

Welcome to our March Newsletter - Of all the half-terms in my memory, this one has been one of the most challenging. Without any doubt, post-pandemic education, as reported in the national press and other media sources, feels as difficult at times as when we were trying to run a school remotely. As a school and college, we have had to think creatively and remain resolutely positive in order to keep moving forward and this has largely been achieved.

We have been working hard on recruitment at both key entry points - entry into Year 7 in 2023 and entry into Year 12 and this newsletter is testament to the wide range of transition and enrichment activities taking place almost daily across the school and college. We are optimistic about recruitment for the new academic year. We received over 100 more applications from Year 6 families than we did in 2022 and significantly more of these applications were the families' first choice.

It has been great to see an increase in our extra-curricular offer - to include non-sport and performing arts activities and clubs such as History Club, Textiles Club, Warhammer Club and Eco Club. We really want to ensure everyone gets the chance to participate in something and will continue to liaise with students, find out what barriers exist and what they're keen to be part of and endeavour to find solutions and widen our offer further still.

The Richmond School Trustees met again last week and we have once again really benefitted from this fantastic legacy. Trustees have funded a wide range of additional activities and purchases for the benefit of our students, including an outsourced extra-curricular 'stage combat' course, highly specialist Technology equipment, materials and tools for the Eco Club and the start of a wardrobe of outfits for our Dance Showcases. These are in addition to the individual applications we have received on behalf of students across the whole school and college. I strongly urge all parents to read up on the Trustees and the support they offer by clicking on the 'about us' section of the [website](#).

I wish you all a fantastic Easter break, doing the things you enjoy with friends and family and we look forward to welcoming all students back to school and college on Monday 17th April 2023.

Best wishes

Jenna Potter
Headteacher



Outstanding drama at The Georgian Theatre Royal - find out more on page 10



Planting trees in '23 - so much great work at Foxglove Covert and at school too - turn to pages 3 and 5

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COMMUNITY

STUDENTS ENJOY INCLUSIVE SPORTING EVENT

It was wonderful to host a group of Year 10 and 11 students from Mowbray School for an inclusive indoor sporting event. The students enjoyed taking part in tchoukball, obstacle courses and other activities that worked on their fundamental movement skills.



Beth Johnson, Cover Supervisor and Girls Football Development Coordinator, said: "Our Year 9 and 10 Student Leaders planned everything superbly. They came up with ideas for all the stations and then delivered the activities to the visiting students. The morning was brilliant with lots of activities and smiles on all the faces! The Student Leaders did a super job and the event was well received by the Mowbray students. We look forward to putting something together again soon!"



TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT ALCOHOL

We have received some informative resources from North Yorkshire Police and Richmondshire Community Alcohol Partnership regarding talking to children about alcohol. Evidence shows that having conversations with children about alcohol helps them make informed decisions about drinking.

This [video](#) gives some tips on how to approach conversations with children about alcohol and underage drinking. Further information is available [here](#).



ECO CLUB VOLUNTEER TO PLANT TREES AT FOXGLOVE COVERT

Members of our Eco Club headed to Foxglove Covert on a crisp, frosty morning to spend the day planting trees at the local nature reserve. Foxglove often has volunteering days for members of the community and we were delighted to take the Eco Club along to help out with their tree-planting project.

Foxglove Covert has been a recipient of a Woodland Trust grant of trees to plant at the nature reserve and it was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate and help each other out. Thirteen students from Years 8, 9 and 10 helped to plant 50 maple trees in a newly converted area of the nature reserve - these will form part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy'. As well as this, they took part in a guided walk around the nature reserve to learn about the process of 'bird ringing', the importance of developing sustainable habitats that allow nature to thrive, but also to ensure that people can enjoy the nature reserve and learn about the fantastic biodiversity of the area.

The students were introduced to the art of identifying different species living in the area via faeces – this was great entertainment!



Connie Spittlehouse, Geography Teacher and Leader of the Eco Club, said: "The students worked really hard planting the trees, demonstrating excellent team work skills and determination, especially in the face of the freezing temperatures!

"The support and expert knowledge from the staff at Foxglove Covert meant that pupils were enthralled all day and we came away with lots of fantastic ideas to introduce at school to help our local wildlife. We look forward to returning to Foxglove Covert during the summer season to help with further projects."



Foxglove Covert is a local nature reserve covering 100 acres of moorland edge adjacent to Cambrai Lines at Catterick and has a remarkable mix of habitats and species. The reserve contains semi-natural woodland, heathland, flower-rich grassland, streams, ponds, a lake, willow and alder carr, coniferous woodlands and wet meadows.

You can find out more about Foxglove Covert [here](#).

FIRE CADETS WORK HARD AT CHARITY CAR WASH

Richmond Firefighters and Fire Cadets gave up their Saturday to support a charity car wash hosted at Richmond School. The event ran alongside a bake sale and tree-planting event by Richmond School students and staff. With a donation from the bake sale and donations taken for the car washes, £650 was raised which will be split between the Firefighters Charity and the British Red Cross.

Well done to our fire cadet students who worked so hard on the day.



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SHARE THEIR SKILLS TO SUPPORT WATER CHARITY IN INDIA

A charity in India will benefit from the work of seven Year 12 students who are working closely with the Richmond and Dales Soroptimist branch. Contributing to the Soroptimists' focus on supporting women and girls around the world to achieve their individual and collective potential, the girls have chosen to support the Gravis Water Charity in India.

Gravis believes in an integrated approach to sustainable development, working to not only enable a secure and safe source of water for drinking and irrigation, but also transforming lives through education, healthcare, microfinance and advocacy for the rights of those more vulnerable in society.

The girls have been meeting each Monday morning for the last two months to develop their ideas on how to fundraise for the charity and have been supported by Chris Bowran from the Richmond and Dales Soroptimist branch.

Sarah Manning, group member, said: "All of the members of our group are interested in environmental issues and we felt that water has a major impact on women in underdeveloped countries. With Chris' guidance, we chose Gravis as we are giving directly to the charity so we know exactly where the money is going."

The students are finalising the arrangements for their fundraising initiative which will be a bingo night in the Sixth Form Bistro on Thursday, 20th April from 5-7pm. The event is expected to be lots of fun and students, their families and staff are welcome to attend. Further details will follow soon but, in the meantime, please save the date! Well done to Sarah Manning, Faith Andrews, Catherine Izdebski, Lucy Chandler, Sophia O'Callaghan, Zoe Boreham and Sue-Rin Park for their hard work on this project.

Further information about Gravis can be found [here](#).



FAMILY FUN DAYS AT KIPLIN HALL AND GARDENS

Kiplin Hall is offering free entry to children on Saturday 1st, 15th and 22nd April, as part of their eco family fun days for Easter.

- Free entry for children (aged under 15)
- Eco themed arts and crafts activities
- Wild escape sculpture trail
- Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult in possession of a valid day or annual ticket or Historic Houses pass.
- Offer valid on these dates only – Sat 1st, 15th and 22nd April
- Children must be supervised by their responsible adult at all times and during craft activities.

Further information is available [here](#).



FABULOUS FUNDRAISER FROM TREE PLANTING AND BAKE SALE

Our recent tree-planting day was a huge success when a group of super-hardy volunteers planted over 400 trees across the school and college site. Through donations from tree sponsorship and proceeds from a bake sale, a fabulous £1,427 was raised which will be split between the Firefighters Charity, the British Red Cross and our Eco Club for future projects to increase biodiversity on the school site.

Connie Spittlehouse, Geography Teacher, Eco Club Leader and Organiser of the event, said: "A huge thank you to our volunteers from our wonderful community who came and braved all four seasons on the day to help us plant our new woodland. A big thank you to Ms Johnson and Mr Overin who saved the day with a delivery of canes after they didn't arrive. With thanks also to Mrs Dawson who baked some glorious cakes for our bake sale. A massive thank you to Foxglove Covert who very kindly let us borrow their spades for digging and delivered a masterclass in tree planting on our visit. Finally, a big thank you to the Woodland Trust for the donation of our lovely trees.



"With the successful planting of our community woodland project, we are now registered as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' – you can find out more [here](#).

We have a mixture of 'Wildlife' trees arriving to help establish food and shelter for wildlife and create a living legacy for future generations. These include hawthorn, rowan, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel and sessile oak. The aim of the project is to help us to create more wildlife corridors on the school site whilst also improving biodiversity.



PERFORMING ARTS

TEAM SCARLETT AND TEAM SILVER CROWNED GRAND CHAMPION CHEERLEADERS

We were thrilled to hear about our students who have excelled at recent cheerleading competitions. Competing for Lazer Cheer in Colburn, students represented the Scarlett, Silver, Mint and Pink teams who were all placed in the rankings at the Legacy Cheerleading competition. Team Scarlett not only won the junior level 2 event but they were also crowned Grand Champions after gaining the highest score overall across all the competitions. Congratulations to Molly, Elle, Rose and Ava who were in Team Scarlett.

At the Future Cheer Circus Spectacular event, hosted at Sheffield's English Institute of Sport, Lazer Silver came first in the senior level category against 8 teams, and they were also crowned overall grand champions, with the highest points of over 60 teams taking part in the event – congratulations to Rose, Ellie, Ren, Molly and Jessie! Team Scarlett also put in a fantastic performance, coming second in junior level 2 against six teams – well done to Ava.

What a fantastic effort by our students and all the team members who are clearly putting in so much hard work in preparation for their competitions, supported by their coaches at Lazer Cheer.

The Lazer Cheer programme is directed and run by Chelsea Foreman, an alumna of Richmond School and Sixth Form College. Chelsea also coaches with Jaymie-Leigh Reynolds and former student Katie Wood.

Mandy Foreman, director of Lazer Cheer said of Katie, who was a coach for the Scarlett and Pink teams: "Katie is a phenomenal choreographer. The ideas that she comes up with just make these routines amazing."



PERFORMING ARTS

RHYTHM AND SHOES DANCERS WORK WITH CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHER

A number of our students dance with Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy in Richmond and they recently headed to Dance City in Newcastle to work with Contemporary Choreographer Emily Nicholson.

Louise Richmond, of Rhythm and Shoes, said: "The girls were amazing, they were so creative and had the confidence to create their own pieces, as well as performing these in front of parents and family members in the Theatre at Dance City. They all worked so well together and it was commented on by staff at Dance City just how lovely they all were."

Well done to India O'Neill, Cora Aked, Lili Soley, Ellen Carr, Molly Clayton and Erin Mullen.

You can watch a video of the students' work [here](#).



STUDENTS COMMENDED FOR THEIR DANCE EXPERTISE AND DEDICATION

Two talented Year 10 students have been commended for their dance expertise and dedication by the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) at Dance City in Newcastle. Following auditions at Dance City, Tilda Whent and Lillyanna Navuso gained places on the Government's National Music and Dance Scheme. Lillyanna has been on the programme for two years and is doing contemporary dance and ballet and Tilda for a year and is doing street dance. The students have received glowing feedback about their progress. Hannah Moreno, CAT Manager, at Dance City, said: "This is a great achievement. Tilda and Lillyanna demonstrate exceptional potential in dance and they are a credit to your school."

To be selected for the CAT scheme students are identified as being highly skilled in dance. The CATs were designed to allow students to access specialist dance training as part of a broad and balanced education, irrespective of students' personal circumstances. At Dance City CAT, students train at a professional level for a minimum of seven hours per week throughout the school terms. They also take part in additional intensive training weeks during the half-term, Easter and summer holidays to acquire additional knowledge and experience about diverse dance techniques and to expand their creative skills.

Tilda and Lillyanna are studying GCSE Dance and are both involved in the school's Evolution Dance group and take part in all our showcase events. Lillyanna said: "We are really honoured to be part of Dance City CAT and are learning so much from the programme. It is hard work and a big commitment in terms of time but the benefits to our development are huge."

Danni Fox, Lead Teacher for Dance, said: "It is fantastic to hear how well Lillyanna and Tilda are doing at Dance City. It comes as no surprise though as both students are incredibly talented and immensely dedicated. As Hannah Moreno rightly says, they are a credit to our school and a great inspiration to our younger students."



