

Welcome to our February Newsletter - We have had a strong focus on our Sixth Form this half-term. It is an excellent place to study and the improvement in grades achieved last summer, in comparison with the pre-Covid years, is testament to the significant amounts of college development work that have taken place. With an increasingly strong student wellbeing agenda, we are completely convinced that the supported study expectations made of the students really do allow them to complete significant amounts of college work during the day, thus freeing up time out of college for rest, hobbies and part-time work. Students repeatedly tell us that they feel so much better and are therefore more confident and focused when they know that they are on top of their work, rather than worrying that they are falling behind. We have received a large number of applications for our September '23 intake and we look forward to further work over the remainder of the year with our current Year 11s and those from our feeder secondaries - mainly SFX, Bedale, Wensleydale and Risedale.

We have also been doing lots of work to develop our extra-curricular offer for students in the school and college and encourage as many students as possible to be part of something. We are interested in how students from our sixth form college can play an even greater role in the whole school's wider participation agenda and in enhancing life in general in the main school. Our two newly appointed Associate Assistant Headteachers, Mr Birdsall and Mrs Edwards-Bell, are working with Miss Abbey to improve this agenda and to find out what the barriers to participation are so that we remove them. We are incredibly lucky that the Richmond School Trustees are working with us and are able to fund access to an increased offer across the school and college - it is very exciting work.

We look forward to a full and fruitful lead up to Easter. Our examination year groups are especially focused and have completed their PPEs with no issues at all being raised. We know that from now, time really does fly by and before we know it, we will be supporting them through their actual public examinations and celebrating with them as they move on to sixth form, college, university and apprenticeships.

Best wishes to you all for a lovely half-term holiday.

Jenna Potter
Headteacher



Turn to page 4 to sign up for The Race for Life and support Cancer Research.



We celebrate apprenticeships with six case studies about former students who have taken this valuable route to the workplace. Find out more on page 27.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In the community	2
Performing Arts	6
Sport	10
Academic news	17
Careers	27
Alumni	35
Headteacher's CREDIT Values Award	44
Primary Transition	46



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

A member of

Areté Learning Trust

IN THE COMMUNITY

SIGN UP FOR CYCLING FOR ALL

YES @ Areté Learning Trust, in conjunction with the Lottery Community Fund and Stage 1 Cycles, will be hosting a six-week cycling programme for all abilities at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. Starting on 18th April and concluding on 6th June, from 4:30-5:30pm, places cost £29 per pupil and can be booked [here](#) or by emailing yes@aretelearningtrust.org. The closing date is 24th March.

You can find out more [here](#) for a review and photographs of last year's programme.

Cycling for All is delivered in partnership with Stage One Cycles at Hawes who have run a number of highly successful programmes at Richmond School and Sixth Form College.



PRE-LOVED PROM WEAR



Our Sixth Form Student Leaders would like to organise a Prom Wear upcycling project. This would involve students and families donating their pre-loved Prom Wear such as dresses, suits, and accessories. The Sixth Form students will display and photograph the items so that current students can make use of them. The students feel that this is more environmentally friendly than buying new and may also help everyone to save some money.

If you have any items in good condition to donate, please bring them into school or college reception not later than Monday, 27th February. We will send information about how students can select any Prom Wear to use once we have donations.

IN THE COMMUNITY

RICHMOND FOOTBALLERS RAISE £1,300 FOR SWALEDALE MOUNTAIN RESCUE IN MEMORY OF DAVE CLARK

A charity football match, in memory of Dave Clark, our dearly loved and highly regarded former Deputy Headteacher, has raised £1,300 for the Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team.

The game, which was organised by Richmond Town Football Club and hosted at the school's Dave Clark Arena, was very much old versus young. Kallum Holbrook's Bomb Squad featured a line-up of former Richmond Town players coming towards the end of their playing days against Paul Ramsay's Young Guns. The younger side had all either worked alongside Mr Clark or had been taught by him.

The match attracted a good crowd who were treated to a highly competitive and very close game which finished 2-2, with the Young Guns winning 5-4 on penalties.

The match has raised £1,300 through spectator fees, donations, sponsorship from Into Painting & Decorating as well as a donation from referee John Dunwoody who kindly gave his match fee to the cause. Organiser Jason Newall said: "Mr Clark was a very popular man around Richmond and the new ground is named after him. We decided that as a club we wanted to do something in his memory and the family suggested that we raise money for Swaledale Mountain Rescue. The match featured many former pupils, work colleagues and also Dave's son-in-law which was brilliant.

"Everyone had a great day and we have decided that this will now become an annual event in his memory."

If you weren't able to attend the match and would like to make a donation, please visit [justgiving](#)

To find out more about the fabulous work of the Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team, who provide a mountain and cave rescue service to assist those in need in remote places, please visit [Swaledale Mountain Rescue](#) or follow on [facebook](#) at or [instagram](#).



Swaledale
Mountain Rescue Team



IN THE COMMUNITY

JOIN OUR TEAM FOR THE RACE FOR LIFE!

Students and staff are invited to sign up to Team Richmond School and Sixth Form College and take part in the 2023 Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research at South Park in Darlington on Sunday 11th June.

The cost to enter the event is £11 for those aged 15 and under and £15.99 for those 16 and over. You can sign up [here](#).

To enter a place for a child aged 15 and under only, please call 0300 123 0770 as children can only be registered by an adult aged over 18 who has the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian.

We are asking all of our Richmond School and Sixth Form College Race for Life team to try to commit to raising a minimum of £5 in sponsorship money. Part of the online sign up process requires each entrant to input a minimum fundraising target of £50. Please don't be put off by this! We have queried this with the Race for Life team as we are aware that this might not be possible for everyone and we are more focused on trying to raise as much as possible as Team Richmond School and Sixth Form College.

We have been reassured that whilst you have to set this target at £50 in order to proceed with the sign-up process, they are very grateful for whatever we can raise and it doesn't matter if each one of us doesn't manage to hit the £50 individual target.

Once you have completed the sign-up process you will be asked to either 'join a team' or 'create a team'. At this point please select 'join a team' and then search for 'richmond-school-north-yorkshire' or use this [link](#) to join Team Richmond School and Sixth Form College. This will link your child's fundraising page to the Team fundraising page and allow us to track our fundraising progress.

Once you have signed up you will receive an email confirmation which contains a reference number. Please forward this email to hsouthgate@arete.uk so we have a record of this number should there be any need for it on the day and also so we know who has signed up! Please read the terms and conditions of entry carefully before signing up.

Mrs Southgate, PE teacher, said: "We took part in the Race for Life in 2015 and again in 2017, with over 280 staff and students taking part and with a combined fundraising total of over £14,000 - we couldn't have been prouder of our Richmond School and Sixth Form College family.

"Until 2019, the Race for Life was an all-female event and, whilst our 2015 and 2017 teams did amazingly well, we were referring to ourselves as Team Richmond School and couldn't help feeling that the team was never truly representative of who we are as a school community. We recently learned that since 2019 the event has been opened up to absolutely everybody so we felt it was time to launch Team Richmond School and Sixth Form College 2023! We are really looking forward to taking another team to represent our school, have fun and raise as much money as possible for a cause which means so much to so many people."

Race for Life is Cancer Research UK's biggest series of fundraising events. Since 1994, Race for Life has grown into a series of hundreds of events across the country, raising nearly £900 million towards beating cancer over the last quarter of a century.



IN THE COMMUNITY

FORMER STUDENTS TO STAR IN RAPUNZEL

There's still time to catch another panto before the season is over for another year, one that stars some of our former students! Dalton Amateur Dramatic Society are performing Rapunzel from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th February. There are four performances – 7:30 pm each evening with a 2:30pm matinee on 18th February – you can book your tickets (£7 adults/£4.50 children under 10) online [here](#).

The group have put on some fabulous pantomimes over the years, such as Peter Pan, Puss in Boots and Beauty and the Beast, and tickets always sell out very quickly so don't miss out! Once again, the show will be directed by Becca Blenkiron and Adam Wallis, who also perform in the show. Other alumni who are involved as cast or in key back-stage roles include: Stephen Longstaff, Martin Wallis, Ellie Blenkiron and Emma Hodgson

You can catch some clips from previous pantomimes below:

[Panto clip 1](#)

[Panto clip 2](#)

[Panto clip 3](#)



MILITARY WAGS CHOIR CALL OUT FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Catterick Garrison-based Military WAGS Choir has issued an appeal for new members after numbers declined due to the Covid pandemic. The choir has been welcoming ladies with a military connection since April 2010. The name WAGS comes from the ladies who they reach out to in our community, in and around Catterick Garrison, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire.

The choir meet each Thursday, during school term time, at the Garrison Memorial Church (St. Martins and St. Oswalds in Church Road) around 17:30 - they start singing at 18:00. They pride themselves on giving everyone a warm welcome and an instant support network! You can find out more [here](#).



As a school and college, we have been involved in a number of musical projects with the WAGS Choir and Dr Scott, who taught at Richmond School for five years and is now a careers' adviser within the Areté Learning Trust, is a member and chair of the choir. Dr Scott joined the choir in 2012, as a soprano one, when she was working for the Army as an instructor and then a manager for Army Education.

Member Pauline Kavanagh said: "It has been such a fantastic experience for me since I have joined. The women in the choir are great, friendships are made and we are a support network for each other and especially for those who have no family nearby or whose husbands/partners are deployed.

"We are a charity and we support other military charities when we sing at a concert. We are currently supporting Veterans at Ease who help ex-military and serving military personnel and their families deal with post-traumatic stress."

PERFORMING ARTS

A HUGE CHEER FOR RICHMOND ROYALS!



Richmond Royals, our brand-new cheerleading team, did exceptionally well at their first-ever cheerleading competition in Durham. The girls have worked tirelessly since July 2022 to get their routine to competition standard and had no prior cheerleading experience before gaining a place on the squad. The Royals were up against well-established cheerleading teams from the North East and Cumbria and managed to come away with:

15 Years and Under Squad Routine

2nd

14 Years and Under Dance 3 Solo:

3rd - Jemimah Fong (Year 9)

5th - Francesca Rouse (Year 10)

12+13 Years and Under Fusion Solo:

6th - Lili Soley (Year 9)

Jamie Pemberton, Dance Teacher, said: "Thank you to the parents who came along to support the students and for being a part of the crazy cheerleading world. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to the Trustees at Richmond School and Sixth Form College for funding our personalised uniforms and poms! I am so proud of the students and I can't wait to see what they can bring to the Cheerleading Nationals in June 2023."



PERFORMING ARTS

FORMER STUDENTS LEAD COMMERCIAL DANCE WORKSHOP

Two former students came back to school to pass on their expertise to our current GCSE and Sixth Form dancers. Alex Macpherson and Faith Nacamavuto are both first-year students at UCEN Manchester where they are studying a one-year HNC in Performing Arts (Dance), after which they are planning to study a BA in Dance and Performance.

Commercial Dance forms a key element of their HNC and Alex and Faith were keen to share this increasingly popular genre with the younger students so they could experience the different movements and style.

Over 20 GCSE and A-level Dance students took part in the workshop where they learnt a full routine. They also enjoyed a warm-up which included ab and cardio work to give them a flavour of what happens in classes at university.



Alex and Faith said: "It was fantastic to come back to school and be able to share our experiences with the younger students. Although we only had an hour, the students picked up the routine really quickly and we were very impressed with their efforts and final performance."

