

**Welcome to our December Newsletter** - As a school and college we have been working very hard this term to focus on things that really make a difference to children's learning. After such an unsettled period due to the ongoing consequences of the pandemic, we know that putting our effort in the right places really matters.

As a staff we have focused heavily on creating a highly positive culture within each classroom and the school/ college as a whole. We have asked staff to celebrate the issuing of Star Performers and have seen the number of Star Performers increasing. At the time of writing this article, 59,049 Star Performers have been issued compared to 14,148 Consequences. Each week, any child who attends school every day and who doesn't get any consequences is issued with a Star Performer. This is in addition to those issued for the demonstration of the school's values both in and outside of lessons. For some time now we have wanted to reward those students who constantly go about their day at school in a positive and focused way and we feel that this recent strategy has gone some way towards addressing this.

A second key focus for us is the development of our reading culture. This is, of course, a detailed strategy ranging from the very systematic testing of students across the school to determine the best reading interventions for those who need it to creating a real 'love' of reading across the school and college. In tutor time several year groups read in silence each morning and it has been fantastic to see how readily our students have adapted to this new approach.

Student leadership continues to be a key piece of work and we now have a framework that spans across almost the entire school and college, with Year 7 being the final year group to come on board - this will happen early in the spring term. Our Student Leaders have set themselves three priorities for the year- to achieve the School Eco Award, to ensure our developments form part of Trust-wide student leadership developments and to establish a subgroup of Literacy Leaders to support our reading strategy. My colleagues and I are constantly wowed by the creativity, thoughtfulness and efficiency of our Student Leaders- we feel so lucky to be able to work with them every day.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have been delighted to have been able to do at least some of our normal Christmas activities -not all - and I very much hope you are able to celebrate in a similar way with your friends and family over the festive season.

With very best wishes to you all for a peaceful and happy holiday.

Best wishes

**Jenna Potter**  
Headteacher



## AMAZING ADVENT CALENDAR



**Don't miss our students' amazing advent calendar on pages 9 and 10**

## STUDENTS FLY THE FLAG FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

**Our Student Leaders are working on some exciting Eco projects - read all about them on page 34.**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>In the community</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Sport</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Academic news</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Alumni</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Headteacher's Values Award</b>	<b>46</b>



**Richmond School  
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

A member of

**Areté** Learning Trust

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## TERRIFIC RICHMOND 950 TREASURE HUNT FOR STUDENTS TO ENJOY

Richmond School students have been given a great opportunity to learn more about their local town by doing the Richmond 950 Treasure Hunt. As part of the celebrations for Richmond's important milestone, some of the volunteers have put together a really clever quiz to complete. Students are invited to walk around Richmond, looking for numbers at significant places and then record them on their answer sheet. When added together, the numbers magically add up to 950! Students have been asked to see if they can get the subtotals for the columns and there will be prizes awarded to all those who complete it.



The Richmond 950 committee have very kindly donated copies of the treasure hunt and Richmond 950 pencils to the school and these have been given out to Year 7 students and others who are interested through the library.

Sophia Mawer, Lead Teacher for History, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for students and their families to explore the beautiful town of Richmond. The treasure hunt is a fun idea and will really help students' understanding and build on the local history that they have been learning in lessons."

## NOAH TAKES ON THE THREE PEAKS IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER

We are immensely proud of Noah Brown, in Year 7, who has set himself the challenge of completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Noah has chosen to do this to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK in memory of his Grandad who passed away earlier in the year. Noah has already completed Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale and his total currently stands at a whopping £915! Sadly, he ran out of time to complete the third peak, Ingleborough, as his Dad suffered an injury.

Noah is determined to finish the challenge as soon as his Dad has recovered. In the meantime, donations to support Prostate Cancer UK can be made in recognition of Noah's fabulous achievement so far [HERE](#).





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS THANKED FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF



The organisers of Richmond's Walking and Book Festival have shown their appreciation by donating books to our Year 11 students who supported them with the promotion of the events. Eight Media students, Henry, Jack, Leo, Millie, Seth, Tally, Maciej and Molly, created stunning posters which were used to advertise the programme talks in the Festival and have been given Horrible History books. Eleni, Sophia and Annabel wrote fantastic blogs about three of the events, Horrible Histories, Simon Armitage and Baroness Hale, and received signed copies of Laura Wood's 'A snowfall of silver'.

Many of our students have enjoyed taking part in Festival events, including our Year 11 History students who were privileged to listen to Henri Ward, the Historical Producer of Horrible Histories, who came into school to talk to the students about his work on the popular TV show. Thanks to funding from NYCC, 20 Year 12 A-level students were invited to the Georgian Theatre to hear Henri in conversation with Philip Wicks. The NYCC funding also enabled a further 10 Year 11 and Year 13 English Literature students to listen to author Laura Wood talk about her novel, 'A Snowfall of Silver.'

Rebecca Weston, Lead Teacher for English, said: 'It has been wonderful to be able to support the Richmond Walking and Book Festival this year. Our students have been given the opportunity to write for real audiences, sharing their reviews via the festival's social media platforms. They have had to think about tone and style and how to communicate their views in an engaging way - all excellent preparation for a career in journalism.'

"Attending Laura Wood's talk about the process of researching and writing historical fiction has also inspired the students. A coming of age romance set in the 1930s, 'A Snowfall of Silver' follows the story of aspiring actress Freya Trevelyan. Laura Wood took inspiration from Richmond's Georgian Theatre, describing it as a 'something out of a fairy-tale.'

"It is great for the students to see how their town and local environment can act as a creative stimulus."

Our students have really enjoyed supporting the Festival and are looking forward to being involved in 2022.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## WENSLEYDALE WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM ARE RECRUITING



Whether you are a seasoned player or have never picked up a rugby ball before, if you are over 16, then you are most welcome to come and have a go! Based in Leyburn, the club are wanting to grow the team and be part of the local development league next season.

There are already some of our students in the team so you'll see some familiar faces in this friendly group. Training is at 6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings at Cawkill Park, Leyburn. For further information click [HERE](#)

## GOOSE ON THE LOOSE!

Recently, a small gaggle of geese was spotted en route to the sports hall attempting to gain entry. It was thought they may have wanted to use the astroturf for a game of five-a-side, however they wandered towards the sports fields and spent the next five days pecking around the site, unfazed by the students.

The geese appeared to be domesticated and local word went around but nobody had reported any missing. Wetheriggs Animal Rescue Centre, from nearby Greta Bridge, confirmed this and dispatched Lorna and former pupil Megan to round them up. Despite Lorna becoming outmanoeuvred at one point and face planting into the ground, the ladies made quick work of the round-up and the geese are now settled in at Wetheriggs and are pecking around their paddock. A massive thank you to Lorna and Megan.



You can find out more about the fantastic work of Wetheriggs at <https://www.wetheriggsanimalrescue.co.uk/>





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STAFF AND STUDENTS REMEMBER

The Last Post, played by Taryn Hodgson, in Year 13, and Matthew Brown, in Year 11, was transmitted throughout school on 11th November. All students and staff observed the two-minute silence and a number of students proudly wore their Ministry of Defence cadet forces uniforms. Thank you to Taryn and Matthew for playing the Last Post for us, which you can listen to [HERE](#).

We are proud of our students and staff who took part in Remembrance Services and Parades across Richmondshire and further afield at the weekend. Students represented the Ministry of Defence Cadet Forces, Scouts and other organisations and Rori and Ems, Year 7 and 8 service students, laid a wreath on behalf of the school in Friary Gardens. Mrs Potter, Headteacher, said: "Rori and Ems were the most excellent ambassadors for our school in the way that they conducted themselves so respectfully throughout the Remembrance Service and wreath laying ceremony. It was a privilege for us to have been part of these events."



Jon Giddens, our Maintenance Manager who served in the Royal Signals from 1989 to 2012, took part in the parade in London and said: "It was an absolute honour to be once again attending the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in London."

## STAFF AND STUDENTS SUPPORT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to the members of staff who, once again, gave up their time to sell poppies at Tesco, Catterick Garrison, on behalf of the Royal British Legion. One volunteer was Jon Giddens, our Maintenance Manager. Jon said: "I was privileged to sell poppies to support the Royal British Legion and it was made all the more poignant as it is the 100<sup>th</sup> year that the poppy has been used as a symbol of remembrance. So many people donated, their generosity truly amazed me."

We were delighted to be able to support the appeal and thank Julie, Tesco's community champion, for all her hard work in co-ordinating the volunteers, as well as volunteering herself, to make this happen.

Students and staff also supported the Royal British Legion in School with poppies sold at student services.





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## SERVICES STUDENTS CREATE STUNNING ARTWORK WITH 100 POPPIES FOR SERVICE TO REMEMBER

A group of Year 7 Services students pooled their artistic talents to create a stunning poppy-themed art project that was displayed at the Service to Remember at Ripon Cathedral. The 28 students were supported by two art practitioners from the organisation 'Never Such Innocence' to create the collaborative piece of artwork.

The students worked in four groups and crafted four different types of poppy using a variety of materials and techniques, including sewing, beading, felting and intricate wired designs. These were combined to create an impressive wall hanging for the Remembrance Service, before being returned to Richmond School where it will be proudly displayed.

The poppy theme was chosen by the organisers of the 'Service to Remember' to mark 100 years of the poppy being used as a symbol of remembrance and to show support for our Armed Forces. By a wonderful combination of magic, hard work and sheer coincidence, at the end of the session the students counted that they had created exactly 100 poppies!

Mrs Gleave, Services Children's Advocate, said: 'It was lovely to see the Year 7 Services Students gathered together to create a piece of art to serve as our Act of Remembrance. They worked really hard and impressed me with their sewing skills and creativity! Well done to all the students and many thanks to the practitioners from 'Never Such Innocence' for coming in to work with us.'

Visitor numbers to the Service to Remember were limited, so three students attended in person, with everyone else being able to take part in a virtual service. The students were delighted to see their artwork showcased in the final installation as a year-round symbol of remembrance and gratitude for the service of our Armed Forces and their representative family members at Richmond School.

Mrs Potter, Headteacher, said: "The attention to detail and pride the students have taken in their work is outstanding and I am so impressed with their designs which looked tremendous when combined in one piece of artwork. We marked Remembrance in a number of ways within our school community, including observing the two-minute silence, the playing of the last post as well as many of our students and staff attending Remembrance services and parades locally. In addition, our choirs and jazz band performed at The Station's wartime event."

You can find out more about Never Such Innocence [HERE](#).



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## CAMERON'S STUNNING PHOTOGRAPH TAKES PRIDE OF PLACE IN CALENDAR

A young photographer's stunning shot of a blue tit is taking pride of place in North Yorkshire Youth's calendar. The image, taken by Cameron Smith, a Year 10 student, caught the eye of the judges for its fantastic composition and sheer beauty and it is the opening shot of the calendar.

Fourteen-year-old Cameron entered the competition after seeing a post shared on the school's social media. He took a number of photographs but the blue tit was his favourite. Cameron said: "I am really interested in photography and this was a great opportunity to head outdoors and take shots of the beautiful countryside and wildlife. Living in Richmondshire, we are really spoilt for choice as there are so many outstanding views and landmarks. However, it was the wildlife that appealed to me and I was just so very lucky to catch the blue tit at exactly the right moment."

Jayne Shackleton, Youth Participation Worker at North Yorkshire Youth, said: "We had a fantastic response to our competition and the quality of images received from all the young people across North Yorkshire who entered was staggering. It has been really interesting to hear the stories behind the photos, see favourite views, photos connected to memories and some of the things young people have been doing to boost their wellbeing during the lock down period."

"The judges were really impressed with Cameron's photograph and had no hesitation in selecting it for January's opening shot. The competition has been so successful that we will be making this an annual event."

