistant to gain experience within the construction industry at a commercial level. She will progress to Trainee Quantity Surveyor after her first year.

Megan's role involves a combination of both office and site work. She prepares site files in the office for the engineers to take to jobs and covers all the commercial aspects. When required, she goes out to site to assist in the development and implementation of commercial risk management procedures and to prepare work proposals and tenders.

Prior to securing her position with Tom Willoughby, Megan had been accepted at Northumbria University on the quantity surveying degree with her grade B A-levels in Maths, Economics and Geography. Megan said: "Northumbria was where I really wanted to study and the staff at college were really supportive in helping me with the application process to ensure I secured my first choice place. I am therefore delighted that my degree apprenticeship is based at Northumbria University, so I now have the best of both worlds – being able to gain valuable work experience as well as the important qualifications."

Part of the FT Group, with the head office in Northallerton, Tom Willoughby currently undertake the general response maintenance and planned preventative maintenance tasks for the MOD at Catterick Garrison and RAF Leeming, handling more than 31,000 jobs a year. The work ranges from projects covering anything from refurbishment works to plant room upgrades, to new builds and extensions.

Joanne Sinnott, Operations Manager at Tom Willoughby, said: "Megan joined Tom Willoughby's straight from A-levels in September, with the intention of starting a Degree Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying in September 2021. Megan is a very capable young woman who has taken to her role extremely well. By taking the decision to spend a year gaining an insight into the industry prior to commencing her studies, I believe she will be in a far better position than many of her peers. By undertaking the apprenticeship, she will be in the valuable position of seeing what she is learning at University actually taking effect in the real world. It is great to see Megan taking her first steps in the Construction Industry and I look forward to watching her grow within her chosen profession over the coming years."

Due to Covid, the degree aspect of Megan's apprenticeship will not start until next year. At this time, Megan will drop to four days at work and attend Northumbria University for one day each week. Megan said: "Tom Willoughby have given me the perfect start into the construction industry. Not only do I get the benefit of working for one of the best family-run construction companies in the North East, but I have the added opportunity of attaining a degree in Quantity Surveying."

"The Commercial Assistant role was offered to allow me to obtain a good grounding of the company and business structure at all levels. I know the demands of work/degree will be challenging however I feel this is the most productive way for me to further myself academically whilst training on the job. The process will take five years, part time, however I feel the level of guidance and experience I am gaining whilst working within this role, alongside my degree will be invaluable and allow me to demonstrate and put into practise my knowledge along the way. My first few weeks have been very enjoyable and insightful and I'm excited for my future at Tom Willoughby."

Clare Clish, Megan's tutor and teacher, concluded: "A degree apprenticeship in this field is the perfect match for Megan and she will no doubt be an asset to Tom Willoughby Ltd. She showed herself to be both diligent and enthusiastic during her time at Richmond School and Sixth Form College and we have every expectation that she will rise to the challenge of working and studying for a degree at the same time."

HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Uchenna Anyadiegu, in Year 13, was nominated by Ms Johnson, who wrote: "I would like to nominate Uchenna for the award. During the preparation for the Year 6 and Year 12 virtual Open Evenings he proved himself to be a fantastic ambassador for Richmond School and Sixth Form College and its values. The standard of his contributions was nothing short of excellent and he showed great resilience in some challenging circumstances during the filming."



"One example of this was when he was recording in a busy Study Centre and had to do retake after retake to get a good result. He never once lost patience with the process and persevered to produce an excellent outcome. Additionally, he supported fellow students involved in the process, demonstrating his commitment to teamwork and a positive result. He was also involved in the student-led film on cultural diversity. Uchenna's level of independence in these activities was also impressive, exhibiting confidence and leadership in a quiet yet assured manner. It was a real pleasure working with Uchenna and we have received so much positive feedback about his contribution to these events."

Betsie Scott Hall, in Year 13, was nominated by Mr Sandell and Miss Pike, who wrote: "Betsie continually strives to understand the challenging subject of chemistry."

She has used the online programme we have of Best Choice to both consolidate and further her knowledge in topics we have covered in class and to prep for topics we still have to cover.

She is currently the highest achieving student in the country with over 5000 marks - super brilliant! You can read more about Betsie's fabulous achievement on page 25.



