

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Welcome to our December Newsletter

I'd like to start my introduction by thanking all parties - students, staff and parents for their support over the course of this very important term. We have seen a very positive impact following our ban on phones and smartwatches and it really has been a genuine team effort. It was a bold move, but one that we were more than ready to make. I am delighted that this strategy was so successful so quickly and we now have very, very few issues - essentially, phones and the difficulties they create for students and staff in school are no longer a problem.

This has had the knock-on effect that we have been able to focus very keenly on raising standards in school through the implementation of the 5 key routines. Again, this is an enormous piece of work that will continue all year. We have seen some examples of really outstanding practice and will be sharing this across the staff team in the new year so that we can all learn from each other. Our aim is to create a consistently calm and focused learning environment across the entire school - every lesson every day - and again, I am very pleased with the effects of this new approach after term 1.

As usual, the build up to Christmas has been fantastic too. We have enjoyed several concerts - firstly, the Mayor's Concert, hosted by The Leyburn Band (featuring our very own Mrs Howard and Mr Millman, along with students Freddie Lundberg, Tom Grigg, Edwin Carr, Andrew Lunn and Thomas Pyrah). The Richmond School Chamber Choir also performed, with some members (Georgina Braidley, Maisy Forbes, Evie Harrison, Lara Scarr, Isla Wilkinson, Elsa Wright, Emily Jones and Phoebe Allenby) also featuring in the Richmond Choral Society's Christmas concert. The Mayor's concert was conducted by alumna Rebecca Lundberg who was also the guest speaker at our September Presentation Evening. We then enjoyed a really wide variety of performances at our Christmas Concert at School and then finally we enjoyed our superb, traditional Carol Service at St Mary's Church, where Molly Shanley started the evening with the opening verse of Once in Royal David's City.

It has been a very long, but very positive term and I wish you all a good break over the next two weeks.

We look forward to coming back refreshed and ready for the new term in January.

Happy Christmas

Jenna Potter, Headteacher



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ECO CLUB WIN PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD.

Representatives from Richmond School Eco Club attended an awards ceremony in Harrogate recently, following a nomination for a North Yorkshire Community Action Award within the 'Caring For The Environment' category.

This year saw the introduction of this category which recognises those who dedicate their time to care for the environment. The Eco Club was one of 147 nominees in the awards across the three categories.

North Yorkshire Council's chair, Cllr. David Ireton, said: "We are pleased to celebrate the achievements of the many individuals, groups and businesses who go the extra mile to help their communities.

This award recognises groups who have demonstrated a commitment to delivering community-based initiatives that protect, restore and enhance our natural environment, helping to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change or supporting nature to thrive.

With many households feeling the crunch during the cost-of-living crisis, it's great to see people come together to support the most vulnerable in North Yorkshire. This year also sees an emphasis on protecting our environment, and we have recognised the brilliant work that goes on to tackle climate change."



After the ceremony, Connie Spittlehouse, who runs Eco Club, said: "Richmond School Eco Club were proud runners up in the award, winning a prize of £250!

During the ceremony a video was played with information about the group and the work we've been doing in the local community.

It was a fantastic event and the students loved getting to meet all the other nominees doing incredible work across our region. It was great to see 'Sustainable Swaledale' take first prize - we already have good links with them. We came home very humbled and inspired to have been nominated and with lots of links within the community we would like to continue our work with."

The success of Eco Club at the awards has prompted North Yorkshire County Council to create a new category especially for schools - we look forward to playing a leading role in the future!

We are immensely proud of all the work the Eco Club does and are privileged to have such a wonderful community supporting us. Well done Richmond School Eco Club!



JUST THE JOB! - ECO CLUB VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL COMMUNITY WOODLAND PROJECT

Over the past two weeks Eco Club have been volunteering with Just The Job, a local social enterprise charity at their new community woodland project, Rufus Woods, in Richmond.

We took over 20 volunteers from the club to take part in a range of activities including clearing paths for visitors and checking the health of the trees, as well as making reptile houses to encourage some more slithery visitors!

Students used a range of equipment including sickles, drills, saws and shears to create the new habitats. The reptile houses were built using materials the pupils had sourced themselves such as wood, sticks, pine cones and conkers they had collected, as well as repurposed pallets and dried grasses that were cut from clearing the paths. We also learnt about the important work Just The Job is involved with in the local community and heard from our own Year 13 students who have completed work experience and continue to volunteer with Just The Job, to understand more about careers in the community / environmental sector.



The Eco Club would like to thank Just The Job for the opportunity to explore the amazing Rufus Woods, for showing them new skills and helping to develop their leadership qualities. We would also like to thank the community for their continued support of Eco Club.



ECO CLUB AND RICHMOND METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL PICK 11 BAGS OF LITTER!

Students from Richmond School Eco Club recently took part in a joint litter pick with Richmond Methodist Primary School on the school grounds.

Students from all year groups teamed up with litter pickers and bin bags to clear the school site of litter. A huge variety of items were found - not all of them litter! Over 10 different types of sports equipment were found, including brand new football boots!

All students showed resilience, respect and great enthusiasm and enjoyed the collaborative project. We eventually collected 11 full bin bags worth of litter and recyclables.

This is the first of many collaborative projects we have planned in our community and the Eco Club is looking forward to working with RMS again in the future.



RICHMOND SIXTH FORM STUDENTS DELIVER POWERFUL ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE TO THEIR PEERS.

Two of the leading students in Richmond School's Eco Club, Hannah Slater and Cameron Smith, recently delivered an assembly with a powerful and relevant message to their Sixth Form College peers. Miss Spittlehouse, geography teacher and leader of the Eco Club, explains:

"In a recent assembly, two of our wonderful sixth form students took to the stage to share insights on 'Rivers and Ecosystems' in our local area, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Their presentation skillfully balanced facts with a practical outlook, shedding light on the local flora and fauna while addressing the issue of river pollution, specifically sewage in our waters.

The assembly wasn't just informative; it was a reminder of the real challenges our environment faces. Hannah and Cameron chose the topic themselves, crafted the assembly from start to finish and reached out to the Local Authority, Yorkshire Dales River Trust and Save Our Swale Action Group to ensure the assembly was factual and included action taking place in the local community.

Hannah and Cameron are active leaders of the Eco Club and undoubtedly showcased not only their academic prowess but also their ability to ignite a collective curiosity about the world around us. The assembly was not just a presentation; it was a celebration of our local environment and a call to action for everyone to become stewards of our precious rivers and ecosystems. A huge well done to both students for their fantastic assembly, but also for their bravery in public speaking."



After the assembly Hannah said: "It is nerve-racking to stand in front of many young adults and express your views on any topic, and I am proud of Cameron and me for facing that fear. It cannot be understated the need for people to stay informed about what is occurring in our local community, especially with our beautiful river. I'm very grateful to have been given the opportunity to help change the future of our river for the better."

Cameron added: "It is important that we continue to educate our peers on the destruction of our local environment and to encourage them to take action."

We look forward to catching up with Cameron, Hannah and the Eco Club next year to find out more about the environmental action they have planned, and the important message they continue to communicate within the school community and beyond.

If you would like to see Hannah and Cameron's brilliant presentation that accompanied their assembly, then click on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Y12Rivers>

YEAR 8 STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO 'RESTART A HEART'

Richmond School recently hosted another massively successful 'Restart a Heart' day for all of our Year 8 students. The day has been happening for over 20 years now, meaning that over 4000 current and ex Richmond School students have the knowledge and skills to perform CPR.

We were once again superbly supported by experts from our local NHS community and Fire Service. The day was led by Nickey Hebb, an Emergency Care Practitioner as well as a Parent Governor at the school, along with a paramedic, a first responder and a five strong team from Richmond Fire Service.

Our students were taught the technique of hands only CPR using anatomically realistic dummies, as well as what dangers to look out for and when not to start CPR.

Everyone got involved using the 'Rate, Depth, Don't Stop' slogan to the beat of the BeeGees 'Stayin' Alive' to get their rhythm just right at 100-120 compressions per minute. It was surprisingly hard work but our Year 8 students kept going!

Chances of survival from a cardiac arrest decrease by 10% for every minute that passes without CPR. If our students ever come across a person whose heart has stopped beating they are now able to start the 'Chain of Survival' with early CPR to improve the patient's chances of survival.

Well done to all students for engaging so positively with the activities. A huge thank you to all those NHS and Fire Service staff who helped out on the day and also thanks to Mrs. Walker for once again organising the day.



RICHMOND SCHOOL REMEMBERS

As has been the case for many years, Richmond School and Sixth Form College's students and staff played a proud part in a variety of events commemorating Remembrance Day across the county and further afield.

Starting furthest away, Jon Giddens, Richmond School and Sixth Form College's indomitable Site Team Leader made his customary journey to London to take part in the Remembrance Parade at the London Cenotaph.

Jon said: "I marched with the Royal Signals Association at the London Cenotaph Remembrance Day Parade as I have done for several years now. The parade enables former soldiers to remember fallen comrades of past conflicts. I spent 23 years in the Royal Corps. of Signals, leaving in 2012 as a Staff Sergeant. I served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan and exercised in many other countries."



Closer to home, Richmond School students joined over 700 children of Armed Forces personnel at the Service of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral.

Mr. Birdsall, the school's Service Children's Advocate, had this to say: "James Hall and Skye Cox in Year 8 and Freddie Hobson and Lars Bryan in Year 9 were honoured to attend the Service of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral on Friday.

The Cathedral was full to capacity with service children from across North Yorkshire. Lars was proud to be a standard bearer. A Parade Marshal from the Royal British Legion showed Lars how to carry the standard before he joined the parade with the Royal British Legion standard bearers. Skye and James also contributed to the service with a reading from the bible.

The students were delighted to see a display of artwork at the altar which included designs created by our service students."



The artwork mentioned above included more than 300 poppy mandalas created by students during 16 workshops at schools in the months leading up to the festival. We reported on the workshop run at Richmond School earlier on in the term here:

[Remembrance Day artwork at Ripon Cathedral.](#)

North Yorkshire County Council have a more detailed report here:

[NYCC Remembrance service report.](#)

Back in Richmond, our students took part in two events. James Hall and Skye Cox laid the wreath at the Remembrance Service at Friary Gardens. James and Skye were joined by Mrs. Potter, Headteacher, and Mr. Birdsall, Service Children's Advocate.

Jenna Potter said: "Each year, many of our students take part in Parades and Remembrance Services in Richmondshire and across the Dales representing the Ministry of Defence Cadet Forces, Scouts, the Emergency Services and other organisations. Thank you to all our students who have been involved in this most important occasion and for showing the utmost respect for those who have lost their lives in conflict.



I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the students in school and college who have devoted time to creating so many beautiful memorials. I have been hugely impressed by our service students who created the poppy inspired mandalas that were displayed at the Service of Remembrance at Ripon Cathedral"

Mr. Birdsall added: "As Richmond School and Sixth Form College's Service Children's Advocate, it has been a huge honour to be involved in this year's events to commemorate Remembrance. Our service students are an incredible group of students and they embody such resilience and determination. The support they have for each other is outstanding and I am so proud of the students who represented the school and college at these formal events. I am looking forward to working more closely with our service students throughout the year."