Jamie Pemberton, Dance Teacher, said: "We were over the moon when Alex and Faith offered to come back to school to work with our students. They led an energy-packed, fun-filled workshop which the students really enjoyed. It was so beneficial for them to hear first-hand experiences about studying dance at a higher level and we can't wait to welcome Alex and Faith back later in the year for another workshop."



PERFORMING ARTS

STUDENTS INSPIRED BY RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY'S STUNNING PERFORMANCE

GCSE and CTEC Dance students enjoyed a fabulous visit to see the Rambert Dance Company perform 'Peaky Blinders' at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford. The stunning contemporary ballet performance by Rambert, a world-famous dance company, was a brand-new dance work that delves into the back story of Tommy Shelby and the Peaky Blinders. A personal story unfolds in post-war industrial Birmingham as the Shelby family navigate the decisions that determine their fate.



Jamie Pemberton, Dance Teacher, said: "This was a fabulous experience for our students, not only to experience a live performance but it has also deepened their understanding and analysis of contemporary and ballet. The students were really enthused and inspired by the company and I am sure this will strengthen their own performances and practical exam work."



The production featured the full permanent Rambert dance company on stage, and a live band played specially commissioned music and iconic Peaky tracks. Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby is Rambert's first collaboration of this kind and through dance theatre picks up the story of the Peaky Blinders at the end of World War One, following Tommy Shelby and Grace Burgess through their passionate love affair. While Tommy is building his empire, Grace is operating as an undercover agent for Special Branch on a mission to get close to the heart of Tommy's gang. As the story unfolds, many hearts are broken.



PERFORMING ARTS

STUDENTS ENJOY A MUSICAL TREAT

Two professional musicians took time out of their busy schedules to perform an intimate concert for a group of 30 Music students in Years 7 to 13. Tabea Debus and Sergio Bucheli not only entertained the students with some fabulous pieces but they also engaged in a lively Q and A session and spoke to the young musicians about the origins of their instruments and their career pathways.

Tabea, who was born and studied in Germany, has been playing recorders from a very young age and is a highly regarded soloist, collaborator and teacher. Tabea has performed widely across Europe, Asia, North and South America and is a regular guest on BBC Radio 3's In Tune and Early Music Show. Passionate about outreach work, Tabea teaches recorder at Wells Cathedral School and has led composition and chamber music workshops at the Royal Academy of Music and Cambridge University.

Born in Mexico City, Sergio moved to the UK when he was 13 to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School thanks to a bursary funded by the Rolling Stones. In 2016, he was awarded the ABRSM and Christopher Hogwood Scholarships to pursue his undergraduate studies with the Royal Academy of Music where he studied the lute, theorbo and baroque guitar. Sergio is a member of The English Concert and La Nuova Musica and he also plays with The Irish Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble Marsyas, Early Opera Company and Fretwork.

The versatile duo performed a programme that explored music for recorders and lute with a baroque influence.

The students were enthralled by their playing and enjoyed a lively Q and A about how the performers chose to specialise in recorder and lute and how their careers have developed.

The concert and Q and A were made possible by Richmondshire Concerts Society who were hosting Tabea and Sergio for an evening performance.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher of Music, said: "It was a great privilege for our students to enjoy a live performance by two top-class musicians. We hadn't realised beforehand that this was the first time Tabea and Sergio had played professionally together so the students were honoured to be part of their debut performance! It was a fantastic experience and we are most appreciative to Chris Shaw and Richmondshire Concerts for making this possible for our students."

Richmondshire Concerts run a series of classical performances throughout the year – you can find out more about forthcoming events and artistes [here](#).



SPORT

THIRTEEN STUDENTS TO REPRESENT AREA AT CROSS COUNTRY

On a bright but bitterly cold day, 24 hardy students attended the area cross-country trials which were hosted at Northallerton School. Mr Randall said: "It was fantastic to see every student show fantastic determination in their running and with 13 students across all year groups qualifying for the next round, it was a very successful day."

Special mentions go to Wilf Lamb (Year 7), Matilda Ellis (Year 9) and Benedict Simpson-Alexander (Year 12) who all won their respective races and to Tomas Hoole and Milly Gale who qualified in the Year 9 races despite being in Year 8. The other qualifiers were Lexi Adams and Aiden Johnson (Year 7), Isla Simpson (Year 9), Ellie Hughes and Henry Wright (Year 10), Theo Webster (Year 11) and Sue-Rin Park and Maciej Nuprejczyk (Year 12).

Congratulations to everyone who took part.



CLOSE CALL IN COUNTY CUP

Our Under 13 girls' football team played Harrogate Grammar in the County Cup. The game ended with a 2:2 draw but with it being a cup the game had to be won by someone. Unfortunately, after ten minutes of extra time the game went to penalties and we lost 4-3.

Miss Johnson, PE teacher, said: "The girls played tremendously and fought to the very end of the extended game. The player of the match was Isla Jenkinson who showed determination throughout the game."



SPORT

GREAT PERFORMANCE IN AREA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Our Year 7 footballers put in a great performance at the recent area 5-a-side football tournament. They didn't lose a game throughout the competition and out of their six games, they won three and drew three and they played some excellent football. They were just pipped at the post, coming second to a strong Northallerton team. Their results were:

Won 3-1 v SFX

Won 3-2 v Thirsk

Won 3-0 v Bedale

Drew 2-2 v Northallerton

Drew 0-0 v Easingwold

Drew 3-3 v Stokesley



SIXTH FORMERS KEEP HEALTHY AND FIT THANKS TO FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP AND SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

We are delighted to offer free gym membership for our sixth form students. There are many opportunities to keep fit and healthy during our students' time in sixth form and they particularly enjoy spending time in our Fitness Suite.

Take a tour of our gym [here](#).



The gym is available during the college day and also after college finishes at 3:30pm until 5pm. Indoors, we also have a sports hall where students can play badminton, basketball or rounders. With a 3G pitch and astroturf, as well as tennis and netball courts, there are plenty of sports for our sixth formers to try.



SPORT

YEAR 7 NETBALLERS NEVER GAVE UP

Our Year 7 netballers played their first game against SFX. Although they lost 4:1, the score didn't reflect their performance as the students got better and better as the match went on. They worked really hard and never gave up.

Well done to all the players for showing such determination and teamwork.



EXCELLENT GAMES OF NETBALL IN YEAR 8 AND YEAR 10 FRIENDLIES WITH BEDALE SCHOOL

Netball is very popular in Year 8 and so we have organised some friendly fixtures against local schools to ensure that all pupils attending training have the opportunity to participate in competitions. The game against Bedale proved highly competitive and very close with the final score seeing us narrowly missing out by 8 goals to 6.

The students worked well as a team, encouraging each other throughout. The shooters, Emily Turagavagone, Noah Brown and Leah Dawson put in some great goals whilst the defensive team of Jamie Welman, Oscar Kendall and Sophie White prevented numerous goals from going in from the opposing shooters. Lastly, the centre court team of Isobel Cook, Isobel Watkins, Annabel Stewart and Sophie Addison worked tirelessly to move the ball around the court and support the whole team.

The Year 10 netball game against Bedale proved to be exciting from start to finish. The Bedale team were very well organised and went ahead in the first two quarters of the game. However, the Richmond team showed incredible resilience in fighting back in the third quarter to make it 15-15. Shooters, Ellen Newton, Hannah Drought and Lily Wilson pulled off some amazing shots. As the final quarter started, Richmond School took the lead but Bedale were always right behind and winning one back. The centre court team of Emma Farrow, Maggie Longstaff and Evie Wharton had to work hard, showing their levels of fitness to keep the ball moving and our defensive team of Chloe Simpson, Sophie Cameron and Evie Milns won more rebounds than ever before to keep us in the game. The game finished with a 23-23 draw which is a good reflection of an excellent game of netball.



SPORT

RICHMOND SCHOOL HOST AREA NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Richmond School hosted the Hambleton and Richmondshire Year 8 Area Netball Rally. Seven schools took part and all played a game against each other on the three outdoor netball courts.

The results were as follows;

- 1 Stokesley
- 2 Queen Mary's
- 3 Cundall Manor
- 4 Richmond
- 5 Easingwold
- 6 Bedale
- 7 SFX

Congratulations to all teams that took part.



SPORTING AWARD FOR OLIVER AND ALFIE IN RECOGNITION OF RUGBY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Oliver Rhodes and Alfie Harris, in Year 10, who were winners of the Darlington Sports Club Award. Oliver and Alfie have played for Darlington Rugby Club's junior teams for a number of years and last season they had an incredible year which led to their Award nomination.

Their team won all but one of their matches for the whole season. They also won the 2022 Durham County Cup competition 2022 as well as the Darlington Festival of rugby for their age group. The team took part in two tours, one to Wales and the other to the Isle of Man where they beat both home teams convincingly.

Oliver and Alfie will be playing for the Under 15s team this year and look set to have another fantastic season this year. So far, they have only conceded one game and are through to the semi-finals of the 2023 Durham County Cup.

These are fantastic achievements for the team and we are extremely proud of Oliver and Alfie. You can find out more about the Sports Awards [here](#).



BENEDICT SELECTED FOR ENGLAND ATHLETICS YOUTH TALENT PROGRAMME

Benedict Simpson-Alexander has been selected for the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme. Benedict, a Year 12 student who joined Richmond Sixth Form College after relocating from the South of England, trains and competes for Richmond and Zetland Harriers.

Benedict is delighted to represent Yorkshire and came third in the recent NYSAA Cross Country Championships which automatically qualifies him for the English Schools' National Championships in March. In addition, he will be competing in the UK CAU Inter-counties championships in March

Benedict's success with the England Talent Programme means he will be competing nationally over the coming year, including races in London and Cardiff. In addition, Benedict travels to Leeds Beckett University for Talent Programme training each month.

Benedict's success is impressive, especially considering that he only started running after watching the 2021 Olympic Games and being inspired by the track events. In recent months, Benedict has won two cross country events – the Richmondshire Schools' Cross Country in December and the North Yorkshire and South Durham (NYSD) League Cross Country meet at Fox Rush, Redcar in November. He also raced at the National Cross Challenge at Sefton Park, Liverpool, in November where he was placed 34th overall, and was the 22nd English U17M runner.

As well as dedicating a huge amount of his free time to his own training, Benedict also devotes time each week to support younger athletes by assisting with the School's running club. He is an exceptional ambassador for Richmond School and Sixth Form College and a great role model for younger students, particularly those who are keen athletes.

Benedict said: "I am really looking forward to representing Yorkshire at the English School's National Championships in March and will be focusing very intently on my training in the run-up to the event. Over the coming months, I have a number of competitions across the UK and I am most thankful to Richmond School Trustees for their support."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, added: "This is an amazing achievement for Benedict. He shows such determination and passion for his sport and has been rewarded at the highest level. It is also wonderful that he is offering so much support to our younger students by encouraging and supporting our younger students at the School's running club.

"Although Benedict has only been with us for five months he has already made a massive impression and we can't wait to see his progress both in sport and academically over the coming year."



QUAKERS THROUGH TO DURHAM COUNTY FA SEMI-FINAL THANKS TO ELLEN'S WINNING PENALTY STRIKE AND SAVE!

