

Welcome to our October Newsletter - Whilst it has to be recognised that the effects of the ongoing pandemic are still with us as a school - as they are with all schools and colleges nationally - the first half-term has felt more like a return to something more like the world we used to know.

The changes we have made to our systems and procedures are most definitely bedding in, school is calm, students are enjoying being able to move from lesson to lesson and there is an orderly atmosphere in which the focus is very definitely on learning.

This half-term's calendar has been absolutely jam-packed with events, activities and visits. We were absolutely delighted to open our doors for our Year 6 and Sixth Form Open Evenings and enjoyed talking to the many, many visiting students and their parents.

Our Presentation Evening was also a resounding success. Visiting keynote speaker Mark Woolley, a former student of Richmond School, wowed us with his dynamic and inspiring talk, describing the way in which he now works as CEO of Electric, a leading international hair product brand and stressing heavily the importance of people and their values as the key things that make an organisation tick - exactly the same belief that we hold.

I also have to mention our pride at being awarded 'School of the Year' in the recent Northern Echo education awards and Stephen Boyd being awarded 'Secondary School Teacher of the Year'. These are awards that are the result of huge amounts of hard work from students, staff, parents and wider stakeholders and I would like to extend my sincere thanks, one last time, to everyone who has contributed to making the school and college what they are today.

We are very much looking forward to the next half-term and to all that it will bring. Already the re-introduction of extra-curricular activities, educational visits, Duke of Edinburgh for Year 11 students and a number of visiting speakers have meant that our students are again experiencing a rich variety of opportunities that will genuinely complement their taught lessons.

I wish you all a very happy half-term break and thank you, as always for your support.

Best wishes

Jenna Potter
Headteacher



AWARD WINNERS!



Proud to be awarded School of the Year and Secondary School Teacher of the Year! Find out more on page 2



GET CREATIVE IN OUR CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION AND BE IN WITH THE CHANCE OF SEEING YOUR DESIGN SHOWCASED IN THE COMMUNITY! Find out how to enter on Page 3!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Awards	2
In the community	3
Performing Arts	9
Sport	11
Academic news	18
Careers	32
Alumni	34
Headteacher's Values Award	43



NORTHERN EDUCATION AWARDS

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AND SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The Northern Echo
**EDUCATION
AWARDS**

Celebrating Education and Learning in 2021



We are buzzing with excitement having been crowned the school of the year in the Northern Echo Education Awards, with Mr Boyd receiving the award for secondary teacher of the year! Mrs Potter, Headteacher, was over the moon as Richmond School was announced the winner, in the words of the Northern Echo, 'It's the big one! The one we've all been waiting for. Give it up for Richmond School and Sixth Form College. Deserved winners of School of the Year.'

The live virtual awards ceremony was hosted by BBC presenter Wendy Gibson and each finalist was present as the winners were announced. The Awards celebrate the achievements, hard work and all-round positivity in education across the North-East and North Yorkshire, with a flood of entries from schools and colleges across the region. This is tremendous and well-deserved recognition for all our students and staff at school who do so much to make Richmond School and Sixth Form College the special place it is, together with the support we receive from the Areté Learning Trust, our governors, trustees, families and the wider community. The school was recognised for the way it excelled throughout the last twelve months, especially during lockdown, ensuring that students continued to receive outstanding education and enrichment opportunities. It was also acknowledged for its exceptional careers support, involvement in the prestigious social media education ERASMUS project and developing its Alumni network for the benefit of students. The students and staff were praised for the way they rallied together following the devastating loss of Dave Clark, their Deputy Headteacher, which led to them finding creative ways to raise thousands of pounds for the Great North Air Ambulance in his memory.

We are very proud of our nominations and have great pleasure in sharing them with you [HERE](#). Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "The magic of Richmond School and Sixth Form College is created by each and every member of the school community, each and every day. I simply consider myself to be the conductor of the orchestra."

Mr Boyd received his award in recognition of the amazing work he did to ensure our students could continue to perform and learn music during the lockdowns. He swiftly swung into action and, within days, instrumental music lessons were being seamlessly delivered online, he encouraged students to join virtual music groups, masterminded the runaway success of the virtual musical advent calendar and then rounded the year off with Richmond's Got Talent!

Mr Boyd said: "I'm very proud of the award, but this is for everyone I work with, we are part of a team. The community is the lifeblood of our music department and the musical advent calendar was a creative way that, between a group of sixth form students and myself, we came up with to take a concert out into the community. It really lifted spirits at a time when we all needed it."

We would also like to congratulate Sarah Manning, Uchenna Anyadiiegwu and Judy Hooton who were finalists in the Star Student and Governor of the Year Awards, an amazing achievement to reach the final three in their categories.

Richard Crane, CEO of the Areté Learning Trust, concluded: "These awards are fully deserved and a recognition of the many brilliant facets of the school and the community it serves. We are all extremely proud of the pupils and staff at the school and look forward to seeing it continue to go from strength to strength."

IN THE COMMUNITY

DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD

for Richmond School and the
Chairman of Richmondshire District Council



Your design may also be chosen for exhibitions at The Town Hall, Richmond Library,
The Georgian Theatre Royal, St Mary's Church and Tesco.

Deadline for entries is 2nd November

We are delighted to launch our competition for students across all year groups to create a Christmas design which may be selected for the Richmond School Christmas card. Once again, we are thrilled that Cllr Clive World, Chairman of Richmondshire District Council, has asked if a student could design his official Christmas card too. A large number of students will also be able to see their artwork showcased in the community for members of the public to admire and enjoy, such as at the Town Hall, the Library, the Georgian Theatre Royal, St Mary's Church and Tesco. In addition, a selection of designs will also be used to create Christmas cards to send to the residents and staff at local care homes in Richmond.

Please click [HERE](#) for the guidelines on the picture size, materials to use and where students should leave their designs. The closing date for entries is 2nd November.

CROWE'S WOOD HALLOWEEN TRAIL AT KIPLIN HALL

Scary spooks, witches hats, men in black and frightening cats! People lurking in the brambles – 'enjoy' your haunted, spooky amble! Find your funny bone this Halloween with light- hearted laughs on the spooky trail at Crowe's Wood, Kiplin Hall, daily from, 10:00 to 17:00 from Saturday 16th to Sunday 31st October.

For nearly 400 years Kiplin Hall & Gardens has been a place of entertainment, creativity, and theatricals. Visitors are invited to step into a world of frighteningly good fun and fantasy this Halloween on a trail that explores the historic Crowe's Wood at Kiplin. Starting off in the Walled Garden, visitors set forth through the pumpkin patch, into the Garden Museum, and beyond into the ancient woodland where the brave-hearted will encounter spooky characters from the past lurking in the undergrowth.

Visitors are encouraged to dress up at Kiplin Hall & Gardens this Halloween. Those brave enough to step inside Crowe's Wood are advised to wear sturdy, waterproof footwear, and that the route isn't accessible to most push chairs.

Standard admission applies, there is no additional charge, and there is no need to book. Tickets are valid for 12 months so you can revisit as many times as you like at no extra cost – click [HERE](#) for more information.



IN THE COMMUNITY

JUNIOR RUGBY OPPORTUNITIES WITH WENSLEYDALE RUFC

Wensleydale RUFC has opportunities for junior players at Cawkill Park each Sunday for their 21/22 season. They are welcoming returning players as well as new ones and they have age groups for boys and girls, aged six to fifteen. The sessions are from 10:00 to 11:00.

David Loughlin will be a point of contact for any questions on the day and will be there from 9.30 on the top pitch to point players in the right direction. For any further information please message the club's [FACEBOOK](#) page or call 07903 144351



HOCKEY

29TH SEPTEMBER - 29TH MARCH
TERM TIME ONLY

18:00-19:00 WEDNESDAYS

£4.00 PER SESSION

CONTACT - 07989225410

COACHINGFORALL@OUTLOOK.COM



GET SET FOR RUGBY WITH RICHMONDSHIRE RUFC

Junior Rugby is on Sundays at the following times:

- 09:45 – Micros (Over 2 years old and U6) – Maximum 25 places.
- 10:00 – U7s/8s/9s
- 10:15 – U10s/11s/12s
- 10:30 – U13/14 Boys and U12/13 Girls
- 11:30 – U15/16 Boys



All parent and children, please go to the club after training for juice, biscuits and announcements. Additional training for the older juniors.

From Friday 10th September 2021 at 18:00 for

- U12/13 Girls.
- U13/14 Boys.
- U15/16 Boys.

Junior Membership fees for 2021-22 are:

- Full member = £60 (one child and one adult)
 - Micros = £40 (one child and one adult).
 - Additional child (any age) = £20.
 - Children of playing members or life time members (with full paid membership) = £20.
- Membership includes after-match and training refreshments, NO match fees and NO training fees.

The kitchen will be open for the usual butties and drinks. Follow the club's [FACEBOOK](#) or for further information call: 01748 850515 or email richmondshirerufcsec@hotmail.com

IN THE COMMUNITY

FANTASTIC EFFORT BY FIRE CADETS

Richmond Fire Station's recent charity car wash, hosted at Richmond School, was a huge success, raising over £850. Well done to our students Charlotte, Sophie, Liam, Raffy, Leo, Josh, Leo and Olivia, who are all in the fire cadets, and helped throughout the day, working alongside on and off-duty fire crews from Richmond Fire Station. The money raised will be shared between MS-UK, a national Multiple Sclerosis charity



and The Fire Fighters' Charity, which supports the mental and physical needs of serving and retired members of the UK fire service and their families.

Jon Hancock, Crew Manager at Richmond Fire Station, said: "The Fire Cadets were a massive help and we couldn't have managed without them – it was non-stop all day."

LIAM JOINS THE FIRE CADETS

A community-spirited student is pursuing his dream to work in the emergency services. Liam Hogg, in Year 9, responded to a post on the school's Instagram page about opportunities to become a cadet in the Fire Brigade at Richmond Fire Station and has signed up to the programme.

Liam attends the cadets for two hours every Monday evening where he is really enjoying a packed programme of activities. He is learning about all aspects of the fire engine, doing ladder-climbing drills, using all the fire-fighting equipment, practising removing passengers from crashed cars, smoke simulators as well as helping out on community days around Richmondshire.

There is also training on basic first aid and what to do in an emergency and the cadets fundraise for local, national and international charities. Liam is hoping to become a police dog handler when he leaves school and sees this as an opportunity to work alongside other emergency services.

On completion of the two-year cadet course, Liam will achieve a BTEC Level 2 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the community. Well done Liam, this is fantastic!



IN THE COMMUNITY

GEARING UP FOR THE BIG EXPEDITION!

Our hardy Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students are gearing up for their main expedition. In preparation for this, they have spent two weekends practising, including two days where they learned first aid, putting up tents, how to use stoves and doing teambuilding activities. They enjoyed a day walking around Swaledale and Arkengarthdale where they developed their map-reading skills.



During their second practice weekend, the weather was not so kind, and they braved torrential rain and high winds on a route that took them from Castle Bolton to Reeth, via a campover at Marrick Priory. Despite inclement conditions, all the students remained in good spirits, keeping each other motivated and did a fantastic job of putting their tents up and cooking their teas, even though it was raining!