PERFORMING ARTS

FORMER STUDENTS INSPIRE YOUNG DANCERS AT DANCE CITY BA WORKSHOP

Two of our former students returned to school to inspire young dancers in Dance City's BA degree workshop. Izzy Walton and Eve Walker are in their final year of the BA Dance course and worked with twenty students from Years 10, 11 and 13 who had expressed a keen interest in dance at higher education and/or dance as a career.



The workshop was led by Giulia Coti Zelati, BA Lecturer and Engagement Coordinator at Dance City. The students worked on a contemporary dance piece and the session concluded with a Q and A.



Danni Fox, Lead Teacher for Dance, said: "As a department, we have made some great links with Dance City over the years and always look forward to their workshops. It was fantastic to welcome Eve and Izzy back to school and we are over the moon that Izzy will be continuing to come into school as she is currently doing a placement with us every Monday and Tuesday until the end of May."



"All students involved in the workshop totally immersed themselves and took advantage of the Q and A session at the end. It was particularly impressive to see some of our younger GCSE students show so much passion and enthusiasm about their futures and potential careers in dance."

PERFORMING ARTS

LONDON TALENT AGENCY SIGNS ESMÉE

Esmée Campbell-Watt is a terrific performer and in the last 12 months her talent is shining in all disciplines of dancing, singing and acting. Twelve-year-old Esmée has been a member of Xpressions Performing Arts in Northallerton since 2016 and rehearses around 20 hours a week after school and on a weekend at their studio. In addition, she also attends Stagebox Associate Programme for pre-vocational Musical Theatre has been scouted by their London talent agency. This will enable Esmée to attend auditions to help her to gain some professional performing work in theatre, TV and film.

Esmée recently performed in Stagebox's "Company Live Project" at the English National Ballet's Holloway Production studio where she worked with professional directors, choreographers, as well as a full-scale filming crew. The spectacular performance was attended by major casting directors, and TV companies such as Netflix. In 2022, Esmée took part in one of Stagebox's video projects, an abridged version of "Matilda" the musical. Once again, she worked with industry professionals and a filming crew.

Esmée started dancing at the age of 7 when her mum opened Xpressions Performing Arts dance studio in Northallerton - it was a case of love at first class! Esmée's family are keen theatre-goers and the performing arts has always been a huge part of their lives.

Esmée loves singing, dancing and acting but of the three it is dance that is her favourite. She does acrobatics, ballet, modern jazz, tap, commercial, contemporary and musical theatre. She also dances as part of Xpressions' elite competition team and regularly takes part in dance festivals, competitions and championships. Esmée's preferred genres are ballet and commercial dance. Ballet was her first-ever dance class and remains her biggest strength.

Esmée already has her sights firmly set on going to dance college in London to study Musical Theatre when she turns 18 and aims to go on to pursue a career as a professional performer in musicals, films and TV.



PERFORMING ARTS

STUDENTS DIRECT AND PERFORM OUTSTANDING DRAMA SHOWCASE AT THE GEORGIAN THEATRE ROYAL

Richmond School Theatre Company took to the stage at the Georgian Theatre Royal to showcase two outstanding performances which were directed by the students themselves. Twenty-nine students from Years 7 to 10 presented 'Caelum and Cavea', written by Ellie Hughes, a Year 10 student, and 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations', by Alan Ayckbourn.

As well as writing 'Caelum and Cavea', Ellie Hughes co-directed the piece with Lily Holmes in Year 10. The 24-strong cast's performance was superb, with fabulous backstage support managed by the Technical Group members, Faye Hankin, Lily Parker and Arlo Wheatley.

Ellie's Caelum and Cavea is set in a dystopian world with a divided society of the Servants and Colombinas where the Colombinas took over society and stole freedom away from the working-class. It follows the story of April, the main protagonist, who wonders what her life would be like if she lived in Caelum. She decides that life is too short and too mysterious to 'wonder' and April's journey in Caelum changed her life for the better, breaking down the barriers and fighting for equality.

Ellie, writer and co-director, said: "I enjoyed my experience at the Georgian immensely. This is my first play and watching it being performed, I couldn't help but think "Wow, I wrote that". I am so lucky to have had this opportunity and I have learnt so many new things along the way. Studying GCSE Drama has definitely been one of the best choices I've made in my time at Richmond School and from being an exceptionally anxious student, it has helped me become a more assertive one. This whole experience of being able to have a go at writing, directing and acting really gave me the chance to build new skills."

After the interval, a cast of eight from Years 7 and 8, led and directed by Toby Watson, in Year 12, performed their version of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations'. The simple plot concerns Ernie being taken to see a doctor by his parents, who are concerned about their son's hallucinations – or 'illucinations' as Ernie has it. This is a bright comedy based on the extraordinary powers of Ernie Fraser, a day-dreamer with a difference who, like all schoolboys has a vivid imagination, but Ernie's thoughts have a disturbing habit of turning into reality.

Mr Birdsall, Associate Assistant Headteacher for Extra-curricular Development and Engagement said: "We are very lucky that our students are extremely proactive and passionate about what they do. With both the junior and senior Theatre Companies, we allow our students to lead and have a say in the work that they would like to produce. This year was exceptional for student leadership as Ellie and Lily asked if the Junior Theatre Company could perform Ellie's script and for them to direct it themselves.



PERFORMING ARTS

"Toby Watson was looking for more leadership experience within school and college and offered to use his excellent Drama and Theatre knowledge and love of comedy, taking over the directing of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations.

"This experience has been fantastic for everyone in the Theatre Company, from them being led by students either a similar age or older to seeing their work on a stage with a paying audience. In turn, this has already prompted conversations with Toby about an all-male project on 'The Christmas Truce' by Phil Porter which will be showcased next year.

"I would like to extend our deepest thanks to our Trustees who funded the scripts, performance rights and props for our 2023 Theatre Company productions."

Richmond School and Sixth Form College is extremely fortunate to have an educational partnership with the Georgian Theatre Royal and both staff and students are privileged to have this opportunity. The school is very grateful to Clare Allen, Chief Executive and Theatre Manager, and her team for always being so welcoming and making every visit such an enjoyable and wholesome experience for our students to work in a professional theatre.



Following the success of these performances, which came hot on the heels of the school and college's exceptional pantomime 'Alice In Wonderland', the school's next project will be a summer-term showcase of an abridged version of William Shakespeare's Macbeth, led by Miss Manning and the senior Theatre Company.



PERFORMING ARTS

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY – A SHOWCASE OF DANCE ON 2ND MAY

Block out your diary on Tuesday 2nd May because 'For One Night Only' there's a fantastic showcase of dance which shouldn't be missed!

Our CTEC Performing Arts students are organising a dance extravaganza which will feature dancers from all Year groups, including Evolution, Breaking Point and Richmond Royals. They will perform a wide range of styles such as commercial, contemporary, musical theatre, jazz and ballet.

Head to [Ticket Source](#) and book your tickets – only £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for students and children.

The show will take place in Clarke Hall and will start at 7pm with doors opening at 6:30pm.



THOMAS' TERRIFIC TUBA RESULT!

Congratulations to Thomas Pyrah, in Year 11, who has passed his Grade 5 Tuba with distinction. This is an amazing achievement and we are extremely proud of Thomas.

Thomas contributes so much to Music at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. He is a member of the Jazz Band, Brass Quintet and Concert Band and he is also studying GCSE Music.

In addition, Thomas plays for Leyburn Band, along with a number of our other students, as well as Mr Millman and Mr Boyd.



OUTSTANDING GAME FOR YEAR 8s IN AREA CUP SEMI-FINAL

Our Year 8 football team took on fellow Trust members Northallerton School in the Area Cup semi-final and came out 6-0 winners. Mark Swanwick, PE Teacher, said: "The boys played really well against tough opponents, with stand-out performer Jenson Pascoe grabbing a hat trick. They will now face Stokesley in the Area Cup Final."



YEAR 7s SCOOP AREA CUP WITH A SUPERB 6:0 WIN!

Following a convincing 7:2 victory against Wensleydale in the semi-final, Richmond were fired up for the final! They started strongly against Stokesley, sticking to the game plan. Richmond struck early with a well-taken finish from Jake Murrell. Shortly after, Henry Ward scored a great goal to make it 2-0 and Richmond looked comfortable. Stokesley were working hard to press and create some good chances but some excellent goal keeping by Bertie Morris kept us in the game. Two more goals followed in the first half by Justin McGregor and another from Jake Murrell, making it 4:0 at half time.

In the second half, Richmond kept the pressure on leading to an own goal by Stokesley. Stokesley tried to fight back again and when Bertie Morris was caught off his line, a fantastic chase back and clearance off the line from Nathan Collier helped Richmond keep their clean sheet. The final goal of the game came from a fine finish by Joe Cox, sealing the game 6:0.

Tom Westgate, PE Teacher, said: "A brilliant team performance and the perfect way to finish the Area Cup competition."



CLOSE CALL FOR YEAR 10s IN AREA CUP SEMI-FINAL

The Year 10s' semi-final game in the Area Cup was a very close affair that could have gone either way. It started with an easy goal for Easingwold early in the game to put Richmond under pressure. Richmond responded really well and pulled it back to 2-1 at half time with an excellent volley from James Cox. A penalty save from Sam Anstock kept Richmond in the lead at half time.

The second half was tense with Easingwold scoring early to make it 2-2, leaving 20 minutes for one team to clinch a winner. In the last few minutes of the match Easingwold broke through the defence and took the game with a 3-2 win.



YEAR 9s PLAY EXCELLENT TEAM FOOTBALL TO WIN AREA CUP SEMI-FINAL AGAINST EASINGWOLD

The Year 9s played some excellent team football and were comfortable winners in their match. With the second kick of the game, Owen Dickson could have opened the scoring only to be denied by the post. Joseph Mawhinney scored a good first goal soon after, making it 1-0 at half time. In the second half, Archie Finlay and Isaac Tate scored making it 3:0 to Richmond. With the last kick of the game, Easingwold scored a penalty to finish the match 3-1.



SPORT

U18 FOOTBALLERS ARE THROUGH TO COUNTY CUP QUARTER FINALS

Our Under 18 football team are through to the County Cup quarter finals after beating King James, from Knaresborough, 2:1. The lads put in a great performance and goal scorers were Aidan Smith and Jake Percival. Well done to all the players for a fantastic team effort.



A VALIANT EFFORT BY YEAR 11 FOOTBALLERS

The Year 11 team played away against King James School at Knaresborough. The boys gave a valiant effort but ultimately came up short, losing 3-0 on the day. The team fought hard in the first half, having the better of the chances to get in front in the game however just before half time, they conceded a goal. Going into the second half 1-0 down, the boys worked exceptionally hard and had some very good chances. Theo Webster made a spectacular effort, by attempting an overhead kick from the edge of the 18-yard box - it looked like a certain goal, looping over the keeper, until one of the opposition defenders headed the ball onto the crossbar, then clearing the ball out of play.

When chances like that happen and you don't score you can just tell it won't be your day. King James then scored two late goals, making the score 3-0 and gave Richmond School little chance to complete a comeback.



SPORT

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM PROFESSIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACHING

Groups of GCSE PE and Year 12 students are benefiting from regular strength and conditioning coaching to improve their fitness, health and wellbeing. Jess Perrin, a local personal trainer, kindly volunteered to offer weekly training sessions to give our students guidance on how to improve fitness levels through targeted training in a safe environment. Jess advises the students on how to approach strength and conditioning and develop programmes that are achievable, as well as helping students to understand their limitations by not doing too much too soon.



The students have been working on a number of activities to improve their core strength, such as hollow holds, kettlebell swings, deadlifts, bench press and squats

Jess said: "I was really keen to come into school and share my knowledge of weight training with both staff and students. The response I've had has been fantastic."

Helen Southgate, PE teacher, added: "We are so grateful to Jess for volunteering her time and expertise to provide our students with such a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills in weight training. Our fitness suite is a fabulous facility and it is great to see our students developing their knowledge, understanding and confidence in this method of training which they will hopefully then take forward and use to help them stay fit and healthy in the future."

Jess' business, JP Personal Training Studio, is based at Gallowfields Trading Estate where she offers a range of classes, for children and adults, as well as personal training to individuals and smaller groups.