Ellen Atkinson, in Year 13, has been a goalkeeper since she was four-years-old and her experience and devotion to football paid off in dividends in her most recent game for Darlington FC Women's team. Neck and neck at 3-3, the game against Consett went to sudden-death penalties. It was a very close call but Ellen not only scored the fifth penalty but then put her gloves back on, returned to the goal to make the match-winning save to put the Quakers through 5:4 on penalties to the semi-finals of the County FA Women's Cup.

Manager Shaun MacKenzie said: "Ellen volunteered to take a penalty -- we know she can put them away as she does that in training. She was going to be in the first five, but we decided to put her sixth just in case -- and that's how it worked out."

Headgirl Ellen started playing football for a mixed team for the Two Dales Football Club in Reeth when she started school, playing in matches across Richmondshire and Wensleydale. She left the club to join Bedale Bluebirds, the girls' team at Bedale Football Club, when she was 13 and played in a local league in North Yorkshire for their U13 to U16 teams. After playing for Darlington Spaire FC's Under 18 team, Ellen moved to Darlington Quakers A team in September 2021 as their reserve goalkeeper, becoming their first goalkeeper in September 2022. The team plays in the Durham Ladies League and recently competed in the Vitality FA cup, getting through the first three rounds.

Ellen is a keen athlete and demonstrates a huge passion and talent for football. After excelling in GCSE PE, Ellen opted to specialise in Sport and is studying Triple CTEC Sport. She is highly regarded in school and college for her dedication to sport and how she encourages and motivates her peers and younger students to take part in different physical activities and team sports. She regularly leads at sporting events, including the primary transition visits such as football and athletics.

Ellen said: "I have always enjoyed the thrill of being a goalkeeper and being under pressure – in fact, I perform better under pressure! I have really enjoyed playing for all the teams over the years, and it's been a privilege to be selected as Darlington Quakers' A-team's first goalkeeper. I sort of fell in to being a goalkeeper, it was my first position when I was four playing at Reeth and I've stayed there ever since! I am intending to go to university to study Paramedic Science so I will be sad to leave the Quakers but I hope to join another squad at university."

Miss Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "Ellen is an outstanding goalkeeper! She has committed many years of training to develop her skills and work her way to first choice goalkeeper for Darlington. Saving a penalty and then turning around and scoring the winning penalty against another goalkeeper not only reflects her versatility as a player but also her mental strength to succeed under such pressure."

You can read the Quakers' full match report [here](#).

The draw has been made for the semi-finals of the Durham County FA Women's County Cup and Darlington FC Women's team will play Chester Le Street Town Ladies FC away on Sunday, 19th February.

(Photo credits for game shots - Darlington F.C Women and Girls Football)



SPORT

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR DURHAM CRICKET

Congratulations to Bertie Morris, in Year 7, and Isaac Tate, in Year 9, who have been selected to represent Durham Cricket in the Under 13 and Under 14 teams.

Bertie and Isaac started playing cricket when they were seven and have played competitively for three years, with Bertie playing for Raby Castle and Isaac playing for Rockcliffe Park. Cricket is their favourite sport, although they both also play football and are in the school squads.

Bertie said: "I love playing cricket and my position is wicket keeper. I have really got into it and I've never felt like that about any other sport. My family also enjoy cricket. My Dad used to play and my younger brother has also been selected to represent Durham and will be playing for the Under 9s. I am really looking forward to playing for the Richmond School Year 7 team this season."

Isaac added: "Cricket has always been my favourite sport and I am an all-rounder so I enjoy batting, fielding and bowling. I was inspired to play by my brother and Dad who are also keen cricketers. I played in the Year 8 and 9 school cricket teams last year and I am over the moon to be selected for Durham Cricket."



John Windows, Academy Director at Durham Cricket, said: "Bertie and Isaac have impressed to date and thoroughly deserve their places in the squad. Their selection is testament to the hard work and dedication they have put in so far. They have undoubted talent, and I am looking forward to seeing them develop and progress over the coming years. I am sure Bertie and Isaac will be great ambassadors for your school and represent the County with distinction."

The teams have already started their training programme and Bertie and Isaac are looking forward to preparing for the fixture list for the 2023 season.

The students will have a comprehensive development programme. In addition to training, the students have a detailed strength and conditioning programme as well as receiving a generic nutrition and sports psychology programme.

Mark Swanwick, PE teacher, said: "It is fantastic to hear that Bertie and Isaac have been selected for Durham Cricket. This is a terrific achievement and a great opportunity for the students who will receive high-quality training to develop their skills."

GEOGRAPHERS ENJOY HUMAN FIELDWORK VISIT TO YORK

Our Year 11 Geographers visited York city centre to undertake their human fieldwork in preparation for their summer exam. The students investigated whether York and its outlying suburbs fit with the Burgess Model. Their day was spent walking a transect route from New Earswick into the City Centre investigating the environmental quality, land use, traffic count and pedestrianisation usage along the way.

As always, the students were a credit to Richmond School and Sixth Form College and they never once complained about the cold weather!



YEAR 9 STUDENTS EXCEL AT GERMAN

Congratulations to ten of our Year 9 students who recently passed the internationally recognised 'Fit in Deutsch' A1 qualification. This qualification allows students to demonstrate basic language skills in the four key skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking and can really inspire and motivate students to continue with their language learning journey at GCSE and A-level.



Fiona Dutton, German Teacher, said: "I am delighted with our students' success. They all invested time in their learning by attending additional after-school exam preparation sessions as well as learning the necessary vocabulary. As a PASCH Schule we are able to offer this optional qualification every year at a significantly reduced rate. Students in Year 11 are also able to sit the A2 qualification, which can open doors to study and job opportunities in German-speaking countries."

Well done to: Evie Carter, Lara Scarr, Liam Martin, Lucy Gallears, Myles Fairhurst, Owen Dickson, Robbie Slater, Rupert Hindmarch, Ryan Buck and Scarlett Doherty.

EMILY'S STUNNING NEEDLEWORK BRINGS HORRIBLE HISTORIES PROJECT TO LIFE

A hugely creative student has crafted a stunning textiles design which has brought a school's history project to life.

Emily O' Neill, a Year 9 student, is a member of the school's History club which is embarking on an ambitious project to create their own video episode of Horrible Histories. The students realised they would need a Rattus Rattus for their quirky transitions. For anyone unfamiliar with Horrible Histories, Rattus Rattus is the talking rat host of the sketch series. After much research, they figured that they would have to pay well over £200 for one! This is when Emily stepped in. Thirteen-year-old Emily has incredible sewing skills and in just three days she was able to create the club's very own Rattus Rattus.



Miss Ridley, History Teacher and Leader of the History Club, said: "Emily volunteered her own time to do this and we couldn't be more grateful. The finished product is better than any of us could have imagined. Emily is a valued member of the History club and each week her passion for the subject shines through. Thank you so much, Emily!"

Emily is a keen sewer and was delighted to take on the challenge of making Rattus Rattus. Emily was just six-years-old when she first became interested in sewing and started to make things. Emily said: "My interest was inspired by my Aunt who enjoys sewing and knitting, so I have grown up watching her and I have always liked the idea that I could make anything myself and make it exactly the way I wanted, if I tried hard enough. I also like to fix things and it's a useful skill to have in the long term. I have made lots of things in the past and some of my more recent sewing projects, besides the puppet, are a skirt, some pillows and I'm knitting some scarves at the moment.

"To make the Rattus Rattus puppet, I used parts of old socks for the main body and some old material for the facial features and spare stuffing I had from a previous pillow project. It seemed right to recycle because he is a Rat."

As well as being an avid member of the school's History Club, Emily has joined the Textiles Club and is hoping to take Textiles as a GCSE in Year 10.

Horrible Histories is an extremely popular children's historical television series, based on the best-selling books of the same name, by Terry Deary. The series covers several different historical periods from the Stone Age to post World War Two, with fabulous sketches, comedy and animations which really inspire a love of history for children. Simon Farnaby, a former Richmond School student stars in the TV series, alongside Rattus Rattus, the puppet host, who explains the facts to help children's understanding of history. To find out more about the TV show visit [Horrible Histories](#) and to see Rattus Rattus in action click [here](#).

IT WIZARDS BUILD THEIR OWN WORKING COMPUTER

William Francis and Harry Thompson have combined their IT skills to build their own working computer. The Year 8 students have an avid interest in Computer Science and when Harry said he had some parts that would enable them to design and build a computer they quickly put their minds to the task in hand.

After working together during break and lunch times, the students now have a working computer. Harry had been given an old computer from his uncle which he dismantled and then using parts from other old computers the students assembled them in the same way you would with brand new parts.



William said: "The computer is now up and running and if we plug in a monitor it works. It is capable of running any operating system such as windows, the internet works and it is also compatible with USB versions, has VGA and a HDMI output. It is very satisfying to know that we have taken used components and then upcycled them to make something old become new."

The students are going to share the computer and intend to use it to do some programming. They are now saving up for a new motherboard and a new CPU to make it work more efficiently and faster.



IT is one of Harry and William's favourite subjects. They both enjoy Computer Science and learning about how computers function, how to create software and finding solutions for problems. William is considering studying A-level Computer Science and pursuing a computer-related career as he is aware that computers are key to improving the automation of systems, such as helping to come up with programmes for online purchasing and adjusting stock.



Jess Rodgers, who teaches the students IT, said: "I am really impressed with the initiative William and Harry have shown. To take used components and reconstruct them to create a working computer is admirable, especially in our throwaway society where there is a tendency to automatically discard old parts and replace them with new products. I look forward to seeing their next project!"

A ROYAL RESPONSE FOR KIND-HEARTED WILL

Will Cooke is over the moon after receiving a reply from King Charles III, following a letter of condolence he sent to him when Queen Elizabeth II died.

After watching the Queen's funeral, Will Cooke, a Year 7 student, immediately put pen to paper and wrote a heartfelt letter to the King. In the letter, he not only expressed his sympathy for the late monarch's family, but added that he understood first-hand the terrible feeling of grief as his own Nanna, who lived with his family, had passed away only a couple of months before the Queen. He added that his Nanna had met the Queen and had told him what a really lovely lady she was.



Eleven-year-old Will had a very close relationship with his Nanna who had also met King Charles twice. She had worked as the regional property manager for the Landmark Trust, a heritage charity of which King Charles is a patron. The charity rescues, sensitively restores and then rents out buildings of historic interest so they are protected and the public can enjoy their history, architecture and authentic features. Will used to love listening to his Nanna talking about the Royal Family and especially her visit to meet the Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace in 2012, in recognition of the work she had done for the Landmark Trust.

Julie, Will's mum, said: "Will did this without any prompting. He came to me a day after the Queen's funeral and said he was going to write a letter to King Charles. He said that he understood how incredibly sad he would be feeling and he just wanted him to know that he was thinking of him."

Will said: "I was really upset when the Queen died as I had so much respect for her and everything she did. I wanted to let King Charles know that so many people across Great Britain and the world were thinking of him. I never expected to receive a reply so it was a bit of a shock as I'm sure the King will have received hundreds of thousands of cards and letters. I was really excited when I saw the royal crest on the envelope and it is something that I will keep forever."

Will's letter from King Charles reads: "It was so very kind of you to send me a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved Mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow."

As well as his strong interest in the Royal Family, which Will says rubbed off from his Nanna, Will has a passion for History, which is one of his favourite subjects at school. He is especially interested in the history of the Royal Family.



Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "What a truly wonderful gesture from Will to send such comforting words to King Charles. After losing his Nanna, Will was acutely aware of how a death can impact a family and the distress it brings. We are really proud of Will for demonstrating such respect, kindness and compassion in this way. The King's letter is a fabulous keepsake for Will which I'm sure he will cherish."

You can find out more about the work of the Landmark Trust [here](#).

ACADEMIC

STUDENTS DEVELOP GREAT TEAMWORK SKILLS AT BRITISH ARMY ACTIVITY DAY

Two soldiers, from Bournon Barracks at Catterick, delivered a careers and activity day which saw 155 Year 7 to 9 students take part over the course of the day.

The session was designed around developing and embedding soft employability skills. Students looked at skills such as communication, decision making, organisation and adapting to situations during their activity of archery tag.

Students were put through their paces in a dodgeball type game of archery tag where three teams competed to be session champions in a battle of 'winner stays on'. As each game progressed, the teams of mixed Year 7, 8 and 9 students improved their communication, decision making and organisational skills to remain in the game and become ultimate champions.

At the end of the session, students had the opportunity to ask the session leaders questions about the British Army. They posed insightful questions based on careers, entry to the army and progression, as well as asking the soldiers about their personal experience and training within the army.



Mr Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate, said: "The students thoroughly engaged in all five sessions throughout the day and it was great to see the mixed teams of students from Years 7, 8 and 9 working together to try and remain undefeated within the game. Students demonstrated great energy and camaraderie throughout the day and it was fantastic to watch them enjoying themselves in such a fun challenging game. It was really positive to see them take a keen interest in the military, whether as a career aspiration or a keen interest in the soldiers' current time in the army. We most certainly will be booking again for next year!"



I look forward to having the British Army Outreach Team in School and College for a team building activity day for our older school and sixth form students. Their session will start with a careers' presentation and then an outdoor activity session to give the students a taste of Army teamwork and problem-solving skills. The Elite Skills session will be full of challenging tasks that develop mental and physical attributes."

A GREAT RESULT FOR YOUNG CHEMISTS IN ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

Well done to Niamh Hyman (Year 11), Charlotte Harrison (Year 10), Emily O'Neill (Year 9) and Catherine Harrison (Year 9) for competing in this year's Top of the Bench Chemistry competition. Hosted at Teesside University, the competition included several rounds based on general chemistry knowledge and a practical laboratory session.

Kevin Sandell, Chemistry Teacher, said: "This was a great team effort against 15 other schools from across the North East and I am delighted to announce they came 3rd overall. Well done team!"

Dr Mackinnon gave our team a special mention, saying: "You were consistent across all four rounds and were the only school to be 6th or better in each round."



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Our latest Online Safety Newsletter includes useful information about video chatting, WhatsApp, Whizz, Mastodon, Youtube and TikTok. The newsletter can be viewed [here](#).



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Miss Ridley delivered a thought-provoking assembly to our Year 13 students to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. In addition, our Year 12 students will be working with the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. You can view the assembly [here](#) and find out more about the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust [here](#).

Miss Ridley, History Teacher, said: "It is about trying not to detach ourselves from such events just because they haven't happened in our lifetime. Genocides aren't a thing of the past and we have a responsibility to learn from our mistakes and change the way we treat people. I also think it's important to humanise the Holocaust hence why I have included some case studies. We tend not to comprehend the 6 million number and therefore it's paramount that we learn from those that experienced it."



(photo credit Holocaust Educational Trust)

ECO CLUB MAKE FABULOUS BIRD FEEDERS – YOU CAN MAKE SOME TOO!

Our Eco Club members have devised an inventive way to make bird feeders from recycled bottles which they collected during one of their litter picks. The bird feeders are quite simple to make and only a handful of materials are required. Our resourceful students have created a short 'how to' video, together with some instructions, to enable other young people and their families to make their own bird feeders - just find a plastic bottle (with cap), two sticks, a pin, scissors and some string. Watch the short video [here](#) and follow the instructions [here](#).

Miss Spittlehouse, Geography teacher and leader of the Eco Club, said: "It usually takes a while for the birds to come and find the bird features but we've had great success and lots of different bird species visiting, such as robins, gold finches, blackbirds and wrens."



CAMERON'S PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS SUPPORT HIS BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

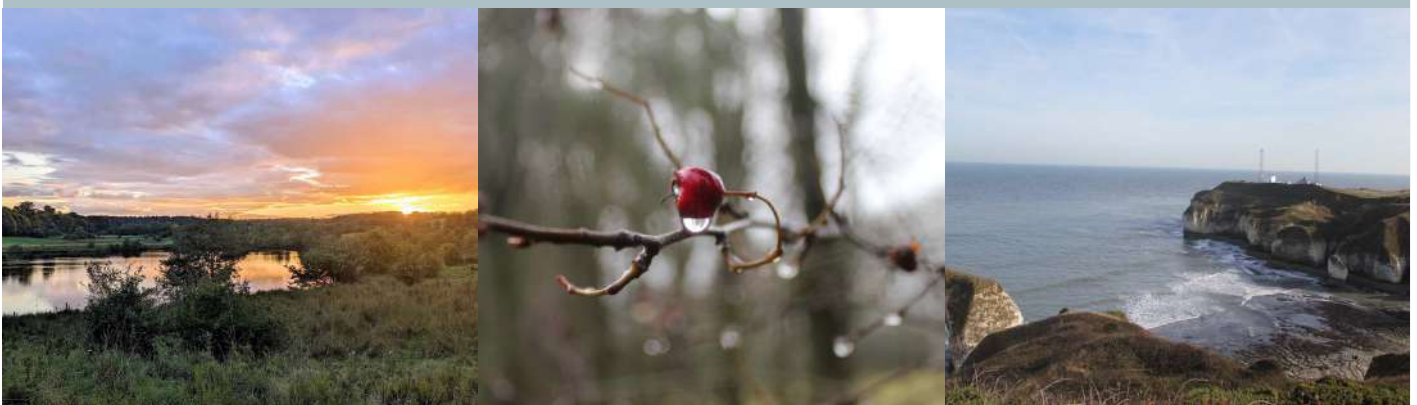
Cameron Smith, in Year 11, has been working really hard on the core elements of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. To achieve the award, students have four key tasks to complete which include volunteering, physical/sport, skills and expedition. Students have to devote three months to each part and complete a two-day expedition. Cameron chose photography for his skills section with the aim of broadening his understanding and increasing his expertise. Cameron regularly submitted photographs of landscapes in the local area for assessment and they are so stunning that we thought we must share them for others to enjoy.



Cameron has made fabulous progress towards his goals which included using different depth of field to contrast with the backgrounds and to use different lightings in the backgrounds. He has worked very hard on this and has visited many locations in Richmondshire and Swaledale to take photographs of different landscapes and scenery. He has taken great care in the composition of his shots and makes the most of the natural lighting and any interesting features such as cloud formations and rainbows.

Cameron's skills assessor said: "I have been really impressed with Cameron's commitment to enhancing his photography skills and have looked forward to receiving his photographs each week. He has also been using his skills in school by taking photographs when on his Duke of Edinburgh expedition and training weekends. In addition, he entered the North Yorkshire Youth calendar competition and one of his photographs was chosen as a winner and is featured on their 2023 calendar."

A huge well done to Cameron. To find out more about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme please visit [D of E](#).



YEAR 10 STUDENTS LEARN IMPORTANT FIRST AID SKILLS

Our Year 10 Health and Social Care students spent three hours learning important first aid skills. The practical sessions were delivered by Hollie, a first aid trainer from Langton Medical. The hands-on workshops covered a number of basic first-aid skills including: resuscitation, using an emergency defibrillator, bleeding, choking, shock (physical, emotional and anaphylactic). The students had the opportunity to put the lessons into practice and worked on resuscitation and bandaging skills.

Caroline Dawson, Lead Teacher for Health and Social Care, said: "I was really impressed with how the students immersed themselves in the first aid training and were not afraid to have a go at the different practical tasks that were demonstrated. They handled each activity with maturity and respect for each other."



YEAR 10 GCSE PE STUDENTS CHALLENGE THEMSELVES AT ROCK CLIMBING

Thirty-six Year 10 GCSE PE students headed to Durham Climbing Centre to complete a two-day Rock Climbing course. The students were assessed by the fantastic instructors over the two days and this mark can contribute to their final practical assessment mark which consists of three sporting activities and makes up 30% of their final grade. Many of our GCSE PE students participate in team sports and as at least one of their assessed activities needs to be taken from an individual sport this has been a great opportunity to develop new skills, push themselves outside of their comfort zone and gain an all-important mark for their practical assessment.

The students conducted themselves brilliantly, challenging themselves and supporting and encouraging each other to be the best they could be. They learned how to boulder (climb without ropes) and how to climb with a top rope. They were also required to belay each other and were responsible for keeping each other safe. Staff at the centre commented on how well-mannered and engaged our students were. Huge thanks to the staff at Durham Climbing Centre who not only ran well organised and high-quality sessions for our students but who also took the time to get to know them and make the days fun, informative and challenging.



SIXTH FORMERS LEARN ABOUT THE WORK OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

It was wonderful to be able to welcome Dr Susan Miller back to college to talk to our students about the work of Amnesty International after a break of two years. During this time, Dr Miller very kindly delivered her thought-provoking presentation about Human Rights to our students virtually so they could continue to benefit from her knowledge and expertise.

Dr Miller's presentation focused on what our Human Rights are, why they need protecting and what we as individuals can do to support those whose rights may be violated. A pdf of Dr Miller's presentation can be viewed [here](#) and there are lots of very useful resources at the end of the document where students can find out further information.

Sally Byrom, Sixth Form Head of Year, said: "We are so grateful to Dr Miller for sharing her knowledge about the important work of Amnesty International. Some of the content was hard-hitting and really made our students reflect on how important it is that everyone's Human Rights are respected and protected. This presentation is always one that sparks discussion with our students and we look forward to Dr Miller returning next year." You can find out more about the work of Amnesty International [here](#).



A-LEVEL CLASSICS STUDENTS ENJOY A DAY IN THE LIFE AS AN UNDERGRADUATE



Our Sixth Form Classics students headed to Newcastle University for an A-level Classics Conference. The students attended four lectures covering different aspects of their A-level course. The lectures were delivered by academic staff in lecture theatres and teaching rooms at the university. It was a great opportunity to experience university-style teaching, to look around a Russell Group University campus and to deepen knowledge and understanding of elements of the A-level specification. There was also an hour for lunch which meant that students could sample the delights of the Student Union food outlets!

Sally Byrom, Classics Teacher and Sixth Form Head of Year, said: "I was so pleased that Newcastle University reinstated this conference after a break due to Covid. It was a really useful day for the students and they did a brilliant job of transforming into undergraduates for the day!"



ARETÉ CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Last term, students from the three schools and colleges in the Areté Learning Trust were invited to take part in subject challenges for Biology, Drama, English, History and Maths. We are delighted that three of our students received awards for the high standard of work they produced in the Key Stage 3 category of the Biology and Maths challenges.