For their assessed expedition, the tenacious and determined groups will set off from Muker and walk the 12 miles to Marrick Priory where they will camp overnight, before the final leg of their hike to Richmond on Sunday morning.

Mr Birdsall who accompanied the students on the training weekends said: "The students were amazing, they really embraced the activities and worked exceptionally well in their teams, supporting each other whilst also having fun."

Well done to all the students who took part and an extra-special thank you to Mr Potter, Mr Birdsall and Miss Pemberton for giving up their weekends to support the students.



IN THE COMMUNITY

STUDENTS EXCEL AT THE NCS PROGRAMME

Over 25 students took part in the National Citizen Service programme this year and it was hailed a great success by the students, leaders and organisers alike. Rishi Sunak also praised their work and the projects they undertook for the benefit of the community. We caught up with three students, James, Georgie and Taryn and they have shared their experiences of the project. You can read their reviews at the links below. We look forward to launching the NCS programme for our Year 11 and 12 students in the new year.

James said: "Would I recommend NCS to other students? Absolutely I would. It's an amazing opportunity to grow your confidence, meet new people, improve yourself and have your voice heard within the greater community." Find out more about James' experiences [HERE](#)

Georgie said: My NCS experience was nothing short of amazing, originally I didn't intend on doing NCS this summer as I thought I'd have other things scheduled. I was convinced by some of my close friends and I decided to sign up. The most brilliant part of it all was that I didn't know what to expect so everything and everyone was so amazing. Find out more from Georgie [HERE](#)

Taryn has completed the NCS programme twice and has no hesitation in recommending NCS to anyone who is interested in trying out new things, stepping outside their comfort zone and meeting new people. Click [HERE](#) to find out more about Taryn's NCS experience and the fabulous opportunities which will be offered to our Year 11 and 12 students next year.

Thank you again to NCS, the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation and the wonderful leaders who ensured our students had such valuable and enjoyable experiences on the programme.



NCS STUDENTS PRAISED FOR THEIR WORK

We have been most impressed with our students who took part in and successfully completed the NCS programme this year. They worked incredibly hard and delivered some fabulous projects in our community. One of the group's leaders has been in touch with the lovely message below, to say how kind, caring and helpful our students were. We are so proud of them!

"I just wanted to say what a credit your students were to yourself and the school. As a senior manager at another school, I know how challenging the last year has been for this Year 11 cohort and so I wanted to help them enjoy their summer. I have to say that working with your students surpassed all expectations I had of undertaking this summer work: they were incredibly kind, compassionate and eloquent. They had a real desire to help their community and all stepped out of their comfort zones to engage local people in their cause.

"They spoke highly of the school, but their demeanour and approach to challenges spoke volumes about how your school community has enabled them to develop into confident and caring young people who fly in the face of all the negative press teenagers are so unfairly linked to. Amazing!"



IN THE COMMUNITY

ACCESS TO SCHOOL UPDATE

Please be aware that access to the school and college is closed between 3:20 and 3:45 each day. During this time, the entrance is coned off and only taxis, buses and those requiring disabled access are allowed in and out.

This is for the safety of students, staff and drivers.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.



THANK YOU TO OUR TREMENDOUS TEAM

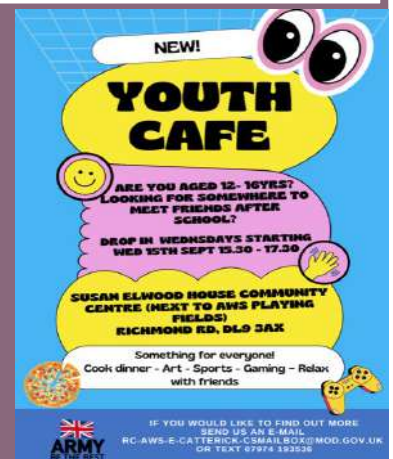
Huge thanks to our tremendous team of volunteers who supported students with the Covid testing at the start of the term. Once again, they stepped up to the mark to ensure the testing ran smoothly and did an amazing job of putting the students at ease.



NEW YOUTH CAFE FOR 12-16 YEAR OLDS IN CATTERICK

There's a fabulous new Youth Cafe opening in Catterick Garrison on Wednesdays from 15:30 to 17:30.

If you are aged 12-16 then this is a great place to meet new friends after school and try out lots of activities. Find out more about this opportunity on the poster opposite.



SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN KIDS CRAFTS SESSIONS AT THE STATION

Are your children looking for a spellbinding treat? Then head to The Station on Friday 29th October where there will be three fabulous fun-filled crafts for children aged 4-12.

Children will get to make some amazing decorations for a Halloween party of their own. The kids craft sessions are £9, and include all materials. Go along and make bat bunting, a trick or treat bag, and a monster to take home.

Tickets for the craft sessions are limited and are selling quickly - don't be a ghoul, book now!



PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 7 FLASH MOB IS A HIT!

A group of Year 7 students surprised the staff in the school restaurant when they broke into a flash mob and sang a fabulous rendition of Wade in the Water, an African Jubilee Song/ Spiritual originally composed by Ramsey Lewis. The students from 7 Swanwick have only been learning this piece for two lessons but performed with such enthusiasm and professionalism. You can enjoy their performance [HERE](#).

The students have been developing their understanding of the musical elements and the ingredients needed to make a piece of music, and have been really delving into the components of Texture and Dynamics. Mrs Noble chose this piece for them to perform as it requires the group to split into two different melodies (creating a polyphonic texture) which can be rather difficult to sing but the group are so full of confidence and passion for singing that they had no problem with this challenging task!

Mrs Noble said: "The students put their heart and soul into performing their flash mob and they have all demonstrated a real passion for singing whilst learning the key elements of music which is music to my ears!"



BE PART OF NORTHERN YOUTH VOICES

This is a great opportunity in Richmond for students to join a new contemporary youth choir.

The choir meets each Monday evening, 6-7pm, at Richmondshire Rugby Club.

Email: northernyouthvoices@gmail.com for further information or follow @NORTHERNYOUTHVOICES on facebook.

**NORTHERN
YOUTH VOICES**

COME AND JOIN US!
DO YOU LOVE TO SING?
ARE YOU AGED 7-16?

WE ARE A NEW CONTEMPORARY YOUTH
CHOIR SUITABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES.
WE SING A RANGE OF MODERN MUSIC
AND POP SONGS.

PERFORMING ARTS

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMING ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

We are delighted to offer a huge choice of performing arts groups. With an extensive offer of dance, drama and musical groups there is something for everyone. Click [HERE](#) to find out about the many opportunities, such as choir, orchestra, wind band, Evolution Dance, Theatre Companies and much, much more! We can't wait to welcome our students to these fabulous groups and look forward to them having the chance to perform again.



JOIN THE GEORGIAN THEATRE ROYAL YOUTH THEATRE

We are extremely fortunate to have the fabulous Georgian Theatre Royal on our doorstep, which not only offers a fantastic programme of events but also runs a fantastic Youth Theatre, of which a number of our students are already members.

For any students who are interested in joining the Youth Theatre group, then there are three age bands: Juniors (6-11 years); Middles (11-14 years); and Seniors (14-18 years).

They run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturdays during school term time. The Groups have a new youth Theatre Officer, Ruth Allison (pictured) who has taken over as leader. You can find out more about Ruth [HERE](#)

Anyone interested in joining the Youth Theatre should email youth@georgiantheatrEROYAL.CO.UK or call 01748 823710. Details and an application form can also be found on the website [HERE](#)



SPORT

A FANTASTIC RETURN TO SPORTING FIXTURES FOR OUR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Richmond School Sports Partnership hosted a fantastic return to sporting fixtures for the Primary Schools with a hugely popular Key Stage 2 cross country event. We had 28 schools attend with over 900 pupils running on the day.

The event was led by our Year 11 CTEC Sport students. They did an outstanding job, independently managing the start and finish line, welcoming and registering staff and pupils when they arrived and marshalling the event safely throughout.



Despite the heavy rain, we completed all 16 races and witnessed some fabulous performances from the primary pupils. This is a stand-alone competition this year with no progression to a county round but, despite this, we wanted to keep the event on the calendar as it is such an eagerly-awaited event which brings everyone together and creates such great camaraderie and fun.

We received some wonderful messages of thanks:



Thank you Lynsey for organising and running such a massive event. The children returning back to school were buzzing with excitement and were proud of their positions (they were a little damp!). Thank you also for supporting an individual from our school. Your students are a credit to yourself and your school. Mrs K Weighell- Trinity Academy Richmond

Thanks again for organising. Your Year 11 helpers were really great with the children and super ambassadors for the school so please pass on our thanks to them as well, especially Preston and Mia – they were in my very first class! Mr M Scott- Masham

I just wanted to say how much my child enjoyed the cross country. He hadn't wanted to do it but he's loved it. And a chance to see his many football buddies and friends he plays out with. Great for them to have an opportunity to do something like this with other local schools. A parent of a pupil at Aiskew, Leeming Bar, via Mr J Hodgson

Thank you to the staff from the following schools for supporting the event and to their fantastic pupils for taking part: Aiskew LB, Barton, Bedale, Bolton-On-Swale, Brompton, Carnagill, Crakehall, Croft, Hackforth, Hipswell, Hunton and Arrathorne, Le Cateau, Leeming/Londonderry, Leyburn, Masham, Michael Syddall, Middleham, Pickhill, RAF Leeming, Richmond Methodist, Richmond St Mary's, Sacred Heart, Snape, Spennithorne, Thornton Watlass, Trinity Richmond and Wavell.

SPORT

YEAR 10 CTEC SPORT STUDENTS START THEIR JOURNEY AS SPORTS LEADERS

Congratulations to the 32 Year 10 students studying CTEC Sport who have started their journey as sports leaders. The students have been exploring the characteristics of good sports leadership in lesson time and then put this to the test by leading at a Key Stage 1 multi skills festival.



This is the first face-to-face event that we have run since the Covid pandemic hit and the leaders contributed to making it a huge success.



The leaders took charge of 200 primary pupils aged between 4-6 from nine of our local Primary Schools including: Barton, Bolton, Croft, Ravensworth, Michael Syddal, Richmond Methodist, Trinity Academy Richmond, Richmond St Mary's and Sacred Heart Northallerton. They coached them in a range of running, jumping and throwing multi-skill activities.



The primary schools have been very generous in the compliments for the leaders who have obviously made a great first impression. They received lots of positive feedback which will give them confidence as they continue in their role as sports leaders.

SPORT

STUDENTS AIM HIGH IN ARCHERY, KURLING AND BOCCIA COMPETITION

Congratulations to Risedale, Richmond, Wensleydale and Mowbray Schools for participating in the first-ever Archery, Kurling and Boccia Competition. Pupils in Year 7 competed in all of the sports to gain points for their team. The aim of the event was to provide pupils with a positive, new sporting experience and the cheers throughout the morning definitely gave evidence for this.



The event was supported by the Year 12 CTEC Sport leaders at Richmond Sixth Form College. These student leaders performed incredibly and received a wealth of positive feedback including the quote below from Mr Craggs at Risedale School: "I just wanted to pass on my sincere thanks for inviting us to the event today, it was great fun and all of our pupils really enjoyed themselves and they are so proud of their medals."



"Please also pass on my sincerest thanks and well done to your Sixth Form students. They were a credit to you and the way they helped and spoke to our pupils was phenomenal to see! Your students were so helpful and represented Richmond Sixth Form brilliantly and it was good to see how respectful and well organised they were."