Also in the town, two of Richmond School's musicians, Freddie Lundberg and Tom Grigg joined with representatives from the Royal British Legion to perform The Last Post. In the market square, those within earshot fell silent as the brass notes faded and 11 o' clock struck.

You can see their performance here:

<https://youtu.be/VZ02PJ8qxP4>

At Richmond School and Sixth Form College, Tom and Freddie also played a pivotal role. They played the Last Post as individuals - Tom in the Foyer of the Sixth Form College and Freddie at the West Door of Clarke Hall - his performance was broadcast across the school from speakers on the West Door steps, where Richmond School cadets, proudly wearing their Ministry of Defence uniforms, stood with their heads bowed. Their performances marked the start of a two minute silence - every student and staff member stopped and took this chance to reflect.

You can see Tom's performance here:

<https://youtu.be/SzJOYCZ7Rnc>

And Freddie's here:

<https://youtu.be/RVUGw39CcbU>



In addition to Freddie's duties in Richmond, he then travelled to Mossley, near Manchester, to play trumpet and march through the village with students and staff from Mossley Hollins High School. A busy weekend!

Throughout the week leading up to the two minute's silence at Richmond School, Mrs. Mawer, Lead Teacher of History had delivered a series of poignant assemblies on those who had fallen in conflict and remembering those who were conscripted to National Service.

The commemoration of Remembrance Day means a great deal to the students and staff of Richmond School and Sixth Form College, as well as our wider community. Once again we have been proud to support this year's wide range of events and to showcase the respect, determination and teamwork of our amazing students and staff.



RICHMOND SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE STUDENTS SHOW FANTASTIC SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FOOD BANK APPEAL

Every year, leading up to Christmas, students from Richmond School and Sixth Form College take part in a food bank appeal to collect donations for a local food bank, the StoreHouse, a project set up by the Influence Church in Richmond.

Miss Spittlehouse, who coordinated the appeal this year, said: "There has been an overwhelming response to the food bank appeal this year, with an enormous number of donations from each tutor group across the school. I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated and volunteered to help organise the appeal. It is so heartwarming to see the community come together to support each other over the festive period to ensure everyone has something to look forward to. The generosity of the Richmond School community is incredible and it will go a long way in helping individuals and families in our local area. Thank you!"

Ms. Richardson, Head of Sixth Form added: "When our students found out about the request to support local families, they were immediately keen to help. Each tutor group in the Sixth Form has made at least one hamper and we are delighted to send them to the StoreHouse food bank in time for Christmas. Our Sixth Form students continue to impress me with the care they show for others and this project demonstrates that perfectly!"

The photo of students around the Christmas tree in the foyer of the Sixth Form College shows Hannah Slater, Cameron Smith, Max Roberts and Philippa Kind, all Year 12 students.

StoreHouse Richmond will be open over the festive period as follows:

Donations: Tuesday 9-5.30, Wednesday 9-5.30 Thursday 9-11.30

Foodbank: Thursday 21st 4-6pm & Thursday 28th 4-5pm



JESS DANCES TO FURTHER SUCCESS

Earlier this year, we published [a story](#) about Jess Clapton, a Year 9 student, detailing the success she has achieved in ballroom dancing with her partner Georgie Swift. The article ended by saying that Jess was looking forward to competing this year and pushing herself to continually improve and be the best dancer she can be.

Has Jess competed this year? Has she pushed herself to improve? The answer to these questions is a very big yes!

We caught up with Jess recently for an update on what has been a busy season of dancing - training, travelling and competing...

What's been your most recent competition, Jess, and how did you do?

That was last weekend - freestyle. I made the semi-finals, like I did last year. We started with about 100 competitors, then through the rounds to the semi-finals - about 20 dancers.

Ok, fantastic effort! But the really big one was before that, in Blackpool? Tell us about that one.

Yes. That was the IDTA Nationwide Classical and Modern competition. We've been practising the dances for about a year and I became a double finalist!



Wow! How does that compare to all the other competitions you've done over the years?

That's probably the best I've ever done - very pleased!

Give us a bit more detail about the competition that weekend and exactly where you came?

We stayed in a hotel in Blackpool. On a dance day you have to get up really early - between five and six in the morning - you've got to take your time getting ready. Makeup and hair, then steaming the dress to get the crinkles out. I don't have much for breakfast because I'm usually quite nervous - maybe a smoothie. Then you walk over to the ballroom for the competition.

There were four dances for each discipline - Classical and Modern, so eight dances in total. About 70 competitors in my category - girl / girl up to 12 years old - my partner is Georgie Swift. We danced through the rounds and we managed to get into the finals for both dances.



So, how does that work? You're into the final and you dance and the judges write their scores down. How do you get to know what position you've come?

Ok, so you dance your final and then you have to wait for all the other age groups to dance until the presentations. You don't know what position you've come for quite a long time. At the end of the session all the competitors assemble downstairs and then you're just waiting and waiting for your number to be called. When it's called you'll curtsy to the audience and the President of the Dance and then shake the judges' hands. It's quite formal! We came seventh in the Modern category, then we had to wait a bit longer for the Classical...

...is there a podium for the top three?!

Yes. We came second!

That's brilliant - and so much hard work and preparation, not just on the weekend but all the way through the year leading up to these finals. Tell us a little bit about the training and practice, and also what's next - what are you looking forward to?

I dance with the Applegarth Academy of Dance at West Cornforth. The main session is on Tuesdays for three hours, but also on Thursdays and Saturdays - about seven hours per week. It's quite hard fitting in my schoolwork, but they have a room where you can work. I do OK!

And the future. There are some qualifiers coming up where I will do some more dances, hopefully qualifying for Blackpool again next year. It'll be harder though, because I'm moving up into the next age group category - 13 to 15 years old. The steps get much harder and you wear different shoes - heels instead of blocks. The dresses are better, though - lots of sparkles and glitter!



And do you get any time off?!

It's quieter between December and March, but we'll be back into the qualifiers and competitions in April.

Well deserved! Thank you so much for taking the time to talk about your dancing, Jess. We very much look forward to hearing about how things go in your new age category - make sure you keep us posted, and all the very best for next year.



AARON DIVES DEEP FOR CAREER AMBITION.

Aaron Deakin, a Year 9 student at Richmond School, recently took the opportunity to gain a series of increasingly technical scuba diving qualifications that will increase his chances of achieving his ambition to join the RAF.

He started with the 'Basic Diver' which involves developing skills within five metres depth and learning how to cope with scenarios that could happen. Passing this enabled Aaron to dive accompanied by an instructor.

Aaron then moved on to 'Certified Scuba Diver'. This increased the depth to 12 metres and involved developing more complex skills and coping with more technical scenarios. He was tested on 12 'Case Assessments', which he passed, enabling him to dive anywhere in the world down to a depth of 12m without an instructor.

The final qualification was 'Qualified Open Water Diver'. This really ramped up the technical aspect of diving, including being able to remove and replace all diving equipment at depth, swimming unmasked and dealing with ocean currents and 'surroundings complications'. This now allows Aaron to gain experience, eventually working towards his 'Divemaster' qualification, when he can become a fully qualified instructor.

As you can imagine, these qualifications are very rarely taken by people as young as Aaron. Aaron's mum said: "This is a massive achievement for a 13 year old. He has outshone everyone and taken it all in his stride. I could not be prouder of everything he has achieved!"

Aaron is now one step closer to his career goal of joining the RAF as an Engineer Technician after his GCSEs. We look forward to tracking his progress towards this goal and finding out about any more scuba diving adventures!



RICHMOND SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETES THRIVE IN TOUGH CONDITIONS - AGAIN!

In what can only be described as 'traditional' cross country conditions, 22 of our athletes qualified for the Area Cross Country Championships with students qualifying from all year groups.

Notable achievements include first places for Tomas Hoole (Year 9) and Benedict Simpson-Alexander (Year 13); second places for Connie Wilford (Year 7), Henry Wright (Year 11), Lilly-Mae McCafferty (Year 10) and third places for Icha Gurung (Year 9), Matilda Ellis (Year 10) and Isaac Lamb (Year 10).

In addition, well done to Wilf Lamb and Aiden Johnson in Year 8, Isaac Lamb, Isaac Tate, Lily-Mae McCafferty, Matilda Ellis, Isla Simpson and Lilly-Ann Thwaite in Year 10 as well as Theo Webster in Year 12 who all qualified in races which included students from older year groups.

Not only was it great to see the students perform so well in such horrendous conditions, but it was also fantastic to see how the students supported and looked after each other throughout the event.

Well done to all Richmond athletes and thanks to Ms Johnson and Mr. Randall for organising the trip. We look forward to seeing how our athletes perform in the Area Championships!



RICHMOND SCHOOL RUN AWAY WITH FIVE AREA CROSS COUNTRY TROPHIES!

43 Richmond School students from Years 7 to Year 11 travelled to Northallerton recently to compete in the Area Cross Country Team Championships.

The torrential rain provided ideal traditional cross country running conditions that suited our hardy athletes perfectly! Richmond achieved some superb results, both as individuals and as teams, winning five of the eight trophies: Year 7 girls, Year 9 girls, Year 10/11 girls, Year 9 boys and Year 10/11 boys were all Area Champions. A dominant display!

Notable individual achievements included Henry Wright (Year 11) 1st, Lily-Mae McCafferty (Year 10) 1st, Tomas Hoole (Year 9) 2nd, Wilf Lamb (Year 8) 2nd, Connie Wilford (Year 7) 2nd and Winter Roberts (Year 9) 3rd.

Ms Johnson, Assistant Headteacher, said: "It was so good to see our students supporting each other and delivering excellent performances in difficult conditions - we were all soaked to the skin!"

Well done to all Richmond athletes for showing such determination and teamwork and for performing so brilliantly in such challenging conditions! Thanks also to Ms Johnson and Mr. Randall for organising the trip.



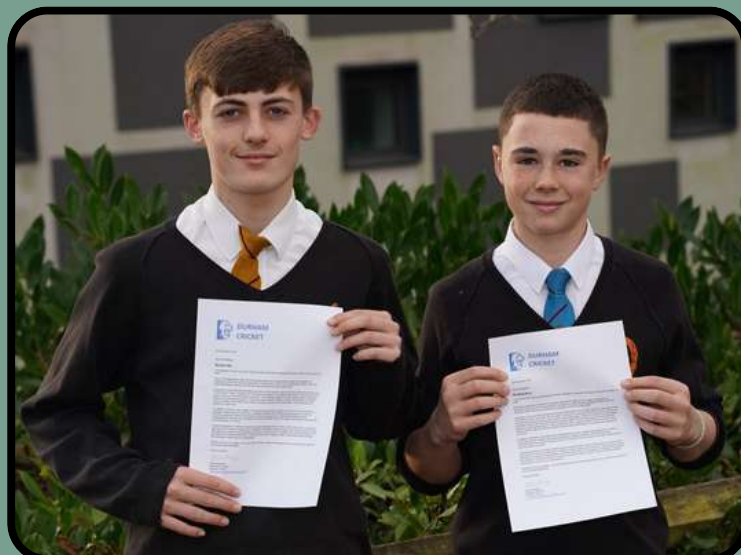
RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT DURHAM CRICKET

Isaac Tate in Year 10 and Bertie Morris in Year 8 have been selected to represent Durham Cricket for the 2024 season. This is the second time Isaac has been selected and the fourth time for Bertie.

