

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome to our February Newsletter

It has been very helpful to hear the views and suggestions of a wide group of parents and carers via our recent parent surveys, which have largely been completed during parents evenings. So far we have focused on Years 7 and 11 and have drawn up actions based on the most common suggestions made - these have all been shared with the parents and carers of students in those year groups.

We now have the results of the Year 8 and 9 surveys to analyse and from there we will plan any further actions to be implemented. We certainly feel as if we have found a model through which we can gain parental views and use these to support our school development work.

Our school wide focus on wider participation by students has continued to be a significant area of focus for us this half-term. Associate Assistant Headteachers Miss Abbey and Mr Birdsall have managed to widen our offer to 56 clubs and workshops - some during the day, some after school - and to work with students who haven't historically participated in anything, to get involved.

We have seen really engaging workshops being run in circus skills, African drumming and stage combat and we look forward to this continuing over the remainder of the spring and summer terms.

Tutor groups are now actively competing to see which groups have the most students participating - this was celebrated for the first time in our Christmas Aiming High assemblies and we'll revisit the agenda again when we celebrate with our students at Easter.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the invaluable financial support we receive from The Richmond School Trustees who help us fund our very rich extra-curricular offer - we really are truly grateful.

Following Year 13 and Year 11 PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) in January / February, we look forward to working closely with our students in the lead up to the public examinations in summer and to celebrating with them at their respective Proms.

I wish you all a safe and happy half-term holiday.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher



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Busking trio raise money for Oxfam



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WOOL CRAFT WORKSHOP - ECO CLUB MAKE SNOW-PEOPLE!

Just before Christmas, the Eco Club took part in a wool crafting workshop with Elli Sarri-Neate of Blue Mouse Art based in Aysgarth, Wensleydale.

Elli is an artist who uses local wool to inspire her artwork and she delivered a session on making snowmen. The students loved the workshop and took home the delightful figures at the end. It was a brilliant festive night all-round! A huge thanks to Elli for delivering the workshop and helping us to create the beautiful snowmen.

You can see some of Elli's amazing art at her website [here](#).



BUSKING TRIO RAISE MONEY FOR OXFAM'S GAZA APPEAL

On the Saturday before Christmas, three of Richmond's accomplished brass players took up their customary position on Finkle Street and entertained passers by with a selection of festive Christmas carols.

Jim Pyrah started doing this solo over lockdown, when very little other music was being played in the town, but for the past two years he has been joined by Thomas Pyrah and Andrew Lunn, both students at Richmond Sixth Form College.

Thomas and Andrew are studying Music A-level and play pivotal roles in many of Richmond School and Sixth Form College's music ensembles. In addition, they both play with the Leyburn Band and Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. Thomas also now plays with Ripon City Band - a Championship Section band.



Jim had this to say about their two hour busking session: "We chose to donate to Oxfam's Gaza appeal which seemed appropriate as we were standing opposite their shop! It was a great experience with a lot of people stopping to say how nice it sounded and asking for their favourite carols."

Andrew added: "It was a pleasure to play Christmas music in Richmond and also raise money for such a worthy cause. We were very grateful for the generosity of people passing by."

The trio raised the fantastic sum of £182!

Thanks to Jim, Thomas and Andrew for taking the time to perform and of course the people of Richmond for appreciating their brilliant music and donating to a worthwhile cause!

A video clip of the trio in action can be seen [here](#).



ELLIE RAISES AWARENESS OF 'HIDDEN' YOUNG CARERS ON NATIONAL NEWS.

Ellie Hughes is an exceptional Richmond School student. Since Year 7 she has always looked out for opportunities to get involved in school activities, both in the classroom and beyond. She is a great actor, most recently playing the major scarecrow role in the school's panto - 'Wizard of Oz'. She has also written for the stage, having one of her pieces performed by a 24-strong cast at the Georgian Theatre Royal. She is a Sports Leader, helping to run numerous sporting activities, notably dressing up as Olaf the snowman for a recent primary school football festival! She has been involved in numerous fundraising events, as well as winning academic awards, for example a recent poetry competition with prizes presented by Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate. We could go on - Ellie really does throw herself into life at Richmond School.

You might think that after all this effort at school, Ellie likes to put her feet up at home and have some down time. The truth is very different, however, as Ellie is a young carer. Traditional roles are reversed when Ellie is at home as her mum, Gill, has mobility problems. Ellie has the responsibility of looking after mum and takes on the majority of the work involved with running a household - cooking, cleaning, making sure the home runs smoothly.

Recently Ellie was contacted by Carers Plus, Yorkshire who asked whether she would be prepared to speak on behalf of the Carers Trust and take part in a story that Channel 5 News was doing about young carers. Ellie, being the outgoing and communicative student that she is, said yes.



A little later the producer of Channel 5 News, Christina Michaels, called Ellie to arrange a visit by the reporter for the story, Peter Lane and a camera operator. They called round after school the next day and spent over four hours filming Ellie and Gill going about their lives at home and talking to them about Ellie's role as a young carer. The main focus of the story was to highlight the fact that, even though many young carers are recognised and supported by their schools, many are 'hidden' and not known about or given the support they deserve by their schools.

A previous schools' census listed just under 39,000 pupils as young carers across the UK, but the Carers Trust estimates that the real number is more than 1 million - 1 in 10 pupils. 40% of those identified as young carers say they don't get the support they need balancing their home and school lives.

The story went out on the main Channel 5 'News at 5' earlier this week, with Ellie playing the starring role in the four minute piece. You can see the story by going to [this link](#).

Well done to Ellie for being such a brilliant ambassador for the Carers Trust and doing a fantastic job of raising awareness about this significant problem.

If you are or know someone who is a young carer and are not aware of it at Richmond School, then please make sure you tell us - talk to your tutor or Head of Year. We are very keen to identify and support our young carers and do our bit to minimise the issue of 'hidden' carers.



NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - WHITBY.

With much drier conditions than the qualifiers in December, sixteen Richmond School and Sixth Form College students from all year groups made the trip across to Whitby to represent Hambleton and Richmondshire for the North Yorkshire Schools cross country championships. Mr. Randall, who accompanied the students, said: "It was fantastic to see Richmond athletes competing against very strong fields of runners with many students running against athletes in year groups older than them. Once again we demonstrated that Richmond athletes are tough, competitive and determined!"

The following students qualified for the next rounds.

England Schools - Benedict Simpson-Alexander, Year 13
National Year 7 cross country finals - Connie Wilford, Year 7
North East finals - Lily-Mae McCafferty, Year 10, Tomas Hoole, Icha Gurung, both Year 9



RICHMOND SCHOOL FOOTBALL UPDATES - YEAR 8 COUNTY CUP VS RYEDALE

Mr. Westgate provides a match report on a high scoring victory for Richmond's Year 8 boys' team:

This was a last 16 game in the competition, so the pressure was on!

The first half started well. Richmond took control of the game with an early goal from Will Anderson - a great header from a corner. Richmond created lots of chances but the Ryedale goalkeeper was fantastic and kept them in the game. Richmond scored again just before half-time with a well worked goal from Louie Petch making it 2-0.