The results of the event are as follows:

- 1st – Risedale B with 404 points
- 2nd – Wensleydale with 391 points
- 3rd – Richmond with 379 points
- 4th – Mowbray with 376 points
- 5th – Risedale A with 361 points

Congratulations to all schools for some excellent performances



SPORT

FIVE FANTASTIC FOOTBALLERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT NORTH YORKSHIRE

Following the recent county football trials, we are delighted to announce that five of our students have made this year's squads. Please join us in congratulating: Maciej Nuprejczyk, Jacob Dunn, Sam Booth and Luke Wade, who will play for the Under 16s, and Harry Laviolette who is in the Under 18 team.

The standard was high with lots of nominations from schools across North Yorkshire and following two rounds of trials the numbers were narrowed down, selecting the best players from across the county to make up the squad.

Lesley Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "The standard is always extremely high as North Yorkshire is the largest county in the country. The boys have done extremely well and we wish them good luck in their forthcoming season competing for North Yorkshire."



STEPHENSON BROTHERS TAKE TOP HONOURS IN RICHMOND CASTLE 10K

Congratulations to Jake and Charlie Stephenson who took first and second place respectively in the recent Richmond Castle 10k race. Representing Richmond & Zetland Harriers, Jake came in at 34:35 and Charlie at 35:04.

The race took place on a glorious day, starting and finishing on the Batts and took in the spectacular River Swale Waterfalls before crossing the river at Green Bridge and climbing Sleggill. The route continued to a short circuit round Catterick Garrison before returning to Richmond and a circle of Richmond Castle on Castle Walk before a fast downhill finish into the Batts park area below the castle.

Charlie, in Year 13, and former student Jake continue to compete at national level and we are so proud of them for doing so well on their home turf.



SPORT

ANDREW AND MR LUNN PEDAL POWER THEIR WAY FROM LAND'S END TO JOHN O' GROATS

Congratulations to Mr Lunn and his son Andrew, who successfully completed the Land's End to John O'Groats cycling challenge during the summer holidays. Covering over 900 miles, they cycled in all weathers, from sunshine and showers to thunder and lightning!

Andrew, in Year 10, said: "We really enjoyed this route, which tested us both mentally and physically. However, the aches and pains were worth it for the wonderful scenery we enjoyed along the way, as well as the great sense of achievement we felt when we arrived at John O'Groats."

Andrew is no stranger to epic cycling adventures. You may recall the tremendous charity cycling challenge he did in 2019, together with his brother James, when they cycled 300 miles from Richmond in Surrey back home to Richmond in North Yorkshire. Their friend, Marcus Weston was unable to join them on the route but set his own challenge, learning to ride a specially adapted trike to cycle 30 miles, one per day, around the school playground. Together, the three kind-hearted community champions raised £4,800 for the Butterwick Hospice and were proud to be honoured for their efforts with the British Citizen Youth Award.



NOT ONE, BUT TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE TALENTED JUNIORS AT RICHMONDSHIRE CRICKET CLUB

We are over the moon to share the fantastic news that Richmondshire Cricket Club Juniors have scooped two League Championships - the Under 13s and the Under 15s cups. The effort of all players was outstanding and we are especially proud of our students who played for the teams.

Please join us in congratulating Year 9 students Isaac, Will, Joe, Max, James and Jack who are lined up on the back row of the squad photo of the Under 13s team (below left) and to Dan, Jake, Joe S, Alex, Thomas (Year 11) and Max and Joe W (Year 9) in the Under 15s team (below right). What a grand finale to the season!



SPORT

MATTY TRIUMPHS IN TWO NATIONAL YOUTH CYCLING RACES

A talented and tenacious young cyclist is proving to be among the best-in-class in the country after being crowned the champion of the National Youth Time Trials and winning the last round of the National Circuit Series.

Matty Cole, a Year 12 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, scooped the Time Trials trophy after coming in first at the 10 mile race at Mallory Park Motor Circuit, in just 20:23 minutes on 4th September. Sixteen-year-old Matty then went on to win the final round of the National Circuit Series in Fife on 12th September. These amazing triumphs and personal bests for Matty signal an amazing end to an incredibly successful year.

After a long winter's training, because of a delayed start to the season due to Covid restrictions, Matty raced in some smaller regional races and picked up a few podiums, as well as some junior course records and wins in Time Trials of 10 and 25 miles. In spite of some setbacks, including a crash in the peloton in round 2 of the National Youth Series Race and being diagnosed with extreme fatigue, Matty proved his mettle and was quickly back in the saddle. In the final weekend race at Fife, Matty won the 2-mile opening Time Trial by just a few milliseconds, going on to win Stage 2 as well from a 2-man breakaway, 24 seconds ahead of the peloton. This allowed him to go on and win the overall race from the full weekend after chasing attacks and defending his lead in the final two races on Sunday

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "Matty's determination and commitment are unbelievable. He has pulled himself back to peak performance after injury and through his resilience has scooped not one, but two national triumphs! I am so proud of his achievements and I can't wait to hear how he does next year. I am in no doubt that he will continue to succeed and will fulfil his ambition of racing professionally."

For the National Circuit Series Matty races for Triology Man Health Team, a local company run by Andy Sedgwick based at Ellerton near Scorton and for his National Times Trials he races for Team Bottrill from Nottingham. He is also a member of British Cycling and during the winter months, Matty competes in Cyclo Cross events, another part of his pathway to becoming a professional cyclist.

Matty is exceptionally dedicated to his sport and trains between one and four hours every day, including long rides up and down the Dales, attending British Cycling Development Training Sessions and setting up his bike on the Turbo Trainer.

Matty said: "I have been passionate about cycling from an early age and I can't imagine my life without it. I am very proud and thankful to take my first two stage wins and overall general classification win at national level, as well as the National Youth Cycling Time Trial Championship. I am really looking forward to getting a good winter's training for next year where I will move up an age group, the races are harder and longer! I spend a lot of time on the bike and everything I do goes towards it, hopefully it will all pay off in the near future!"



SPORT

JOIN OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

We have a packed programme of after-school sport for our students, including football, rugby, netball, fitness, hockey, gymnastics and badminton. Click [HERE](#) for the full timetable of activities.

We look forward to seeing many of our students take up these opportunities.



SUPER HERO JOSHUA COMPLETES THE MINI GREAT NORTH RUN

Joshua did it! He ran, walked and was driven around the Mini Great North Run. We are so proud of you Joshua, your determination is incredible and we are thrilled that you received your medal at the end. Joshua suffers with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a life-limiting genetic muscle-wasting condition and his unfaltering resilience is an inspiration to us all. Well done Joshua!



ACADEMIC

PRESENTATION EVENING IS HIGH ON STYLE!



Students have been recognised for their outstanding achievements across all areas of school life at Richmond School and Sixth Form College's annual presentation evening. Hosted by Mark Woolley, alumnus and internationally acclaimed creative entrepreneur, the event was attended by proud families, teachers and members of the community who enjoyed watching the students receiving their accolades.

A world-famous hairstylist, Mark Woolley is Founder and International Director of leading British hair brand Electric, one of the beauty industry's most celebrated hair brands, encompassing award-winning salons, an ethical product line, global education, a photographic and film studio, a shared workspace for leading creatives in central London, and its farm and headquarters in the Sussex countryside. Mark's editorial work regularly appears in leading publications across the globe, such as Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Wallpaper and Elle and he maintains a loyal clientele of noted A-list musicians, actors and sports personalities from his salon space in central London, including Siena Miller, Jude Law, Paloma Faith, Luke Evans and Patsy Palmer to name a few.

Mark treated the audience to an inspirational address which tracked his journey from student at Richmond School to his incredible rise to become one of the most acclaimed creatives and hair stylists of his generation.

His tremendous achievements were further recognised at the recent industry-leading Creative Head Awards, where he picked up the Most Wanted Award for Innovation.



ACADEMIC

Mark said: "It has been an honour to return to school to present the awards to these amazing young people who have clearly worked incredibly hard during such a challenging year. Ahead of the Presentation Evening, I was privileged to spend the day with groups of business, economics, technology and media students to share my experiences in these fields and was most impressed with how they engaged and asked pertinent questions. I was also delighted to meet four Year 11 students who are interested in following a career in the creative hair styling industry and pass on advice and tips for them to consider."

"It has been fantastic to hear about the terrific careers support that the students receive here. It was actually a careers' talk at Richmond School that inspired me. I got a Saturday job and made my mind up that I wanted to open my own salon. Once I left school I took a job at SAKS in Darlington, and the rest is history!"



Subject awards were presented for every year group, including an overall cup winner for each subject, as well as a number of special awards. Uchenna Anyadiiegwu, former headboy, received the Governors' cup for his outstanding contribution to school, having created welcome videos for last year's virtual open evenings as well as launching 'Five-a-side-Friday' football for sixth formers. Will Arnold collected the Areté Learning Trust cup for exemplifying the school's motto of 'Being the best we can be'. Will independently planned and executed an inclusive walk, run and cycle challenge in memory of Dave Clark, encouraging students, staff and the wider community to keep fit, and in doing so raised over £1,400 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service.



Headteacher Jenna Potter said, "It has been an honour to welcome Mark Woolley back to school and we are hugely appreciative of the time he has spent with our students today. They have learned so much from his career and experiences. We always look forward to our annual Presentation Evening, but this year, more than ever, it has been eagerly awaited after we had to hold last year's event virtually.

"It has been truly humbling to hear of the successes of our fabulous students who have achieved so much in such a difficult year. They have wholly embraced and demonstrated our school values of Creativity, Excellence, Independence, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork and demonstrated what wonderful and well-rounded individuals they are.

"They are, without doubt, fantastic ambassadors for their peers and exemplify everything that is so positive and outstanding about Richmond School and Sixth Form College."

ACADEMIC

YOUNG POET RECEIVES ACCOLADE AT ILKLEY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Florence Hall, a budding poet and Year 13 student, had her work recognised at the recent Ilkley Literature Festival's poetry competition. Placed runner-up in the young people's competition, Florence and her family were invited to an awards ceremony where she had the opportunity to read her poem to the audience.

Launched by W. H. Auden, the first Ilkley Literature Festival was held in 1937. The highly regarded festival takes place in October each year across a range of venues with around 150 events, all centred around Ilkley. The competition was judged by Andy Craven-Griffths, who runs a lot of prestigious workshops for young poets and is currently working on a PhD in Creative Writing.

Florence said: "I entered the competition in March but had been working on the poem for about a month. The competition actually had a prescribed theme - the natural world - but other than it linking to the theme, I could use any form and ideas I wanted. I was inspired by The Great Frost of 1608, where the Thames froze over for six weeks, allowing for stalls to be set up on the ice. From this, I wanted to picture a scenario where every aspect of human life was abruptly stopped by frost, a force of nature, and what it might show about the way we live with nature."

"The winner and runner-up in the children's and young people's competitions were invited to read their poems. It was so lovely to hear poetry from people in reception all the way up to 17 and 18 years olds. After each poem, Andy gave some comments on it to the audience (friends and family), where he picked out his favourite lines and explained why he liked them so much.

