

Welcome to our February Newsletter - Once again, it has been a busy and successful half-term, despite the obvious challenges the pandemic continues to pose. Our Year 11 and 13 students have just completed their all important PPEs (Pre-Public-Examinations). Our hearts genuinely went out to all the students involved- whilst they have all done in-school assessments before, they have not had the usual run up to this summer's public examinations and without any doubt, the challenge for them this summer will be greater than ever. That said, the students acquitted themselves impeccably and almost without exception, have bought into the school's key messages about learning, both in lessons and at home. We will, of course, be looking at the results very carefully, on both a student by student and departmental basis and will be working hard with both students and parents to ensure that the lead up to the examinations this summer is as focused and helpful as possible.

Apprenticeship Week last week was a real cause for celebration. We actively encourage students to consider apprenticeships as Post 16 and Post 18 progression routes as we know they are an excellent option for those who enjoy a vocational approach to learning. It has been heart-warming to hear from members of our alumni, who are now successfully forging their way ahead in the world of work via a number of apprenticeship routes. I hope you enjoy the articles relating to apprenticeships in this newsletter.

Whilst there is no doubt that Covid remains with us for now and its legacy will be here for some time, there are signs that some of the great things that happened in school before the pandemic are starting to return. In recent weeks we have held a number of popular and successful primary sport events, primary students are visiting us again to take part in our Science taster sessions, initial plans for the reintroduction of the Year 11 and Year 13 Proms are being made, we are reviewing and building up our extra-curricular offer across both the school and college again and 48 Year 10 students have recently completed the first part of their Duke of Edinburgh training. Our commitment to enhancing all elements of our students' experience of education is stronger than ever and as always, we remain grateful for the support offered by our parent body - education is very much about us all working together to ensure the very best experience and outcomes for our students

I really hope that you are able to enjoy a peaceful half-term break. We look forward to the second half of the Easter term, as the evenings and mornings become lighter and there is a feeling of spring in the air.

Best wishes

Jenna Potter
Headteacher



Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week - turn to pages 31-37.



Students are among the top problem solvers in the country - find out more on page 28.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

STUDENTS COOK UP TASTY DOG TREATS TO SUPPORT BLUE CROSS

Two dog-loving friends have cooked up their own tasty dog treats to raise money to support Blue Cross, the animal rehoming centre in Thirsk.

Ruben Putt and Addison Grange, Year 10 students, were keen to support Blue Cross and Ruben came up with the idea of making and selling dog biscuits. The charity is very close to their hearts as they are both animal lovers and Ruben's dog Benny, an English Bull Terrier Cross, came from Blue Cross aged four in 2016, so he wanted to give something back to thank them for the joy that he has brought his family.

Ruben initially found a recipe online and then adapted it with additional ingredients, the main ones being: plain flour, vegetable oil and water. Their small and large bone-shaped biscuits are available in four flavours – peanut butter, doggie chocolate chip, veggie stock or beef stock. The biscuits keep up to a month and are suitable for freezing. The friends sell the biscuits in packs of 5 for £2.50 or 10 for £5.00, with a special half-price offer for first-time purchases. So far, they have raised £122 for Blue Cross.

Ruben and Addison said: "We have really enjoyed spending our spare time making dog biscuit treats and as animal lovers we really wanted to support Blue Cross as they do so much to care for animals, including dogs, cats and ponies. Animal welfare is so important to us and we want to encourage others who are thinking of getting a dog or cat to consider rehoming one from Blue Cross."

Clients have included dog-owning friends and families, teachers and others who have heard of their offer by word-of-mouth. Customer Tom Braham, Assistant Headteacher said: "My dog Tina, who is a Poochon, absolutely loves Ruben and Addison's biscuits. As soon as she sees one she becomes very excited – she likes all the flavours but peanut butter is her favourite!"

The local Blue Cross Centre is at Thirsk and, each year, thousands of cats, dogs, small pets and horses turn to their animal hospitals, clinics and rehoming services for treatment to find them the happy homes they deserve. In addition, their education and behaviour teams prepare future pet owners to take responsibility to look after their pets. Jenny Day, Volunteer Coordinator at Blue Cross, said: "The team at Blue Cross Thirsk are so impressed with the initiative these two young people have shown, and the empathy they have evidenced for the dogs in our care. Life in kennels is very stressful for our dogs, and this act of kindness from Ruben and Addison has shown they understand this, and wanted to do something positive to help them. Thank you both for generously raising money in support of our centre, and the dogs thoroughly enjoyed the biscuits too!"

Addison and Ruben both spend a lot of time caring for their pets. Addison has 9-month old Daisy and 2-year-old Rex, both Labrador Retrievers, JR, a 10-year-old Jack Russell and a cat called Elsa. As well as Benny, his English Bull Terrier Cross, Ruben has eight fish, including ghost carp, golden carp, shubunkin, sarasa comet and golden orfe. The dedicated duo have plans to continue with their fundraising and other projects they are planning include a bake sale for Blue Cross, which they hope other students may be able to support them with by baking items to sell.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, concluded: "I was so thrilled to hear about Ruben and Addison's wonderful fundraising project – what an imaginative and clever idea which has clearly been very popular with their canine customers! It is so heartening to hear of young people doing so much good in the community, for important charities such as Blue Cross, but also setting a great example to other students about giving something back and supporting others."



IN THE COMMUNITY

AALIYAH MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Aaliyah, in Year 9, is supporting StoreHouse, the food bank in Richmond. Aaliyah found out about volunteering opportunities from Elevate, the local youth group she attends at the Influence Church. Over ten weeks, she is helping with a wide range of tasks to support those in need in the community. In December, Aaliyah put hampers together, as well as stocking the food bank shelves and checking sell-by dates on donations.

During January, she will continue to work on other projects including baby bundles and the school uniform bank.



Aaliyah said: "I am really enjoying working at StoreHouse, knowing that I am helping to make a difference to the lives of those who need a little extra support. I am learning lots of new skills and really enjoy being part of a team. I would like to thank Suz and everyone at StoreHouse for giving me this opportunity."

Suz Gregory, Former Community Manager and Volunteer at Store House, added: "It is wonderful to see Aaliyah's commitment to her work and whatever she does, she does it with a smile on her face. She is working really well with students from other local schools and is a great team player. It has been a pleasure to watch her confidence grow. Aaliyah has a strong work ethic and I am really proud of her.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "I was delighted to hear about the fantastic work that Aaliyah is doing for StoreHouse. She embodies our school values of respect, teamwork and resilience and is a great role model for our students."

STUDENT PRAISED FOR STEWARDSHIP

Congratulations to Lydia Cooper, in Year 12, who has been recognised in the SFX School Awards. A former SFX student, Lydia was presented with the Award for Stewardship.

The Head of Key Stage 4 at SFX said: "As Head Student Lydia cared for everyone, she was so hard working, so conscientious, her uniform was always immaculate and her manners impeccable and she really was a caring young lady, reliable and a real pleasure to work with. So thank you Lydia for everything you did. She also helped massively when we came across the Valentine's rose opportunity, normally we would do this; going into classrooms delivering roses, but obviously things were a little bit different throughout KS4 for this year group, so these were designed and delivered virtually, so thank you for all your help with that Lydia."

Well done Lydia, this is something to be very proud of.



IN THE COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS AND CALL OUT FOR ADULT VOLUNTEERS

1st Brompton-on-Swale Scout group is returning to Catterick Village. If you have a child, aged between 6 and 14, who is interested in going along then please email Steve on 1stbromptononswalegsl@gmail.com for more information.



The group has a number of adult volunteering opportunities across all sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts), both in and out of uniform. So if you are looking to gain new skills, enjoy adventures and fun, want to support young people and have a couple of hours a week to help, then please contact Steve if you would like to join the team.

REBOOT NORTH YORKSHIRE – RECYCLING YOUR UNWANTED DEVICES

Do you have an old laptop, mobile or tablet that's gathering dust in your home? Then why not donate it to Reboot North Yorkshire and help people who are socially isolated get online to keep in touch with family, friends and other groups which offer them support. Reboot North Yorkshire refurbishes old devices before they are distributed to those in need, such as laptops, mobile phones and tablets but also webcams, keyboards, chargers and data dongles. The scheme has helped many people, including school pupils and pensioners, establish the internet links that have helped them through the isolation of the pandemic. Pre-pandemic, around 30 per cent of North Yorkshire's population had no, or limited, internet use.



Since the scheme was launched, 625 computers, smartphones and other devices have been donated through Reboot to socially isolated individuals. Reboot North Yorkshire is a collaborative project which is led by North Yorkshire County Council and involves a wide range of partners across the county – including libraries, schools, businesses, charities and volunteers. Further information about the scheme can be found [HERE](#). The local drop-off point in Richmond is the Community Library.

NORTHERN YOUTH VOICES ARE RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Northern Youth Voices are recruiting new members. A number of our students already perform with Northern Youth Voices and really enjoy it. There is currently space for new members as they are launching a separate senior section! All young people are welcome, but they would particularly love to hear from teenagers. This is what one member says: "There's so many performing opportunities; it's a nice, safe environment where you are not judged but encouraged to just go for it! It's a good stress relief from my GCSEs... I really enjoy it"

There are no auditions and the first session is free. You can enjoy singing pop and contemporary songs in a fun and caring environment, directed by MD Debbie Allenby. Monday 6-7pm (ages 6-10 years) and 7-8pm (10-16+ years). The choir meets at Richmondshire Rugby Club and sessions are just £3 per week.

For further information message via [facebook](#), email northernyouthvoices@gmail.com or call 07789 071425.



IN THE COMMUNITY

GREAT TEAMWORK DURING DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING WEEKEND

Fifty Year 10 students took part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training weekend where they learned vital skills, including map reading, first aid, tent-erecting and cooking, in preparation for their expedition later in the year. Supported by the staff at Marrick Priory and Mr Potter, over two weekends, the students were all in good spirits, in spite of walking in some extreme weather conditions, including high winds.

Philippa Kind said: "D of E was a great team building opportunity where we learned how to map read and we gained important knowledge of survival, including CPR and how to build a tent. Although the winds were horrific, we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the next tasks to come."

Cameron Smith added: "It was a great opportunity to learn valuable outdoor skills which will help us to achieving our D of E Bronze award. It was also amazing to see the beauty of the moors near Reeth and learn about some of the locations up there too."



