

**Welcome to our May Newsletter** - I recently had the very real pleasure of hosting a visit from a group of alumni. The group (who all started at Richmond School in 1975!) had come back to Richmond for a reunion weekend and as part of that, had asked if they could have a tour of the school and sixth form college. It was fantastic to chat to them about their memories of their school days, their lessons, the extra-curricular and educational visit offer and their teachers. We all agreed at the end that it was the teachers that really made the school experience for them and this, of course, remains the case now. As we toured the school (during a busy lunchtime), they were really struck by the great relationships they could see between the teachers and students and they commented repeatedly on this. They certainly felt that the school had retained its magic and the 'family feel' that we are all so committed to was very evident. An article about their visit will feature in our summer newsletter. Our Alumni and Friends network now has over 1,000 members and if you would like to join, please sign up [here](#). There are some brilliant alumni articles included in this newsletter too.

The spring and summer terms have really seen the re-introduction of live performance - be it Dance, Drama or Music - we've been bowled over by the lot. The obvious challenges aside, one of the sorest losses of the whole of the pandemic was the lack of any Performing Arts as we know them. Our school believes in them so strongly and to lose something so important was really significant. Seeing students dance, sing and act again and the pleasure they derive from this makes me realise how particularly hard those students must have found the pandemic experience. But we're off again and really look forward to the pantomime - Alice in Wonderland - in November.

It would be remiss of me not to shine a light on our Year 11 and 13 students, who have just started their public examinations. We have received nothing other than positive feedback from our invigilators and examination team regarding the students' resilience, focus and exemplary behaviour. Without a doubt, it is a particularly challenging experience for them, having had their studies interrupted and the Year 13 students not having taken any public examinations after Year 11. We're rooting for each and every one of them!

Do have a great half-term break.

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your ongoing support and feedback.

Jenna Potter  
Headteacher



Find out how you can support Holly's Big Garden Project on Page 6.



Turn to page 14 to read about Richmond School's multi-award-winning Theatre Company.

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**Richmond School  
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

A member of

**Areté** Learning Trust

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

## CHECK OUT OUR VIDEO OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Our students have an exceptional offer of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, our roll call of clubs ensures there is something for everyone. There is a host of sporting and performing arts activities as well as clubs such as Science, Chess and Dungeons & Dragons.

We've put together a video to give a taste of what's available during the summer term. Please do spare a few minutes to watch it [here](#) - we hope it may ignite previous interests or encourage our students to try something new – they will always be welcome to join.





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## GREAT EFFORT BY FIRE CADETS AT CHARITY CAR WASH

We are most impressed by the efforts of Fire Cadets Charlotte, Sophie, Josh, Leo, Raffy and Liam who gave up their time to wash cars for charity recently. Hosted at Richmond School, the event was organised by Richmond Fire Station and the hardy volunteers helped to raise almost £900.

The donations will be shared between the Ukranian Aid Appeal, a local charity supporting underprivileged children in the area and The Fire Fighters' Charity, which supports the mental and physical needs of serving and retired members of the UK fire service and their families.

John Hancock, Crew Manager Richmond Fire Station, said: "It was another fantastic effort by the cadets and all those who had their car washed, despite it snowing at some points!"



## NORTHERN YOUTH VOICES EXCEL AT WENSLEYDALE TOURNAMENT OF SONG

It's great to hear that Northern Youth Voices came first and second in the junior choir class at the recent Wensleydale Tournament of Song. A number of our students sing with the choir and this was the first time the choirs had taken part in a competition. Debbie Allenby, who runs the choirs, said: "Everyone had the most amazing time performing and came away on a complete high! The senior group came first and the juniors came second - they both received fabulous scores and feedback."

We are thrilled to hear that Freya, in Year 12, has offered to be Northern Youth Voices new accompanist and that Andrew, in Year 10, has also joined the Senior Voices as well as supporting the younger group for his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Northern Youth Voices are now rehearsing in the hall at Richmond Sixth Form College, on Monday evenings at 5:30, 6:15 and 7pm. A recruitment window for new members is open so please get in touch with Debbie if you would like to find out more by emailing: [northernyouthvoices@gmail.com](mailto:northernyouthvoices@gmail.com) or via [Facebook](#)



Debbie also runs the Dales Community Pop Choir in which a number of our former students and parents of our students sing. They are also celebrating after winning both the Lady Wilson Cup for the highest adult choir score and the Thwaites Award, for the most promising choral performance at the Wensleydale Tournament of Song.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## ANOTHER EXQUISITE PERFORMANCE BY ELSA, GEORGIA, MAISY, ROSE AND ZOE

We are so proud of Elsa, Georgie, Maisy, Rose and Zoe who were invited to join Richmondshire Choral Society for a second time to mark Richmond's 950 celebrations.

They performed Cantique 950, composed by Mark Harrison, as part of the musical offering in the recent Mayfest weekend. The girls sang beautifully to a most appreciative audience in St Mary's Church - we hope you enjoy listening to them [here](#).



## WEATHER IS ON STUDENTS' SIDE FOR BRONZE D OF E PRACTICE EXPEDITION

The day dawned warm and fine for forty-six students to set off on their recent D of E practice expedition. They walked from Richmond School to Marrick Priory, where they pitched their tents for an overnight stay before walking to Reeth the following day. The students put into practice the skills they have been learning, such as first aid, map reading and cooking. All the students completed the expedition and they are looking forward to their assessed weekend at the end of June, when they are keeping their fingers crossed for some more lovely weather!



Huge thanks to Mr Birdsall, Miss Manning, Miss Pemberton and Mr Potter for all their help and support during the weekend.





# IN THE COMMUNITY

## ARE YOU A BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER? HERE'S A GREAT COMPETITION FOR YOU!

North Yorkshire Youth's 2023 Calendar Photo Competition is now live. Last year, a stunning image of a blue tit by Cameron Smith, in Year 11, took pride of place as January's opening shot of the calendar. It would be great if lots of our students went out into the countryside to take photographs of North Yorkshire to enter the competition. The theme is 'A Year in North Yorkshire' and the photographs can be landscapes, scenery or street photography - the only limitation is that there should not be any people featured.

The competition is open to students in Years 7 to 13, living in North Yorkshire. The closing date is not until 31st August so there's plenty of time to select your favourite shot. For more information or to enter please contact Ian on: [ian@nyy.org.uk](mailto:ian@nyy.org.uk)

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

Are you a budding photographer in years 7-13 living in North Yorkshire?

2023 Calendar Photo Competition  
**"A YEAR IN NORTH YORKSHIRE"**

Photos can be taken on any device and need to represent North Yorkshire.

They can be Landscapes, scenery or street photography, with no people present - we want to see North Yorkshire at its best throughout the year!

Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

For more information and to enter, contact Ian on 07825 566 658 or email [ian@nyy.org.uk](mailto:ian@nyy.org.uk)

North Yorkshire Youth



## £1,700 RAISED FOR UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Following the recent optional dress day, when all students and staff were invited to wear something blue and/or yellow, to represent the Ukrainian flag, and students could take part in a sponsored silence, we are delighted that £1,658 has been raised. Thank you to our new Year 10 Student Leaders for organising this event and to all the students and staff who have contributed to raising so much for the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. A further £42 was raised from the raffling of an Easter egg, bringing the grand total to £1,700. Red Cross teams are working around the clock to get critical care to those who need it most, both in Ukraine and its bordering countries.

If anyone would like to donate to the appeal please do so [here](#).



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## CALL OUT TO HELP COLLEGE'S BIG GARDEN PROJECT BECOME A REALITY

After months in the planning, an exciting communal garden project is underway. The brainchild of Holly Brydon, a kind-hearted Year 13 student, the Big Garden Project will see three areas in the college grounds split into distinct zones and transformed to an eco garden, a social space and a peace garden.

Holly has planned a number of volunteer days when students, staff, alumni, friends of the school and members of the local community are invited to don their gardening clothes and pick up their rakes and trowels to clear the three areas, ready to plant seeds, herbs and flowers. This is a massive undertaking but excitement is already growing about the project which will make the redundant spaces into amazing hubs that will benefit students and staff at the college.

As well as calling out for volunteers to help with the groundwork, who can sign up [here](#), Holly is also appealing for any local businesses or individuals who may be able to support the project with the donation of seeds, plants, compost, herbs, gravel, wood or even seating and bird boxes, to help her realise her vision. If anyone would like to contribute to the project, please email [sixthformadmin@richmondschool.net](mailto:sixthformadmin@richmondschool.net). Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Holly said: "I first had the idea for the project in September 2020, at the beginning of Year 12, when I saw that these garden spaces in the Sixth Form were unused but offered so much potential. It was put on the back burner while other projects took place until just before Christmas, when I really started to plan the project and approached Mrs Potter, headteacher, with my proposal.



"While it has been many months in the planning, I am so happy that we are now underway with turning the three spaces into an eco garden, a social space and a peace garden. I think it is so important, especially given the past two years, for our college to have such communal outdoor spaces where students can spend time.

"There have been times over the past few years when I know myself and others have needed to take a minute and breathe, and these areas are going to be perfect for that when they are complete. I'm so excited to see how the project evolves and I am so incredibly grateful for all the support we've had so far, both from the school and the local community"



# IN THE COMMUNITY

A great start has been made with two ground-clearing days, however there is still a long way to go, including weeding and re-edging lawn areas before flowers can be planted and the new spaces created.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "This is a truly wonderful initiative and it really will make a significant difference to the students and staff in our college by enhancing the landscape and offering a sanctuary to think, relax, read and learn in the gardens of our beautiful grounds.

Holly has done a marvellous job masterminding the project and it is fantastic to see how her energy and passion are motivating her fellow students and other members of the community to support her. Being outdoors and connecting with nature is a wonderful and positive way to boost wellbeing and stay healthy and the project demonstrates how our wider school community can come together to create a truly precious space that will enrich many lives now and in the future."



Well done to Sarah Manning, in Year 11, who has raised £134 for Mind, the charity that supports people who are experiencing problems with their mental health. During March, Sarah ran a mile a day for 27 days, experiencing all the elements from blizzards and high winds to an unexpected heatwave!

This is the second year that Sarah has undertaken the challenge.

If you would like to support Sarah's fundraising, in aid of Mind, you can donate to her page [here](#).



## THE ACHIEVE PROGRAMME ACHIEVED SO MUCH!

We were proud to be part of the Achieve Programme where a group of our students worked with former Olympic swimmer, James Kirton, and Youth Engagement Manager of North Yorkshire Sport, Jody Ivel on a social action project in the community.

Their great work resulted in them raising £244 to fund the planting of trees on the school site. We are pleased to share a fantastic video [here](#) about the programme which aimed to improve resilience, physical and mental wellbeing and improve self-confidence and also benefited other schools in the area. Thank you so much North Yorkshire Sport for this amazing opportunity.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## SUCCESS FOR CHARLOTTE IN POLICE CADETS AND NATIONAL TEAMGYM EVENT

Charlotte Morris, in Year 11, joined the Police Cadets in September 2021, when they relaunched the enrolment after COVID and her experiences so far have made her even more determined to become a Police Officer. Charlotte has been set on this career path since she was young and would eventually like to be a Traffic Officer in the Roads Policing Group.

Charlotte's achievement in the Police Cadets was recognised recently with an attestation ceremony, when Rishi Sunak presented the certificates.

As well as being committed to the Police Cadets, Charlotte also devotes a huge amount of time to gymnastics, demonstrating how her busy lifestyle is building foundations for her future.