"I am extremely grateful and thrilled to have been placed in the competition, it was a wonderful experience' "

Miss Weston, Lead Teacher for English, said: "Having already impressed us with her prize-winning entry to the Areté Learning Trust English prize, it is fantastic to see Florence prosper at a national level for her poetry - to be placed at the Ilkley Literature Festival is an outstanding achievement.

"As a writer, she has a great ear for sound patterns and is original in her use of imagery - it is always a pleasure to read her poetry."

If any students are interested in entering the competition next year, then keep your eye on the [Festival's website](#) during the early part of 2022 for details on how to enter. You can also follow the Festival on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with all the news and events.



Photography credit: Rich Bunce.

ANOTHER SUMMER OF BRINE FLOWERS

Lighthouses stopped and snapped like cigarettes,
knocking crooked veins through the ice below,
for a frost had eaten England. Everything in England too.
Earth stayed unaware, the sun's glow kissing the features
of its good side, lirting with the stars in the tar of space.
But people, became the apex of boring, like dusty furniture
on landscaped land – hollow and flat and plain.
A dusting of carbuncled faces, veiled with silent
utterances. Random expressions. Subtitles pending.

Bodies of water illuminated us. A lost duck from last year's
race, lay stupidly yellow next to a supermarket receipt,
in a village, in a trolley, in a beck. The receipt was pulp,
the duck drowned, dead. Yet there's something artistic about that,
isn't there? Like an exhibition you don't really understand.
Just like the washing lines of wooden bras, too cold to think
about putting on. Or dead mole bunting, each one a bruise
with human hands held in prayer.

In the epidemic of chill, children went past redeemable
red-cheek-cold and straight to pale bleakness. One examined
a tadpole, stuck between speck and frog. Another tried
their luck as a supine starfish, waiting for their mother
to excavate them from a plastic paddling pool.
But their mother preserved the smile of a static crackle.
And under the faces, the stationary birds, the boring
white sky, their hearts bled in panic.
Nobody was ready for the outside to come in.

FLORENCE HALL

ACADEMIC

ELLIE'S WORK IS PUBLISHED IN THE SCHOLAR MAGAZINE

Following Ellie Lovatt's outstanding success with the Brilliant Club programme, her work was selected for publication in 'The Scholar', the Brilliant Club's termly youth academic magazine. The Scholar is an academic journal that is designed to recognise and showcase the exceptional work of the students who take part in the Brilliant Club programme. Competition for entry to The Scholar is fierce and all the articles were reviewed by an expert panel of PhD tutors before being selected for publication.



Ellie, in Year 12, was one of eleven students who were rewarded with the college's best-ever Brilliant Club results. They all graduated with outstanding grades for their final assignments that were the equivalent of a first or 2:1 degree. The Brilliant Club is a charity that recruits, trains and places doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in state colleges to deliver courses of university-style tutorials based on their own area of expertise, with the aim of increasing the number of students progressing to highly-selective universities. This is an amazing achievement for Ellie and we are really proud of her fantastic work.

SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHERS GO OUT IN THE FIELD



Our Year 13 Geographers went out in the field to undertake several investigations around the North of England, ranging from Hornsea to Redcar, Arkengarthdale to Guisborough. The investigations were designed and developed to allow the students to collect their own fieldwork data which will be used in their non-examined assessment later this year.



Following Mrs House and Mr Hedley's demonstration of data collection techniques at the first sites, students then worked in small groups to collect their own data. Upon returning to school, the data, will be presented, analysed and evaluated independently in a 4,000 word report, which will be assessed and contribute 20% towards their final A-level grade.

All the students were an absolute credit to both the Geography department and Richmond Sixth Form College.

European Languages Day



CELEBRATING EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

At the end of September, our students enjoyed celebrating European Day of Languages. Over the course of a week, they celebrated everything that is so wonderful about speaking a foreign language. Each day, in registration and lessons, students were encouraged to answer in another language.

You can find out more about European Day of Languages [HERE](#)

NEWS FROM PASCH AND THE GOETHE INSTITUT

Students from 8 Spittlehouse have been involved in the first testing of a prototype for a new language learning app called The Knights of the European Grail. The students gave invaluable feedback to the developers and as a school we look forward to testing further developments of the app over the next three years.

Two of our A-level students, Patrick Carlton, in Year 13, and Evie Farnell, in Year 12, successfully gained places on one of the Goethe Institut's summer courses. The course was run online again this year and students from Pasch schools across the globe come together to learn German and to work on a joint project together.

Evie said: "The Goethe Institut digital course I did over the summer was such a good two weeks. It involved being put into groups and learning about the environment and ways we could become more environmentally friendly.

"It was really interesting, as our group had lots of people from different countries, including some countries in Africa (such as Togo), so we gained an insight into how they recycle and also opinions from all around the world. The course was completely run in German and it has made me more confident to speak in German about topics such as sustainability for the future, and has furthered my learning of the language."



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS PRESENT OUTSTANDING ASSEMBLY ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On behalf of the Equality and Diversity Group, Ellie Lovatt and Archie Marshall presented an outstanding assembly to all year groups about the aim of Black History Month and to raise awareness of equality and discrimination. Please do spare a few minutes to read through their inspirational presentation [HERE](#).

We were delighted to catch up with Ellie and Archie to find out more about the Equality and Diversity Group and the great work involved in their latest assembly:

Who put the assembly together?

We are both a part of the Equality and Diversity Group which was established in 2020, in response to the death of George Floyd and the increasingly apparent need for a more in-depth discussion on race-related issues. We both volunteered alongside Annabel Garrard, Katie Hyman and Holly Myers. We worked on the presentation, researched and presented, Annabel and Katie did research and Holly worked on the presentation and researched.

Where did you get your inspiration for the content from?

Ellie said: "As a group, we worked together and identified people that we had personally been inspired by who we thought younger students would be aware of and relate to. For example, Chadwick Boseman is well known for his role as the Black Panther in the Marvel universe and many students will be well aware of who he is, however they may never have properly considered the significance of him being the first black superhero."

"The Sixth Form Equality and Diversity group has many more ideas like this in the works that we hope to bring to the wider school throughout the year. We hope to cover a variety of topics that will provoke students to challenge their thoughts and become more conscious of biases within our society, as well as inspiring them to be more open minded and accepting individuals."

Archie said: "I have been inspired by many of the people spoken about in the presentation, especially Marcus Rashford – that is why I focused my research on him and his work for charity and child poverty."

"I think it is incredibly important to regularly discuss the diversity in our society and to acknowledge the achievements of people from different backgrounds. I hope that more assemblies and presentations on topics like this continue, not just at Richmond School, but schools across the country to help tackle outdated ideas of race in the United Kingdom."



HORRIBLE HISTORIES' PRODUCER BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE FOR STUDENTS

The Historical Producer from the highly-popular 'Horrible Histories' TV shows brought the past to life when he shared his fascinating experiences on the series with 95 History students.

Thanks to funding from North Yorkshire County Council's Stronger Communities Team, 75 Year 11 GCSE students were enthralled by Henri's stories from Horrible Histories. In addition, 20 Year 12 A-level students were invited to the Georgian Theatre to hear Henri in conversation with Philip Wicks, as part of the Richmond Walking and Book Festival. Both events were organised by volunteer and book lover, Carol Watson, who did a brilliant job in pulling everything together for the students.



Henri spoke about his career path and how he got into television – first of all as a runner making terrible cups of coffee, before doing research on Horrible Histories and then becoming the Historical Producer for the show. He explained his job, which is to think of interesting and different parts of History and research them in detail which are then explained to the comic-writing team who devise the sketches, before Henri fact-checks what has been written. Henry is on set throughout all the filming – he sometimes even has a cameo. The whole process from idea to TV show can take up to a year and a half. Henri showed the students clips of sketches and songs that he has written and explained where he has got the ideas from. He stressed the need for accuracy, or 'good History', as he called it and how sometimes it was easy to make mistakes – such as having the Union Jack flag the wrong way up or having Henry VIII talking about Britain when it was England during his reign, or the confusion with the two US Presidents called Roosevelt! He had loads of great stories!

Jack Riddlestone, in Year 10, said: "I most definitely enjoyed how Henri painted a behind-the-scenes picture of how Horrible Histories (one of my favourite childhood TV shows) was and is made, edited and produced. Whilst also speaking about History, Henri told us how his job came to be and all the fact checking and that actually entails this rather hard job. It was fun and enjoyable to hear all the funny stories about how he and his team actually stumbled upon stories to make them into the show we all enjoy today."

Henri is working on other TV programmes, including filming for Channel 4 in Belgium about the battles of Dunkirk and Waterloo. He also mentioned an idea which he has pitched about our current Queen when she was younger and her girl guide troop that was created specially at Buckingham Palace. The students really enjoyed an animated Q and A, with Henri giving excellent answers with lots of examples. Both talks were excellent and it was a really brilliant opportunity for our students to meet someone who is using History in their everyday job.

Henri said: "It was a delight to speak with students at Richmond School as they are considering the next steps in their education. They asked some wonderfully inquisitive questions – a great skill for any future historian."

The Georgian Theatre was a fantastic venue and created an intimate and friendly ambience encouraging the Sixth Form students to ask questions, such as cultural diversity in Horrible Histories and how people from different ethnic groups are portrayed.

Amelia Brown, Megan Cooper and Ross Wheatley, in Year 12, said: "Henri was not only very knowledgeable about History and extremely funny as well. He was very engaging and entertaining and his talk was really lively with jokes. He dispelled some of the myths in History, such as the apple falling on Newton's head to find gravity. Henri had gone back to the original documents and found that he has used it as an example to explain gravity – it didn't happen as the History books say! It was fascinating how Henri showed us links between History and other subjects, such as Science."

Sophia Mawer, Lead Teacher for History, concluded: "Henri's talks were a brilliant opportunity for the students to see the practical application of studying History and also for them to hear someone who was so animated and passionate about his work and History. All the students and staff gained a real insight into how Horrible Histories was made and it was a real honour to have someone so knowledgeable and enthusiastic talking to us. We are very proud that Richmond School has a strong connection with Horrible Histories as Simon Farnaby, alumnus, stars in the TV series."

ACADEMIC

YEAR 10 STUDENTS EMBRACE POETRY ON NATIONAL POETRY DAY

A group of Year 10 English students enjoyed creating their own poem to celebrate the recent National Poetry Day. The students were given the theme of 'Hindsight' and asked to write a poem exploring a character who is reflecting on their choices and where their choices have led them.

We hope you enjoy two of the students' poems – 'Shadows in my mind', by Jesse Hankin and 'The Feast', by John Shanley.



Shadows in my Mind

Looking down, I see you mourn,
Your tears are plentiful,
but look shallow compared to the ocean I cried.
Although you never saw.

I wish you knew the real me.
I wish I told you how I felt.
I wish I showed you my pain.

My mind was full of shadows, who whispered horrible things
My heart became blackened as the monsters took over.
I was stuck in a vast dark space.
I should've told you.

But my hands were heavy with uncertainties,
boulders preventing me from reaching out.
I hid behind my smile.
You only knew your happy little girl,
the version you loved.

My smile shone through the darkness,
Even when my light was dim.
My teeth lied.
Soon they fell apart.
Holes in my smile,
the shadows escaping through.

Now you're alone.
I hope your shadows don't grow.