Congratulations to:

BIOLOGY

Winner - Emily O'Neill, Year 9

Highly commended - Oliver Johnston, Year 7

MATHS

Winner - Sophie White, Year 8

Highly commended - Oliver Johnston, Year 7



Thank you and a big well done to all the students who took part in the Areté Learning challenges - the work you have produced is fantastic. Also, a huge thank you to the staff who created the challenges.

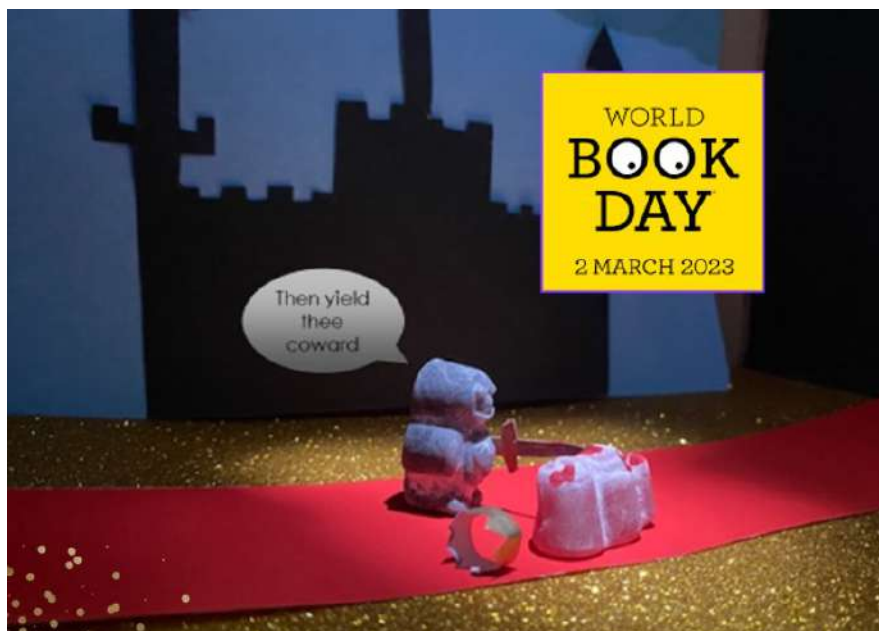
CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY BY RECREATING A SCENE FROM YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK

The countdown is on to World Book Day on 2nd March and what better way to celebrate it than by inviting students from all year groups to take part in a competition to recreate a scene from their favourite book.

You could depict your chosen scene in Lego, plasticine or cake...You could illustrate your scene in any art form you wish...pencil, paint, pastel or collage...You could dress up and act out your chosen scene...be as creative as you want - the only limitation is your imagination!

Students need to submit their entries to their English Google Classroom by Monday 27th February. A shortlist will then be announced, before the prize-winning entries for each age group will be revealed on World Book Day. For further details, please refer to the instructions on your Classroom or speak to your English teacher.

It's a perfect project for students to work on over the half-term break.....what are you waiting for?!



CAREERS

CELEBRATING APPRENTICESHIPS

It's National Apprenticeship week from 6th to 12th February and we have a host of resources and information for students to access from Student Services, as well as taking part in quizzes and tutor group information sessions. Due to Year 11 exams, we've moved our Apprenticeship assemblies to March, however our Year 12 and Year 13 students will be visited by various employers and providers during the week to talk all things Apprenticeships.

**National
Apprenticeship
Week 2023**

SKILLS
FOR LIFE

Apprenticeships
The Gateway to Skills

In the meantime, parents and carers who want to find out more about this fantastic pathway for their children, can access the Parents Guide to Apprenticeships [here](#) to learn more about what they are and why they may be a good fit for their child. This guide includes information on:

- Types of apprenticeships
- Apprenticeship levels and educational routes
- The pros and cons of taking an apprenticeship
- Where to find an apprenticeship
- The top ten apprenticeship employers in England

Further information about apprenticeships can be found at www.nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk

It's always wonderful to hear how our former students are getting on with their apprenticeships so we hope you enjoying our six reviews on the following pages.

FRASER PRAISED FOR HIS GOOD WORK ETHIC

Fraser Proudlock started his apprenticeship in welding and fabrication at CJ Tennants Engineering Ltd in summer 2022. He has quickly settled into his role and works diligently and has a close eye for detail. Carl Tennant, MD, is a former Richmond School student, along with 75% of the staff who work for him.

We called in to film Fraser at work and we were also delighted to see him back on site at Richmond Sixth Form College where he was working with a team to install some railings and steps that he had helped to fabricate.

CJ Tennant Ltd have a longstanding partnership with Richmond School and Fraser is their fourth apprentice who is one of our former students. You can enjoy the video [here](#).



CAREERS

JOEL SCORES 10/10 FOR HIS APPRENTICESHIP AT TEESDALE RENEWABLES

Joel Pybus is completing a four-year level 3 NVQ in Plumbing and Heating at Teesdale Renewables, based in Barnard Castle. Upon completion, he will be qualified to register with the appropriate professional bodies to work as a plumbing or heating engineer. Having this qualification as his foundation, Joel will have the opportunity throughout his career to develop further via short-term courses and offer specialist skill in renewables or the commercial sector as a plumber or engineer.



Nicola Coulthard, HR Manager at Teesdale Renewables, recently went out on site with Joel and said: "Joel has settled in very well at Teesdale Renewables. He has shown a mature and engaged attitude to all he does. Despite Joel being less experienced than the other staff, he is not scared to share his thoughts and actively help with problem solving on site. He is able to apply his developing theoretical knowledge from college to the practical work he does day to day. Joel is a valued member of our team and is offering great support to all the engineers he works with. Teesdale Renewables is very pleased to have Joel on the team and can see him building a very successful career.



Joel said: "My day-to-day work is varied and always a learning opportunity. I can be just offering support by providing tools and parts to engineers or cleaning up on site. Alternatively, I can be helping with problem solving on a call out to find reasons why the heating system isn't working, or I can be independently fitting radiators or similar plumbing tasks. I have been given the opportunity to develop my skills of both traditional plumbing as well as the new technologies of renewables. I love how I have been thrown in at the deep end and getting on with the 'work' and not just being an observer. Being able to earn while I learn is also good – I watch how my friends spend their week learning at college but then have to spend their weekends working to earn. I get to do all that during the week and then enjoy my weekends! 10/10 happy I chose an apprenticeship".

LUCA AND LIAM BUILDING A GREAT FUTURE WITH THEIR APPRENTICESHIPS

It's hard to believe that it's a year since we met Luca and Liam at Randall Orchard Construction (ROC) to hear how the first few months of their apprenticeships were going. We've just caught up with Graeme Newton, MD at ROC, to find out how they are progressing at the company and how their skills are developing. Luca is an apprentice joiner and Liam is an apprentice bricklayer.

Graeme said: "Both Luca and Liam are valued members of staff at ROC and are highly regarded for their strong work ethic and being fantastic team players. It's hard to believe that they have only been with us for 18 months as they have developed impressive skill sets and are continuing to learn from their colleagues each day. The quality of their work is always to a very high standard and they can be relied on to commit 100% to everything they do. It's wonderful to look back at the video from last year and see how quickly they settled in and how far they have come in the last 12 months." You can find out more about Luca and Liam's apprenticeships in the video [here](#).



CAREERS

THE BEST POSSIBLE START FOR ALEX'S CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Alex Percival joined Walter Thompson (Contractors) Ltd in September 2022 via the degree apprenticeship route after achieving high A-level grades. Alex is a trainee Quantity Surveyor/Estimator and is currently part of a team responsible for the construction of four different projects, ranging from care homes to high-end luxury houses.

As part of Alex's role, he spends a lot of time in the company's head office, based at Northallerton, where he contributes to the team by carrying out remeasures for sub-contractors, dealing with payments, and sending out enquiries. As well as this, Alex will often go out to site so that he can build up his practical knowledge, help with his remeasures, and take progress pictures.

Alex's apprenticeship means that he spends four days a week at work and then studies with Northumbria University for one day a week. The degree apprenticeship lasts five years and will result in Alex achieving a degree in Quantity Surveying by the end of this.



Alex said: "A degree apprenticeship is perfect because it allows you to expand your knowledge every day at work whilst also studying the degree at the same time. This allows me to see what I am studying in practical situations at work. Walter Thompson have allowed me to have the best start possible for my career in the construction industry and I look forward to my future in Quantity Surveying".

David Passmore, Senior Quantity Surveyor and Alex's Mentor in the workplace, added: "Alex joined Walter Thompson in September straight after completing his A-levels. Alex is very competent and can handle himself well in the workplace. He works very well in our team and is always seeking to expand his knowledge about the construction industry. I believe that degree apprenticeships are very valuable in this industry as the apprentices can see what they are learning at university and apply them to what they see in the workplace."

AWARD-WINNING CHARLIE HAS PLANS TO GO ON TO A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Charlie Giddens is an apprentice software developer at Worldline, a leading company in secure payments and transactions. Charlie secured the highly-sought-after apprenticeship after a rigorous selection process and immediately after his GCSEs in June, Charlie travelled to Nottingham for his first week of training. Charlie, a former student leader, was awarded the John Blenkinsop apprenticeship cup at our presentation evening in recognition of his determination and motivation.

We were delighted to catch up with Charlie who said: "I work as a software developer in a team including a few other apprentices, but soon we are all scheduled to join larger official teams and work on official production software. My local office is at Faverdale, in Darlington, but we have 40% remote working so I do two days at home. I don't go to college as it is all based online, with occasional live modules on the different topics of the course (there are five over the twelve months of learning in the course). The actual apprenticeship study work consists of pre-learning of each module, work to complete during the lectures and then finally an activity where you apply what you have learned in a piece of software to go into your portfolio.

"It's engaging and interesting especially now that I am interacting with industry-level software and understanding legitimate practices in the job, as well as working on an actual live piece of software that people in the real world rely on. I am planning to take the apprenticeship up to a full bachelor's degree/level 7 apprenticeship which, if I manage to do it, will finish some time in 2027."



CAREERS

MEGAN REAPS THE BENEFITS OF A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

After spending a year gaining valuable experience working as a Commercial Assistant for Tom Willoughby Ltd, former student Megan Lightfoot started her Quantity Surveyor Degree Apprenticeship with the company in September 2021.



Megan is working as a trainee quantity surveyor and works in the Regional Prime Contract, based at Catterick, and is part of team that deals with commercial processes related to jobs for the Military of Defence. Megan said: "I really enjoyed working for a year in the industry before starting my degree apprenticeship. This has given me a better understanding of the industry and also enhanced my organisational and planning skills, both of which are essential when combining work with degree-level studying. My colleagues at Tom Willoughby are extremely supportive and are always on hand to help with any queries. Learning on the job is a fantastic way to be able to put theory into practice and I really enjoy the hands-on approach that a degree apprenticeship offers."

"Throughout my five-year-degree apprenticeship, I will work four days at Tom Willoughby and attend Northumbria University for one day each week. I highly recommend this method of studying as it not only enables you to put what you are learning into perspective on sites but also adds relevance and realism to the essays and dissertations you are working on at university."

Joanne Sinnott, Operations Director, at Tom Willoughby, said: "We couldn't be more delighted with Megan's progress. She quickly proved herself to be a diligent, dedicated and highly regarded member of staff during her first year as a Commercial Assistant. Having this insight and experience of the industry meant that she was in a fantastic position to start her degree apprenticeship and she is making significant progress in her new role as a trainee quantity surveyor. I have no doubt that she will continue to develop her skills and expertise and carve herself a great career in the construction sector."