The second half was more of the same from Richmond, moving the ball around well and using the space on the pitch. Goals came thick and fast with Richmond creating chances and scoring on many of the attacks. The game finished 10-0 Richmond and we progress into the quarter final vs South Craven.

Second half goals (Aaron Hutchinson x2, Louie Petch, Will Anderson, Kyle Cleminson x2, Justin McGregor, Joe Cox)



Top row left to right:

Tom Simpson, Henry Ward, Nathan Collier, Will Anderson, Harrison Platts, Bertie Morris, Jake Wright, Justin McGregor, Kyle Cleminson, Louie Petch.

Bottom row, left to right:

Ethan Garside, Noah Lister, Jooles Robinson-Tate, Aaron Hutchinson, Joe Cox.

RICHMOND SCHOOL FOOTBALL UPDATES - YEAR 7 AREA 5-A-SIDE COMPETITION

As usual, Richmond School's football teams have been participating in a range of competitions against a variety of opponents.

Some updates follow, firstly from Miss. Atkinson, Girls' Football Development Coordinator:

The Year 7 Girls' football team recently took part in a highly competitive area 5-a-side tournament at Richmond School. The team played a total of six games, only losing one. As a team they worked well together and managed to score at least one goal in every match. Richmond won four matches out of the six and drew one. The results put the team joint first with Northallerton and Thirsk but goal difference moved us marginally second to Thirsk.

Photo, left to right:

Daisy Richardson, Eleanor Dinsdale, Annie Holliday, Olivia Broadhead, Chloe Hollins, Freya Atkinson, Connie Wilford



Mr. Westgate follows with a report from the boys' competition:

Richmond school Year 7 boys' team finished third in the area 5-a-side competition. They played some fantastic football but lost to the teams that finished 1st (Northallerton) and 2nd (Stokesley). Excellent work from the Areté Learning Trust!

Results:

Lost to Northallerton 1-0

Beat Risedale 1-0 (Archie King)

Beat SFX 1-0 (Elliott Gardner)

Beat Thirsk 2-0 (Seth Bell and Elliott Gardner)

Lost to Stokesley 2-0

Beat Bedale 1-0 (Owain Hyatt)

Photo, left to right:

Seth Bell, Owain Hyatt, Junior Latcham, Archie King, Elliott Gardner, George Reed



PIPPA SELECTED TO PLAY CRICKET FOR YORKSHIRE - THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!

Pippa MacLelland, a Year 7 student at Richmond School, has once again been selected to play cricket for Yorkshire - stepping up from the U11 to the U13 squad for the 2024 season.

When Pippa was in Year 5, she was spotted by Mark Jobling of North Yorkshire Cricket during a batting coaching session, who recommended Pippa go for trials at York. She attended these trials for a number of weeks and was selected for the Yorkshire U11 squad for the first time. Pippa had a fantastic season - top U11 run scorer - and a year young!

Pippa was selected to play in the U11 squad for the next season too, and ended up with an amazing set of statistics, dominating that year's 'Hall of Fame'. She was top run scorer overall, top scorer in a single match and had the highest batting strike rate - not to mention her bowling - best economy. You'd definitely want Pippa on your side!

Pippa has been selected for the U13 squad this year and is currently training every Saturday along with some full day intensive sessions at Terrington Hall, York, in preparation for the 2024 season.



We asked Pippa what she was looking forward to this year and what she thought she could bring to the U13 squad. The first thing she mentioned was her bowling - she's a fast and accurate swing bowler, as evidenced by the Hall of Fame data below and the fact she missed a hat-trick by millimetres in a game versus Lancashire last year. She had just bowled their two best players out, then missed the leg stump of the third by a fraction! 'Unfinished business', said Pippa.

Pippa also mentioned that she's looking forward to the boundary being a bit further away!

We wish Pippa all the best with her season at Yorkshire and we look forward to hearing more stories of high scores and wickets taken. Also watch this space to hear about Pippa's footballing success - some people say she's better at football than she is at cricket!



A TOUGH DAY ON THE COURTS AT THE U13 AREA NETBALL RALLY

Richmond School organised and hosted the Hambleton and Richmondshire U13 Area Netball Rally recently.

The tournament was supported by eight local schools and saw students playing a gruelling 80 minutes of netball in cold and windy conditions. Each school played every other school to determine the area winner.

Congratulations to Stokesley School for achieving first place and remaining unbeaten all day.

The Richmond team was a joy to coach as they demonstrated some excellent performances and worked hard from start to finish.

Special thanks to Evie Wharton (Year 11) who has been volunteering her time every Tuesday after school to help run the Year 7 and Year 8 netball training sessions since September. Evie also ran the score table at the tournament and was in charge of time keeping for all the matches - she did this completely independently ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly.

The team photo shows the players still smiling after the tournament!

Back Row:

Chloe Wood, Mereseini Tikomailepanoni, Connie Briggs, Eleanor Mundell, Grace Baleilekutu, Evie Wharton

Front Row:

Bea Corrance, Ava Craggs, Eleanor Davis, Alice Rhodes. Hannah Southworth-Gedye also played exceptionally well but unfortunately had to leave before the photo.



YEAR 7 AND 8 NETBALL TEAMS CLAIM WINS OVER LOCAL RIVALS SFX

Richmond School Year 7 and 8 netball teams played against local rival SFX recently.

This fixture saw us travel (not far!) to SFX as they had already visited us to play earlier in the year.

These matches are always very competitive as netball is very popular at both schools and played to a high standard. This round of games saw Richmond School clinch the win for both teams which reinforces the close and competitive nature of both sets of teams as SFX claimed the victories last time we clashed.

The progress that the Richmond teams are making is testament to the hard work that they put into training every Tuesday after school.

As with all good rivalries - we look forward to next time!



ANNABELLE EXCELS AT THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

Annabelle Hird, Year 9 student at Richmond School, is an accomplished equestrian, excelling in a range of disciplines including dressage and showjumping. We have reported news of some of her many achievements previously, including her win at the British Riding Clubs Junior Dressage Championship 2022 and her third place in the Saracen Horse Feeds 100cm Arena Eventing at Bramham International Horse Trials 2023.

Last summer, Annabelle was persuaded by a friend, Pippa Kirby, to enter the BSPS (British Show Pony Society) Performance Pony not exceeding 148cm class at a show in Kirklevington. If she won this class she would qualify for one of the most prestigious horse shows in the country - the London International Horse Show. Annabelle duly won and in a situation she described as being a bit surreal, she was on her way to London!

Before her journey to London in December, Annabelle became the Overall British Riding Club National Riding Test Junior Champion, winning the class from a field of around 80 competitors. This riding test has more focus on the ability of the rider rather than the horse as in standard dressage - ideal preparation for the big class in London.

Annabelle lives on a remote farm at the top of Arkengarthdale and she said that travelling down to London to participate in a huge show with competitors and spectators from all over was quite a contrast!



Helen, Annabelle's mum, takes up the story:

"It was a fantastic experience staying in London, however Annabelle has definitely decided she prefers the country! We learnt a valuable lesson to make sure that on any future trips that we stay on the same side of the river as the ExCel Exhibition Centre. Enduring all of the stairs on the Royal Victoria Docks Bridge multiple times with luggage was no easy task!