The Feast

The sorrowful sip of a drink
A thought that no one could think
The hanging of a rope
The loss of hope

The burning regret
The accidental set
Of a hellish beast
That would start to feast

Destroying the dreaming house
As silent as a mouse
Destroying everything inside
No one could hide

From the hellish beast
That continued to feast



DON'T MISS OUR LATEST ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Packed with lots of useful information, students and their families are encouraged to spare a few minutes to read our latest online safety newsletter.

There are some really helpful tips on creating strong passwords, as well as information about the various social media apps.

Click [HERE](#) to download the newsletter.



ACADEMIC

STUDENTS COOK UP A TREAT!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have enjoyed a return to practical lessons in Food Preparation & Nutrition lessons. Since Covid-19 began, practical cooking lessons have been very limited due to the restrictions in place.

Hannah Tucker, Lead Teacher of Technology, said: "It is fantastic to see that some students have been practising their food preparation skills at home.

"It is equally excellent to see students learning and developing new skills in lessons again. Year 7 have enjoyed making couscous salad, Year 8 rock buns and Year 9 fajitas. Students are looking forward to trying out some of our new and improved healthy, balanced recipes throughout the year."



We are looking forward to sharing some news from our Year 11 students who will be baking Foccacia, but with a twist! Keep your eye out on our social media after the half-term holiday to find out more!



ACADEMIC

A TASTE OF LIFE IN SIXTH FORM

We were delighted to welcome over 500 Year 11 students and their families to our recent open evening when we showcased our outstanding learning opportunities, enrichment activities and facilities. Extending a very warm welcome, Jenna Potter, headteacher, and James Roberts and Florence Hall, headboy and headgirl, outlined the many reasons why there has never been a better time to consider Richmond Sixth Form as the first choice for post-16 studies.

Florence and James not only highlighted the exceptional academic success of the college but also the many student leadership opportunities. Mrs Potter presented the huge amount of support available through our award-winning careers' department, our amazing alumni network who share their expertise and knowledge with the students as well as the very close links we have with the community – all of which combine to bring exceptional educational and life experiences for our young people.



Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "It was an absolute joy to welcome students and their families to college. My thanks go to our fabulous student leaders and staff who were on hand to discuss subjects in depth, as well as offer any advice about life at college.

"At our college, we put our students at the heart of everything we do and we know all of them very well. Every student is challenged and supported to reach their full potential through high-quality teaching and tailored advice and guidance. However, there is more to sixth form than exams and we develop our students to have confidence in themselves and their future by enriching their time with us through our extensive range of extra-curricular, student leadership and careers opportunities.

"We hope all our guest students enjoyed a glimpse of life at Richmond Sixth Form College and we can't wait to welcome them to start their studies with us next year."



ACADEMIC

AN AIR OF EXCITEMENT AT RICHMOND SCHOOL'S OPEN EVENING

There was a distinct air of excitement at Richmond School's open evening when Year 6 students, from primary schools across Richmondshire, attended the eagerly-awaited event with their families.

The prospective students enjoyed an evening packed full of live demonstrations and hands-on activities across all curriculum areas enabling them to get a feel for life at Richmond School, as well as the many opportunities that lie ahead.

A small army of over 50 new Year 7 students took great delight in showing visitors the great work that goes on and spoke about their experiences of the different subjects and how they are finding life at Richmond School. They were supported by older students who also volunteered as guides or to demonstrate stimulating science experiments, cook tasty pizzas and cookies, among many other interactive presentations.

Everyone received a very warm welcome from Florence Hall and James Roberts, newly-appointed Headgirl and Headboy, who captivated the audience with their stories and experiences at Richmond School, including the tremendous teaching, fabulous careers support, leadership opportunities, the extensive extra-curricular offering and their natural progression to the Sixth Form College. They then handed over to Year 7 students Grace Broderick and Tomas Hoole who, less than three weeks after joining Richmond School, had no hesitation in standing up in front of over 800 students and their parents. They confidently spoke about how quickly they have settled into school, the new friendships they have forged, the new clubs they have joined and how much they love their teachers and subjects. The four students left the audience in no doubt that all pupils are part of a big and very supportive family where they not only benefit from outstanding teaching and enrichment activities but will establish friendships that will last a lifetime.



Julie Cooke, a parent of a Year 6 student at St Mary's, commented: "Will came alive at the open evening and was so confident, he just wanted to do everything and even danced with the older students in the dance studio. He left beaming and we were stunned and amazed to see this. He can be a little quiet but the event really brought him out of his shell, we are so taken aback."

The visitors were serenaded with an entertaining play list from the jazz band, demonstrating just one of many musical groups that students can join at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, along with a fantastic instrumental programme for students to learn a musical instrument or have vocal coaching.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "After having to host last year's event virtually, it was the best feeling to open our doors to invite our up-and-coming students and their families to experience everything that is so wonderful about our school. Our school motto is 'Being the best we can be' and from the feedback we have received, we are happy that we did exactly that. The success of the evening was down to an amazing team effort by our staff and student ambassadors and I cannot thank them enough for the huge contribution they have made. There was such an air of excitement throughout the evening and it was an absolute honour to be part of such a positive and friendly event."

SIXTH FORM MENTAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Following World Mental Health Day, Ms Richardson presented an assembly to our sixth form students which was very well received. Ms Richardson said: "I used the NHS Digital statistic that the number of young people with a mental health problem has risen to 1 in 6 as a basis and reminded students that we all have mental health but we don't all develop mental problems even with the recent increase."



Mental Health
Foundation

Good mental health for all

"We looked at the mental health staircase – strong mental health at the top and mental disorders at the bottom. In reality, we all move up and down the staircase each day."

MIND, the mental health charity, has a slogan to "do one thing", so I talked through seven things I thought might help our young people and asked them to consider doing one of them to help themselves or someone they know. Talking about mental health is the most important."

Ms Richardson's presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).

STUDENT LEADERS DELIVER OUTSTANDING ASSEMBLY TO MARK WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

October 10th was World Mental Health Day and in recognition of this event, some of our Year 11 student leaders worked alongside Mrs Weston to deliver a daily school assembly for Years 8 to 11.

"With the focus being on breaking down stigma and opening up the conversation about our mental health, it was felt that the students themselves were the very best people to deliver this assembly and they spoke about maintaining good mental health, recognising when they might need support and where to turn for help. You can view the assembly [HERE](#).

Mrs Weston said: "As always, it was an absolute pleasure to work with the student leaders who are excellent ambassadors and role models for our school community. Their assembly was informative, thought-provoking and has provided students with practical tools to manage their own wellbeing."

"The content which was delivered with sensitivity and maturity, was very well received by staff and students alike. I am very proud of their work on student wellbeing which is a key priority for us at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. The student leaders will continue their work on this very important agenda throughout the year."

Mr Speakman commented afterwards: "That was a very powerful assembly for students, particularly because the content was relevant to and delivered by their peer group."



STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Twelve Year 13 students, four each from Northallerton, Richmond and Stokesley Sixth Form Colleges, had a taste of life at the University of Oxford whilst spending two days at Brasenose College. The visit for the Areté Learning Trust students offered a tremendous opportunity for them to explore the broad range of subjects available to read at Oxford, see the extensive facilities and learn about the admissions process. Having a two-day visit and overnight stay really enabled them to soak up the atmosphere of the campus, meet tutors and staff and chat to students to learn about their experiences and why they chose to study at Oxford.

The students found the visit beneficial in terms of cementing their choices for UCAS, the university application process and they really enjoyed meeting and spending time with their peers from the different Areté Sixth Form Colleges. Anna Cox, Assistant Headteacher at Northallerton School and Sixth Form College, said: The visit was terrific. It was superbly organised and really gave our students a flavour of what to expect as a student at Oxford. Being able to stay in the college accommodation and talking to current students enabled our students to really picture themselves at Oxford. Everything was very accessible and they really enjoyed the sample seminars, Q and As and mixing with like-minded people with similar aspirations who share their subject passions. They were able to spend time in Oxford and feel the buzz of the city and chat to students from Brasenose, Catz and Jesus Colleges."

We were pleased to catch up with Year 13 students Grace and Alex, who, together with Florence and James, were selected for the visit.

Alex said: "After finding out I was one of the few students selected to visit Brasenose College in Oxford, I was very excited to experience college life and the city of Oxford itself as I aspire to study Mathematics there. Upon arrival we were instantly greeted and given a tour of the whole college with some interesting facts along the way. For example, did you know that Brasenose is named after a door knocker that now hangs in the dining hall? We were then led to our individual rooms that had a stunning view overlooking the Radcliffe Camera and the streets of Oxford. What I really enjoyed about the whole trip was that they had planned activities throughout the visit, so we were never left wondering around twiddling thumbs, whether that was a mock lecture or playing giant Jenga! The lectures they had arranged were fascinating; I attended the Physics lecture where the professor discussed how sunstones could be used to locate the sun in a completely overcast sky and that circular polarisation is used by phone companies so users can still see the screen with polarising sunglasses on. Overall, I had a brilliant time and it has inspired me to work harder so that I can study at Oxford."

Grace said: "I was recently lucky enough to attend a trip to Brasenose College at the University of Oxford with a handful of fellow Year 13s. It was an amazing trip and one which I will hold on to, whether I am lucky enough to study there in the future, or not. Though we were there for only around twenty-four hours we were able to pack in some fantastic experiences, such as a small-scale lecture, tour of some colleges and talks with students and admissions advice. On top of this, we were able to experience what life might be like at the university, from eating in the dining hall to relaxing in the JCR and even staying in our own college room overnight. But it wasn't just talks on the admissions process, we ventured out to explore some sights of the city, such as the National History Museum, we also enjoyed the evening in college with some rounds of table tennis and a quiz (which I am proud to say we won). Not only did we enjoy some amazing experiences but we were able to meet some lovely people, including fellow applicants and current students.



CAREERS

WORLD-FAMOUS HAIRSTYLIST AND CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR SHARES HIS EXPERTISE

Our students were privileged to have workshops with Mark Woolley, internationally acclaimed hairstylist and creative entrepreneur, who spent a full day in Media, Design & Technology, Business and Careers Education lessons. Students learned about product development, digital marketing, and how to set up a business, as well as some budding hairdressers benefitting from his amazing knowledge and experience as a world-class stylist.

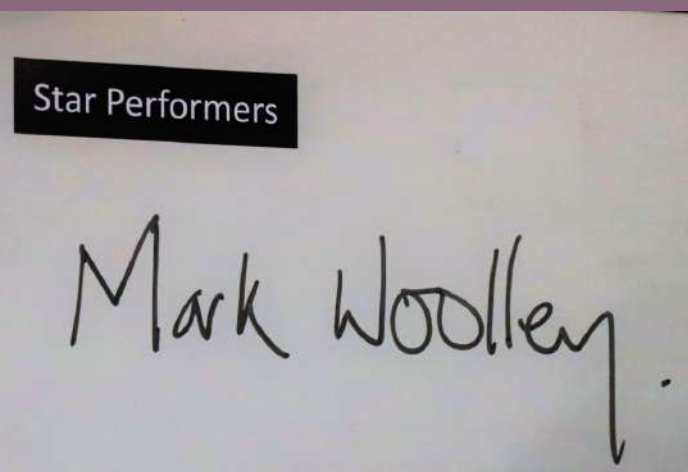
Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, said: "Mark Woolley threw himself into the day at Richmond School and everything was high energy. Mark was very generous with his time and so supportive of our students and their learning.