North Yorkshire Youth (NYY) is a charitable organisation founded in 1941 to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn and grow through supporting youth work in North Yorkshire communities. NYY also deliver adventurous activities from Carlton Lodge Outdoor Centre in Thirsk and offer training opportunities for young people and those who work with them.

Calendars are available to purchase at £10 (+59p postage) and can be ordered by emailing [annalisa@nyy.org.uk](mailto:annalisa@nyy.org.uk)

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "Cameron's photograph is outstanding, it really captures the beauty of the blue tit and is perfectly framed by the holly berries. I am looking forward to seeing more of Cameron's work."





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS' FESTIVE DESIGNS AND MUSIC BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO RICHMOND

Students are bringing joy to residents and visitors in Richmond through their stunning festive designs and Christmas music. Students have created a host of Christmas pictures, which are on display in Richmond Library, The Georgian Theatre Royal, The Town Hall, St. Mary's Church, Tesco at Catterick, as well as a dedicated showcase in the Artisan exhibition area at The Station.



The students' artwork stemmed from a competition to design the school's Christmas card and also the official card for Cllr Clive World, Chairman of Richmondshire District Council. Over 150 students entered and Meg Scott Hall's design was chosen for the school's card with Cllr World choosing two designs by Ariella Barnett and Henry Wright. A further 21 designs were selected to create the displays in Richmond and for a virtual advent calendar which will be posted on the school's social media until 24<sup>th</sup> December (see pages 8 and 9 for all the stunning designs). In addition, seven designs were chosen to create Christmas cards for the residents and staff at The Terrace, Nightingale Hall and Greyfriars.

The school's musical groups have performed at various Christmas events in the run up to Christmas, including the concert band at the switching on of Richmond's Christmas lights and the Saxophone Quintet providing festive entertainment at The Station's late-night shopping evening.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "The students' designs are exquisite, I have been overwhelmed by their original ideas which I am sure the community will really enjoy seeing them adorning so many public spaces in the town. It was incredibly difficult to choose just one design for our Christmas card. However, Meg's beautiful design stood out to me as it is so refined, the level of detail is amazing, and I love the way you can make out Richmond in the distance.

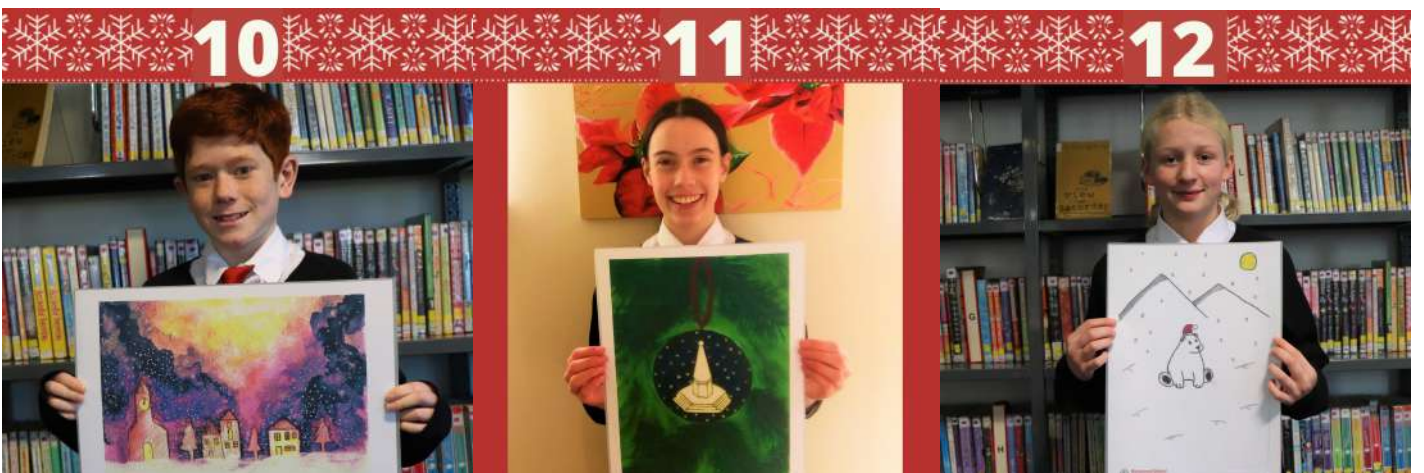
"It is wonderful that our students are able to perform again this Christmas and I know they have really enjoyed playing and singing their tremendous repertoire of Christmas music. We are privileged to have such a thriving music department with such talented students, led by Mr Boyd and Mrs Noble who are so passionate about bringing music to the community."

Cllr World said: "I would like to express my sincere thanks to the students at Richmond School who created such outstanding designs for the Christmas card competition. Once again, I was most impressed with the high standard of artwork and was spoiled for choice, so much so that I decided to select two cards. I am delighted to be using Ariella and Henry's designs for my official Christmas card this year."

Jenny Rasbeary, Gallery and Events Manager at The Station, added: "We are thrilled to offer the opportunity for 24 students to have their artwork displayed in The Station, where a huge number of visitors will be able to enjoy their beautiful festive designs."



# ADVENT CALENDAR





# ADVENT CALENDAR





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## LOGAN REWARDED FOR HIS WORK WITH THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK'S YOUNG RANGERS

Logan Hankin, in Year 12, has been awarded the prestigious John Muir Award for his amazing conservation work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Logan has volunteered as a young ranger for five years, working on a host of conservation projects that have seen him build dry stone walls, clear graveyards, build paths and bird boxes, clear invasive weeds, plant lots of new trees as well as attending weekend camps to discuss our green future.



Logan loves being outdoors and building things, knowing that the paths he has helped to lay and the trees he has planted will be around for many years to come and will not only benefit the environment but also the local community. Logan has given up numerous weekends and days in the school holidays to volunteer, come rain or shine.



There is always a demand for ranger volunteers, with over 5,000 miles of dry-stone wall along that needs repairing and footpaths to clear in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as well as tree planting and even bird surveys and Moth ID! Young Rangers is for anyone aged 11 to 16 years old who loves the outdoors. It is an amazing opportunity for young people to experience working alongside the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority staff, other exciting organisations and landowners in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The task days involve lots of practical work and getting out and having fun in all weathers.

For any students who wish to find out more, then visit [Yorkshire Dales Young Rangers](https://www.yorkshiredalesnationalpark.org.uk/young-rangers) or follow [www.facebook.com/dalesyoungangers](https://www.facebook.com/dalesyoungangers) The John Muir Award encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. The Award is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive, though should challenge each participant. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. For further details visit [John Muir Trust](https://www.johnmuirtrust.org.uk/).



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## SAXOPHONE GROUP AND CONCERT BAND BRING LOTS OF JOY IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to our musical groups who have brought lots of joyful Christmas music to the community.

Our Saxophone group played a great selection of Christmas music at The Station's first late-night shopping event this year. You can listen to them [HERE](#).



Our young musicians in the Concert Band and Mr Boyd braved the cold to entertain the public with carols and festive music at the Christmas Lights Switch on. They played beautifully and created a fabulous festive atmosphere. Thank you to Mr Boyd for supporting the students at these events.

## FAREWELL TO LESLEY SWEETING, CLERK TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

We are very sad to say goodbye to Lesley Sweeting, who has been the Clerk to the Local Governing Body for almost 11 years. During this time, Lesley has done a tremendous job, offering unfaltering support to the Governors and the school community.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "Lesley is a genuine expert and as Clerk to the Governing Body has guided us with real clarity through all matters related to governance. We are absolutely indebted to her for taking such good care of us, for her superb efficiency and for her willingness to go above and beyond - she does this constantly. We will really miss her."



Lesley said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as clerk and during the period I have been involved with the school there have been many changes - including the new build (not so new now), the school becoming an academy, changes of staff and of governors, and some challenges along the way! I will miss working with the current great team of governors who work tirelessly along with staff in the best interests of the school - and of course the lovely shortbread biscuits from the kitchen!"

Judy Hooton, Chair of the Local Governing Body, said: "We are most appreciative to Lesley for her dedication to the school and her extensive knowledge of governance and wish her all the very best as she moves further south."



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## STUDENTS CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Cassius Lockwood and Brian Atkins, in Year 11, are members of the Colburn Youth Project and are involved in a host of community activities. Last year, they took part in an award-winning project in collaboration with the North Yorkshire Young Rangers, an initiative run by the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority. They spent over 25 hours volunteering at weekends in countryside around Sutton Bank, near Thirsk. The group cleared paths, cut down trees, did bracken bashing, cleared fields of dead grass to let wild flowers grow and carried out river fly monitoring. In addition, the volunteers completed their Level 2 in First Aid. The young people's hard work was recognised by the John Muir Award, which they were very honoured to receive. The group is now looking to do another community project under the John Muir umbrella which requires over 50 hours of volunteering.

Other projects that Cassius has been involved in with the Colburn Youth Project include promoting a healthy eating campaign among young children. Cassius said: "There are many opportunities to do volunteering in our local area and it is a fantastic way to meet people and to be able to give something back to our community. I would urge anyone to get involved, it is not only a brilliant way to spend your free time but leaves you with a great sense of purpose and achievement."

The Colburn Youth Project welcomes students from Year 6 to Year 10 and meets three times a week evenings at the Colburn Library and Village Hall. You can find out more about the group [HERE](#)

Laura Copland, Cassius' tutor, said: "What wonderful work Cassius and Brian are doing with the North Yorkshire Young Rangers to help enhance the beauty of the countryside and make it a safer place for the public to enjoy. It is great to hear that they are looking to continue their sterling work and continue to give something back to the community." The Colburn Youth Project has worked with approximately 30-45 young people at a time providing an informal safe environment in which the young people are free to express themselves, learn and grow through positive engagement and feedback from within where peer education plays a role. They are funded through diligent funding applications put forward by members of the management Committee and staff and by the local Parish Council and remain a voluntary community group.

The Colburn Youth Project began its journey in 2017, runs 3 times a week, works with young people aged between Year 6 and Year 13 and unfortunately still does not possess its own building. They work out of the Colburn Library, Village Hall and Leisure Centre with all our equipment and resources spread between the three venues.

Over the years, they have run a multitude of varying activities. Dj-ing, all types of arts and craft including: rock, glass, egg, face and canvas painting, large art projects, seasonal crafts etc.; sports like football, tug of war, rounders, boxing, ariel yoga and cricket; console games and computer provisions, quizzes; drama, board, old fashioned, parlour and interactive games, table tennis, pool; water safety training, healthy living workshops, treasure hunts, drumming workshops, 3 trips to LightWater Valley, potting bulbs, knitting, sewing, tie-dying, baking, cooking, life skills, birthdays, horse riding, two residential trips away for the weekends, self-esteem, self-harm, self-awareness workshops, voluntary local litter picking involvement, 1.5 years of Zooms, outreach engagement at the park, 3 Christmas Fairs, 2 Summer Activity Days, a FEAST project involving 4 young people volunteers, Level 1 Food Hygiene Cert, Survival First Aid Cert, voluntary conservation work through the John Muir Award, Young Rangers 3 Award, working with other groups, listening and engaging with the young people and making a film called [Lost in Translation](#) to name most of their activities.





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## GREAT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all the students and staff who supported our non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. It was wonderful to see so many of our sixth form students making the effort to come to college dressed in their pyjamas and taking part in Just Dance.

We hope you enjoy browsing through the photographs below. We are delighted to have raised £1,302 for this year's appeal.





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## FOUNDER AND LEADER OF RICHMOND BUSINESS NETWORK RETIRES

David Gibson, who founded the Richmond Business Network over ten years ago, has decided to take a well-earned rest and step down from the Committee. We know that everyone who has ever been involved in the group will know how much work David put in and the enthusiasm he brought.

The Richmond Business Network is of great importance to Richmond School and Sixth Form College as it is where we have developed brilliant working relationships with a number of key employers in the region.

