



Richmond School & Sixth Form College

Prospectus 2024 - 2025



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**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Areté
Learning Trust
Striving for
Excellence



Welcome

Welcome to Richmond School and Sixth Form College. I do hope the prospectus gives you a flavour of the 'Richmond School experience' - one that is academically challenging, full of fantastically diverse learning opportunities and rooted in a belief that high-quality, personalised care and support are fundamental to student success and enjoyment. We constantly strive to improve the quality of the education we provide. We use research to decide how to make the lessons engaging, in order that our students can move beyond instruction to become inquisitive, independent learners who can compete with their peers on a global stage.



Jenna Potter, Headteacher



We are a very big school, but we are a very 'close-knit' community. Our students and staff are friendly and welcoming and we enjoy working together to achieve excellence. We embrace completely the support and expertise we gain from our many community links and we are also proud to be able to 'give back' and contribute to local projects. Right from day one, students work hard to demonstrate and develop the school's CREDIT Values - Creativity, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Independence and Teamwork. Whatever your child's interest or passion, Richmond School can open doors for them to experience things they never believed possible.

About us and the area.

On visiting, there's an immediate sense that it is more than just a school, it's a community within a community and students, visitors, parents/ carers and staff often comment on the special buzz they feel when they are here. It's hard to pinpoint, but it's a combination of many factors that unite to make this such a special place. Dedicated teachers, fabulous facilities, a wonderful heritage, a sense of belonging and incredible students, to name but a few.

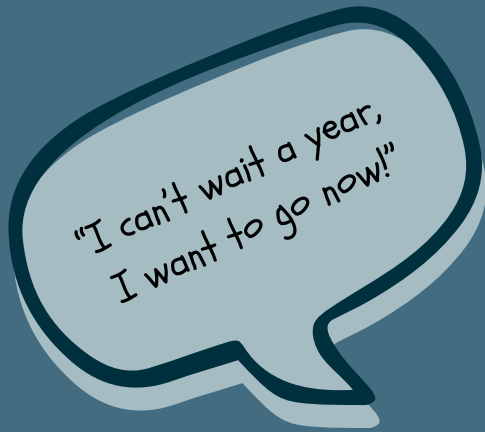
We currently have approximately 1,300 students on roll, with 12 feeder schools in our catchment area which covers 350 square miles. We do, however, frequently take students from a wider geographical area - last year, for example, students came to us from a total of 37 primary schools. We serve the area of Richmondshire, taking in many outlying villages, Catterick and extending up to the top of Swaledale.

We are part of the ARETÉ LEARNING TRUST and our strapline 'Striving for Excellence' underpins our aspirational ethos.

Steeped in a rich history, our heritage goes back nearly 700 years and throughout this time Richmond School has been at the heart of its community. The school is now a genuine community hub with extensive sport, performing arts, STEM and business links.

Richmond School works very closely with its LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD. This group of individuals, who have a very wide range of backgrounds, offers both support and high levels of challenge to the Headteacher and the Leadership Team, ensuring that standards across the school are constantly being raised.

RICHMOND SCHOOL TRUST, a charitable organisation linked to the school and college, exists essentially to offer financial support to our students and the establishment as a whole. The Trustees have supported many students, predominantly ensuring that 'disadvantage' does not prevent them from taking part in the many activities and educational experiences on offer, but also offering financial support to students who strive for excellence in a particular area, eg sport or the arts.



**Words of a Year 6 student
at our last Open Evening.**

We couldn't put it better ourselves!

It's a big step moving to secondary school and we do everything possible to support students through this new chapter of their lives. It is natural to feel a little nervous, as the anticipation and excitement builds. We know it can be daunting, as the school is a big place, but it is something to be excited about rather than worried about. Being big means we offer a packed programme of experiences. There will never be a dull moment, the students will be spoilt for choice - we guarantee they will find new interests that they didn't know they had!

Building confidence and being ready!

Long before students and parents/carers are invited to our open evening, students will have had the opportunity to visit Richmond School to try out subject-based and sporting activities. From as early as Year 1 we work with our feeder schools to introduce students to life at 'big school'. This helps them familiarise themselves with the layout of the building, meet some of the teachers and meet their future peers. Examples include: sports activities, music events, UKMT maths challenge and hands-on science lessons.