Unfortunately, the last year has been eventful for injuries, halting Charlotte's gymnastics progress. However, she has worked hard to overcome these and together with her team of 11 other gymnasts from Richmondshire Gymnastics Club, Charlotte recently attended the English Championships for TeamGym, to compete against other teams across England and Scotland. This is the highest competition level that Charlotte has ever entered. The team did amazingly well, with medals throughout each age category. Charlotte and her team were able to secure Bronze.

Charlotte's coach, Rebecca Clay, said: "We were immensely proud all of the gymnasts. They commit many hours to training and have to balance the demands of this with managing their school work. Entering this level of competition has placed extra workload and they have coped tremendously."





# PRIMARY TRANSITION

## ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Richmond School recently hosted the Richmond cluster Mini Tennis competition. Seven local schools attended the event which catered for pupils from Years 3 to 6. The competitions were supported by the following Year 9 Sports Leaders; Cara, Hannah, Maggie, Lilyanna, Emily, Beth, Chloe, Tilda, Bella and Lily. The leaders were complimented by many of the visiting staff for their management of the event and the lovely manner in which they communicated with the Primary pupils.

The results were as follows;

### Year 3/4 Competition:

1. Richmond St Mary's
2. Brompton-on-Swale
3. Michael Syddall
4. Bolton-on-Swale B
5. Bolton-on-Swale A

### Year 5/ 6 Competition:

1. Bolton-on-Swale B
2. Bolton-on-Swale A
3. Richmond St Mary's
4. Michael Syddall
5. Brompton-on-Swale
6. Ravensworth



Each cluster area then sent their top two teams to the Richmondshire Area final on Thursday 7th April. The event was again successfully led by the year 9 sports leaders. The results were as follows;

### Year 3/4 Competition:

1. Brompton-on-Swale
2. Richmond St Mary's
3. Thornton Watlass
4. Le Cateau
5. Pickhill
6. Carnagill

### Year 5/6 Competition:

1. Bolton-on-Swale A
2. Thornton Watlass
3. Bolton-on-Swale B
4. Masham
5. Carnagill
6. Wavell





# PRIMARY TRANSITION

## PRACTICALLY PERFECT IN EVERY WAY!

Our Year 7s were treated to an energetic and exciting performance by Year 5 and 6 students from Richmond Methodist School (RMS) which was practically perfect in every way! Their piece, from Mary Poppins, was the culmination of many rehearsals and their hard work to create a polished showcase certainly paid off. Please enjoy their performance [HERE](#).



The students performed under the direction of Lucy Wilson, in Year 12, a CTEC Performing Arts student who is a keen dancer and is hoping to become a teacher. Lucy put together the choreography and encouraged and mentored the students during their weekly practices.



Thank you so much to Miss Wood, Deputy Head Teacher at RMS and former Richmond School student, and Danni Fox, Lead Dance Teacher, for their support with the project and to all the students who took to the stage – you were amazing. An extra-special thank you to Lucy, who put in so much time creating the dance and working with the students.





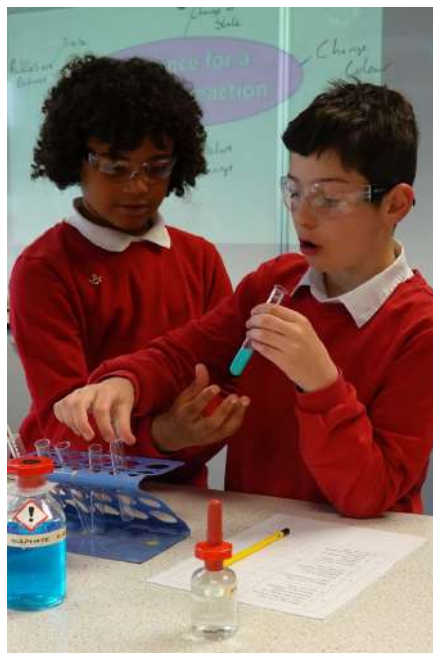
# PRIMARY TRANSITION

## A MORNING OF EXPERIMENTS FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

During May, Mr Randall ran two more chemical reaction workshops for Year 5 and 6 primary students.

We were delighted to welcome twenty-six Year 5 and 6 students from East Cowton School and Trinity Academy Richmond and a further 31 students from Hipswell School who really enjoyed themselves.

They carried out a number of test tube experiments and then recorded the results of the chemical reactions. The students were extremely well behaved and attentive throughout the workshop and a credit to their schools and their families.





# PRIMARY TRANSITION

## YOUNG STUDENTS ARE ON THE BALL AT DYNAMOS CRICKET TOURNAMENTS

Richmond School hosted a range of Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 girls and boys cricket festivals throughout April and May. In preparation for this, Tom Bates from Yorkshire Cricket came into school to train ten keen cricketers from Years 7 to 9 in leading and officiating the Dynamos cricket tournaments. The leaders were exceptional in how they led all aspects of the tournaments and Tom was so impressed that he has asked them to take the lead at the county cricket finals later in June. Congratulations to these students: Isaac Bottomley, James Cox, Guy Feakins, Jack Ford, Archie Maclelland, Max Percival, Jack Platt, Isaac Tate, Joseph White and Sophie White.

The following schools attended the Richmond Cluster events at the end of April: Trinity Academy Richmond, Bolton-on-Swale, Richmond Methodist School, Sacred Heart, Brompton-on-Swale, Richmond St Mary's.

The Richmondshire finals were hosted in May with the results as follows:

### Year 3-4 Dynamos:

- 1st- Bedale Primary
- 2nd- Richmond Methodist
- 3rd- Brompton-on-Swale
- Joint 4th on points- Le Cateau, Leeming and Londonderry and Bolton-on-Swale

### Year 5-6 Girls:

- 1st- Brompton-on-Swale
- 2nd- Bedale Primary
- 3rd- Bolton-on-Swale

### Year 5-6 Boys:

- 1st- Richmond Methodist School
- 2nd- Bolton on Swale
- 3rd- Bedale Primary



Congratulations to Bedale, Brompton and Richmond Methodist Schools who qualify for the County final in June.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## A PASSION FOR SONG AND DANCE

It's wonderful to hear how the performing arts have become a passion for Annabel Stewart, in Year 7. Twelve-year-old Annabel has been dancing since she was five years old and discovered her love of singing at primary school.

Annabel dances with the Janet Seymour School of Theatre Dance, in Reeth and Low Row, where she attends classes in ballet and tap. She passed her Grade 5 ballet in the summer of 2021 and is now preparing for her Grade 6, which is a very high standard for someone of such a young age. She is also about to take her Bronze exam in tap. Janet Seymour, Dance School proprietor, said: "Annabel has been a joy to teach from her very first lesson in our Pre-Primary ballet class. She has always done her best and her dedication has paid off. At such a young age, Annabel is already working at a professional level in ballet and tap. I am very proud to have her as a member of my dance school."

Annabel has always loved singing and sang throughout her time at primary school, singing with the school choir and also being lucky enough to sing twice as part of 'Young Voices', a huge massed schools choir event. More recently, Annabel enjoyed listening to her mum perform with the Dales Community Pop Choir. She was overjoyed when Debbie Allenby, the conductor of the Pop Choir, launched Northern Youth Voices for younger singers, in September 2021. Annabel has attended rehearsals every week since then, along with her sister, and has already performed at The Station and more recently at the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. Debbie Allenby said: "Annabel's love and enthusiasm for making music and singing is clear to see. She is a talented musician and a fabulous ambassador for our choir, always setting an excellent example for other members. We feel privileged to have her sing with Northern Youth Voices."

Annabel said: "I really enjoy singing and dancing and do this three times each week. It's not only fun and develops my skills but I also get to meet some really lovely friends too."

As well as singing and dancing, Annabel also manages to fit in a netball practice before she goes to choir on a Monday evening!

Well done Annabel for your dedication to the performing arts and sport – keep up the good work!





# PERFORMING ARTS

## NOT ONE, BUT TWO TROPHIES FOR RICHMOND SCHOOL THEATRE COMPANY



We are incredibly proud of our Richmond School Senior Theatre Company students who scooped not one, but two trophies at the Northern round of the All-England Theatre One Act Play Festival, hosted at The Georgian Theatre Royal.

The Group was awarded the Crathorne Cup for Best Youth Group as well as the Durham Cup for best Technical Achievement and Stage Management for their performance of 'The Edelweiss Pirates' by Atub Kahn Dinn. In addition, Devon Raggett was a nominee for Best Actress. This is amazing news for this highly talented and close-knit group who have worked so hard to put on such a polished performance.

Mr Birdsall and Miss Manning, leaders of the Theatre Company, said: "The students pulled it together on Friday with our all-day rehearsal and completely blew us away again, receiving some amazing comments. The adjudicator was most impressed with the students' acting skills. She said they were an 'exceptionally talented group' and she loved Callum Leinster and Sophia O'Callaghan's partnership. She said our style and portrayal of the story were perfect.

"We reached the semi-final but unfortunately due to the short notice of the date we were unable to make it as some of the students had other commitments, so we had to decline. However, what a great effort for our first-ever entry to a prestigious competition – it was a fabulous opportunity for the students to compete against like-minded groups and to have feedback from expert adjudication to help them enhance the quality of their performances in the future. This group is such an exceptionally talented bunch of people to work with and we are so happy they are staying with us in Sixth Form to study A-level Drama and Theatre Studies."

## MULTI-AWARD-WINNING THEATRE COMPANY INTERVIEWED BY BFBS RADIO

Our Richmond School Theatre company were delighted to share news of their recent success in the One Act Play Festival with BFBS Radio. Maisie Forbes, Noah Edwards and Miss Manning were interviewed by Alice Vickery, BFBS presenter, about their performance and how much they enjoyed taking part in the Festival. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

They also chatted about forthcoming productions, including Twelfth Night in the summer and Alice in Wonderland: The Curious Pantomime in November.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND CAST REVEALED

During the audition process of Alice in Wonderland we were inundated with high-standard, charismatic audition performances. Around 50 students auditioned for named roles of the production with only 19 speaking roles to fill. The students were put through their paces, having to act, dance and sing repertoire from the show that they had previously workshoped. Students auditioned in front of Mr Birdsall, Miss Manning, Guy Feakins and Poppy Mortimer who then had the difficult job of casting. There was a lot of deliberation and changes throughout the casting session as the talent presented was exceptional. The role of Alice was one that stalled the panel the most due to the evident determination of the auditionees for that role!



We are now four weeks into rehearsals and we are completely taken aback by the sheer determination and creativity of the whole cast so far. The cast is made up of 50+ students from Years 7 to 12 with such an array of performing experience and they are already a closely compact group, supporting and developing one another. Things are moving fast, we have set and blocked the opening scenes already along with our first big cast musical number as Alice enters Wonderland.

We are looking forward to our technical team joining us after half term to complete the full cast for the production to start designing and creating all things set, costume, props, lighting and sound that we need to transform the stage into Wonderland! Keep your eyes peeled for our regular "Meet the Cast" interviews!