Unity Shrimpton, in Year 13 and **Will Arnold**, in Year 11, were nominated Miss Dunwoodie and Mrs Lundberg, who wrote; "We would like to jointly nominate Will and Unity who have independently organised highly successful fundraising efforts to raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance Service in memory of Mr Clark."

"Both students did this on their own initiative and are so very humble about what they have achieved. They have really impressed us with their organisational skills and having the confidence to make their ideas a reality."

"They should both be very proud of themselves and how they have supported the Great North Air Ambulance in memory of a truly great man. After singing each day for over 20 hours, often in inclement weather, Unity has raised £432. Many students, staff and Will's friends and family took part in his event and through all their donations Will has raised £1,200."

Turn to page 5 for a full report on Will and Unity's fantastic fundraising efforts in support of the Great North Air Ambulance Service.



HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Amy Jennings, in Year 11, was nominated by Mr Moore and Mrs Southgate, who wrote: "Amy has shown a monumental improvement in her attitude towards her studies since her return after the summer break. It has been noted by both myself in theory lessons, and Mrs Southgate in practical lessons how dedicated and determined Amy has been to show what she is really capable of."



"In her recent Aim Higher assessment Amy has produced an excellent response gaining full marks. It has shown Amy to be a very capable student who has clearly listened to feedback regarding both how to structure her answer and the detail required. "This positive attitude towards her studies will undoubtedly improve Amy's chances of finishing the year with a grade that is far more deserving of someone as capable and talented as she can be. Well done from a very proud Mr Moore and Mrs Southgate."

Philippa Kind, in Year 9 was nominated by Mr Moohan, who said: "Philippa has had a brilliant term in Maths. She is talented, highly conscientious and often has an ear to ear smile on her face. Out of the 4 tests so far this term, Philippa has only dropped 3 marks in total. This puts her comfortably top of set one in Year 9; quite the achievement."

I have nominated Philippa because of the grit she has shown recently under difficult circumstances. A close family member has recently passed away and Philippa missed a significant portion of the last topic. Philippa showed impressive independent study skills, staying on top of the work showing true grit and resilience. Of course Philippa scored 98% in the test for the last topic, the second highest mark in the group. This was particularly impressive and shows what a bright future she has ahead of her. Philippa is not only a sound mathematician but a superb, well-rounded character, whom I am glad to have met and taught."



Rhys Dowse, in Year 8, was nominated by Ms Lark, who said: "Rhys has worked hard and remained focused in every single English lesson since September. He always pushes himself to complete all the challenges and never gives up. During a mid-October visit to the school library he was interested in selecting a book called the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness by Michelle Paver but was a little daunted by the length (794)."

I set Rhys the challenge of taking out the book and completing it within a month. Rhys rose to the challenge and worked his way through all 794 pages three days before the deadline. I was over the moon at his achievement. He has shown fantastic resilience in completing this reading challenge."



James and Nathan Abel Smith, in Year 11, were nominated by Mr Speakman, Mr Lunn, Mrs Mawer, Miss Copland, Mrs Clish, Mr Boulton-Lear, Mrs Norman and Mr Stevenson, who said: "The two boys have been working at home whilst isolating throughout the whole of this term and have been unfailingly amazing in their application to their work. Their teachers all comment that they are diligent and organised in ensuring they submit all of their work and they participate fully in live-streamed lessons, wherever they can."

Whilst at home, they have been awarded a string of star performers and student of the months for their determination to do well, despite the challenges of working from home. They are described as "just brilliant", "remarkable" and "hugely impressive". It is a pleasure to teach these two students who are also exceptionally polite in all of their communications with staff and are always appreciative for the support they are given by their teachers."



WEEKEND WELLBEING



AUNTY SHARON'S CHICKEN!

INGREDIENTS

- 4 normal or diced chicken breasts
- 1 jar of sun-dried tomatoes
- 400ml double cream
- 2 lemons
- Tarragon
- Paprika
- Mild chilli powder

METHOD

Dice the chicken breasts - if not opted for a lazy pre-diced option

Drain the sun-dried tomatoes and cut in half

Marinate the chicken with the juice of the 2 lemons and a heavy covering of tarragon

Cook the marinated chicken on a low heat in a shallow pan, as you start add a generous portion of paprika and a dusting of mild chilli powder.