David has organised many business breakfasts, events and expos which have been held in a variety of locations such as Richmond Station, Cross View Tea Rooms, Penleys, Richmond Cricket Club, Richmond Golf Club, Richmond Rugby Club, The Black Lion, The Holly Hill, The Kings Head, Catterick Racecourse and of course, Richmond School.



We have had many guest speakers at the Business Breakfasts including Rishi Sunak MP who attended in 2016

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader said: "The regular business breakfasts have been an important part of community relations for the past 10 years. I have enjoyed attending and have met so many people from local businesses. These relationships have led to so many positive outcomes for our students. David organised all of these events, year in, year out and provided leadership to the group.

"David has a gift of being able to motivate and engage people and the fact that he persuaded so many people to attend business meetings at 7.30 am, whatever the weather, is testament to that.

"Over the years, David took students for work experience in his business and also delivered a Marketing workshop to A-level students."

Jill Lundberg, Marketing Lead, added: "Having attended a number of the Business Network's breakfast meetings, I was also impressed by David's passion and interest in local businesses in the area and how he did so much to promote them. He has been a huge supporter of Richmond School and we are most appreciative of everything he has done for our students over the years."

Here is just a snapshot of the many positive outcomes which David has influenced:

- Work experience at numerous companies such as Purple Creative Studio, the City Secret, Richmond Leisure Centre, Penleys, Cross View Tea Rooms, Lewis Surveying, Catterick Racecourse, The Holiday Inn, and The Station – to name a few!
- Apprenticeships – Students successfully placed at Purple Creative Studio, the City Secret, Richmond Leisure Centre, Cross View Tea Rooms, and Chipchase Manners.
- First Aid Training – delivered to sixth form students which has helped those considering NHS careers.
- Careers assemblies and workshops – delivered by staff from the City Secret and Purple Creative Studio.
- Students have also had the opportunity to attend events, building their confidence and resilience.

We wish David every success for the future and he will be greatly missed.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## JAZZ BAND AND CHOIR GET EVERYONE IN THE MOOD AT THE STATION'S WARTIME WEEKEND

The jazz band and combined choirs had everyone at the Station tapping their toes and singing along as they performed some fantastic wartime music on Sunday. Visitors and diners really enjoyed the two sets which the students performed on the mezzanine and everyone appreciated the wonderful acoustics of the beautiful building. We are pleased to share some recordings from the groups which we hope capture the atmosphere of the day and the talent of our young musicians – you can enjoy their performances [HERE](#).



The whole day was a great success. There were local enactors dressed up in 1940s outfits, including Jack Riddlestone in Year 11, as well as wartime memorabilia stalls and vintage jeeps. Over the weekend, a number of our students performed in the sell-out performances of 'The Station Master' – we have heard such amazing reports of this show which the audience enjoyed whilst eating a fabulous meal at the Station Café. The dancers were choreographed by Charlotte Porter and the singers directed by Sophie Montgomery – it is fabulous to see our former students giving so much back to our community and nurturing the talent of the next generation of dancers and singers. Sophie also entertained visitors to The Station on Saturday when she sang a selection of wartime songs.

The event was part of the Richmond 950 celebrations. Huge thanks to the staff at The Station for organising such a terrific weekend, especially Jenny, the events manager, who has worked tirelessly to co-ordinate all the arrangements. Special thanks to Mr Boyd and Mrs Noble for giving up their time to enable the students to enjoy this great performance opportunity in the community, and to Mr Millman for leading the jazz band in rehearsals. Last, but by no means least, an enormous thank you to our students who sang and played their hearts out.

## STUNNING PERFORMANCE BY ELSA, GEORGIA, MAISY, ROSE AND ZOE

Congratulations to Elsa, Georgie, Maisy, Rose and Zoe for singing so beautifully in the world premiere of Cantique 950 at St Mary's Church, performed by Richmondshire Choral Society in celebration of the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richmond. Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music said: "It was a lovely performance and the students' voices really lit up the finale to the composition, taking us to a very hopeful and bright future for Richmond!"





# PERFORMING ARTS

## BRILLIANT BOLLYWOOD CHOREOGRAPHY BY YEAR 7s

We are so impressed with the enthusiasm and talent of our Year 7 students who have really embraced the Bollywood Dance style. You may remember that Haris Ali, in Year 7, recently won the Headteacher's Values award for his enthusiasm in sharing his passion and experience of Bollywood-style dancing with his peers in class.

We caught up with Haris as he led his tutor group in preparation for their forthcoming dance assessment. He gave direction and inspiration to his fellow Year 7 students in creating an 'action and reaction' phrase to the performance to create complexity and challenge. The class split into two groups and Macey Carter led the second group, confidently instructing them on moves and actions. Their two pieces of choreography were then combined to create a finale to their Bollywood dance. We hope you enjoy watching it [HERE](#).



Mrs O'Malley, Dance teacher, said: "It has been wonderful to involve Haris and Macey in the delivery of the dance lessons and they have been a huge inspiration to the class. I have been so impressed with their approach and maturity, they not only commanded the respect of their peers but created some fabulous moves to complete the dance."





# PERFORMING ARTS

## THEATRE COMPANY PRAISED FOR OUTSTANDING PLAY ABOUT DANGERS OF UNDERAGE DRINKING

A group of Year 10 and 11 drama students have been praised for their outstanding performance of about underage drinking which they researched, created, scripted and produced themselves.

The project, called 'Alcohol – Know the Risks', stemmed from an approach from Helenor Gwatkin, who is seconded to the Alcohol Licensing Department of North Yorkshire Police, with a request to create a small production highlighting the effects of alcohol in young people and covering the consequences.



The students seized the opportunity to produce a collaborative piece of work. Together they carried out in-depth research into underage drinking and the effects of alcohol on the body. Their aim was to deliver a hard-hitting message to raise awareness of the prevalence of underage drinking and the damaging effects of alcohol on young people.

The students performed their piece to an audience, including representatives from North Yorkshire Police and Richmondshire District Council.

After watching the production, Helenor Gwatkin of North Yorkshire Police, said: "This evening I have been blown away by the students at Richmond School, they absolutely rose to the challenge of doing a play about alcohol and its effects. It is safe to say that everyone who attended felt it was amazing. It was short, yet impacting and packed full of information that the students had researched themselves. Super proud of them to say the least."

Danni Manning, Lead teacher for Drama, added: "I am so proud of the commitment shown by the students involved in the project, especially during such a challenging time. The group have worked hard to tackle a serious topic with maturity and sensitivity, going as far as to research, script and tech the project themselves."

The students' play was so impressive that discussions are now underway about sharing the performance further afield.

The Theatre Company's next project will be taking part in the All England Theatre Festival. The group will be performing in the first round of this national competition at the Georgian Theatre. New members from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 are welcome. The groups rehearses after school on a Wednesday in SG17.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## STUDENTS ENJOY FABULOUS WORKSHOP WITH LEADING HIP HOP DANCE COMPANY

Mrs O'Malley, Mrs Fox and Miss Pemberton joined forces to supervise a fantastic Dance workshop for our enthusiastic, talented and hard-working students. Eighty students from Years 8-13 had the privilege of working with Boy Blue Entertainment Company. This company is on the GCSE Dance exam paper and is the first Hip Hop company to make it onto the exam program. Yolanda and Bruno are performers in a piece called 'Emancipation of Expressionism' by Boy Blue Company and led the workshop where students learned some of their repertoire.



Bruno and Yolanda are very experienced and gave the students an invaluable insight into the professional world of performing arts, as well as tips on how to be successful. The students participated in a very intense and demanding workshop that pushed them mentally and physically. Alongside this, students explored some interesting ways of creating choreography and performed to their peers at the end of the workshop.

Mrs. O'Malley said: "It was a huge pleasure to organise such an amazing opportunity for our students. They were smiling from start to finish and gained so many new ways of working to support their studies. The content of the workshop also allowed them to work with different students from various year groups and learn from each other which was the icing on the cake. It was overwhelming to see 80 students filling the hall to join in with a fun yet challenging and developmental opportunity.

"The dancers were inspired by Bruno and Yolanda who have worked with artists such as Rihanna, Tinie Tempah and Dave. The Dance department is privileged to be able to create this opportunity for our talented dancers and we wish them every success for future examinations and auditions when entering the Performing Arts sector."

Some comments from students on the day were:

"That was amazing."

"My legs hurt from how hard we worked."

"I loved it today, it was lovely to try something new."

"Thank you Boy Blue Entertainment for a very professional and outstanding workshop and we hope to work with you again in the near future."





# SPORT

## LEYBURN AND MICHAEL SYDDALL TAKE TOP HONOURS IN BOYS PRIMARY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

We were delighted to host the finals of the boys' primary football tournament for the Bedale, Catterick, Richmond and Wensleydale areas. All the teams taking part qualified after finishing in the top two of their local football competitions. Both events were organised and led by our year 11 students and ran very smoothly. Qualifying schools for the morning competition for Years 3 and 4 students included: Brompton, Michael Syddall, Bedale, Burneston, Leyburn, BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton), Le Cateau and Carnagill.



Teams were placed into two groups where they played every other team in their group. The top two teams from each group then qualified for a semi-final. The semi-finalists were: Bedale V BAWB and Michael Syddall V Leyburn

Bedale and Leyburn won their semi-finals and faced each other in a very close final. Leyburn were the eventual winners of the tournament. The qualifying schools for the afternoon competition for Years 5 and 6 students were: Croft, Michael Syddall, Bedale, Crakehall, Leyburn, BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton), Le Cateau and Carnagill. The semi finalists were: Leyburn V BAWB and Michael Syddall V Croft. Michael Syddall and Leyburn won their semi-finals and faced each other in a very closely-fought final. Michael Syddall won the tournament.

Congratulations to the Years 3 and 4 students from Leyburn and Michael Syddall's Year 5 and 6 students.



## STUDENTS KEPT ON THEIR TOES!

Richmond School hosted a training event for Years 5 and 6 playground leaders and lunchtime supervisors. The hugely successful leadership course was led by Skipping School and was attended by 15 local primary schools.

The staff and pupils were taught a range of skipping skills and long rope games so that they can take these ideas back to their own schools, with the aim of making break and lunchtimes more active. This initiative is working towards the government's aim of encouraging all young people to be active for 60 minutes per day. It was a great fun day, with all pupils and staff leaving exhausted!

Thank you to the following schools for attending: Aiskew, Leeming Bar, Barton, Richmond Methodist, Michael Syddall, Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas, Sacred Heart, Hipswell, Ravensworth, Wavell, Masham, Le Cateau, Bedale, Croft, Bolton-on-Swale.





# SPORT

## ISOBEL RUNS, SWIMS, RIDES AND SHOOTS TO THE TOP IN NATIONAL TETRATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

Isobel Cook doesn't just excel at one sport, she is outstanding at no less than four disciplines and has won the Under 12 National Tetrathlon Championship. Eleven-year-old Isobel, a Year 7 student, ran 1,000m, swam 175m in two minutes, shot a turning target from 7m with a 22 air pistol and then rode a highly technical and challenging cross country course on her pony.

Isobel, a member of the Bedale and West of Yore Pony Club, started competing in Tetrathlon as a six-year old, where they throw a bean bag instead of shooting. Tetrathlon is a Pony Club discipline and provides many great opportunities as the children get older, not only offering chances to represent the region in competitions across the UK, but the country abroad as well.

Isobel is in the Minimus under 12s category and she scored the highest points across all disciplines to become the national champion. Representing the Northern England squad, Isobel competed for two days against teams from all over England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the competition ran over two days. The competition was incredibly close with only 20 points separating the first five individuals, but Isobel went the extra mile and finished on a huge score of 4403 points, 8 points clear of the 2nd-placed girl, who was representing Ireland. The Northern team finished in 3rd place. Isobel's shooting and riding, in particular, were most impressive, with a score of 940 points, from a highest-possible score for all bulls eyes of 1,000 for her shooting and securing a faultless round of the cross country course to achieve the maximum score of 1,400 points.