TALENTED YOUNG RIDER ASPIRES TO BE AN EQUINE VET

Sam Worsdale, in Year 7, is an avid animal lover but it is horses that are his passion. A keen and talented rider, Sam has been riding since he was six and is a member of Bedale West of Yore (BWY) Pony Club. Riding is in his blood – his mum is a riding instructor and trainer, his sister, Emily, competes at an international level, as has his brother Jake. Living on a farm, Sam is very hands on in the care of animals and spends a lot of time looking after his family's ponies and horses.

Sam rides every day and regularly takes part in national competitions representing BWY Pony Club and Three Valleys Riding Club. He has been competing in 80cm classes but is moving up to 90cm this year. He takes part in one-day events which includes dressage, show jumping and cross country.

Sam said: "Dressage is probably my least favourite discipline as there is so much to remember in the tests and it sometimes feels a bit too perfect! I really enjoy show jumping as I love the speed. However, cross country is my favourite as I'm out on the field which is where I like to be. There is more freedom and it's great to gallop between the jumps. It is more challenging though, as the jumps are solid but I have full trust in my pony to clear them."

Sadly, Sam's family had to make the difficult decision to put his pony, Rolo, down recently. Sam, has since started to ride Sariska, a 14.2 pony he has on loan and they have quickly developed a great partnership. For the rest of the year, Sam will be attending qualifiers for the 2024 championships.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher, said: "I met with Sam recently (as one of my first interviews with Year 7 students) and was so impressed with his dedication to his riding and, in particular, to his ambition to become an equine vet. He is clearly very committed to his sport but also to the welfare of animals and I really admire his determination and drive. We have a number of former students who have gone on to become vets so together with our careers team there is a lot of support for Sam to find out more about subjects to focus on, gaining work experience and how to apply."

Sam is no stranger to hard work and spends a lot of time mucking out, cleaning tack and looking after the wellbeing of his family's ponies, as well as helping out on their farm. Sam concluded: "I really love animals and being brought up on a farm has given me a real respect for them. I would like to work with animals as a career and my aim is to become an equine vet."



A GREAT RACE FOR BENEDICT IN THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A huge well done to Benedict Simpson-Alexander, in Year 12, who competed in the recent English Schools National Cross Country Championships. The race was 6km and was hosted at Bolesworth Castle, in Chester. In a field of 248 runners, Benedict was placed 27th, clawing back at least 23 places from 50th place in the early stages of the race.

Benedict trains and competes for Richmond and Zetland Harriers and also represents Yorkshire. He has secured a place with the England Talent Programme and will be competing nationally over the coming year.



PHENOMENAL 12:5 VICTORY FOR U15 GIRLS IN AREA CUP FOOTBALL FINAL

Hot on the heels of their 8:0 win against SFX in the area cup semi-final, our Under 15 girls football team pulled out all the stops to beat Northallerton 12:5 in the final. Goal scorers were: Emmy Raggett (1), Lily-Mae McCafferty (2), Emma Farrow (8) and Izzy Rutterford (1). Player of the match was captain Emmy Raggett.

Beth Johnson, Girls Football Development Coordinator, said: "The girls played brilliantly scoring 6 goals in each half - I couldn't have asked for more. They worked hard for each other and there was a real sense of team spirit! I look forward to seeing if we can do the double in the County Cup."



RILEY CONFIRMS HIS PLACE IN GREAT BRITAIN'S 2023 U17 AMERICAN FOOTBALL SQUAD

We are thrilled to share some tremendous news about Riley Read, in Year 10, who has secured a place in Team GB's U17 American Football Squad, following a recent trial in Nottingham. Riley is now officially a GB Lion and is part of the 2023 Development Squad. Fifteen-year-old Riley is one of the youngest players in the Under 17 team so he has a really bright future ahead of him.

In November, Riley had the opportunity to play at an international game against Austria. This was in Vienna and Riley played the position of Defensive Lineman where his role in the team is to stop the other team from scoring and to try and "sack" (tackle) the opposing team's quarterback.

Prior to taking up American Football, Riley played rugby for Wensleydale RUFC until he was 12. Riley plays for Yorkshire Assassins and trains each Saturday morning during the season, which runs from October through to July.

A huge well done to Riley.



AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT FOR UNDER 15 CRICKETERS - RUNNERS UP IN YORKSHIRE INDOOR FINALS

Our U15 Girls Cricket Team represented North Yorkshire in the U15 Lady Taverner's Yorkshire Finals at Headingley Indoor Cricket Centre. The team had 3 group games to play against schools from across Yorkshire with the aim of qualifying for the final in the afternoon. The day started with a thrilling close match against Mercia School. Both teams batted and fielded well and it came down to the last ball. Richmond were victorious with a fantastic hit by Sophie White to win the game by 2 runs, with Richmond finishing on 103 runs. In our second game, the team had a comfortable win against Woodhouse Grove scoring 102 runs to their 35. There were some fantastic catches in the field, consistently good bowling and great batting with several players retiring after scoring 15 runs. In the final group game, Richmond played Driffield School. This was a must-win match if we wanted to reach the final. Once again, it was a truly great team victory with Richmond scoring the second-highest run total of the day with 132 runs and limiting Driffield to 47.



Into the final we went and it was an all-North Yorkshire Schools affair with a replay against Ampleforth College who we had met in the last round. We put in an impressive performance once more against Ampleforth but they bowled Richmond out for 66 runs after Maddie James was left as the last batter standing with 4 overs to bowl. Richmond fought back and took 4 early wickets from Ampleforth to pile on the pressure but in the end Ampleforth reached the required 67 runs to win with 3 wickets to spare.

Lesley Abbey, Lead Teacher for PE, said: "The girls should be incredibly proud of their performance at the tournament - runners up in Yorkshire is a very respectable position to finish in. The improvement in just a few coaching sessions has been fantastic and several ECB coaches commented on our improved hit-and-run game. It gives us a great platform to go into the outdoor cricket season next term and we will be looking to expand our squad with more players in Years 9 and 10, as well as developing a new U13 girls squad from Years 7 and 8.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 GIRLS RUGBY TASTER DAY FOR WENSLEYDALE PANTHERS - SUNDAY 2ND APRIL

Wensleydale Rugby Club are hosting a taster day for their girls' team – the Wensleydale Panthers – from 1:30-2:30pm on Sunday 2nd April. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to the event which will include a fun-filled 'Pitch-up-and-Play' taster outdoors session to burn lots of energy and some games and skills practice. The session will be non-contact given the fact it will be catering for varying levels of experience - although they will have the tackle bags out – always fun! After the taster session, everyone will head to the club house for free pizza and to watch England v Italy in the Women's Six Nations. Click [here](#) to find out more and to register interest please email dave@redkiterecruitment.co.uk

Two of our students, Amelia Alderson, in Year 7, and Amelia Atkinson, in Year 8, have been training with the Panthers since the team formed a few months ago and they are loving it! They practise each Sunday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 when they do fitness training, warm-ups, tackling, techniques and playing games.

The two Amelias said: "We are really enjoying playing rugby at Wensleydale and having the experience of being part of a close team, making new friends and improving our fitness and flexibility. The coaches are all really nice and supportive, as are the other teams such as the junior boys, the men's first and second teams and of course the Wensleydale Heifers. We are really inspired by the Heifers and as we develop our skills we hope to be able to play for them in the future. They have only been playing in the league since last September and are placed second in the rankings.

"We would recommend playing rugby at Wensleydale to everyone. We were really excited to have the opportunity to go with other members of the club to watch England Ladies playing Scotland in the Six Nations at Newcastle on Saturday."

Here are just a few benefits of playing for the Wensleydale Panthers:

- Regular exercise in the glorious Yorkshire Dales
- Sessions delivered by a level 2 qualified coach who plays first team women's rugby
- Being a member of a close-knit team (the girls stay in touch outside of rugby training)
- Social events together
- Learning a broad range of sports-based skills
- Low cost membership to the RFU, giving access to tickets to major international rugby games
- High-quality training and playing kit included in membership



Girls Rugby Pitch Up & Play 2nd April



**Wensleydale
RUFC**
the local choice for
rugby in the Leyburn
area



**2nd April from 1.30pm
@ Wensleydale RUFC, Cawkill Park, Leyburn.
Open to girls in years 4 - 9.**

Wear studs or trainers for short taster of rugby, then stay for pizza and watch England vs Italy ladies match on TV.

To register interest please email:
dave@redkiterecruitment.co.uk

SOPHIE TO REPRESENT DURHAM CRICKET'S UNDER 13 TEAM FOR A SECOND YEAR

Sophie White, in Year 8, is over the moon to have been selected to play for Durham Cricket's Under 13 team for a second year. After a great year in 2022, Sophie is really looking forward to playing for another season.

Cricket is Sophie's passion, and as well as playing for Durham she will continue to play for several teams at Richmondshire Cricket Club as well as representing the school. An amazing all-rounder, Sophie is also highly respected for her talent in hockey, netball and football and she is an accomplished dancer too!

Well done Sophie, this is a fabulous achievement. We are also very proud that Bertie Morris, in Year 7, and Isaac Tate, in Year 9, have been selected to represent Durham Cricket in the Under 13 and Under 14 teams.



UNDER 13 CRICKETERS REACH YORKSHIRE INDOOR FINALS FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

For the second year in a row, our Under 13 cricketers have qualified for the Yorkshire Indoor Cricket Finals at Headingley, thanks to a dominant display in the area qualifiers.

Coming top of their group, having beaten Northallerton, South Craven and Acklam Grange in the process, Richmond went on to beat Queen Ethelburga's convincingly in the semi-final to claim their spot in the Yorkshire final on 29th March.

The team finished the day with a final against Ryedale, and with heads already thinking about Headingley they probably put in their worst batting display of the day as Ryedale knocked off their low total of 58 with a wicket and an over to spare.

Mark Swanwick, PE Teacher, said: "The students are looking forward to representing North Yorkshire, alongside Ryedale School, in the Yorkshire Finals later this month. It was fantastic to see all the players chip in throughout the day, with every single player making a match-winning contribution along the way."



SPORT

A FABULOUS CELEBRATION OF FOOTBALL AT #LETGIRLSPLAY

A group of Year 7 and 8 girls had a fabulous afternoon taking part in #LetGirlsPlay. This was a nationwide event promoting girls' participation in football with schools up and down the country involved in football activities and tournaments. The concept behind the event is to give girls the opportunity to play football whether that be competitively or recreationally. The afternoon saw four secondary schools in attendance - Richmond, SFX, Wensleydale and Thirsk. The students participated in a round robin tournament as well as activities such as Football Archery, King of the Ring and Penalty Shoot Out when they weren't playing their fixtures. The event was run by Miss Johnson with Student Leaders assisting in refereeing the games and running the activity sessions. The tournament was won by SFX, with Richmond coming a close second. Thirsk and Wensleydale were joint third on matching points.



Beth Johnson, Cover Supervisor and Girls Football Development Coordinator, said: "There is a real push for girls in football since the Lionesses' Euro win in the summer and I love that this is now part of my job. It was a real joy to see so many girls playing and asking about pathways into local teams. Despite the cold weather, everyone had a smile on their face and there was a real feeling of knowing that they were a part of something quite special. As a female footballer myself, I am so passionate about this topic with girls getting equal opportunities to play and that there are opportunities available to them both in and outside of school. The event being on International Women's Day was the icing on the cake!"

The inaugural event was hosted by the FA and Barclays and over 90,000 girls from 1,450 schools took to pitches across the UK. You can find out more [here](#).



ACADEMIC

TREMENDOUS ENTRIES IN OUR WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

Our World Book Day competition invited students to recreate a scene from their favourite book and it resulted in some tremendous entries. With such a high standard of work, judging was a difficult task.

Our winners, however, captured something magical - Noah Brown, in Year 8 won for his fabulous recreation of a scene from 'Jurassic Park' by Michael Crichton. Noah clearly has a director's eye; there is more than a touch of Spielberg about his work. You can enjoy Noah's film [here](#).



Kirsty Tarran, in Year 11, won for her beautiful canvas inspired by the novel, 'Dead Poets' Society'. Kirsty's bold and eye-catching work really stood out.