Mr Potter said: "All the groups demonstrated excellent teamwork in extremely challenging conditions and are now looking forward to their expeditions in May and June when we hope the weather will be kinder to them! During the walk over Grinton Moor, some of the students passed the stunning bench that has been built from local stone in memory of Mr Clark. This was one of Mr Clark's favourite places and the students paused for a few minutes to remember him."



READY FOR NCS? SIGN UP NOW!

Are you a Year 11 student looking for an unforgettable summer experience? Then look no further than the NCS programme which offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something meaningful with your summer break, as well as a chance to develop skills and take on new challenges that will set you up for adult life. You'll also do something good for your local community, carrying out a social action project to support a cause you care about. We've seen first-hand what an amazing feeling of accomplishment and increased confidence this brings. Throughout the pandemic, teenagers on NCS donated well over 200,000 hours of their time to help rebuild their communities after the first lockdown, showing what a difference young people can make when they work together towards a goal.

Students can now register their interest for a place [HERE](#). Yorkshire Cricket Foundation are the local Delivery Partners for NCS and we are excited to be working with them again. A place on NCS is worth around £1200. However, thanks to government funding for the programme, they only ask for a contribution of £50 to cover some basic costs. This summer, the programme runs for two consecutive weeks on the following dates:

Week 1: Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August (Residential trip) and
week 2: Monday 8th August – Friday 12th August (Based in Richmond)



IN THE COMMUNITY

SQUAD – AN EXCITING NEW EIGHT-EPISODE PODCAST FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The military charity 'Little Troopers', which supports all military children who have parent(s) serving in our British Armed Forces, regular or reserve, have released SQUAD, a series of Podcasts. SQUAD is an exciting new eight-episode series specifically aimed at military teenagers. Presented by TV and radio broadcaster, Katie Thistleton (whose credits include working on BBC Radio 1 and CBBC) and Leicester Tigers rugby star, Thom Smith - who also grew up as a service child - the professionally produced podcast is the first of its kind to give a platform to military teens to share their views on Armed Forces life.

You can enjoy the podcasts [HERE](#).

Recorded in an engaging and energetic format, Katie and Thom will speak to 15 military teenagers as they discuss their personal experiences of being a military child and explore some of the unique challenges that service children face including deployment and separation, schooling, moving home, having a serving parent and forming friendships. The aim of the podcast is to help military teenagers feel supported by recognising they are part of a large community of children who have similar life experiences.

To find about more about the work Little Troopers do, visit www.littletroopers.net



FAMILY FOREST SCHOOL DAY AT FOXGLOVE COVERT

Head to Foxglove Covert on 23rd February for a fun-filled day of activities.

Join James Stewart (Bushcraft Instructor and Forest School Leader) and have a go at fire lighting using ancient methods, learn to use some woodland tools and cook up a treat on the campfire. The event runs from 10am to 3pm.

Booking essential as places are limited. A donation of £5 per person in advance is required to secure your place (payment can be via Paypal on the website or by card over the phone or cash in person).

Click [HERE](#) and complete the form, providing as much information as possible.

Young children must be accompanied by a parent and any students over 16 can be dropped off.

For students under 16 who have a genuine interest in conservation, arrangements can be made for parents to sign a consent form.



IN THE COMMUNITY

JAKE LEARNS A VALUABLE SKILL FOR HIS DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Jake Percival, in Year 11, was keen to learn a completely new skill for his Duke of Edinburgh Award that would be useful in later life. He approached Emma Bottomley, manager of The Station Café Bar to find out if there were any opportunities after school. Emma suggested that he would be most welcome at the Café and suggested that he may like to learn how to become a Barista. This would involve gaining an understanding of the different types of coffees and hot drinks offered on the menu and how to blend them to create the finished beverages. Jake jumped at the chance to do this as it was not only something different but, more importantly, was a skill that he could use to help him find a part-time job in the future.

Emma said: "Jake has been very quick to learn and after very little guidance he grasped the workings of the machine, the quantities of ingredients required in the different types of coffee, as well as the health and safety and hygiene aspects associated with making hot drinks. He was only too happy to serve customers and has a lovely rapport and manner that is perfect for anyone working in hospitality. He will do his Duke of Edinburgh skills training with us for 12 weeks, after which, there will be an opening for him to work for us. I have been really impressed with Jake's eagerness to learn and how, after only a short time, he has become a valued team member."

Jake added: "I am most grateful to Emma and Gareth at The Station Café Bar for giving me this fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill for my Duke of Edinburgh Award. It has been really interesting to find out more about the different types of coffee available and I am enjoying working in a busy hospitality and customer-facing environment. This is a great skill to have and I am looking forward to working for Emma and Gareth."



IN THE COMMUNITY

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN RAISE £224 FOR PLANTING TREES AT RICHMOND SCHOOL

A group of seven students, who are part of the Achieve Club, organised a raffle of high-quality hampers and have raised £224 for planting trees on the school site. The winners of the raffle included: Mr Dagleish, Mr Potter, Sophie Tarran, Isla Simpson, Ariella Barrett and Murray Duncan in Year 10, who was delighted to pick up two prizes!

The Achieve Club meets each week and the programme aims to support young people improve their self-confidence, wellbeing and develop resilience. The programme is run jointly by North Yorkshire Sport, James Kirton (a retired Olympic athlete) and Richmond School.

Using sport and activity, the programme develops aspiration and motivation, whilst supporting the students to create a brighter future for themselves. The programme will develop essential life skills and build on local opportunities within the community.

The club started in September and the students have worked hard to produce this social action project which culminated in their raffle. The students are delighted that the money raised will fund the planting of trees on the school site.

Lynsey Carruthers, PE teacher and leader of the Achieve Group, said: "The students have worked so hard throughout the term and should be very proud of what they have achieved. It is fantastic that their raffle raised so much money and the students can't wait to see their trees being planted."



PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 11 DRAMA STUDENTS CREATE STUNNING COSTUME DESIGNS

Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard for their Component 2: Devised Theatre assessment, which took place just before Christmas. An important aspect of their work is the costume design and we were delighted to catch up with Theodora, Sarah and Alice, who created the concepts for their pieces.

Theodora said: "The play I designed my costume for was named "The Seven Deadly Sins". The play was about a simulation in which people from different social classes react to the Seven Sins and I designed the costume for the sin 'lust'. My inspiration came from the idea of lust being associated with the colour red and roses, then realising that red could mean bad for example blood and death but also good like romance and the roses meaning fragility and also linking with romance. This is why the costume has two different types of red. Later, I linked the corset with the idea of sensuality and sexual desire, which led me to accomplish my final design. Even though it was a stressful experience it was also a fun one. I got to spend a lot of time with the actors and loved hearing their personal opinions about the work in progress and the final costume design."



Mr Birdsall, Drama Teacher, said: "I was so impressed with the costumes that Theodora, Sarah and Alice designed and created entirely on their own. The students worked closely with the actors in their group and had 30 lessons to come up with their concept and create the finished costume. Their attention to detail was amazing and their costumes really helped bring the drama pieces to life and give them greater context. They should be very proud of their achievements."

Pictured, from left to right: Sarah (designer), Lydia, Theodora (designer), Maisie, Sophia and Alice (designer)



PERFORMING ARTS

OLIVIA CELEBRATES A TRIO OF DANCE ACHIEVEMENTS



Olivia Richardson, in Year 10, is celebrating a trio of dance achievements - a distinction in her advanced foundation ballet exam, gaining a place with the English National Ballet School in London and also preparing for the production of *Sleeping Beauty* with the English National Youth Ballet later in the year.

Fifteen-year-old Olivia, is a student at Janet Seymour's Swaledale School of Dance, Dance City Newcastle's CAT scheme and is studying GCSE dance.

Janet Seymour said: "Olivia's dedication to the art of ballet is remarkable. She has achieved exceptional results through her hard work and determination and has the potential to go far in her chosen career."

Olivia has been successful in gaining a place on the spring intensive course with The English National Ballet School in London in February where she will learn repertoire and variations in ballet, contemporary dance, and choreography. Janet added: "This is a great opportunity to find out what life will be like studying ballet at this prestigious dance school."

Olivia said: "When I found out I had been accepted on the English National Ballet course I was so excited, I'm really looking forward to seeing the school and learning from the school's teachers. "My goal is to audition for a vocational dance school once I have completed my GCSEs next year and participating in an intensive workshop will give me invaluable experience in preparing for this."

In April, Olivia will be taking part in the daily intensive sessions for a week at Dance City in Newcastle, CAT (Centre for Advanced Training) where she trains four times a week during term time after school and at the weekends. In May, she will begin learning the repertoire for *The Sleeping Beauty* with The English Youth Ballet at Darlington Hippodrome performances in June. These will be long days of dance training taking place over four weekends and half term. She is really looking forward to this as she was due to perform in their production of *Cinderella* which had to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

Olivia's mum, Lucy says, "We are very happy for Olivia to experience a taste of a professional dance school, we want to support and enable her to achieve her goal to study dance when she leaves school. She works very hard and has dedicated most of her spare time to dance training so this will be a fantastic opportunity for her."

Danni Fox, Lead Teacher for Dance, concluded: "Olivia deserves every success that comes her way in her dance career. She is one of the most hard-working and committed dancers we have ever seen at Richmond School and Sixth Form College and I have no doubt that she will succeed in pursuing a career in the dance industry."

PERFORMING ARTS

GEORGIE TO STAR IN CAROUSEL

We are over the moon to hear that Georgie O'Reilly, in Year 12, has been cast as Louise in Richmond Operatic Society's (ROS) production of Carousel. Georgie, who is studying A-level Music and the double award in Performing Arts, is a lover of musicals and is really looking forward to broadening her performance experience with this Oscar Hammerstein II show.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, said: "Georgie is a terrific A-level Music and Performing Arts student and I am delighted she has secured such a role with the fabulous ROS. Georgia is always keen to expand her musical experiences, singing with our school choirs, and with The Richmond Choral Society and their performance for the 950 celebrations. This is another example of her enthusiasm for performance in our local community. We are all looking forward to the production."



We caught up with Georgie to find out more about Carousel and what inspires her performances:

What inspired you to audition for a part in Carousel? I am studying musicals in A-level Music and it is my aim to follow a career in musical theatre. When I heard that Richmond Operatic Society was doing such a wonderful musical by Oscar Hammerstein II, I just had to be involved.

Did you take part in any workshops before your audition? I took part in two workshops (dance and singing), followed by the audition. They were all so much fun. It was a really nice and safe place to give everything a go.