Isobel's favourite disciplines are riding and running and she said: "What I enjoy about doing tetrathlon is the variety and pressure it brings. My ambition is to win each age category and to eventually represent Great Britain."

Isobel counts herself very lucky to have two lovely ponies, Zappa a 14.1hh New Forest and Prince, a young 15hh Connemara. She also competes in showjumping and eventing and previously represented her primary school at the NSEA championships, as well as riding for her Pony Club. She rides every day, swims five times a week with Richmond Dales and runs four times a week. She is a member of Allerton Junior Athletics Club and competes regularly in the NYSD x country league. In addition, she shoots three times a week.

Mrs Potter, Headteacher added: "This is an tremendous achievement for Isobel, to excel in multiple sports is amazing, I am in awe, not only of her skill and expertise in the four disciplines but also in the incredible commitment she gives to her sport. She is an inspiration to all of us and with such determination I have no doubt that we will be hearing more about Isobel's continued success in the future."





# SPORT

## GIRLS FROM RMS HEAD TO THE NORTH YORKSHIRE PRIMARY FOOTBALL FINAL

Following the earlier heats of the girls primary football competition, we were delighted to host the final of the Bedale, Catterick, Richmond and Wensleydale area. Two teams qualified by finishing in the top two of their local heats and the following teams took part in the area final: Richmond Methodist, Brompton-on-Swale, Michael Syddall, Bedale, Crakehall, Middleham & Spennithorne, BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton), Le Cateau and Carnagill.



Thank you to our Year 11 students who organised and led the tournament. They did a great job in refereeing the games and ensuring the event ran smoothly.

Teams were placed into two groups where they played every other team in their group. The top two teams from each group then qualified for a semi-final.

The semi-finalists were:

Middleham and Spennithorne V Richmond Methodist School

Crakehall V Brompton

Richmond Methodist School and Crakehall won their semi-finals and faced each other in the final, which was very close, with the score being 1:1. After a penalty shoot-out, the girls from Richmond Methodist School were crowned the winners of the tournament. They are now gearing up for the North Yorkshire county finals which will take place in York in January.





# SPORT

## ELIJAH THUNDERS TO RUGBY SUCCESS!

Amazing news for Elijah Delaidriti, in Year 10, who has secured a two-year scholarship with professional rugby league club Newcastle Thunder's under 15s squad. Elijah is in the club's Academy team and has already started his twice-weekly training with them, with fixtures due to kick off in March.

Elijah plays rugby to an exceptional standard and has been making a name for himself on the pitch for several years. In 2019, he was awarded the North East Rugby League U12 Player of the Year.

Elijah has recently returned to Richmond School after ten months in Cyprus following his Dad's army posting, and it is fantastic to welcome him back and to see him picking up his rugby at such a high standard.

Jack Moore, PE Teacher, said: "All the PE staff are over the moon to hear of Elijah's success with Newcastle Thunder. This is a tremendous achievement for Elijah who is such a promising player and I think this is set to be the start of a great career in rugby for him."



## SUPERB RESULT FOR YEAR 11 FOOTBALLERS

Our Year 11 football team put in a stunning performance at their recent county cup match against Rydale. Their 7:2 victory was down to tremendous teamwork, with Jacob Dunn named man of the match. Goal scorers were: Jacob Dunn (2), Maciej Nuprejczyk (2), Carl Harris (1), Luke Wade (1), Jake Percival (1). The team have secured a place in the second round of the cup.

## BENA ACHIEVES PLACE ON HARTPURY COLLEGE'S SPORTING EXCELLENCE DIPLOMA

Congratulations to Bena Slack, in Year 12, who is studying for a diploma in equine sporting excellence at Hartpury College alongside her A-levels at Richmond Sixth Form College. Bena is delighted to have been accepted on the two-year diploma which covers the three disciplines of eventing – cross country, dressage and show jumping. Bena has chosen to specialise in show jumping as this is her area of expertise.

Bena will study at the college during school holidays and over several weekends throughout the two-year programme and has already attended her induction weekend. Bena has been allocated a mentor for two years who will track her riding skills and support her in aspects such as training and nutrition.

Bena said: "I am over the moon, as being fully-funded the course is very popular and highly competitive to get a place. Show jumping and horses are my passions so this will give me invaluable experience in the world of all things equine. I am studying A-levels in Business, Economics and Psychology and my long-term ambition is to have my own competition yard. Hartpury is a college and university so I am considering doing a degree there after my A-levels."

Bena has been riding as long as she can remember. She had her own pony when she was five and started competing at seven years old and has been show jumping since she was eleven. She was a member of the Zetland Hunt Pony Club for eight years.

More recently, Bena has been competing in up to 120cm show jumping events. She travels throughout the UK to take part in competitions on her two horses, Valentino, a 16.1 hh Irish Sports Horse, and Artfull, a 17 hh Warm Blood.

For any students who have an interest in equine studies or the diploma in sporting excellence, further information about Hartpury University and College is available [HERE](#). Hartpury is well known for being a specialist education provider in agriculture, animal, equine, sport and veterinary nursing.

We wish Bena every success in her diploma and look forward to reporting on her show jumping competitions.





## TREMENDOUS TEAMWORK BY OUR YEAR 8 AND YEAR 10 FOOTBALLERS

Our Year 10 football team took on St Bedes School in the third round of the English School's Football Association under 15's school cup. The students put in tremendous effort and showed unbelievable resilience to continue to play in an extremely competitive fixture, unfortunately losing out 7-1 on the day.

Joint Man of the Match went to Mason Amsing, the goal scorer on the day, and Jamie Bennett (both pictured). They played with their heads held high at all times, working tirelessly to regain possession of the ball and move the team forward when other team mates' heads started to drop. Coach Harry Beresford said: "Mason and Jamie showed unbelievable sportsmanship and determination to play for everyone else on the team, demonstrating exceptional teamwork".

The team will spend some time now training, working harder than ever in preparation for their next competition, the Area cup.



Richmond School's Year 8 football team took on Harrogate Grammar in their ESFA schools cup third round tie, unfortunately losing out 3-1. The team went behind by two quick goals early in the first half, there wasn't much keeper Justin Burgess could do about it. The team would have conceded a lot more if it wasn't for Justin's courageous goalkeeping, saving shot after shot.

Throughout the first half, Rudi Sartini controlled the ball in the midfield making life difficult for the opposing team, passing the ball to our forwards, Owen Dickson, Joel Harrod and Harry Davis - all of which created chance after chance against Harrogate, however they were just struggling to score in the first half.

Bring on the second half and Richmond School came out swinging, with Joel Harrod scoring early, breaking the defensive line and finishing coolly against an on-rushing keeper. After this, the pressure was on, the back four of Michael Turner, Seth Brown, Ryan Buck and Jack Sturdy stayed strong stopping the attack whenever they could. Harry Veitch and Isaac Tate finished the midfield alongside Rudi, putting in the work to win the ball and get it forward. However Harrogate Grammar managed to ease the pressure by scoring against the run of play making the score 3-1 to them.

This didn't stop the young Richmond School team as they continued to work hard and resiliently to try to win the game. In the end, it wasn't meant to be as Harrogate progressed into the next round.

Coach Harry Beresford had this to say: "The team showed tremendous teamwork, demonstrating a fantastic work ethic and a strong mentality to work together despite the result going against them. There were some great individual performances, especially Harry Davis and Isaac Tate who, throughout the game, showed consistent resilience to battle against the opposition defenders trying to get Richmond School forward in order to score.

"Justin Burgess made his debut for the school team in goal and despite the score, he did really well to be as commanding and strong as he was.

"I am really proud of the team, considering how far they have come in terms of school football, especially as their first year of secondary school was disrupted by the pandemic and they didn't get any competitive football for the school last year. We are all excited for the next competition that we will be participating in".



## ABI STRIKES GOLD AT BRITISH JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

A promising young athlete has struck gold at the British Judo Championships. Abi Collier, a Year 8 student, competed in the Junior Female 10-12 52-57kg category and came away with the national title.

Twelve-year-old Abi has been training with FIJ Sportif, under the direction of head coach Glynn Fidgeon, for over three years and her potential was evident from the start. Glynn said: "Abi came to my club after I ran a taster session in her primary school. I spotted her potential straight away and put her onto my talent program where the children train twice a week specifically toward competition judo.

"I noticed Abi was very strong and that she has flexibility from the start which is perfect for judo. I was very proud of Abi's performance at the British Championships winning all her contests to be crowned British Champion.

"I'm looking forward to watching Abi's judo development in the next few years and to see where it takes her."

Abi puts in a huge amount of effort to her sport and trains at the club twice a week, as well as many hours in gym sessions and keeping herself fit. She is currently a green belt and is training hard for her blue belt.



This is the fifth time that Abi has competed at the British Judo championships, held twice yearly, previously securing silver and bronze medals so she was delighted to step onto the top podium and collect gold this year. Being at the lower end of the weight category was a challenge for Abi but with her skill and technique she outperformed the other competitors.

Abi said: "I became interested in judo after my coach came into my primary school to do a taster session. I quickly realised that judo was a sport that really appealed to me and I have never looked back. It's not only a great way to exercise and keep fit but you meet a lot of new people too and it's great fun. I really enjoy contact sport and I also play rugby.

"I was over the moon to achieve the gold medal as the standard was very high - it's a great way to finish off the year. Thank you so much to Glynn at FIJ and my family for supporting me at this event and throughout the year."

Abi competes in the North East four or five times a year and is now looking forward to training hard throughout 2022 and continuing to compete in regional and national events.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "This is an awesome achievement for Abi whose resilience, drive and determination have resulted in her being top of her class in the country. She is clearly going from strength to strength and with her track record I am sure we will see her on the podium again very soon."



# SPORT

## HARRY SECURES A COVETED PLACE IN THE DURHAM COUNTY HOCKEY ACADEMY

Congratulations to Harry Veitch, in Year 8, who has been selected for the Durham County Under 13 Hockey Academy. Twelve-year-old Harry has been playing hockey for four years and has secured a coveted place in the Academy after being nominated by Durham City Juniors Hockey Club and then successfully completing the selection process which took place over four sessions at Maiden Castle, Durham and at Yarm School.

Gary Ferguson, of the Durham County Hockey Academy, said: "Lead coaches were very impressed with the standard on display and are looking forward to working with the players moving forward- it has proved very difficult making a decision regarding selection."

Harry trains with Durham City Hockey Juniors and has also been selected to play for Durham City 5 Development Squad. In addition, he trains at school and has recently been invited to join in the training with Richmond Men's Hockey Club to develop his game further. Playing four times each week, Harry is dedicated to his sport which we know will see him go far, especially as the Academy project is part of the England Hockey Pathway

Harry was thrilled to meet Fiona Crackles, who won Bronze at the Tokyo Olympics for England, during a training session with Durham City hockey Juniors.



## FANTASTIC FINISH FOR HARVEY IN GRUELLING SCOTT TRIAL

Congratulations to Harvey Slack, in Year 13, who completed the Scott Trial. The Scott is regarded as the UK's most challenging non-stop, off-road, observation motorbike trial. It is set over 80 miles across Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, taking in rugged moorland and harsh terrain, with 76 observed sections along the way. Over 180 riders set out but only 92 finished within the time limit. This was Harvey's first attempt at the trial and he came in 76th, which was an amazing achievement.

The trial is in its 106th year and riders are challenged against the clock and for how many penalties they rank up for putting a boot down or stopping in the sections, which can range from rocky climbs or traversing becks and even waterfalls! Such is the distance of the event that competitors have to stop to refuel several times. It is renowned for testing riders to their absolute limits and there are very good reasons why the sections have names such as 'Surrender' 'Grand Canyon' and 'Cold Knuckles'!