Both students have a detailed training programme set by their coaches at Durham Cricket, including strength and conditioning, nutrition and sports psychology.

Bertie and Isaac's cricketing potential was spotted early on in their playing careers - Bertie at Richmond and Isaac at Rockcliffe and this is the next stage in their development as top level players in their respective age groups.

We look forward to following their progress in the 2024 season, as well as catching up with Isaac after his cricket tour of the United Arab Emirates in January!



SILVER MEDAL AT THE BRITISH TRAIL RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR RICHMOND SCHOOL MATHS TEACHER.

It's been an up and down journey in more ways than one recently for Mr. Wigley, Maths teacher and Year 7 Tutor at Richmond School.

Mr. Wigley is a highly accomplished elite trail runner, regularly competing with some of the best athletes worldwide. Earlier this year, we published [a story](#) about his participation in the UTMB - 'The Ultimate Trail Race', circumnavigating Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps. This is an incredibly tough race, with well over half the runners not making it to the finish line every year. Unfortunately, Mr. Wigley was one of these athletes. During the build up to the race he contracted COVID, which meant that he couldn't race at full capacity, preventing him from finishing. He has an entry for next year, though - he'll be back!

Recently he proved he was back to his very best, however! Mr. Wigley takes up the story...

"After unfortunately being unable to finish the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc (UTMB) in the summer due to contracting COVID in the build-up to the race, I was back racing this weekend at the British Trail Running Championships. The 'Lakes in a Day' race was held in the Lake District over a 50 mile route from Caldbeck to Cartmel with over 4000 metres of elevation gain. Conditions were typically challenging with high winds and fog even causing the route to be altered mid-race for safety concerns.

Having been in third place for most of the race, I was able to put in a final effort over the last ten miles and finish in second place in a time of nine hours, three minutes and 28 seconds - just three minutes behind the winner."

We wish Mr. Wigley all the best in his next competition and we look forward to following his progress as his build up to next year's UTMB continues. Good luck!



YEAR 7 AND 8 FOOTBALL - FOUR MATCHES - FOUR VICTORIES!

Mr. Westgate, coach and manager of the Year 7 and Year 8 boys' football squads, reports on another successful string of matches:

ESFA Cup Round 3 v Dyke House.

Richmond started strongly with three goals coming in the first half from Will Anderson and Jake Murrell before an unfortunate own goal from a Dyke House defender. The second half was another excellent team performance with players executing passes perfectly and creating many opportunities. Goals from Henry Ward, Justin McGregor and three from Tom Simpson, with a good close range finish from Ethan Bell. Dyke House scored one back with a late consolation penalty leaving the score 9-1 to Richmond to progress into Round 4.

Area Cup v Wensleydale.

Richmond made a great start with three early goals - two from Jake Murrell and another from Henry Ward. Wensleydale struck back with a fast break to make it 3-1. Tom Simpson scored again before half time but Wensleydale kept themselves in the game with another goal to make it 4-2 going into half time.

The second half showed Richmond's fitness and class with four more goals from Tom Simpson, Louie Petch, Joseph Cox and Jake Murrell to claim his hat trick. Final score 8-2 Richmond.

ESFA Cup Round 4 v Spen Valley.

Spen Valley had some excellent results coming into this game and Richmond knew they were a talented side. The match started with a flurry of chances for both teams. Richmond eventually broke the deadlock with a penalty converted by Justin McGregor who placed it neatly into the side netting. With the pressure building on Richmond a through ball from Spen Valley led to a mix up and the ball was passed back towards the goalkeeper who had to come out to claim the ball. Unfortunately, this pass back ended up in our own net making it 1-1 with five minutes of the half to go. Just before half time Louie Petch slotted in from close range after an excellent run from Aaron Hutchinson making it 2-1 at half time.

The second half again was fast paced and both teams had chances. Richmond managed to capitalise on their chances and Jake Murrell headed home from a corner. Will Anderson also scored from a cross glancing it past the goalkeeper.

Henry Ward scored an excellent goal at the end to finish 5-1 winners.

This victory put Richmond into the last 64 teams of the nationwide ESFA competition. Onto Round 5 v Macmillan Academy!



Top row (left to right):

Joseph Cox, Nathan Collier, Ethan Bell, William Anderson, Henry Ward, Justin McGregor, Kyle Cleminson, Ethan Garside, Jake Murrell, Louie Petch.

Bottom row (left to right):

Tom Simpson, Aaron Hutchinson, Bertie Morris, Noah Lister, Tomas Pybus.

Continues overleaf...

Y7 Area Cup v Wensleydale.

The first half was a close battle between two good teams. Wensleydale went into half-time 1-0 up after a well worked goal. After some reorganisation at half-time Elliott Gardner scored the equaliser to get Richmond back in the game. Wensleydale countered and both teams had a number of chances. Richmond regrouped and spread the play well. Freddy Curtis and Elliott Gardner scored two more to make it 3-1. In the last few minutes Wensleydale scored to make it a very tense finish. Both teams had chances but neither could convert any more chances. Final score was 3-2 to Richmond.

Another great run of matches from Year 7 and 8 - we look forward to further match reports as the New Year unfolds, especially as Year 8 approaches the sharp end of the ESFA cup!



Top row (left to right):

George Reed, Freddie Curtis, Bradley Boylan, Connell Lacey, Junior Latcham, Jasper Chisholm, Seth Bell, Owain Hyatt

Bottom row (left to right):

Ralphie Parker, Archie King, Elliott Gardner, Harry Coyle

ANOTHER BRILLIANT TERM FOR YEAR 9 FOOTBALL - GREAT PARTICIPATION, NAIL BITING PENALTY SHOOTOUTS AND FANTASTIC VICTORIES!

Mr. Swanwick, coach and manager of the Year 9 boys' football squad, has provided the following update and summary of the season so far:

We have continued to see high numbers of Year 9 students attending after school football on a Tuesday which is great to see - a number of these students have played in their first ever school matches this year. The students have enjoyed several matches this term, with players competing in a friendly match against our neighbours SFX, County Cup football against Selby School and Huntington School, Area Cup matches against Stokesley and SFX plus National ESFA Cup matches against Outwood Academy Ripon, King James of Knaresborough and Malton School. It has certainly been a hectic term of football! With so many matches played it has been great to be able to give so many students an opportunity to play.

ESFA CUP

Following a bye in Round 1 we took on Outwood Academy on the Dave Clark Arena in Round 2 and despite being a goal down at half-time, the boys roared back in the second half thanks to a brace from Jensen Pascoe and a debut goal for Lars Bryan.

Next up was a home fixture against King James' School, which turned out to be a very competitive match. A first half effort from Archie MacLelland followed by two second half strikes from Jay Garcia and Icha Gurung saw the boys progress into Round 4 to face Malton School in yet another home fixture. This time our opponents were a step up in class and it was a hard fought game. Despite going in at half time 1-1 it was Malton that ultimately came out the stronger and ended up winning the game 3-1. The lads were disappointed to bow out after a good run of games, but the effort put in could not be faulted.

Continues overleaf...

COUNTY CUP

Our County Cup campaign began with an hour long drive south to Selby School, a really tight encounter against a physical side. The boys dug in and battled throughout, withstanding a late barrage thanks to a wonderful display of goalkeeping from Teddy Brain to take the game 2-1. Next up was a home fixture against Huntington School, which turned out to be a nail biter - two evenly matched sides going at it for 70 mins. With the game ending all square at 2-2 the match was to be decided on penalties, with Richmond sadly losing 6-5. It was a shame the match had to be decided from the penalty spot as both teams were so evenly matched. A great game for the neutral.

AREA CUP

There was more penalty shoot out drama in the first round tie against Stokesley. However this time around, following a 2-2 scoreline, it was Richmond that came out on top to face SFX in Round 2, where we ran out 4-0 winners against our good friends next door.

FRIENDLIES

Given the large numbers of students coming along to Year 9 football practice we are hoping to continue with our friendly fixtures to give as many students as possible the opportunity to represent the school. We encourage anyone in Year 9 that fancies coming along to practice to do so - players of all abilities welcome, whether you just want a kick about with friends or would like to play some competitive matches. Everyone is welcome.

Year 9 football is on Tuesdays at 3.30 - 4.45pm.



YEAR 7 AND 8 NETBALL - GREAT PARTICIPATION WITH MORE MATCHES TO COME!

Mrs. Carruthers, coach and manager of the Year 7 and 8 netball squad, provides this update from another successful half term of netball:

Year 7 and 8 Netball training takes place on a Tuesday after school: 3.30-4.45pm in the sports hall.

This term we have seen over 50 students attending training sessions. All students (boys and girls) are welcome and we have a mix of complete beginners as well as more experienced players.

Students who regularly attend training have had the opportunity to play in fixtures against SFX, Bedale and Thirsk Schools. We have seen some incredible performances which prepares the teams for the Hambleton and Richmondshire area tournament which is coming up in January.

Photos attached of some of the teams but apologies to the teams that I have been unable to capture as of yet!

We look forward to updates in the New Year, especially as the Area tournament starts.



Clara Barnett, Poppy Penrose, Lucy Scullion, Darcy Dearden,
Lucie Charlton, Eleanor Mortimer,
Izzy Hainge, Willow Ventham, Evie Richardson, Rae Simpson.



Eleanor Mundell, Connie Briggs, Eva Wrightham,
Hannah Southworth-Gedye,
Ava Craggs, Eleanor Davis, Rose Harris, Alice Rhodes.



Rae Simpson, Polly Wilkinson, Evie Lincoln, Eva- Grace Short,
Freya Atkinson, Lucie Charlton, Emilia Vaidos,
Izzy Hainge, Willow Ventham, Eleanor Mortimer, Nell Downing

YEAR 9, 10 AND 11 NETBALL - SUMMARY OF A BUSY TERM!

Mrs. Southgate, coach and manager of the Year 9, 10 and 11 netball squads, reports on another term of great participation, competition and teamwork:

"We have had a fantastic number of Year 9, 10 and 11 students regularly attending netball training on a Wednesday since September which has made things wonderfully difficult when it comes to team selection!

We have finished this term with a flurry of fixtures and these, alongside tournaments and fixtures earlier in the term, have meant that the vast majority of students who have attended training have also had the opportunity to represent the school in a competitive match.

Following a very respectable fifth place in the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Netball Tournament, our Year 11 teams have had fixtures against Thirsk and SFX. Whilst the end results might not have been what we were hoping for, the games were competitive and the students demonstrated outstanding teamwork and determination until the final whistle.

Unfortunately a spell of bad weather meant the Year 10 Netball Tournament was postponed until after the Christmas break. Some of our Year 10 netball students recently enjoyed a game against SFX and after a close fought game, their energy and enthusiasm resulted in a win for Richmond School.

After finishing in third place in the Year 9 Netball Tournament back in October, the Year 9 squad took to the court again last week in a hotly contested game against SFX. Following a fantastic display of hard work and competitive spirit from both teams, SFX were the eventual winners.

We already have fixtures planned against Thirsk and a return fixture against SFX at the start of next term.

If anyone else is interested in getting involved, training sessions are on a Wednesday from 3:30pm until 4:45pm in the Sports Hall. No experience necessary, just turn up!"