Tell us a little about your part? I'm playing the role of Louise who is Julie Jordan and Billy Bigelow's daughter. Louise is first seen in act 2 when Billy is allowed on earth for one day by a heavenly friend. Billy talks to Louise and tries to give her a star. Louise is scared and declines his gift. Through frustration of not being able to get through to Louise, Billy slaps Louise, but weirdly the slap feels like a kiss. Louise goes home and tells her mum and Julie instantly understands. Billy continues to watch Louise grow up and turn into a confident woman like her mother.

Within the role of Louise I have a dance number (Louise's ballet) and scenes. I'm also part of the ensemble meaning I'll be in lots of scenes and numbers.

Will your role involve singing, acting and dancing? Yes, all three and I'm very excited about it.

Are you considering further studies in performing arts or music after your A-levels? Yes, that's what I would love to have a career in, and that is why I'm so grateful to be taking part in an opportunity like this.

If so, where are you hoping to go and what are you planning to study? I want to study musical theatre, preferably at a musical theatre university, such as the Brits, or MTA.

What is your favourite musical and why? My favourite musicals are West Side Story, by Leonard Bernstein, and Phantom of the Opera, by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which I was lucky enough to see recently! I absolutely love the scores for both of these musicals and I adore the dancing in West Side Story. The storylines are so beautiful and I could watch them both forever.

Have you taken part in musical productions before? I do Stagecoach at Darlington where I have performed in Footloose (in which I played Rusty), Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Legally Blonde and we are just about to start Grease! I also do Musical Theatre at the Georgian Theatre Youth Theatre, where I've done a couple original musicals written by our old teacher, as well as Bugsy Malone, where I played the role of Tallulah. I also did the Georgian Theatre Pantomime for four years from 2016 to 2019.

SUCCESS ON THE RUGBY PITCH FOR JAKE, PENI AND KIERAN

Congratulations to Jake, Peni and Kieran, members of Darlington Blackwell Meadows U15 rugby team. On a cold, wet and muddy day, they put in a strong performance to help the team beat Gateshead 17-12.

Kevin Knights, who helps coach the U15 team and is a first aider at the club, said of the three players: "Jake has grown as a player in the last few weeks putting in some real strong defensive performances.

"Peni is a new player to the team, but he has fitted in seamlessly with some real physical rugby, which has the opposition on the back foot all the time.

"Kieran was the team captain for the day and was playing out of position due to injuries of others. Kieran led from the front and, after intercepting a pass from the opposition and running 30+ metres, he scored the winning try.



VICTORY ON THE RUGBY PITCH FOR HARRY, LOGAN, ZAK AND ELLIOTT!

Congratulations to four of our Year 7 boys, members of Darlington Rugby Club's U12 squad, as they kicked off their 2022 season with a win against Guisborough scoring 5 tries between them!

It's great to hear that the Under 12s coach, and Director of Rugby at DRFC, Dan Miller is a Richmond School alumnus - we look forward to hearing more about the team and their future matches!



WELCOME TO B



ANOTHER FABULOUS RESULT FOR JAKE, PENI AND KIERAN!

Well done to Jake, Kieran and Peni, in Year 10, who played another fantastic game for Darlington Blackwell Meadows U15 rugby team. The boys played against Westoe in the Durham County Cup quarter-finals.

It was a dominant performance by Darlington who won 44-0, moving them into the semi-finals in March. Kieran and Jake scored one try each and Peni scored twice - he could have got a third but unselfishly passed the ball to allow one of his team mates to get on the score sheet.



We look forward to hearing how the team get on at the semi-finals in March. Kieran, Jake and Peni are pictured on the back row, 2nd and 3rd in from the left and 2nd in from the right

YOUNG FOOTBALLERS DEMONSTRATE GREAT RESILIENCE DESPITE LOSS

The Year 8 boys' football team played St John Fisher recently. Despite losing the game 12:0, the students put in a great effort. Harry Beresford, team coach, said: "I am incredibly proud of the team, they were 8-0 down at half time, their heads could have dropped but they didn't. The character and resilience that was shown to continue to put in 100% effort was really admirable, to the point of the opposition manager recognising this and he came to speak to the team at the end of the game. He said that "the character shown was fantastic and they should be really proud of themselves". We take the defeat on the chin and move forward onto the next fixture, it was definitely a learning curve for the boys, one that I can tell they have already learned from."

Isaac Tate was man of the match for showing unbelievable character and resilience to continue to play with his head held high, encouraging his team mates to succeed despite losing the game in a very difficult way. Isaac continually showed positivity by wanting to work hard for the team by winning the ball back and trying to push the team forward so that we could create chances to score. Isaac's infectious positivity helped the team play with their hearts on their sleeve, giving it absolutely everything, to the point where other players showed the same positivity as Isaac.



SPORT

JOHNNY SHOOTS TO THE TOP OF THE NATIONAL ARCHERY RANKINGS

A young archer, whose ambition is to represent Great Britain, is one step closer to realising his dream after being ranked number one in the country in the Under 18 category.

Johnny Smart, in Year 12, took up archery six years ago after a friend suggested he go to a taster session at Catterick Leisure Centre. Johnny joined the Thirsk Bowmen Archery club and rapidly developed a flair for the sport. He started competing four years ago and regularly takes part in events across the north of England and further afield. As a result of his outstanding performances in three recent competitions, Johnny now holds the number 1 national ranking.

Sixteen-year-old Johnny trains three times each week, in addition to doing weight training and conditioning most evenings to retain the high level of fitness required to compete at an elite level. During the summer, the training is outdoors in a field at the club's base near Topcliffe and then indoors during the winter months.

Johnny's discipline is recurve which is the Olympic style of archery. He shoots the 12-dozen-arrow Bristol round which is 6 dozen at 80yds, 4 dozen at 60yds and 2 dozen at 50yds as well as the Metric equivalent at distances of 70m, 60m, 50m and 30m. (3 dozen each). He also shoots the World Archery rounds of 6 dozen arrows at 70m (mens) or 60m (cadets) followed by the head-t-head knockout which is the Olympic format.

Johnny shoots for Thirsk Bowmen in individual competitions and represents Yorkshire in team events. Johnny said: "I am so pleased to have achieved number 1 ranking in the UK for the Under 18 class. I have two more years in this category before moving up to the Under 21s. If all goes well, I hope to be selected to shoot for Team GB – this is my ultimate dream.

"Archery is a sport that is perfect for anyone who has a love of the outdoors and has resilience and focus as well as a desire to retain a high level of fitness. These are the aspects of archery that really appeal to me, as well as being part of a very friendly and social club at Thirsk Bowmen, where I meet a lot of like-minded people."

Johnny has had a string of other recent successes, including: Bronze at the UK Junior Nationals at Lilleshall, Silver in the UK Junior Masters at Cheltenham, Yorkshire County Champion, Northern Counties Champion, Northern Counties Indoor Champion as well as regularly representing Yorkshire.

Johnny's coach, Danny Cameron, who is based at Thirsk Bowmen, commented: "Archery is a sport which requires developing a robust process to compete at the highest level, which is just as much mental as physical. Johnny understands this brilliantly, and there is no reason that he couldn't reach the very top of the sport if he continues to work hard."

Johnny's 11-year old brother, Bert, is also currently shooting up the UK rankings and is currently placed 15th in the Under 12 category and was part of the winning Thirsk Bowmen recurve team at the County Championships, and also the winning Yorkshire recurve team at the Northern Counties competition.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "This is an outstanding achievement for Johnny and demonstrates his talent for his sport and his amazing resilience and commitment. I am in no doubt that he will continue to excel and wish him well on his pathway to team GB."

To find out more about Thirsk Bowmen click [HERE](#).



YEAR 10 PE STUDENTS ENJOY CLIMBING EXPERIENCE

As part of their GCSE PE course, a group of 15 Year 10 students took part in a two-day climbing event at Durham Climbing Centre. Following health and safety briefings, the students received training on the basics of climbing, including the equipment involved and how to approach a climb.

Over the two days, the students developed their skills and techniques and were able to tackle more challenging climbs. They thoroughly enjoyed the event which helped with confidence and team building.

Jack Moore, PE Teacher, said: "The students had a fantastic experience at Durham Climbing Centre. For many of them, it was their first time at a climbing wall however they were all very enthusiastic and keen to have a go and it was fantastic to see their skill and confidence grow."



OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN DARLINGTON RFC'S NEW U13 TEAM

If a fun new challenge is on the to do list for the New Year the newly formed Darlington RFC U13 girls team is looking for new members - this fledgling squad is growing week by week and everyone at the club is committed to helping this new group flourish.

Dan Miller, Director of Rugby at Darlington RFC is passionate about developing the girls sector at Blackwell Meadows and said: "As a club, we have long held successful minis sections and a ladies team however it is the gap in the middle which has been the missing part of our jigsaw.

"The formation of this new team allows us to further develop the future of the ladies' game - supported by long-standing coaches and players from within our club. All coaches hold all of the necessary qualifications to protect and mentor the development of those taking part."

Training sessions for the girls' squad (from Year 7) run at Blackwell Meadows every Sunday at 12:30pm and Tuesdays 6-7pm - everyone is welcome regardless of experience.



TWENTY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR AREA CROSS COUNTRY SQUAD

Well done to 20 of our students who finished in the top 15 runners in their age groups to gain selection at the Area Cross Country Trials. They went on to represent Hambleton and Richmondshire Area at the North Yorkshire Cross Country Championships on Saturday 15 January (see page 16 for further details).



Congratulations to Isobel, Winter, Jamie, Tomas (Year 7), Lily-Mae, Isla, Isaac (Year 8), Maggie, Henry, Ollie (Year 9), Ella, Thomas, Charlie, Theo (Year 10), Holly, Sue-Rin (Year 11), Alana (Year 12), Charlie, George and Jacob (Year 13).



Lesley Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "We are incredibly proud of the runners who have been selected to represent the area team, and all of our runners who have attended running club and competed for the school this year. It was a lovely sunny day (not the usual cross-country weather) and our athletes showed fantastic determination and resilience throughout the race. Well done to Isobel (Year 7) and Charlie (Year 13) who won the Minor Girls and Senior Boys race respectively. We wish everyone good luck in the next round."



IMPRESSIVE RESULTS AT NORTH YORKSHIRE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our students who competed in the recent North Yorkshire Cross Country Championships. Hosted at Risedale School, the day began very cold and frosty and the temperature didn't really improve throughout the day. Conditions underfoot were firm for the first few races but then became increasingly soft and muddy as the day wore on.

There were some notable results:

In the Year 7 Girls race, Isobel Cook finished 18th; in the Junior Girls race, Maggie Longstaff finished 16th and in the Inter Girls race, Holly McCowie finished 18th. Alana Teasdale finished 10th in the Senior Girls race and consequently won a place at the Inter Counties Championships at Middlesbrough.