We are very proud of the sense of community we create for our future students and our close-working links with colleagues at our feeder schools who we view as part of the Richmond School family. These links build students' confidence, and support continuity and progression as academic and pastoral information is shared. Our aim is that our students of tomorrow are at ease and comfortable with Richmond School today.

Transition timetable - Year 6 to Year 7

Open Evening	An informative, interactive and inspiring event for Year 6 students and their families.	September
A range of visits	Opportunities to take part in sport, science, music and maths events throughout the year.	October - June
We visit you	Staff and current Year 7 students visit feeder schools for Year 6 students to ask questions and get an overview of life at school.	Summer Term
Meet your tutor	Students and their parents are invited to visit to meet their tutor	July
Transition days	Students visit for two days: a great opportunity to forge friendships, find their way around and get a feel for life at school	July

We pride ourselves on being a close-knit community, inside and outside of school. Within school, we have a strong community spirit whereby students and staff pull together for the good of each other. However, we have equally strong links with a host of organisations, businesses, the military and charities in our local area and pride ourselves on how we are actively involved in many projects and initiatives that benefit our local community. Below are just some of the organisations who we are proud to collaborate and partner with for the benefit of our students and the wider community.



**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



A family with exceptional pastoral care

We know that for students to really excel, they need to feel entirely safe and receive the best possible care. The standards of behaviour across the school are extremely high, reflecting a culture in which students are calm, relaxed and eager to learn. This creates a positive environment in which students genuinely feel happy and 'cared for'. We pride ourselves on the quality of our pastoral care - although we are a big school, we consider ourselves to be a big 'family' in which students are 'known' for who they are, what their interests are and their dreams and aspirations.

Our tutor groups form the basic 'family unit'. Students join a tutor group when they start at Richmond and remain with the tutor group and the same tutor until the end of Year 11. New tutor groups are created in Sixth Form. The tutor is the in-school 'parent' for the students and acts as an immediate point of contact for parents. Each year group has a dedicated Head of Year who maintains an overview of all the students in that year group in terms of their behaviour, attendance and well-being and offers support. Each Key Stage (Years 7 to 9 and Years 10 and 11) also has a non-teaching Pastoral Officer who offers additional support and guidance.



Sometimes, students and families experience more trying times and Ms Jukes, our Home School Support Worker offers a highly-supportive extra level of care if needed. We also have close links with a wide network of external agencies who support students more directly with specific issues, such as: Early Help, Children and Young People's Services, Police, CAMHS, Young Carers and bereavement support.

Richmond School is proud to be part of SCISS, an affiliation of schools in England that have Service children on roll. The aim to is champion the education and wellbeing of Service children so that they achieve the best-possible outcomes. Mrs Cheesbrough, our Service Children's Advocate, oversees the wellbeing and engagement of all Service Children in school.

Over thirty members of our staff were once students here and took the decision to re-join the school. We really believe this adds to the 'family feel' in the school and helps to maintain the very positive links we have established with the community.



Curriculum

We place great value on subject knowledge and skills as a basis for developing competence and an understanding of the world. We value the qualifications that students achieve but we also want to ensure that we expand the knowledge and skills that students have, beyond those needed to pass exams. Our curriculum and school development agenda are based around the six core CREDIT school values of Creativity, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Independence and Teamwork.

Our curriculum aims to raise students' aspirations, develop knowledge, skills and understanding, and promote self-belief and self-confidence. We believe in breadth of learning; the right of students to study a rich and broad curriculum. We believe in developing their literacy and numeracy, their physical, technical and artistic competence alongside empathy within a social and moral framework. We endeavour to stretch, challenge and support every student through the curriculum.

During Years 7, 8 and 9, students will study a broad and balanced curriculum which includes English, Maths and Science. Students will also study a wide range of subjects including Art, Dance, Drama, Design Technology, Food and Nutrition and Textiles Technology, Geography, History, Computing, French, German, Physical Education and Theology and Philosophy.



In Years 10 and 11, we fully support the entitlement that students have to study the group of qualifications, which the government calls the English Baccalaureate (EBacc): English, Mathematics, two Sciences, one Humanities subject (Geography or History) and a Modern Language. Our Programmes of Study offer all students the opportunity to choose from a wide range of subjects. Visit our curriculum pages at www.richmondschool.net for more detailed information about what your child studies each year.