Our runners up are: Key stage 3 competition - Ruby Helliard, in Year 7, for her colourful illustration of Fawkes from the Harry Potter series; Grace Clement, also in Year 7, for her charming animation of 'The First Beagle in Space' which you can enjoy [here](#). Key Stage 4 competition - Cameron Muirhead, in Year 10, for his highly accomplished digital artwork inspired by the novel 'Mortal Engines'; and Archie Thompspon, also in Year 10 and one of our winners from last year, with his detailed model of the engine Edward, from Reverend W Awdry's much-loved Thomas the Tank Engine series.



Rebecca Weston, Lead Teacher for English, said: "We have been amazed by the imagination and creativity of our students - they have decorated cakes, created intricate models, directed and animated short videos and produced some stunning artwork. What a fantastic way to celebrate World Book Day and the joy that reading can bring to our lives. Thank you to all the students who took part."

The winners received book tokens for their fabulous work.



THE MASKED READER – WHO IS BEHIND THE MASK?

As well as students celebrating the power of the page on World Book Day, some of our staff were involved too! Ten teachers donned masks and read a passage from their favourite books. Students were invited to watch a video of the teachers and then guess the name of each reader. It was great fun and if you'd like to have a go, simply watch the five-minute video [here](#) – you can then find out who the teachers are by watching the reveal [here](#).

GUESS.....



STUNNING CROCHET PROJECT BY BESS IN YEAR 7

Bess Mitchell, a Year 7 student, has crocheted a stunning jumper. Bess has only been crocheting for just over two years, after taking it up as a hobby during lockdown. She was inspired to have a go after watching her Nan and some of her friends crocheting and thought it was a great way to use her time constructively during lockdown – not only to fill some hours but also to develop a new skill.

Bess took advice and tips from her Nan as well as following some Youtube tutorials and it wasn't long before she was making a hat. Becoming adept at crocheting, Bess set her sights on a bigger project and opted for a jumper. She did some research online and gathered ideas before measuring herself and creating her own design.



Bess wanted to make a stand-out, bespoke jumper so chose a mix of vibrant colours in a patchwork pattern – the finished result is stunning. She found an online store <https://lulusstash.co.uk/> which has a diverse portfolio of wool in a fantastic selection of colours and materials. Bess uses cotton as she finds it is comfortable to wear and easy to wash.

Bess said: "I am really pleased with my first jumper which features a cheerful and bright mix of colours with a rainbow vibe. My next project is a tote bag which I am just starting to work on. I am also working on a temperature blanket where I use a different colour to record the temperature every day of the year."

Mrs Dawson, Bess' Textiles Teacher, said: "We are really impressed with Bess' jumper. Her attention to detail, fantastic design and terrific mix of colours are outstanding. It is hard to believe that at only 12-years old Bess has such amazing creativity. We can't wait to see Bess' next project and are looking forward to her joining the school's Textiles club."

ACADEMIC

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENT PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS IN OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTING CHALLENGE

Thirty-Six students qualified for the Oxford University Computing Challenge, an invitation-only event which aims to encourage students who have achieved a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge to develop their skills further and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

For the second year running, Natasha Thornton, in Year 9, scored the school's highest in her age category achieving a Certificate of Merit. Such is her problem solving and programming ability, she came 329th out of 9563 participants, putting her in the top 3.5% of her age group nationally. Natasha is planning to study GCSE Computer Science next year.

Two Year 7 students also achieved a Certificate of Merit. Joseph Cox, a talented mathematician, is also showing promise in computing. Achieving a huge 194 out of 200 in the Bebras challenge, he continued to impress in the Oxford University Computing Challenge, coming in the top 6.5% for his age nationally and matched the highest mark of all participants in North Yorkshire. Harriet Metcalfe, who has demonstrated excellent programming skills in her lessons this year, also excelled in her first programming challenge showing expertise in computational thinking and programming techniques.



EVA'S FANTASTIC FELINE FILM NARRATED IN GERMAN!

We couldn't resist sharing this fabulous piece of independent learning by Eva Noone, in Year 7. Eva created this video for German and it is outstanding.

Frau Dutton and Frau Edwards-Bell said: "Eva is a brilliant German student who always impresses us with her contributions to lessons and excellent independent learning. With her recent piece of work, Eva went above and beyond by creating a fantastic video 'Alles Über mein Haustier' about her cat. This was completed on her own during the school closure and Eva really impressed with her video-editing skills and her excellent German."

You can enjoy Eva's video [here](#).

Bravo Eva!



SERVICE STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR NATIONAL WINNING ARTWORK AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Award-winning artwork created by a group of our Service Students has been displayed in the Houses of Parliament. The students' stunning artwork was crowned a winner in the 'Month of the Military Child' design competition, a national event organised by the charity Never Such Innocence which included submissions of poetry, music and artwork.

Six of the students, from Years 8 to 10, were invited to the Ministry of Defence HQ in Whitehall where copies of the work from all the 2022 competition entrées were exhibited for general viewing by military personnel and visitors. The students' artwork was hung proudly in the centre of the display and Katie Salari, Chief Operating Officer of Never Such Innocence, spoke about the significance of the event, introduced the artwork and allowed the category winners to speak about their creations.



Izzy Barnes, in Year 8, spoke eloquently on behalf of the Richmond group about their submission to the competition. Izzy explained that the inspiration for their artwork was the dandelion and she described how the students used cutting tools and lino tiles to create their beautiful piece of artwork. The dandelion is the flower of the Service Child and dandelions put down roots almost anywhere they grow, and it's almost impossible to destroy them. The dandelion is a survivor in a broad range of climates. Like dandelions, military children bloom everywhere the wind carries them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.

The second half of the event took place at the Houses of Parliament. Students celebrated through a powerful and moving presentation of work created by students across the United Kingdom. Entries had travelled from far and wide and students from other primary and secondary schools read their poetry, sang their original songs and the original competition artwork was hung in Parliament for MPs and guests to view.

There were many guest speakers at the event who each took a turn to speak passionately about conflict and the importance of the voice of a military child and such competitions that they have subsequently entered. Guest speakers included; Lady Lucy French (Founder of Never Such Innocence), Andrew Malcolm (MoD Senior Education Officer), MP Alicia Kearns (Rutland), Dame Rachel de Souza (the Children's Commissioner for England) and Imam Asim (Islamic Advisor to the British Forces).

After the celebration and sharing of the artwork the students enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament which included an exciting live-televised viewing of a debate in the House of Commons which the students watched from the viewing gallery. To conclude the visit, the students had a stroll along Southbank past the London Eye where they stopped for a scenic lunch break before heading back north.

Mr Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate said "The students were great ambassadors for the school and college. It was such a lovely poignant day hearing the views and voices of our young students on their personal thoughts on conflict and how it affects them individually. I was incredibly proud of the superb artwork the students had created, it was an honour to accompany them and share the amazing experience with them. We are looking forward to having a poetry practitioner in school and college from Never Such Innocence when Service Students will be able to take part in a poetry writing workshop in preparation for this year's 'Month of the Military Child' competition. Any student, regardless of military background, can enter the two competitions that are currently running relating to conflict and war. You can find out more information [here](#).

ACADEMIC

STUDENTS TO FEATURE IN MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD VIDEO

Four of our Service Students have been invited to take part in a video to celebrate the 'Month of the Military Child'. Freddy Godfrey, in Year 7, Benedict Simpson-Alexander, in Year 12, and Nishi Chand and Rosemary Nacamavuto, in Year 8, were interviewed to talk about their lives as Service Children. The project, which is being run by North Yorkshire County Council's Service Children's Champions, Jess Greenhalgh and Angela Campbell, will showcase the 'Voice of the Service Child', offering a wonderful opportunity to engage and celebrate Service Children. Chris Kaye, presenter at BFBS Radio, is working with Jess and Angela and is interviewing and filming all the interviewees.

Service students from primary and secondary schools across North Yorkshire will be involved in the video which will be released in April, which is the Month of the Military Child.

Stephen Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, said: "As a school and college, we have a strong focus on the wellbeing of our Service Children and we were delighted to be asked to take part in this fantastic project. The students were asked three pertinent questions - What are you most proud of? What has been your biggest challenge? What would you like people to know? - and it was fascinating to listen to their answers, especially to how they have to adapt to moving schools and making new friends if their serving parents are posted. We are really looking forward to seeing the video."

Angela Campbell, Service Children's Champion, added: "Jess and I are both very committed to raising awareness of Service Children, the challenges they face due to the unique nature of military life and their amazing resilience. Giving Service Children an opportunity for their voices to be heard is incredibly important and we can't wait for everyone to see the final outcome of the filming in April. Thank you to the students and staff of Richmond School and Sixth Form College for collaborating with us on this special project."



ACADEMIC

STUDENTS LEARN FROM THE MOST MAGICAL MEDIA COMPANY

Our sixth form Business and Media students spent two days at Disneyland Paris taking a look behind the scenes of the worldwide brand, attending subject-specific seminars and workshops.

Business students learned about branding, market research, company synergy and finance. During their workshops, they took Disney merchandise and created marketing campaigns for the items they were allocated. Students showed how creative they were writing jingles and slogans for their products and then presenting their work to the Disney staff members present.



For the Media students, what better place to visit than the home of the world's most magical media company? The students attended lectures and seminars about media conglomerates and how The Walt Disney Company makes use of vertical integration to control all stages of the production, marketing and distribution processes.

Mrs Clish, Lead Teacher for Business Studies and Economics, said: We were very proud of how enthusiastic the students were and of their impeccable behaviour whilst on the visit."



ACADEMIC

YEAR 9 STUDENTS THROUGH TO REGIONAL HEATS OF MIDDLESBROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB'S PROTECT THE PLANET CHALLENGE

A group of 23 Year 9 students have been working on several social action projects linked to environmental sustainability at Middlesbrough Football Club (MFC). They went to MFC to take part in the area heats of the Protect the Planet Challenge where they presented their ideas to a four-strong judging panel. The judges were representatives from Middlesbrough Football club, Middlesbrough Foundation and Middlesbrough Academy. In total, there were multiple teams from ten different schools taking part in the competition including a team from Stokesley School.

We are delighted that Ashley Watson, Emmee May Michael, Lily-Mae McCafferty and Josh Crossland's group was the overall winner. The students will now go on to represent MFC at a regional level on 5th July, with the potential of qualifying for the national competition.



Marshall Dixon, Project Officer at Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, said: "We were all really impressed with the students and their presentations; showing the hard work they had put in across this half-term and the knowledge they had taken onboard, in relation to both presenting and environmental sustainability!"

The judges were very complimentary about all the groups and their ideas, while the rest of the MFC team were really impressed with the conduct of students across the afternoon. The winning group's presentation to help make the club more eco-friendly was for them to create a Bootplant room in which old football boots could be used to store and grow plants, with any boots that are in a good condition to be donated to those who are unable to afford new ones.

Ashley Watson, Year 9 student, added: "I really enjoyed all the activities that were on offer whilst we were at Middlesbrough Football Club. I enjoyed coming up with our social action project and although I was nervous when we started delivering our idea to the panel, I soon felt at ease as they were really welcoming of our idea."

Jessica Lambert, Catch-Up Tutor, said: "All the students have been really engaged in this project. The ideas they have come up with have been fantastic and it has been great to see them develop their concepts in their teams. On the day, the students took it all in their stride. They did a brilliant job of presenting to the panel which highlighted their determination. We are delighted that one of our teams was the overall winner and will go on to represent Middlesbrough Football Club in the regional heats."

The students were sent a video from Riley McGree, Middlesbrough player, congratulating them on their winning entry – you can watch the video [here](#).



ACADEMIC

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS HEADING TO HAMBURG

Two sixth form students are delighted to have been selected to take part in a week-long football camp with St Pauli Football Club in Hamburg. Victor Vaidos and Luke Miller have successfully achieved scholarships on the prestigious PASCH programme and will join other young people from all over Europe for this fantastic opportunity. Victor and Luke are keen footballers and play for Richmond Town U17s and Darlington Spraire Lads U17s respectively. They are really looking forward to the camp.