In the Year 7 Boys race, Tomas Hoole finished 15th and ran again at the Inter Counties Championships. In the Senior Boys race, Charlie Stephenson was 2nd and will go straight through to the English Schools Cross Country Championships to be held in Kent on March 19th. Jacob McKinley and George Baker finished 10th and 11th respectively and joined Charlie, Alana and Tomas in Middlesbrough.

All of our students who represented Hambleton and Richmondshire at this event will be awarded Area Colours and we congratulate them all on their fantastic achievement.



STUDENTS REPRESENT NORTH YORKSHIRE AT INTER-COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Sixth Form students Charlie Stephenson, George Baker, Alana Teasdale and Thomas Hoole, in Year 7, who represented North Yorkshire at the Northern Schools Inter-County Cross Country Championships at Stewart Park, Middlesbrough.

It was a flat, fast course and all our runners ran their best race. We look forward to hearing how Charlie gets on at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Kent next month.



GIVE IT A TRI!

A number of our students are keen members of Richmond Triathlon club and there are opportunities for more young people to be part of this friendly club.

The club offers a range of training options for all abilities. The last couple of months have seen a huge expansion of their dedicated coaching team and an increased capacity to take on new members. The Youth section is rapidly growing and includes some very talented athletes.

The club offers two free taster sessions for anyone wanting to give triathlon a try. Some join the club to improve their swimming technique, others to develop their running or biking. They are all about finding challenge in a supportive, relaxed and fun environment.

They find that many young people join as a less-pressured alternative to dedicated swimming clubs or to help support them in other multi-sport disciplines, such as tetrathlon.

You can find out more, including contact details, at the club's [website](#) or follow their [facebook page](#).

HAVE A TRY AT RUGBY WITH WENSLEYDALE RUFC

Wensleydale Rugby Club welcomes all new players from U6-U13 and U15-16 to any of their weekly Sunday Training Sessions, from 10-11am.

Dave Nicholson, WRUFC Coaching Co-ordinator, said: "We love introducing the junior players to new rugby skills, but for us, it is more than that.

"We turn out every Sunday morning because we believe we are coaching values and important life skills that will help young players now and later on in life."

The club house is open for hot drinks, snacks and breakfast butties and you will be assured of a very warm and friendly Wensleydale welcome!

The address of the club is: Wensleydale RFC, Cawkill Park, Leyburn, DL8 5ED

SPORT

ASTOUNDING 25-0 RESULT FROM YEAR 8 AND 9 FOOTBALLERS

We are blown away by the phenomenal performance of our Year 8 and 9 girls football team who headed to Settle to play Settle College in the Under 14s county cup fixture. They played brilliantly and secured an amazing score of 25-0. This outstanding victory takes them to the next round of the championship cup. Player of the match was Grace Dobson, in Year 8, who scored 12 goals.

Beth Johnson, PE teacher, said: "Well done to all the players, I'm tremendously proud of you, and the rendition of 'Sweet Caroline' on the way home was the icing on the cake - to quote Mr Potter, "at least they're better singers than the boys!" "

The goal scorers were:

Grace Dobson - 12
Lily Mae McCafferty - 1
Emmy Raggett - 2
Emma Farrow - 6
Izzy Rutterford - 1
Elisha Jones - 3



JOSH RECEIVES AWARDS FOR GOLFING AND CRICKETING EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Josh Newell, in Year 12, who has recently received awards for his excellence in Golf and Cricket. He was awarded several trophies for his golf achievements over the last season at the Bedale Golf Club presentation evening, including the Junior Gross Claret Jug and the Junior Club Championship Gross.

Josh was also invited back to Bedale High School to receive the Adrian Grayson trophy for outstanding achievement in Cricket. Josh is continuing to pursue his passion for golf and we look forward to hearing more news from him as the new season progresses.



SPORT

LOTS OF FUN AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS

Our Year 10 sports leaders recently hosted and ran hockey tournaments for Year 3/4 students and Year 5/6 students. It was a cold, windy day on the Astroturf but lots of fun was had by the 17 teams that entered.



In the morning, Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas were crowned champions with Brompton-on-Swale achieving second place. It was a very close call though, as both of these teams scored the same amount of points throughout the tournament and drew against each other they faced off. The final placings had to be decided by goal difference.



In the afternoon, Bolton-on-Swale were crowned champions with Richmond Methodist's two teams achieving second and third and Brompton-on-Swale achieving fourth place.



The student sports leaders, Katie, Shannon, Lara, Ella, Hannah, Chloe, Charlie and Alfred, officiated the games confidently and with control. They received many compliments from the visiting schools.

PRIMARY STUDENTS ENJOY DISNEY SHOOTING STARS FESTIVAL

Richmond School and Sixth Form College have joined the National Girls Football in School Partnership. This partnership opens up new opportunities for CPD (Continuing Professional Development), leadership and competition.

One such opportunity led to us hosting a KS1 girls' Disney Shooting Stars Festival to showcase the fabulous resources that each school receives once they sign up to the Disney CPD.



The weather conditions were less than ideal with freak snow blizzards arriving early into the afternoon, but the pupils and student leaders were all amazing and still managed to have an exciting afternoon.



The event was led by Miss Johnson from the our PE department as she has been delivering free-of-charge football sessions in the primary schools to further showcase the Disney Shooting Stars resources.

Many thanks to all the schools that attended; Bolton on Swale, Croft, Hipswell, BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton), Michael Syddall and Sacred Heart.

A special thanks to the Year 9 and 10 sports leaders who brought the Disney resources to life when delivering them; Ellie, Ellen, Gracie, Emma, Kyla, Jasmine, Katie, Sarah, Lara, Chloe, Jocelyn, Ella, Hannah, Elsa and Shannon.



ACADEMIC

BIOLOGY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A DAY IN A LAB

Our A-level biology students recently took part in a day's lab work at the Centre for Life in Newcastle. The Year 13 students extracted their own DNA and amplified it (made more of it) using the PCR technique. They then digested it (broke the DNA down into smaller pieces) and separated the fragments using gel electrophoresis.

This showed whether the genotype of the students matched their phenotype of being able to taste a bitter flavour called PTC. In most cases it did!

Archie Marshall, Year 13 student, said: "I had a brilliant time at the Life Centre Labs, taking theory learned in our biology classes and applying them to a practical with top of the range equipment was incredibly engaging.

It gave me great insight into what it would be like working in a lab and the skills necessary to work as part of a team to get quality results."

Rob Haye, Lead Teacher for Biology, said: "The techniques the students use in this lab really help bring to life the theory of using genetic technology to identify genetic traits. The full lab days are similar to what taking science at university is like, so this is useful for students thinking of studying biology further.

"Additionally it was really pleasing to get such good results from what was essentially a 7 hour practical lesson."



ACADEMIC

NEW CHESS CLUB LAUNCHES THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Thanks to our wonderful Trustees, two Year 12 students have launched a school and college chess club, which takes place in the library each Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:45pm.

James Lunn and Will Mawer decided to give fellow students across the whole school and college the opportunity to play chess and were keen to welcome all abilities to the club. The students approached the Richmond School Trust with an application for five boards and pieces, as well as some chess clocks. They were thrilled to receive the funding and set the ball rolling on their new club.

James and Will both learned chess from an early age but in lockdown they got back into the game, playing online with friends and at home with their families.

Will said: "During the first lockdown, we developed a fascination for chess and this prompted us to join the Darlington and District Chess Club and start to play in tournaments. Chess has become more popular since the lockdown and the club has seen its membership increase significantly with a mix of ages joining. It's a really friendly club where we play each Monday from 7-9pm, and we have even had the opportunity to play a grandmaster! "



James added: "It is fantastic that people across all generations are reconnecting with chess. As well as lockdown being a trigger for this, the Netflix show, 'Queen's Gambit', has had a dramatic impact on sales of chess boards which apparently went up 300% on Ebay following the programme. One of the chess board suppliers has reported 3 million new users on their website!"

The students are keen to encourage many more young people to play chess as it offers so many benefits. It not only brings people together and teaches them how to win and lose, but it also helps to develop creativity and problem-solving skills in a fun and relaxed environment. Will and James are on hand at the club to offer tips and guidance to students, especially those who may be playing chess for the first time.

James and Will said: "We are so grateful to the Trustees for supporting our new club which we hope will become a place where students can not only improve their chess skills but also meet new friends."

Elaine Walton, Chair of Richmond School Trust said: "We were most impressed with the application that Will and James submitted for equipment and are pleased to hear that their new chess club is already up and running. The students have done a fantastic job in researching, planning and organising this new activity and the Trustees are delighted to have been able to make the club a reality for them."



MYLES' LOST SOLDIER FILM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Myles Fairhurst, a Year 8 student, has released 'The Lost Soldier', a short film that captures his passion for World War 1 History. During lockdown, Myles came up with the idea for the story, which follows Frank Fletcher, a young soldier who gets separated from his regiment but follows his sergeant's last orders to: "Make your way directly North East!"

Frank goes directly North East but encounters various challenges along the way. He must get used to being alone very quickly and try to survive until he reaches his destination.



Myles said: "The message that I wanted to convey was for people to take time to think about all those men and women who served, how they must have felt and what they sacrificed in order for us to live our lives the way we do now."



"I feel like if there was a soldier in this situation he would be very scared, very tired and conscious that he could be killed at any moment, not knowing where the enemy was. He would also be trying to find shelter and keeping his intake of water and food as little as possible as every little bit counts."

You can enjoy Myles' film [HERE](#).

Myles has dedicated his short film to all those who served during the Great War and he is hoping to raise funds for the Royal British Legion, as the UK's leading charity providing financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the British Armed Forces.

Myles has set up a JustGiving page [HERE](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thelostsoldier). <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thelostsoldier>

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "It is fantastic to see how Myles' has combined his love of History and Drama to create his film. It is evident that he has devoted a huge amount of time in the planning of the project, paying such close attention to detail and finally to see how he has executed his ideas in such a visual way. Myles should be very proud of his film."

Myles added: "I would like to thank everyone who helped in the production of the film but I would also like to thank my family and friends who supported me throughout the making of the film from helping me to write the screenplay to adding the last piece of music. Thank you all."

A-LEVEL STUDENTS ENJOY FANTASTIC MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP BY LEADING ARTIST

Our Year 13 A-level Art students took part in a full-day workshop with Ian Murphy, a leading mixed media artist.