As part of our commitment to their personal development, students follow a bespoke LIFE curriculum, which is delivered through tutor time. LIFE lessons are designed to help students understand the wider world and prepare them for transition to adult life. The LIFE curriculum includes Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Citizenship development and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

Reward and recognition

Richmond School has developed a very strong culture that celebrates the school's values and associated successes in a wide variety of ways. We firmly believe that 'success breeds success' and we look for every opportunity to celebrate this with our students.

CREDITS

Students are issued with CREDITS in lessons for demonstrating the school values eg designing a remarkable pet pillow in technology, showing determination in learning times tables in maths or showing respect by supporting friends and other class members with their work. Each week, running totals for tutor groups and year groups are shared in assemblies and the students with the highest number of CREDITS are congratulated and given a postcard by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

HEADTEACHER'S VALUES AWARD

This award is based on nominations made by staff each week for a student who has been exceptional in their demonstration of the school values. Mrs Potter meets with the nominated student every week and the success stories are shared with both staff and parents. Award winners have been nominated for singing a solo at The Sage, creating a professional standard magazine cover as part of GCSE Media, constantly going 'above and beyond' in French by learning new vocabulary and entering a national literary competition in the language and continuing to work hard in school and sit internal examinations, despite having two broken arms.....the list of exceptional achievements goes on and on.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Each month, a 'Student of the Month' is nominated for every class in every subject in school, in recognition of their effort and commitment to a particular subject area.



ANNUAL PRESENTATION EVENING

Each September, we reflect on the previous year and reward the highest-achieving students in each subject in each year. We also have a significant number of special cups and awards that are awarded for exceptional achievement across a broad range of categories. We always look forward to a warm and positive initial address from a guest of honour. This event always starts the year off in the most positive of ways and is enjoyed by all who attend.

NEWSLETTER

Our half-termly newsletter is jam-packed with all of the positive stories and successes that have taken place in school. Please visit the [Newsletters page](#) of the website to read the latest editions.

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM

Keeping a regular eye on the website and following our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages will ensure you are always kept up-to-date with the latest news, success stories and events in school. You can also find a host of useful day-to-day information on the [website](#).





Our performance, reporting and tracking system is called 'Aiming High' whereby students and parents receive Aiming High Reports at key points throughout the academic year. In Years 7, 8 & 9 students receive three reports with the midpoint only reporting on a student's attitude to learning. In Year 10 students will receive three reports across the year and in Year 11, 12 and 13 the students will receive two reports.

The standard report contains three crucial pieces of information about each subject:

- An aspirational target grade.
- In Years 7, 8 and 9, a mastery grade which describes how well students are currently mastering the curriculum.
- In Years 10, 11, 12 and 13, a professional prediction grade which is the most likely grade a student will achieve based on the evidence of the work produced so far.
- An Attitude to learning grade which reflects each student's application to their studies.

Lead Teachers and Heads of Year track and monitor students' progress throughout the year. If progress has slowed for a particular student or groups of students, the school will look to offer support. We offer a wide range of tailored interventions, which are used depending on the needs of each individual student, including input from: Subject Teachers, Lead Teachers, Heads of Year, Learning Support team, Pastoral team, Behaviour, Careers team and Student Leaders.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

We provide a personalised approach to intervention including contacting home when we have concerns, arranging meetings, providing a programme of after-school sessions, behaviour for learning cards, use of external agencies and student mentoring.

Our aim is always to work with parents and carers to find an approach which draws out the best qualities in each student in order for them to succeed and fulfil their potential. At the end of each term, we recognise and celebrate students' achievements in an 'Aiming High Assembly'.

PROGRESS

A key measure to a school's success is how much progress is made between students joining our school and taking their final exams. At GCSE this is called a Progress 8 score and shows that, over time, students make very good progress and achieve strong outcomes and do better than the national average.

Students in Sixth Form also make more progress than similar students nationally. The number of students continuing their studies from the beginning of Year 12 to the end of Year 13 is higher than the national average, with very few students leaving their courses before the end.



Student Leaders play a key role in the development and improvement planning for the school and college. We listen to our students' views and support them to take on genuine leadership work for the benefit of the whole school and college community. We recognise that 'leadership' skills and behaviours do not come naturally to everyone, but we also know they can be learned. For that reason, we have put in place quality leadership training for all those students who are selected for the programme.