THE KNAVE OF THE KNAVE OF HEARTS - Maisie Forbes

CHESHIRE CAT - Noah Edwards

ALICE - Georgie O'Reilly

MAD HATTER/BROTHER - John Shanley

THE WHITE RABBIT - Myles Fairhurst

THE DUCHESS - Toby Watson

CATERPILLAR - Teddy Warren

TWEEDLE DUM - Millie Dixon

TWEEDLE DEE - Ruby Cooke

MARCH HARE - Ellie Hughes

DORMOUSE - Lucy Wilson

MOCK TURTLE - Keira Colley

QUEEN OF HEARTS - Sophia O'Callaghan

KING OF HEARTS - Fearn Wheatley

KNOBBY THE DOOR - Daisy Binks

CARDS: ACE - Harriet Rowland-Hil

CARDS: THREE - Oliver Allinson

CARDS: SEVEN - Bella Calunniato





# PERFORMING ARTS

## ALEX SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES OF DANCE

National Dance Week kicked off with an inspirational talk for our Year 8 students by Alex Macpherson, in Year 13. Alex studies Performing Arts and specialises in Dance. Alex's interest in Dance started when he joined Richmond School seven years ago and since then he has taken part in many dance-related after-school clubs, performed at a range of dance showcases and festivals and studied Dance at GCSE and CTEC.

Alex talked to the students about how Dance has helped him to develop a number of different skills, such as creativity and choreography. It has also improved his confidence and taught him about resilience and how to take feedback and sometimes knock backs. Alex encouraged the students to consider getting involved in the wide range of Dance and Performing Arts opportunities at school.



Thank you so much Alex, for sharing your experiences, and we wish you all the very best when you start your Foundation Course in Dance in September.

## FABULOUS DANCE FUSION PERFORMANCE

It was fantastic to welcome students from Dance Fusion to perform a freestyle piece to our Year 8 students. Well done to Lola, Bella, Edie, Eleni, Isabelle and Molly, former students Freya and Amelia Woodward and Brooke and Hope from SFX.

Nicola O'Malley, Dance Teacher, said: "We were delighted to welcome Dance Fusion to our assembly and it was great to see so many of our students, past and present, involved in the stunning piece. We hope you enjoy their performance which you can watch [here](#).

At Dance Fusion, children of all ages up to 18 can enjoy classes in Freestyle, Street and Latin Ballroom. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 17:00 and 20:00.

If you are interested in finding out more about the classes available at Dance Fusion then please contact Alison on 07779 570631 or email [alicolmena7@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alicolmena7@hotmail.co.uk) or follow on facebook at DanceFusionRichmond





# PERFORMING ARTS

## A STUNNING CONTEMPORARY DANCE BY OLIVIA

Olivia Richardson, in Year 10, performed a stunning contemporary piece for the Year 10 assembly which you can watch [here](#).

Olivia has been part of the CAT scheme, run by Dance City in Newcastle, to develop her contemporary style of dancing and to work to a professional standard. This involves training weekly and over weekends to develop a strong technique and work towards performances. Olivia has been involved in the CAT scheme for the last 3 years and is thriving in the project. We are very lucky to be able to work with such a talented dancer and performer.

In addition, Olivia has secured a place at the Rambert School's summer school in London, having trained for four days on the Central School of Ballet's Easter intensive and recently completed a three-day spring intensive course with the English National Ballet School.



## EVIE ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

As we continued to celebrate National Dance Week, Evie Dobson, in Year 13, was our guest speaker in the Year 9 assembly.

Evie has been involved in dance since joining Richmond School in Year 8, and she has made a great contribution to the dance department. Evie has taken part in many performances and also participated in exam pieces for older students studying GCSE and A-level Dance. Evie had no previous experience in dance before starting Richmond School and during her time here she has developed into an exceptionally talented dancer and she is now moving on to study a foundation course at Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. Evie has gained a wide range of experience and training from the dance opportunities offered at Richmond School and has worked incredibly hard to secure this place. This is a massive achievement for Evie and we wish her the best of luck for the future.

Evie encouraged the students to make the most of all the opportunities that are available in the dance department and explained how being involved in groups, such as Evolution, and performances is fantastic for building respect, resilience, teamwork and creativity.

Evie knew when she chose to study GCSE dance that she wanted to do this at a higher level, however she recommended that dance is a great option for anyone who would like to have creative opportunities, express themselves and be able to spend time in the dance studio, whilst keeping fit, letting off steam and having fun.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## AN AMAZING BLEND OF DANCE STYLES BY CHARLOTTE JACQUELINE SCHOOL OF DANCE

Our Year 9 students were blown away by the energy and excellence of a stunning dance performance by our students who train with the Charlotte Jacqueline School of Dance. 'Wake me up' was a fusion of all the styles offered at the school, including ballet, contemporary, commercial and tap, playing to the students strengths as they took part in the sections they studied. You can watch the performance [here](#).

Charlotte Porter, principal of the Dance School and former student, said: "It's so lovely to be back at Richmond School, especially to celebrate their National Dance Week! It's fantastic to see the arts being so well promoted and seeing so many students enjoy dancing, long may it continue!"



Eleven students took part in the dance – thank you to: Freya, Alice, Ellen, Beth, James, Emily, Fran, Katie, Serena, Daisy and Emily

Nicola O' Malley, dance teacher, said: "Established in 2017, Charlotte's business has grown by offering many different styles of dance. It was a pleasure to invite her dance company to the school and share their talent and professionalism. It was also lovely to see eleven of our students on the stage performing with passion and to a high technical standard. We will look forward to inviting them back in the future to share their amazing work."

## LOVING THE WORLD OF PERFORMING ARTS

Georgie O' Reilly, in Year 12, is no stranger to the world of song and dance, having been involved in dance performances and groups at Richmond School since she started in Year 7. Georgie was a guest speaker at the final assembly of National Dance Week when she spoke to our Year 7 students about her many experiences in dance and musical theatre.

Georgie is currently studying CTEC Performing Arts and A-level Music and is an active member of the dance, drama and musical groups in school. She was recently cast as Alice, in the school's forthcoming production of Alice In Wonderland: The Curious Pantomime.

Outside of school, Georgie is a key member of Richmond Operatic Society and recently performed the role of Louise in their production of Carousel.



The Year 7s were clearly captivated by Georgie as she explained about the many opportunities available in dance through clubs such as Evolution and Breaking Point, as well as the wide range of drama and music groups. In addition, she spoke about the organisations outside of school, such as the local dance schools and the Georgian Theatre. Georgie said that being part of such groups is great for confidence building, mental health and making friends.



# PERFORMING ARTS

## STUNNING PERFORMANCES IN SPRING CONCERT



Our recent spring concert showcased our jazz band, concert band and chamber choir and a number of soloists who will sadly be leaving us this summer. Students, from Year 7 through to 13 performed at the first concert in school since December 2019 and delivered a set that was of a professional standard. The audience was blown away by the stunning performances of all the groups and soloists.



The programme was varied and included a great mix of genres and styles - from selections from West Side Story and Star Wars, Ave Verum and Scarborough Fair to Ragtime and Glee - there was something for everyone. If you missed the show then please enjoy our short video [here](#) which features highlights of all the groups and soloists who took part.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music, said: "It is such a pleasure to lead a department full of really great young musicians. The standard of performance was incredible, and I am so happy we have the opportunity to share our music again. Our current Year 13s have been the backbone of the department over seven years, performing in our community, nationally and abroad. We will miss them greatly but the next generation are coming though strong!"





# PERFORMING ARTS

## STUDENTS MAKE A SHOW-STOPPING RETURN TO THE STAGE

Sixty-eight dance students stepped out on stage for the first time in over two years and dazzled the audience with their show-stopping performances. 'Return to the Stage' was the comeback show that exceeded all expectations, with 31 spectacular dances that were the culmination of months of rehearsals.

'Return to the Stage' showcased a range of genres from Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre and Commercial with some outstanding choreography that even included gymnastics. Students from the school and college's Evolution and Breaking Point Dance Groups performed, as well as pieces by the GCSE Dance and CTEC Performing Arts Dance students, with a mix of solo, duet and group performances, and a stunning grand finale piece to Levitating by Dua Lipa.



The show was organised by four sixth form students, Alex Macpherson, Faith Nacamavuto, Aurora Carter and Evie Dobson who project managed the event from its conception to delivery. Alex said: "We wanted to create a big comeback show that didn't have a specific theme, but with the intention to celebrate dance and coming back to live performances and we felt the name 'Return to the Stage' summed up the intentions of the show perfectly. "We have all taken part in leading Evolution, our in-house dance company, and worked with Miss Pemberton to create choreography. Everyone from Year 7 to Year 13 has been incredible and so professional over the past few months and even though it has been a very long and tiring process, we are all thrilled about the way show night went. We are so happy that everyone had the opportunity to showcase their talent and we hope everyone who took part keeps that passion for dance and takes it further."



"We also want to say thank you to the Dance staff who have been so supportive throughout the planning of this showcase and for everything they have done for us over the past seven years in school and sixth form, pushing us outside our comfort zones and making us more confident dancers."

# PERFORMING ARTS

The show featured some fabulous costumes and choreography and this was brought to life by the excellence of the technical team. Charlie Cooper and Ellis Hepper in Year 10, James Lunn, in Year 12 and Louise Sharpe, former dance student, worked their technical wizardry to create fantastic lighting schemes and sound throughout the show.



Jamie Pemberton, Dance Teacher, said: "I would like to congratulate Alex, Faith, Evie and Aurora for all their efforts to put this amazing showcase together. They have worked extremely hard since January planning and preparing everything to the finest detail. There has not been an evening where I have not seen them in the dance studio rehearsing for the show. After everything they have faced and overcome in the past two years, and the first time being able to present their amazing talent to parents, family and friends, they definitely received the recognition they deserved. I wish them all the best as they take their next steps and embark on their university and conservatoire dance journeys. I really could not have wished for a better cohort and I feel extremely lucky to be a small part of their dance journey. Thank you Year 13."



Jenna Potter, Headteacher, concluded: "This was most certainly a show that was worth waiting for! The students came back to the stage with poise, professionalism and panache and you would not have thought that they had missed two years of performance. Without exception, every piece was breathtaking, all the students were utterly brilliant and deserved to be back in the limelight."

If you missed the show then please enjoy our short video which features some of the dances from the evening. You can watch the video [here](#).

We hope this snapshot gives you a taste of the exceptionally high standard of performances and the energy, passion and commitment demonstrated by the students who took part. Thank you again to Alex, Evie, Faith and Aurora for all their hard work in organising the show, to the Dance teachers for their unwavering support and guidance, and to the students involved - you were all fantastic.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## YEAR 13 STUDENTS DIRECT THEIR OWN IMPRESSIVE DRAMA WORK AT THE GEORGIAN THEATRE ROYAL

As a part of their Directing unit, Year 13 students staged a showcase of their own work at the Georgian Theatre Royal. The group were challenged to direct a scene each from a Shakespeare play that features a strong female character.

The students were given total creative freedom for their interpretations, and they produced an impressive array of works: some modernised the original language, while others chose to use the scene as a stimulus to explore themes important to them.

All the pieces shown were scripted, directed and performed by the group and they were also responsible for all the technical elements, including lighting, sound, set and costume.



Danni Manning, Lead Teacher for Drama, said: "The students have worked incredibly hard to pull together a polished showcase and they should be so proud of the work they have created. What a fantastic way to end their time at Richmond School & Sixth Form College."



## ALEX SELECTED TO PLAY FOOTBALL FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

Congratulations to Alex Goldie, in Year 10, who has been selected to play football for North Yorkshire, together with five other students from Northallerton School, Stokesley School and Wensleydale School.

The students all play for Leyburn Utd JFC U15s. The players were selected after a recent trial at Thirsk which was attended by around 80 players from across the county. Alex is pictured first left on the photograph.