A typical day for Megan involves a mix of site and office work. After visiting site with the client to understand work requirements, Megan will spend the rest of the day compiling final accounts for completed projects.

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

CAREERS

FABULOUS RESOURCES FOR CAREERS

As our Year 11s begin their final few months of school, we want to make sure parents, carers and students in all year groups know where they can access information and support. Our Careers Advisers are available to help and support all students with decisions about next steps - students can speak to their tutors to arrange appointments, or just come along to the careers room next to students services and speak to them. Below are some helpful resources:



TALKING FUTURES: created to help you have informed and constructive conversations with your child about the different training and education pathways available to them - www.talkingfutures.org.uk/

ICLOUD AND NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE: Websites such as www.icloud.com and www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/ are helpful for exploring careers and pathways.

UNIFROG: all students from Y7 have a personal log in, which gives access to a wealth of information on careers, qualifications, Apprenticeships and University – www.unifrog.org/sign-in

FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP: Visit www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch to search and apply for vacancies and www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/ to find out more. There's lots of useful information about apprenticeships in the parent zone at Amazing Apprenticeships www.amazingapprenticeships.com/parent-zone/ which includes links to the Parent Perspective Podcast www.amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/

Miss Hamer, our Careers Adviser, can help students with applications, CVs and covering letters - please just ask if you'd like support.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK from 6th - 12th March will see a host of guest speakers, employers, colleges, apprenticeship providers and universities with us in school during assemblies, workshops and lessons.

OPEN DAYS AND EVENTS: these will be advertised on college websites, try to attend if you can to find out more about the courses and facilities available

CAREERS MEETINGS: all Year 11 students will be invited to a one-to-one careers' meeting.

APPLICATIONS FOR SIXTH FORM AND COLLEGES: applications are all now open and we encourage our Year 11 students to submit applications as soon as possible for any courses they are interested in. Students can apply for Richmond Sixth Form College online at www.richmondschool.net/sixth-form/apply-now

CAREERS IDEAS: Our Careers Ideas careers fair will take place again on 6th July 2023 and will be open for our Year 10 and Year 12 students and their parents and carers - we already have over 30 employers, Further Education and Higher Education providers coming along - more info will follow.

Please contact Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser on ruthamer@arete.uk if you'd like to discuss careers support for your child. We strive to ensure every student is supported to make the decisions that are right for them, so please do get in touch with any questions.

CAREERS

STUDENTS SHOW THEIR TRUE GRIT LIVING AS NEW ARMY RECRUITS

A four-day military work experience programme proved a real test of grit for students from Richmond School and Sixth Form College. Nine students across Years 10, 11 and 12 lived the life of new army recruits at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, at Strensall near York, starting with a daily wake-up call at 6am!

The students, aged between 15 and 17, wore uniforms throughout the week and were separated from some of life's little luxuries, such as their mobile phones. From army drills to bed making, being out in the field to marching, the group were introduced to the real demands of army life.

Charlie Wallace, in Year 11, said: "The Army Outreach residential provided me with a taste of the sort of environment that I could find myself working in. Over the course of the four days, we took part in a range of activities that allowed me to think outside the box and try things I haven't done before. I am a part of the army cadets at Catterick and signed up to the residential work experience visit which has solidified my decision to pursue a career in the army, hopefully as a Royal Engineer. I will be applying to the Army Foundation College in Harrogate after my GCSE studies at Richmond School and Sixth Form College."

Ellie Hughes, in Year 10, added: "At first, I didn't really know what to expect as I hadn't been to anything like cadets before so I was a little bit nervous. All of the staff there were so welcoming and supportive, especially on the assault course where I found it a major challenge to be able to jump over a 6-foot wall! After many attempts and failing, I felt deflated but with the support and encouragement of my peers, my teacher and the army crew I managed to get over the wall."

"I learnt that there were so many different career opportunities that I could aspire to do within the army, discovering the different routes with soldiers and officers. Something that really grabbed my attention was the law and legal side of the army. I found out that I could join the army as an Armed Forces Lawyer, meaning I could take and offer legal services to different Army members and their families."

The group learnt about camouflage, concealment and detaining an enemy, as well as how to advance and retreat on the enemy. They were taught the theory of how to search a vehicle and command tasks in the classroom and they developed this knowledge practically out in the open. A real highlight for the group was the assault course where they had to climb over walls, swing on ropes, climb across bars and jump into deep, cold muddy water as they were put through their paces.



Mr Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate, said: "The students were keen to learn and it is fantastic that some are hoping to pursue a career in the military and are considering roles such as a medic, artillery and a legal officer. The residential trip enabled students to learn what the army is all about as well as giving them real experience, developing discipline and teamwork skills."

CAREERS

STUDENTS FIND OUT ABOUT CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

We were delighted to welcome Flight Lieutenant Jim Tait back to school. Following his visit in October, when Jim spoke to a small group of sixth form students, he returned to meet with 22 Year 10 and Year 11 students who are interested in a career with the RAF. Jim works for the RAF Recruitment and Engagement team and has a huge amount of experience working in the RAF so is perfectly placed to speak to students about the broad range of careers available and the different routes to apply. Jim spoke about what inspired him to join the RAF and the roles he has worked in during his career. The students were very engaged and asked a lot of questions about life in the RAF and what to expect.



Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser, said: "We really appreciated Jim visiting us for a second time and it was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 and 11 students to hear first-hand about the many roles available in the RAF. It is incredibly important for us to bring careers to life for the students – to meet with employers and employees at school really gives them a chance to gain an insight into opportunities for their futures."

NEW CAREERS LEADER FOR ARETÉ LEARNING TRUST

We are delighted that Jamie Pemberton has been appointed as the Careers Leader for Areté Learning Trust. Jamie's role will involve implementing strategies and continuing the development of the careers programme across the schools to meet all eight of the Gatsby benchmarks of good practice. Jamie will work closely with Careers Advisers Ruth Hamer, Dr Jane Scott, Marissa Stirling and Pete Soroczán at Richmond, Northallerton and Stokesley Schools and Sixth Form Colleges.

Jamie said: "I am very grateful to have been offered the Careers Leader position for Areté Learning Trust. I am looking forward to working with the careers teams and developing the programme to ensure all students are prepared for the choices and transitions in education, training and employment."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "Jamie has really impressed us with her enthusiasm and ideas relating to this new role in such a short time. Jamie's commitment to our students is really impressive, both in her teaching field of Dance and her new leadership role of Careers. I really look forward to seeing Jamie taking this critical agenda forward."



CAREERS

VALUABLE REVISION TIPS FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS FROM YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Eighteen Year 11 students, who were mostly service students, took part in a revision session led by York St John University.

The session was a follow-up event from a Summer School visit to the university in July 2022 which was led by Education Outreach Coordinator, Ebony Moreno who was accompanied by student ambassador Aimee Harrison. The summer school was a two-night residential where students stayed in university accommodation and took part in taster lectures with university academics, social activities and sport as well as free time in York city centre to get a taste of university life.



The morning revision session allowed the students to reflect on their latest set of PPEs, look at their revision habits and review their mental and physical health at the time. Students looked at common misconceptions with PPEs, the purpose of them and considered their mindset and viewpoints of exams.



In the afternoon, the students reviewed revision techniques such as flashcards and the pomodoro technique. This was a great help in planning ahead to their next set of PPE exams to create a revision timetable to utilise their time effectively to help them succeed in their PPEs, their summer exams and to reach their next goals.

Mr Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate, said: "The students were very engaged in the session and responded to Ebony and Aimee very well. They were honest about their approach to their PPEs and revision habits and were able to plan effectively for their upcoming PPEs and summer exams. It was lovely to see students take their reflection and planning seriously in preparation for their GCSE examinations. I look forward to taking our Year 10 students to York St John in July for the next Summer School."

Mr Birdsall was able to share an example of a revision timetable which showed the students that free time and any sporting activities could still fit amongst independent learning outside of schooling hours and that revision doesn't have to be a chore.

If Year 11 students would like a copy of the revision timetable to adapt for themselves then please click [here](#).



THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME!

With two pantomimes under his belt in December, alumnus and professional panto dame Stephen Longstaff is enjoying his latest and new role as doting Dad to his beautiful daughter Lily, who was born on 3rd January. He's also gearing up for his next pantomime where he'll once again be playing the Dame for Dalton Amateur Dramatics' Society who are performing Rapunzel from 16th-18th February. A stonemason and builder by trade, who has a love of breeding Dales' ponies and restoring vintage tractors, Stephen is not your typical pantomime dame! We were delighted to welcome Stephen back to school in October when he mentored Toby Watson, who played the Dame in the school and college's production of Alice in Wonderland.

We hope you enjoy our Q and A with Stephen where he talks about his passion for the stage as well as offering some great advice for anyone who would like to be involved in a drama or musical theatre group. If you'd like to see Stephen and a number of other former students in panto then you can book tickets for Rapunzel [here](#).

How old were you when you first performed on stage?

I was 11 and it was at Ravensworth Primary School

What was the production and what role did you play?

It was Cinderella and strangely enough, I was an ugly sister - not a lot has changed since!

Who or what inspired you to perform?

When I was very young, I was obsessed with watching TV comedy programs such as 'Keeping up Appearances (Mrs Bucket)', 'Allo Allo' and the classic Carry On films. These shows and characters fascinated me, so I'd video tape these episodes then watch them again and again, teaching myself how a laugh was made. I'd mimic characters in front of the mirror and act them out, sometimes at school.

When did you decide that pantomimes were for you?

I think I just fell into pantomimes naturally. Panto characters have to be quite animated and larger than life, so basically I fit in well.

How many times have you played the dame?

I've played dame more times than I can honestly remember.....which is a lot!

Which dame has been your favourite?

My favourite panto role is the ugly sister. You are the villain as well as the comedy dame. But to be a good 'ugly' you have to have a good sidekick to bounce off, which I have had a few times.



Tell us more about your panto career

I helped start up the Dalton Amateur Dramatics Society in 1999 and I have done their pantos every year since, working my way up from being the front end of the cow to the dame!

My first professional pantomime was in 2017 but not as dame, I was the ugly sister's valet in Cinderella, at The Garden Rooms at Tennants. From there, I auditioned for The Majestic Theatre in Darlington who were looking for professional pantomime performers for their in-house theatre team. I have been their resident dame for countless pantos. We have 4 or 5 pantos a year. This Christmas, we performed Aladdin and I played the role of Widow Twankey. I am always grateful and lucky to have my partner Sara by my side who encourages and supports me in everything I do.

What is your line of work when you are not treading the boards?

Apart from my sideline pantomime career, I am a stonemason and builder with my own small business. Completely different work environments! Some people come to see me in Panto who know me from work and refuse to believe it's me, which is very reassuring!



Where were you brought up and what are your hobbies (aside from panto!)?

I was brought up on an exposed hill farm called Lummas House, above Marske in Swaledale. I didn't want to follow my father in farming but I did carry on our breeding of Dales ponies which my grandfather started in the 1930s. I still breed them today along with my father Colin, and am very involved with the Dales pony society. To also continue the farming aspect, I collect and restore vintage tractors and enjoy showing them all over the country, meeting characters along the way.

What advice would you give anyone who is considering becoming involved in a drama or musical theatre group?