All the students taking part are from PASCH schools and they will spend the week enhancing their German language and football skills. As well as the daily football training and German lessons, the students will watch a match at the St Pauli stadium and visit Hamburg.

Schools: Partners for the Future" (PASCH) forms a worldwide network of more than 2,000 schools with a special connection to Germany. It is an initiative of the German Federal Foreign special focus on German and German culture. The focus lies on widening horizons through multilingualism and a common approach to future problems as an international learning community. The Goethe-Institut London is in charge of implementing the initiative in England.

Fiona Dutton, Lead Teacher for German, said: "We are proud of the partnership with PASCH and the Goethe Institut and the enriched language opportunities the programme offers our students. Since we achieved PASCH status in 2019, a number of our students have benefited from attending summer schools and workshops to improve their German and we have also worked on various initiatives in school with larger groups of students. I am sure Victor and Luke will have an amazing time in Hamburg."



YEAR 10s EXPERIENCE A WORLD OF LANGUAGES

As part of our PASCH status, a group of Year 10 students took part in the World of Languages event at Durham University's School of Modern Languages. The workshop on the topic of 'Musik' was led by Lorna Price from the Goethe Institut.

Students took part in a number of language games and did a lot of German speaking tasks where they interacted with students from other North East schools. Students were given the opportunity to practise useful vocabulary, describe a piece of music and explain a playlist. A number of our students volunteered and came to the front and presented their playlists. Francesca Rouse won a blue tooth speaker for her efforts.

Ms Dutton, German Teacher and PASCH Co-ordinator, said: "The day concluded with a session on languages and future aspirations where Durham University Student Ambassadors spoke about the importance of having a language as a skill. It was an excellent day."



ACADEMIC

ECO CLUB PUTS RIVERS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE!

Catherine Mason, from the Yorkshire Dales River Trust (YDRT), delivered a brilliant session with our Eco Club group. The YDRT is a charity working to enhance and protect the rivers of the Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of wildlife and communities.

Catherine's role for the charity involves engaging with schools to inform young people to ensure a better understanding, care and appreciation for our rivers and associated habitats. Catherine's session involved introducing the YDRT, the work they do in the local area and ways to get more involved with protecting and caring for our rivers. Catherine brought along a sample of water from a local beck in which students were guided through identifying different species of invertebrates, using magnifying glasses and microscopes, the more varied species they could find was an indicator of a healthy river, free from pollutants.



Catherine also discussed with the students the different stages of the invertebrates' life and some of their interesting adaptations. The students loved this, they were so engaged and enthralled at the amount of tiny and fascinating wildlife living in our becks, streams and rivers!

The students also learnt about the successful reintroduction of beavers across the country and the importance of their work in helping us to build and develop habitats to help our invertebrates thrive - a key part in helping biodiversity to flourish.

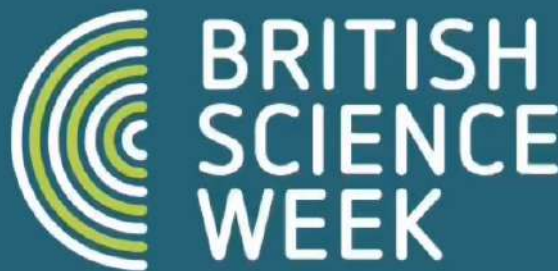
Connie Spittlehouse, Geography Teacher and Leader of the Eco Club, said: "The students had a great time and it enabled them to make links between Science and Geography lessons, with the local area.



GETTING CONNECTED

British Science week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths and this year's theme was connections!

Mr Haye delivered an assembly to all Year groups during the week of 14th March, which highlighted lots of connections in science to show that scientists are discovering connections that we didn't know existed previously, such as the connection between our gut microbiome and our physical and mental health. He also spoke about how science connects us through international collaborations through the UK space agency as well as how scientists are connecting with environmental charities to work together to clean up environmental problems, such as plastic in oceans.



You can view Mr Haye's assembly [here](#) and find out more about British Science Week [here](#).

YOUNG SCIENTIST GETS A TASTE OF UNI LIFE

Nathan Foulds, a Year 12 student, had a taste of university life after gaining a place on Northumbria University's NUSTEM Experience Week with a focus on Physics. Nathan heard about the great opportunity through Mrs Harrison, his Physics teacher, and he submitted an application which highlighted why he enjoys Physics and his career aspirations. Nathan was one of only 40 students who achieved a place and he travelled to university each day by train.

The aim of the course was to explore university life and step into the shoes of a student who is studying Physics. Nathan enjoyed guest lectures, such as Boulby Underground Laboratory, Physics lectures and he produced scientific reports.

Nathan who is aiming to study for an Aerospace Engineering Masters Degree and pursue a career in Aerospace or Rocket Science, said: "Learning about what lectures are like in a university really allowed an insight into university life. I would highly recommend this opportunity to other students as it's great for your CV."

Mrs Harrison, Lead Teacher for Physics, said: "This has been an amazing experience for Nathan and I was so pleased he applied to go to Northumbria for the NUSTEM experience week. He has had a chance to see what life would be like at university which many students do not get an opportunity to do. I am so pleased he was selected for this course and how he was more than prepared to catch the train to Newcastle every day.

"This is a big step for Nathan towards his goal of studying Engineering at university. It has inspired him even more. I am so proud of him for making the most of the opportunities that are out there!"



ACADEMIC

YEAR 13 BIOLOGISTS DEVELOP THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF DNA

Our Year 13 Biologists visited the Centre for Life in Newcastle for a day learning about DNA. They worked with experts in the field of DNA and had the opportunity to spend time carrying out a range of experiments to enhance their understanding of DNA.

During the visit, the students carried out modern molecular biology techniques including; DNA extraction, micro-pipetting, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), restriction enzyme digest, and gel electrophoresis.

Will Mawer, Year 13 student, said: "Using laboratory equipment to study our own DNA sequence was fascinating, as we utilised PCR techniques to separate lengths of DNA. We were taught how the processes and machines worked by experienced staff, and we learned about the application of our findings on evolution and distribution of the human species. It was a really enjoyable and worthwhile experience, which definitely helped my study of A-level Biology."

The International Centre for Life is a science village in the heart of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Nearly 600 people from 35 countries are based there; researchers, doctors and nurses work alongside people in the fields of education, business and public engagement. They all share a common goal: to enrich lives through science.

At Life, more than 30 research groups, with over 200 research staff and postgraduate students, continue to do cutting-edge research. They work closely with the NHS Northern Genetics Service, which houses more than 150 NHS staff, including the Molecular Diagnostic Service for the region, and Clinical Genetics Directorate of The Newcastle Upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust. In addition, there is an active collaboration with the NHS Newcastle

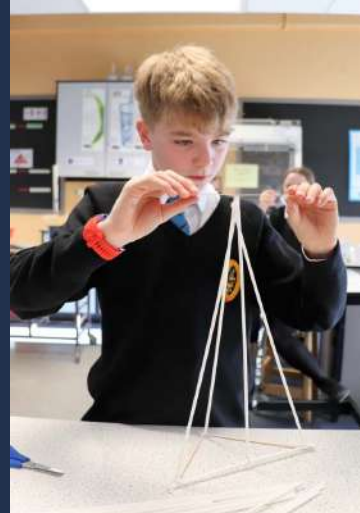


SCIENCE CLUB MEMBERS SHOW OFF THEIR TOWER-BUILDING SKILLS

Our Science Club meets each Tuesday after school and they have been setting their minds to tower building. Using some simple materials, including newspaper, wooden splints, straws and sellotape, the young scientists were tasked with building towers and then testing them afterwards.

The students had great fun creating the towers and although they found the task challenging they showed a great deal of creativity and problem solving in the designing and building of the towers. Congratulations to Minah and Sammie whose tower was the tallest structure that could support an egg.

If any Year 7 or 8 students would like to join the Science Club then they would be most welcome to come along from 3:30 and 4:30 each Tuesday.



ACADEMIC

YEAR 11 TRIPLE SCIENCE STUDENTS HAVE AN AMAZING DAY AT GCSE SCIENCE LIVE

Our Year 11 Triple Science students had an amazing day at the GCSE Science live lectures which were hosted at St George's Hall, Bradford. Presenting on the day were Professor Lord Robert Winston, who talked about his work in IVF and his accomplishments throughout his career, Professor Steve Jones who challenged students to think more about how our genes influence our behaviour and Professor Dr Anna Ploszajski who talked about how being a Material Scientist helped her with swimming across the English Channel. The lectures then took a break and a chief examiner shared his exam hints and tips with students. He shared ideas for revision techniques, discussed the structure of the paper and questions, and gave students clear advice regarding examination techniques.



After lunch, the students heard from Dr Hannah Critchlow on demystifying the human brain. She measured brain waves live as well as introducing how the celiac plexus nerve system can influence us. The final lecture was presented by the extremely enthusiastic Professor Dave Cliff. His lecture on how he could “almost” predict the future, gave an insight into the world of computed science, its challenges and how Biology and Quantum Physics could be the solution to faster computers.

Bella Calunniato said: “It was a very interesting as it covered all three sciences and allowed me to expand my knowledge of all the sciences and how they link together. I really liked Dr Critchlow because it was about a topic we have studied in Biology but in a more in-depth way.

Charlie Rutter said: “The day definitely exceeded my expectations. It was more interactive than I thought it would be and the lecturers engaged the audience. They had some nice demonstrations that made the content accessible, even though it was at a high level. I really liked Professor Winston because he showed us lots of videos that I had never seen before, included seeing the inside of the oviducts.”

Anna Harrison, Lead Teacher for Physics, said: “The students were amazing for the whole day. They were brilliant ambassadors for the school and found the lectures engaging and informative. Thank you to Maya Dorling (Technician) and Polly Allen (Trainee Teacher) for helping on the day, and a big thank you to Richmond School Trustees for funding the coach travel and enabling this opportunity for our students.”

gcse science
live!

ACADEMIC

EXCELLENT MODEL-MAKING SKILLS DEMONSTRATED AT ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

Sixteen students from Years 9 and 10 were proud to represent Richmond School and Sixth Form College at the annual Technology Tournament for North Yorkshire. Organised by the Rotary Club and hosted at REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) in Catterick Garrison the students worked really hard on their challenges.

The students were competing against over 150 pupils from schools across the local area. In teams of 4, they worked on a design brief to construct working models of motor-powered cable cars for crossing a river.

Richard Wilson, Design and Technology Teacher, said: "This was an incredibly complex challenge involving many engineering principles, so I was very proud of the work that our students completed and tested on the day, and the way that they all faced unforeseen problems with such a positive frame of mind."



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Our latest Online Safety Newsletter includes useful information about TikTok, online scams, emergency SOS calls and much more.

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



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be



Online Safety Newsletter

March 2023

Hollie Guard App

This app allows you to keep an eye on your child while they are traveling using the Journey feature. Whenever they use this feature, their emergency contacts are informed when they have arrived at their destination.

With the free version, users can also use this app to get help quickly if they are in danger. If a user is in danger, they hold down the button for 5 seconds to raise an alert, which activates Hollie Guard and automatically sends

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Some of the videos on TikTok may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.

Account set up

By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private at the start and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child can approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available (such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode) here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>



ACADEMIC

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM THE BRILLIANT CLUB

Fourteen hardworking Year 12 students are celebrating their graduation from the Brilliant Club's national Scholars Programme. The Brilliant Club is a charity which works with schools and universities across the UK to increase the number of students progressing to highly selective universities. They do this by running tutorials in schools led by PhD students. The group of students completed a six-week course on "Understanding and Preventing Identity-based violence", submitting a 2500-word assignment with appropriate referencing at a commensurate standard with undergraduate course-work.



All the students successfully completed the assignment with one student, Faith Andrews, being awarded a First. Faith said " The Brilliant club helped me gain insight to the expectations of work at a university level. The subject we were given to write our essay on was extremely interesting, as it linked to real-world problems, and we were able to pick our own topic to research. Sam (our PhD student) was also hugely helpful as he was guiding us on how to do our best but allowed us to have our own opinions and develop our own understanding."

Sandra Johnson, Assistant Headteacher, said: "This group of students demonstrated excellence, determination and independence to achieve this success and we are enormously proud of them."