It was a weekend of early starts and late finishes due to Annabelle's riding times and trying to get Annabelle's pony Riversdale Magic Heart, known to her friends as Meg, looking her best. Unfortunately Meg had an allergic reaction and her skin was bumpy and dull. Travelling made this worse and we had to get the vet to the pony at the show on arrival. This made the weekend quite stressful - Annabelle had to spend a lot of time cold washing and covering Meg with wet towels to calm her skin."

Annabelle's class was on Monday, the final day of the six day show. The effort that goes into preparing rider and pony is phenomenal, especially with Meg's allergic reaction. As you can see from the photos, however, Annabelle and her team did a fantastic job. Back to Helen:

"It was an amazing experience for Annabelle to ride there amongst top class riders and ponies from across the country. Many of these ponies have competed and won at the top shows such as Royal Windsor and the Horse of the Year Show. We didn't have high expectations when we looked at the outstanding ponies we were competing against. Despite this, Annabelle achieved a fantastic 4th place out of 19 competitors in a very strong class. This was an unbelievable result as Annabelle does not normally compete in showing classes - it was only her second BSPS class."



Annabelle said, even though Meg was quite excited with the size of the event and the number of people, she performed really well - pony and rider only have a short time to impress the judges with their turnout, walk, trot, canter, gallop and their riding. They perform as a group before each doing a short individual routine. Talking to Annabelle, she very obviously had an amazing time at the show. All the competitors were friendly and everyone decorated their stables to get into the Christmas spirit - see photo! Competing at the show has been a dream of Annabelle's for many years - she has always watched on TV, but to actually be there was a fantastic experience - scary, exciting, surreal, but Annabelle clearly wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Annabelle trains with Bedale West of Yore Pony Club and The 3 Valleys Riding Club. She also had fantastic support from her family and friends, especially Pippa Kirby who provided Annabelle with the opportunity to compete at the show and has offered a great deal of guidance. Pippa also lent Annabelle much of the specialised tack and equipment required for the show. Annabelle is also exceptionally grateful to her Aunt Sally Richardson who has been her main coach for the past three and a half years. In addition, the Richmond School Trustees provided some financial support enabling Annabelle to travel and compete in London.

It is fantastic to see Annabelle's equestrianism go from success to further success and to see her continue to perform at this level. We very much look forward to catching up with her in the future and hopefully reporting on more impressive competition results in the dressage and show jumping rings and out on the cross-country course.

You can see a short video of Annabelle's performance in London at [this link](#).



SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, CULTURE AND GIANT PIZZAS - PHYSICS AND FRENCH STUDENTS VISIT SWITZERLAND.

A group of Richmond Sixth Form College physics and French A-level students recently flew to Geneva, Switzerland for an action packed mixture of science, art philosophy, culture and, if the photos are anything to go by, very good food! They were accompanied by Mrs. Harrison, lead teacher of physics and Ms. Norman, lead teacher of modern languages. They provided this report on their return:

"We are thrilled to report that our recent trip to Geneva, organised by the Physics and French departments was a resounding success, thanks to our fantastic students! The outward journey was straightforward and upon our arrival in the Alps we were greeted by a picturesque snowscape, providing a stunning backdrop to our adventure. The students thoroughly enjoyed the snowy surroundings and the breathtaking views of the lake and Botanical Gardens.

The first day was dedicated to our physics enthusiasts, with a visit to CERN. Our students had the incredible opportunity to explore its cutting-edge facilities and delve into the history of science at this world centre of particle physics research.



The second day focused on the humanitarian side of Geneva, with visits to the United Nations and its famous Broken Chair sculpture. At the Red Cross Museum, students enjoyed multimedia displays, simulations, and personal stories providing them with a thought-provoking insight into the realities of humanitarian aid work. This portion aimed to enhance the knowledge of our French A-level students about human rights, providing a unique and educational experience.

In the afternoon, we crossed the border to visit Voltaire's chateau, immersing ourselves in the legacy of this Enlightenment philosopher who planted the seeds of human rights and the French Revolution. We also discovered the rich Swiss heritage of watchmaking with a visit to the impressive Patek Philippe collection. The visit concluded on a high note with giant pizzas and bowling, bringing everyone together for a fun and memorable evening.

The overall success of this trip can be attributed to the enthusiasm and engagement of our students. Their curiosity and positive energy made the experience truly memorable. We are so proud of their impeccable behaviour and active participation throughout the trip. Thank you to all the students, parents, staff and school Trustees who contributed to the success of this educational adventure. We look forward to offering more enriching experiences in the future!"



For more photos go to [this link](#).

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY MARKED BY HISTORY DEPARTMENT ASSEMBLIES.

Last week Richmond School marked Holocaust Memorial Day by delivering a commemorative assembly led by Miss Ridley, Teacher of History.

The assembly informed students of why the Holocaust came to be and the reasons for Hitler's anti-semitism, dating back to the story of Jesus Christ.

The emphasis was on humanising the Holocaust - recognising that six million deaths is very hard to imagine and that we need to look at the survivors' stories in order to put a "face to the number" and to really highlight how each of the six million victims were individuals with individual, diverse lives.

Miss Ridley was joined by three wonderful volunteers: Izzy Barnes, Year 9, Myles Fairhurst Year 10, and Lily Holmes, Year 11.

Miss Ridley said: "I am so proud of the students that assisted in the presentation of the assembly - they were true professionals who showed the utmost respect for the survivors that they were speaking about. I truly appreciate their positivity and bravery. Furthermore, all listeners were incredibly considerate and respectful - I couldn't have asked for a better response!"



'SCIENCE LIVE' - GCSE SCIENCE STUDENTS GET A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE FROM 5 FAMOUS SCIENTISTS.

Students studying triple science in Year 10 had an amazing opportunity to attend the GCSE 'Science Live' lectures at St George's Hall, Bradford recently.

Five world renowned scientists, all working in current research at the cutting edge of their specialist areas, discussed their research with over 1000 students listening in. Topics ranged from the future of nuclear fusion, sustainable food production, looking at our brains, nature vs nurture and its influence on our genes.

Mrs Harrison was most excited about her favourite physicist being in attendance - Professor Jim Al-Kahlili, who rounded off the day talking about the possibility of time travel. He delved into the nature of time and space, supermassive black holes and the theory behind the Einstein Rosen bridge - a theoretical wormhole connecting two distant points in space-time. Mrs Harrison also managed to get one of her Jim Al-Kahlili authored books signed by the man himself - by her own admission, a proper fan-girl moment!

The variety of topics stimulated lots of discussion amongst the students and staff who all had different opinions on which had been the best lecture. They were all engaging and informative and really made us think about the future of science and how the next generation (the students watching the lectures!) will have a role in shaping the future.

The students themselves were fabulous and were brilliant ambassadors for the school.

Thank you to all the students, parents, staff and school Trustees who contributed to the success of this educational visit. It would not be possible without you. It was a fully immersive day of science and gave our students plenty of ideas for how they can be involved in future ventures.