The Sixth Form Head Students and their Deputies work alongside the Student Leaders in school and also work closely with the other senior Student Leaders from our Trust partner schools. In this way, students experience a wider view of secondary education and our practice improves through the great ideas that are exchanged.

Student Leaders are increasingly involved in the mentoring of younger students. This can be through one-to-one Independent Learning guidance and supporting students both in tutor periods and in lessons. They have also become a key part of the school's assembly programme, delivering assemblies to the wider school on a range of topics from current affairs, to how students can best embody our school values in life. Our Sports Leaders regularly support and assist primary sports events in school, such as multi-skills, cross-country, football, rugby, tennis and cricket.



Our students are the best ambassadors for our school and do a superb job, acting as guides for visitors to the school and they are also heavily involved in giving back to the local community. In addition, we are delighted with the work that our students have completed to support local, national and international charities.

Extra-curricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Our students are a dedicated bunch and are rightly proud of their achievements, both academically and outside of their studies. They have an exceptional offer of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, the roll call of clubs, societies, events and visits would fill too many pages - safe to say, there is something for everyone, including many opportunities to take part in subject-related visits or voluntary work in the community.

CLUBS

There is a packed programme of after-school activities and clubs, such as Chess, Science, History, Textiles, Warhammer, Eco and Food Preparation and Nutrition Clubs, plus an extensive choice of Sports, Dance, Drama and Music.



OUT AND ABOUT!

Our students enjoy a host of visit opportunities throughout their time with us. They can experience French culture in Brittany in Year 7, go out in the field with Geography or Biology in Year 10, take part in university visits, careers events - the list goes on. There are also trips and experiences offered to multiple year groups, such as the Battlefields visit and theatre experiences.

ENRICHMENT

A wide-ranging offer of projects and activities across each department enhances students' learning and deepens interest in their subjects. For example, in English, students have opportunities to see live performances of drama and poetry, enjoying trips to the theatre or theatre companies visiting school to do workshops. Our Design and Technology department takes part in the Rotary Club Technology Tournament as well as many others.



COMMUNITY CONSCIOUS

We are committed to ensuring our students leave Richmond as well-rounded, kind-hearted and community-conscious individuals. This ethos is supported with extensive opportunities for students, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a continually evolving number of voluntary projects in the community, such as the Eco Club's work at Foxglove Covert, at The Green Howard's Museum and close partnership work with The Station and the Walking and Book Festival in Richmond.

Demonstrating our value of Independence, students embrace every chance to take the initiative to enrich their own life and the lives of others. We are proud of the countless examples of our students putting others before themselves and supporting the wider community.

Fabulous facilities for students, staff & the community

The innovative design of our campus blends the school's heritage with the needs of modern education. The extensive site and suite of buildings open up possibilities for the school to deliver a more flexible curriculum, offer more facilities to the wider community, and provide high-quality learning spaces for pupils and excellent working environments for staff. We are immensely proud of our sporting facilities: astroturf, the 3G 'Dave Clark Arena', grass pitches for rugby, cricket, football and athletics, tennis/netball courts, sports hall and fitness suite, plus a custom-designed pavilion.



We offer well-equipped science labs, DT workshops, food technology rooms, music-recording, dance, drama and art studios, rehearsal rooms, plus a fantastic library space.



The school's design and construction encompasses every element of sustainability, including transport, food miles, healthy lifestyles and energy use.

The Sixth Form Centre, housed in a creatively conserved Grade II listed building, sits independently within the school site, helping to create a college feel for the Sixth Form whilst maintaining very close links with the school. There are restaurants in the school and Sixth Form centre offering an extensive choice of meal options for break and lunchtime.



Our Learning Support Department offers support to students with a wide variety of learning needs in all year groups. Some students are supported throughout their school career, from Year 7 to Year 13, while for others, support is shorter term.

WHAT TYPE OF ADDITIONAL NEEDS ARE CATERED FOR?

We have extensive experience of working with students with a wide variety of additional needs, including students with specific learning difficulties, autism and physical or sensory difficulties. Access to support is not dependent on students having a formal diagnosis, nor on whether they have had additional support previously.

Students with additional needs generally access the same courses and opportunities as everyone and should make good progress through high-quality teaching by subject specialists. However, in some cases, an extra layer of support is beneficial. The nature of this support will depend on students' individual needs.