You can find out more about this great news at [Richmondshire Today](https://www.richmondshiretoday.co.uk).

## GREAT EFFORT BY OUR YEAR 10S AT DARLINGTON RFC

We are really proud of Kieran, Peni and Jake who have given so much to their rugby in recent weeks. Their team, Darlington RFC's Under 15s, made it through to the final of the Durham County Cup, after beating Billingham 22:10 in the semi final.

They met Blaydon in a keenly contested final played at Winlaton. Darlington had most of the possession throughout the game but were unable to convert their opportunities and a few mistakes gave Blaydon the advantage and they capitalised on every one.

Kieran, Peni, and Jake all played their hearts out, as did all the players, but unfortunately it was just not to be. We are sure the boys will be very pleased to have reached the final and will put this year's disappointment into a spirited challenge for next year's trophy.





# SPORT

## YEAR 7 FOOTBALLERS ARE AREA CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our Year 7 footballers who won the Area seven-a-side competition. The team were excellent on the day, unbeaten against all eight area opponents. However, it still went down to the wire in their final match against Northallerton, who were also unbeaten. A 1-0 victory meant they took top honours with a total of 20 points from their 8 matches, with 6 wins and 2 draws. The boys were outstanding.



## YEAR 7 STUDENTS FINISH UNBEATEN IN DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FESTIVAL

Awesome news for Harry, Elliot and Zak, in Year 7, who put in a sterling performance to help Darlington RFC's Under 12 team to be the only squad to finish unbeaten in the Durham County Rugby Festival, clocking up three wins and two draws. With the season drawing to a close these lads are certainly ending on a high!

Well done boys - a brilliant result.





## ON THE BALL

Jorge Lumley is a talent to look out for on the netball court after securing a place in the North East Region Under 13 squad when she was just 11 years old.

Jorge, now 12, has been playing netball since she was 6 years old, starting at her local Darlington Headlanders team, before moving to the Oakway team, in Hartlepool, a year ago. Jorge plays either goal attack or goal shooter, so she has a pivotal position in all her games.

As a member of the North East Region squad, Jorge plays every fortnight and competes in games across the region. As part of the Oakway's team, Jorge plays in competitions and tournaments in Co Durham, Teesside, Tyne and Wear and Manchester.

In a typical week, Jorge trains Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at Oakway and then attends the Regional North East Academy on a Thursday with matches across Saturday and Sunday. She also finds time to represent the school at netball, as well as being a key member of the school's Evolution dance club.

Jorge said: "I am really excited to have been selected for the North East Region squad. Having the opportunity to play at this level is really bringing on my game. I am always looking to learn, improve and develop as a player and I am fortunate to have the chance to do this. It is my dream to play for Manchester Thunder, which is the netball equivalent of the Man United football club – scouts often attend the regional matches, so I would love to be noticed and be able to play for them one day, but I know I am very young- at least I know where to aim."



## GETTING ACTIVE AT EAST BARNBY

A group of 20 girls from Years 7 to 9 have been given the opportunity to take part in a project aimed at increasing physical activity time and improving awareness of available activities in the local area. As part of the project, the girls received a full day of activities at East Barnby Outdoor Education Centre. The girls participated in canoeing, climbing, skiing or bush craft skills.

They had a fantastic, fun day and were also introduced to their 'Activity Passport' which includes six different challenges for them to complete over the summer term. All challenges have been set by School Games Organisers across North Yorkshire with the aim of improving the amount of physical activity that each pupil takes part in by increasing their knowledge of local opportunities and improving their self-confidence and resilience.

To conclude the project, the girls will be invited to take part in a huge colour run at Richmond School in July. The girls can either take part by running in the event or by acting as a sports leader and helping to organise the event. It will be the first time that Richmond School has organised and hosted a Colour Run and it is already proving to be a popular event.





## KIERAN SELECTED FOR ENGLAND'S RUGBY DEVELOPING PLAYER PROGRAM

Although the rugby season has come to an end for most players, some are competing at county level through the England Rugby Developing Player Program (ERDPP). ERDPP is a pathway that is a partnership between the RFU, Durham County and Newcastle Falcons. It's aim is to work with the top 10% of players within Durham to provide them with the opportunity to progress as far as they possibly can within their rugby and for them to be the best that they can be as a player and a person.

Kieran Knights, in Year 10 is one of these players. He recently represented the South Durham Spartans in an Inter-County tournament. The team played two games, winning one comfortably and losing the other by a very narrow margin.

Kieran is looking forward to playing two more games, the final one will be played at Kingston Park, home to Newcastle Falcons.

Kieran has had great 2021-22 season, playing for Darlington RFC's Under 15s team and he wholly deserves this



## ERYN QUALIFIES FOR CRUFTS 2023

Following success at Crufts 2022, there is more great news for Eryn Williams, a Year 12 student, who has qualified for Crufts 2023. Eryn competed at the Birmingham National Dog Show and won her Young Kennel Club Handling Class with Dougal, a Spanish Water Dog. Eryn was also placed fourth in one of her classes with her own dog Lyra, a Golden Retriever. In addition, there were also celebrations with Toby, a Golden Retriever puppy that Eryn regularly handles for another exhibitor, who won the Puppy Dog class and was also awarded Best Puppy in Breed.

This is amazing news for Eryn who has been competing for nine years and has taken part in classes at Crufts since 2017. At this year's Crufts, Eryn was placed second in the Young Kennel Club Gundog Handling Class when she worked in partnership with Lyra, who at only two-years-old is showing maturity and skill beyond her years.

Eryn's passion for dogs and dog handling started at a very young age and she has been competing in the YKC events for nine years. She has competed at Crufts since 2017 and has been placed in the top three on four occasions. In the gundog handling class, the judge is solely looking at the handler, how they communicate with their dog and handle it in accordance with the breed. The judge sets the patterns and commands for all the competitors, such as triangles, straight lines and figures of eights. Eryn competes most weekends, locally in open shows and across the country in championships. She also handles for other breeders.

Eryn said: "I love dog handling and particularly enjoy the experiences I gain from working with different breeds. It's a lot of fun and I get to meet a lot of lovely people who have the same passion as me."

Eryn is passionate about animals. She is hoping to study for a career in Veterinary Science in the future. Jenna Potter, Headteacher, added: "This is an amazing achievement for Eryn, to be placed so highly in such prestigious competitions is most impressive and clearly shows how committed she is. I cannot wait to hear how she gets on at Crufts next year."



## STELLAR PERFORMANCE BY YEAR 9 FOOTBALLERS

Our Year 9 girls' team played their semi-final county cup fixture away at St Aidans in Harrogate. The girls played tremendously, despite quite a serious injury early in the game, but they were just pipped at the post, losing 4:3.

Miss Johnson, PE Teacher, said: "It was difficult conditions but the girls kept playing football like I knew they could. Grace slotted two goals in the net, followed by Emma scoring the third. I'm unbelievably proud of the girls' performance – they were the last team at Richmond School in the competition and this is the furthest the girls team has ever reached - I couldn't ask for more."



## AIMEE, CONNIE AND THEIR TEAMMATES CELEBRATE TOP HONOURS IN DURHAM GIRLS RUGBY FESTIVAL

Connie Lord, in Year 10, and Aimee Smith, in Year 9, are celebrating success on the rugby pitch after their team, Darlington Mowden Park Under 15 girls, excelled at the recent Durham Girls Rugby Festival, taking top honours.

Rachael Longstaff, Team Manager, said: "The team played together along with other clubs within a pool which they won, showcasing the core rugby values of TREDs (Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship). They then entered the final against a strong Houghton-le-Spring. Mowden worked together to push back against Houghton scoring several tries and kicking conversions over the posts. The team played together using the skills they have developed, strong communication, leadership and teamwork. Playing for not only enjoyment but to win."

The final score was a tremendous 22:10 to Mowden Park.

The Under 15s team train each week on a Thursday evening at Darlington Arena and play matches on a Sunday against clubs within the North East area. If you would like to join please contact Rachael Longstaff on [07779570418](tel:07779570418)

As well as the Under 15 girls' team, Mowden Park also has Under 13 and Under 18 girls' teams. They also train on a Thursday evening.





# SPORT

## MATTY STEPS UP A GEAR WITH SOME OUTSTANDING RACING

Matty Cole, in Year 12, is proving his mettle after an outstanding start to the 2022 racing season

During the winter off-season months, Matty has been putting in a lot of hours on the bike to get the foundations ready to start the season, as a first year Junior (Under 19) rider, where there is a big step up in race duration and intensity.

Matty did a couple of tester events earlier in the year, such as Croft Circuit in January, just after having Covid quite badly. He still managed to come 2nd on a windy day after being in a breakaway with another rider for most of the race. At the end of February, Matty travelled to Devon for his first-ever road event at the Primavera Road Race, where he came 9th overall and 2nd Junior.

Into March, and Matty was back in Devon for the first round of the Junior National Road Series in Hatherleigh. This was a 70-mile road race on an undulating course in grim conditions, wind, rain and cold, against all the best junior riders in the country. Matty got into a 6-man breakaway and was able to out sprint the other riders on the uphill finish.

Two weeks later, and Matty was lined up for his first Individual Time Trial (TT) of the season which was a 10-mile course, near Knaresborough. Matty won this by around 20 seconds with a time of 20 mins 25 secs. At the beginning of April, Matty started the CV Spring Classic Road Race near Leeds. This was a handicapped race and with Professional and Elite riders chasing behind, Matty forced a 5-man breakaway from the front group and with over 50 miles of hard riding, he rolled across the line 2nd overall and 1st Junior, also winning 2 of the 5 sprint laps during the race.

This was a great result for Matty, considering the calibre of the chasing group of pros and having been ill the week running up to the race.

His latest race was the second round of the Junior National Road Series in Bovington, on the south coast. This course was faster and less hilly than the riders expected, Matty was a marked rider after winning the first round so this made it hard for him to break away from the peloton. With a breakaway up the road, Matty managed to sprint to a Top 20 overall in the chasing peloton.

Later in the season there are eight more Junior National Road events including races all across the UK in Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Matty is also going to be racing on the continent this season, including in countries such as Belgium, France and Spain.



# SPORT

## BOWLED OVER BY SOPHIE'S SUCCESS AT CRICKET

Sophie White, in Year 7, is really looking forward to the summer - it's the time of year when she comes into her own with the start of the cricket season. And this year, she is playing for several teams at Richmondshire Cricket Club as well as being selected to play for Durham County Girls' Under 13 Cricket Squad. This is fantastic news for Sophie who is mad about cricket, is a great sporting all-rounder, and additionally is in the school's hockey, football and netball teams, and dances too! We are pleased to share a Q and A with Sophie where we find out more about her love of cricket, her training regime and why sport is so important to her.



**When did you first become interested in cricket?** For as long as I can remember, we have had cricket bats and balls. When I was very young we used plastic equipment and then when I was in Year 4 and started to play for Richmondshire Cricket Club's Under 9s team, I got my first hardball kit.

**What triggered your interest?** My family and I have always enjoyed playing cricket in the garden and I remember taking stumps, a bat, and a ball on holiday to play on the beach. My brother also loves cricket and as he started to go to training I went along too. As soon as I was able to I joined in.

**When did you start to play and for which club?** Every Friday night, from about 7 years old I would go with Joseph down to Richmondshire Cricket Club for his training. Then when I was in Year 4, I started playing myself. We started with an incredi-ball, so it wasn't as hard (we didn't need all the pads, helmet, etc) but soon I was confident enough to move on to hardball. We practised wearing pads and helmets as soon as we could so that we were comfortable wearing them.