After 10 minutes, add the sun-dried tomatoes. When the chicken is cooked through add the double cream, season generously with paprika and a little chilli powder until the sauce is a peach colour, bring to the boil and serve.

Thank you to Mr Braham for sharing this recipe from his Aunty in-law.



BUTTER CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

500g skinless, boneless chicken thighs (can be marinated the night before)

Marinade

- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 tsp each ground cumin and paprika
- 1 -2 tsp hot chilli powder
- 200g natural yogurt

Curry

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 green chilli, deseeded and finely chopped (optional)
- Thumb-sized piece of ginger, grated
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 2 tsp ground fenugreek
- 3 tbsp tomato puree
- 300ml chicken stock
- 50g flaked almonds, toasted

To serve (optional)

Cooked basmati rice
Naan bread
Mango chutney or lime pickle
Fresh coriander
Lime wedges

METHOD

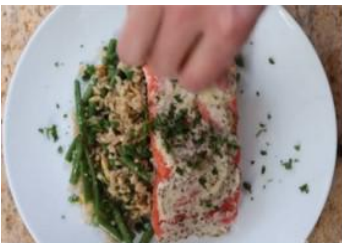
In a medium bowl, mix all the marinade ingredients with some seasoning. Chop the chicken into bite-sized pieces and toss with marinade. Cover and chill in the fridge for 1 hour or overnight.

In a large, heavy saucepan, heat the oil. Add the onion, garlic, green chilli, ginger and some seasoning. Fry on a medium heat for 10 mins or until soft.

Add the spices with the tomato puree, cook for a further 2 mins until fragrant, then add the stock and marinated chicken. Cook for 15 mins, then add any remaining marinade left in the bowl. Simmer for 5 minutes, then sprinkle with the toasted almonds.

Serve with rice, naan bread, chutney, coriander and lime wedges if you like. before serving.

Thank you to Mrs Wardle for sharing this recipe.



DIJON SALMON

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Salmon Steaks
- 3 tbsp Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- ¼ tsp Salt
- 2 tbsp Mayonnaise
- 2 cloves of garlic
- ½ tsp ground pepper
- 2 tbsp Whole Grain Mustard
- 150g green beans
- 1 lemon zested and cut into wedges
- 180g Brown Rice
- 2 tbsp water
- Fresh Parsley

METHOD

Preheat the oven to 220c. Line a baking tray with foil.

Cook the rice using preferred method

Brush salmon with 1tbsp oil and place on the baking sheet

Crush 1 clove of garlic and add to a bowl with salt, mayonnaise, mustard and ¼ ground pepper. Spread the mixture on top of the salmon

Roast the salmon for 6-8 minutes per inch of thickness

Meanwhile, heat the 2 tbsp oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add green beans, lemon zest, 1 crushed garlic clove and ¼ tsp ground pepper. Cook for 2 to 4 minutes then reduce heat to medium.

Add rice and water to the skillet, stirring for 2-3 minutes.

Serve the rice with salmon on top, sprinkle with parsley and serve with the lemon wedge.

Thank you to Mr Stephenson for sharing this recipe.



RASPBERRY BAKED CHEESECAKE

INGREDIENTS

Base

- 180g plain flour
- 60g caster sugar
- 120g butter

Topping

- 680g full fat cream cheese (or 2 large pots)
- 250ml double cream
- 1tsp vanilla bean paste (or vanilla extract)
- 1 lemon- zest and juice
- 200g caster sugar
- 50g cornflour
- 4 large eggs
- 300g raspberries (2 punnets)

METHOD

Set oven to 160 degrees.
Grease and line a deep loose-bottomed cake tin (23cm diameter)
In a food processor mix all the ingredients for the base until it starts to come together as a dough. (If you don't have a processor, rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs then stir in the sugar and bring together as a dough.)
Tip the mixture into the prepared cake tin. Press down firmly and smooth with a metal spoon.
Bake for 20-25 minutes until lightly golden. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

In a large bowl mix all the topping ingredients together except the eggs and raspberries with an electric mixer. When the mixture is creamy, whisk in the eggs one at a time. Using a spoon, gently fold in the raspberries. Pour the topping on top of the cooked base. Place the cake tin inside a roasting tray. Pour some boiling water in the roasting tray around the cake tin so it is about 2cm deep. Bake for 1 hour until the top is golden and the cheesecake is slightly wobbly. Leave to cool in the tin. Carefully remove to a serving plate and dust with icing sugar before serving.