WHAT MIGHT SUPPORT LOOK LIKE?

Assistive technology - we have a bank of laptops available for students to use in their lessons to support written work. All students have access to Read&Write software, which is used in many workplace settings and schools. The software supports reading and writing and aims to boost students' confidence. It is a useful tool for everyday study, revision and in some cases, exam completion. We can also provide a link to allow home use free of charge.



ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Some students are eligible for additional time, a reader, scribe or use of a laptop in exams and assessments to make sure they aren't disadvantaged by their learning differences. These systems support students in becoming more independent and taking a lead in their own learning so that a learning difference is therefore not a barrier to achievement.

In consultation with teaching staff and parents, the Learning Support department assesses some students for eligibility for access arrangements and ensures that these are available to them when needed.

A PERSONALISED APPROACH

For some students, additional support with specific study skills can be a big help towards developing their progress. Some students may be mentored, either by a member of the Learning Support team, or by a senior student. Others may have access to additional help from a Teaching Assistant in some lessons.

For a very small number of students, the standard timetable of GCSE and other Level 2 courses is not necessarily the best option and, in consultation with parents/carers, a personalised programme of study may be suggested. We will contact parents/carers of students who might be included in this type of arrangement.

Careers support and guidance

We commit to providing a high-quality, planned programme of careers education and guidance for all students. All students have access to the Careers topic within the LIFE Programme, Careers Ideas in subject areas and Careers based assemblies for National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week as a minimum. Further Education Providers attend including: Richmond Sixth Form College, Darlington College, Askham Bryan and specialist Technical Providers. Other events may be scheduled throughout the year!



YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

In Key Stage 3, LIFE Careers sessions focus on topics such as; Being aware of main learning pathways, taking initiative in learning and life, learning from setbacks and challenges and exploring possibilities to name a few. This work enables them to be able to make better-informed decisions. It also helps to raise aspirations and improve motivation for learning.

In the 24-24 academic year, Year 9 students will be invited to our annual Careers Fair for the first time. This is to allow them to see the 'bigger picture' and help them make informed decisions with their programme of study choices.

YEAR 10

Students develop their understanding of the world of work in LIFE.

Topics include; preparing for work experience, wellbeing in the workplace, challenges and rewards of work and employability skills.

All students are given the opportunity to take part in our Work Experience Programme during May 2025. Adjustments will be made for any students with additional needs and we work closely with the SENCO, tutors and parents to ensure we are providing equal opportunities for all students.

In the Summer Term, students who are interested in Darlington College have the opportunity to visit in July. This is a full day trip where students take part in 2 subject taster sessions, get to see the facilities at the college and have lunch in the canteen.



YEAR 11

We are committed to providing all students with impartial careers information, advice and guidance to enable them to make the right choices for their futures. All students have a scheduled 1-1 careers interview with one of our Level 6 trained Careers Advisers, Miss Hamer or Mr Soroczan. These interviews help to identify students personal qualities, skills and interests and choosing a career pathway.

Year 11 are invited to our annual Careers Fair in September with over 30 employers from the local area, along with further and higher education providers. This correlates with the careers education in LIFE lessons, which covers all post-16 options available to our students and helps them make decisions about their pathway beyond school.

Transition to Sixth Form College

We offer a comprehensive and interactive transition programme into Year 12, whether students are joining us from our school or other secondary schools in the area. For our students, the link with Sixth Form is something they will start experiencing from Year 7, as the college shares the site with the school. They will get to know many of the Sixth Form students as they see them around school, especially those who are student ambassadors and mentors, helping at sporting, performing arts and charity events. Our students also benefit from already knowing the teachers, so have formed relationships with them, making the academic transition to A-levels and other Level 3 courses a smooth one.

In Years 10 and 11, our staff speak to our own students and visit students from other secondary schools in the area, to explain what our Sixth Form has to offer. Subsequent to this, prospective students and parents are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening in October. This provides opportunities to meet our teaching staff and student ambassadors; enabling applicants to become familiarised with the Sixth Form community

The application process commences during the Autumn Term, with all applicants receiving a reply confirming their application with details of entry requirements.

In the Spring Term, guided tours of the Sixth Form facilities are available upon request. In June, applicants are invited to two taster days. These are an opportunity to further experience life as part of the Sixth Form community. In August, after GCSE results, students who have met the entry requirements enrol and meet with staff to discuss options if necessary.