**Which teams do you currently play for?** Since I started to play cricket, Richmondshire has developed and I play for several teams in Richmondshire. The U13s, U12s (mixed), the U15 and U13 girls, and when there is time I also enjoy playing for the ladies' section. This year, I have been lucky to be selected to play for Durham County Cricket Club U13s team as well as representing them last year in the U11s.

**Tell us a little bit about how you were selected for the U13 Durham County Girls' Cricket Squad -** My first introduction to DCCC was last year, during the Easter holidays, when I was able to attend a couple of selection events - this was a bit different from normal due to Covid. At the end of these, I was invited to join the U11 squad. Since then I have been regularly attending training sessions with them, these ran throughout the Autumn term and included some specialised batting sessions. Then, all eligible girls attended a number of training sessions and in January, we were asked to attend a number of sessions from which a squad was selected.

**How often do you train with them?** Over the Autumn and Spring terms, we have been training most weeks for a couple of hours. Now we are moving into the Summer term and the cricket season the training drops to fortnightly but also includes additional games, which I am looking forward to.

**Do you have an ambition to continue to play cricket to a high level?** Yes! Having watched the ladies play in the Hundred Tournament last year, I was inspired to continue to play and aspire to reach as high a level as possible. From Durham, there could be the opportunity of playing for the Northern Diamonds (a combination of Durham, Yorkshire, and Northumberland ladies). Richmondshire recently hosted a match/training session for them and I was thrilled to be able to go and watch, as well as join in with a quick game with the academy squad at the end.

**Do you play any other sports?** Generally, I love any sort of sport! I am always busy and have regular commitments to fitness, dance, netball, hockey, and football. Since starting Richmond School, I have joined in the school netball, hockey, cricket, and football training and have represented the school in a number of these sports already. Also, I really enjoyed supporting the recent Primary School Cricket Competition, as a junior umpire/scorer.

**Why is cricket so important to you?** There are a number of reasons that I love cricket. As a family it is a shared interest and it's great that we can all enjoy playing and spectating together. For me, it's been a super way to meet lots of great people that have similar interests. It has helped me develop social skills, and physical fitness and is a mental challenge - there's always lots to think about in a game of cricket! Also, we get to travel around the country and see lots of wonderful places!



## CTEC SPORT STUDENTS ORGANISE GREAT INTER-TUTOR ROUNDERS' TOURNAMENT

The Year 12 Ctec Sport students organised and led a great inter-tutor rounders' tournament. Due to the inclement weather, the event relocated to the sports hall, however this didn't dampen spirits and all the students had fun in the friendly competition. It was a close call, but 12 Norman scored the most rounders, securing 1<sup>st</sup> place, with 12 Abbey in second and 12 Mawer coming third.

Ellen Atkinson, one of the organisers said: "As part of our course we have to organise and run a sporting event and as a group we decided a rounders' tournament would be a fantastic opportunity to enable all students in Year 12 to be involved. It was a shame we couldn't play outside but there was still a brilliant sense of camaraderie in the teams. We are looking forward to hosting another event later in the summer."



Mr Westgate, PE Teacher, said: "The rounders' tournament was a huge success. I was really impressed with how well the Ctec students worked together to ensure the event ran seamlessly, ensuring all health and safety and first aid precautions were in check, recording and analysing results, refereeing the games and, of course, creating an event that everyone enjoyed."



## ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Our latest Online Safety Newsletter includes a social media update, information about pop-ups and adverts as well as some useful information about search engines, Apple watches, family setup and talking to your children about online sexual harassment.

The newsletter can be viewed [here](#).



**Richmond School  
& Sixth Form College**  
Being the best we can be



## Online Safety Newsletter

May 2022

### World Password Day: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

We need to create passwords for everything these days and it is important that our children not only understand that they should not share passwords with others but also that they know how to create a 'strong' password to keep their information safe. As part of World Password Day, why not take the opportunity to talk to your child about this? You can learn more here: <https://www.connectsafely.org/passwords/>

### Social Media update

There are several different social media platforms that your child might be on or wanting to join such as Instagram and Snapchat. Social Media platforms are used to share pictures and communicate with others. It is important to review each individual platform to see what age your child should be to access them and to set appropriate privacy settings. It is also important to talk to your child about information they should keep private.

#### Is your child ready for social media?

This article looks at the risks that you need to consider as well as advice on how to get started: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>

#### Further information

Visit the Social Media Advice hub from Internet Matters to learn more: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>

## GOOD LUCK TO OUR NEW HEADS OF YEAR

We wish our new Heads of Year 'good luck' as they begin their exciting new work across the school.

Having spent two days in training before the Easter holidays, Mr Westgate, Miss Dowson, Mr Coldwell, Mrs Clish and Mrs Weston are now ready to lead their respective Year groups and make contact with parents and the wider community.



## STUDENTS LEAD MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK ASSEMBLIES

A group of four student leaders led assemblies in school for all Year groups, as part of National Mental Health Awareness Week. Grace, in Year 11, Sophie, in Year 10, and Hayden and Leona in Year 8, talked to all Year groups about friends. They discussed what makes a good friend and to be aware of the difference between fake and real friends. Grace said: "We were very pleased to have the opportunity to talk to all the students and we hope that by listening to those of their own age that they could relate to the issues we were presenting."

Mr Braham and Mrs Weston also spoke to students about how we communicate, bullying and loneliness. You can see the full assembly [here](#).

Mrs Weston said: "Grace, Sophie, Hayden and Leona did a fabulous job during the assemblies this week and their message really resonated with the students."





# ACADEMIC

## MEG AND CAMERON WIN BOOK POSTER COMPETITION

Congratulations to Meg and Cameron who are the joint winners of the book poster competition, which was judged by Mrs Farquhar, Librarian. The event was devised and launched by Ebon, a Year 8 student and one of our Literacy Leaders, who has been working on designing competitions and quizzes for the library. Ebon produced a poster advertising the competition, which was displayed in the library and on the digital screens.

Students were invited to produce a poster based on their favourite book, the poster was to include a book review and drawings of favourite characters.



Cameron's poster was about Lord of The Rings, by J R R Tolkien, with Meg's poster depicting Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen.

Cameron and Meg each won a £7 Amazon voucher, which they can spend on a book.

## MEET CLAIRE – TRAINEE EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER IN THE WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM

We are pleased to introduce Claire who is a Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner in the Wellbeing in Mind Team in Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Claire says: "Before starting this role, I worked in pastoral and support roles in secondary schools, and I am really enjoying working in the new team and building on the skills I learned in those jobs.

"Outside of work my two children and one rescue cat keep me pretty busy, but I also love travelling and getting out in the beautiful countryside in our area."



## TOP TIPS TO MANAGE EXAM STRESS FROM OUR WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM

Our Wellbeing in Mind team have some great tips to share below to help our students manage exam stress:

- Plan your time effectively
- Make a revision timetable
- Create a study routine
- Talk to teachers if you are worried
- Talk to friends and people you trust about how you are feeling
- Take regular study breaks
- Get a good night's sleep
- Spend time with friends and family
- Make time to do the things you enjoy
- Go for a walk in the fresh air every day

**TOP TIPS TO  
MANAGE  
EXAM  
STRESS**

# ACADEMIC

## MEET EMILY – TRAINEE EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER IN THE WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM

Hi, I'm Emily, a Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner in the Hambleton & Richmondshire team. Before this role I studied psychology and worked for the council in the Children & Families Service and Safeguarding focusing on areas such as mental health and child exploitation. Alongside work and university I love seeing friends and eating out. I love to travel and after being an au pair I'm lucky to have friends across the world that I can visit. I enjoy walking the dogs on the beach with my family and attending pottery classes. I'm excited to get to know the staff and students at Richmond more over the coming months and to help you with your wellbeing.



## MEET PETE – OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

I am very much looking forward to joining the team and working alongside staff and students in local schools. I am passionate about supporting young people to manage their mental health through meaningful activity. I have worked in adult mental health for most of my working life, initially in the voluntary sector before training as an Occupational Therapist. Since then I have worked in the NHS, supporting adults with a wide range of mental health conditions. I have worked with young people transitioning from CAMHS into adult mental health services. This includes working closely with parents/carers who play a pivotal role in supporting their loved ones.



I am married and have twin boys who keep us both very busy! We enjoy camping as a family and love the outdoors and keeping active. My interests include sport, primarily football, and I have supported Leeds Utd since I was a young boy ... don't hold it against me! I enjoy a wide range of music and love going to gigs and festivals. In my spare time, I am an FA qualified grassroots football coach and work with children from 4 – 11 years old. It is very rewarding to see children progress in their development whilst having fun learning to play. I also play 5-a-side football every week which supports my own physical and mental health.

## LEADING URBAN POP DUO DELIVER INTERACTIVE MENTAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY

We had the pleasure of welcoming a duo known as 'He knows, She Knows' to our school for a mental health assembly which was delivered to our Year 8, 9 and 10 students. In April 2017, He Knows, She Knows was born, an Urban Pop Duo made up of Rapper/Producer Silvar Laidlow and Lead Vocalist Sharna Laidlow. They hit the headlines for getting engaged after a performance on the X Factor which amassed over 30,000,000 million views worldwide across social media platforms and gained them a following from around the world.



2019 saw the duo taking the brand to new territory, touring Japan and performing at the prestigious Kansai Music Conference. They also won the best original artist award in 2021 at the National Entertainment awards and will be releasing their debut album next year. They have both had their own struggles with mental health/body image and discrimination growing up so are the perfect advocates to deliver such a positive message to young people all over the UK. Please find links below to some of their music videos [here](#) and [here](#).

From start to finish, they had the year groups hooked with showcasing their talent and sharing their personal experiences around Mental Health, Body Image, and Discrimination. The students took several key messages home with them. Some that stood out were to be kind to others, love yourself, and tips on dealing with mental health such as; healthy eating, exercise, and a good sleep pattern. They encouraged students to consider what their 'coping mechanism' was alongside talking to those they trusted - theirs were writing poems and lyrics. They performed four songs and made it very interactive to promote positivity, engagement and fun. They also responded well to students' questions and offered tips on ways to manage stress such as; writing up a timetable for chores/free time at home, studying in a quiet room to avoid distractions, and having regular breaks. Overall, this was extremely beneficial to those who suffer from the topics explored and helped to raise awareness. It was lovely to see a positive reaction from the year groups. Some comments from the students were 'OMG, I know them from TikTok, they are amazing', 'That was the best assembly', 'I didn't want the assembly to end'.



## SUCCESS FOR CORA IN OXBRIDGE ESSAY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Cora Aked, in Year 12, who is runner-up in the Brasenose College video essay competition with her 'What is a number?' entry. This is an amazing achievement and we are thrilled to find out more from Cora about her prize-winning submission which you can watch [here](#).

Cora said: "We had a group of Oxbridge students and outreach staff visit college from St. Catherine's and Brasenose Colleges to talk to Year 12 students, and they promoted this competition whilst they were there. I had already heard about it briefly through Ms Johnson, and decided that it was something that I would really like to get involved in, particularly because the topic for my talk was completely up to me. This made it, in some ways, harder to decide what I should base my essay on, as there were absolutely no limits!