"He engaged with students so easily and really inspired them and their teachers on his visit. The Year 11 Business lesson was a real high point and students worked on the 4 Ps of Marketing using Electric Hair as a case study. Mark has also offered for students who are interested in a career in Hairdressing to contact him in the future."



Ruth Hamer, Careers Advisor, added: "Mark spent time with a small group of Year 11 students who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in hairdressing. It was an invaluable experience for the students who were able to hear all about Mark's journey from Richmond school student to how he came to be where he is now. The students asked lots of great questions around training routes, day-to-day challenges and how Mark has become so successful (and if he cuts his own hair.. he doesn't !)

"Mark offered support to all the students should they decide that hairdressing is the route for them. For students to spend time with someone like Mark was a wonderful opportunity, and one which I'm sure they all benefitted from."



CAREERS

TOP MOTOCROSS RIDER RACES AHEAD TO AN APPRENTICESHIP

A fifteen-year old top Motocross rider has not only been ranked among the best in class in the country but has secured an apprenticeship in the motorbike industry for when he leaves school next summer.

Carl Harris, a Year 11 student, is, in his own words, 'Motocross mad'. His ambition is to become a professional rider and he is currently placed 12th nationally in his class. He is not only passionate about racing but also about the mechanics and engineering of the bikes to ensure their optimum performance. Through his desire and interest, Carl has secured an apprenticeship which he will start immediately after he completes his GCSEs in July 2022.

Carl will work for Star MX, who repair, service and tune Motocross bikes. Chris Muir, owner of Star MX, sponsors Carl's racing and was impressed with his knowledge of bikes, his thirst to learn and always aspiring to achieve more from each race. Chris said: "Carl shows such passion and drive for his sport and this is also evident in the time and care he takes in preparing his bike for each race. I have seen huge potential in him to work on bikes for some time now and had no hesitation in offering him an apprenticeship for him to take up next summer."

It comes as no surprise that Carl's interest in motorbikes started when he was four years old, as he was immersed in racing from an early age, following his Dad's success as a previous winner of the British Superbikes championship and a previous schoolboy motocross champion. Carl started competing when he was six years old on a KTM 50cc. He currently races on a KTM 85 and will move up to a KTM 125 model next year.

During this season, Carl has competed across the UK in five rounds of the MX Nationals, as far from home as Truro and the borders of Scotland and has finished 12th overall

Ahead of next year's racing programme, Carl will continue to go to practise days at Fat Cats track, in Doncaster, and the Dalton race track, near Thirsk. To stay bike fit, Carl runs and goes to the gym most days, to ensure he is always physically and mentally ready to compete. Carl is also mentoring his younger brother Ryder, aged 10, who has also started to compete at local races.

Carl said: "I am most grateful to my sponsors, Mark Woodege, Carbon Comps, Langver, FTS Suspension, Moto Connection and Star MX, who support my racing, without whom I would not be able to compete at a national level. I would love to become a professional Motocross racer in the future and I am over the moon to have the opportunity to do an apprenticeship with Chris at Star MX which offers me the best of both worlds. Not only will it develop my engineering skills, but it is in an environment that is just made for me, I will be surrounded by bikes at work and also for my pleasure! I am really looking forward to starting my apprenticeship to help me build my knowledge and experience of the mechanical aspects of the bikes further. I can't thank Chris enough for giving me this amazing opportunity."

Mrs Potter, Headteacher, concluded: "It is fantastic to hear that Carl has already secured an apprenticeship for next year. He never fails to impress me with his work ethic in school and I am sure his dedication and pride in everything he does will continue throughout his working life, as well as in his racing."



A CAREER IN EARTH SCIENCE THAT WENT FROM SWALEDALE TO ANTARCTICA

More than 350 Geography and Biology students at Richmond School and Sixth Form College were fascinated to learn about the pressing global problems created by climate change, from a leading expert in the field of Earth Science. Dr Thomas Barningham, alumnus, is a project manager for the British Antarctic Survey and leads the Halley Automation Project which enables continuous monitoring of the ozone hole over Antarctica.

Thomas spoke extensively about the Halley Research Station, where he is due to return for four months in November. The Station is an internationally important platform for global earth, atmospheric and space weather observation in a climate-sensitive zone. Built on a floating ice shelf in the Weddell Sea, Halley VI is the world's first re-locatable research facility, that provides scientists with state-of-the-art laboratories and living accommodation, enabling them to study major international risks from climate change and sea-level rise to space weather and the ozone hole – first discovered at Halley in 1985.



Thomas said: "It's an honour to come back to the school I grew up in as key-note speaker. I remember sitting where the current students are now and being challenged and inspired by what the staff were teaching. I hope I can now pay the school back and do the same for the current cohort of students. Having an understanding of Environmental and Earth Sciences is critical for addressing the major challenges that we as a society face today. Not only are these students the ones that will have to face these challenges head on in their lifetime, but they're also the ones that will solve and address them."

Thomas explained how the Station has been developed using ground-breaking technology so that measurements and data can be collected to continuously monitor the ozone hole remotely throughout the Antarctic winter when the station may be unoccupied. The students were captivated by his address which took Thomas back to his time at Richmond School where his initial thoughts on career progression and interests within the Earth Sciences began. He highlighted the topics that captured his imagination and the reasoning behind his subject choices, both at school and onwards at University. He also spoke about the ice ages, volcanology and contemporary climate change, before concluding with a broad discussion on his current role for the British Antarctic Survey and the work the organisation do in understanding our polar regions. He explained about the diversity of people, backgrounds and jobs in Antarctica and discussed the different educational and career routes students could consider to get there.

Will Mawer, a Year 12 student, said: "The talk about the British Antarctic Survey was fascinating, demonstrating the wide variety of interesting career paths that can be taken with further education in Geography and Science. It really inspired me to take my knowledge to a further level, and I may someday go to Antarctica myself, if I get the chance!" Taryn Hodgson, a Year 13 student, added: "I found the research by the British Antarctic Survey fascinating, especially with its links to my studies in Geography and Biology, and also its importance of keeping track of climate change. The development of the Halley Research Base over time was really interesting to see, I was amazed at the wide variety of professions needed for operations such as moving the whole base over a large distances to avoid dangerous cracks in the ice shelf."

Pete Hedley, Geography Teacher, concluded: "The students and staff were privileged to listen to Thomas who spoke so passionately about his studies, career and his most-recent work in Antarctica and the very real and serious risks that climate change poses to the world. His talk was thought-provoking and engaging and left our students in no doubt about how fragile the environment has become and that it is everyone's responsibility to do whatever they can to help to halt the devastating impact of climate change that is a global issue that affects us all."



ALUMNI

ELLIE'S FASCINATING PHD IN EDUCATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

After graduating from Oxford with a BA in Psychology and Linguistics, Ellie Braithwaite, alumna, completed an MSc in Educational Neuroscience at Birkbeck, University of London. Ellie is still at Birkbeck where she is studying for her PhD, working on understanding how toddlers' brains develop. We were delighted to do a Q and A with Ellie to find out more about her studies since leaving Richmond Sixth Form College, her advice for students considering Oxbridge and also the highlights of the courses that she has taken.



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

Maths, Biology, German, English Language - I did what I enjoyed.

What inspired you to choose the course you did at Worcester College, University of Oxford?

When we first started writing personal statements, I didn't know what subject I wanted to study – I actually started writing different statements for different subjects. I don't think there was any one thing that inspired me to choose my course, it was more that after researching the courses I realised that I was most interested in the content of the psychology/ linguistics course so I went for that.



What were the course highlights for you?

My BA is in Psychology and Linguistics and was a three-year course. It is part of the course called PPL (Philosophy, Psychology, Linguistics). The nature of the course means I was part of two departments (Experimental Psychology and Modern Languages) which was frustrating at times but also gave me great access to two very different faculties and a huge variety of modules.

What did you do after graduating from Worcester College

After graduating from Oxford I did some short-term research work for my dissertation supervisor. I then worked in a Nursery in Ripon, as I was considering going into Educational Psychology and for that you need a lot of experience working in education. I loved this work but also realised I wanted to go back to academia, so I then did an MSc in Educational Neuroscience which was joint between UCL and Birkbeck, University of London. During my Masters, I helped out with some research in the Birkbeck Babylab and discovered this whole new world of developmental neuroscience research. Following this, my dissertation supervisor again offered me a research assistant job, so I stayed on at Birkbeck, working in the Babylab on various research projects.



What are you doing now?

I am currently still at Birkbeck, University of London, now studying for my PhD. For this, I am working on understanding how toddlers' brains develop and how we can better help children who might struggle later in life. I am also trying to include children from a broader range of backgrounds in my research. In normal times, I work in Birkbeck's Babylab and Todderlab measuring children's brain activity whilst they do various activities, which is a really cool and fun part of my work.



What are your plans for the future?

First, to finish my PhD and become Dr Braithwaite - following that, we'll see! I am not yet sure whether I'd like to stay in academia or go elsewhere. If I stay in academia, this could be more of a teaching or a research role; if it's elsewhere, maybe a role where I can use my scientific knowledge to influence child policy would be good. At the moment, I'm not closing off any options and will see what comes up nearer the time – I'm not due to finish my PhD until early 2023!

ALUMNI

What advice would you give to students considering Oxbridge for their further studies?

I would say don't be put off by preconceptions about Oxbridge and the people that go there. Students are there to study hard and get a good degree, but also to enjoy the experience and have a lot of fun. I only ever applied to Oxford out of curiosity to see how far I'd get – I never ever thought I'd actually get in. So if you are even a little bit curious just go for it and try because, despite my initial doubts, I had the best time at Oxford and would trade nothing for the experiences I had and the friends I met there.

Did you take part in any extra-curricular sport or clubs at Oxford?

Yes, loads! Oxford is a brilliant place to try new activities, or to do existing hobbies at a more competitive level. Because it is collegiate, you can play sport casually at college level or more seriously at University level. I took up rowing in my first year and also played hockey, football, cricket, rounders, darts and more at college level. In my final year, I played hockey for the University and got to play in the annual varsity match against Cambridge which was a huge honour (and of course we won!).

What are your happiest memories of Richmond School and Sixth Form College?

My best memories of school are the extra-curricular activities I was able to take part in. I always really loved days away at football matches or hockey rallies (especially when we were playing near Scarborough and managed to convince Ms Thompson to let us stop by the beach after the tournament!) and doing the Duke of Edinburgh award was always a laugh. Sixth form socials and prom were also fun.

Probably the standout experience would be visiting Amala in India – that whole trip was amazing and I would absolutely encourage students to get involved in projects such as this.

Within school, a very specific but amusing highlight was when Mr Temple spent an entire lesson using google translate to talk and teach.



Do you have any favourite teachers or teachers who really supported you?

The first person to jump to mind is Mr Henderson - I spent a lot of lunch/ breaktimes just dropping by his office for a chat about life (and often fishing). I also remember seeing him just before I left school to head off for my Oxford interview and I still remind myself of the advice he gave me whenever I go for an interview.