Year 9

Back row L to R: Katie Smart, Mia Brooks-Skingle, Milly Gale, Sophie White

Front row L to R: Grace Broderick, Emily Turagavagone, Rosemary Nacamavuto



Year 10

Back row, L to R: Mitchell Ingram, Amelia Walton, Joshua Smith, Isla Bastow

Front row, L to R: Martha Gibbon, Lily-Mae Mccafferty, Lily-Ann Thwaite

YEAR 11 AREA NETBALL TOURNAMENT - RICHMOND BATTLE THROUGH TO FIFTH

Recently, a number of our Year 11 netball players travelled to Queen Mary's School for the U16 Hambleton & Richmondshire Area netball tournament.

Team selection was incredibly difficult as all of the Year 11 netball students deserved a place on the team. We are very lucky to have a large Year 11 squad and the commitment and standard shown from these young people has been really impressive, so it was disappointing not to be able to take everyone.

The team demonstrated fantastic determination and teamwork throughout the tournament and came fifth overall. Their team spirit, sportsmanship and drive to be the best they could be was great to see.

These were the results of the seven games we played:

Beat Bedale 7-4

Lost to Stokesley 20-0

Lost to Thirsk 4-3

Drew with SFX 6-6

Beat Easingwold 6-4

Lost to Queen Mary's School 7-3

Lost to Cundall Manor 8-4

Well done to the team for battling through some tough games, and thank you to the entire squad for maintaining such a high standard through the training sessions. Thank you also to Mrs. Southgate for organising the trip.

Photo:

Back row L to R: Ellen Newton, Hannah Drought, Charlotte Harrison, Emma Farrow

Front row L to R: Lily Wilson, Sophie Cameron, Evie Wharton, Lilyanna Navuso



RICHMOND SCHOOL HOSTS GIRLS' FOOTBALL EVENT

Richmond School recently hosted a Key Stage 3 girls' football event.

Teams participated from Bedale, Thirsk, Richmond, Selby, Stokesley and Wensleydale secondary schools.

The girls followed a carousel of football themed activities in the morning and then competed in a tournament in the afternoon.

The event was supported by young female Sports Leaders from Years 9 to 11. The Leaders had to independently deliver a game to a team of ten students, keeping it fair, safe and enjoyable for the participants.

The tournament in the afternoon was highly competitive and finished with Wensleydale School and Thirsk School sharing the gold medals as they drew 1-1 in the final.

Thanks to the Sports Leaders for leading the activities and officiating the games on the day and thanks to Mrs. Carruthers and Miss. Atkinson for organising the event. And of course thanks to the players and visiting school staff for engaging so positively on the day.

Photos overleaf...



RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY PASCH SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CAMP AT LEGENDARY ST. PAULI, HAMBURG

Back in July, we received this news from the Goethe-Institut:

Two Year 9 students, Emmy Raggett and Lily-Mae Mcafferty have both successfully secured places at a German language and football camp in Germany this October.

This was some background information about the trip and the students, in July:

As a Pasch school, students are given opportunities to apply for exciting courses in Germany and both girls wrote very convincing motivation letters.

Emmy and Lily-Mae will be studying German at GCSE level next year and are also keen footballers, so the course should benefit them immensely. The week-long course will involve football training at the famous St Pauli stadium in Hamburg as well as language lessons and cultural activities as part of an international group of young people. Both girls are very excited about the trip! The photo attached to this post is of the two students after they had found out their applications had been accepted.

The summer passed and Year 9 students became Year 10 students, but the trip finally happened this October half term. We caught up with the students and Ms. Dutton, Lead Teacher of German, to find out how the trip went.



Firstly, a report from Emmy and Lily-Mae:

"On the 21st October, Emmy and Lily flew completely solo to Germany for a week-long football camp in Hamburg.

We had the best time in Germany from learning German culture to playing football and making new friends from across Europe. In the afternoons, we were spoiled with a variety of activities such as a tour around St. Pauli Stadium, swimming, tree trekking / GoApe, a blind expedition in Hamburg centre, shopping in Hamburg, a photography tour of the beautiful city and watching a home game at St Pauli!

Story continues overleaf...

We also loved the two hours of football we played every morning from St. Pauli coaches, Philip and Louise. On our final day of training we played a huge tournament all morning to show off our new skills and bring the week to a fun finish. We made some new lifelong friends who we bonded quickly with from Scotland, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands. This trip really helped develop our German and encouraged us to continue German more fluently and learn new languages.

Overall, we would 100% recommend this trip for life long memories and an amazing experience and we are both very grateful for this opportunity provided for us!"

Emmy and Lily-Mae also took the time and effort to produce this brilliant video / photo report of their trip:

[St. Pauli video and photo montage.](#)

Ms. Dutton had this to say: "Richmond School is proud to be part of the international network of Pasch schools which are schools that aim to awaken and enthuse German learners in Germany and in the learning of German. Through this network Richmond School students take part in a number of activities throughout the year, have access to up to date online resources as well as the possibility to apply for places on prestigious courses in Germany. This year four Richmond school students have successfully applied for grants and taken part in week long football and German courses in Hamburg. In May this year Victor Vaidos and Luke Millar, two sixth form students, enjoyed the week in Hamburg and I was absolutely delighted that our two Year 10 students Emmy and Lily-Mae had an equally successful time.

Students of German should check their Google classroom streams for Pasch activities that they can take part in or simply ask their German teacher.

THEO WEBSTER - A TALE OF DOUBLE SPORTING SUCCESS

Back in the summer, we heard that Theo Webster, a student in Year 12, had achieved a fantastic result in the LTA Yorkshire County Tennis Championships. Not only did he win the U16 final, but he beat the number one and two seeds along the way, players with a great deal more experience than him.

Sometime later, during the interviews Mrs. Potter, Headteacher, had with every Year 12 student at the start of the academic year, we discovered that Theo also plays football at a very high level too. He had been part of Academy football from the age of 11 to 16, and now trains with Darlington FC senior team, whilst playing for Spennymoor Town U18s.

We recently took the opportunity to sit down with Theo to find out a bit more about his journey to elite level in not just one, but two sports...

Story continues overleaf...



Let's talk about your tennis first. You are the current LTA U16 Yorkshire Champion, and have played in some bigger tournaments since then, but how did it start - I hear that you are competing with players with much more experience than you?

Lockdown. I watched Wimbledon 2020 and got inspired. There's a MUGA at Reeth that doubles as a 5 a-side pitch and tennis court. I played a lot with my dad to start with, then received coaching from Jonathan Sadler (he coaches at Richmond School). I then started playing tournaments in 2021 eventually moving to Harrogate Spa Tennis Club. I now train at York St. John University twice a week.

That's a fast track to a very high level of tennis! I guess that your natural talent must have been spotted somewhere along the line? Is that a normal occurrence at a court that used to be a football pitch in a small Dales village?

I'm fortunate my parents have supported me. Firstly, giving me access to coaching and then tournaments. It's a combination of both. Competing has developed my game and as my results got better, I've progressed to higher and higher levels of competition. Recently I've played in two British Tour (adult professional) level events - one in Edinburgh and one in Newcastle.

And...?

...lost in the first round both times. Playing against professionals isn't easy!

...but a massive jump in standard and great experience?



Yes, definitely. In my first professional event I played an 18 year old from Lancashire. He's on the International Tennis Federation circuit and ranked in the top 100 Men's players in the UK, so it was always going to be a tough match. But it was a new opportunity and I could compare my current level against ITF players. If I'm close, then that's great, but it highlights areas of my game I need to work on. So whilst training I'm also trying to play as many of these tournaments as possible to improve my game - so that over the next 12-18 months I'm not losing these matches, but winning.

It sounds like you have an excellent attitude - positive and determined. It would be easy to just accept that these players are better and more experienced than you and you're going to lose. You very obviously don't think like that. Finally on tennis - what's next?

I'm playing in the City of Hull & East Yorkshire Open and then a National Men's Doubles Tournament in Glasgow. With lots of training in between. My coach is Ian Watson and I have group coaching sessions with Rowan Moss. It's really a year-round thing. My parents make it my responsibility to organise my tournament and training schedule. So, I have to maximise my time (not always getting it right!).

So, football. You can't possibly have time for football?

Story continues overleaf...

Football came way before tennis for me. At age eight I started playing for 2Dales (Reeth), before moving to Richmond Town, then Leven FC. At Leven I had some great experiences in a very successful grassroots team. We won a national tournament in Leicester, qualifying for the European Trophy in Austria. Almost all of the teams were Academy teams from across Europe, including Benfica, Juventus, Atletico Madrid, PSG, Schalke and Chelsea. There were also representative teams from China and Canada. It was a great experience. I went on to spend time at Sunderland, Newcastle and Middlesbrough Academies. It was a tough choice, but in the end chose Middlesbrough as much for logistical reasons (Rockliffe being much closer to home) as footballing. I was there until 16 (last season) and had some great experiences, including international tournaments, but in the end wasn't offered a professional contract.

Ok. That must have been quite a tough situation for you to deal with?

Yes. Very tough! I'd been in Academy football for five years. It was a huge part of my life, training 3 times a week and then playing matches. It leaves a hole, and you imagine what might have been. The Club had a lot of good players my age – but only 7 of the 16 were given scholarship contracts – which will likely half again at age 18. If I'd still been at Middlesbrough FC, then my tennis would have stopped!

So you're managing to see some positives in the situation?

Yes, definitely. It's opened up more opportunities. As well as tennis, I'm able to play with senior first team players at Darlington FC. The standard is actually higher than Academy football. I also play for Spennymoor Town U18s - playing two rounds of the Youth FA Cup before being knocked out. I haven't given up on a route back into professional football, but now know how important it is to have good options.



Moving on from football. You're also an A-level student. And you've chosen to study some challenging subjects - biology, chemistry and maths! How's that going? You must have excellent time management skills to keep a successful balance between your sport and academic studies...

...and my piano practice - I've just passed my grade five exam.

You're a musician as well!

Yes. I've been playing for five or six years. I feel my college studies are going well. I'm getting pretty good results in my assessments and finding the subjects really interesting. I do most of my work in college and then a bit in the evenings, which enables me to dedicate time to tennis, football and piano. I think I've found quite a good balance.

It certainly sounds like you have.

Finally, what about the future? Sport? University? You have lots of potential directions to travel in - what are your plans?

Yes, lots of options. Maybe take a gap year after A-levels and see if the professional tennis tour works out. See if I get any offers from football clubs. Maybe go over to the US and take up a university sports scholarship. Then there's also the UK university route. I'd like to study medicine, though I know it's one of the most difficult and competitive courses to get on to.

Thank you for your time, Theo. It's been fascinating finding out about your sporting achievements and how you manage your time - I'm still not entirely sure how you do it!

All the very best with your tennis, football, music and academic studies. I'm sure we'll be publishing more stories about you in the future!

ACADEMIC NEWS

A-LEVEL HISTORY AND ENGLISH STUDENTS VISIT LONDON

Thirty A-level History and English Literature students had a wonderful two day visit to London to explore the sights and enhance their understanding of their courses.

After travelling down by train and navigating the Tube, the first place to visit was the Imperial War Museum in Southwark. All were very impressed by the building as it was the former Bethlem Royal Hospital and there were even exhibits outside, like the Second World War naval guns and a section of the Berlin Wall. Inside the museum, the students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the First and Second World War galleries with the excellent new layout and range of original artefacts.