My advice to anyone going into theatre is only pursue it if you are naturally good at it. I always think a lot of it is basic cunning instinct. Always take on board what people who watch you tell you, never think you know it all, because we are all always learning. Get out of your comfort zone, it took me years to do that, but when I did it opened up a lot to me.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR IS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

A young entrepreneur has returned to her Richmondshire roots to set up business at The Bay Horse in Ravensworth.

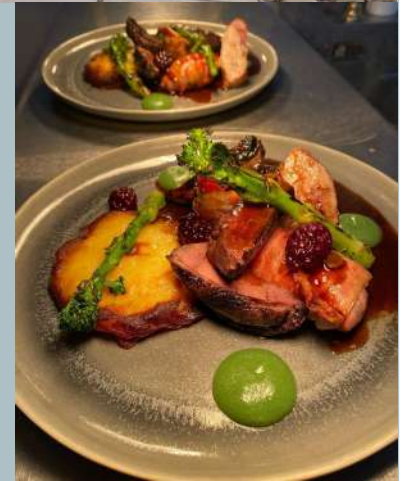
Hayley Barrett, a former student and a Northumbria University Business Management graduate, previously worked in finance roles at J Sainsbury PLC and in merchandising at Misguided before making the decision to run her own business with her partner Sam Turner.

Twenty-seven-year-old Hayley is no stranger to the world of hospitality as she has grown up in the industry, having lived in pubs and restaurants since she was born. The daughter of highly regarded chefs Adrian and Gill Barrett, Hayley worked part-time for her parents when they ran Overton House in Reeth and then during her placement year at university, she helped them to set up the hugely successful Barrett's Café Bistro in Richmond. She was involved in all of the branding, interior design, menus and staffing, experience which she has been able to put into practice for her own business venture.

Hayley said: "I have had a dream to run my own business from an early age, and this inspired me to study Business Studies A-level and read Business Management at degree level. During my final year at university, both Sam and I chose to specialise in Entrepreneurship. We had to set up our own business as part of the module and we made it to the Young Enterprise National Finals, which was a group of the top 10 businesses across the country that year. From there we always said we would run our own business one day."

"We knew we wanted to be in the hospitality sector in the Richmond area. When the opportunity to take on The Bay Horse came along it was like it was meant to be – I went to school in Ravensworth and my mum, who was born in Ravensworth, actually used to work in The Bay Horse as a teenager. Our vision for The Bay Horse is really simple - to bring back a vibrant traditional country pub to the area through our family's warm and welcoming service which we hope will create a buzzing and inviting atmosphere for the community."

Hayley and Sam spent four months renovating and refurbishing The Bay Horse, doing much of the work themselves to keep the costs down. They have ripped everything out and installed a new kitchen, flooring, central heating and customer toilets and have decorated throughout. The result is a cosy and welcoming ambience, including snug areas and a log burner. Hayley's Dad Adrian is the main chef, her mum Gill is the pastry chef, Hayley is assistant Chef and Sam is front of house. They are serving classic, high-quality food including a wide selection of fish dishes. Hayley and Sam source as many of their products as locally as possible and already they are expanding their range of beers and lagers to include local suppliers such as the Wensleydale Brewery.



ALUMNI

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "We are always delighted to hear about the success of our former students and it's wonderful that Hayley and her partner Sam have set up their own business at The Bay Horse. Hayley had a real flair for Business Studies at college and it is fantastic that she is now applying her knowledge and experience in her own pub."

"She is a tremendous role model for our younger students as someone who worked extremely hard at her studies, gained experience in the world of work and then has applied her entrepreneurial spirit to be her own boss. Hayley will be a fabulous mentor for any of our students who are considering a career in Business."



After only a few weeks in business, the pub is already bringing the community together and is very much a hub for residents and visitors alike. The pub is currently open Wednesday and Thursday, with fish and chips to eat in or take away from 5-7pm, and then evening meals served from 5-8:30pm Friday and Saturday, with a traditional roast lunch from 12-3pm on Sunday. Full details of opening hours and sample menus are on the website at www.thebayhorseravensworth.co.uk or follow The Bay Horse on social media at www.facebook.com/TheBayHorseRavensworth or www.instagram.com/the_bay_horse_ravensworth



HANNAH BRINGS HER PASSION FOR DANCING AND PERFORMING ARTS TO THE DALES

Former student Hannah Smith has been dancing since she was three and there was never anything else that compared to her passion for dancing. As soon as she realised Dance could be a job, it was the only one for Hannah - fast forward to 2017 her passion became her career. Hannah studied at Bird College, London's internationally-renowned Conservatoire of Dance and Musical Theatre, on their Professional Dance and Musical Theatre course. It was here she received world-class training in all genres of performing arts, including dancing, acting and singing and studied for her Diploma in Dance Teaching (DDI) with the ISTD.



After teaching professionally for the Victoria Walker Dance School in the Republic of Ireland for three years, Hannah gained her registered Teacher status from the Royal Academy of Dance in 2020. She returned to Swaledale in 2020 to work for Janet Seymour until August 2022 when she took on ownership of her school and formed Dales Dance. Hannah's students are at the heart of everything she does and she passionately believes that nobody should be deprived of opportunities because of where they live. This is why Hannah brings her classes to her students across six villages and towns in Swaledale and Wensleydale, continuing Janet's legacy of providing rural children with the highest quality of dance and musical theatre training.



Hannah credits Richmond School and Sixth Form College's Dance department for giving her encouragement and experiences that not only instilled her confidence in dancing but also provided her with skills that she still uses every day. We hope you enjoy reading Hannah's Q and A to find out more about her love of Dance and her advice to students who may be considering the Performing Arts as a career path.



When did you start dance lessons and which dance school did you attend? I began dancing at three-years old taking classes in ballet, tap and jazz dance. When I was ten, my family moved to Yorkshire where I trained with Janet Seymour at her School of Theatre Dance in Swaledale. Alongside these classes, from the age of 13, I trained with the North Yorkshire Dance Company studying contemporary dance. Later, I successfully auditioned for the Tap Attack North Associates in Manchester.

What was your favourite style of dance as a child, is it still the same now? I have always loved all styles but jazz brings out my personality more than the others and makes me feel like myself. I have always loved it because it is so versatile and it's my favourite style to teach too. I think as a little girl ballet held the number one spot.

Were you involved in dance events and shows at Richmond School? Richmond School and Sixth Form College provided me with many performing, teaching and creative opportunities. I remember working with Phoenix Dance Company to create a piece we performed at the Sage Theatre. Closer to home, the end of year showcase at the Georgian Theatre gave me the chance to perform my own choreography. I loved assisting with the after-school dance club, teaching experiences like that provided me with skills I still use every day.

What support did you receive from the Dance department at Richmond School and Sixth Form College? The Dance department gave me encouragement from as early as Year 7 and I am grateful for the confidence they instilled in my dancing. They provided the studio as a safe space and rehearsals were where I wanted to spend all of my time. Having the opportunity to study Dance at both GCSE and A-Level was incredibly important to me and gave credibility to Dance as both a creative and academic subject. The importance of giving children artistic and sporting opportunities on an equal plain with academic subjects cannot be underestimated and I am proud to have attended a school that recognises the Performing Arts as a career path.

What A-levels did you study? Dance, Psychology and History (AAB) and AS Biology.

When did you decide that you wanted to pursue a career in dance? There was never anything else that compared to my passion for dancing. As soon as I realised it was a job, it was the only career for me – I literally can't imagine spending my days doing anything else. I was very fortunate to be surrounded by people that supported me. My parents took me all over Yorkshire to attend classes and down to London to audition and my teachers instilled in me the confidence I needed to choose an alternative career path.



Where did you study after sixth form college? I studied at Bird College, Conservatoire of Dance and Musical Theatre, London on their Professional Dance and Musical Theatre course. I received world-class dance, singing and acting training. Alongside teaching I studied with the Royal Academy of Dance for their Certificate in Ballet Teaching Studies which gained me Registered Teacher Status.

Did you teach in other schools before returning to work for Janet Seymour? Prior to returning to the UK, I taught for the Victoria Walker Dance School in the Republic of Ireland for three years. I came home and worked for Janet Seymour from 2020 until August 2022 when I took on ownership of her school and formed Dales Dance.

What do you enjoy most about teaching and in particular teaching in a rural area? I am proud to deliver dance and musical theatre classes in remote areas that are otherwise without a strong arts presence. Our work feels really valued and meaningful that way. I absolutely love travelling between our different venues and meeting so many incredibly kind and interesting people. I consider many of my adult dancers and parents of the younger students my friends. It's an incredibly sociable job in that respect. I feel so privileged to make a living doing something that not only I enjoy but brings others joy too.

What age groups do you teach? Dales Dance runs ballet, tap, jazz and musical theatre classes for children 3-18 years of age and we run adult classes in ballet, tap and dance fitness. We have fantastic ballerinas aged 80! We love them all.

What advice would you give to a student who is considering studying dance post-18 and following a career in dance? I would encourage you not to doubt your own ability; in order for others to give you a chance in the industry you have to be your biggest advocate. You have so much right to follow your passion and make your life what you want it to be. Watch lots of shows, visit different colleges, universities and conservatoires so you can make an informed choice about where to audition and remember the training is only the beginning so try not to take your eye off why you're doing it.

What are you enjoying most about running your own business? I love having an impact on things I care deeply about. My confidence in my own abilities is growing hugely and I feel really excited for the future. I am able to better control my work-life balance and I am finding joy in every aspect – even the admin!

It's fantastic to be able to deliver high-quality performing arts classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Musical Theatre to over 200 children from 3-years old as well as adults. Our aim is to bring out the full potential of every student - whether they wish to pursue the arts as a career or a hobby - by nurturing their passion, encouraging their dedication, building their resilience and celebrating their enjoyment of dance and theatre. Our students are at the heart of everything we do and we passionately believe no person should be deprived of opportunity because of where they live. This is why we bring our classes to our students in Reeth, Low Row, Gunnerside, Leyburn, Aysgarth, Askrigg and Hawes.

You can find out more about Dales Dance at www.dalesdance.com or follow on [facebook](#) at or [instagram](#).

THE TOUCHING REASON FOOTBALLER JOSH COBURN HAS SHAVED HIS HEAD

Striker and alumnus Josh Coburn, who is currently on loan to Bristol Rovers from Middlesbrough FC, has shaved his head. However, the reason is more touching than simply being a fashion statement. Josh, who is thriving during his time with Bristol Rovers, is showing support and raising awareness after his team-mate, Nick Anderton, was diagnosed with cancer.

Anderton was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in his femur and had an operation in October. The club chose 16th January to go bald in honour of Anderton's squad number 16, with Coburn braving the shave along with all of his team-mates, manager Joey Barton, and other club employees with the aim to raise awareness and money for the 26-year-old, who it's said is unlikely to play again.

You can find out more about Josh and the progress he is making at Bristol Rovers [here](#).

(Photo credit Image: Will Cooper/JMP)



ALICIA IS WELCOMED BACK TO THE DANCE DEPARTMENT – AS A TEACHER!

We are delighted to welcome Alicia Booth, a former student, to teach in our Dance Department until Mrs Fox returns from her maternity leave after half term. Alicia was a highly respected student and achieved an 'A' grade in her A-level Dance. She left Richmond School and Sixth Form College in 2019, to take up an unconditional offer to study contemporary dance at Middlesex University. It has come as no surprise to hear that she graduated from her BA Dance Practices degree last summer with a First Class Honours.