The course is exhausting and extremely demanding and the weather can add to this. Thankfully, the weather in 2021 was kind to the riders and remained fair most of the day.

Each year, Richmond Motor Club, the organisers of the Scott Trial, raise thousands of pounds for local charities and good causes and host a presentation evening at Richmond School where the money is donated. Previous beneficiaries have included: local schools, Swaledale Mountain Rescue, Scouts, Young Farmers, local village halls, to name but a few.



Photograph courtesy of Allan Brenkley, with thanks.



# SPORT

## YEAR 10s STAR FOR MOWDEN

Well done to our Year 10 students Elijah, Sam, Connor, Tom and Harry who play for Mowden Park Under 15s.

They recently played for Mowden against Durham City, with a winning score of 18-7, continuing Mowden's unbeaten run so far this season.



## IMPRESSIVE TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES AT AREA CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS

Well done to our 32 students, from Years 7 to 11, who competed in the recent Area Cross Country Trials at Northallerton. They all gave 100% in what was a very strong field. Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls and Year 10/11 Girls who are now Area Champions.

There were some impressive individual performances in their respective races from Ollie Rogerson (2nd), Holly McCowie (3rd), Isobel Cook (1st), Maggie Longstaff (3rd) and Isaac Lamb (2nd).

Sandra Johnson, who leads the school's running club, said: "This was another impressive performance from our runners who gave their best and who were great competitors. They were all a credit to the school."





# SPORT

## BRONZE FOR MYLES IN NATIONAL YOUTH SERIES FENCING COMPETITION

With a passion for fencing, Myles Fairhurst, in Year 8, has scooped bronze in his first competition in the National Youth Series. Myles has been fencing for three years and trains every week with the 'Street Swords' club at the Dolphin Centre in Darlington.

Myles' interest in fencing stemmed from reading an article about the sport and he immediately wanted to try it! Myles said: "By doing fencing you get to meet new people, it keeps me on my toes and ensures I am 'switched on'. It also improves my fitness and co-ordination."

Myles' first competition was hosted at Durham University's Fencing Centre and Myles took part in the under 12's sabre section, which lasted for almost four hours. During this time, Myles fought several other competitors and then progressed to the knock-out stage.

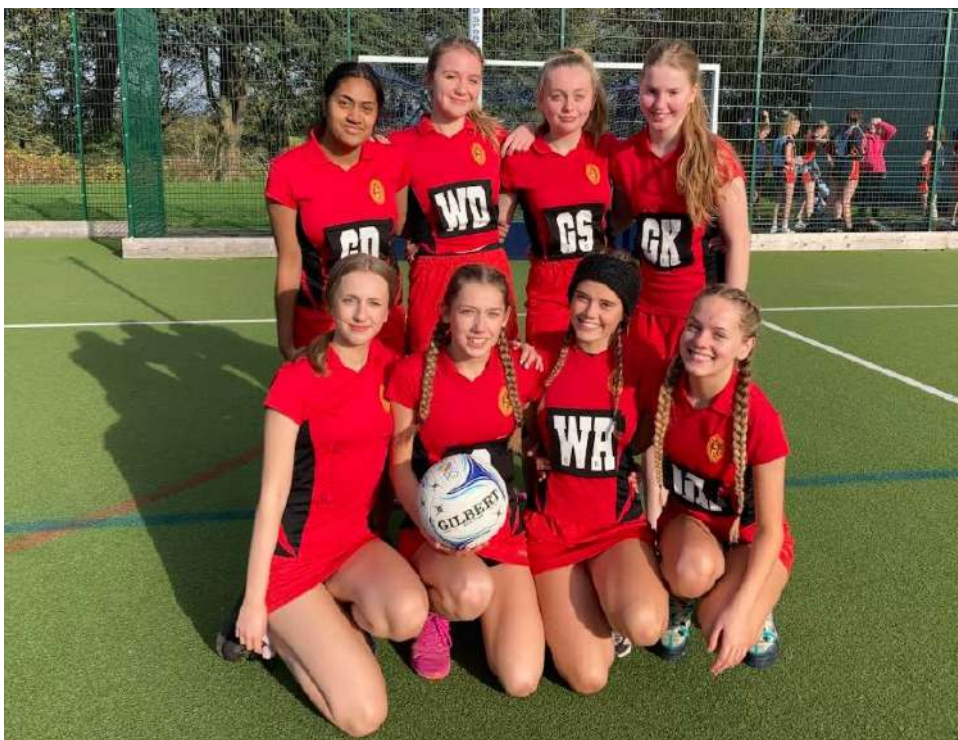
Myles explained: "There are three types of fencing: Epee, Foil and Sabre. My discipline is sabre which uses a 'cutting' motion compared to the other types of fencing and you are not allowed to cross your feet. Sabre fencing is derived from military swordsmanship. In the late nineteenth century an Italian fencing master developed the light-weight sabre fencing sword. In 1986 it became the last fencing weapon to be electrified.

"I like it as you get to have fun with swords in a safe way. It has definitely helped me to get fitter and make new friends."



## GREAT PERFORMANCE BY YEAR 11 NETBALL SQUAD

The Year 11 Netball team travelled to Queen Mary's School to play in the Hambleton and Richmondshire Under 16 Area Netball rally. The tournament was attended by seven schools including ourselves, Northallerton, Stokesley, SFX, Easingwold, Queen Mary's and Thirsk. Our team performed extremely well, winning 4 of their 6 matches which resulted in them coming 3rd overall. Congratulations to Stokesley School who won the tournament.





# SPORT

## NETBALL TOURNAMENT A HIT WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS

It was wonderful to see so many staff and Year 10 and 11 students turn out on a very chilly evening to play netball. The students were very excited to take on the staff and a great evening was had by all. The staff pipped the students to the post and currently reign supreme as the champions! This was a great staff wellbeing event, offering a well-deserved break from work whilst also keeping fit and active. There were some brilliant techniques and skill on the field! Well done to Mrs Moss for her goal scoring. You can watch a clip of everyone in action [HERE](#).

We are hoping to host another sporting get together next month. Thank you to Mr Moore for organising the games and to everyone who braved the cold to take part, as well as to those who stood at the sidelines to cheer the players on.





## JUDE PLACED FOURTH IN CUMBRIAN KARTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Following a break of a couple of months to follow Matty, his elite-level cyclist brother, Jude Cole, in Year 10, is rapidly gaining pace on the track.

He recently competed in the fourth round of the Cumbrian Kart Club Championship. As the weather forecast was uncertain, Jude's Kart was left 'hanging' on the Friday evening, so it could be set up on the Saturday morning when the conditions could be assessed. The track was wet and all went well with the first session when Jude raced with some different compound of tyres on for better grip – these are better for water clearance when the conditions are wet. The qualifying round was on the Saturday evening under floodlights which made for an interesting drive as it was harder to corner with reduced visibility.

Jude qualified in third and started in third position in heat 1 on Sunday, after three laps practising where he kept up to pace with the front runners. The track started to dry out for heat 1 and Jude finished in tenth, after getting tied up in two crashes. As the race went on to heat 2, Jude took a gamble and changed to slicks rather than wet tyres as the track was starting to dry out, and he came in 10<sup>th</sup> again. However, although this put Jude back in the pack and he had to make up a lot of ground, moving to slicks proved to be a good decision as in the final the track was dry and this enabled Jude to gain some momentum and get his pace back, and he came in fourth.



Jude has completed four out of six rounds in the championship and has been placed fourth overall – a fabulous effort Jude, keep up the good work!

Jude is now looking forward to racing in the Winter Series from December through to March 2022 where he will be moving into the senior class.



## TOP SPOT AT THE STATION FOR YOUNG ARTIST

A young artist, whose work has been admired by Jesse Lane, a world-renowned creative, is honoured to have her artwork exhibited at the flagship Spot on the Wall exhibition at The Station in Richmond.

Emma Hodgson, a Year 13 student, enjoys working in a range of media, including pen, coloured pencil and water colour and is demonstrating her passion for exploring realism and photo-realism within art in her piece she is exhibiting at The Station. This is a style that is evident in the work of Jesse Lane who Emma has been researching in her A-level Art studies.

Emma said: "I was overjoyed to find out that I had been selected for the Spot on the Wall exhibition and feel very honoured to have my work displayed in such an iconic building. Realism is my main style, as I love giving a piece of art the power to catch an audience's eye.

"The piece I have created shows a side profile of a young woman with water dripping down her face. I decided to call the piece 'Coming Up for Air' as I like to think that is open to interpretation. The audience could take it in a literal sense, as she is literally gasping for air after being underwater, or in the metaphorical sense that she is stopping for breath in life. Having water as part of the drawing was a choice I made as I love drawing it in general but also, water moves in such different and beautiful ways. So, if the audience were to take the piece metaphorically, they could think about how life moves in waves or can feel overwhelming like a flood. Overall, the piece is subjective and I love the freedom of interpretation the piece has."

Mrs James, Lead Teacher for Art, said: "Emma has astounding technical prowess and her ability to manipulate materials and create intricate work with such an eye for detail is testament to her talent and tenacity. I was not surprised to hear that Lane himself recognised her ability as her work really is outstanding and is a fantastic addition to the Spot on the Wall exhibition. It has been such a pleasure to teach Emma and watch her talent blossom."

Emma is planning to study Criminology with Psychology at University, however she will continue with her art in her spare time and use it as a creative outlet and to relax. Emma added: "This is the first time I have had one of my pieces framed and shown in public as I usually just post on my art account on Instagram but this is a whole new level of pride that I have for my work."

Jenny Rasbeary, The Station's Gallery and Events Manager, said: "We are thrilled to be working with Richmond School and Sixth Form College again and offer the opportunity for an up-and-coming artist to showcase their work in our stunning gallery. The Spot on the Wall exhibition unites a diverse range of artwork to offer visitors an evolving display of art to enjoy and purchase. As a piece is sold, the artist can replace it with another, so the exhibition is always fresh and inspiring."

The exhibition runs until 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and more information is available [HERE](#).

You can follow Emma's art on her Instagram account [HERE](#).





## STUDENT'S WORLD WAR 1 HISTORY HOMEWORK REVEALS HEROIC RELATIVE

Whilst doing some research for his History homework, Jack Barrett, a Year 9 student, was amazed to discover a brave World War 1 hero in his family tree.

Jack's research and discussions with his Dad revealed that he is related to William Cotter, who won the Victoria Cross in the First World War.

Jack said: "I could not believe it when I found out that my Great, Great, Great Uncle was awarded the Victoria Cross. I was so excited and proud and having found out more about his incredibly heroic actions, I am so humbled by his bravery. This has really inspired me to learn more about the History of World War 1."

According to the National Army Museum, William Cotter joined 1st Battalion The Buffs in 1902 and went on to serve in India, Aden, England and Ireland before being discharged to the Reserve in February 1914. Following the outbreak of war in August 2014, he returned to the colours, despite having earlier lost the sight in his right eye. In March 1916, Cotter was serving with the 6th (Service) Battalion of The Buffs, part of 37th Brigade, 12th Eastern Division, when he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for bravery in action. His unit was attempting to take a position known as 'Triangle Crater' near the Hohenzollern Redoubt at Loos.

According to the 'London Gazette' of 28 March 1916: 'For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. When his right leg had been blown off at the knee and he had also been wounded in both arms, he made his way unaided for fifty yards to a crater, steadied the men who were holding it, controlled their fire, issued orders, and altered the dispositions of his men to meet a fresh counter-attack by the enemy. For two hours he held his position, and only allowed his wounds to be roughly dressed when the attack had quieted down. He could not be moved back for fourteen hours, and during all this time had a cheery word for all who passed him. There is no doubt that his magnificent courage helped greatly to save a critical situation'.