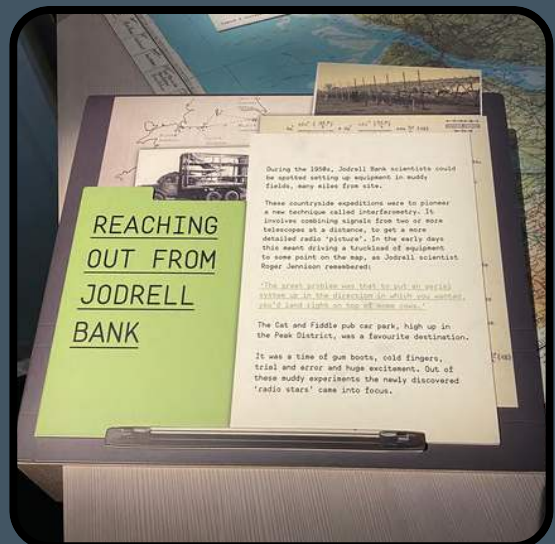
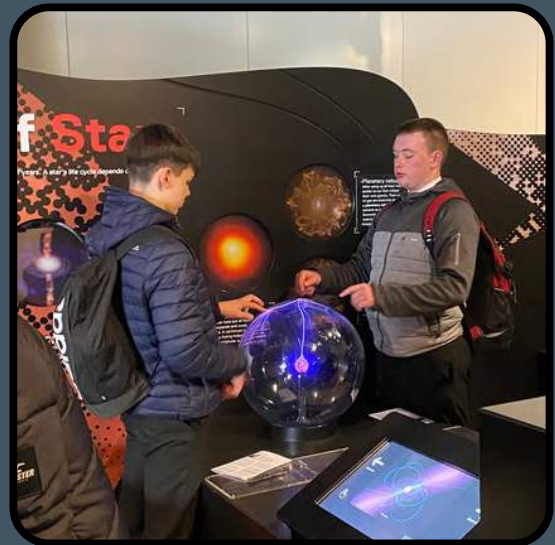
YEAR 11 SCIENCE STUDENTS VISIT JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY - HOME TO THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST RADIO TELESCOPE.

On a snowy Tuesday recently, Year 11 triple science students undertook a journey to the third largest radio telescope in the world.

Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire has been home to the Lovell Space Telescope since 1957. Part of the University of Manchester, they are uniquely a World Heritage Site and a live scientific research facility. Triple science students study Space Physics as part of their GCSE Physics course and this was an amazing opportunity for them to develop their understanding of the life of a star and look at the ways in which we are exploring the universe.

Students took part in 2 explorer-led sessions as well as taking the opportunity to visit the new exhibition centre where they learnt about the history of Jodrell Bank and its role in the space programme. The Space Dome was an immersive experience where students learnt about the Big Bang and the evolution of the universe, including the life cycle of stars. The whispering dishes were a big hit with students, demonstrating how the parabolic shape of the telescope focuses waves onto the antenna. It was a fabulous day and gave students an excellent insight into the world of Astrophysics.

Thank you to all the students, parents, staff and school Trustees who contributed to the success of this educational visit. The science department is very grateful for the opportunity to enrich the experience of our students.



STUDENT PROFILE - BENEDICT SIMPSON-ALEXANDER. BALANCING ELITE SPORT, ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY.

Last time we reported on Benedict Simpson-Alexander's running success was in the lead up to the English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham, back in the summer of 2023. Things have moved on since then. Benedict has started his studies in Year 13 and taken up the role of Deputy Head Student. His athletics has moved from the track to the cross-country course.

We caught up with Benedict before Christmas to find out how things were going, both from a sporting perspective and from the viewpoint of a student in the last year of his A-levels.

Take us back to that English Schools 1500m race at the Alexander stadium in Birmingham, in the summer. It was live streamed on YouTube and there were some people you know watching! I was - it looked like a tough race!

B: Well, firstly, I felt I was lucky to even be there! It was my first national level track and field event - I've done cross country nationally, but it's a lot harder to make the English schools team for track because there are defined entry standards. Anyway, I said to myself, 'Good experience - take advantage.'

That's a great attitude, but at the same time you know you're a good athlete and you've got that standard. You 100% deserved to be there. It's not just about luck! So, the race - it was the second of two heats. From what I remember, you figured strongly to start off with and then it got a bit fast at the front! I also recall that you ran quite a bit further than most of the other athletes...

B: Yes, exactly. My tactics weren't great! I ran it all in lane two because I didn't want to get boxed in. I ended up running about 20 metres more than I should have. It was a brilliant experience and I'm thinking about next year already.



Ok. Keep us posted.

Let's bring things up to date. It's the cross country season now and there's a big event this weekend - The British Cross Challenge which incorporates the European Trials. Tell us a bit about the event and how your cross country season has been going so far.

B: So this is at Sefton Park in Liverpool. I've stepped up from U17 to U20 this season so I'll be racing 6.7km in the Junior Men's race with about 200 other athletes. The top eight runners will qualify for the European Championships in Belgium. It's actually a bit shorter than the races I've been doing so far this season - they've been 8 to 10 km long - a big step up in distance for me. I've been going well so far this season - I've had a couple of North Yorkshire and South Durham League cross country races in the past five weeks, placing 2nd and 4th respectively in the men's races and 1st and 2nd in the U20 age category.

It sounds like you're going into the event with some good form!

Tell us a bit about your training and what happens behind the scenes when you're preparing for a big event like this - it's a bit of a voyage into the unknown, I guess?

B: It is. I have no clue how I'm going to do! I'm on the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme now and we have one to one sessions with sports psychologists. I was speaking to a psychologist recently and I said that I really don't know how I'm going to do. She said the most important thing is to control the controllables. If you can execute everything tactically, physically and mentally that you want to execute in the race, then you've done the best you can. That's my plan!



Just after the finish of the European Trials at Sefton Park

OK - good advice!. And the youth talent programme? Is that something quite recent or have you been there for some time?

B: Well, I've only really been in the sport for a couple of years - I did bits before but was inspired by watching the Olympics in 2021 and then my parents encouraged me to take it a bit more seriously. I applied for the programme and got in for 2022 - 2024.

But most athletes of your age have been competing at a high standard for years! You've come to the sport quite late?

B: Yes. That's quite an interesting situation. I was speaking to a coach the other day and he said that my training age is very young because I haven't been battering my body with training for about ten years. That means I'll make faster adaptations and I'll be able to do more when I go off to university and the training gets tougher - my body will cope better with it. I'm already pretty much caught up with athletes my age who started much younger.

It's sometimes quite hard to know how you are going in comparison to other athletes, though, especially as I do quite a lot of my training on my own. My usual training partner has gone off to university this year - the golden rule is you should train with athletes that are faster than you - that's how you improve. But in the end it's not down to anyone else. Although your coach is there to help and give advice, it's down to you to put the work in.

That's great advice too. All the very best for this weekend's race.

Looking ahead, what are the events and your goals moving into the New Year?