ACADEMIC

STUDENTS HAVE A FLIPPIN' GREAT DAY PUTTING PAIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Students spent a day learning about the science of pain and pain management through a range of attention-grabbing events presented by Flippin' Pain, a public health movement.

During the day, 82 Year 12 students heard from guest speakers and took part in workshops to raise their awareness of the spiralling impact of pain on individuals and communities, with the aim of changing how we think about, talk about and treat persistent pain.

Professor Cormac Ryan, Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation at Teesside University and Community Pain Champion for Flippin' Pain, led an

engaging and entertaining talk on pain science and explained Flippin' Pain's key messages: that pain is common and can affect anyone; hurt does not always mean harm; everything matters when it comes to back pain; medicines and surgeries are often not the answer; understanding your pain is key; and recovery is possible. The students also heard from Mrs Heather Hughes who suffers with chronic pain, and learned about her experiences and how constant pain affects her on a daily basis.

Students worked in groups of 10 to create projects that would reflect their learning but more importantly to practise sharing the knowledge they had acquired with friends and family. Students evaluated one another's group projects and were responsible for awarding prizes to the winning teams.

Michael Walton, a retired anaesthetist with a long-term interest in the treatment of pain, presented the winning team members with £10 book vouchers, kindly donated by Castle Hill Bookshop and Flippin' Pain. He said: "I found the study day on pain for the sixth form students to be both innovative and very informative. An excellent presentation by Professor Cormac Ryan and the group discussions that followed, focusing on the causes and treatment of chronic pain, gave the students an understanding of how pain can affect all walks of life and the importance of its long-term management."

The students also visited the Flippin' Pain 'Brain Bus', a series of immersive activities that invited them to experience first-hand some of the mind-blowing, lesser-known phenomena of pain science. This included illusions of all types including VR taster sessions that helped challenge perceptions with the message that what you feel is always real but that our brains' conclusions can sometimes be inaccurate.

Dr Jagjit Mankelow, Lecturer in Rehabilitation Science at Teesside University, said: "The day's workshops were carried out in a research format to allow the outcomes to be analysed and enable Flippin' Pain to review if the way they deliver pain science education alters student knowledge and beliefs. I was really impressed with how the students interacted throughout the day and the pertinent questions they posed. Pain is a huge problem, internationally, nationally and locally and it is often widely misunderstood. Flippin' Pain aims to dispel some of the myths and empower people to take back some control and find a better way forward."

Students were surprised to hear that in the North East of England 43% of residents have persistent pain and that approximately 35% of children and young people have persistent pain, with approximately 22% associated absenteeism from school. They found the day most enlightening and comments included: "I like how we got to hear from someone who actually suffers with chronic pain" and "I didn't realise you could feel that much pain without having anything wrong with you."

Les Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, concluded: "Working with the Flippin' Pain team was very enlightening for all of us! The students were surprised by some of the messages from Professor Ryan and were able to have fun exploring these in their own presentations. It was an excellent opportunity for us to consider something which could be life altering. The students gained a great deal from the education and responded in their usual mature, positive and cooperative manner."



A DAY OF CAREERS INSPIRATION FROM LEADING CREATIVE AND FORMER APPRENTICE

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 were privileged to attend workshops and presentations with Mark Woolley, alumnus and founder and international director of leading British hair brand Electric.

Year 13 students enjoyed an assembly with Mark who gave them an insight into how his career into the creative industry started at Richmond School following a careers seminar hosted in the sixth form hall. A representative from Saks, a local and prominent hairdresser that operated a franchise business model with salons across the country, impressed Mark with their ethos and creativity, and he made the decision to go into hairdressing. Mark took up the opportunity to begin his career as an apprentice at Saks in Darlington and he quickly knew that he had made the right decision. He moved to London where his company Electric was born and this has evolved to become one of the leading hair styling and creative specialists in the industry.



As well as operating a number of salons in key cities in the UK and overseas, Mark has developed his own range of hair products which are sold in other premium hair salons worldwide and outlets such as Harvey Nichols. The brand is also synonymous with fashion and Mark and his team are regularly on location at international fashion shows. Electric's HQ is near Brighton and as well as being home to Mark and his family is also where he not only grows some of the ingredients for his hair products but is where his main photographic studio is located for media photoshoots. Mark's clients include Sienna Miller, Noel Gallagher, Paloma Faith and Billie Eilish.

Mark spent the day with groups of students including those in Year 11 and Year 12 studying Business Studies where he went into more detail about his business philosophy, his focus on developing the Electric brand and keeping it fresh and exciting. He also had a workshop with students who are interested in a career in the hair, beauty and creative industries, passing on his expert knowledge and doing a Q and A with the group.

Mark said: "You don't realise the impact your teachers have on you sometimes until years after you've left school and you think 'wow they were amazing'. They subtly taught me quite a few things about life and it taught me to build my brand with the same philosophy as we believe strongly in teaching the next generation and making other people successful. We want Electric to feel like a family, not a company. We want to feel like if somebody joins us we are responsible for their career so we are going to train them really well."

His final words of advice for students when considering their career pathways were:

- Find something that you love
- Find the best people to learn from
- Set clear goals and objectives
- Work hard
- Pass on knowledge and teach others
- Have a good time

Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser, concluded: "We cannot thank Mark enough for taking time out of his incredibly busy schedule once again to share his experiences and expertise with our students. The passion he has for the creative industries and his dedication to his brand and employees is tremendous; our students were really inspired by his drive and ambition and how much he is giving back in terms of education and training in his sector, and also by returning to school to run these careers workshops."



SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

During National Careers Week from 6th to 11th March there was a focus in school and college on careers guidance to help support our young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

We welcomed key speakers to host assemblies and talk to students about their careers and different pathways in their industries and shared stories from some of our former students and the career choices they have made. Read on to find out more!

EMPOWERING POSITIVE CHANGE
THROUGH CAREERS EDUCATION.

#NCW2023

NCW

NatWest Group

STUDENTS TALK TO BFBS RADIO ABOUT THEIR FABULOUS FOUR-DAY MILITARY WORK EXPERIENCE

Chris Kaye, presenter at BFBS Radio in Catterick, called into school to chat to Year 10 students Nathan Booth and Ellie Hughes about their four-day military work experience programme. We hope you enjoy [this video](#) which includes some great footage of the students and their peers in action during the week at Queen Elizabeth Barracks near York.

The students talked to Chris about how they lived the life of new Army recruits starting with a daily wake-up call at 6am. From army drills to bed making, being out in the field to marching, the group were introduced to the real demands of army life.

Further information about careers in the army can be found [here](#).



YEAR 10 STUDENTS DISCOVER THE DIVERSE RANGE OF APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE

Sharon Maddison from NYBEP delivered the ASK Apprenticeship talk to our Year 10 students. Sharon gave them an overview of the fantastic opportunities that apprenticeships can open up, the different levels of apprenticeships and the wide range of industry sectors in which they are available.

Further information about Ask Apprenticeships can be found [here](#) and about NYBEP [here](#).

RESPECT




Amazing
Apprenticeships

 **nybep**

STUDENTS HONE VALUABLE CAREERS SKILLS

A group of Year 10 and 11 students took part in workshops to enhance their employability skills. The workshops were delivered by Jack Evason, from Inspiring Choices, part of the Uni Connect programme which is funded by the Office for Students. The programme delivers impartial careers information, advice and guidance about further and higher education to young people across North Yorkshire.

The students honed their skills in three key areas. They focused on transferable skills, learning what they are and why they are important. They not only identified their own skills but were able to apply them positively to their education pathways and careers.

Making a good impression was a vital element of the workshop. This session was based around interviews, especially demonstrating how the students can present themselves in a positive way. The final activity was about CV and cover letter writing where the students explored what makes a good CV and cover letter, as well as a little about application forms. The students were then able to apply this knowledge to create their own CVs.

Jamie Pemberton, Careers Leader for Areté Learning Trust, said: "We were delighted to welcome Jack Evason from Inspiring Choices to deliver this fantastic employability skills workshop to our Year 10 and Year 11 students. The students have gained so much from the sessions with lots of useful tips. We work closely with Inspiring Choices as a funding provider for Richmond School and Sixth Form College and we will definitely have more opportunities in the future."



CAREER PATHWAYS INTO SCIENCE

We were delighted to welcome Maria O'Hanlon, a Biology PhD student at Teesside University, to talk to our Year 11 students.

During a full year-group assembly, Maria shared her experiences of studying Biology and talked about her own journey from school, to University and on to her PhD role.

She followed this with an hour-long Q and A with a group of Year 11s and went on to spend time with our Year 13 Biology students discussing her experiences and career opportunities for Biologists.

Thank you so much to Maria for giving up her time to support our students.

You can find out more about Maria's experiences as a PhD student at Teesside University [here](#).



CAREERS

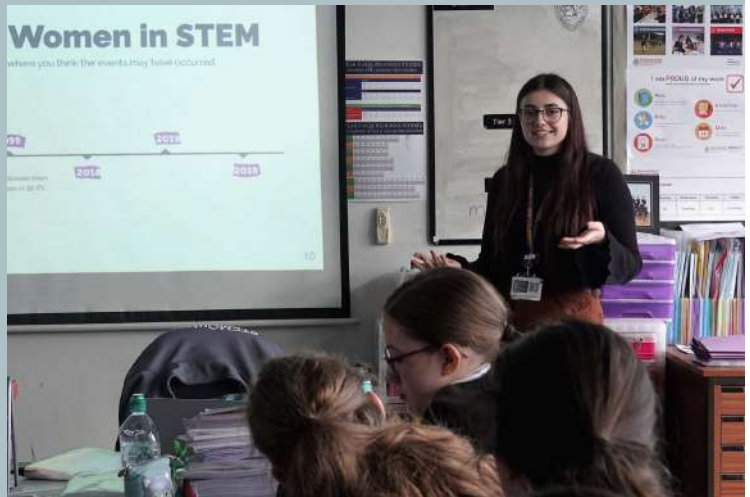
YEAR 8 AND 9 STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ROUTES INTO STEM CAREERS

Careers Week got off to a great start with an assembly and workshop hosted by Naomi Nelson from Newcastle University's STEM outreach team. Naomi spoke to Year 8 students during an assembly about the many routes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers. The students learned about the different opportunities available in this diverse field.

During Period 2, a group of Year 8 and 9 students with a particular interest in STEM attended a dedicated workshop to explore the history of women in STEM and why we need more female scientists and engineers. The aim of the workshop was to raise the profile of women in STEM and empower students to choose STEM subjects as they progress through their academic life and onto their chosen career. The workshop focused on:

- The gender gap/disparity of STEM careers
- A timeline activity which identified milestones for women in STEM and the progress being made.
- Psychology activities which looked at the skills required for a career in STEM and how these differ between the genders.

You can find out more about STEM at Newcastle University [here](#) where there is a host of useful resources



SEVEN ACCOUNTANCY APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WALTER DAWSON & SON

Walter Dawson & Son are recruiting seven Apprentice Accountants throughout Yorkshire – the company has branches in Leyburn, Northallerton, Bradford, Elland, Huddersfield, York and Leeds.

They are looking for motivated, detail-oriented individuals who would like to gain valuable experience in the accounting industry. As an apprentice, you will have the chance to learn and gain experience in accountancy while gaining on-the-job training. This is an exciting opportunity to develop your skills.

If you are interested in this opportunity, visit Walter Dawson's [website](#) and download their apprentice application pack. You can also follow Walter Dawson & Son on [facebook](#).

Kim Mawer, former student, is a chartered accountant at Walter Dawson & Son – find out about Kim's experiences [here](#).



A recruitment banner for Walter Dawson & Son. It features the company logo (WDS) at the top. Below the logo, it says 'GOOD WITH NUMBERS AND PROBLEM SOLVING? HOW ABOUT A CAREER IN FINANCE?'. There is a photo of several people working together at a desk. At the bottom, it says 'WE ARE RECRUITING 7 TRAINEE ACCOUNTANTS'. At the very bottom, it says 'To request more information or apply please contact: apprenticeships@walterdawson.co.uk'.