The other obvious person for me is Ms Johnson who was constantly supportive and always kind – which are the main things a teacher should be. Mr Haye and Mr Sharp were also great and fun teachers who gave me more confidence in my abilities than I ever realised at the time; they also taught me the principles of science experiments which I still use today!

I'd also like to mention Adam Gedy, who I first knew as my piano teacher's son and who became an ever-friendly face in school when we both started at Richmond together. I will always remember Mr Gedy as kind, first and foremost, and that is a tremendous legacy to leave.

And a final note.....

Not sure if this counts, but I'd like to tell students not to stress too much about their future plans. There can be a lot of pressure to have a clear plan for what you want to do at every step of life, but things don't always end up the way you expect them to – and that's not necessarily a bad thing! There's a lot to be said for adapting to what life deals you and taking opportunities as they arise - and you never know where they might lead, I've ended up working in a field I didn't even know existed when I was at school!



ALUMNI

INTRODUCING TIFFIN ANNIE

Anneka Hulme has blended her experience and passion for food technology and business to create her own business, Tiffin Annies. Before setting up her company, Anneka graduated with a 1st class honours in Food Marketing Management. She went on to work for Young's Seafood and Froneri, where she gained huge experience and knowledge about the food industry which offers a wide range of career opportunities. Any students who are interested in a food-related career, business, or working for themselves will find Anneka's Q and invaluable as she offers some fabulous tips and advice. Follow And for anyone who has a taste for rocky road and tiffin..... then be sure to check out Anneka's [WEBSITE](#) for the full menu of her amazing treats!



When did you become interested in a career in the food industry?

During my A-levels, I loved studying Food Technology and my teachers Mrs Thomson and Mrs Nicholson opened my eyes to all the opportunities within the food industry. Before this, I had never heard of food product development and what it entailed, or any of the other roles within the food industry.

What were your favourite subjects at school and what A-levels did you study?

My favourite subject was always Food Technology but enjoyed History and Maths. I went onto study Food Technology, Business Studies, English Literature and History.

Did you go to university, if so, where did you go and what course did you study?

Following my A-levels I went to Sheffield Hallam University to study Food Marketing Management, I graduated in 2008 with a 1st class honours. I wanted to combine my love of both Food Technology and Business Studies. There are lots of food-related degrees but many had a science focus which is not my favourite subject, my degree incorporated elements of these science specific degrees but also had a strong focus on business understanding.

What was your first job, was it in the food industry? If not, how did you end up working in this field?

My university degree was a sandwich degree whereby you spend your 3rd year working in the industry. For my placement, I went to work for Young's Seafood in Grimsby as a food development technologist. I spent the year working on chilled ready meals and had the amazing opportunity to develop a range of chilled long-life meals. The job entailed developing new recipes, recipe testing, factory trials, shelf life testing and artwork checking. I went back to university to study for my final year before returning back to Young's Seafood as a Graduate technologist. I stayed on to work for them for four years before moving back to North Yorkshire to work for Froneri.

Tell us about the different opportunities and job roles that are available in companies such as Young's Seafood?

There are so many amazing opportunities within the food industry both food and non-food specific ranging from development, technical, process and factory, marketing and sales. With so many huge brands and the retailers, the number of roles available is unimaginable.

Which other companies have you worked for?

In addition to Young's Seafood I have also worked for Froneri, based at Leeming Bar (Formerly R&R Ice Cream). I worked as a senior development technologist on both brand and own label for eight years, developing ice cream products for Cadbury's, Green & Blacks, Asda, Aldi, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and many smaller retailers including foodservice.

What has been your favourite job role and why?

I thoroughly enjoyed both roles. Within Young's Seafood I worked on savoury development ranging from ready meals, fish fingers, Scampi and Natural fish and had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and also to China. Whereas, within Froneri I worked on ice cream, ranging from tubs, desserts, sticks, cones and ice lollies where I also had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe. I have had some amazing opportunities and worked alongside all levels and departments within the the business. Within both roles, I worked on both brand and own-label retailer products. The diverse range of people you meet and interact with, makes every day different and exciting.

ALUMNI

What key skills have you picked up during your career and how have these helped you in your own business?

The biggest skill has been creativity and innovation. Trying new recipes but aligning them to trends within the market whilst also staying cost effective can be challenging but a key aspect if you want to continually grow and open new avenues within the market.

What inspired you to set up Tiffin Annie's and when did you launch the business?

It has always been my ambition to run my own business but I didn't have the confidence to do it. However, during lockdown I was in a position where I wasn't working, my Gran sadly passed away and I wanted to do something to raise money for Dementia UK in her memory. I have always made Rocky Road and I have continually had amazing compliments from everyone, therefore I decided to advertise on Facebook a box for Father's Day, June 2020. I remember creating the Facebook post and walking away from my phone for an hour as I was terrified people wouldn't want to order. This initial box did really well and from there I continued to make boxes fortnightly. It was then, my husband Ian who created a website for me and I started doing postal boxes throughout the UK too.

Through word of mouth, Facebook, Instagram and the website, the business has continued to grow from strength to strength. The growth has not only come from local sales but postal sales too, lots of people are sending boxes as gifts and as a result, I have continued to expand the range, not only with flavours but the products too. As I set the business up in 2020, I have been unable to attend any local events which is something I would like to do in the future to further expand the business. Currently it is just me working in the business, and occasionally my mum helps me out.

How did you identify a niche in the market?

There are a lots of bakery businesses in the market and also locally that produce some gorgeous-looking products however, most of these make brownies and blondies. I absolutely love making rocky road and I have always received lots of compliments, I even made it as our wedding favours in 2010. I therefore wanted to create a box full of rocky road and tiffin in varying flavours that could be posted throughout the UK. I initially created a mixed treat box fortnightly for people to order and the range has expanded from there. Traditionally rocky road is biscuit, marshmallows and raisins but none of my recipes included raisins and only two products in the range contain marshmallows, which has actually proved to be successful.



How do you approach your marketing?

Currently social media is my biggest form of marketing although I do also have my own website www.tiffinannies.co.uk. I advertise all my products on both facebook and instagram which has given me my initial customer base however, over time this has grown massively through word of mouth and many people gifting boxes throughout the UK during lockdown. I am conscious that I am not currently on TikTok which is probably the fastest growing social media however, as I currently work on my own it is quite difficult to bake and video therefore this is a future opportunity.

What do you enjoy most about being your own boss and what is the most challenging aspect?

The opportunity to make decisions myself, creating new products to grow the business during an ever-changing environment and to also work the hours that work around my young family. I started this business during the Coronavirus pandemic which has meant a lot of time at home with 2 young children. I have therefore worked on evenings creating hundreds of treat boxes. Saying no, I never like to let anyone down and will do everything I can to meet every order. Also, the admin elements, ensuring I keep track of all expenditure, ordering, stock control and legal aspects.

What tips can you give to our students who would like to run their own business in the future?

Don't be scared and embrace the opportunity. Starting this business was extremely daunting however, I did my research and started small. Over time, I have grown my customer base and slowly expanded my product range.

What did you enjoy the most about your time at Richmond School and Sixth Form College?

The environment and the friends I made, most of which I am still friends with today.

ALUMNI

JAMES HEADS FOR POLE POSITION AT MERCEDES F1 ACADEMY

We are thrilled to hear that James Constantine, former student, has secured a prestigious place on the Mercedes F1 Academy Programme. James, who has been studying engineering at Darlington College, has started his role at the Mercedes AMG high-performance powertrains centre in Brixworth, Northamptonshire where he will be supporting Formula 1 racing drivers Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas.



James, a rally cross driver, left Richmond School to study a Level 3 extended diploma in engineering at Darlington College.

James approached Mercedes a year ago and said: ““I went for an interview and they told me to get some experience, which I did in a garage. I applied a year later and got in and am now working in the testing department which is great.”

Motor racing is in James’ blood. His father is a rally driver and James grew up at Dalton-on-Tees, in the shadow of Croft Circuit. His interest in things automotive started at the age of 10 and he currently drives a Suzuki Swift in the national rally cross championships.

James said: “I have always been into F1 and the hope is that the academy place turns into an apprenticeship. When I first visited the F1 factory it was amazing and I hope to progress in F1 as far as I can.”

James had high praise for Darlington College, saying: “I would really recommend it as you get to study in the classroom but also get time to gain work experience and my tutor Rob Elliott was always there for me if I was ever stuck on anything.”

Mr Elliott added: “James’ story is a great example of the diverse range of amazing opportunities available in engineering. He certainly deserves his chance working at the top of motorsport as he was courageous enough to approach Mercedes and tenacious in pursuing his dream.”

PETER DONNELLY AND THE WORLD OF FINANCE

We caught up with Peter to find out about his successful career in finance and business. After leaving Richmond Sixth Form College to complete a BSc in Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management, Peter quickly realised that the Hospitality industry was not for him. After gaining a professional qualification in Chartered Accountancy, Peter has worked in a number of finance roles and has lived and worked in America for over 30 years. A former deputy headboy, Peter thanks his former teachers who have had such a lasting positive impact on his life and who he is today. This is a really interesting read for any students with a head for business and finance.



Peter's final comments about the balance of IQ and EQ in working life are most inspiring – EQ being emotional quotient, a measure of one's interpersonal and communication skills and how important it is for students to get involved with extra-curricular activities and to gain other life experiences.

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

Maths Geography, Biology and General Studies

Did you go on to university, if so, where did you study and what did you read?

University of Surrey in Guildford and Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan, USA (exchange student for second year). BSc. in Hotel, Catering & Tourism Management

On graduation, what was your first job, did this set the scene for your future career or did you end up in a completely different industry/sector in later life?

My first job after graduating (albeit only for one summer) was working as part of a management training program for what is now known as Earl Enterprises, the restaurant holding company run by Robert Earl the prodigious branding guru within the hospitality industry. While this was an exciting opportunity to kick start my career, I quickly concluded that the hospitality industry was ultimately not going to be for me given the long hours at night and over the weekends so I shifted gears and decided to gain an additional professional qualification in the area of accounting. I started with KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock in the fall of 1987 and went on to earn my Chartered Accountancy qualification roughly three years later. I have subsequently leveraged both my undergraduate degree (which was essentially a business degree with a leaning towards the hospitality industry) and my Chartered Accountancy qualification to build out a 30+ year career in operational finance for some of the leading Hi-Tech companies in Silicon Valley, CA

What inspired you to work in the business and finance sector?

During my undergraduate degree I gained an interest in business through some of my core classes. When I conducted my industrial year I got first-hand experience around how a business ran and how making financial and operational decisions were key to a business' success. While Hospitality ended up not being the business sector I ultimately ended up in, many of the principles were very translatable. I also found the challenge of problem solving to be both enjoyable and rewarding. Business is, in many cases, about addressing needs and solving problems. I have always enjoyed "rolling my sleeves up" and getting stuck into a problem. My practical upbringing and analytical mindset have certainly helped identify creative solutions to challenging issues facing the businesses I've worked for.

ALUMNI

Which companies have you worked for over the years and in what roles?

1. KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock (Auditor & Manager); 2. Oracle Corporation (Manager through VP in both Corporate and Operational Finance roles); 3. VERITAS Software (VP of Operations and Business Process Re-design); 4. Symantec Corporation (VP, Pricing & Licensing); 5. Precise Software (Chief Financial Officer); 6. EMC Corporation (SVP & Divisional Chief Financial Officer, SVP & Divisional Chief Operating Officer); 7. Dell Corporation (SVP, Marketing Operations); and 8. New Relic (SVP, Financial Planning and Analysis)



When did you move to America and why?