"However, my general interest in Maths led me to discuss the very simple-sounding question of 'what is a number?', which actually has very complex roots and arguments when you take the time to explore it further. This area, therefore, has a lot of fascinating ground to cover, so it was extremely difficult to condense it all down into just 12 minutes! However, I felt that this competition gave me the chance to explore Mathematics outside of the classroom, and discover where and how it is applied in everyday life, and not just out of a textbook.

"I'm currently studying Maths, Further Maths, Biology and Chemistry at A-level, and I am hoping to study either Maths or Natural Sciences at university, so that I can apply my love of maths to the real world and use it to, hopefully, make a difference someday."

Dr Joe Organ, Schools and Publications Officer at Brasenose College, University of Oxford, said: "Congratulations - it was such an original and ambitious essay, and made us think about numbers in completely new ways. Thanks so much for putting it together."

Ms Johnson, Assistant Headteacher, added: "We are thrilled to hear of Cora's success. She was clearly inspired by the visitors from the Oxford and Cambridge colleges and took the initiative to enter the competition. Drawing on her love of Maths and her innate abilities, she has shown huge potential for undergraduate study and this result is a clear indicator of a very promising academic future. We are really proud of what she has achieved."



# ACADEMIC

## LACEY'S WINNING BOOK REVIEW RELATES TO HER OWN AMBITION OF BECOMING A FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Blind Date with a Book involved students selecting a book from a pile of identically-wrapped brown paper parcels, each one bearing a tag with a short description. As well as a mystery book, each parcel contained a Rate Your Date bookmark, on which students were invited to write a very short review of their chosen book. All reviews were then entered into a competition.

Around 90 students took part the event and 15 submitted reviews. The reviews will be displayed in the library - we find that students are more likely to be inspired by reviews written by their peers rather than those by adults.

Mrs Farquhar, Librarian, said: "Entries were of a very high standard and it was difficult to select just one winner. However, Lacey's review of Smart by Kim Slater stood out. Lacey's review was excellent - in just a few sentences the Year 7 student managed to convey her opinion of both the book and the main character; she succinctly summarised the story (without giving too much away); and she related the plot to her own ambition of becoming a forensic scientist."

Lacey's prize is two books – she chose 'Where the world turns wild', by Nicola Penfold and 'Mockingbird', by Kathryn Erskine.



## RE-USE, REDUCE, RECYCLE YOUR REVISION GUIDES!

Calling all Year 11 and Year 13 students!

Would you be prepared to recycle your used revision guides?

As part of our drive to achieve our Eco School Green Flag, we would like to collect any unwanted revision guides for younger year groups to reuse.

Previously loved revision guides will be available for students to take from the library. Students can keep the revision guides for as long as needed and will be invited to return them when they have finished with them so they can be

Thank you to any students who can support us with this initiative. Any revision guides should be left in the labelled boxes in the library and outside the sports hall.

Here at Richmond School & Sixth Form College, we already have blue bags for recycling paper in every office and classroom. We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and achieving our recycling goals.

**PAPER RECYCLING FACTS**

*Reduce, Re-use, Recycle*

- The average family in the UK throws away 6 trees worth of paper every year.
- Paper and card account for 1/5 of all waste produced in the UK.
- In the UK, we use over 9.9 million tonnes of paper each year.

**Richmond School & Sixth Form College**  
Being the best we can be



# CAREERS

## YEAR 12 STUDENTS GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF GEOSCIENCE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Dr Pyrah, a friend of Richmond School & Sixth Form College and parent of two students who attend the school, is a Chartered Geologist who spoke to a group of Year 12 students about his career to date, the pathways he chose and the different job roles that led him to this point.

Dr Pyrah's background is in subsea geology, geophysics and geotechnics, utilising these skills to build 2D ground models to support the installation of power cables along the seabed. He has worked on a number of UK offshore windfarm projects including, Hornsea 1 and 2 and more recently, the world's largest windfarm at Dogger Bank. He also worked on an interconnector cable which connects Ramsgate to Zeebrugge and has a capacity of 1GW. He now works for multinational, Danish company Orsted, who have recently transitioned from Oil and Gas providers to the sole provision of renewables developer.

Dr Pyrah also shared details on the Dogger Bank project and other large-scale energy provision projects, as well as demonstrating the use of GIS for projects like Hornsea - ahead of a field trip the Year 12 students will later take to Hornsea. The renewable energy sector is one of the fastest-growing industries and with an ever-increasing population, we must keep up with the demands for energy, providing an exciting, innovative and international opportunity for those with an interest in Geography and Science. The sector will be a large employer of graduates into the field of geologists, geophysicists, geotechnical engineers and mechanical engineering going forward. Graduates with any kind of experience are in strong demand, consequently reflected in the range of schemes available, salaries and opportunity for international travel.

The students gained an invaluable insight into a sector they may have never previously considered and discovered new ways in which they can utilise their current skills sets to be applicable to job roles in the future. They were enthusiastic and engaged in the talk, asking questions throughout, especially in regards to some of the graduate schemes they were introduced to, providing some food for thought as they enter their final year here at Richmond Sixth Form College.



# CAREERS

## INVITATION FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO JOIN OUR CAREERS IDEAS EVENT

The Careers Team are excited to be planning our Careers Ideas event which will be hosted at Richmond School & Sixth Form College on Thursday afternoon, 7<sup>th</sup> July. Our Year 10 and sixth form students will have the opportunity to meet with a variety of employers, training providers and universities throughout the afternoon here at school.

We are delighted that we have already had so much positive engagement in this event from the local Business community, coming together to inspire our students. However, to make the afternoon as engaging, exciting and informative as possible for the students, it would be fantastic to have as many local businesses as possible supporting the event. If you would like to be a part of this event and would be happy chatting to our students about your business and sharing your own career journey, please get in touch with Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser at [rhamer@richmondschool.net](mailto:rhamer@richmondschool.net). We'd love to hear from you!



The aim of Careers Ideas is to allow students to discover the wide range of career paths and opportunities available to them, as well as discussing post-16 and post-18 options. Students will be able to chat to employers from a wide range of careers including finance, IT, media, physiotherapy, the NHS, the Fire Service, the RAF, construction and business as well as meeting ambassadors from the Universities of Teesside, Newcastle, Northumbria and Leeds. We will also have representatives from Darlington College and Richmond Sixth Form College available all afternoon.

## OVER 100 YEAR 12 STUDENTS HEAD TO UCAS EXHIBITION

We were delighted to be able to take over 100 Year 12 students to the recent Tees Valley UCAS Exhibition, hosted at Teesside University. Students were able to meet representatives from many universities and training providers from all over the UK, to talk about course options, entry requirements and application processes, as well as the fantastic facilities and extra-curricular activities on offer. Students also had the chance to attend seminars on student finance, apprenticeships, UCAS personal statements and the application process.



There were also a number of employers available to chat to, including The Dyson Institute, whom some students talked to about engineering Apprenticeships.

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader commented: "After two years of careers' research being predominantly online, it was great to be back at UCAS events in person, and to give our students the opportunity to engage with higher education providers face-to-face again. Our students enjoyed the day and two of the universities took the time to say how much they had enjoyed talking to the Richmond Sixth Form students (who were easily identified with their lanyards) and how well-mannered they were. Students returned to college feeling inspired, and bringing lots of prospectuses for courses they are interested in."

Thanks to transport funding from Richmond School Trustees, we were able to offer this opportunity to all of our Year 12 students.





# CAREERS

## YEAR 12 STUDENTS TAKE STEPS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Five Year 12 students recently attended the University of York Next Step conference - and gave up a Saturday to do so! Ruby Dower, Carla Francisco, Sophie Pattison, Katie Wade, and Amelia Brown are part of Next Step York, a personalised two-year programme, starting in Year 12 for students in the North of England, providing an opportunity to explore university options and receive specialist support with their current studies. There were 190 students at the event. The University of York is part of the Russell Group, and is one of the UK's leading universities.



Students took part in different workshops, including Science and Healthcare, Social Sciences, Creatives Arts and Humanities. They also had a campus tour, an academic debate, a personal statement workshop and a Career Insight Session.

Carla Francisco and Katie Wade both won awards for engagement and contribution (University of York branded teddy bears). This was for presenting in their academic groups to students from many other schools, and having the self-confidence and resilience to do this, and even using a microphone as it was such a large group each time.

Sophie Pattison said: "I really enjoyed the day at University of York. As part of the Science and Healthcare group, I had a chance to find out more about healthcare degrees, such as midwifery and medicine. We had a lecture presented by Vassili Crispi, who had been a student at Hull York Medical School (HYMS); he spoke to us about his journey going into medicine and what his life is like now he is a qualified doctor and surgeon. We also got the chance to look around the campus, see what a day at university is like and take part in a global warming debate.

"My favourite part of the day was the debate as it gave us a chance to meet other students doing Next Step York and Yorway to York. The event has been very helpful, especially from the personal statement workshop which has given me an understanding of what I should write about. Seeing the university has helped me decide to apply to the University of York for a Midwifery degree at the end of this year."

Carla Francisco said: "It was amazing, we learnt so much about types of careers at university as well as personal statement writing. The best part was the academic debate with two prizes going to Richmond.

"The conference definitely helped me feel more confident in my next steps, as they have explained what university life will be like and what studying a course will involve. It was really nice being amongst other people who are definitely considering university."

Amelia Brown added: "It was a great day. I enjoyed meeting new people and making friends with other students from around the country who are studying similar subjects to me and have common interests. The best part of the event was when we split into smaller groups and had to create a scenario/performance by picking cards out of a hat for different ideas to include in the task. There were also some valuable sessions such as the personal statement workshop which really helped to give advice and support for when we will later write our own.

"The event helped me think about the future as we had a session focused on the typical day of a student where we looked at timetables made by current university students showing how they organise their day to fit in socialising, eating plenty and fitness activities alongside their studying".

Ms Mannion, Careers Leader, concluded: "I felt so proud of our students by the way they represented Richmond School and Sixth Form College, and I know they have had a very positive experience of what it would be like to go to university. Our students will be invited to a Summer School as the next part of the Next Step journey."

## JAY JAY SECURES PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP

A resourceful and determined Year 11 student has secured a plumbing apprenticeship with Teesdale Renewables. Jay Jay Pybus was keen to learn a trade, and follow in the footsteps of his father and other relatives, and after doing some plumbing work experience last summer, he decided that this was the trade for him. Jay Jay heard about the apprenticeship opportunity with award-winning Teesdale Renewables through a friend and immediately submitted an application.

Jay Jay said: "As soon as I found out about the vacancy with Teesdale Renewables I knew this was a company that would really suit me. They offer a wide range of services and their work with more sustainable and environmentally-friendly heating alternatives really interest me, and this is an area I would like to specialise in in the future."

Jay Jay will start his apprenticeship on 1<sup>st</sup> August and will go to Darlington College one day a week for four years. As well as the training and support at college, Teesdale Renewables offer extensive in-house training too. This includes toolbox talks, health and safety as well as professional development.

Teesdale Renewables, based in Eggleston, near Barnard Castle, was established in 2012 and provides traditional plumbing, gas and oil heating, and electrical services to north east England, as well as specialising in renewable energy like Biomass, Solar, and Heat Pumps."

Nicola Coulthard, HR Manager at Teesdale Renewables said: "As our company started from our Managing Director's Plumbing apprenticeship, we have a strong focus on supporting new engineers into the sector. Jay Jay's enthusiasm for renewables, his mature attitude and understanding of the commitment needed to achieve his apprenticeship shone through and he instantly showed himself to be an excellent candidate for a Plumbing and Heating Apprenticeship. We are excited to welcome him on board and offer him the breadth of hands-on learning he will gain across the range of plumbing, heating and renewables."

Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser, at Richmond School & Sixth Form College, added: "We are incredibly proud of Jay Jay for his success in securing this fantastic opportunity. The hard work that students need to do in order to gain an Apprenticeship should not be underestimated. It is testimony to Jay Jay's determination, tenacity and mature approach that he has achieved his goal of starting an Apprenticeship. We know that he will do well, and wish him all the best."





# CAREERS

## STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ARCHITECTURE GAIN INSIGHT INTO DESIGN OF CATTERICK'S NEW INTEGRATED CARE CAMPUS

We are honoured to have been invited to partner with Tilbury Douglas, the company who are project managing the new Integrated Care Campus which is being built at Catterick Garrison.

Tilbury Douglas will be working with us on a number of careers initiatives and events. The first of these was the recent public engagement meeting, where we were invited to take a group of students to look at the initial designs for the campus.

Ms Mannion, our Careers Leader attended with three students from Year 12 who are considering careers in architecture - Jack Denton, Ethan Potts and Arianna Tutora.

The students met the architects who designed the campus and discussed the design briefs and asked questions. They also talked to Mark Hetherington from BDP. Architects. They posed questions about the site, the design and build, the landscaping features, materials, and the public consultation process. Mark also gave an insight into degrees in architecture and how to develop a portfolio.

Ms Mannion said: "This has been a great opportunity for our students to have an insight into architecture and in particular the consultation process which is required for such a large building project. This experience will help students to build up evidence for their personal statements and portfolios for university. We are very grateful to have been included. Our students were very impressive and were confident in asking many questions to the lead architect.

The Catterick Integrated Care Campus (CICC) is a joint venture between the NHS and MOD, and it will deliver a range of services in one building; and the whole population will have access to primary healthcare together, regardless of whether they wear a uniform or not. It will see the creation of a health and wellbeing hub that will serve the whole of Richmondshire and will offer the most up-to- date modern practices to help keep people well.



## ANGELA WILMINGTON, CAREERS HUB ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR

We are fortunate to receive exceptional careers support from the NYBEP/York and North Yorkshire Careers Hub and it is wonderful that Angela, one of the Enterprise Coordinators is a former student – a perfect opportunity to find out about Angela’s career and the path she has taken since leaving Richmond School and Sixth Form College! We were pleased to catch up with Angela during National Careers Week and find out more about her career choices as well as the wide range of support that is available to students through the Careers Hub.

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After completing my GCSEs and A-levels, I left Richmond School in 2000. Admittedly, as I was unsure what I really wanted to do. I had worked part time since I was 14 and knew going to university was an option but hadn’t thought much further so university became my goal. I took a gap year after A-levels and worked part time in an accountancy firm and waitressing before heading off to university.

I started at Manchester Met University on a Social Sciences Degree course but after two months I knew this wasn’t for me, I was missing the weekly pay from my jobs, fearful of student debt and although enjoying the student lifestyle I just knew I wanted to come home and reconsider. Luckily, with supportive family this was an option I could choose and was supported in, and I picked up my previous part-time work and set about a rethink.

Whilst looking at local university courses, I also decided to look for full-time jobs – I spotted an Audiology Assistant job for Co Durham and Darlington NHS Trust. I knew little but did my research and decided this sounded interesting – I applied, interviewed, and was offered the job! I spent six years working in the hustle and bustle of Audiology, assisting in a clinical and administrative role, supporting a team of Audiologists.

An opportunity arose to become a Trainee Audiologist for South Tees NHS Trust. After interviewing, I started a four-year, part-time degree at Sunderland University alongside clinical placement in James Cook University Hospital. This method of learning suited me well – a wage to pay my bills and the chance to qualify with a degree. It was hard work, and I sat my final exams on my 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday but it felt like a huge achievement.

After graduating I became an Audiologist for South Tees NHS Trust working with both the adults and Paediatrics’ teams – it is a job where you daily see a difference being made. Hearing loss is often a hidden disability - there are an estimated 11 million people in the UK with a loss and approximately 2 million are hearing aid users – keeping the nations audiologists busy and the scientists forever working on new technology to aid those in need. I enjoyed the testing process, rehabilitation, and the teamwork. Audiology is a vast career dealing with hearing loss, hearing aids, Tinnitus, Vestibular testing, and rehabilitation.

After 16 years in the NHS, a change was needed. In 2019, I took the decision to start a new job search. I needed a rethink – important fact – careers can change at any point in your working life! I still hold audiology close to my heart but as a now mum of two, my priorities in life have changed and so has my job.

So, in October 2019, in the world just before Covid, I applied and was successful in becoming an Enterprise Coordinator for the York and North Yorkshire Careers Hub. I cover the wonderful areas of Richmondshire and Hambleton. And full circle now, I attend meetings with my old School and your Careers Leader and Careers Advisor Ms Mannion and Ms Hamer.

This new role has given me the chance to retrain and take my own new pathway. It sees me working with careers leaders in the area, supporting business engagement and supporting and encouraging the careers programmes in schools to be the best they can.





# ALUMNI

The local Careers Hub is run by a national body - The Careers & Enterprise Company in partnership with the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and delivered by Enterprise Coordinators from NYBEP. You'll come across NYBEP as they deliver many different careers related sessions – STEM, work experience, mock interviews, to name a few.

Operating since 2018, the Careers Hub will now support a total of 72 secondary schools and colleges in the region. The Hub brings together schools' careers leaders and provides them with additional support, resources, and training for their schools to deliver inclusive careers programmes for all students. In turn, helping every young person find their best next step.

Embarking on a new career has definitely been an interesting start in a pandemic, but I've learnt new skills, hosted online meetings, attended virtual training courses and enjoyed the journey so far.

Here is some advice for current students. I encourage you to speak to your parents/guardians/teachers and careers team in school. Careers guidance online and in school is there to be discovered. Whether it's the next steps of study or the bigger career picture, it is never too early to start thinking what you might want to do with your future.



To anyone interested in engaging with the Careers Hub we have a network of Enterprise Advisor volunteers from the business/employer world who are recruited from local businesses by our team of Enterprise Coordinators. They work closely with local schools and colleges to use their business experiences and networks to help them develop a strong careers programme that support all students.

## **What the EA volunteers do:**

- Supporting the school or college's senior leadership team strategically to develop and evaluate their careers plan.
- Providing a valuable employer's perspective on how a school or college can embed labour market information and opportunities into the careers programme.
- Engaging with local businesses and employers in your network to put a wide variety of careers opportunities at the heart of young people's education.

## **Benefits for local employers/businesses:**

- Easier access to engage with schools and colleges
- Opportunities to use your experience and network to inspire young people
- Develop your interpersonal and strategy skills and gain new experiences as a role model to young people in your area
- Deepen your connection to the local community
- Build your company's reputation
- CPD opportunities for your own staff

To find out more or express interest please email me at [careershubs@nybep.org.uk](mailto:careershubs@nybep.org.uk)

The friends I made at Richmond School and Sixth Form College are some of my closest friends now, we are spread out but many of us are living back in the North East, Yorkshire, and Cumbria regions, and many like myself not far from Richmond!

# ALUMNI

## WONDERFUL RESULT FOR CHARLOTTE IN FIRST PROFESSIONAL RACE

Congratulations to Charlotte Tindale, former student, who came in second in her first professional race.

Charlotte was riding Clueless Hill for Luke Comer in the Apprentice Handicap at @leropardstownrc and had a great race, leading for two furlongs.



## TOM PRESENTS INSPIRING AIMING HIGH ASSEMBLIES

It was a day of celebration for our students at their Aiming High assemblies when they were inspired by our guest speaker, Tom Short, a former student, who has a Masters in sports and exercise psychology.

Tom is currently studying for a PhD in performance and management psychology as well as running his own business, Leading Edge Performance.

You can find out more about Tom in his [Q and A](#).



## DOUBLE AWARD WIN FOR CHARLOTTE JACQUELINE SCHOOL OF DANCE

Congratulations to Charlotte Porter, alumna, who has scooped two fabulous awards recently. Charlotte is proud to be the winner of the Best Customer Focus (Leisure) category in Richmond's Business Excellence Awards.

Along with her fellow performers, including former students Sophie Montgomery and Stephen Longstaff, Charlotte also won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Musical Theatre class at the Wensleydale Tournament of Song, with a rendition of 'Flash Bang Wollop, from the musical 'Half A Sixpence'.





## GEORGI SUTTON-WALKER, VETERINARY SCIENCE

It is always a joy when former students get in touch to talk about their studies since leaving us and it's an absolute pleasure to share news from Georgi Sutton Walker. Georgi will be sitting her final Veterinary Science exams soon and in September she will be starting her first job as a Vet with a practice in Derbyshire.

Whilst at school, Georgi developed a passion and talent for cricket, something that she has furthered whilst at University. Georgi has kindly shared her experiences of studying Veterinary Science, some top tips for any students who is keen to follow this path, as well as how she has been able to continue playing cricket which has helped her both physically and mentally. We are also looking forward to welcoming Georgi back to school to talk to students who are interested in a career in the field of Veterinary Science.



From the moment I knew what a vet was I've been laser focussed on becoming one and now, with only a handful of weeks until I sit my final exams, it has been a perfect time to reflect on how I got this far...

I have always been an animal lover. I grew up spending weekends at my grandparents' farm, walking our family dog and riding my pony. Our animals mean an awful lot to so many of us and being able to make a difference to an animal's and their owner's life remains an incredibly rewarding and motivating part of becoming a veterinary surgeon.

I have spent the last 5 years studying at the University of Nottingham after completing A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and PE. I've been fascinated by all aspects of the degree starting with anatomy and physiology of the healthy animal in first and second year, completing a dissertation in third year, fourth year where we learn how to treat sick animals and then onto the practical nature of final year where we rotate through different veterinary practices and specialisms. I have enjoyed all aspects of veterinary medicine from small animal to farm to equine practice however I have opted for a career in farm practice as I love working with farmers to solve problems at herd or flock level.

In my spare time cricket has been a huge passion which started during my time at Richmond School. One of my fondest memories was leading the Under 15 girls' cricket team to victory at Lords in the Lady Taverners competition in 2014 and I've been a regular on various cricket pitches up and down the country ever since! I have met some of my closest friends on the cricket pitch at both club and county level. I was fortunate to be selected to represent Yorkshire Women at U15 and U17 age group level where we were crowned National Champions in 2014 and 2016. Following this I had a season with County Durham Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI however by this stage I was having to prioritise my studies to make steps to achieve my academic goals.



# ALUMNI

Balancing an intense degree with weekends on the cricket pitch has been a challenge at times but as they say, “work hard, play hard!” Cricket has been a great escape both physically and mentally particularly during stressful revision and exam periods. Joining a local cricket club, Keyworth CC in Nottinghamshire, has allowed me to enjoy playing cricket without the pressure that comes with county level sport. In 2021, I had my best season yet finishing leading run scorer in the East Midlands Women’s Cricket League with 411 runs at an average of 58 with a top score of 130\*. It is an exciting time for women’s cricket, and I hope I can inspire the next generation by coaching and mentoring young girls at the club over the years to come.



I always pictured heading back to North Yorkshire when I finished vet school however my cricket club have become a second family to me, so I look forward to starting my first job as a farm vet just over the border into Derbyshire in September.