B: Area Trials in December, then in January the Yorkshire Championships - that's a big one. Then the County Schools Championships, then the Northern Championships. I've got to be quite careful because I over-raced this time last year. One of my best performances was in February last year in the National Championships where I was about 65th mid-race and clawed back places to finish 27th - that was probably my peak and possibly why I didn't have as good a track season as I wanted to. I've had some coaching advice about managing my peaks more carefully so I can perform well at cross country and also on the track.

That must have been a tough race - clawing all those places back!

B: Yes, it was. It was a good example of where I tried to be mentally resilient. I'm really into that kind of mindset. I don't know if you've heard of David Goggins - he's amazing. He used to weigh over 20 stone but one day he said enough was enough. He lost enough weight in three months to make the standard to train for and become a Navy Seal. His story is so motivational. He's an ultra runner now and has written two books - you should read them!

I'll follow that up - thank you. He does sound amazing. Ok, so we'll move on from your athletics now - you're a Year 13 student, studying French, Media and English Literature A-levels. How's it going, and how's the balance between your sport and your studies?

B: It's going well. It's a tough balancing act but I'd say I'm managing it quite well at the moment. As my mum always says, busy people always find the time! Time management is very important for me because I've got my subjects and my training and my job - I'm a lifeguard at Catterick Leisure Centre, and also my role as deputy head student.

How are you finding that role?

B: I'm really enjoying it. Giving the speech at the Sixth Form Open Evening and presenting men's health assemblies to other year groups have been brilliant experiences. And we're organising the dodgeball tournament now and other events for later on. When I was applying, I wanted to make sure our presence was felt in the main school as well as the sixth form and I feel like we're definitely achieving that.



And what about the future - University? How's the UCAS process going?

B: OK. My personal statement is at the editing stage now and I've found a couple of good universities - Cardiff Met. or Leeds Beckett where I go for my Youth Talent training. They both have a really good set up in terms of their athletics.

Interesting you mention the athletics setup before the course you're applying for!

B: Ha! My parents always say - course first, course first! The course at Cardiff is speaking to me a bit more than Leeds. It's Sports Media - quite a niche course, but I think the employment prospects would be good. Cardiff would also allow me to do Sport and Exercise Science based on my sporting profile. I'm also looking into possibly going over to America on scholarship - lots to think about!

Thanks Benedict. We look forward to catching up with you soon to hear about your performances in your cross country races and track events in the spring and summer. Keep us posted about your uni application too!

Thank you very much to Benedict for giving us such a detailed insight into his life. He's certainly a busy person with a lot on his plate, but he's got a fantastic, determined attitude and a thoughtful and considered way of dealing with the challenges he's presented with. Watch this space for updates...

Updates!

Soon after the European Trials at Sefton Park, Benedict gave us this update:

B: "I placed 87th out of 157 finishers. I was very pleased with my performance. I don't have anything to compare it against because of the new age category. I controlled the controllables! I pushed on a mile or so into the course and made up 20 places or so, similar to the Nationals last year. It was very muddy - even 15mm spikes weren't enough. It gives me something to work on - a baseline for comparison."

If you watch [this](#) video clip carefully, you can spot Benedict in a red vest wearing number 1025 - between 1 and 3 seconds.



The podium of the Yorkshire County XC Championships - disappointed then, but happier in retrospect!



More recently Benedict brought us right up to date with details about his racing, training and university application:

B: "Since the European Trials, a lot has happened. I was training really well until about Christmas Day when I picked up a bad chest infection. I rested, but I don't think I did for long enough. The Yorkshire County XC Championships were on Saturday 6th January, but despite my efforts to make the start line, I still hadn't shaken off the illness and it came back to bite me. It was heartbreaking, but I realised that I needed to rest!"

Fast forward a week later, after a course of antibiotics and five days rest I toed the line for the Schools County Championships, where I placed third. I was a bit disappointed initially (you only need to look at the podium picture!), but in hindsight I am pleased. Being able to run again and to have automatically qualified for the English Schools Championships in Pontefract on the 16th March is a great result given the circumstances.

Now, I'm back training and feeling good again. It's unclear where I am fitness wise or what the race plan is for the next few months. I am debating just getting my head down for the next eight weeks, no races, and just training to be in optimal condition for the Schools Championships. We'll just have to see but not running (even for five days) was painful. It really put into perspective how much I love the sport and what life would be like without it. I don't think I could cope!

The UCAS Application has been sent off, and I heard back from my last University on Tuesday. I have received offers from Leeds Beckett, Cardiff Metropolitan, Loughborough, University of Birmingham, and Stirling. Having all of these offers is making me reconsider my options. All of them have excellent athletics programmes, but I haven't yet visited Stirling or Birmingham, so we will have to see! I am very pleased to have been given offers from all, but for now, Revise, Revise, Revise!"

Thanks again to Benedict - we wish him all the best for the big race in March and look forward to his race report!

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY - THE RICHMOND SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE PODCAST!

Two of Richmond Sixth Form College's fantastic Media students have taken the bold and creative step to go beyond the demands of their A-level subjects and set up a podcast.

They've called it 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.' Bella Calunniato and Hettie Kimberley have researched content, secured interviews, set up their brand identity and dealt with the complex technical and sound issues that come with setting up a podcast.

Before Christmas they released a trailer and Episode 1: 'Introducing Ourselves!' and recently released episode two.

To access all episodes, go to Spotify at [this link](#).

We look forward to hearing future episodes and finding out how the podcast evolves!

Podcast Edition  Richmond School

BREAKING NEWS

There's a new podcast in town!



Yes, you read that right! Richmond School has its own official podcast! Hosted by two Sixth Formers in year 12, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly podcast focuses on:

- In-school news and events, sports, important issues, advice and much more!

These short episodes are available on Spotify and our podcast Instagram is @tgbatupodcast!

Link- <http://tinyurl.com/RichmondSchoolPodcast>

If you want to suggest any podcast ideas or things we should discuss feel free to email Bella or Hettie with our email: tgbatupodcast@hotmail.com



Pictured: Hettie Kimberley and Bella Calunniato

Meet the team!

Hello! We are the two girls behind it all! Starting a school podcast was definitely not what we came to Sixth Form for but we wanted to advertise school news and issues in a casual but still serious way to engage a younger audience and educate them about current affairs. We aren't always going to talk about serious topics for example our first episode is just us asking each other questions! We hope that you enjoy listening to our podcast and we are very excited for the foreseeable future!

Tune in every Tuesday for new episodes!

ISLA'S DRAMATIC SUCCESS CONTINUES!

Isla Henderson, Year 13 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, has been a key member of the school's Drama and Music departments since she joined the school in Year 7. Her acting and vocal talents are fabulous and she brings a hard working, dedicated attitude to all her practices and performances.

Isla doesn't restrict her acting and singing to school and college performances - she has been a member of the Georgian Theatre Royal's Youth Theatre group since she was at primary school and has taken part in many of their shows over the years. Isla is also an active member of the Richmond Operatic Society.

We have reported on a number of Isla's performances since she joined the school but, as you'd expect, her work and success continue. We thought it was time for an update, mainly in light of the fact that Isla recently won a National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) award for 'Best Youth Performer in Yorkshire' at a ceremony at Gosforth Park Hotel, Newcastle. This award was for her performance as 'Jenny' in Richmond Operatic Society's performance of 'Calendar Girls' last year at the Georgian Theatre Royal.