We offer a comprehensive bridging work programme for our students who are planning to join us in Sixth Form. The programme 'bridges the gap' between GCSE and post-16 study to give students a flavour of the type of work they will be covering.

The transition from GCSE to post-16 study can be a challenging one, and we want to provide students with as much support as we can. The study skills required of a successful student are varied, and involve students taking an active role in their progression and development. We firmly believe that getting off to a good start will aid students on their journey to success, allowing them to develop into independent and responsible learners. When studies commence in September, students will be expected to have completed the bridging work in each of the subjects they have chosen to study.

Completing the bridging work prepares students for those subjects that they have chosen so they can start positively and 'hit the ground running'. Each department offers a range of tasks to complete prior to students starting their chosen courses. These vary in nature from course to course. It might involve learning some basics, reviewing some fundamental GCSE ideas, some reading or some research. This should be undertaken with diligence and an open mind, as the first step in the new post-16 journey. Our aim in Sixth Form is to support students to further develop all of our six core CREDIT values - Creativity, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Independence and Teamwork. The bridging work programme is an important part of this.



Peter Hedley, Associate Assistant Headteacher, said: "We are delighted with the exceptional work that our future students produce ahead of joining the Sixth Form. They actively engage with subject tasks; tackling them with great enthusiasm. Students embrace independent learning; a skill which is so important for post-16 study."

"By completing the tasks that have been set, Year 11s are much better informed about the subjects they choose to study by having had the opportunity to develop study skills and discover strengths and interests"

Cameron Smith explains why he found the bridging work so valuable: "The bridging work over the summer allowed for me to get a feeling for college work whilst also gaining an understanding about my chosen subject and made me look forward to learn more. It also allowed for the huge step into A-levels to be lessened as I got a base understanding for the work I would be studying in September."

For further information about Bridging Work, please email Peter Hedley at phedley@arete.uk



Sixth Form College

A warm welcome is guaranteed at our Sixth Form College, where a thriving, vibrant community of over 200 students and staff awaits. Our positive ethos is underpinned by the six CREDIT Values we share with the school: Creativity, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Independence and Teamwork. We consider these to be integral to our students' success and wellbeing.

CURRICULUM

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum of many academic as well as technical and applied subjects and we are extremely proud of the diversity we are able to offer. This includes subjects which students can continue to study after GCSE through to new subjects, such as Psychology, Economics or CTEC Sport to name just a few. We can always plan a progression route from GCSEs to Sixth Form study.

Our dedicated [Sixth Form Prospectus](#) offers a comprehensive guide to all our subjects.

TEACHING AND STUDENT SUPPORT

We are extremely proud of our teaching teams in the Sixth Form which are made up of highly-qualified teachers with extensive experience of 16-19 study programmes. Our teachers are also passionate about the subjects they teach and this enthusiasm is passed on to the students.

Students joining any Sixth Form can find the transition from Level 2 to Level 3 study difficult to cope with. The increase in workload and expectation that students do a considerable amount of independent learning, can be a challenge for some. We aim to ease this transition by having a Sixth Form leadership team who, together with tutors, teachers and our academic mentor, support and guide our students throughout their time at college.

The Sixth Form staff team includes a tutor for every student so that every individual is well known. We are also very proud of the strong working relationships our staff form with their students which enable them to flourish. These relationships are often commented on by students, parents and other visitors to the college.

We are fortunate to have a separate Sixth Form building on the school site which has a spacious, light-filled study centre for the exclusive use of our students. The centre is equipped with 60 computer workstations and tables for written work and is staffed by our Sixth Form academic mentor.



Alongside a commitment to focusing on academic study, students are expected and encouraged to become fully involved in the life of the college. We have an active body of Student Leaders, led by the Head Students and their deputies. Our Student Leaders work as ambassadors for the school and Sixth Form and have a variety of roles, giving our students a voice in decision-making. They also mentor and support the Tutor Representatives and Student Leaders in the younger years to encourage a high level of interaction with the rest of the school. Their work allows them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond college.

EXTRACURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT

As in the school, a wealth of opportunities exist for our students to be part of a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, including dance, debating, drama, music, sport, board games and travel. We recognise the importance of students developing their personal qualities alongside their academic studies because working outside of the classroom really enhances a student's learning experience. Our personalised approach and rich curricular and extracurricular offer make Richmond Sixth Form College a supportive and very positive place to learn.