I loved my time at Richmond School and being able to balance academics with sport was a huge factor in my progression from school to university and now into a career. My top three tips for any aspiring vets would be:

1. Don’t give up! Now more than ever there are many different pathways into a career in veterinary medicine so don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t make it!
2. Get a variety of relevant work experience to strengthen your vet school application. Spend some time in a local vet practice but also volunteer on farms, stable yards or boarding kennels.
3. Work hard! GCSEs and A-levels are tough, but I assure you (almost) reaching the final goal is worth every sacrifice!

I am hoping to arrange coming back into Richmond School soon to chat with students considering a career in veterinary medicine so I look forward to meeting some of you .

## CLASS OF ‘75 COME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We were delighted to host a visit from a group of alumni who all started at Richmond School in 1975!

The former students came back to Richmond for a reunion weekend at the end of May and as part of that, had asked if they could have a tour of the school and sixth form college. It was fantastic to chat to them about their memories of their school days, their lessons, the extra-curricular and educational visit offer and their teachers. We all agreed at the end that it was the teachers that really made the school experience for them and this, of course, remains the case now. As we toured the school (during a busy lunchtime), they were really struck by the great relationships they could see between the teachers and staff and they commented repeatedly on this. They certainly felt that the school had retained its magic and the ‘family feel’ that we are all so committed to was very evident. An article about their visit will feature in our summer newsletter.



Our Alumni and Friends network now has over 1,000 members and if you would like to join, please sign up [here](#).



## ELLIE LONSDALE, SPECIAL CONSTABLE

Ellie Lonsdale has wanted to join the police since she was 11 years old and her dream is now becoming a reality. Following a rigorous selection process, Ellie has been recruited as a Special Constable with North Yorkshire Police. Based at Richmond Station, Ellie is quickly getting to grips with the many demands and challenges that the position entails and is devoting over 16 hours each month to the voluntary role. Ellie is keen to become a full-time Police Officer and being a Special Constable, coupled with her years as a Police Cadet, are great stepping stones to this. Further information about how to apply to become a Special Constable is available [here](#). You can find out about Ellie's experiences and her advice for anyone who is interested in a career with the Police in her Q and A below.



**What subjects did you study in sixth form?** There aren't really any subjects I could have taken to support my career however I knew that health and social would be beneficial, but I also wanted to take a subject I knew I enjoyed so I took CTEC performing arts. It was nice to let loose through dance when the other half of me was so focused on my career.

**How old were you when you decided you would like to consider being a police officer and what inspired you?**

I was 11 years old when I made up my mind about wanting to join the police. I think for me the biggest thing that inspired me was that they have no fear. Even though there are many controversial views and opinions on police officers, nothing stops us from saving people's lives. Society was changing and developing rapidly when I was growing up in school and I knew I needed to make a difference.

**Were you in the police cadets?** Yes, I started the police cadets in 2017. The range of activities and events we participated in were amazing experiences. For example, we went to Durham to help train the riot squad by throwing wooden bricks at them and screaming and shouting! We also took part in walking around local communities and dropping off leaflets with advice on how to protect your property etc. In 2020, I became a leader of the unit alongside former student Ben Dowson, who is now a police officer, and other members of the police force including S/Sgt Nadine Slattery, PC Heather Campbell, SC Ryan Davis and PCSO Paul Fee. We will be recruiting again this year so please keep an eye out if you'd like to join. (14-18 years of age)

**What process did you follow to apply and be accepted into the police force?** When I saw North Yorkshire Police was recruiting for Special Constables, I knew this was my chance. I had just turned 18 when I applied, and it was right in the middle of lockdown so there was a lot going on for me to process. Firstly, you fill out a form where you are given a few questions such as "What skills do you have which make you suitable for the role". Then there is a section where you fill out your qualifications, references and sign a declaration. If you have impressed recruitment, you will be invited to complete an online situational strengths test which gives you scenarios and you must rate in order from 1-5 what you're most likely to do in the situation.

If you are successful you will be invited to an interview - most interviews are now held over Microsoft teams which takes that little bit of extra pressure off you. The interview consists of competency-based questions, and you must familiarise yourself with North Yorkshire Police's competencies and the policing plan. Recruitment do hold familiarisation events that you can attend which give you a good understanding of what to expect in the interviews and it's a brilliant way to prepare.

**How long does it take to become a Special Constable?**

North Yorkshire Police always have a large volume of applicants, so I won't lie but I'd say the process, from the moment you first apply to your interview, is around a few months. This is because there are thorough vetting checks made on you in order to ensure you're suitable for the job alongside medical and fitness checks too. It may feel like a long process but trust me, it flies by and before you know it, you're sat in the classroom.

**Are there any other ways that you can join?** I joined as a Special Constable, however you can also join as a PCSO, or North Yorkshire Police have recently introduced the PCDA route (Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship). This entails completing a degree alongside being operational and is a really great opportunity.

When they next open the applications I will be signing up for this as I want to excel in my career. All information on vacancies for North Yorkshire Police can be found [here](#).

**Describe a typical day as a police officer.** Where do I start...No job you go to is ever the same! You must mentally and physically prepare yourself for going from one extreme to the other. Most members of the public are usually quite happy to see a police presence however, you do get the small percentage who aren't so happy to see you. That's part of the job though, many people have different opinions on police officers for many different reasons, but you do learn how to just accept that not everybody wants you around.

The opportunity is unbelievable and I'm so lucky to be part of such an amazing, supportive police force.

**What do you particularly enjoy about your job?** I thrive off the fact that I am the first point of help when someone is in need. I've always loved helping people, that's just who I am as a person. I love working with the community and with other members of the force who work in Catterick, Bedale, Northallerton etc. It's also pretty fun when you're on a blue light run!

**Are there any challenges you face in your role?** 100%. That's called being a police officer. You will see things most members of the public will never see in their lives. There will be highs and there will be lows, but you must remember you are doing an amazing job and without police officers in the world we would live in a very unsafe place. We make a difference to at least one life every day and for me that's the biggest achievement I could ever receive.

**What advice would you give any students who are considering becoming a police officer?** Never give up. Never look back. It can be hard at times, but you will be selected because the interview panel see potential in you. There is no harm in sticking your head into your local police station and asking some officers questions about their experiences or how they prepared for their interview. Join onto as many events as you can, do your research. Knowledge is power and power is knowledge. And most importantly, stay out of trouble!

**Did you consider any other careers before making your mind up about joining the police force?** No, I knew I wanted to be in the police when I was 11 and I never changed my mind after that. I was so determined to achieve my dream career and I never looked back. And thank god I didn't because I couldn't have been anymore prouder of myself for what I have achieved.

**Did you have support from the sixth form team/ teachers in making your final choice?** Yes, they were all very supportive. Mrs. Fox was always pushing me and encouraging me to do well, she really was my biggest supporter within school, and I couldn't thank her enough. Don't ever feel like you can't talk to your teachers about your career because trust me, they give the best advice and I will always be grateful for the support I received at from teachers and also other students at Richmond School & Sixth Form College.





# HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Will James and Jay Birkbeck, in Year 7, were jointly nominated by Miss Spittlehouse, who wrote: "Will and Jay have been a tremendous example of Richmond School students upholding and demonstrating our school values perfectly. During a written task in the Development unit, Will had gone above and beyond to assist Jay. The boys were challenged to write an explanatory passage of the development stages of Kenya's population change. During the task the boys worked together to produce excellent written work and even opted to take their books home to complete another paragraph! Will and Jay communicated perfectly, with Will writing sections and Jay filling in the facts for Will as they went.



"The boys are not from the same friendship group and took it upon themselves to work together in this way and this is not the first time the boys have shown excellent teamwork and strong independence to the guidance from me and they should be very proud of their achievements this term, as I certainly am."

(w/e 8th April)

Alex Macpherson, in Year 13, was nominated by both Ms Mannion and Miss Pemberton.

Ms Mannion wrote: "I would like to nominate Alex Macpherson for his Dance assemblies this week, they have been so inspiring. Doing an assembly is a really big achievement and there is absolutely no way that I could have done that at the age of 18! We often bring in guest speakers to inspire students and to give "Careers Ideas", and younger students tend to prefer to hear from another young person, so very well done to Alex for being an ambassador for Performing Arts."

Miss Pemberton wrote: "Alex has shown excellent progression in CTEC Performing Arts throughout the 2 year course. Alex's confidence has grown enormously along with his organisation and resilience, overcoming any challenges that cross his path. This year especially, Alex has shown commitment and a passion for Dance. I don't think there has been an evening when I have not seen him rehearsing in the studio. Alex has joined me after school every Monday since September to lead Evolution Dance Club, choreographing 2 routines with over 50 students. Alex upheld a leading role in organising the Dance Showcase to ensure all runs smoothly and professionally. Alex has continued to shine through auditions and has recently received an offer to study Dance at his first choice institution, UCEN Manchester. I couldn't be prouder!"



(w/e 29th April)

Isobel Cook, in Year 7 was nominated by Miss Abbey who wrote: "I would like to nominate Isobel Cook for demonstrating the school value of Excellence. Isobel is an extremely talented and committed athlete who competes at a high level in multiple disciplines.

"Earlier in the year, she won the Year 7 area cross-country trials by 'a country mile' to qualify for the North Yorkshire championships.

"She has just heard that she has been selected to represent Team GB at the European Laser Run Championships in Athens in August. This involves a multiple lap course of running and shooting with a laser pistol. This is an incredible achievement and we wish Isobel the best of luck in the competition."



(w/e 6th May)

# HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

Theodora MOUNTZIS, in Year 11, was nominated by Dr Scott, who wrote: "I'd like to nominate Theodora as she is a student who stands out in that she actually embodies all of the school's values and will leave a lasting impression on those who have had the privilege to teach her. Thea has excelled academically, despite not using English as her first language, and continues to overcome this obstacle with determination and sheer hard work which is credit to her resilience and positivity. Thea has always treated staff and peers with the utmost respect, she has a kind word for everyone and shows a willingness to help wherever she can.

"Thea has recently been promoted to Sergeant at RAF Air Training Corps and this is no surprise as her leadership skills and readiness to help and support the younger members at the Air Training Corps is unfailing and valued by all. Thea has a drive and willingness to succeed both in and out of school, and on Sunday brought home medals from the Wing Athletics held at Hull Costello Stadium, even in events in which she has had no prior experience. This 'have-a-go' attitude is testimony to her drive and commitment and I am sure she will go on to excel further. I wish her every success and happiness in the future."

w/e 13th May)



Max Parker, in Year 8, was nominated by Ms Merckx, who wrote: "Max has made amazing progress over recent months as well as some really impressive achievements. Feedback collected from Max's teachers this week has highlighted that Max is:

- A very able scientist
- A potentially talented musician
- An excellent mathematician (top of his class in the Junior Maths Challenge and 2nd in his age bracket in the school, he has progressed to the next round of the competition)
- A hard worker who participates well in all his lessons
- Said to be 'doing a superb job in D&T' and described as 'a pleasure to teach' in Drama

"Since the end of March, Max has achieved 30 Star Performers and a few weeks ago, Max received the highest number of Star Performers for the week in the whole school. Max really deserves to be recognised for everything he has achieved recently."

(w/e 20th May)



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# FAREWELL TO YEAR 13s

It was an emotional day as we said a heartfelt farewell to our wonderful Year 13 students who came to college in their old uniforms and enjoyed sharing lots of memories of their time at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. There were tears of joy and much laughter throughout the day. We wish them the very best for the future as they head off to university, apprenticeships and the world of work.