Some of the students also had time to look at the special exhibitions on spying and the conflict in Ireland as well as the thought provoking new Holocaust gallery.

Staff were very impressed with how well the students engaged with the exhibits and really thought about them in terms of their learning and understanding of the conflicts. Seeing Spitfires, rockets and even one of the small boats from Dunkirk really did make history come alive for them and many were eager to return and explore further.



After an excellent afternoon at the museum, the students had a little bit of time to relax at the hostel on Russell Square before heading out for shopping and exploring around Covent Garden. Many had not been to London before and were excited to be in such a lively and vibrant environment. The whole group then had a very tasty evening meal together at Pizza Express on the Strand before seeing more sights by night. Many miles were covered and the students particularly enjoyed seeing Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace and a very busy Piccadilly Circus before heading back to a well earned rest at the hostel.

The second day was also very full with the first stop being the Houses of Parliament. The students watched an excellent interactive video which gave them a lot of historical context for their visit before heading into the Palace of Westminster and seeing the two debating chambers. They were shown around the House of Commons (which seemed much smaller than it is on television) and the House of Lords and the guides explained parliamentary procedure, giving a real insight into how decisions and laws are made. The guides were particularly impressed with our students' knowledge and the excellent questions they asked. The tour finished in St Stephen's Hall, which is the oldest part of the building and where the Queen laid in state last year.

From this point, the group divided in two, with the English students visiting the Globe Theatre and the History students visiting the Tower of London. Tston, Mrs Parks and Mrs Mawer for giving up their time and all their hard work in ensuring the trip was a success.



Those visiting the Globe were taken on a guided tour which explored all the different parts of the theatre and gave the students a technical understanding of Elizabethan stagecraft – all excellent preparation for study of their A-Level set text, *Othello*. The students particularly enjoyed the exhibition, where they were able to dress up in costumes from past productions.

The History students visited the Tower of London, which plays a key role in the Tudor part of the A-level course. They explored the Beauchamp Tower, where famous Tudor prisoners carved their names whilst awaiting trial and also the site where many, such as Anne Boleyn and the Earl of Essex had been executed. The students were mesmerised by the Crown Jewels, especially after seeing them in action during the recent coronation and loved seeing the armour in the White Tower. Both groups had a very enjoyable and informative afternoon.

Finally, before catching the train home, the students had one more place to visit, the Treasure Gallery at the British Library. Although time was short, the students loved seeing the original copies of the Magna Carta, lyrics by the Beatles and letters from some of the war poets. There was so much to see that again many students were planning their next trip to London to explore further.

Throughout the visit, the students were absolutely excellent. They were impeccably well behaved, thoughtful and approached everything with positivity and good humour. They were a credit to themselves and the school and it was a pleasure to take them.

A LEVEL BIOLOGY STUDENTS ATTEND 'MATTERS OF CONCEPTION' CONFERENCE IN NEWCASTLE

The Centre for Life in Newcastle held an A-level conference recently to mark the 18th year since changes in fertility legislation means children of donor parents have a legal right to know who their donors were. Three A-level biologists from Richmond Sixth Form College joined in with this informative conference.

Various activities were provided lead by professionals working in the NHS and also university educators including training in how to use ultrasound scanners, how to use VR headsets to learn about anatomy and workshops focusing on careers in the NHS. There was also a lively and informative curated debate about the impact of the change in the rules 18 years ago and the effect they will have now children affected by the new rules are turning 18.

It was a great event to take part in with glowing reviews from the students.



YEAR 13 HISTORY STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE 'PRINCES IN THE TOWER' MYSTERY.

Year 13 History students had the fantastic opportunity to spend a lesson learning from Kim Harding, Head of the Yorkshire Dales Branch of the Richard III Society, and a member of the National Richard III Committee.

Kim kindly offered to come into college to share her expertise of the infamous 'Princes in the Tower' mystery, which ties into Year 13 studies of Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch and those who challenged him to his throne.

The second challenger, or 'pretender', Perkin Warbeck, famously claimed to be one of the missing princes – and now perhaps, with Kim's expert insight, Richmond's Year 13 students are a step closer to finding out the truth!



STUDENTS CHALLENGE ROBOTS DURING 'WOMEN IN STEM' VISIT!

The annual Ada Lovelace day was held on 10th October. The day celebrates the famous mathematician and raises awareness of the contributions of women to STEM areas (science, technology, engineering and maths.) The day is used to inspire women and girls to consider careers in STEM fields.

23 girls from Year 8 were invited to a tour of Labman, a robotics manufacturing company in Stokesley where Labman staff gave short talks and demonstrations of their work and projects.

Students were challenged to make a mixture as accurately and as quickly as their new multi million pound robot does. Our Year 8 students fared well in this task, although it was pointed out the robot can work 24 hours a day and does not need a holiday!

Students met lots of inspirational women who work in engineering and could explain how their career paths led them to where they are today. The visit also showed the students the importance of STEM skills in employment and enterprise.

We are very grateful to Labman for hosting this event, with thanks also to Mr. Haye for organising the trip.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES COMPETITION - WINNERS RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES!

Recently, Richmond School students had the opportunity to enter a competition set up by the Languages department to celebrate the European Day of Languages.

Students were asked to create a presentation explaining why they thought a particular expression or phrase was so interesting, detailing its backstory and any other relevant information. They could choose a phrase from their first language, or another language they are learning or know - we have a number of students at Richmond who know more than one language.

MFL staff looked through the entries, choosing a winner and three runners up. Below are the students receiving their prizes:

Sean Lockhart, James McDonald, Eva Noone and Zeke Wild (overall winner)



GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM GIVE HISTORY CLUB HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

Recently, Zoe Utley, Head of Collections at Richmond's Green Howards Museum, came into school with a collection of artefacts from many significant wars, including WWI and WWII.

Firstly, students were asked to play a game, guessing what was in a mystery bag. Students were asked to describe their object and other students had to guess its identity. This proved challenging and entertaining!

Secondly, Zoe had the students organising the artefacts into timeline order which really got them thinking about and discussing each object and how they compared to one another. It was also a great way to show how the objects had changed over time.

Thirdly, students were invited to pass round several items. This really brought things to life, especially when students were able to comprehend things like the weight of a soldier's uniform when they had many different weapons to carry.

Finally, Zoe talked very passionately about the history of many of the different objects such as the wide range of medals she had brought in.

The session was fantastic - students were engaged and really enjoyed Zoe's presentation and passion for history. It was also a lovely way to connect with our local community. History Club are also really looking forward to working with the Green Howards Museum on a future project - all is yet to be revealed!



RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORM WELL IN 'TOP OF THE BENCH' SCIENCE COMPETITION

'Top of the Bench' is an annual chemistry competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. It has been running for over 20 years and is open to all secondary schools in the UK.

Mr. Sandell, chemistry teacher at Richmond School, accompanied this year's team of four to Teesside University for the regional heats of the competition. After the competition he said: "Well done to Matty Partridge (Year 11), Will Swainston (Year 10), Isabella Thompson (Year 9) and Felicity Thompson (Year 9) for competing in this year's Top of the Bench chemistry competition at Teesside University. The competition included several rounds based on general chemistry knowledge and internet research. A great team effort against 15 other schools from across the North East, well done team!

A week later, we received the results. Back to Mr. Sandell: "I'm sorry to say we didn't win our Top of the Bench chemistry competition! We came 7th out of around 15 schools - an excellent result bearing in mind the strength of the competition. It's worth noting that we won one of the rounds - the Periodic Table Quiz."

Well done to the Richmond School team and thanks to Mr. Sandell for organising the trip. We'll be back next year!



REFLECTING ON THE FIRST TERM AT RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE - POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

One of the key benefits of studying at Richmond Sixth Form College is the individual and personalised support each student receives from their subject teachers, tutors and other staff members.

During the first term of every academic year Jenna Potter, Headteacher, interviews all Year 12 students to ask them about how they are finding the transition to Sixth Form study, any issues they are having, how they are enjoying their subjects, what their goals and aspirations are after Sixth Form - and just to have a chat!

We are always amazed and impressed with the huge diversity of interests, experiences and aspirations of our Sixth Form students. To share all the feedback from the interviews here would be too much but, especially as many Year 11 students are in the process of making decisions about their future, we thought that it was worth sharing some of the comments that students have made:

- I really appreciate the help I get from Miss Pierce (Sixth Form academic mentor) - it's perfect!
- I really need the structure that the Sixth Form offers and having initially studied elsewhere, I'm now on track at Richmond.
- I can 'leave work at college' and go home with a clear head.
- I enjoy doing group work in The Bistro - I find this a really good way to learn.
- I chose Richmond Sixth Form College because my sister came here and loved it.
- I can spend lots of time outside of my lessons in the Art Studio getting my techniques perfect.
- The extra-curricular music is amazing - I play with the Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Concert Band and Brass Quintet
- I chose the college due to the smaller class sizes.
- The Fitness Suite is brilliant - it's like a proper gym and I've got free membership!
- Extra-curricular sport is excellent - especially the amazing facilities. The 3G pitch is class!
- I feel safe and supported - I've got a good group of friends and great relationships with my teachers.
- I appreciate the Study Centre a lot as I didn't use to do homework and for A-Level you have to stay on track.
- The 1:1 support from the teachers is really helpful.
- I really liked the atmosphere when I visited - everyone was really friendly.
- The Study Centre works really well - I love going home with nothing to do!
- Having the study routine I do helps me to stay on top of my work and then relax at home.
- 'Study sessions are a godsend' - I get really distracted at home.
- I love study sessions!
- Study sessions are awesome - I write a to-do list and get everything done and can plan revision - I've never had to take any work home.
- What do I like? Small class sizes, familiarity, I know I can get help if needed.
- Study Centre sessions mean I can get all my work done. It's much easier.



It is great to hear such positive comments from our students about how successfully they are taking to Sixth Form study, how well they are integrating into our Sixth Form community and how much they are taking advantage of our extra-curricular facilities. We look forward to hearing and listening to further feedback and tracking the progress of our students as next year unfolds.

SIXTH FORM

RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE OPEN EVENING - YEAR 11 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE RICHMOND'S UNIQUE OFFER.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our hugely successful Sixth Form Open Evening. It was a great opportunity to meet our staff and our excellent student ambassadors in their red 'Ask Me' T-shirts.

The evening got off to a great start with the welcome presentation hosted by Benedict Simpson-Alexander and Annabel Gorman, Deputy Head Students. They gave an insight into Sixth Form life and talked about their own experiences in college. Jenna Potter, Headteacher, then took over, presenting an informative and well received talk explaining to a packed hall Richmond Sixth Form College's unique and personalised offer available to Year 11 students from the local area and further afield.

Staff and students were on hand around the Sixth Form Centre and in specialist rooms in the main school to explain the content of their courses and to give visitors the opportunity to try out subject-based activities from our wide curriculum offer.

Alongside our teachers, careers staff were present during the evening to offer guidance and advice and to answer any questions about progression to higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

Students were also able to try out the well appointed Fitness Suite which our Sixth Form students can use free of charge, as well as gaining an insight into our extensive, high quality sports facilities and the wide variety of extracurricular activities on offer.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT STARTS EARLY FOR ART CLUB!