Sixth Form Careers

In the Sixth Form, students will be making decisions which will influence their careers. Whichever path students choose, they will have advice and guidance to help with planning. We support students to realise their potential and to make realistic and informed decisions about the future. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own decisions.



Our comprehensive careers guide is featured in our dedicated [Sixth Form Prospectus](#).

Our service includes:

- Dedicated teams of staff to support progression into careers and university
- Access to face-to-face advice and guidance from professional careers advisers
- Careers "drop-in" sessions in tutor time
- Visits to UCAS Discovery Days for Year 12 students
- All Year 12 students participate in a week of work experience to support their post-18 choices
- "Speakers for Schools" programme with inspiring guest speakers
- Support for apprenticeships (higher and degree level) applications
- Employability skills - CV and letter-writing support through industry experts.



We have excellent relationships with many top UK universities including Russell Group Universities. This includes visits to Durham University, The University of York, The University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University and Northumbria University as part of our careers programme or through the curriculum. We also support students to access competitive summer schools and enhancement opportunities, for example:

- UNIQ (Oxford University)
- Cambridge University Shadowing Scheme
- Villiers Park Educational Trust
- The Brilliant Club
- EDT Headstart Courses (STEM)
- The Sutton Trust
- Summer Schools with Newcastle University, The University of Birmingham and Teesside University

Our Alumni and Friends community

You'll always be a part of Richmond Sixth Form College and Richmond Sixth Form College will always be a part of you!

Diverse, dynamic, illustrious, inspiring and impressive, we are fortunate to have a rich and hugely supportive Alumni and Friends community who are very much part of our family. Their legacy stays with us and we are immensely proud of the strong links we have with our former students and friends and we really value their support.

Our Alumni and Friends make a significant contribution to the life of the school and college in so many ways, including: giving inspirational talks, conducting mock interviews, offering work experience and informal guidance to students and generally being an intrinsic part of the wider life of the school community.

Alumni and Friends are invited to become part of our community by registering at the ['Alumni and Friends' page](#) of the school website.



Pippa is one of the UK's youngest female commercial helicopter pilots. She has recently finished her advanced training and taken up her role working for an offshore company in Aberdeen. Her job involves taking crew to and from rigs and boats, picking up injured or stranded persons which might one day open doors into Air Ambulance and Search and Rescue.

Kathryn runs a private Psychotherapy and Counselling service in Northallerton. She has delivered mental health and psychological support for Help for Heroes, the NSPCC and national charity Young Minds. She has a BA in Childhood Studies and a Master's in Social Work from Durham University. Her advice: "Always know you are enough - no one has all the answers."



Tom is a business leader and entrepreneur. He left Richmond School at 16 then travelled extensively, visiting 64 countries in four years. His main jobs have included sales, personal training and recruitment. Recently he sold his first business for an eight figure sum. He's not even 30! His advice? School is your life foundation - this is where you find your core values.

Chris runs Open Door Art, a community interest art company delivering art programmes to communities, schools and charities. He's travelled extensively, working with young people as far away as India. Chris has a long history of sport, playing cricket for Richmond first team and being one of the original members of the Richmond Mavericks.



My daughter is very much into dance, no other school could offer this. We feel the sports facilities are a lot better than others. The discipline at this school was better also.

Parent

My daughter is thriving and feels secure - keep up the good work team Richmond school!

Parent

The staff and pupils seemed far more friendly than the other schools we visited. Richmond school has great facilities, especially when compared to other schools in the area. It has strong links with the local community and has a good reputation.

Comment from a parent following Year 6 open evening

We just wanted to let you know that our daughter got into Northumbria University and to thank you for your significant contribution throughout the whole process. We both agree that your help in preparing her for interviews, and feedback on the personal statement and reference, probably made all the difference. I know you will say that you were just doing your job but we feel that you went above and beyond to help her and we really appreciate it.

Parent of Year 13 student

As we leave richmond sixth form college behind us, we can reflect on the constancy of good teaching and excellent teacher support, for all three of our children who have been extremely fortunate to benefit in this way.

Parent

It is great to hear about the different career paths and opportunities from former students. As a soon-to-be year 7 Richmond school mum it is quite inspiring.

Parent