He lived long enough to know that he had been successfully recommended for the VC. The VC ribbon was pinned to his chest by Lieutenant-General Sir Hubert Gough, commander of I Corps, while he lay in hospital at Lillers. His wounds were so severe that he died on 14 March 1916, aged 33. His Victoria Cross medal is currently displayed in the National Army Museum. Further information about William Cotter's life can be found [here](#).

Mrs Mawer, Lead Teacher for History, said: "It was wonderful to see History come alive for Jack when he found out that his relative had been extraordinarily brave during the First World War. The class had been studying the war and from a homework task, they were able to see how the soldiers involved were real people.

"The story of William Cotter is very inspirational and gave all of us a real insight into the dangers and bravery involved. It was wonderful that Jack could share it with us and I think it inspired others to look into their own family history too."



# ACADEMIC

## YEAR 10 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STUDENTS LEARN ESSENTIAL FIRST AID SKILLS

For part of their GCSE level qualification in Health and Social Care, 28 Year 10 Health and Social Care students participated in five hours of first aid training. Delivered by Langtons Medical Training, the students were assessed in specific first aid skills and they all passed.

They performed a number of first aid procedures and had the opportunity to become proficient and confident at responding to an emergency where they had to identify whether CPR was required. They learned how to perform CPR, request a defibrillator and had the opportunity to experience how a defibrillator is used in response to an emergency.

The first aid training enabled the students to experience a simulated choking incident with the use of a “choking vest”. This enabled them to practise responding with essential first aid to the incident including the close reality and taxing response of performing abdominal thrusts.

The students also had the opportunity to simulate the experience of responding to anaphylaxis and experienced the use of two different types of epipen. In addition, they were challenged to successfully practise placing a casualty in the recovery position whilst constantly offering reassurance. Students evidence this by making it quite a noisy activity!!

In training to respond to injury resulting in bleeding from different parts of the body and applying pressure, the students developed their bandaging skills, which proved to demonstrate a variety of levels of proficiency. However the trainer said: “If it helps to stop the bleeding, that is essential first aid.”

Other first aid skills learned included responding to shock, burns and scalds.



Mrs Dawson, Lead Teacher for Health and Social Care, said: “The students all engaged in the training with enthusiasm and were determined to become confident in the first aid skills that not only contribute to their success in their GCSE, but importantly make them more valuable and responsible young members of society. If any of the students were now faced with a first aid incident they have all said that they felt more confident to be able to respond quickly and appropriately to help others in their community.”





## STUDENT LEADERS FLY THE FLAG FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Student Leaders have set the ball rolling to achieve 'Eco-School Green Flag' status by July 2022.

The seven-step programme has begun by establishing a group of student leaders who are committed to climate change. They recently presented an assembly to the whole school and are currently creating a noticeboard to keep everyone updated with their progress. The next steps include: conducting a thorough environmental review which will be completed by Christmas; drawing up an action plan and involving the whole school community in the initiative.

Mrs Weston, Lead Learning Manager for Key Stage 4, said: "Back in 2019, the student leaders identified climate change and the environment as a priority for the school.

Student leaders in the main school and sixth form worked together with the catering manager to initiate changes in the ways in which food was packaged in school. The pandemic has slowed our progress somewhat; however, the well-established Eco-School programme is reinvigorating our resolve and giving us lots of different ideas for how at Richmond School & Sixth Form College we can reduce our carbon footprint, reduce our energy consumption and have a positive impact on our environment. The student leaders have some very exciting ideas and I'm really looking forward to where this project will take us."

You can find out more about the Eco-School project [HERE](#).



## GREAT TEAM EFFORT IN TOP OF THE BENCH -A ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

Well done to Sophia (Year 11), Harry (Year 10) Daisy (Year 9) and Nathan (Year 9) for competing in this year's Top of the Bench Chemistry competition. Organised by Teesside University, this year the competition was online via zoom and included a general chemistry knowledge round and a research task.



A great team effort by the students against other schools from across the North East secured them a well-deserved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the general chemistry knowledge round. Well done team!

## STUDENTS SHOW THEIR LOVE OF READING AND CHESS

Our students are showing their love of reading by spending an increasing amount of time in the library during their lunchtimes to catch up with their favourite stories or choose from a wide selection of books to try.

There's also a thriving chess club where our Year 7 and 8 students are testing their wits against each other.





## RICHMOND SCHOOL SELECTED FOR EXCITING NATIONAL READING INITIATIVE

We are delighted to be selected for the national Reading4Normal Book Club, an online reading group scheme that aims to bring together young readers from different parts of the UK. One of only six schools involved in this exciting project, six students will have the opportunity to discuss recent British young adult (YA) novels, and to reflect on their own everyday lives and experiences.



Miss Montgomery, English Teacher, is leading the project and working with Maddie and Daisy, in Year 9, Andrew and Megan, in Year 10 and Freya and Emma, in Year 12.

Miss Montgomery said: "We are privileged to be involved in this terrific project which is not only promoting a love of reading to students but is also offering a valuable way for keen readers to make connections with other individuals at a similar life stage across the UK."



Over eight months, the students will read five novels individually and then discuss them with the students from the other five schools in Zoom meetings. The books are recent YA novels by British authors, which offer fictional representations of a diverse and contemporary Britain and include: Simon James Green's *You're the One That I Want* (2021), Danielle Jawando's *And the Stars Were Burning Brightly* (2020), Lisa Williamson's *First Day of My Life* (2020) and Nikesh Shukla's *The Boxer* (2019). Finally, they will choose between Alice Oseman's *I Was Born for This* (2018) or Maggie Harcourt's *The Pieces of Ourselves* (2020) or Manjeet Mann's *Run, Rebel* (2020).



The project will culminate in July 2022 with a Reading4Normal Zoom event with a major YA author.

The activities will be supported by training materials and expert advice from the project leader, Dr Alison Walker from the University of Roehampton.

## LEST WE FORGET

Thank you to Mrs Mawer, Lead teacher for History, for sharing a thought-provoking Remembrance assembly with our students. The assembly focused on poppies and different forms of remembrance and where they come from. Mrs Mawer worked closely with Mrs Gleave, Services Children Advocate, and our services students who have contributed to the assembly, thinking about how they remember and why it is important to them. The assembly can be viewed [here](#).

Mrs Mawer said: "I wanted to show students and staff why we have the Remembrance traditions we do and why the poppy is especially important."



## STUDENTS DELIVER FABULOUS ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY WITH A STRONG MESSAGE

The theme for this year is ONE KIND WORD and this message is being reinforced across the school to coincide with anti-bullying week.

We were really impressed with how our student leaders presented the assembly in a sensitive yet thought-provoking way. Twelve student leaders and tutor representatives from Years 8, 9 and 11 delivered the assemblies to all year groups throughout the week. Sam Weston, Lead Learning Manager, said: "We do not tolerate bullying here at Richmond School and Sixth Form College and when it happens, every attempt is made to stamp it out. However, the student leaders recognise that the students themselves need to take responsibility for maintaining a culture of kindness across the school. We hope this assembly will encourage everyone in our school to spread a little kindness everywhere they go."



You can watch the assembly [HERE](#) and find out more about anti-bullying week [HERE](#). The assembly finished with the following words which we encourage all our students to follow:

Before you speak, as yourself:

Is it true?

Is it kind?

Is it necessary?

Is it helpful?

If the answer is no, maybe what you are about to say should be left unsaid.

Thank you to Leona, Myles, Hayden and Holly (Year 8 students), Ellie, Molly and Harriet (Year 9 students) and Toby, Chloe, Osea, Grace and Charlotte (Year 11 students) for leading the assembly.



## YEAR 11 BAKE SHOW-STOPPING FOCACCIA BREAD

Year 11 students have developed their bread-making skills by baking and decorating Focaccia bread. Bread making is one of the main practical skills developed in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Hannah Tucker, Lead Teacher of Technology, said: “Students made the bread dough during one lesson then left it to prove overnight. They then demonstrated excellent knife skills by chopping different vegetables and arranging them neatly on top of the bread dough before baking. The results are certainly show-stoppers! Students enjoyed experimenting with different flavours and developing their decorative skills on their bread designs.

"If anyone is interested in baking the Focaccia bread, the recipe is [here](#). Please send any photos to me at [htucker@richmondschool.net](mailto:htucker@richmondschool.net) - we would love to see your efforts!"



## ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTERS

# Online Safety Newsletter November 2021

## Grand Theft Auto (GTA)

**18**

[www.psg.info](#)

GTA is rated 18+ by PEGI (a couple of versions are rated 16+), this is largely because of bad language, violence, glamorisation of crime and the depiction of drugs. GTA is not suitable for those under this age.

### What do I need to be aware of?

- Mature content
- In-game chat
- In-game spending - make sure your bank account details are not linked.

### Call of Duty Mobile

There is also a mobile version of Call of Duty for Android and iOS devices. Find out more about this version here:

<https://www.callofduty.com/news/call-of-duty-mobile/>

## Squid Game – rated 15+

Have you heard of Squid Game? It's one of Netflix's latest releases about a group of people participating in a series of children's games in the hope of winning a large cash prize. It has been rated 15 by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). The BBFC focus on helping you choose what is appropriate for your family to watch. You can find out why Squid Game has been rated 15 by visiting the BBFC: <https://www.bbfc.co.uk/releases/squid-game-2021#details>

Due to its current popularity, content from this show can be found on numerous other platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and Twitter. So your child may come across this show without even finding it on Netflix. Content may range from trailers of the show or content that other people create such as memes, reenactments and games.

### What can I do?

- Parental Controls**  
Set up appropriate parental controls on your broadband, devices and on individual apps.
- Talk**  
Chat to your child about age-appropriate content, and discuss how to handle inappropriate content, such as cyberbullying or sexual abuse.
- Individual Profiles**  
Set up child profiles on any streaming services to ensure your child is only viewing content appropriate for them.
- Reporting**  
Make sure your child knows how to report and block on all platforms that they use.
- Explore**  
Watch and explore things online together so you can see what your child is doing and how to support them.

## WHAT PARENTS AND CARERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NETFLIX

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The parents' control "tool" in children consuming on-demand content as many families raised their screen-time kids have a diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix parents and carers can use parental controls to restrict what children can watch. However, it's important to ensure the same user account isn't on an adult, as this could allow them to access inappropriate content. Netflix has a parental control system that allows parents to set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch.

## BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to skip ahead to the next episode, which can lead to binge-watching. Parents can set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch.

## HACKING ATTEMPTS

Netflix has a security feature that allows users to see who is watching the same content. However, it's important to ensure the same user account isn't on an adult, as this could allow them to access inappropriate content. Netflix has a parental control system that allows parents to set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Netflix has a security feature that allows users to see who is watching the same content. However, it's important to ensure the same user account isn't on an adult, as this could allow them to access inappropriate content. Netflix has a parental control system that allows parents to set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

Netflix can be addictive, and it's important to ensure the same user account isn't on an adult, as this could allow them to access inappropriate content. Netflix has a parental control system that allows parents to set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch. Parents can also set up a profile for their child, which restricts what they can watch.

# ACADEMIC

## AN AMAZING BUT UNASSUMING EVENING WITH SIMON ARMITAGE, POET LAUREATE



Florence Hall, in Year 13, attended the 'encore author event' in Richmond's Walking and Books Festival, to listen to Simon Armitage. The Poet Laureate was on stage at the Georgian Theatre Royal for a reading of his work. Summing up as 'an amazing but unassuming evening', Florence has written a review for you to enjoy.

Coming on stage, Armitage, from Marsden, West Yorkshire, humbly accepted clattering applause and thanked us for waiting – a clever move as this seamlessly faded into his first poem 'Thank you for waiting'. Within the first few lines, the audience was howling with laughter, as the sardonic interrogation of wealth and class dynamics seemed to land with the audience that night. I think it was such a hit because Armitage knew exactly what he was saying and who he was saying it to. Afterwards, he commented that he'd read the same poem in Harrogate with little effect. The way that he opened with a poem – no insincere thanks or self-promotion – really showed that he was here to read poetry and had thought carefully about his selection and order for the evening.