Just before half term, a group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students got into the Christmas spirit early during their time at Art Club. They designed and printed their own Christmas cards, exploring a range of different artistic techniques. The students learned how to use poly printing to create atmospheric backgrounds that resembled dramatic skies. They then used monoprinting to create their animal designs, with finishing touches added in watercolour.

It was fantastic to see all the students' ideas come to life and, I'm sure you would agree, they produced some fantastic designs!



BROTHER AND SISTER LOOK FORWARD TO BRIGHT MUSICAL FUTURES!

Making progress through the music grades by studying, practising and then going through the examination process is part and parcel of becoming an accomplished musician. Thousands of people of all ages and at all different stages of their musical journeys do this every year. But did you know that at every grade, the highest scoring candidates are identified and invited to perform at a 'High Scorers Concert', showcasing the quality of musicianship around the country?

Recently, William Francis, in Year 9, was invited to the High Scorers Concert in Stockton for an exceptional performance in his Grade 3 saxophone exam. Joining him in a rare brother-and-sister appearance at the same concert was his younger sister Charlotte! Charlotte has been playing the clarinet for just over a year now, but received a Distinction award in her Grade 1 exam, which she did back in March of this year.

The concert was a resounding success and both students received a certificate from the ABRSM music exam board after their performances.



RICHMOND SCHOOL TRUSTEES SUPPORT WORLD CLASS SAXOPHONE QUARTET WORKSHOP AND CONCERT.

A group of music students were privileged to be entertained and educated by world-leading musicians. Delta Saxophone Quartet visited Richmond School in October to deliver a workshop for instrumentalists culminating in students engaging in a new work called Damascene Redux. The work is based on small motifs that are performed at different times by different groups in the ensemble, crescendoing to a climax where most lines join together to create a grand finale. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and a very new way of performing music: the concert rendition in the evening was excellent.

The Delta Saxophone Quartet themselves were impressed by the standard of performance our students gave and the quartet were in sparkling form as they led the audience through a recital concert of saxophone music. Starting with the Renaissance, visiting classical, romantic and jazz music on the way to pop with David Bowie, the group demonstrated outstanding technicality and musicality.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher for Music at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, commented: "Delta brought a completely new sound to our students today. The fusion of all the different styles of music covered as well as the tremendous efforts of our students in the new work Damascene Redux, made for another remarkable evening of music at Richmond School, well done all!"

Particular thanks to the Richmond School Trustees for their support in bringing such high quality musicianship to the school and enabling our students to be inspired and educated by the Delta Saxophone Quartet. Thanks also to Mr. Boyd for organising the workshop and concert.

To watch the finale of the concert, click on this link:

[Delta Sax finale.](#)



PANTO! RICHMOND SCHOOL STEALS THE SHOW WITH ITS 'WIZARD OF OZ'

This year's Richmond School panto - The Wizard of Oz - came to a close recently with the final of four performances. The first was a matinée in front of an audience of local primary school pupils. It was a great success, with some fantastic feedback - one primary school emailed Mr. Birdsall and Miss Manning, this year's directors:

"I am just emailing to thank you for inviting our Year 5/6 cohort to watch your pantomime on Monday morning. Your young people are an absolute credit to you and Richmond School, they performed brilliantly and the pantomime was loved by all children and adults.

It was lovely how the cast came out at the end to interact with the children, which they did in such a professional manner.

Please pass on to the cast how amazing we thought they all were."

The evening performances played in front of increasingly large, enthusiastic and vocal audiences, culminating in a final performance that drew praise from all who watched.

This year's panto had two casts to maximise the number of students involved in the show. Both did a fantastic job, showing great energy, enthusiasm and audience connection. The traditional Wizard of Oz story had been updated and the script fizzed with humour - some of it not for those of a very sensitive nature... great fun!

Audience participation is key to pantomime and the show didn't disappoint. Boos, cheers, 'it's behind you' as well as rescuing parts of the scarecrow for reassembly and a finalé involving volunteers wearing masks and making animal noises to the tune of 'Old MacDonald'. Plenty to keep the audience actively engaged!

Students, staff and audience members are already looking forward to next year!



ALUMNI PROFILE: KATHRYN ROE

Richmond School and Sixth Form College are very proud of the links we maintain with our ex-students. It is always fascinating to catch up and hear what our alumni are doing currently and often even more interesting to find out how they arrived there!

We recently had a chance to catch up with Kathryn Roe, who attended Richmond School and Sixth Form College from 1995 to 2002. She currently runs a private Psychotherapy and Counselling service based in Northallerton and has taken a fascinating and varied journey to get there. We asked Kathryn about this journey and she was kind enough to provide some excellent, insightful answers and also sent us some brilliant photos!

We started by asking Kathryn about her time at school - exam results, positions of responsibility, particular memories etc...

"I was dealing with some significant challenges during my secondary school and sixth form years. I had special consideration for my exams and I was Head Girl during my time in sixth form. Particular teachers who were incredibly supportive and quietly there for me included Mr. Speakman, for his safe presence and consistency. Mr Jordan for his fun teaching style and humour, which made history really enjoyable. Mr Woodbridge for his enthusiasm and treating his P.E. students well. Another teacher who was instrumental was Mr Meek, who I was never taught by, but who went above and beyond for me.

I really liked the mix of students in my year group. We had caring people, creative individuals, some hilarious characters, as well as clever and sporty inspiring peers. For me, it felt a safe, fun, warm atmosphere. A reunion in 2024 will be lovely to reconnect with people as we are all turning 40!

I completed two AS levels (one each year), and two full A-levels. I got B in P.E., B in history, and my two AS levels were D in biology and C in English language. For my GCSEs, I achieved good grades (As, Bs and a C in geography). I had extra tuition after school from Mr. Snape for maths."



We then moved on to Kathryn's progression straight after her sixth form education...

"Straight after school I took a year out to save up. I worked in a fireplace factory and fish and chip shop and then went travelling to seven countries in Africa, then three countries in Asia and finished by spending time travelling around Australia. I even did a skydive!"

Kathryn then gave us some detail about what she did next - her journey up until the present day...

"I then went to three different universities and dropped out three times, due to the personal challenges I was facing at the time. I persevered, studied at a university close to home, and got a job alongside my studying, which worked better for me. Fourth time round at university, I managed to successfully complete a Foundation Degree, then a BA Honours degree in Childhood Studies. I then completed a two year full time Master's degree in Social Work at Durham University, which included working on Vancouver Island in Canada during my second year, within a hospice setting. I have since completed other post-graduate level courses and I have this year finished a second Master's level qualification.



Over the last 20 years, I have worked for Help for Heroes within their Psychological Wellbeing service, supporting wounded, injured and sick former soldiers. I worked for the NSPCC in their mental health service, supporting children and families living with enduring mental illnesses. I worked within the Emergency Duty team for North Yorkshire County Council, dealing with any urgent child or adult safeguarding incidents. I have also worked for the national charity Young Minds, as a consultant trainer delivering mental health training nationally. I have also spent time working for a children's 'Family for Life' fostering charity, supporting children looked after (CLA) in England."

Bringing things right up to date, we asked what Kathryn was doing now...

"I run a private Psychotherapy and Counselling service based in Northallerton. I have completed five years of advanced clinical training and continue my learning. I provide therapy to young people, adults and couples experiencing a wide range of life challenges. I work online, in-person and outdoors with people. I absolutely love what I do! I also deliver mental health training, personal development group therapy and workshops for individuals and organisations.

My family and I live in Northallerton and in my own time do a lot of art, keep active outdoors and spend time connecting with loved ones."



Finally we asked Kathryn what advice she would have for our current students...

"Lean into people who can provide good support, who celebrate who you are and what you are good at. Learn about yourself and how to take care of your brain/body/emotional health through life's challenges. Not everyone's lives follow a straightforward path going from A to B and that is okay. Always know you are enough, that NO ONE has all the answers (even if it looks like they do - they are pretending!!!!). And above all else, reach out to safe people when you are struggling, as things can get a lot better with the right conditions around you, and within you."

Thank you so much to Kathryn for giving us such a personal and detailed insight into her fascinating life journey up to this point. I think most readers will agree that the advice Kathryn gives in her final answer is absolutely excellent - poignant, relevant to this day and age and definitely worth following!



Last day in Year 11



School Christmas show

ALUMNI PROFILE: RICHARD WOOLF - INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER, ARCHITECT, BUILDING HISTORIAN.

We made contact with Richard after he attended the 'Class of '75' reunion, jointly organised by his sister, Nicola Woolf. Nicola suggested Richard would provide an interesting Alumni profile - she was right!

Over to Richard...

It is a pleasure to provide a reflection as a past student of Richmond School and Sixth Form College on my education, career and influences as an industrial designer, architect and building historian.

I completed A-levels in 1980, being one of only a few students who had spent their entire education in Richmond. From the Church of England's Dundas Street infants school, primary school on Lombards Wynd, followed by a short walk over Station Road to Richmond Old Grammar School, I finally arrived at Darlington Road and later the old Sixth Form College.

The Church of England buildings are no longer in educational use, but on the occasions I revisit the town my early school buildings still evoke strong childhood emotions, especially Church Wynd, into the burial ground of St Mary the Virgin.

The early 1970s witnessed comprehensive education becoming established nationwide. The friction between grammar and secondary modern teaching methods and differing pedagogy within the two cultures was still settling down to an uneasy truce in Richmond. There were visible manifestations of this culture clash. Teachers were either in tweed or denim, whilst on the playing field, cricket or football identified class allegiances.



Never a great scholar, my passion for art and design in the final years coalesced in two years of uninterrupted occupation within the art rooms of the upper school. Previously the girls' High School, this minor modernist gem from the 1940s was both inspirational as a place of study and an introduction to twentieth century architecture. A rare example of the 1930s Modern Movement in northern England it offset the classic perfection of the Georgian architecture of Richmond. The contradiction between historic and modern architecture, two hundred years apart, has continued to inform my working life as an architect.

My educational journey after Richmond didn't start particularly well, beginning on a course at Loughborough University for which I had little aptitude. After one year it was time to quickly switch to studying industrial design at Leicester, then a polytechnic and now De Montfort University. Graduating in 1984 and after a previous summers work experience in a major London design studio, I was fortunate to be fully employed in a large multi disciplined design practice working initially on airports and railway stations, still the largest projects of my career.

After retraining as an architect in my thirties at Kingston University, I established my own studio with my wife in 1995 which continues to provide a varied range of design and architectural projects. An evolving interest in building history saw my return to formal education, this time at the University of Cambridge from which I graduate in November 2023.

Continues overleaf...

On reflection, the skills and values I learnt at Richmond School and the remarkable architectural and urban culture of the town have been a constant influence. The enquiring nature of education at Richmond School and its ability to take you in different directions continues to be fundamental in my life and work.

Thank you to Richard for providing such a fascinating insight into education in Richmond in the 1970s, set against the backdrop of the varied architecture of the town. I wonder how many of our current students are aware of the architectural history and importance of some of the buildings they are taught in!



ALUMNI PROFILE: RONAN DONOGHUE

Earlier this year, Mr Hedley, Lead Teacher of Geography at Richmond School and Sixth Form College, received an email from former student Ronan Donoghue. He wrote very positively about his time at school and thanked Mr. Hedley for the part he'd played in Ronan's progression to university.

Ronan had just graduated with a First Class BSc (Hons) Degree in Geography from the University of Manchester and planned to start a Masters degree at King's College London in Climate Change: Environment, Science and Policy.