Isla had this to say about the ceremony and the award: "The awards ceremony was so much fun! Everyone was so nice and I made really good friends with the other actors nominated in the same category as me. I got a certificate for the nomination and won a trophy for the category which I am so proud of. Luckily I didn't have to give a speech because I had nothing planned!"

Isla has also been busy with the school's drama group, taking part in a 'One Act Play' festival with a performance of 'The Edelweiss Pirates'. The group won the Durham Cup for best performance.

Isla is, of course, taking Theatre Studies as one of her A-levels and recently performed an A-Level Devised piece - a murder mystery farce called 'A Not So Dark and Stormy Night' at the Georgian Theatre Royal - a huge success by all accounts! She is also in the process of applying for Musical Theatre courses at university.

Continuing Isla's stage performances, she has recently finished a run of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame', playing a gargoyle with Richmond Operatic Society, as well as a stand-out turn as Dorothy in the school's panto - The Wizard of Oz.

Away from the stage, though very much connected, Isla's journey through the musical grades is nearly over. She is currently studying and practising hard for her Grade 8 singing exam. Her voice teacher, Susan Jinks, had this to say about Isla: "I have been coaching Isla since she first came to the school in year 7, she has always been a dedicated student with a true passion for her vocal development. Isla has a strong work ethic and is professional in her approach to her craft. This award could not be more deserved. I know that she has the skills and resilience to be successful in the Musical Theatre world. I began my own career in Musical Theatre and have worked all over the world, Isla would not be out of place in any Theatre I have ever played. I hope that she enjoys the next stage of her career as much as I have enjoyed coaching her."

We wish Isla continued success with her fantastic performances and very much look forward to catching up with her later on this year for an update and to hear about her plans for the future.

STAFF VS. STUDENTS CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH. GREAT GOALS, DODGY DECISIONS AND MARVELLOUS MONEY-RAISING!

On a blustery and frankly freezing evening in December, two teams came together for a long-anticipated grudge match. One team was lithe, athletic and highly skilled, with the players' minds set on victory at almost all costs. The other team were Richmond School and Sixth Form staff members, taking this opportunity to relive what, in their minds, were the glory days of their youth. A traditional staff vs. students match was set up perfectly.

Anth Edwards, chief organiser and (to start with) Sixth Form team captain, takes up the tale:

"The game started with some energetic end to end football. Both teams showed 'slight competitiveness' as they committed to tackles and ran for 50:50 balls. As the first half drew to a close, the staff team's work rate dropped and the students took a 3-0 lead. Without Miss Atkinson's valiant efforts in goal, this could easily have been more than 3. The usually buoyant teachers were 'down and out'. Victory beckoned!"

At this stage, a tactical decision by the staff brought the game back to life. Anth Edwards swapped sides. Whether he had any choice in this matter was lost to the evening's icy winds. He certainly made a difference!

Anth continues: "After the injection of morale and pace that (much) younger and fresher legs brought, the staff were back in the game with two goals, including a stunning and beautifully calculated volley from outside the box by the ever-youthful maths maestro Mr. Moohan."

With the score precariously balanced at 3-2, both sides went into the break looking for inspiration from the half time team talk. Using the age old teachers' tactic of talking a lot with very little preparation, the staff talk paid dividends as the second half started.

Anth again: "The teachers came out like a new team. Solid in defence with some great attacking moves. Mr. Moore scored the goal of the match. A true 'wonder goal' that will be spoken of in whispered tones for years to come - the nail in the coffin for the students' chances. Controversially, some people said he intended it as a cross, but you'll have to talk to him about that. The final score was 6-3 to the staff."

The game was played with great spirit by both teams and raised £180 for a fantastic cause: TeamTalk Richmond, a charity focusing on men's mental health. This linked with the men's mental health assemblies that had been delivered by sixth form students during the same week - Anth among them.

Thank you to all who donated to this brilliant cause, and thanks to the players (and spectators) for turning out on such an inclement night. In the very best students vs. staff tradition - we look forward to next time!



Students

Top row, left to right: James Tallentire, Luke Millar, Matthew Thornton, Maciej Nuprejczyk, Nathan Elliot, Anth Edwards, Jake Percival, Victor Vados, Dan Hall, Jenish Gurung

Bottom row: Ethan McCutcheon, Ussap Thapa, Toby Watson, Matthew Rooney, Reuben Sandhu, Taylor Tomlinson, Ellis Hepper

Teachers

Top row, left to right: Mr. Swanwick, Miss Atkinson, Mr. Beresford, Mr. Robson, Mr. Moore

Bottom row: Mr. Short, Mr. Catmur, Mr. Braham, Mr. Moohan

RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE CHARITY DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT.

Richmond Sixth Form College students have been taking part in a competitive inter-tutor group dodgeball tournament over the past few weeks. Deputy Head Student, Benedict Simpson-Alexander led an enthusiastic team of senior student leaders who organised, refereed and even commentated on the matches.

Leslie Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, said, "The students have really enjoyed playing the dodgeball games and the level of competition has been sky high! The Year 13 student leaders have done an excellent job organising the tournament and I am so grateful for their commitment and good humour. It has been wonderful to see all Sixth Form students mixing together in this fun, sporting event."

The Grand Final, between tutor groups 13 Southgate-Lunn and 12 Dawson, took place just before Christmas. It was a very tense affair, going down to the last game. With the whole of the Sixth Form watching on, 13 Southgate-Lunn edged the last game to win 3-2 overall. Dan Hall, winning team captain, received the trophy and the team were crowned dodgeball champions 2023. Maciej Nuprejczyk was awarded player of the tournament.

Thank you to the student leaders who did an amazing job of organising the tournament. Thanks also to all the other teams and their vocal and enthusiastic supporters! The tournament was a huge success, raising over £230 for the charity Mind.



RICHMOND SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE MUSICIANS SHINE ONCE AGAIN - CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2023.

Students and staff from Richmond School and Sixth Form College celebrated Christmas with a traditional nine lesson carol service at St. Mary's Church, Richmond on the last Thursday of term. Musicians, choristers, conductors and readers from the school were joined by a congregation of friends and family from the local area, making the event into a fabulous, festive celebration at this special time of year.

The church had been decorated with artwork from the winners of the annual Christmas card competition, adding to the seasonal feel of the service.

Reverend Martin Fletcher started proceedings as the church bells struck six, with Molly Clayton, Year 9 student, singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' solo. The congregation joined in for the remaining verses, providing a fitting start to the service.

A wide variety of music and readings then followed, with performances from the Richmond School and Sixth Form College Choir, Orchestra, Concert Band, Chamber Choir and Brass Quintet.



Readings came from Caroline Scott Hall, Governor, Sophie Blair, Year 8, Archie Thomas, Year 7, Sophia O'Callaghan, Year 13 and Head Girl, Elizabeth Bowie, Year 9, Mrs. Potter, Headteacher, Tom Whitehead, Year 12, Elliott Miller, Year 9, Ms Johnson, Assistant Headteacher and William Swainston, Year 10. The congregation did their best to match the quality of the musicians' performances with rousing versions of traditional carols including 'Silent Night', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and finishing with 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Reverend Fletcher brought things to a close with a Christmas blessing and the congregation filed out into the Christmas evening to the sounds of Richmond School's talented and hard working musicians.