Ian is best known for his powerful, tonal drawings and atmospheric, mixed media oil paintings or architectural places.

Before the students started to create their own work, Ian set the scene by introducing his Art and explaining how he achieves his very distinctive look that is very much admired both in the UK and internationally.

He brought in a wide selection of artwork so the students could really get a feel for the materials and methods he uses to such great effect.

The students spent over four hours creating their own artwork with Ian on hand to give them guidance along the way. Throughout the workshop, he had break-out time from the practical work to give further advice and tips. The students learned a number of techniques, inspired by the visual stimulus of Ian's Art.



Mrs James, Lead Teacher for Art, said: "We approached Ian to do a workshop with our students because we have studied his work as part of our architecture Unit in Year 12. His work has an amazing blend of draughtsmanship, beautiful surface texture and an evocative sense of place. Students on our A-level course have had an inspirational experience in which they have worked with an artist they have studied as part of the course, thus bringing their studies to life. Ian has explained and shared his working methodology and approach from his observational work in his sketchbooks to larger outcomes.



This has given students an invaluable insight into the creative process and a brilliant opportunity to explore new and exciting materials and techniques which they can use in their work in the future."

You can find out more about Ian's work [HERE](#).

ACADEMIC

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS INSPIRED TO LEARN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE

Our Sixth Form students learned about British Sign Language in this week's Learning for Life session. An inspiring presentation was prepared by Sally Byrom, Lead Learning Manager Key Stage 5, who said: "As an avid viewer of Strictly Come Dancing, I was so impressed and intrigued with the Rose/Giovanni partnership this year. Rose is the first deaf celebrity contestant and throughout the series she brought British Sign Language and the world of the deaf community to popular attention. By the end of the series, the judges, fellow contestants and the presenters were all using small amounts of signing, which was great to see. There has been a huge demand for BSL courses and a massive increase in Google searches since the programme aired."



"I felt that as part of our school and sixth form college Equality and Diversity agenda, it would be a timely opportunity to introduce the students to the world of the deaf community and British Sign Language. Maybe some of the students will even be inspired to take their learning further."

You can browse the presentation [HERE](#).

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY DELIVER ASSEMBLIES ABOUT E-SAFETY

We are most grateful to Laura Marsden, of The Children's Society, for giving up her time to work in partnership with us to deliver E-Safety assemblies around the issue of child exploitation to all our students in Years 7 through to 11.

Tom Braham, Assistant Headteacher, said: "We are really appreciative of the support of Laura and the Children's Society and the resources they have shared with us. E-safety is paramount and we issue a monthly e-safety newsletter to our students and their families, and so it was fantastic for Laura to reinforce this message to our students and highlight the importance of being aware of their online safety at all times."

"It is absolutely crucial that young people know how dangerous their use of phones, social media and the internet can be - Laura has done a great job in delivering this message."

Laura, who is a child sexual exploitation worker, added: "The Children's Society is committed to tackling the issue of child exploitation. The hand-in-hand Yorkshire project works with young people who have been exploited or are vulnerable to exploitation. We want young people to be aware of the risks of exploitation both online and in person. During assemblies this week, I have been talking to students about online risks. It is vital we educate our young people to look out for signs of exploitation, so they can avoid potentially harmful situations. We encourage students to report anyone who they suspect may seek to exploit them online, by making a report to the government's child exploitation and online protection command (CEOP) [HERE](#)."

Parents and carers can find out more about the work The Children's Society do on E-Safety [HERE](#).



STUDENTS DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL WORK FROM AUSCHWITZ PROGRAMME

A group of four historians were successful in their application to be part of the national Auschwitz programme, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The Year 13 students completed two days' work whilst at college and then finished the project in their own time. Phoebe Whitbread, Archie Marshall, Patrick Carlton, and Katie Hyman produced exceptional work and, as part of the 'Next Steps' element of the scheme, they created a fabulous display in the Sixth Form Study Centre that their peers and teachers can browse to find out more.

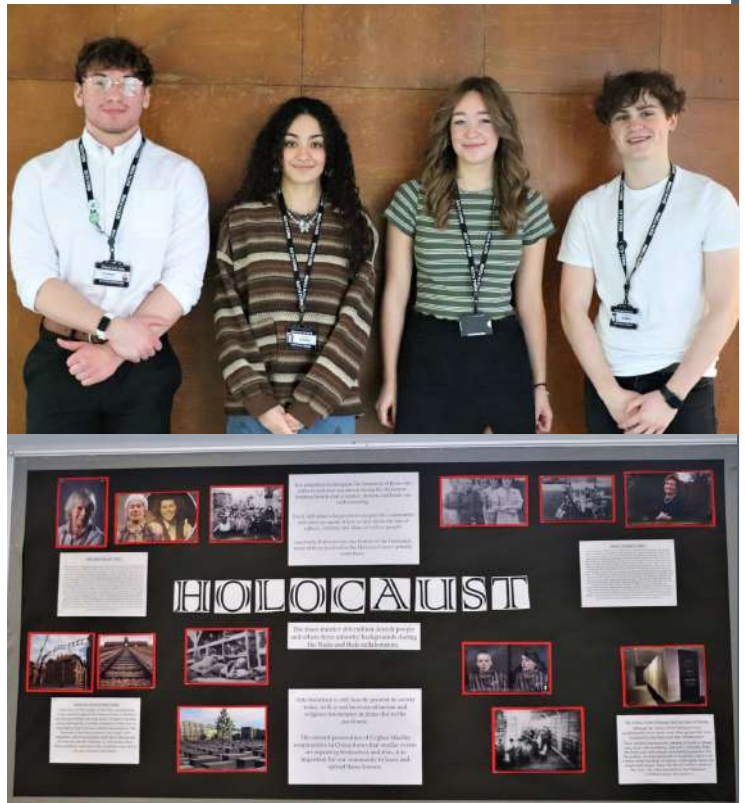
In addition, Archie put together an assembly which he presented to all the sixth form students on 24th and 25th January. Archie said: "The Lessons from Auschwitz Project gave me an insight into the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust, as well as humanising those involved in a way that has completely changed my perspective and left a long-lasting impression. Although we were taught virtually, I felt a connection to the events that I never had before, thanks to the excellent subject experts and testimony from survivors. I would thoroughly recommend this project to anyone interested in History and its relevance in our society today." You can see Archie's assembly [HERE](#).

Miss Ridley, History Teacher, said: "The students have done a remarkable job. They have immersed themselves in the project and really researched and explored the Holocaust. On completion of the online seminars, they reflected on everything they learned and consolidated their knowledge, culminating in their inspirational display and assembly. It is so important that we continue to remember this important part of History and their work has created something very meaningful to help the other students understand the Holocaust and its relevance today. I am very proud of the students' outstanding work and their faultless dedication over the last two years."

The students took part in three live online seminars guided by experts in the field of Holocaust education. They learned about pre-war Jewish life and the former Nazi death and concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and considered the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. Having completed the programme, the students will become Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors, inspiring them to continue to share their knowledge further whilst encouraging others to remember the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Educational Trust was established in 1988 with the aim of educating young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. One of the Trust's earliest achievements was ensuring that the Holocaust formed part of the National Curriculum for History. Through the Trust's work they motivate future generations to speak out against intolerance and inspire individuals to consider their responsibilities to their communities. Further information about the Trust can be found at <https://www.het.org.uk/>

After their A-levels, Phoebe will be studying History at university and Katie will read Asian Studies, which will include Asian History. Patrick and Archie are planning to study Law and Physiotherapy.



ACADEMIC

YOUNG COMPUTER SCIENTISTS ARE COUNTRY'S TOP PROBLEM SOLVERS FOR FIFTH SUCESSIVE YEAR

A group of 47 young computer scientists have demonstrated exceptional computational thinking skills that rank them in the top 10% of problem solvers in the country. The Richmond School and Sixth Form College students took part in the internationally acclaimed Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge that tested their problem solving skills and computational thinking.



Alfie Maude (Year 7), Natasha Thornton (Year 8), Edwin Carr (Year 9), George Williams (Year 10), Harold Raven (Year 11), James Slater (Year 12) and Adam Dixon (Year 13) were rewarded with top honours in their year groups, having applied their ultra-sharp logic and observational skills to crack a series of puzzles and codes.

Alfie, Edwin, Harold and Adam also achieved the highest marks in the school for the competition categories of Junior, Inter, Senior and Elite. All 47 students who are in the top 10% nationally have qualified for the Oxford University Computing Challenge which takes place later in the year.

Harold Raven has taken part in each Bebras challenge that the school has entered and has come top in his category and year group for five consecutive years - an amazing achievement that didn't come as a surprise to his teacher, Susan Thornton, who said: "Harold has an incredible appreciation of Computer Science and his problem-solving skills are outstanding."

Supported and sponsored by The University of Oxford and Raspberry Pi Foundation, the event, now in its 9th year, reaches over 2.5 million students across the globe. The computational thinking challenge involves applying a set of problem-solving techniques that are used by software engineers use to write programs and apps.

The competition promotes these skills including the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design and pattern recognition and abstraction.

Susan Thornton, Lead Teacher for IT and Computer Science, concluded: "The Bebras competition has been cleverly designed to get students excited about computing by exploring their talents and passion for computational thinking with engaging challenges.

"It is a fantastic event that's inclusive and accessible and offers all students a taste of the principles behind computing by engaging them in fun problem-solving activities. Once again, our students have excelled and their achievements are most impressive, I am so proud of them."

ACADEMIC

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Our latest Online Safety Newsletters for January and February includes information about TikTok, Fortnite Discord, Yubo as well as the new Manatee Mental Health app.

The January newsletter can be viewed [HERE](#) and the February issue [HERE](#).



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be



Knowsley
City Learning Centres



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be



Knowsley
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Online Safety Newsletter January 2022

Smart TV / Streaming services

There are so many TV streaming services available now such as Netflix, Prime, Apple TV, Now TV and Disney as well as more families having Smart TVs, which connect to the internet and allow you to download apps and access YouTube for example. This means our children

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Users can watch musical clips, record clips (it includes lots of lip syncing and dancing), edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned?

You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings.

If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for



Online Safety Newsletter February 2022

Broadband controls

Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/sky-broadband-buddy>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/hq>

Discord

Discord is a social networking app that is used by gamers to **chat to each other**. There can be in app purchases through Discord's premium subscription service. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The Apple App store rates it as 17+.



How does it work?