Armitage was introduced as being at home in poetry readings, and this was certainly evident from his performance. I could not distinguish his 'poetry voice' from his speaking voice, as his dialogue and work ran into one another, in his great Yorkshire tone, making the evening feel particularly friendly. Between each poem he would gently take off his glasses and rest them on the wooden lectern, amongst a spread of his own anthologies and prose paragraphs, before saying something incredibly wise or offering a dry comment, whether that be on his own work, his experiences on the Pennine way or William Wordsworth.

As 'Magnetic Field' was the poet's most recent publication of poetry, I was pleasantly surprised at the range of work he chose to read. I especially enjoyed hearing poems of his I hadn't read before; as a big Armitage fan, I think there is something rather special about a first-time hearing being from the poet himself. Amongst his poems was a reading from his recently published translation of the middle-English poem 'The Owl and the Nightingale', showing that he is a leading translator as much as he is a leading poet. He perfectly captured the debate between the two birds, bringing such an old poem into the modern age, with a distinct Armitage style.

Touching slightly on the pandemic and how relieving it was to be back in performance spaces, Armitage read 'The song thrush and the mountain ash', lyrics initially composed for Huddersfield choral society, in response to the pandemic. It was certainly a poignant moment as Armitage's gentle, conversational tone made the poem feel applicable to the entire audience; a stark reminder that although enjoying live performances again, the pandemic was still present. We were mostly in awe at how he captured the essence of the pandemic in so few, simple words.

The house lights then came up and Armitage invited people to ask questions. A few brave people did venture to ask something – I think most of us were struck dumb by his sheer brilliance. What I liked most about this was that he spoke directly to the audience and gave candid answers, allowing us to see how the poet worked and thought in relation to things other than poetry.

The Georgian Theatre was the perfect venue for Simon Armitage to perform in. Its small size meant you could see the whole audience from wherever you were sat and feel the shared wonder at such an amazing but unassuming evening.

By Florence Hall, Year 13 student





## ANDIE MAKES HER CAREER IN THE MILITARY POLICE

Andie Jones is bursting with pride as she embarks on a career in the Military Police. Having completed her basic training, Andie is now well on her way to completing her police training and her ambition is to become an RAF dog handler. With a passion for sport, a fabulous team player and never one to give up, Andie is demonstrating many of our school values, of which Respect and Resilience are also core values of the RAF. We are so grateful to Andie for sparing the time to offer some advice to any students who are considering a career in the RAF, and the many opportunities available to what makes it such a great organisation to work for.



I decided to join the military police as it is a great opportunity to be part of a close-knit family, as is all of the RAF, but you may also get to save lives further down the line in your career. The military have a great lifestyle with many benefits for their personnel. You have the opportunity to go on deployment and travel to various parts of the world, for me this was a big selling point. The trade I have picked is very rewarding and I think being in the RAF is a massive reward in itself and something that I am very proud of myself for. I am very interested in going into dog handling as my career progresses.

I joined up in May 2020, started my training on 13th July 2021 and graduated on the 6th October. My training was ten weeks and consisted of many different challenges, both mentally and physically. My family and friends have been a massive support to me during this time, as there were parts that I really struggled with but when we graduated and I saw my parents and younger brother for the first time in eight weeks it was all worth it to see how proud I had made them. I could not have done it without their support.

Since graduating, I had three weeks off to recover and have some down time with my family and friends, and then I headed to Portsmouth to start my 22 weeks of police training to become qualified. In this time, I will learn about law enforcement duties (including civilian and service legislation), investigations, reporting and recording of service and civilian offences, personnel training, arrest procedures and police interviews. I will also be trained in the principles of security which include: personnel security, protective security, counter terrorism and aviation security and much more. As I wish to go for dog handling I am hoping to be selected for dog-handling duties and then have a training period where I will be taught how to care for and work with the RAF police dogs. I will also have the chance to enrol on an advanced level 3 security first line management apprenticeship.

My current rank is Aircraftsman (AC). Once I have passed my training I will become an Acting Corporal and will be posted to a station permanently somewhere in the UK where I will start serving as Police. I won't find out where my posting will be until I have finished the training.

So far, my favourite part has been the people. I have met some exceptional people who will definitely be friends for life! Living with the same people for ten weeks is something we had never experienced before and to say that we all came out the other end strong is an understatement! Also the challenges that I have faced whilst being there both mentally and physically have made me realise that I am stronger than I think, certainly mentally. Whatever I put my mind to, I can do and I won't give up. It changes you as a person, it gives you a new sense of pride and purpose.

Throughout my career I'd definitely like to climb the rank ladder, working hard and doing my best at everything. I'd like to try different sections of the Police and see where it takes me, deployments are high on my list, hopefully many of them!!

If I were to give students advice I would just say 'Don't give up, anything is possible if you put your mind to it.' If you are wanting to join the RAF then definitely do it! There are so many benefits and it has a healthier lifestyle and they are always there to support you, no matter what situation you are in. The RAF is a massive family and there is always someone you can talk to, most of all you will make friends for life! Work hard and you will achieve anything you want to.

# ALUMNI

The RAF are looking for people with the right attitude, who are willing to always do the right thing no matter the situation. RISE: Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence. These are the core values of the RAF, if you have all of these you are most likely going to succeed. These are the core values that they look for in their personnel and what the RAF is made from.

Experiences I had during school and college definitely helped me when I was training. I took part in various sports events which developed my leadership skills, growing my self-confidence and this helped me a lot with verified activities whilst being away. Having sport being a big part of my life has always taught me to be resilient and not give up if you want something, this definitely helped when we went away on exercise for five days - it was the best but worst week of my life! It mentally made me stronger as there were times I wanted to give up but I thought about the end result and the people I had around me supported me.

Teachers at school, especially my sport teachers, helped to teach me resilience, teamwork, excellence and being an individual. They always believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. PE was always my favourite subject throughout all my educational years as it was physically demanding and always pushed me further than I thought I could go. This has definitely been a big help for me during my training. I would like to say a massive thank you to the PE staff at Richmond for always doing their best!



## FORMER STUDENT GAVE HIS LIFE FOR A PATIENT IN WORLD WAR 1

We are proud to share information about Captain John Brydon, a former student, who was a doctor with 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. On 27th June 1917, in trenches near Bayencourt, north east of Amiens, tragedy struck. A German shell landed in the British lines bursting a supply of chlorine gas cylinders. The gas infiltrated the nearby aid station in which John was working. His duty being to the men in his care, he gave his gas mask to one of his patients, and in doing so gave his life for him.

The Royal Army Medical Corps' (RAMC) motto is 'In Arduis Fidelis', accepted as meaning 'Steadfast in Adversity' – Captain Brydon epitomised the motto he wore on his cap. When war was declared Brydon volunteered, was commissioned into the RAMC and was in the front line by April 1915. He was severely wounded, losing an eye but, despite this, he sought a return to the army.

The Green Howards Museum have published a most interesting article about Captain Brydon which you can read in full [HERE](#).



Sean Godfrey, local Historian, forwarded the information about Captain Brydon to us. Sean has recently been to the Battlefields on a walking and research visit and located Captain Brydon's grave and he sent us some photographs. Thank you to Sean for kindly placing a cross on his grave with the message: 'From your friends at Richmond School, RIP'.





# ALUMNI

## DAN BOWIE, CIVIL ENGINEER AT TAYLOR WOODROW

For students who are interested in a career in Civil Engineering, alumnus Dan Bowie offers a wealth of information and advice on scholarship and apprenticeship opportunities, careers and getting into the industry. After graduating with a first-class honours degree in Civil Engineering, Dan works for Taylor Woodrow and is currently working on HS2.

I attended Richmond School from Year 7 to 11 and enjoyed it so much I stayed to complete my A-levels at the Sixth Form College. I graduated in 2013, with A-Levels in Maths, Physics and Business Studies (ABB). Achieving an A in Maths was in no small part thanks to the late, great Mr Gedye who taught some of my A-level classes. I also proudly hold a B in AS German thanks to Mr Potter's hard work keeping me focused in lessons and offering me an outlet on the hockey pitches!

I left Richmond, having already achieved a place to study MEng Civil Engineering at The University of Sheffield to undertake a 'gap staff' year long programme based at Regents International School in Thailand. As well as working, I made the most of the opportunity travelling around the surrounding countries including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Before taking up my place at University, I applied and successfully received the ICE QUEST Scholarship. This fantastic programme now offers up to £2,000/year of your degree in addition to paid summer placements with the best Tier 1 contractors and consultants based around the UK. I cannot recommend this programme enough – you can find out more [HERE](#)

I received the scholarship in partnership with VINCI Construction UK (VCUK), the UK based arm of the giant French-based international construction and concessions company. Through this I received £2,500 / year (it has since dropped to £2,000) and paid placements every summer working on Crossrail in London.

In 2018 I graduated with a First-Class Honours Degree in Civil Engineering, having also completed one year of my degree at The University of Alberta in Canada, as part of a study abroad programme.

Following the scholarship with VCUK, I joined their Civil Engineering arm 'Taylor Woodrow' full-time in November 2018 working on the M6 J2-4 Smart Motorway Upgrade based in Birmingham. In February 2020, following the completion of the motorway project, I began working on our HS2 project – again based in Birmingham. This has been an incredibly rewarding project so far, having never been involved in pre-construction before I was thrown into the deep end working in the bridges team. We are only a small team planning the construction of highly complex structures over and under motorways, watercourses and existing railway infrastructure.

Since graduation, I've been building my knowledge and experience in order to achieve the title of Chartered Engineer (CEng). This is an internationally recognised title awarded to engineers by the world's oldest professional engineering body – the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE). As part of this I will shortly be undertaking a 12-month design-based secondment to assist me in achieving some of the attributes associated with the chartered engineer status. I hope to achieve CEng in 2023!

Please feel free to contact me on [Daniel.Bowie@taylorwoodrow.com](mailto:Daniel.Bowie@taylorwoodrow.com) if you're looking for advice on getting into the industry or the scholarship!

Link to ['gap staff'](#) opportunities.



## EMILY HAS FOUND HER DREAM JOB IN EDUCATION

It has been wonderful to see Emily Treweek, former student, as a regular visitor to our primary sports events over the last few weeks, in her new role at Sacred Heart Primary School. Emily is no stranger to taking part in these transition activities, as throughout her sixth form studies, alongside other students, she regularly led a whole host of events, from netball to cross country, multi-skills to panathlon.

Lynsey Carruthers, PE Teacher and school games organiser, said: "We are really enjoying welcoming Emily back to school and to see her working in a role that is made for her - when she was a student sports leader, Emily always supported the students, made them feel at ease and encouraged them to do their best. Her skills and experience will be invaluable in her new position."



We were delighted to catch up with Emily and see how happy she is working at Sacred Heart Primary School and to hear how she is progressing in her career there, as well as how she felt about returning to Richmond School in her new role.

Emily said: "After spending last year working as a 1:1, this year I was given the opportunity to teach PE and forest school along with running interventions for specific children. My headteacher approached me in February and asked if I wanted to complete my HLTA (higher level teaching assistant) qualification along with a level 3 forest school practitioner course. Both of these were opportunities I couldn't turn down. Since leading the sports events at Richmond School, I have wanted to work in education but I never imagined being given all of these opportunities after such a short period of time.