Thank you to staff and students from the music department for putting on such a high quality seasonal celebration, especially Mr. Boyd and Mrs Noble who conducted the ensembles. Thanks also to St. Mary's Church for the venue, and the winners of the Christmas card competition for providing the seasonal backdrop.

CHEERDANCE, MIDDLESBROUGH. STUDENTS HAVE A FANTASTIC DAY!

All 21 members of the Richmond Royals, Richmond School's very own cheerleading team, travelled to Middlesbrough recently to compete in the first Cheerdance competition of this season. The competition attracts teams from all over the North East, mainly private dance and cheerleading teams - Richmond is the only secondary school that enters these events - the standard is high and the competition is fierce!

The cheerleaders have been working hard on their routines since September. They have developed a squad routine and each member has worked on a set solo routine. Despite the fact that 17 of the 21 students in the Richmond team had no cheerleading experience until they joined the Royals, Richmond came away with some fantastic results:

Solo Level 3 - 15 Years

Francesca Rouse 2nd
Amelie Harte 3rd
Emmee May Michael 4th
Caitilin Mackintosh 6th

Solo Level 3 - 13 Years

Kat Qaranivalagi 3rd
Jess Clapton 4th
Lexi Adams 5th
Sophie Addison 7th
Eva Noone 8th

Solo Level 3 - 12 Years

Sienna Cooper 4th
Ava Riordan 5th

Squad Routine 15 Years and Under:

2nd Place

Cheer Fusion Solo – 14-15yrs

Emmee May Michael 6th

Miss Pemberton, dance teacher at Richmond School said: "Mrs. Fox and I had a fantastic day! It was a pleasure and a privilege to accompany this brilliant squad to Middlesbrough and to watch them work so hard and do so well. Working with these girls is a great part of my role at the school and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings for the Richmond Royals."

Mrs. Fox, lead teacher of dance at Richmond school, also accompanied the squad. Her other task was supervising their biggest fan Caleb, her son, who cheered the squad on until almost the very last when sleep got the better of him!

Watch this space for further reports from the Richmond Royals and at the end of the season, a video of the squad routine. If we post a video now, there's a danger of other squads copying or analysing the routine and getting an unfair advantage - you'll have to be patient!





TAP DANCING INTO CHRISTMAS!

Tom Grigg, one of Richmond School and Sixth Form College's many talented and hardworking musicians recently performed with the internationally acclaimed Leyburn Band in a slightly different way than he is accustomed to.

Tom regularly plays cornet with Leyburn band as well as with a number of the Richmond School and Sixth Form ensembles but not many people know that he is also a very accomplished tap dancer!

In a recent series of concerts by Leyburn band in the lead up to Christmas, Tom took a break from his cornet work and stepped up front and centre stage to tap dance, backed by the Leyburn band in full flow!

You can watch a video of one of his performances [here](#):

Be sure to watch until the end - the performance starts reasonably calmly, but builds to a great finale!



IT DEFINITELY FEELS A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS! STUDENTS EXCEL IN FABULOUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

Richmond School and Sixth Form College's musical prowess was on full display at the recent Christmas Concert. The audience were wowed by a wide range of musical performances, ranging from pin-drop solos to everyone-on-their feet sing-alongs.

The evening was intensely Christmasy, with the performers decked out in hats and tinsel - Thomas Pyrah, sousaphone player, even sported a seasonal pair of sunglasses - see photo!

The evening was hosted by Mr. Boyd, Lead Teacher of music, who kept the audience informed and entertained with background information about many of the pieces. He was also quite strict and didn't let anyone get away with lack of singing effort!

Mr. Boyd led the majority of the ensembles, including the Jazz Band, Brass Quintet, Concert Band and String Ensemble. Miss Noble led the Chamber Choir, Dave Harris led the Guitar Ensemble and Jo Williamson took charge of the Percussion Ensemble.

The stars of the show were, of course, the students. The time, dedication and effort it takes to reach this level of musicianship is not to be underestimated and the standard was sky-high. We were entertained by ensemble performances of carols - 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', classical favourites - Vivaldi's 'Winter' and more contemporary numbers - 'Winter Wonderland' and 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year' amongst many others. A highlight was 'The Real Twelve Days' - a musical and spoken word piece performed by the Brass Quintet and Isla Henderson, Year 13 student, depicting a gradual descent into Christmas mayhem as the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' presents are received by an imaginary Emily. The final spoken word section was delivered, with great comic effect, by Councillor Ian Woods, Mayor of Richmond.





The evening also provided an opportunity for soloists to shine. Isla Henderson gave a stirring rendition of 'Who Would Imagine a King' while Lara Scarr, Year 10 student, performed a fabulous high energy version of 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree', accompanying herself on guitar. As the evening drew to a close, the Jazz Band accompanied two more solo vocalists - first Maisy Forbes, Year 13, with a version of 'This Christmas' and then 'The Christmas Song' sung by Georgina Braidley, Year 10 student. Both students gave polished, jazz inflected, confident performances - a real treat.

The evening finished with a swinging, energetic version of 'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town' from the Jazz Band - hand clapping and singing along optional, but inevitable!

Thanks to Mr. Boyd and the music staff for organising the concert and the many practice sessions leading up to it. Thanks to the admin. and site team for managing the venue, refreshments and ticket sales. Thanks to friends and family and supporters of the school for turning up and being a great audience, but most of all thanks to our fantastic students for the hard work, effort and dedication they have demonstrated enabling them to put on such a fabulous show.

For more photos, click on [this](#) link.

AFRICAN DRUMMING AND CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS - RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN NEW SKILLS!

Year 7, 8 and 9 Richmond School students were offered the opportunity to take part in an African drumming workshop as well as a circus skills workshop over the course of the last half term.

120 students embarked on an hour-long session with Mahtar Njeba (African Drumming Practitioner) which saw them gain an insight into the art of African drumming as well as learning about its history and culture. In the African Drumming Workshop every student in the session had their own drum and they learnt some African rhythms with unusual but rather amazing grooves.

On their drums, students perfected their technique of drumming on the Djembe drums learning some drumming language and technical ability. Mahtar taught the students bass (low), tone (medium) and slap (high). These sounds are created by striking different areas of the djembe skin with the hands. In turn, they then applied the different pitches to create African rhythms. Mahtar was so impressed with their determination and teamwork when taking part in the drumming workshop that he pushed the group to create polyrhythms which consisted of two or more rhythms played simultaneously at the same tempo.

A video clip of one of the drumming workshops can be seen [here](#).



Later on in the term, another group of 120 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 embarked on an hour-long session learning the art of circus skills. The sessions were led by Adam Scott. The workshop saw circus performer Adam teach students the skills of many circus forms including: hula hoops, poi and staves, spinning plates, juggling balls, juggling hats, diablos, rola bola, peg stilts and cup stilts.

In the sessions students could choose from a variety of skills and circus performer of 15 years Adam 'BOOM' Scott taught students the basics. For those who were more advanced he offered expertise on some harder tricks.