Alicia has been dancing since she was seven at Richmond's Rhythm and Shoes Dance Company, studying modern, tap, street and freestyle disciplines. She has always been a dedicated student and took part in many of the school and college's dance showcases and performances.

Alicia said: "I really enjoyed my course at Middlesex, in spite of having around a year of online teaching due to Covid. I learnt a lot of techniques, specifically Graham and Humphrey. Since graduating, I have helped the Rhythm and Shoes Dance Company with their summer showcase and have also been working on dance photography. I was thrilled to be offered the Dance cover teaching role until the February half term and it's a wonderful opportunity to give something back to the school and college."

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "We are so thrilled to welcome Alicia back in a teaching capacity. She has settled in incredibly quickly and is using her dance expertise and experiences at university in her lessons. She is a natural teacher and has developed a great rapport with the students."



HOLLY'S AMAZING VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE FOR NEW LIFE GHANA CHARITY

A former student had the experience of a lifetime when she had the opportunity to volunteer for a children's charity in Ghana. Holly, who supports the New Life Ghana Charity at the New Life Baptist Church, in Northallerton, was honoured to be part of a group who headed to Ghana to help some of the poorest families in the Greater Accra area. We were really pleased to receive some fabulous photos and a great blog about Holly's experiences in Ghana which we hope you will enjoy reading below.



After much planning and fundraising we left for Ghana on the 19th of November. I was really nervous as I had never been away from home alone for more than a few nights and it was the first time flying without my family. I left Richmond at 2am knowing I wouldn't arrive in Ghana until around 8:30pm. By the time we arrived at Schiphol airport Amsterdam, our team who previously didn't know each other very well had already started to bond. I was the youngest on the team by about 25 years, but was made to feel comfortable and equal to the others in the team with everyone having a different skill set and outlook on the experience we were going to have.

It was late when we arrived and the airport was hot and busy. We walked out of the doors to meet Pastor Osmond and Pastor Samuel who were picking us up to take us to the hotel where it was chaotic and noisy but I already felt welcomed and it felt homely. We put our luggage into the school bus they used to pick us up which was very different from any bus we would use here - with the door being held open with string! We got onto the road which was full of pot holes or as Pastor Osmond likes to call them 'manholes', as they were so big you could fit a man in them! The journey to the hotel was about an hour and a half and the roads were crazy, beeping horns all around and no real sense of road rules.

Everyone we met were so welcoming and excited to have us there. It felt incredibly homely and as a result I felt settled there from the first day. During the week, we did so much, from spending days in the school meeting the children and getting to see their ways of learning and school experiences, including the food to going to one of the small villages to take them rice.

When we delivered rice to Honi we also took bubbles and balloons for the children. The joy that this brought them is something that I will never forget. Alongside the children loving them, the adults also thoroughly enjoyed playing with them eventually taking them from us to have for themselves. While it was a fun experience with the balloons and bubbles, it was heart wrenching to see the poverty up close. But what has stuck with me is how appreciative they are of what they have and anything we could bring for them. What we would consider small change can feed a family and, although saddening, it makes me realise even more the value of the money that we raised and how much the school and community will be able to use it for good effect.



ALUMNI

Being in the school was my favourite part of the trip, meeting the children who are sponsored by churchgoers in the UK, and having the privilege of taking them letters and small gifts from the sponsors. On Friday, we threw a party for the children in the school. We had balloons, bubbles and face painting, as well as providing chicken and fizzy drinks for them to have with their school lunch. It was very humbling that just by having the chance to eat chicken with their lunch was enough of a party for them - as you can see in the photos by the excitement of showing us their drinks and food.

While I was there, I met a young girl Jewella, age 4-5 who has completely stolen my heart! She was the sweetest and calmest little girl and I ended up spending a lot of time with her, just sitting with her and chatting, then in the classroom where we read them stories. Since the trip, I have found out from her teacher that she is 'calm, friendly, hardworking, loves to do things independently and shows great respect to everyone.' Following my return from Ghana, I have had contact with Pastor Samuel who has selflessly and so kindly made trips to the school to send me photos with Jewella and given me updates on how she is doing and suggesting a video call with her so I can see her again. This has been absolutely incredible and the joy I get from these conversations and photos is unexplainable.

The work on the school that we raised money for is ongoing. The tiles have been delivered and are waiting to be fitted and the windows have just been installed since we have returned.

The biggest culture shock for me in Ghana was the ever-moving timescales which are much more fluid than the UK - it took some getting used to but added to the experience.

Although the trip and the fundraising are to provide support and help for the Ghanaians, overall, I think the experience for us was to see the work we can help with and to make us aware of the project. As much as we have provided money for them which they will benefit from, I believe that I have benefitted far more from meeting them and spending time there with them and seeing the true value of the small things we have in everyday life in the UK.

One of the great things about New Life Ghana is that as we were self-funded volunteers so all the money which is raised goes to the project and the Ghanaians.

All of it was an incredible life-changing experience which I will never forget. I am already saving to fund my trip back hopefully later this year! I would encourage anyone thinking about doing something similar to bite the bullet and do it.

To find out more about the project, donate or sponsor a child, please click [here](#).



HEADTEACHER'S CREDIT VALUES AWARD

Niamh Hyman, in Year 11, was nominated by Mrs Mawer who said "I think that Niamh possibly could be nominated in all her subjects but her work for me in History has been truly exceptional. She has consistently produced written work of the highest standard, in class, at home and in exam conditions. I am not sure that I have taught a student at GCSE who consistently gets full marks in everything they have done and it would be nice for Niamh to realise what an amazing student she is.

"She works incredibly hard and does it all in an unassuming manner and with such grace. She supports her classmates and friends and it is an absolute pleasure to teach her and nominate her for this award."
(w/e 16th December)



Alfie Leonard-Howard, in Year 9, was nominated by Mr Wilson who said: "Alfie asked if he could show students who had missed out on using the forge recently, how to carry out the annealing of copper. Alfie clearly and methodically showed the first student how to do it safely, and then supervised that instruction being passed on from one student to the next.

"Alfie then came up with the idea of having the final student instruct him, so that he knew that the skill had been passed on accurately. This was done without benefit to his own work, but simply out of kindness to others and a keen interest in the subject matter. I cannot begin to say how proud I was to stand back and watch him at work."
(w/e 6th January)



Tima Borschenko and Pietro Percovich, in Year 9, were nominated by Miss Spittlehouse who said: "I would like to nominate Tima and Pietro in my tutor group (9CSP) as both boys are always demonstrating our school CREDIT values and anyone who has the absolute pleasure of teaching these boys will know that they radiate positivity, joy and hard work.

"When we found out in 9CSP that we were to have a new student joining us from Ukraine, Pietro immediately volunteered to help and was so enthusiastic to be able to show the pupil how brilliant our school is. Pietro did an amazing job at showing Tima round, making him feel welcome and was a constant friendly face and he even took him along to swimming and football club to introduce him to the community too.

"Since then, Pietro and Tima have become inseparable and they are glowing examples for overcoming adversity and finding friendship in an unlikely way. There isn't a day that goes by where the boys don't bring a smile to everyone's face, making us laugh with their cheeky double act.

"The boys are both fantastic athletes, representing our school and county at high levels in swimming and football and are true advocates for hard work paying off. I am so proud to be their tutor and the achievements they have made in their school journey so far."

(w/e 13th January)



HEADTEACHER'S CREDIT VALUES AWARD

Lee Gilligan, in Year 10, was nominated by Mr Birdsall who said: "I would like to nominate Lee Gilligan for the Headteachers CREDIT Values Award for excellence and determination. Lee is in my Year 10 GCSE group and I am thoroughly impressed with his work ethic in lessons and the excellent progress he is making. The GCSE Drama written paper is a tough paper to crack and Lee works efficiently and effectively from the minute he walks into lessons up to the minute he leaves. Lee's understanding of the theoretical knowledge needed for the paper and the use of subject specific terminology has come a long way since we started in September. Lee completes all his independent learning and really gives it his best efforts. His effort and resilience in completing work when tasks are hard are impressive. It is a pleasure to watch Lee progress each lesson and see his confidence and participation increase week by week.



"We took Lee and the rest of the Key Stage Four cohort to watch our chosen set text of Blood Brothers at York Opera House and he was fully immersed and on the edge of his seat; it was heart-warming to see him fully engaging in live theatre. Keep up the great work Lee and you will certainly do well in your GCSE course."

(w/e 20th January)

Will Swainston, in Year 9, was nominated by Mrs Rodgers who said: "Will has set himself a target of getting the most CREDITS in the year group. He has been top of the leader board numerous times and is always determined to get more. He is a well-liked member of the tutor group and will often contribute to the discussions that take place.

"Will continues to impress me with his excellence across the school and he is a brilliant ambassador for us."

(w/e 27th January)



Eva Noone, in Year 7, and Freya Wilford, in Year 8, were nominated by Miss Abbey who wrote: "I would like to nominate Eva and Freya for the school CREDIT values of Independence and Excellence. I was contacted by Dave Paver (North Yorkshire sports hall Athletics coordinator) about the two students who attended the County sports hall Athletics on Sunday 29th January as spectators (their sisters were competing). Short of volunteers to help run events, Eva and Freya stepped forward and with very little training managed to calmly and sensibly run the events throughout the morning.



"Dave said they were very quick to pick up their main responsibilities and complete these effectively with very little support. They were reliable and very competent in their official roles and will receive a special invitation to help at the next event due to their independence and excellence as ambassadors of Richmond School in the community."

PRIMARY TRANSITION

AN INCREDIBLY POPULAR PRIMARY QUICK STICKS HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The Quick Sticks Hockey Festival for pupils in Years 3-4 and Years 5-6 proved incredibly popular with over 20 teams participating from 8 of our local primary schools. The event was supported by Sports Leaders from Years 7 to 10. The Leaders officiated the games to make sure they were safe and enjoyable for pupils taking part. They also ran tasks such as time keeping, scoring, inputting results and presenting medals to ensure the festival ran smoothly. Thank you to the leaders: Bertie Smart, Isaac Bottomley, Guy Feakins, Joe White, Ava Craggs, Bess Mitchell, Sammie Goold, Ellen Newton, Emmy Raggett, Georgina Braidley, Josie Haxell.



Many thanks to all of the participating primary schools for supporting the event: Barton, Brompton-on-Swale, Bolton-on-Swale, Michael Syddall, Ravensworth, Richmond Methodist, Richmond St Marys and Sacred Heart



Year 3-4 Results

This competition was run in two groups due to the large number of teams taking part. The top two teams from each group then qualified to play in a semi-final. These teams were Richmond St Marys against Ravensworth and Brompton-on-Swale against Michael Syddall. Two very close semi-finals then saw Brompton and Richmond St Mary's progress to the final and Brompton on-Swale were crowned the eventual winners.

Year 5-6 Results

Within this competition all teams played each other and results are as follows;

- 1st Richmond Methodist
- 2nd Brompton-on-Swale A
- 3rd Brompton-on-Swale B
- 4th Bolton-on-Swale
- 5th Richmond St Mary's
- =6th Barton and Ravensworth A
- 7th Ravensworth B
- 8th Michael Syddall