DARLINGTON COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT THE VALUE OF APPRENTICESHIPS

Our rearranged National Apprenticeship Week assemblies have taken place and we have welcomed Sam Matthews from Darlington College to speak with Years 8, 9 and 11 students about apprenticeships and how the College support these for many local employers. Sam talked to the students about the different levels of apprenticeships, how to apply and how the college training fits in with the work element of an apprenticeship.



ALUMNI RETURN TO OFFER A FLAVOUR OF OXBRIDGE

We were really pleased to welcome the schools' liaison teams from Oxford and Cambridge Universities and former students James Roberts and Florence Hall. The teams spoke to a group of Year 12 students and also a group of Year 10 and 11 students in two separate sessions. They talked through the teaching styles at Oxford and Cambridge and also what it is like to live and study at those universities. They dispelled myths and were open and honest about the application process and expectations. It was lovely to hear the first-hand experiences of James and Florence, who started their studies at Oxford in October.

Sally Byrom, Head of Year 12 and 13, said: "We are very fortunate to have such close links with Oxford and Cambridge Universities and we are so grateful for the regular visits from the liaison teams who support our students every step of the way through the application process. This session was a general introduction and we look forward to welcoming the teams back in the autumn term."



CAREERS

BRITISH ARMY CAREERS EVENT ENGAGES STUDENTS WITH TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP AND PROBLEM-SOLVING ACTIVITIES

Sixty students in Years 11 to 13 worked in partnership with the British Army to gain an insight into the wide variety of careers pathways within the Army. All the students who took part really benefited from the event and were able to develop their strategic thinking and teamwork skills through a series of practical sessions and workshops.

The careers presentation was very informative and students asked questions about Army life and the different jobs available. Furthermore, students had a taste of Army teamwork and problem solving through hands-on and confidence-building activities to develop their mental and physical attributes.

Mr Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate, said: "The event was a huge success. Many of our Year 11 students gained knowledge and understanding of what is available to them within the Army. This has given them more motivation to do well in their upcoming summer examinations as they embark on their further education journeys, as well as given them options on life after GCSEs and A-levels."



Team leader Corporal Stephen said: "The kids were a pleasure, very engaging, needed little to no instruction when completing the tasks and were very respectful towards us and the equipment. We all agreed that it was one of, if not the best schools we have been to in the time we have been doing this."

Richmond School and Sixth Form College will continue to work with the British Army to link school subjects to real-world careers and to promote the British Army as a viable post-16 and post-18 option. Currently, we have two current Year 11s who are halfway through the process of applying and joining the Army Foundation College (AFC) at Harrogate. At the AFC they will complete their 'Junior Entry Phase 1 training establishment' in the British Army. The College plays a vital role in providing the basic military training and developing future leadership. It offers a mix of military training, personal development, and education for under 19s that provides them with skills to succeed in the Armed Forces and their lives beyond the military.



We are very much looking forward to working with the British Army again next year on their work experience residential programme and their elite skills sessions for students across the whole school. Students should look out for information on these events on google classroom and how to participate in these excellent opportunities.

ALUMNI

ALEXANDRA GIVES BACK TO THE NHS

It was fantastic to see alumna and paramedic Alexandra Chapman when she returned to school as a volunteer to work with our Year 8 students on CPR training, something that Alexandra remembers doing herself at school. Alexandra was inspired to become a paramedic after having a difficult experience at school during Years 10 and 11 when she barely attended due to illness. This hugely impacted her GCSEs and self-confidence and, as a result, she was only able to take six GCSEs through being unwell. Alexandra aspired to have a career that helped others when they needed it most. This was her way of giving back to the NHS for the support and care she received.

Alexandra's Q and A gives a fabulous insight into her role as a paramedic and for any students who are considering following this career path it is a must-read feature.

What did you study at sixth form?

I left Richmond Sixth Form College with an A- level in English language and an AS level in Health and Social Care. I went on to study a one-year Level 3 access course in Allied Healthcare at York College to pursue my career goals.

Where did you go to university?

I went to Sheffield Hallam University to study Paramedic Science in 2018 after being successful in several stages of applications and interviews. I qualified as a paramedic in 2021 with a first class honours degree. During my time at Sheffield, I undertook many hospital and ambulance placements during the pandemic which was a difficult time.

Since graduating where have you worked?

After my graduation I took a paramedic position at Harrogate ambulance station where today I continue to provide emergency care to North Yorkshire and the surrounding areas.

What do you enjoy or find most rewarding about being a paramedic?

I absolutely love my job and helping people when they need it most, being able to provide a sense of calm to patients in chaotic situations I find is very rewarding.

Having undertaken three years of intense training and learning, I now feel I have the life-saving skills and knowledge to be a competent paramedic.



ALUMNI

What are the challenges of being a paramedic?

Long hours! Twelve-hour+ shifts can be tiring but you get used to them. Being a paramedic brings lots of different challenges including working in sometimes very high-stress environments which could be inside or outside, dealing with many patient groups and their families.

You have to make sure you have good mental health and wellbeing to deal with the difficult jobs because of the situations you may see when working in the role. Paramedics are very autonomous practitioners and need to be able to make quick and accurate decisions.

Can you describe a typical day as a paramedic?

Shifts usually last twelve hours plus overtime if jobs run over or we are delayed handing over at hospitals. Paramedics work all hours; days, nights, weekends, bank holidays, Christmas and your birthday.

At the start of any shift, ambulances are thoroughly checked for all equipment, drugs and restocked where needed. The vehicle is then also checked over to ensure there are no faults. We are then signed on for shift and await our first call out, notified by our radios.

No day is the same and we attend a range of call-outs sometimes including; providing advanced life support in cardiac arrests, dealing with road traffic accidents and trauma, mental health emergencies, elderly falls, maternal emergencies and paediatric emergencies as required.

What advice would you give a student who is considering being a paramedic?

Believe in yourself and be brave. If being a paramedic is something you aspire to be it can be very rewarding but it takes a lot of resilience and hard work to get there!

Make the mistakes in your training and learn from your mentors, practice educators and lecturers as they will guide you to become confident and competent in your skills. They have a wealth of experience that is invaluable to you passing the course and becoming a healthcare professional. Persevere and stay focused on your goals.



CRIME AUTHOR GOES BACK TO SCHOOL TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF BUDDING WRITERS

A crime author returned to Richmond School and Sixth Form College to share his writing experiences with students and inspire the next generation of budding writers.

Arthur Wheeler, a former Richmond School student in the 1960s, who writes under the pen name of AK Adams, spent time working with two groups of students – Year 10 and Year 11 students, who had a particular interest in creative writing, and Year 13 students who are studying the representation of gender in crime fiction for their A-level English Language Investigation paper.

Arthur gave an overview of his journey to becoming a crime writer and then discussed in detail how he approaches a new book, from his inspiration and plot generation to developing and interweaving different sub-plots, twists and turns to add further intrigue to a story.

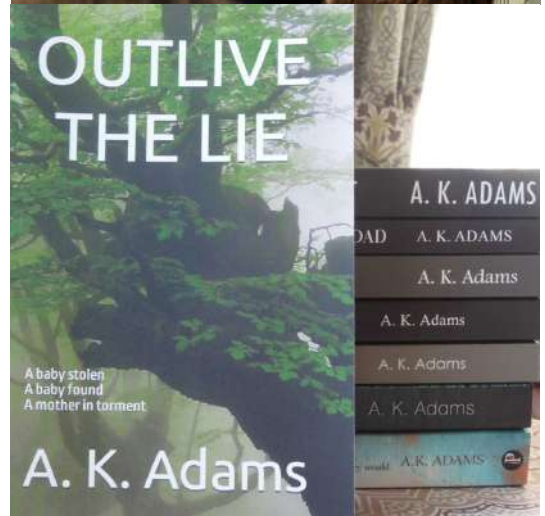
Crime writing in particular is all about problem solving, ensuring all loose ends are tied up. The students learned about conceiving mystery and suspense, the importance of attention to detail is in crime writing and immersing themselves into detective mode.

Rebecca Weston, Lead Teacher for English, said: “It was wonderful for our students to hear an author talking about the joy that writing can bring. As a published writer, Arthur was able to pass on some thoughtful advice about how to generate ideas, the practicalities of writing a novel, and just how important it is to think about the pacing of a plot. Some of the students have already begun to plan out their own stories.”

Ellie Hughes, a Year 10 student who has a real passion for Sherlock Holmes and has been writing her own novel for a while, added: “Mr Wheeler gave some very helpful advice about writing and the art and craft of putting a novel together. He suggested ways to inject tension and suspense into writing and how important the blurb on the back cover of a novel is, being the hook to get readers to buy into the story and ultimately buy the book! Just by being there, he proved that a student from Richmond School could be a published novelist.”

Arthur turned to writing after retiring from a successful career in the healthcare industry. He chose the crime thriller genre as he welcomes the challenge of creating the anticipation of ‘what happens next’ for his readers. Arthur has recently published his eighth novel, ‘Outlive the Lie’, about a mother who has her baby, Adam, snatched from a special care baby unit in Sunderland, and then, with the help of the police and social services, begins her search for him. Arthur’s books are available locally at Richmond’s Castle Hill Bookshop, as well as Amazon and Waterstones and you can follow him on [facebook](#).

Arthur said: “It was a privilege to chat to such inquisitive and interested students who posed insightful questions. I really hope the students got something out of the sessions and if I have only inspired one of them to go on and do some creative writing then I consider that a success. However, judging by the response in the room, I am confident that many of the students are already creating some fantastic writing and I hope this continues. It’s a credit to the school that they seemed to really engage with the idea of what it would be like to go further with their own writing because there are certainly a few budding writers among them.”



ALUMNI

LEARNING DOESN'T HAVE TO END WHEN YOU FINISH EDUCATION

Jude Robinson was, by her own admission, never an academic! As Head of Sixth Form back in the day (1984), Mr Lynch was sceptical about her coping with three A-levels having come to college with only a handful of average O-levels. Grateful for the chances she has had, constantly learning, Jude has seized opportunities and grown from a quiet, shy student, embracing her determination, and never giving up whatever the challenge. She has enjoyed a varied and very successful career, currently Deputy Director of Business Strategy for Department of Work and Pensions, one of the biggest government departments, delivering vital services that touch the lives of almost every one of us in the UK at some point.

Let's hear in Jude's words how the choices she has made have defined her, constantly learning and what advice she shares with us, including some of the fantastic and diverse career opportunities available in the Civil Service through apprenticeships and graduate entry.

Choosing to join Richmond Sixth Form College, was the making of me! I managed to pass my three A-levels, however through the whole Sixth Form experience, college environment and the encouragement of staff and students, I learnt so much about myself, came out of my shell, made lifelong friendships, and became who I am today!

I wanted to do a degree and opted for a foundation course, given average A-level grades, that got me onto the second year of a degree course. I learnt there is always a way, it might not be obvious, but if you want it, you'll find it and studying something you are passionate about helps you succeed - I nailed my degree!

You don't learn and grow sitting in one spot. Try everything you can – a graduate scheme is good for that. I was able to cover lots of ground in Northern Electric through such a scheme, never saying no to opportunities, accepting roles that saw me become the youngest Retail Manager and lead the Customer Service Teams for our VIP partnerships. I discovered my passion for all things 'customers' early on! Only by taking chances and exploring new roles can you find out more about yourself and where you want to go in the future.

Taking on extra-curricular activities also helps you learn about yourself, develop, and use new skills and gain knowledge in different contexts. Back in the 90s two things stand out for me that helped grow my career; volunteering to act as secretariat for the 'Board', taking the minutes of meetings. I became more visible to leaders and learnt a lot about running the business. The other was taking part in Outdoor Challenges - teambuilding activities where we competed against other companies - honing my leadership and teambuilding skills, raising lots of money for charity as well as having fun. These endeavours can be inside or outside work but crossover – think about what you do that you can take the learning into the workplace and vice versa.



ALUMNI

My career grew, and took me to new companies, big brands; Orange the mobile phone company, Sage Accounting Software, headhunted by their US competitor, Intuit QuickBooks, going global and working between London and San Francisco.