Adam was an excellent practitioner who enabled our current A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students to participate in a workshop allowing them to explore a variety of circus skills. These skills linked to the play 'Around the World in 80 Days' that students watched last year, performed by the Tilted Wig Theatre Company for their written live theatre evaluation exam question.

Adam commented on the polite manner and engagement of the students during all five sessions as well being blown away by the vast opportunities they are given at Richmond School and Sixth Form College.

A video montage of students performing their circus skills (with varying degrees of success!) can be seen [here](#):

Mr Birdsall, Richmond School and Sixth Form College's Associate Assistant Headteacher for extra-curricular engagement, said: "The two sessions were received positively by students across year groups 7, 8 and 9 who are already asking when the next sessions are. Five groups of 30 students took part across both days and Richmond School and Sixth Form College's core values were truly on show throughout the day.

It is an absolute pleasure to be able to offer these enrichment opportunities to the students of Richmond School and I extend my biggest thanks to the trustees of Richmond School and Sixth Form College who made these days possible.



PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS GET MULTI-SKILLED!

Year 9 Sports Leaders from Richmond School led a multi skills sports festival for pupils in Key Stage 1 recently.

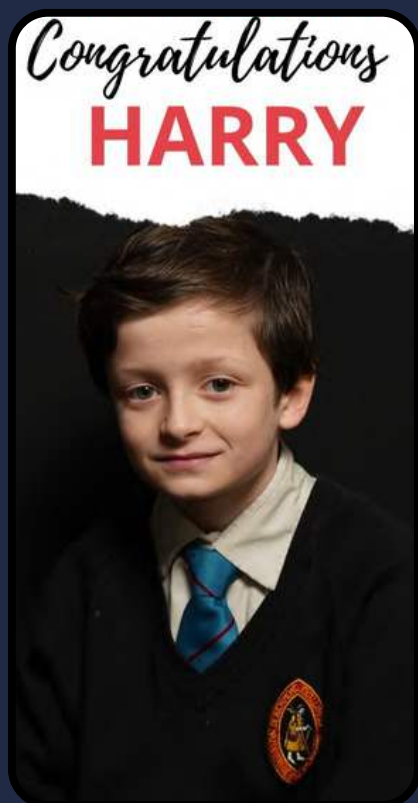
Pupils from nine local primary schools - Barton, Bolton on Swale, Brompton on Swale, Croft, Michael Syddall, Ravensworth, Richmond St Mary's, Trinity Academy Middleton Tyas and Trinity Academy Richmond participated in the event.

The pupils took part in a huge array of running, throwing and jumping based games throughout the morning. The leaders worked hard to ensure they were creating a fun yet safe set of activities whilst making sure that they were able to communicate with the participants in a very busy and noisy sports hall. This included demonstrating what they wanted the pupils to do as well as talking to the pupils on their level to ensure they could be heard.

The event was hugely successful with both the Key Stage 1 pupils and the Year 9 leaders leaving the event thoroughly worn out!

Thank you to the Year 9 Sports Leaders, all pupils and staff from participating primary schools and to Mrs. Carruthers for organising the event.





Week beginning 18th December

Harry McDermid was nominated by Miss Millman who said: "I want to nominate Harry McDermid from my tutor group for obtaining an amazing 54 credits in 2 weeks (32 last week, which I think is unheard of). He has received credits for each of the 6 values; with the majority being awarded for Excellence and Respect. Harry has really turned his attitude around. At the beginning of this year, Harry was picking up multiple consequences - he has managed to reduce these right down and has become one helpful and polite young man, who is keen to do well and be the best that he can be. Harry is also encouraging other students to be good, telling them that "teachers will start praising you and you will get loads of CREDITS". He had a challenging time in Year 7 but since starting Year 8 he has made great improvements in his behaviour and is becoming a really positive young man. He has absolutely turned a corner."

Week beginning 15th January

Matty Partridge was nominated by Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Randall who said: "Where do we begin? Matty is one of the most generous students we have met. At the start of Year 11 he asked to help out in Science Club with Years 7 and 8 and immediately had an excellent rapport with the students. He has been a valuable asset and had no hesitation in getting involved and helping those who needed it. He has a natural warmth with the students and staff and his scientific brain seems to hold a ridiculous amount of information! Before Christmas he sent a detailed experiment he wanted to carry out and has been back after school to set up the airtrack and data loggers to investigate how viscosity affects terminal velocity. This was all done off his own bat and was just something he was curious about.

Matty has a vast knowledge of everything physics related and takes every opportunity to further his knowledge and love of the subject. At the recent trip to Jodrell Bank Matty stayed back after a session to talk with the lecturer to find out more about the work they do there and to quiz him about how involved they are with SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence). He is kind to everyone, always looks to go above and beyond in his lessons and outside of lessons and is a genuinely fabulous person who has an amazing future ahead of him. Both Mr. Randall and I feel he is a well deserving winner of the Headteacher's CREDIT Values Award."



Congratulations
MOLLY



Week beginning 22nd January

Molly Shanley was nominated by Mrs Fox and Miss Pemberton who said: "We'd like to nominate Molly Shanley for HTCVA this week for her absolute excellence in her recent Dance NEA performance. Molly was a true professional all morning during rehearsals, not only by taking on feedback and actioning it within her own performance, but also by actively helping other groups with their spacing, timing and performance qualities.

Molly was extremely nervous coming into her moderation - she stood outside the hall trembling with tears in her eyes and shaking her head to say she couldn't do it. But as soon as she got on stage she turned into a dancing demon and performed with the confidence and commitment of a professional dancer. She brought us to tears as we watched with such pride and she has been given a higher score than anyone else in her class. Molly lacks self belief and confidence and doesn't realise her talent / skills. She puts a huge amount of pressure on herself and is a perfectionist, sometimes to her detriment, so we would love for this nomination to be another reminder of what an incredible student she is."

Week beginning 29th January.

Hannah Slater and Cameron Smith were nominated by Miss Spittlehouse who said: "Cameron and Hannah are exceptional students, who go above and beyond our expectations consistently. For those who have had the absolute pleasure of teaching Cameron and Hannah will know how truly wonderful they are. I'd like to nominate them for the Headteacher's CREDIT values award for the fantastic work they do with the Eco Club, within the local community and their immense assembly.

Cameron and Hannah play a pivotal leadership role within the group in ensuring that all our students have a super time and can be involved in the activities we do. Both students have grown in confidence and leadership ability over the past couple of years and it's been brilliant to see. This culminated in Cameron and Hannah approaching me with an idea for assembly in the sixth form. They contacted Local Authorities and groups working on the project, undertook their own research and developed the assembly themselves. Those who had seen the assembly will know how utterly professional, knowledgeable and engaging the pair were - not to mention when all the tech went off and they carried on as absolute pros like nothing had happened!

Cameron and Hannah represent each of our credit values flawlessly and I have no doubt they will go on to be brilliantly successful in the field of conservation, geography and ecology, where we need as many advocates as we can get. Thank you to them both for all the help with Eco Club and for their informative and super assembly!"

Congratulations
CAMERON, HANNAH