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created this article, which outlines four steps to creating a

THOUGHT-PROVOKING PRESENTATION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORK OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Special thanks to Dr Susan Miller who has shared her knowledge and expertise in Human Rights with Sixth Form students at Richmond and our partner colleges at Northallerton and Stokesley.

Dr Miller delivered a thought-provoking virtual presentation about what our Human Rights are, why they need protecting and what we as individuals can do to help those whose rights may be violated. A pdf of Dr Miller's presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).

Ms Mannion, Lead Teacher for Careers, said: "Thank you to Dr Miller for taking the time to record this talk, and for making our students aware of the work that Amnesty International does.

"This year the talk has been made available to Sixth Form students across the Areté Learning Trust, so that even more students can benefit.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Miller back to college next year.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



WELLBEING IN MIND - MEET THE TEAM

Before Christmas, you may be aware that your children were asked to complete a survey on mental health and wellbeing within Richmond School. This was part of an assessment undertaken by a new service who will be working closely with us over the coming years.

The Hambleton and Richmond Wellbeing in Mind Team (WiMT) has a base in Richmond School and will be supporting us to develop a whole school approach to mental health: assemblies and classes, offering consultation and support to teaching staff if they have any concerns about students and identifying and offering support to students who may benefit from a CBT informed approach to any difficulties they may be experiencing. Here is a [short video](#) introducing the team.



NHS
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

Emma Dunwoodie, Senior Assistant Headteacher and Mental Health Lead, said: "Having the Wellbeing in Mind team based in the school means that mental health advice is readily accessible by teaching staff which really improves the timeliness of advice to support the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils.

"The team have also shared really useful information with school staff to support the general mental health and wellbeing of pupils, as well as that of individual students. Members of the team are becoming familiar around school and making themselves known to teaching staff which is really useful in providing the best support for our pupils."

You can follow the Wellbeing in Mind Team on Instagram [HERE](#) and find out more [HERE](#).

There's also a great article on Richmondshire Today about the fantastic work of the Wellbeing in Mind Team which you can read [HERE](#).

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Last week was Place2Be's Children's Mental Health week and their theme for the week was 'Growing Together'. Spearheaded by the charity Place2Be, and now in its eighth year, Children's Mental Health week hopes to encourage children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow.

Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

There are some fantastic free resources available from the charity [HERE](#) which we urge parents and carers to read through and share with their children.



CAREERS

APPRENTICESHIP AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT GLAXOSMITHKLINE, BARNARD CASTLE

There are some great apprenticeship opportunities available locally at GSK Barnard Castle. Their recruitment is now open for a September 2022 start and they will close the vacancies once they have enough applications, so it's best to apply as soon as possible so you don't miss out! There are a mix of roles suitable for Year 11 and Year 13 students doing their GCSE and A-levels this year. GSK Barnard Castle is an innovative manufacturing site working to improve the lives of people all over the world. Their apprentices play their part; being ambitious for their patients every day. If you are interested in a career in science, engineering, manufacturing, or business operations in a global company, then take a look at the vacancies below. Apply early to avoid disappointment. For further information about GSK click [HERE](#). Follow the links below for details of the different apprenticeships available.



[Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship](#)

[Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship](#)

[Degree Business & Supply Chain](#)

[Degree Lab Science Chemistry](#)

YEAR 11 AFTER-SCHOOL CAREERS SUPPORT

To further support our Year 11 students, the Careers Team in school are offering some drop-in sessions after school on alternate Mondays in JF11 from 3.30pm - 4.15pm. Students will have access to computers with support to complete college and Sixth Form applications, create CVs and application letters and receive general careers support.



CAREERS

MISS HAMER'S SUPPORT FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING AN APPRENTICESHIP

Miss Hamer, our Careers Adviser who works closely with Ms Mannion, our Careers Leader, is very excited about Apprenticeship Week, as it helps to raise awareness of the importance and value of Apprenticeships to our students. Miss Hamer is supporting our Year 11 students who are applying for Apprenticeships and helping with CVs, applications, and interview preparation. We were delighted to catch up with Miss Hamer to find out more about her work, the expert guidance she gives our students and why she believes Apprenticeships are a great career choice.



“Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity for young people starting out in their careers – they offer the chance to gain a recognised qualification, learn skills on the job direct from employers, and earn a regular salary. Apprenticeships, without a doubt, give young people a head start in their careers, and any student who successfully completes an Apprenticeship after leaving school, will have given themselves a great advantage.

“There is now such a huge variety of Apprenticeships available in the UK, across all sectors – from building trades, health and beauty and animal care, to healthcare, IT, finance and law – pretty much any qualification can now be achieved via an Apprenticeship. With qualifications ranging from entry level to Degree level, Apprenticeships are offered by small businesses, as well as large global organisations. I am so pleased that each year we are working with more and more employers from the local community who are looking to take on Apprentices, and equally delighted that so many more students, and their parents and carers, are seeing the value of Apprenticeships as a post-16 and post-18 option.

“Any student who expresses an interest in Apprenticeships during their one-to-one careers meeting is referred to the website www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/ and shown how they can create an account, search, and apply for roles. We also discuss the benefits of being proactive and contacting businesses they would like to work for to ask if they will be taking on Apprentices and, if so, how they can apply. We also post all local Apprenticeship vacancies onto the Year 11 and Year 13 Careers Google Classroom.

“We support the students in putting together CVs and applications letters, and completing applications forms when needed. We often arrange for employers to come into school to talk to interested students about the opportunities on offer, and where we can, we will also arrange for students to visit the workplaces.

“It is a truly rewarding experience to support students from their initial interest in an apprenticeship, through the application process, and finally to see them offered an opportunity to start a fulfilling career. I encourage students, parents and carers to explore these qualifications and find out more about just how valuable they can be.”

Further information about apprenticeships is available [HERE](#) where you can view videos, explore events and browse opportunities

Any parents or carers who would like any information on how to support their child with finding an Apprenticeship is also welcome to contact Ruth Hamer, Careers Advisor at rhamer@richmondschool.net

GET THE JUMP - SKILLS FOR LIFE

‘Get the Jump’ Skills for Life campaign brings together, for the first time, all education and training choices for young people in one place.

This new resource for 2022 includes all the choices that are available to young people at post-16 and post-18 to help them make informed decisions about their next steps and choose the paths that are right for them. It covers all education and training options and spotlights technical education routes including: T Levels, Traineeships, and Apprenticeships. You can find out more [HERE](#).



CAREERS

KEEPING THE FAMILY TRADITION AT SWALE SCAFFOLDING

Tyler Straub started his apprenticeship with Swale Scaffolding last year and is working in a team alongside his Grandad, Keith 'Butch' Barker. Paul Ward, Managing Director at Swale Scaffolding, said: "Butch is an Advanced Scaffolder, aged 67 years old, with over 50 years of experience within the scaffolding industry. Tyler is progressing extremely well under the tutelage of his grandad - this truly is a great example of the Old Bull teaching the Young Bull, they are both fantastic members of our team.

"I am delighted with the progress of the four apprentices and am most impressed with the quality of their work. They are great lads who quickly became valued members of our team. They are all eager to learn their trade and develop their skills. I'm very proud of our long-standing partnership with Richmond School and the exceptional careers support they offer their students. It is our intention

to have an intake from Richmond School every year moving forwards. Here at Swale Scaffolding, we fully acknowledge that the life blood of any company is the youth coming in at the bottom end and them being nurtured to progress and develop their way up through our team. We will give all apprentices every possible opportunity and support to reach their maximum potential and help us to strengthen and grow our site or in fact office personnel."



JIMMI MAKES HIS MARK AT PAXTONS

Jimmi Maidstone joined Paxtons as an apprentice agricultural engineer last year and is proving to be a very popular member of staff.

Jimmi said: "I'm really enjoying everything about my job, but I particularly like working independently and completing tasks that I have learned. I also enjoy going out to farms and servicing the vehicles and meeting new people and I now have a wider circle of friends. I would recommend an apprenticeship as you get paid for gaining experience and qualifications from skilled engineers in a career you really enjoy."

Neil Tiplady, Group Services Manager at Paxtons, added: "Jimmi has settled very well with us and is popular with all the staff, he has an excellent work ethic and will always try something new when given the opportunity. Following his accident last year, none of us thought he would be back to work as early as he was, which is a credit to him."

Jimmi showed great initiative to secure his apprenticeship as the company wasn't recruiting, but he saw an advert for another role and contacted them directly. Impressing Paxtons with his resourcefulness and positivity, Jimmi was invited for an interview and received fantastic feedback, along with the offer of an apprenticeship!

Paxtons are an independent family owned agricultural machinery dealership. Established in 1853 they are a forward thinking and progressive business, associated with the major brands in the agricultural industry. A main Case IH and JCB dealership, Paxtons are dedicated to providing a high quality of service to cover the requirements of farmers, contractors, local authorities and equestrian customers.



PAXTONS

Serving farmers since 1853

www.paxtons.co.uk

CAREERS

APPRENTICESHIP FILM—SWALE SCAFFOLDING

Swale Scaffolding have four former students doing apprenticeships, with Cameron, Tyler and Harley in their first year and Matty in his second year. We were delighted to visit Matty, Harley and Cameron on site, together with Aaron Pepe, to see them at work and to find out more about how they are getting on – you can watch their video [HERE](#).

Aaron, Contracts Manager and alumnus of Richmond School, said: “The lads have all settled in really well. They are motivated, quick to learn and are highly regarded by their colleagues. Matty has now achieved his part 1 scaffolding training so is able to start erecting scaffolding, with Tyler, Harley and Cameron achieving their COTS course training and now on the road to being awarded their part 1 next month. They are working in two-men teams on sites across the North East. We will be taking on more apprentices this year and we are looking forward to working with Richmond School to promote these opportunities with their Year 11 students.”



APPRENTICESHIP FILM—RANDALL ORCHARD

Last year, Luca Sartini and Liam Millar started apprenticeships with Randall Orchard Construction. Luca, a joiner, and Liam, a bricklayer, have been working on a wide range of projects, from new builds and extensions to barn conversions and commercial sites. We caught up with Luca, Liam and Graeme Newton on a couple of sites, to catch up on the work they are doing and to find out how their apprenticeships are going. Please enjoy the video [HERE](#).



Graeme, Managing Director, and a former student of Richmond School and Sixth Form College, said: “I am really impressed with Luca and Liam, they are so eager to develop their skills and are not afraid to ask questions and learn from their colleagues. The quality of their work is outstanding and each day they make a valuable contribution to the business. It is most satisfying to see their commitment and the pride they take in each task, they are great team players. We look forward to taking on more apprenticeships in years to come and continuing our fabulous relationship with Richmond School.”