Thank you to Ms Richardson for sharing this James Martin recipe.

FAREWELL MR DAVIES

GEOFF DAVIES HANGS UP HIS WORKSHOP COAT AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE AT RICHMOND SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

At the end of this term, Design & Technology legend Geoff Davies will hang up his workshop coat for the final time as he retires after 42 years of working at Richmond School.

Geoff joined the school in January 1979 and he will leave a lasting legacy, having made a significant impact on the students he taught; the department members with whom he served and the school and community in which he worked and lived.

Geoff came to Richmond School following a short spell teaching 'Down South' in Luton. Originally from Castleford, Geoff was keen to move to a more rural part of Yorkshire and continue his career - eventually being appointed a Teacher of Craft, Design and Technology at Richmond School.

In Geoff's earlier years at the school he was involved in many activities, such as supervising students who were weekly boarders at what is now the Friary Hospital in Richmond. 'Lower School' was a huge part of life for Richmond School students and until it closed, ten years ago, Geoff played a huge part in generating the right ethos in the Year 7 environment and along with raising three children of his own he was seen as very much a caring and compassionate father figure by many of the students who passed through this satellite to the main site.

Education has changed a great deal in the past forty years and the worlds of the metalwork and woodwork teacher have morphed and merged and blurred to the point where the 'School Masters' of the 1970s would find it hard to recognise their world within ours. Yet through all this change, Geoff has been bound to his core beliefs in the subject and to the skill and expertise of his training. His honesty and straight-talking nature derive from his upbringing within the sights and sounds of the coalfields of the then 'West Riding'.



FAREWELL MR DAVIES

Geoff's ability to demonstrate what are now almost 'forgotten' skills in Technical Drawing - no computer in sight - have amazed staff and students alike. His knowledge of materials and techniques and especially the 'Stuff they don't write about in books' ensures his students are taught the right way and he ensures that they stick to it.

It was only natural that Geoff's passion for football would lead him to work with the school's PE department and develop into his voluntary work with our football and rugby teams. Many parents and grandparents returning to our school for events and open evenings often make comments about Mr Davies - the fierce technology teacher, not only in the classroom but outdoors on the field and the pitch, known for his crunching tackles on the field, especially in the days when staff and students competed against each other.

Geoff would be the first to admit that he has benefited greatly from working with a range of teachers at Richmond School and not just the many within his own field of expertise but also the many staff who are no longer with us. Yet Geoff's gains do not surpass the many benefits that have been gifted to so many staff due to his selfless generosity. When I first joined Richmond School as an NQT, Geoff was my mentor (and he still is really!). He taught me some incredibly valuable lessons that have helped to shape my teaching career. Always generous with information, Geoff would ensure that I and other young teachers were teaching the students to the best of our ability and using his experience as a springboard to our own improvement. Usually the best way to do anything is the right way. That sums up Geoff Davies. He is respected by students and staff alike and especially by his closest companions.

Some people in life have something that they are especially good at. Geoff is fortunate to have many things that he is good at. None more so than being seen as a charmer. Yes, Geoff Davies is popular with all members of staff and especially with those whom he favours. He has a way with words coupled with a cheeky grin that means even in the most stressful and difficult situations - he is a responsible voice of reason and reassurance. This is a trait that is invaluable in the teaching profession.

Geoff will be missed, not only by the Design & Technology department but by staff across the school, and most importantly the students with whom he works. Geoff's retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife Cath, their three children and their many grandchildren.

All of us at Richmond School wish Geoff a long and happy retirement and I think I can speak on behalf of the thousands of students and staff, past and present, in saying to Geoff, 'Thank you!' No fuss. No fanfare. Just a great big 'Thank you'.

By Tom Braham, Lead Teacher Technology