As well as Ronan's exceptional academic success, it was clear that he'd had some adventures along the way, spending time in the USA and doing fieldwork in the Cairngorms.

We took the opportunity to go into more detail, asking Ronan about his time at school and his journey to where he is now:

Briefly describe your time at school - how did you do? Were there any particular subjects or teachers or trips or highlights that you remember?



I joined Richmond School in 2012 and looking back, I am very fond of my time there.

I achieved 11 good GCSEs - achieving mainly As - and A-levels in geography, history and biology: AAB.

I was a member of the school football team from Year 7 right through to Year 13, where we enjoyed numerous successes in both the Area and Country football tournaments. Academically, I was always very interested in the humanities but was particularly inspired by Mr Hedley to pursue further study in geography. The support and advice he gave me was definitely a key reason why I chose to study geography at university!

Miss Dakin was also a teacher I remember fondly and I can thank her for making sure I could write an essay properly! The standout experience of my time at Richmond School would have to be the Camps International trip to Peru which involved building toilet blocks and irrigation facilities for villages in remote parts of the country – as well as a spectacular hike to Machu Picchu. In addition, this involved raising the money myself which I did through sponsored activities.

Continues overleaf...

What did you do straight after school?

After leaving Richmond School I went straight to university where I studied Geography at the University of Manchester. I graduated this summer with a First Class Honours degree.

At Manchester I developed interests in climate science, environmental reconstruction and geographic information systems. I was also able to participate in various research projects such as analysing particulate organic carbon losses from peatlands in the Peak District as well as overseas projects in Morocco focusing on evaluating evidence of past glaciation in the High Atlas mountains. During the third year of my degree, I moved to the USA as part of an exchange programme with the University of Maryland, Washington. This programme was for students that achieved good grades in their first and second year and showed a desire to engage in a different culture. The geography department at Maryland is centred around the study of the relationship between people and the natural environment with a strong focus on monitoring changes such as forest loss and food security on the global scale. This programme was therefore well suited to my interests and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of an academic community which included lead investigators of NASA Earth observation missions!

I was also able to carry on playing football at university, representing both the University of Manchester and the University of Maryland. A particular highlight was winning the Virginia State Championships in 2022, where I was also awarded the player of the tournament.



What are you doing now?

Currently I'm at King's College, London, studying for my Master's degree in Climate Change, Environment, Science and Policy. I am in the process of applying for jobs and looking into internships for next year!

Looking back, what advice would you have for our current students?

Make the most of all the extracurricular opportunities that the school provides such as the expedition to Peru I was lucky enough to be part of.

I would also definitely say that students shouldn't worry about not knowing what to do next after school. I left Richmond School without really knowing what I wanted to do – but through my university studies and personal experiences I've found areas that I'm really interested in and want to pursue a career in. I think that by being open-minded and taking on opportunities to learn new things and develop new skills, you find the things you're passionate about.

For those who are considering university but are unsure of what to study, I would recommend looking into studying Geography. It is a multidisciplinary subject covering a broad range of topics from climate and environmental change to globalisation which are very relevant in the world and society we live in today. A geography degree can also lead to many different career paths!

Thank you to Ronan for taking the time to answer our questions - another fascinating insight into the wide range of journeys and destinations of our former students. We look forward to hearing what happens next!



ALUMNI PROFILE: TOM SCOTT

Tom Scott was the guest speaker at Richmond School's final Aiming High Assembly at the end of last academic year. We choose our speakers carefully to provide interesting and inspirational stories for our current students to think about and hopefully apply some of what they hear to their own lives at school and beyond.

When we recently had a chance to catch up with Tom to discover some details about what he's doing now and his fascinating and somewhat atypical journey to that point, he started by saying:

"When I was at Richmond, I was probably one of the more 'challenging' students." A bit later he adds: "I didn't like discipline as such. I wasn't very good with that."

Much later on in the conversation, he says:

"Our main clients were BP and Toyota - people like this. What that has given me is the ability to talk to CEOs of big companies - it's a different way of communicating and doing business."

From these quotes, I'm sure you'll agree, it's clear that Tom has been on quite a journey! Read on to find out more.

We started by asking Tom about his time at school - how he did academically, any particular people he remembered, what he feels he took away from these times...



"I joined at the end of Year 7, in May 2007 and went to Lower School. My dad was in the Army and so was my stepdad, so that's why we moved to Richmond. Years 7, 8 and 9 - I did OK.

In Years 10 and 11 I just remember I had the potential to get As. But to be honest I had so much going on in my life at the time, I didn't revise and study probably as much as I should. But I got solid grades - Cs average.

I actually had a bit of a traumatic childhood - my parents had split up and there were other things going on. I didn't like discipline as such. I wasn't very good with that. And then in Years 10 and 11 - Mrs Macey. I always credit her, actually, even in client presentations I make these days. She was instrumental in keeping me sane - she basically had to sit with me some days to make sure I was on track. She's wonderful - an absolute credit to the school. And she's still doing great work! I went back last November to see her and I could recognise myself in the students she was working with. I feel like they've probably got, you know, broken homes or parents that are maybe not together and they don't have that discipline at home. She's almost like a second mum. She was to me. Really.

Looking back, I have a lot of gratitude for school, actually, in terms of teachers who really supported me through difficult times. And I think when you're a student, you sometimes don't really get that. But when you look back, you realise the importance of what school can teach you away from just the topics - about life."



We moved on and asked Tom what happened after he left school...

"My stepdad got a posting to Colchester, Essex and we moved away from Richmond. I joined a college and I really struggled for two years. It was hard going from Richmond, a lovely market town where everyone knows everyone, to a city college. I had failed my medical for the Army (looking back now, a blessing!) so I really didn't want to be at college. I was just not interested.

And then when I was 18, I did a personal training qualification and ended up working on one of the largest cruise ships in the world as only one of two personal trainers! I visited 64 countries in two years, working as a personal trainer and selling gym equipment to clients in a high pressure, cutthroat sales environment. I was 18! That gave me the appetite for travelling and exploring different cultures. I think that's helped me a lot when I turned my attention to the business world, to really understand different cultures and people and how to engage with them."

So, two years on a cruise ship, travelling the world and learning the art of sales - what next?

"At that point in my life I didn't know what to do next - not many people really know what they want to do at 19! So from the age of 19 to 22, I was always in a bit of limbo. I'd move from job to job, but I eventually ended up in Australia. I didn't go to Sydney or Melbourne, I went to a very small town in South Australia called Port Lincoln, the fishing capital of Australia. I ended up working as a tuna and prawn fisherman. I remember thinking to myself one day, "What am I doing here? This is crazy!" That time was wild - not many 19 year olds in the UK really get that experience and see what proper Australia is like. It was a horrible environment to work in but again, it was just building the experience and resilience for what was to come.

I returned to London and basically needed a job. So I got into sales and recruitment. I did okay and worked for a few firms, but always moved on. Eventually I stuck with one for about two years and did well, getting the opportunity to move to New York.



I was making very good money for my age and I thought, well, the next place to do it even bigger is New York City. It'll be great. Make lots of money, lots of happiness. And it was just a nightmare. It was just super isolated and lonely. It was horrible, actually."

Ok - how did you deal with that?

"Travelling again. To 'find myself'! I went to places like Bali and back to Australia.

Then, back to London, where I met my business partner. She wasn't enjoying her job. We said to ourselves we've got two options. We can keep doing what we're doing, or let's reimagine what these companies do and do it ourselves. And so we did. In August 2019, we started a company called 'Fearless'. Our main clients were BP and Toyota - people like this. What that has given me is the ability to talk to CEOs of big companies - it's a different way of communicating and doing business. I exited that business in February this year and we ended up making just under eight figures in revenue with four permanent employees and three offices globally. I felt like all the experiences, all the resilience I had gained to that point really helped build that business."

Bringing things up to date, we asked Tom what had happened since he left his first business in February...

"I've started my second business - 'Verified'. An executive search recruitment firm placing very senior people into roles, dealing with people with very tight schedules. You often only have 10 minutes for your thing, and you've got to be on point, rigorous. If you haven't done your research, they'll call you out and you won't get the business. My experience has taught me to be very disciplined in my approach to work!

"I'm in a fortunate position where I don't really need to work money wise, so I'm just taking it steady and building foundations - hiring the right people and... we go again! I also now have the opportunity to do other things away from the business. I work with young men to help them with their mission, their purpose, their lives. Suicide is the highest cause of death in the UK for men under 35 and I believe that certain connected problems start from childhood - how people view friends, family, the opposite sex, for example. We help them face their emotions - not therapy, but therapeutic."

We asked Tom two more questions, firstly about what the future holds...

"So, I've just turned 28. When I used to talk to groups of people, I was always the youngest. Now I'm starting to not be the youngest!

Anyway. Development of 'Verified' in the next 3 to 5 years to become more of an umbrella business with other businesses underneath. The mission will be to drive people to change and look at their purpose through different angles like careers coaching and men's work. Also more community based work. A big part of what I want to do with 'Verified' is to donate a proportion of profits to causes that I care about. I have this thing about conscious capitalism, where if you just make money for money's sake, you feel disconnected from it. I'm working with a company at the moment called [Design for Good](#), where we take designers and help connect them with local charities in places like Africa and India and help with water and sanitation projects.

I also have a significant interest around education in the UK and what I think is the chronic underfunding of schools."

At this point we commented that there are a number of people here who would agree!

"School is like a second home for many. I think young people need to have that sort of stability and that place to go to feel safe. If they're under funded, schools can't do the things that they actually need to help."



... and finally we asked Tom what advice he would give to current students at Richmond School, given where he started compared to where he is now. His first answer was to refer back to his Aiming High Assembly where he summarised his advice in these six points:

1. School is the best time of your life.
2. Teachers are there to guide you.
3. School is your life foundation.
4. School teaches you core values.
5. You have SO much time.
6. Your values guide your life in the workplace.

Tom also added these points:

When current Year 7 students come into the workplace it'll be a radically different place to what it is now. Advanced technologies, AI, etc. Try to be prepared!

Like what you want to and not what you think you should. If you don't know, that's absolutely fine. A lot of people don't know."

So, quite a journey! Thank you very much to Tom for taking the time to answer our questions and provide a fascinating insight into his current situation and the complex route he took to get there.

YEAR 7 STUDENTS IN A SPIN AT MICHAEL SYDDALL PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Michael Syddall Primary School has received funding for a set of spinning bikes and will be running a variety of community classes for all ages (pupils and adults). As part of them launching this initiative they invited Richmond School to take some Year 7 students to try them out.

Mrs. Carruthers, PE teacher at Richmond School, accompanied the 16 students as they sampled the spinning class. She said: "The pupils threw themselves into the session and were thoroughly exhausted by the end of it!"

The community classes are open to all ages and abilities - everyone is welcome. They include two different spinning classes, boxercise and dodgeball!

Thank you to Michael Syddall Primary School for hosting the visit. We hope their community classes are really successful!



PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BECOME 'PLAYGROUND LEADERS'

Richmond School Sports Partnership recently hosted training sessions for pupils in Years 5 and 6 to develop their confidence in becoming playground leaders.

The pupils were taught about the important roles of a good leader and then explored the importance of good communication, honesty and how to adapt their games to make them as fun and safe as possible.