CAREERS

APPRENTICESHIP FILM—SAKS HAIR & BEAUTY

Olivia Frankland started her hairdressing apprenticeship with Saks Hair and Beauty, at Sedbury Hall, in summer 2020 and has never looked back. She found out about the opportunity through Ms Mannion, Careers Leader at Richmond School, and jumped at the chance to realise her childhood dream of becoming a hairdresser.

We called in to see Olivia to chat to her about her apprenticeship and how much she is loving working with the Saks family. Please enjoy the video [HERE](#).

Anna Clinton, owner, said: "Olivia is a really important member of our team. She has developed some brilliant skills, she is amazing at communicating with clients, her customer service is second to none, and her hairdressing ability is absolutely phenomenal."



Olivia attends the Saks Academy in Darlington each week. Saks Education has recently been awarded an outstanding rating by Ofsted for the second time running.



Saks at Sedbury Hall have a longstanding partnership with Richmond School and all of Anna's stylists are former students.

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS - A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Apprenticeships have changed a huge amount in the past few years, and now offer access to more than 1,500 different job roles, ranging from intermediate level through to degree apprenticeships.

A fabulous guide has been put together by Amazing Apprenticeships to help parents and carers explore the exciting world of apprenticeships with their children, to understand the range of resources and support services available, and how to access them.

You can view the guide [HERE](#).



CAREERS

GRACE IS SET TO FORGE AHEAD AS A FARRIER

Grace Stephenson, in Year 11, set her heart on becoming a Farrier when she was just ten years old and she is now on the road to seeing her dream become a reality. With five years of job shadowing and experience under her belt, 16-year-old Grace knows that a career as a Farrier is definitely for her.

Grace said: "I have been brought up with horses and working at the forge as my Dad, Richard, is a Farrier so I've been privileged to help him and develop my skills over the years. I love nothing more than to go out with him on jobs and experience the techniques and processes first hand.

"Although it is a male-dominated sector this doesn't daunt me and my confidence is growing all the time, especially when it comes to making and firing shoes on the forge. I am completely at ease working with ponies and horses of all sizes, from Shetlands up to towering Clydesdales!"

After her GCSEs in the summer, of which Engineering and Design & Technology are her favourite subjects, Grace is planning to go to college to do a one-year pre-farrier course which is a required to further her studies with a six-year apprenticeship. She is considering Myerscough, Warwick or Hereford Colleges.

Grace has already demonstrated her engineering talent after coming second in a national competition. This involved taking a 16mm square bar and shaping it into a cylinder. The task assessed Grace's practical skills, such as her hammer control and use of a coke forge. Grace was delighted that her success was featured in an issue of the industry-leading Forge Magazine.

Grace has been learning about hoof anatomy, something that will be a key focus of the college course and apprenticeship. She will have the opportunity to put her knowledge into practise at college where there are opportunities to make and shape shoes from metal and then work with horses to put the shoes on, and take them off again.

At school, Grace chose Engineering as one of her GCSEs and this has proved invaluable in giving her a grounding in various techniques and a greater understanding of materials and metals.

Wendy Miller, Grace's Engineering Teacher, said: "Grace has worked extremely hard in Engineering and has been especially interested in the material aspects of the course. She is very focused and I have no doubt that she will become a very proficient and sought-after Farrier as she has such a passion for horses and working with metals. It is most admirable that Grace is stepping into an industry with very few female Farriers and I hope she will become a role model for other girls who have an interest in working in an engineering discipline."

Grace concluded: "I can't think of anything better than working with horses and doing something that I enjoy so much. I have never seen myself in an office or working indoors and being a Farrier you get to work outside a lot, travel around and meet lots of like-minded people. It's a very long apprenticeship to become qualified but when you are working with animals it is so important that you know exactly what you are doing and that you get everything right."



CAREERS

APPRENTICE IS A FINALIST IN THE YOUNG BUTCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Tom, an apprentice butcher at Mainsgill Farm who is celebrating National Apprenticeship Week as a finalist in the Young Butcher of the Year Award.

Tom started his apprenticeship with Mainsgill Farm after leaving Richmond School last summer. He trains on the job and goes to Leeds College one day a week.

Wishing Tom the very best of luck in the Awards!



INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ACCOUNTANT?

Walter Dawson & Son have a vacancy in their Northallerton office for an apprentice accountant, as well as other opportunities across.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, email apprenticeships@walterdawson.co.uk for further information or to apply. You can find out more about apprenticeships with Walter Dawson by watching Olivia's video [HERE](#). Olivia is an apprentice based in the company's Leyburn office.

NATIONAL : :
APPRENTICE WEEK : :
Apprentice Spotlight

Name: Matthew Atkinson

Office: Bradford WDS Office

Studying: AAT Level 3 Accounting

Started: 4th November 2019

: : TELL US ABOUT YOUR
: : APPRENTICESHIP
Matthew

WALTER DAWSON & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & TAX ADVISORS
walterdawson.co.uk
#NAW2022

WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE SKILL YOU'VE GAINED?

The biggest skills I have personally learnt from this apprenticeship is confidence and communication skills. When I first joined Walter Dawson and Son, I was really quiet and kept mostly to myself however, now these skills have greatly increased to the point where I did a presentation in front of a school about apprenticeships.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE AN APPRENTICESHIP OVER COLLEGE?

I was initially studying in sixth form before becoming an apprentice. I chose this apprenticeship over sixth form because I have always aspired to become an accountant and this opportunity presented itself to me and I took it. The main reason that I took it was because I thought that it would be quicker doing this apprenticeship to become a fully qualified accountant rather than having to do a university degree to get the same qualification. The work experience was a huge contributing factor as well.

: : TELL US ABOUT WHAT
: : INSPIRES &
: : MOTIVATES
Matthew

WALTER DAWSON & SON
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & TAX ADVISORS
walterdawson.co.uk
#NAW2022

WHAT KEEPS YOU MOTIVATED?

The main thing that keeps me motivated is trying to help people as much as possible. Whether that be helping a client to keep their tax bill as low as possible or just simply passing a message from a client to a colleague. I always enjoy helping people.

WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

The two people who inspire me the most are my line manager and office manager. This is because it is inspiring to see how hard they both work, not only on their work and to make Walter Dawson the best accounting firm it can be, but also the amount of effort and time that they invest in me to help me become the best accountant I can be. So, I try to reciprocate their effort into my work.



We are looking forward to sharing a Q and A with Kim Mawer, a former student who is an accountant at Walter Dawson.

COMMITTEE SUB-EDITOR: THE BEST JOB IN HANSARD?

Cara Clark, alumna, is at the sharp end of British Parliament, working as a committee sub-editor in Hansard, the official reporters of all Parliamentary debates of both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Cara has been at Hansard for almost 19 years now, and joined in April 2003. Cara studied History, Latin, French and General Studies A-levels and went on to read History at Durham, doing both her BA and MA there. She gained some work experience whilst at university working at the local theatre, in the college library and doing data entry and admin jobs in the summer holidays. Read on to find out more about Cara's role.



In any one week, I might be responsible for publishing the edited Westminster Hall report within four hours of each speech being made, proofreading Select Committee transcripts, or logging and editing the debates about a Bill going through line-by-line scrutiny in Committee or Committees considering delegated legislation. The latter were in the public eye during Brexit, as they were used to bring European law on to the British statute book. In some weeks, we had as many as 24 a week. They can last up to 90 minutes each, although if they're uncontroversial they're more likely to last for half an hour.

When we're in the Committee room or on the Zoom call, we might look calm and collected, but the adrenaline is flowing—we're not just writing our log, we're actively listening and looking, trying to understand the arguments and thinking what information might be needed by reporters with a vast range of experience and specialist areas. There might also be the dreaded "procedure"—the rules by which the House considers and changes laws. Without it, it wouldn't be clear what decisions had been made, or when things had started or ended.

We need to keep up with who's saying what about what. We also need to know what's been decided—and parliamentary proceedings can move fast. In Bill Committees and Delegated Legislation Committees, we're doing all this while also controlling the microphones that hang from the ceiling. We do this using buttons on a panel that mirrors the layout of the room, with one button per MP. After all, you can't have Hansard without a good recording!

You can find out more about Cara's role and experiences at Hansard by reading her [blog](#) where this summary has been extracted from (first published 23/4/21). Further information about Hansard is available [HERE](#).

If you are interested in a career at Hansard then take a look at this [blog](#) which gives a good overview of what's expected when people first start working there.

(image opposite – In the thick of it: Cara logging a Committee – screenshot, parliamentlive.tv)



JOSH SIGNS NEW LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH BORO

We are so proud of Josh Coburn who has made an impressive start to his football career in Middlesbrough's Academy and has now pledged his future to the club with a new contract.

The 19-year-old former student and striker has signed a deal until 2025 that also includes a further year's option. Josh scored his first professional goal against Sheffield Wednesday at the end of last season, and has had a whirlwind start to his career having found the target a further three times in eight appearances this season.



Academy Manager Craig Liddle added: "Josh is our newest graduate that has made it into the first-team and probably one that every supporter was hoping that we would produce a number nine. That's one of the things that gets mentioned quite a bit. We've produced a lot of players but not an out-and-out centre forward. Josh going in there and scoring goals for the first team has given everyone a boost.

"He typifies what we look for in the Academy, not only for a technically and tactically good player, but also a fantastic young man who leads by example."

Kieran Scott, Boro's Head of Football, added: "We're delighted Josh has signed for the long-term. He has had an excellent start to his career, but he still has plenty to learn and will continue to develop as a player over the next few years. This club has a great history of producing and developing young players and Josh is another credit to our Academy."

Josh said: "I am so happy that I have been offered this fantastic opportunity. Boro are a great club with great coaches and staff. I feel incredibly privileged to be part of the first team squad and hope that I can do the Boro fans proud and score plenty of goals in the future."

Tom Westgate, PE Teacher, concluded: "This is fantastic news for Josh. He demonstrated from a young age that he had the skill, passion and commitment to succeed and thoroughly deserves this opportunity."

We will continue to follow his progress and look forward to sharing news of further successes with you.



ALUMNI

EVIE TO PLAY LOUNGE ROOM HOSTED BY JERICHO KEYS, BBC RADIO YORK PRESENTER

Evie Wright, alumna, singer, songwriter and musician, has been invited to play an unplugged acoustic show in York. The gig is hosted by BBC Radio York Presenter, Jericho Keys.