I originally moved to the USA in 1984 as an exchange student during my second year of college and then subsequently my industrial (work experience) year. Surrey University had an established program for students that performed well in their first year and that showed the propensity to do well on their own and away from home. I apparently fit the bill. I was always attracted to the US and the general mindset of the American people and culture. A lot of my friends have said that I was “more American than most Americans” given my “can-do” attitude, willingness to work hard to achieve positive outcomes and generally optimistic outlook on things. I ended up meeting my future wife at Michigan State University on my very first day there but it wasn’t for another eight years before we got married. We’ve now been married for nearly 30 years. After returning to the UK in 1986, I finished my degree and joined KPMG. After getting my Chartered Accountancy qualification I applied for an international assignment and was offered a choice of Boston, Chicago and Silicon Valley, CA. At the time my thinking was that Boston was a bit too much like England and Chicago was very similar to Michigan (both are in the same general area of the US known as the “Midwest”) so I ended up in Silicon Valley. I proposed to my American sweetheart and then we drove across the USA (from Detroit, MI) in a U-Haul in 1991 with all of her belongings and have been in California since. While being away from my family and friends has been tough at times, I have absolutely no regrets and California is very much my home now that I share with my wife and three kids (and three dogs)



Alongside the academic side at Richmond Sixth Form, did you hold any positions of responsibility help with charity work or take part in sport?

I was a pretty active member of the Richmond School community. I was deputy head boy, played on the school rugby team, attended outward bound (a rather memorable experience), competed in dance contests at the youth club and then at a regional level, helped organise numerous school events and even participated in some charity work entertaining residents at local retirement homes and Scorton Hospital. I have such fond memories of my time at Richmond School, especially in sixth form and remain in contact with a number of close friends from that time to this very day including former teachers Austin Lynch and Timothy Culkin who have had such a lasting positive impact on my life and who I am today.

How important do you think the enrichment and extra-curricular side of education is in providing the additional skills and qualities required to succeed in the world of work?

In my work life I often talk about IQ and EQ. IQ is a measure of “book smarts” or pure intellectual capability. EQ or emotional quotient is a measure of one’s interpersonal and communication skills. EQ comes from your experiences (both life and work) and the interactions you have with others. I place just as much emphasis on a person’s EQ as I do on their IQ during any interview process. Is this someone that is interesting, that I’d like to work with, that would work well with others? Do they have an interesting background and diverse perspectives that will enrich the team? Can they relate to my other team members in a way that drives a more productive environment? Some of the smartest people around are simply not that good at interacting with others, getting things done or leveraging each other to drive scale and efficiency across an organization. The missing element in many cases is EQ. Being balanced in the way you grow and learn between these two areas is key so it’s super important to get involved with extra-curricular activities and to gain other life experiences. The businesses of today are looking for people that know how to apply themselves and not just individuals with a qualification and no life experiences.

ALUMNI

ALUMNI PROFILE: MICHAEL BLACKBURN, POET

As well as being a published poet, Michael has been a lecturer in Creative Writing at Lincoln University, worked as an editor on *Stand Magazine* (one of the country's most prestigious literary quarterlies), set up two publishing concerns of his own, directed various festivals and has been a reader for London-based literary agents. We were delighted to hear from Michael and hope you enjoy reading about his work and love of writing below, including *'The Ascending Boy'*, his collection of poems that are based on the landscape of Richmond and his experiences of growing up here.



My time at Richmond School took place not just in another century but what feels like another world. It was then still a small grammar school down by the river. The masters wore gowns and things were run on traditional lines. I got a good grounding in English Literature, French and Latin, and also learned how to avoid getting flattened on the rugby pitch at Easby and navigate the quagmire of Boggy Lane on the cross country. I seem to have been involved in the annual school play most years, starting as a humble member of the Chorus in Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* and ending as Becket in my final year.

My interest, however, lay not in theatre but in literature, and the school library was well-stocked with the kinds of books I needed. That's despite the efforts of a drunken, suicidal soldier trying to burn it down one night!

I went to study English Literature at the University at Leeds where I joined its long-running student poetry magazine, *Poetry & Audience*, met other aspiring and established poets and started to write decent poetry and get it published.

I set my sights on being a poet and literary man in general but made the sensible decision to get a proper job and became a trainee computer programmer in London. It was not a success. From then on, I went freelance, basically subsidising my writing through a variety of literary (and occasionally non-literary) jobs until the last thirteen years before retirement when I was a lecturer.

Listing all of these projects would be tedious but some of them included: working as an editor on *Stand Magazine*, one of the country's most prestigious literary quarterlies; setting up two publishing concerns of my own (Jackson's Arm poetry and *Sunk Island Review*); being Literature Development Worker for Lincolnshire; directing various festivals at Lincoln Central Library; being invited to events in Switzerland, Italy and Slovakia (where I learned two important phrases - "I am an English poet," and "I have a hangover,"); being one of the first poets to be resident on the internet; acting as a reader for some London literary agents; running a number of writing groups, and conducting numerous writing workshops up and down the country; doing poetry readings; spending three years as a Royal Literary Fund Fellow, and once being paid by the Russians - for some poems translated and published in Estonia. For this I received a cheque for £16, which, being a broke poet at the time, I cashed. I should have had it framed.

My first collection of poems, *The Constitution of Things*, came out in 1984 and various other titles followed, one of which, *The Ascending Boy*, contains many poems based on the landscape around Richmond and my experiences growing up there.

Along the way I've met, booked, published or performed alongside numerous poets and writers, including Colin Dexter, author of the Morse books, Beryl Bainbridge, Ken Smith, Jonathan Coe, Robert Edric, Sean O'Brien, Carol Rumens, etc, and a couple of laureates. As a writer and editor I've engaged in debates over the years, sometimes to the consternation of others, but if writing isn't about freedom of thought then what is the point?

I suppose this is where I should offer advice for anyone considering a career in writing or publishing. The problem is there is no single route into it, so the only thing I will say is: if you intend to go freelance or set up your own business - get an accountant. They'll save you time, trouble and money.

Michael Blackburn

ALUMNI

AWARD-WINNING NEWS FOR MARK WOOLLEY

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mark Woolley, alumnus, world-famous hairstylist and International Director of leading British hair brand Electric has won the Business Director of the Year Award in the British Hairdressing Business Awards.

This is the third time Mark has scooped this accolade during his career, and we suspect it won't be the last! He also picked up the Innovation of the Year award for Electric Space. You can find out more about Mark [HERE](#).



HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Flynn Hunter, in Year 12, was jointly nominated by Mrs Lundberg and Dr Scott.

Mrs Lundberg wrote: "I would like to nominate Flynn Hunter, in Year 12, for the Headteacher's Values Award. I attended an open evening at the 2040 Richmond Squadron Air Cadets this week. As well as talks from the Officers in charge, a number of Air Cadets presented to the audience of prospective recruits and their parents. Flynn, a Corporal Air Cadet, spoke confidently to the group about his experiences of flying with the Cadets and really engaged the young people. Not only was Flynn a pleasure to listen to and clearly knew his subject well, he was immaculately presented and treated his peers, commanding officers and the young people and their families with the utmost respect. He demonstrated many of the school's values including independence, excellence, teamwork and respect. I am sure that together with the other cadets who also spoke very well, Flynn inspired a number of new recruits, many of whom were from Richmond School. He was a credit to himself, the cadets, his family and Richmond School and Sixth Form College."



Dr Scott wrote: "I would like to nominate Flynn for the outstanding degree of respect and commitment to teamwork he has shown over recent weeks at Royal Air Force Cadets in preparation for an Open Evening at Richmond AFC. Not only has Flynn spent time and effort in preparing his presentation for the evening but he also gave up additional time helping to set up technical equipment and supporting his peers with their presentations. At the Open Evening, parents from Richmond School and neighbouring SFX, Risedale and Wensleydale Schools were impressed by his professionalism and confident delivery. Five parents informed me of his politeness in showing them to their seats and of his welcome at the door. Flynn has shown himself to be a worthy ambassador not only for Richmond AFC but also in his representation of Richmond School.

(w/e 17th Sept)

Carl Harris, in Year 11, was nominated by Ms Johnson who wrote: "Carl has made an outstanding start to Year 11. He arrives at every lesson with such a positive attitude and I know he wants to do his best.

"He is always so willing to contribute to oral activities and really helps to keep the lesson moving forward. He likes the challenge of working things out for himself and shows real resilience, but will also ask for help when he needs it. He is equally determined to get the best score in the group in his MathsWatch Independent Learning tasks.

"Carl is an excellent role model - he has 26 Star Performers and is the first student in Year 11 to secure an apprenticeship."

(w/e 27th Sept)



HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Cassius Lockwood, in Year 11, was nominated by Dr Scott, who said: "I would like to nominate Cassius Lockwood for the Headteacher's Values Award following a fascinating conversation I had with him which left me both impressed and excited about this young man's future plans. Cassius used to attend RAF Cadets and developed confidence from his Radio skills on Parade evenings.

"When I asked him what he had been up to recently, I was not expecting the breadth of activities he was engaged in and stood, speechless, as he told me that he had recently achieved:

The John Muir Discovery Award and is working towards the John Muir Explorer Award;

QNUK Level 2 in Basic Life Support (Adults and Children);

Level 1 in Food Hygiene and Safety;

The ownership of a game with over 16,000 players with North Yorkshire UK

And is now a Young Ranger and working on setting up a Youth Club in Richmond.

This young man has shown resilience and effort in achieving so much through sheer hard work and a 'can do' attitude. Furthermore, his achievements lie in helping and supporting others and are commendable and testimony to his caring nature. What an asset Cassius is to the School and to the wider community, I am sure he will go far and an exciting future awaits!' (w/e



Ruben was jointly nominated by Miss Tucker, Miss Knowles, Mrs Dawson and Mrs Gayton, who wrote: "We would like to nominate Ruben for the Headteacher's Values Award for absolute excellence and respect. Ruben has always been a caring and helpful student but has completely excelled himself this September.

We asked eight students, including Ruben to help us at the Year 6 Open Evening. They all represented the school excellently but Ruben just went above and beyond to make both students and parents welcome.

"Without any prompting from us Ruben introduced himself to parents, discussed with Year 6 students what they would learn in Food Technology in Year 7, discussed his favourite things about the subject and about the school overall.

"He made sure all the Year 6 students had a sticker to say they had visited the department, advised parents of how to get to where they were going next and more.

"He got so involved talking to visitors we think he sometimes forgot he was there to cook too!

"Many parents commented on how welcoming and respectful Ruben was to them. He was and is an absolute credit to the school and he made the late evening an absolute pleasure."

(w/e 1st Oct)



Lottie Allum, in Year 7, was nominated by Miss Knowles, who wrote: "I noticed today that Lottie, without being asked, was helping an EAL (English as an additional language) student understand the complexities of a task by writing the words on her whiteboard in a simple way.

"She checked his understanding too. For a Year 7 student I thought this was exemplary."

(w/e 15th Oct)



WELL DONE TO ALL OUR HEADTEACHER'S AWARD WINNERS THIS HALF TERM!