The pupils are now tasked with taking this training back to their primary schools to make their playtimes fully active and to help all pupils to achieve the government recommendation of achieving 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

Many thanks to the following schools for supporting this event:

Aiskew, Barton, Bedale, Bolton, Brompton, Carnagill, Crakehall, Hipswell, Leeming and Londonderry, Masham, Pickhill, Ravensworth, Reeth and Gunnerside and Richmond Methodist.



RICHMOND SCHOOL HOSTS NETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Richmond School recently hosted a netball tournament for Year 5 and 6 pupils from six local primary schools.

The event was umpired by students from Years 10 and 11. Sophie Cameron, Abi Collier, Maggie Longstaff, Ellen Newton, Will Swainston and Evie Wharton applied the rules fairly and consistently, whilst keeping the games safe and fun.

These students have volunteered their time and have been practising their officiating skills on Wednesday nights at netball training sessions. The young umpires did an amazing job.

Many thanks to Bolton on Swale, Brompton on Swale, Croft, Michael Syddall, Richmond Methodist and Richmond St Mary's Primary Schools for supporting the event.



SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS - OVER 20 LOCAL SCHOOLS ATTEND!

Richmond School recently hosted a wide range of sports hall athletics competitions for pupils from Years 5 to 8. The events were very well attended by over 20 local schools. Pupils had to perform in a number of running races as well as throwing and jumping events to earn points for their school team.

Sports leaders from Year 12 and 13 at Richmond Sixth Form College took full responsibility for leading the event and many visiting teachers passed on positive feedback which reflected how well the leaders performed.

Many thanks to the following schools for supporting the event:

Aiskew, Barton, Bedale Primary, Bedale Secondary, Boroughbridge, Brompton, Carnagill, Colburn, Hackforth and Hornby, Hawes, Hipswell, Le Cateau, Leeming and Londonderry, Leeming RAF, Michael Syddall, Pickhill, Ravensworth, Richmond, St Mary's Richmond, Trinity Academy Richmond, Thornton Watlass, Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas, Wensleydale



RICHMOND SCHOOL HOST PRIMARY SCHOOL AREA FOOTBALL FINALS

Richmond School recently hosted the Year 5 and 6 girls and boys area football finals.

The primary schools qualified for this event by either winning or coming second in their cluster football competition or league.

The following schools qualified and therefore attended the competition:

Bedale, BAWB (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton), Bolton on Swale, Brompton on Swale, Burneston, Colburn, Le Cateau, Hipswell, Leeming RAF, Leyburn, Reeth and Gunnerside, St Mary's Richmond, Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas, Wavell.

The tournaments were officiated by excellent young referees from Year 10 at Richmond School. Seth Brown, Lily-Mae McCafferty, Emmy Raggett, Rudi Sartini, Isaac Tate and Lily-Ann Thwaite all controlled the games to ensure that the pupils had a fun but safe experience.

The winning school from these competitions now qualify for the North Yorkshire county final on Thursday 18th January at York College.

Congratulations to Bedale Primary School for winning the girls competition and St Mary's Richmond for winning the boys competition.

These photos are only a selection. To see more, head to the links below:

Boys: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/UKETn8eyhAJPtvDT9>

Girls: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PmpnrPQLf9KDt45C6>



YEAR 13 STUDENTS GAIN INTERVIEW SKILLS FROM THE YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

Our Year 13 students were fortunate to be invited to attend an Interview Skills workshop recently, delivered by volunteers from the Yorkshire Building Society.

The workshop is part of the YBS 'Career Minds' programme, put together with the aim of:

"Improving the financial wellbeing of the nation, including making sure young people are ready for work, so they can improve their economic prospects as they move towards adulthood."

Students took part in a range of activities to help them succeed at interviews in the future and will have a chance to practise these skills during mock interviews in November.

Sam Brydon, Customer Consultant and one of the YBS volunteers who delivered the workshop said: "We delivered four Interview Skills Workshops with Year 13 students and found that they were really engaged and eager to learn about first impressions at an interview. The students participated in learning the art of shaking hands and how to prepare and engage well during an interview. We worked through examples of role profiles and answered competency based questions which are commonly used in interviews. We are looking forward to returning in the New Year to hopefully deliver further sessions."

Miss Hamer, Careers Adviser said: "It's incredibly important that young people are equipped with not only the qualifications they need when they leave school or college, but also with the employability skills needed to secure their future jobs. By giving our students the opportunity to focus on and practise these skills, we can help them to be as prepared as possible for life after school and college. We cannot thank the volunteers from YBS enough for giving up their time to support our students."



RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE YEAR 13 STUDENTS GAIN MORE VALUABLE INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

The Careers team, alongside our partners at NYBEP, had the pleasure of hosting a mock interview event for our Year 13 students recently.

The event was designed to give our students the chance to practise their interview skills and gain feedback from experienced professionals, in order to help them prepare for future success.

With the help of volunteers from a wide range of industries, including pharmaceutical, construction, armed forces, hospitality, engineering and higher education, students undertook a 20 minute interview and were provided with verbal and written feedback.

The event was facilitated by Cheryl Owen, Programme Adviser at NYBEP.

Ruth Hamer, Careers Adviser said: "Mock Interviews are a hugely valuable experience for students, many of whom have never experienced a formal interview. We aim to prepare all our students for future success with as many opportunities as possible to meet with employers, experience the world of work and to fine tune their employability skills.

As always, the time given by local volunteers is key to being able to offer these chances to our students and we cannot thank everyone involved enough for their time, support and expertise.

The event was a great success with many students leaving with smiles on their faces despite arriving full of nerves. They all did exceptionally well with the volunteers commenting on the students' interview performances very positively. We hope they are all very proud of themselves!"





Week beginning 16th October

Natasha Thornton was nominated by Mr. Speakman who said: "Natasha is a student worthy of note. She works exceptionally hard and her focus on the task in hand is faultless. She has just competed in the Senior Maths Challenge, achieving both Best in Year Award and a Silver Certificate. She outperformed many of the older students in Year 11 and 12. It is unusual for Year 10 to enter this challenge unless they are exceptional - Natasha has certainly lived up to that with her excellent performance. Natasha also frequently gains the highest number of weekly CREDITS in the school - this also demonstrates the absolute excellence she demonstrates at all times."

Week beginning 23rd October

Louis Humble-Jones was nominated by Mrs. Mawer who said: "Louis has joined our sixth form from SFX and has impressed staff with his hardworking and mature approach to his studies in History. However, it was on our recent visit to London that we really saw what a wonderful young person Louis is in many different ways.

One of his peers is a wheelchair user and unfortunately the London transport system is not wheelchair friendly. Louis quickly grasped the difficulties and helped his friend throughout the visit in a quiet, determined and thoughtful manner. Nothing was ever too much trouble and without Louis, the visit would not have been such a success.

In the Houses of Parliament, he impressed the guides with his knowledge and asked insightful questions and demonstrated the school values throughout. Louis is a really worthy winner of the Headteacher's CREDIT Values Award and is an excellent role model for others in the sixth form and wider school."



Week beginning 6th November

Tamara Bevu was nominated by Mr. Braham who said: "Each week, students receive a positive email from me to recognise the outstanding achievement of receiving the most CREDITS in the school for that week. Never before have I had to send a back-to-back email to a student and their parents for receiving it two weeks running; however, on this occasion, Tamara has received the most CREDITS in the school for three weeks running. I have checked the data and the CREDITS are spread from various subjects and teachers! This is an outstanding achievement - Tamara is putting in effort in all CREDIT areas in all subjects. Well done.

Congratulations FREDDIE and TOM



Week beginning 13th November

Tom Grigg and Freddie Lundberg were nominated by Mr. Boyd, who said: "Over the last week Tom and Freddie have represented our Music Department, School and local community superbly, demonstrating all the values we want to see in our young students."

Freddie and Tom performed the Last Post at our own school on Friday morning, marking our Remembrance of those who have fallen in the wars. For the first time in at least a decade, we had the Last Post sounded at both the main school and sixth form college. Being able to perform this individually is a testament to their progress and hard work over many months and in fact years.

On Saturday morning at the 11th hour of the 11th month, the two students performed the Last Post and Reveille at Richmond Marketplace underneath the obelisk. The boys again performed wonderfully and showed great respect and reverence for the occasion as the short ceremony was led by the Royal British Legion. It was a very moving moment for all in attendance, shopkeepers and shoppers all standing to observe. It even stopped the traffic around the marketplace! Performing on any stage can be challenging, but performing the Last Post brings so many more challenges as you can feel very isolated, extremely cold and also the gravitas of the moment can be difficult to cope with. Both students did this with great clarity of performance and thought, and they continue to show all the values we love to see in our young students. Well done!"



Week beginning 20th November

Skye Cox was nominated by Miss Weston who said: "I would like to nominate Skye Cox for her truly outstanding creative writing."

The Year 8s have recently completed their gothic unit, at the end of which they have to produce a piece of gothic writing. Skye's work was truly outstanding - an incredibly skilful piece that was eerie, unsettling but also deeply moving. She took great care over the planning, writing and editing of her work - demonstrating independence, creativity and excellence - sometimes, you just have to admire the sheer brilliance of something. It's the best piece of Year 8 writing I have seen in a very long time and I suspect Skye has a career in writing if she wants it!"

If you would like to read Skye's written piece (be careful - it's scary!) then go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Skye-Gothic>





Week beginning 27th November

They were nominated by Miss Dunwoodie who said: "Anth Edwards, Jake Percival and Benedict Simpson-Alexander have delivered assemblies all this week on the subject of men's mental health and they have honestly been superb. This is such a tricky topic area and requires a high degree of humility, intellect and care to deliver it well. The boys have definitely achieved this. I have had a number of lads from a variety of year groups post assembly telling me it has been one of the best they have had and how fantastic it has been to hear from male role models in the sixth form. Anth, Jake and Benedict have been candid and honest and each assembly has been a joy to witness - from the reactions and complete attention of each year group to the positive messages delivered brilliantly."

These are the things that get you into teaching and remind you why you do the job; seeing these fantastic young men stand up and positively impact the lives of younger students.

They have all delivered the assembly on a challenging topic far better than we ever thought possible and we are so proud of them for being shining examples to the rest of the School and College."

Week beginning 4th December

Joe White was nominated by Mr. Moohan and Mr. Sandell who said: "Joe is an exceptional student who constantly demonstrates all of the school's CREDIT values. Joe's very conscientious and determined efforts and his quiet confidence and integrity are well respected both in and out of the classroom by staff and peers alike. As Captain of the football team he is an excellent role model to all, leading from the front and instilling the passion of the game into his fellow players. Joe recently scored 2 of the goals in the comeback in the County Cup game against St John Fisher. The team were 3-0 down at half-time. Joe led the line in the second half, scored two goals and took the winning penalty. He has a great attitude and plays with a maturity beyond his years. He fills in wherever the team needs him, without fuss and gives his all."



We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter.

If you don't already, make sure to follow us on Facebook...

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...and on Instagram...

https://www.instagram.com/richmondschool_sfcollege/

...and on our website: <https://www.richmondschool.net/>

AND FINALLY...



This is the winner of our annual Christmas card competition - painted by Nell Downing, Year 7. If you click on it, it will take you to our Christmas e-card. Enjoy, and happy Christmas!