Evie gives huge credit to Richmond School's Music department for encouraging her to sing and building her confidence. We were delighted to catch up with Evie to do a Q and A with her, which we hope will be inspiring for any students who are considering furthering their studies in music or considering a career in music and the performing arts.



When did your interest and love for music start? I have loved music since I was very young but started writing and performing my own songs in Year 8. In Year 9, I started collaborating with other students and performing gigs outside of school. Very soon after this, I realised that music was the career path for me.

What inspired your passion for singing? I have to give huge credit to the Richmond School Music department for encouraging me to sing. For many young people performing on a stage is quite frightening and outside of their comfort zone. The Music department provided a safe environment to encourage performance as the staff and fellow Music students were always very supportive and gave positive feedback. It was this environment which helped me to overcome my reservation and develop my singing and song writing. All the school concerts and events were then a gradual process of helping to reaffirm my confidence.

Who are your favourite musicians/artists? I have always been inspired by the storytelling element in country/folk music and have tried to incorporate this aspect into everything I write. Now, I am more broadly inspired by features of both pop and classical. My favourite artists at the moment are Taylor Swift, Lennon Stella, HAIM, Benee and Oh Wonder.

How would you describe your style? Original acoustic pop. My songs are about feelings and experiences and I always work hard to create some kind of 'hook' that is catchy and memorable. I would like to think that this is the defining characteristic of all my songs.

Do you mainly perform as a soloist or do you have backing musicians? I am a solo artist but record and play live with session musicians (drummer, lead guitarist, etc).

Do you perform in any groups? I have in the past and have really benefitted from these experiences. At school, I was involved in the classical guitar group, concert band, chamber choir, and I formed a few pop bands with friends. Whilst in the sixth form, I attended Leeds College of Music Saturday School where I performed as a vocalist and pianist in a pop group. It was really important for me to start off performing alongside other musicians to build my confidence, but now I feel my best performing solo.

Which instruments do you play, which is your favourite? I play eclectic, acoustic and classical guitar, piano and flute, but I think singing has to be my favourite. For me, piano and guitar are more like tools for songwriting.

At school, did you study GCSE and/or A-level/music or performing arts? I studied GCSE Music and A-Level Music. However, I also really benefitted from extracurricular music groups. There are amazing opportunities in the local area such as Northallerton Music Centre and Rock-school in Darlington. The Sage in Gateshead also offers some great summer school programmes.

What other A-levels did you do? English Literature and Geography. I also did an EPQ in a musical topic which really helped with my university applications and created a lot of interest at interviews. I would strongly recommend doing an EPQ as part of your Sixth Form studies.

When did you start composing your own music and writing your own songs? I've been writing music for as long as I can remember but started performing my own songs when I was 13. I would say that learning to play the guitar really accelerated my songwriting and has now enabled me to have a lot of creative freedom as an independent artist.

ALUMNI

How were you supported at school in your music ? I seized at the opportunity to perform at the end-of-year concerts whenever I could. The performing arts team really encouraged me and offered me opportunities out of my comfort zone such as acting and singing in the school production of “Freya”.

After your studies at Richmond, where did you go, what qualifications did you achieve? I studied BA Music at University of Liverpool where I was awarded a First-Class Honours Degree. I continued my studies and last year completed a Masters in Music Research with grade Distinction. During the second year of my undergraduate degree, I had the chance to study in Wellington, New Zealand for six months as a part of the university study abroad programme. Whilst I was there, I played live gigs, volunteered at a music festival and recorded music with a fellow university student. I believe this experience shaped me as an individual and as a musician, so I strongly recommend going abroad as part of your degree if this is offered to you!

What have you been doing since you graduated - where are you based at the moment? I have just started studying for a PhD in Music at Newcastle University, with my project exploring the therapeutic effects of songwriting. I have been using this last year to focus on writing as much music as possible. I played a couple of virtual gigs and festivals in 2021 but am really looking forward to getting back in to performing in the North East this year.

How did you get your music played on BBC Introducing? The beauty of BBC Introducing is that anyone has the chance of being played on the local weekly introducing shows by uploading music to the BBC Introducing website. I upload every song I release and have been played on stations such as BBC Tees, York and Leeds. I have found it a really valuable channel towards generating interest in my music.

Tell us a little about how you felt when you heard yourself on Nick Grimshaw's show? Ecstatic! It was an amazing feeling. I wrote my depiction of what I thought one of Taylor Swift’s new songs might sound like and emailed it to Nick Grimshaw’s team. They replied and told me they would play it on the show!

Where do you do your recording, do you have an agent/producer? Normally I record in a studio, however for the last year I have created a studio set-up at home. I write the music and send it to my producer, then we work on ideas collaboratively.

How many songs have you released so far? I have released five singles so far, and I am currently working towards a debut EP.

Have you any gigs/events planned as Covid restrictions ease? I am very excited to be playing an unplugged acoustic show in York on Friday 11th February, held by BBC Radio York Presenter, Jericho Keys. The gig, known as ‘The Lounge Room’ is an entirely unplugged and stripped-back acoustic night. I will be performing alongside artists Beth McCarthy and Future People. It is an intimate gig of only 36 capacity and is held at Guppy’s Enterprise Club in York. The audience is made up of fans, family and friends and is already sold out.

What advice would you give to any students who are interested in writing their own music in terms of inspiration and developing a style? Take every opportunity to perform at school, join as many groups as possible and push yourself out of your comfort zone! Surround yourself with positive people and you will do great.

LINKS TO EVIE’S MUSIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

[Spotify](#)

[Apple Music](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Holly Brydon, in Year 13, was nominated by Mrs Roberts, who wrote: "I taught Holly French when she was in Year 7 and whilst I haven't taught her since, I think she is incredibly deserving of a Headteacher's Values Award. She is a diligent, caring, organised young lady and alongside working incredibly hard at college, she also volunteers on a weekly basis in a local primary school as she would like to study primary education. In fact, she happens to volunteer in my four year old daughter's class.

"Every week we hear about Holly and how she has worked and helped the children in her class, how kind and smiley she is and how she always helps do their coats up and sort their hats out; the latter especially being a very big thing in the eyes of a four year old. I am fortunate enough to see Holly at pick up and she is confident and clearly has an excellent rapport with the children; she looks very at ease in the classroom environment.

"The teacher she works with speaks incredibly highly of Holly's commitment to their school's very youngest children week in week out and describes her as a very hard working and dedicated young lady. I concur entirely! Not only is she a fabulous role model to younger children but also to her peers. She also represents all of Richmond School and Sixth Form College's values, with each and every one clearly demonstrated on a daily basis."



(w/e 17th December)

Florence Hall and James Roberts, in Year 13, received a joint nomination from Ms Richardson, Miss Weston and Mr Hedley who wrote: "We would like to nominate Florence Hall and James Roberts for their considerable contribution to the School and College to date in their roles of Headgirl and Headboy. They have shown such maturity, delivered excellent speeches at the two Open Evenings at the start of the year and acted like two additional members of staff. The two of them work extremely well together presenting not only a united front but a warm and genuine one too.



"Both Florence and James have also represented the school on the Arete Learning Trust student leadership group. This is such an important piece of work as it marks the start of student leadership work across the trust and it is so important this is done well. Needless to say they have completed this task in an exemplary fashion and Mr Crane, our CEO frequently comments on the positive impact they have on the group. Finally, both Florence and James have received offers from Oxford University this week and had put in significant preparation work in advance of this."

(w/e 14th January)

Ellie Spencer, in Year 12, was nominated by Miss Abbey, who wrote: "I would like to nominate Ellie for resilience. Ellie had a very challenging Year 10/11 at Richmond School and worked incredibly hard with the support of staff in the school to overcome those barriers to learning. Her determination and mental toughness enabled her to successfully gain a place to study at Richmond Sixth Form College.

If you see or teach Ellie in and around college this year, you will see the positive change that she has undergone. She is a settled, happy and mature Year 12 student who is currently thriving on the Triple CTEC Sport course. She has great relationships with her teachers and always responds very well to the feedback she receives in order to produce her very best work as she works towards her chosen career in sport psychology. As Ellie's tutor for six years, it has been an absolute joy to watch her grow into a fantastic human. I am so proud of the positive and successful start she has made to Year 12 and she should be too."



(w/e 21st January)

HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Archie Marshall, in Year 13, was nominated by Miss Ridley, who wrote: "I'd like to nominate Archie Marshall for demonstrating the values of Excellence, Independence and Respect.

!Archie was part of a group of four historians who were successful in their application to be part of the national Auschwitz online programme, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The Year 13 students completed two days' work whilst at college and then finished the project in their own time.

As part of their involvement in this project, students were tasked with taking what they had learnt and teaching it to others. Three of our four students chose to create a display (which is in the sixth form study centre) and Archie chose to deliver an assembly to his peers in sixth form (both Year 12 and Year 13).

Archie created this from scratch and, with a few edits from myself, delivered a quality assembly that clearly taught the background and story of the Holocaust, as well as emphasising the importance of remembering the victims and their stories. Archie put aside many hours of his own time to create, edit and practise the assembly and deserves recognition for this.

"He was incredibly eloquent and respectful in his delivery (and even practised the pronunciation of German phrases!) Congratulations and well done, Archie."
(w/e 28th January)



Isaac Ulunasobo, in Year 8, was nominated by Mr Randall, who wrote: "Last week Isaac independently looked after a new student, from a different tutor group, who was clearly very nervous about his first day at Richmond School.

"As soon as Isaac saw the student lining up, he approached him and introduced himself, taking him to his other lessons for the rest of the day, all without being asked to do so.

"The next morning at muster, Isaac went over to the other student to make sure he was okay and knew where he was going after tutor.

"I was really impressed by how Isaac (a student I have not come across before) had looked after his fellow classmate, showing the school values of Respect and Independence as he took it upon himself to introduce himself and make sure the new student was happy and had a friendly face around school."

(w/e 4th February)



Bella Stolarski, in Year 11. was nominated by Mrs Copland who wrote: "Bella consistently demonstrates the values of Independence, Excellence and Resilience.

"Bella is an outstanding student in many respects - she has been awarded 115 Star Performers so far this year, and not a single consequence. Her teachers are endlessly positive about her. Bella always works hard and tries her best, even when her work is challenging, and when there are other things going on. Her effort and commitment to her studies is clear - she is doing everything that is asked of her, every day, without fail. I

"t would be fantastic to celebrate that! Huge well done to Bella - it's a privilege to have her in my tutor group."

(w/e 11th February)



HALF-TERM HIGHLIGHTS