"When one of my Year 6 pupils came to me and asked 'Miss Treweek, what is your dream job?' It filled me with great joy to be able to tell her that this is my dream job. I get to come to work every day to a school filled with amazing, unique individuals and colleagues who support me in everything I do. I am able to teach the subject, which for me was a firm favourite, and inspire the children I teach to find a love for it too. I felt an immense sense of pride when I was able to return to Richmond School with my Year 1 and 2 pupils for the Key Stage 1 multi-skills event. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities, which were very smoothly run by Lynsey Carruthers and the student sports leaders. For all of the children I took, this was the first sports competition they have been to and it will certainly be one that they remember. From stepping on the bus in the morning and getting off again in the afternoon the children were smiling from ear to ear, there was not a second that they didn't enjoy. I was so proud to be able to take my pupils and colleagues to Richmond School, they were able to meet some of the teachers who have played a key part in helping me get to where I am now and I was able to introduce my pupils to these teachers. All of my students behaved impeccably and I was incredibly proud to be alongside them in representing our school.

"When we returned to school after the event, I worked with my Year 1 and 2 pupils to write some reflections on their experience. One of the Year 2 girls wrote 'Richmond School was big, fun and very busy. I felt nervous but then I had fun and I enjoyed it a lot. There were a lot of people and it was very exciting. My favourite game was speed bounce.'

"Returning to Richmond School allowed me to reflect on the full cycle that I have completed. I have gone from the leader who quietly helped in the background, to a leader who found their confidence and passion and finally to a PE lead who now takes their pupils to such events. I am so proud to say that I have come from Richmond School and Sixth Form College and equally as proud to say I now work at Sacred Heart."



# ALUMNI

## SAM DEVLIN, WEAPONS SYSTEMS OFFICER IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Sam Devlin joined the RAF in September 2020 and following his officer training at RAF Cranwell he is currently undertaking specialist training to become a Weapons Systems Officer. We are most grateful to Sam for taking the time to do a Q and A with us, in which he offers some fabulous advice for any students who are considering a career in the RAF.

**Did you join the RAF straight after your A-levels or did you go to university first?** I went to university before joining. It took longer than expected to join up because I was keen to continue my master's degree research as a PhD. After graduating, I worked in medical information whilst I applied for a PhD. The pivotal moment came when I was unable to secure funding for the PhD project, so I applied to the RAF and was later accepted to join as a Weapons Systems Officer.

**When did you join the RAF, how long was the training at Cranwell and what did that entail?** I joined the RAF in September 2020 and I spent the first 6 months undergoing Modularised Initial Officer Training, before going on to train in my specialist branch. The course aims to develop your leadership and management skills, as well as your physical and mental resilience. The course is modularised which means it is split into four 6-week terms. This allows the course to have multiple start points for officer cadets, based on their previous experience and qualifications.

**Where are you based now and what is your role?** I am currently based at RAF Cranwell and I am undertaking my specialist training to become a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO). As part of my role, there are a number of pre-requisite courses that I must complete as part of my pre-employment training. This involves visiting the Centre of Aviation Medicine at RAF Henlow, to learn how the human body reacts to the airborne environment. You also get to experience disorientation and hypoxia while you are there, which is super interesting! I have also completed the Permissive Land Survival and Aircrew Maritime Survival courses which teach you how to survive if your aircraft ditches over land or sea respectively.

**Will you go on to specialise in a particular field?** Yes, as a WSO you could either get streamed towards a land or maritime platform. Both roles involve managing an array of sensors and weapons on a particular aircraft system during operational missions. If you opt for the land route, then you could end up providing overland support for ground forces using aircraft such as: Rivet Joint, Shadow, or Protector. If you chose the maritime route, then you could end up on the P-8 Poseidon helping to track ships and enemy submarines or conduct long-range search-and-rescue missions.

I am currently training to be a maritime WSO. As a result, I spent my summer studying at the military aviation ground school to learn about principles of flight, flight instruments, aircraft systems, navigation, flight planning, and meteorology. I am now due to start the next phase of my training at RNAS Culdrose, which involves live flying and utilising simulators to manage an array of aircraft systems. Once I come back to RAF Cranwell to complete the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance course, I will then progress onto an Operational Conversion Unit where I will spend up to six months training on my chosen aircraft platform.

**What are your career aspirations in the RAF?** In terms of career aspirations, I aim to become a qualified WSO instructor and train RAF aircrew. With experience, there is also the opportunity to move up the ranks. The RAF is continuously involved in training exercises and operations around the world, so I am looking forward to working alongside our partners and allies in the near future. There is also the exciting introduction of Cyberspace and UK Space Command branches, which offer plenty of opportunities for career progression. So, we shall just have to wait and see!



# ALUMNI

## What advice would you give to any students who are considering a career in the RAF?

I would encourage anyone who is considering a career in the RAF to contact their local Armed Forces Careers Office as well as to try and speak to currently serving RAF personnel. You can request station visits via the RAF recruitment team to help you with your research towards a particular job role. If you are in school or college then I would highly recommend looking at joining the local Air Cadets, or if you are heading to university, then the University Air Squadron is a fantastic society to join.

With regards to the application process, I would recommend joining a sports club, finding a hobby, or taking part in extra-curricular activities. The RAF take particular interest in well-rounded individuals who can work as part of a team, have good communication skills, and can demonstrate the potential to lead and manage people.

Finally, I found preparation, perseverance, and flexibility to be key when considering an RAF career.

I applied twice unsuccessfully to join as a pilot during my university years before I was later accepted as a WSO. In hindsight, it probably made me even more determined to join up! The application process can seem daunting at first, but I would advise anyone going through it to take it one step at a time, put the time and effort in to prepare for each stage, and most importantly: be yourself!



## What are the key attributes/qualities required to succeed in the RAF?

Life in the RAF can be fantastic, but it can have moments that test your limits and resolve. A good officer will rise to the challenge with enthusiasm and strive to get the job done right, in a timely manner, while supporting those around them in the process. The RAF often work in challenging and hazardous environments, and so the way we can achieve success under these circumstances is through motivated, capable, and self-disciplined individuals. At its core values, the RAF strives to put respect, integrity, service, and excellence above all else. I think having the courage and determination to keep pushing yourself are great qualities to have, especially when it starts to get tough. We also aim to be flexible and adaptable to an ever-changing environment, so it is important to have good communication skills and a good awareness and understanding of both the situation and other people's perspective.

## What are you enjoying most about your job?

The camaraderie is one of the best parts of the job as the people you meet on a daily basis create an amazing environment to work in. As part of the mission aircrew, you find that everyone wants each other to succeed, and so there is a great community feel whenever you are in the crew room or Officers' Mess. It is also a bit of a cliché, but no day is the same in the RAF. I have recently helped to organise a graduation, visited the Air Traffic Control Tower, and even managed to get a few flights on the Phenom jet that is used to train our multi-engine pilots.

## Did your teachers and the careers department support you with your studies and plans to join the RAF?

My teachers were very supportive of my studies and I did have a couple of discussions with the careers department on various career paths. The biggest challenge for me was deciding what career I wanted to pursue and sticking to it. In hindsight, I would have definitely asked more questions about my career options and tried to gain some experience relating to them too.



# HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Lucy Chandler, in Year 11, was nominated by Mrs Collier, who said: "Lucy completed her Duke of Edinburgh expedition last weekend despite having dislocated a rib on Saturday morning.

"As you can imagine she was in a world of pain, but true to her nature Lucy did not give up. I am immensely proud of Lucy's determination, strength of character and positive attitude, not just this weekend but throughout her school career.

"She is one of those students that just always gets on with it no matter how big the challenge"

(w/e 22nd Oct)



Abbey Sankey, in Year 10, was nominated by Ms Lambert, who said: "I would like to nominate Abbey for the Headteacher's Values Award. Abbey had an operation on her ear just before half-term and has had to spend a lot of her time working in the pastoral base, which isn't always easy.

"The resilience she has shown in coming back to school and catching up on work she has missed is brilliant. Abbey works hard in every lesson and has started to attend the ones she is able to, and she consistently ensures she is up-to-date with the work set while working remotely.

"Abbey talks passionately about what she would like to do when she leaves school and is determined to get the grades she needs to become a paediatrician. Abbey is always quick to offer support to other students in the base, helping with any problems they may have with their work. Well done Abbey."

(w/e 12th Nov)



Haris Ali, in Year 7, was nominated by Mrs O' Malley, who wrote: "I would like to nominate Haris for Excellence. We are exploring Bollywood this half term and Haris is very enthusiastic as he explores this style within his culture.

"Haris watches many Bollywood films and has been exposed to this style from a young age. With this in mind, Haris has led his tutor group today teaching them actions used in Bollywood.

Alongside this, Haris was teaching different sides of the room different actions to show action and reaction and was able to count them in and add counts to all their moves to improve the performers use of timing and speed which is very important for the style.

"Haris was very confident, projected his voice and led the class with clear verbal instruction and positive encouragement.

"I can't wait to involve Haris more by leading parts of the lesson to help prepare students for their upcoming assessment. The group is very lucky to have such an inspiring and knowledgeable student in their class."

(w/e 19th Nov)



# HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Leo Russo, in Year 11, was nominated by Mr Moore, who said: "Leo is a keen basketballer and he has assembled a lovely group of Year 11 students who have been coming along after school on Tuesdays and Fridays every week to practise which has resulted in us entering them into the U16 Area Basketball Rally (a competition we don't usually enter). The training sessions organised after school for the group are 100% pupil led and consist of Leo taking the group through skills practices and games where Leo will play, coach and referee. He has shown fantastic leadership skills and is encouraging, knowledgeable and commands respect from the others in the group."

"The team went to the U16 Rally where they really did themselves and the school proud. They were, as expected, a pleasure to take to the rally to represent the school. When we arrived it was made clear to me that only 2 of the 10 students had ever played a full context game before. They were very impressive and won their first game against Thirsk 20-6, lost their second to the eventual winners 6-13, and lost their third 2-11 but ensured everyone who attended got plenty of minutes. We now have plans to ensure this isn't their only fixture before the end of the academic year so we look forward to seeing how they progress together."

(w/e 26th November)



Archie Thompson, in Year 9, was nominated by Miss Ridley, who said: "I'd like to nominate Archie for demonstrating the school's values of Excellence and Creativity. Since Year 7, Archie has progressed massively in terms of his confidence; evidenced by his willingness to put his hand up in tutor and lessons not only to ask for help but to contribute to class discussion. This growth in Archie's confidence became particularly apparent when, as part of Learning for Life, my tutees were asked to practise their entrepreneurial skills by creating a product that could fit through a letterbox. The students designed them over a series of four lessons and were asked to present them in the fourth so we could have a little competition."

Archie was the only student in the class prepared to stand at the front and market his idea, which he did with passion and humour (he even brought in a prop). He was absolutely brilliant. It was so lovely to watch Archie flourish and really embrace the creativity of the task. Well done Archie!



(w/e 3rd Dec)

Ellis Hepper, in Year 10, was nominated by Mr Birdsall, who said: "Ellis has been a HUGE help for the Performing Arts department this term. We always struggle with the technical elements of shows, Aiming High assemblies and examinations etc and I really needed someone to step up to the mark and take the reins. Ellis has most certainly done this. He has shown huge amounts of Excellence, Teamwork and Respect, which I greatly appreciate."

"Ellis has alleviated our workload by splitting the Year 11 and Year 12 cohort and working with the exam groups on their lighting. I know that his lighting knowledge is highly appreciated by both the Dance and Drama GCSE and A-Level students. Ellis has given up his four of his evenings this week alone and even his break times, to facilitate rehearsals and work with our examination students to rig, plot and program their lighting for their examination performances. Ellis has worked closely with these students and has done so in an extremely professional manner, having to adapt to their constant lighting and technical needs."

"Ellis is a real asset to the department and I would be lost without him during this examination time. I know the students have also spoken to Ellis to praise and thank him for the support and the time he has given them."

(w/e 10th Dec)



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



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TERM

As another busy and productive term draws to a close, we hope you enjoy looking back on some of the highlights.