Through these organisations I had the privilege of working for some great leaders. A great boss will give you feedback, instil confidence in you and inspire you to be enthusiastic and perform at your best. Don't ever stop asking for feedback from everyone you work with and act on it! To build your confidence and experience, find a coach or mentor. The benefits are huge, personal growth, skills development and it doesn't have to cost anything - look on Eventbrite.com as they often list free coaching events, many coaches offer free webinars or think about who you admire and why, then follow them social media.

Networking has been a key tool to growth in my career, whether friends made at school and university, colleagues I've stayed in touch, my network has been a great source of help, inspiration, and advice. They've given me different perspectives, new ideas to help me solve problems. We've exchanged information, learnings, experiences, and insights that I had not even thought of, helping me improve my skills and even open doors to new job opportunities.

Through working with coaches and my own personal growth, I've developed a core set of values that define me: I always want to make a difference, ensuring a positive impact or outcome. I am open and honest, as it's the best way to build trust. I collaborate, work together with people and empower them, giving direction whilst allowing them freedom to grow and I try to do the right thing. I constantly remind myself of these.

My journey has not been without its challenges and wrong choices along the way. I've made mistakes, but always tried to learn from them. There was a time I rushed a press advert and didn't check the telephone number we wanted customers to ring. It was wrong and some poor householder was bombarded with phone calls instead of the agency! I've been in very tough environments, including bullying and harassment and redundancy situations.

I've learnt not to fear change or challenge, to speak up and act, making hard choices, such as leaving the company where bullying occurred, resigning when the job just didn't feel right for me. The best advice I can give you is never look back, things happen for a reason, see it as a stepping stone to your next success.

And that's just what I did three years ago, taking a huge steppingstone in to my last career move, joining the Civil Service, specifically the Department for Work and Pension (DWP). Having spent 30 years in private sector, and proud of my achievements, I wanted to share my experiences and learning with a public organisation that does so much for those that need help, whether it's getting back into employment, encouraging disabled people to be independent, helping the most vulnerable in society.

The UK Civil Service is a great opportunity. The scale, complexity, and impact of the work we do is unrivalled. Joining the Civil Service will give you access to exceptional learning and development opportunities and a variety of roles and career paths. You could be working as a vet, a customer service advisor, a weapons engineer, a marine biologist, or a web developer to name a few! We are making a real difference to help improve the lives of people living in this country. Take a look at the Civil Service [Fast Stream](#) and [Apprenticeship](#) opportunities.

Whatever you choose to do, enjoy it, and remember to have fun!



Class of 1986 at Richmond Sixth Form College and meeting up again in 2019!

HEADTEACHER'S CREDIT VALUES AWARD

Winter Roberts, in Year 8, was nominated by Miss Dowson who said: "I would like to nominate Winter Roberts again for the Headteacher's CREDIT values award. Winter has worked really hard since September and is currently top of the Year 8 CREDITS board. She has worked in an incredibly mature way this academic year and has been completely focussed on her work.

"I have nominated Winter before in the Autumn Term but she was pipped at the post - since then she has continued to work hard and I think deserves a second nomination for being a great example of someone who wanted to improve, has made the right choices and is now absolutely excelling."

(24th

Feb)



Alice Brown, in Year 13, was nominated by Ms Dunwoodie who said: "Alice has completed a fantastic EPQ project that reflects a level of maturity and intellectual insight way beyond her years. Alice has created a 20-minute-long film montage and essay regarding the representation of AIDS and the impact of the queer cinema movement. For someone so young, her insight into such a sensitive subject area is phenomenal. Alice had to watch many films, television programmes and articles, navigating through a range of perspectives in order to share the true power and impact cinema can have on people, representation and culture.

"I truly believe that Alice will become a hugely influential film and television creator herself in the future and I know she will use this to have a positive impact in the world. Well done Alice and it is a privilege to watch you develop and grow during your time at Richmond School and Sixth Form College."

(3rd Mar)



Will Hume, in Year 11, was nominated by Miss Bainbridge who said: "I would like to nominate Will Hume in Year 11 for determination and independence in German. Will is a fantastic linguist and despite his grade 4 target, he is currently working overall at a grade 7+. His work ethic, enthusiasm, maturity and positivity are all absolutely outstanding. Will helps those around him in class and this motivation and kindness inspire others to push themselves too. When I gave him his PPE papers to look at in class last week, he identified that one of his skill areas wasn't as strong as the others and asked questions to help him improve.

"The next lesson, he told me that he had downloaded all of the papers available online and was completing them all independently to work on his technique and learn the key words he doesn't know in each text. I thought this was an example of an absolute excellent student - Will really is a credit to the school. I am delighted to have him in my class and if he continues to work like this, he may even get a grade 8 in the summer."



HEADTEACHER'S CREDIT VALUES AWARD

Joe Mckinlay, in Year 11, was nominated by Miss Tucker who said: "Joe is one of those students who works hard and produces excellent work day in, day out, without question. Joe is fairly quiet and always works very independently and so sometimes doesn't get the credit he deserves. As his tutor, I have noticed that he has not received a single C in Year 11. From memory, I believe he has only ever had 1 C throughout his almost 5 years here.

"As his Food teacher, I have had the pleasure of watching Joe's creative cooking skills develop fantastically, particularly over the last year. Joe works in a pub, The Greyhound Inn at Hackforth, where he started by washing dishes and lending a hand in making desserts. Joe now cooks more often at the pub as well as researching new dishes, which the pub has since added to the menu. It is exciting to watch Joe's Food knowledge and skills develop and I can't wait to see what he cooks next!"

(17th Mar)



Lily Connell, in Year 10, was nominated by Mrs Gleave who said: "I would like to nominate Lily Connell who completed her Spoken Language Endorsement in English today. It's fair to say she was terrified and completely outside her comfort zone. However, she was (by choice) the first student to deliver her talk. It was very well prepared and practised and she spoke in a confident, knowledgeable and informed manner on the subject of student mental health.

"She communicated effectively with her audience and responded to questions with thought and consideration. Most importantly, she was extremely brave in overcoming her very genuine fear. I hope it encourages her to know she can overcome obstacles - really well done Lily."



OUR VALUES

CREDIT



PRIMARY TRANSITION

A FANTASTIC PRIMARY PANATHLON EVENT

Twenty of our Year 12 Sports Leaders led a fantastic Panathlon event for our local primary schools. Panathlon is a national charity and every year it gives young people with disabilities and special educational needs the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. Val French, who works for Panathlon, has been delivering these events at Richmond School for the last five years. She inspires the young pupils taking part with her infectious enthusiasm and offers invaluable training to our sports leaders who go on to run these events. This Panathlon was a huge success with an impressive 70 children across 9 different Primary schools taking part and our 20 Sports Leaders from Year 12 at Richmond School receiving training and experience.



Within Panathlon, the pupils follow a carousel of fully inclusive activities which include kurling, boccia, messi football and ten-pin bowling, to name a few. When chatting to the primary pupils during and after the event, they shared one of their favourite activities as parachute popcorn which involves launching dozens of colourful balls off a parachute into the air to then chase them and collect them back into the correct container.

The event concluded with a presentation from Ms Hooton, chair of governors and Mrs Potter, headteacher. Ms Hooton celebrated all pupils before presenting them each with medals and certificates.

The results were as follows;

- 1st Sacred Heart
- 2nd Bolton on Swale
- 3rd Hipswell
- 4th Thornton Watlass/ Hackforth & Hornby [combined]
- 5th Brompton on Swale
- 5th North South Cowton
- 5th Richmond Methodist
- 6th Michael Syddall
- 7th Wavell



PRIMARY TRANSITION

FUN FOR ALL IN PRIMARY DODGEBALL LEAGUES

During the first half of the spring term we have enjoyed hosting a number of primary dodgeball leagues. Primary schools have brought teams of pupils from Years 3 to 6 to take part in a number of different competitions. Year 13 Sports Leaders have officiated at each event to ensure the games were fun and fair for everyone.

Many Thanks to Carnagill, Cambrai, Colburn, Hipswell, Le Cateau, Wavell, Michael Syddall, Richmond Methodist, Richmond St Mary's, Bolton-on-Swale, Brompton-on-Swale, Hunton and Arrathorne, Bedale Primary, RAF Leeming and Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas for participating in these events.



A WELCOME RETURN TO PRIMARY SCHOOL GYMNASTICS



It was great to host the first Primary School Gymnastics competition since before Covid. The pupils were able to take part on the brand new mats which have been kindly provided by the Richmond School Trustees. Pupils performed a floor routine, vault and body management routine to earn points for their team. We ran three competitions for Years 1-2, Years 3-4 and Years 5-6. Congratulations to Brompton-on-Swale for winning the Years 1-2 and 3-4 competitions and to Michael Syddall for winning the Years 5-6 competition.



PRIMARY TRANSITION

BREAKING POINT DANCE CLUB LEAD SUPERB AFRICAN DANCE WORKSHOP

Members of our Breaking Point Boys Dance Club led a superb African Dance workshop for students from Trinity Academy Richmond Primary School. The Years 7,8 and 12 students helped choregraph the routine and then passed on their experience. Pupils from Years 4 to 6 enjoyed the workshop and it was most timely as they are currently learning about this in their lessons.



Lauren Straub, Dance Teacher, said: "The Breaking Point Boys Dance Club students did an amazing job. I was really impressed with them as they only had seven rehearsals to rehearse the movement and to learn how to teach - they all did this confidently. The primary school students really enjoyed the experience of performing alongside Breaking Point students and many said how much fun they had."



For any boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 wishing to join Breaking Point Dance Club please come along to CF02 at 15:30 on a Tuesday from 15:30 to 16:30.



PRIMARY TRANSITION

YOUNG PLAYGROUND LEADERS DEVELOP THEIR SKIPPING SKILLS

It was fantastic to host a training session for young playground leaders from ten of our local primary schools. The session was led by Gail Robinson, from Skipping Schools, who taught the young leaders a range of individual, paired and group skipping games that they could take back to their schools to increase activity levels of pupils at break and lunch times.

The pupils were given the basic coaching principles to ensure they could help all pupils to learn how to skip and then develop these skills with advanced games and practices.

Many thanks to Bainbridge, Askrigg, West Burton (BAWB), Hipswell, Sacred Heart, Leeming RAF, Richmond St Marys, Aiskew, Leeming Bar, Croft, Le Cateau, Leeming and Londonderry, Pickhill and Michael Syddall Primary School's for supporting this event.



A FESTIVAL OF FUN

An archery, kurling and boccia event was created to engage pupils who are less motivated by the traditional offer of school sport. Hosted in our sports hall, the primary pupils followed a carousel of fun archery and kurling games. Once they had completed these they played some boccia games against the other schools in attendance. Ten schools supported the event by bringing teams of six pupils.

Our Lynsey Carruthers, Primary School Sport Coordinator, said: "Our Year 12 student leaders and sports leaders led this event with enthusiasm and a great level of maturity. They had to think on their feet and adapt the games to individual pupils' needs, work under pressure and to a set timescale and ended up producing an incredibly positive event.

"The aim of the event was to provide positive, new experiences for the pupils which was definitely achieved. Their happy faces, engagement in all of the games and support for each other within the presentation was testament to this."



PRIMARY TRANSITION

YOUNG SPORTS LEADERS PRAISED FOR DOING AN INCREDIBLE JOB AT FAST-PACED TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT

A fun-filled tag rugby competition was attended by seven local primary schools. Our Young Sports Leaders officiated at the event after receiving training from Year 13 student Alana Teasdale. Alana plays rugby for the Wensleydale Heifers at Wensleydale Rugby Club and is studying a range of A-levels, including CTEC Sport.



Alana ran a practical coaching session on how to referee the game fairly but firmly. The Young Leaders, Joshua Smith, Emmy Raggett, Isaac Lamb, Josie Haxell, Faith Lincoln, Georgina Braidley, Freya Clement, Will Swainston Jackson Olliver, Henry Ward and Charlotte Allum, who range from Years 7 to 9, were fantastic in such a fast-paced tournament.



Mr Firmin, from Brompton-on Swale Primary School, gave them special thanks after the presentation as he recognised how difficult the role of a referee is but stated that they did an incredible job.



Thank you to Barton, Bolton-on-Swale, Brompton-on-Swale, Croft, Ravensworth, Richmond Methodist and Richmond St Mary's for supporting the event.