

NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

Welcome to our May Newsletter

We have just had our Year 10 Work Experience fortnight and have received many emails from employers, commending our students on their superb work. It has also been really good to have some of our students working in various departments in school and to see how well they have adapted to life 'on the other side of the fence'. During the pandemic and immediately after, it was difficult to imagine a time when 'in person' work experience would be even remotely manageable and yet, here we are in a position in which both students and employers are benefitting from a shared experience. We are truly grateful to our community partners, who work with us so closely and offer so many rich experiences to our students- long may this continue.

We are delighted that we have now acquired use of the former Youth Club on site and are beginning our plans to create an enhanced provision for the students who require a smaller setting and a more flexible curriculum. Assistant Headteacher Emma Dunwoodie is leading the overall planning and teaching assistant Jemma Beeney runs the provision on a daily basis. We have named this enhanced provision 'The Engagement Hub', a name we have taken from the main school, and we are very excited about our potential offer in the fullness of time.

According to recent DfE non-statutory guidance, from September 2025 all schools are encouraged to nominate a Designated Sustainability Lead. Associate Assistant Headteacher Connie Spittlehouse has done a huge amount of work over recent years to ensure sustainability is a high priority for the school and will therefore be the school's sustainability lead.

Connie is already leading on a number of strategic plans- we now have our own uniform bank, we have plans in place to develop the school gardens near to the sixth form and from September 2025 (ideally), we will no longer be selling single use plastic bottles in The Restaurant. This will be replaced by students being able to fill their own bottles up at a juice/ water bar. We urge all families to support their children in developing the habit of bringing a refillable water bottle into school each day. If you would like to get involved in the garden project, please contact Connie on cspittlehouse@richmond-alt.uk

We all feel the usual mixture of nerves, sadness and excitement for our Year 11 and 13 students as they finish their formal education with us, make their way through the challenges of public examinations and begin to move on to the next chapter in their lives. Whether this be moving into the world of work, learning via an apprenticeship or college placement, going to university or moving up into our Sixth Form College, we wish each and every one of them the very best of luck.

It hardly seems possible that May half-term is upon us, but whatever you are doing, have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the students back in school and college on Monday 2nd June.

Best wishes,
Jenna Potter, Headteacher



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IN THE COMMUNITY

RICHMOND STUDENTS (AND STAFF!) NOMINATED FOR SERVICE CHILDREN'S AWARDS

Every year people and organisations from the local area with a connection to the Services are nominated by their friends, family and colleagues for the Service Children's Awards. This is the second year this prestigious event has taken place, once again at the Garden Rooms at Tennant's, Leyburn.

There are a number of different categories, including Inspirational Service Child, Musical Champion, Sporting Champion, Caring Champion, Service Children Friendly School, Community Champion, Creative Champion, Service Children Friendly Club, Service Children Advocate and Community Champion.

This year Richmond School gained four nominations, three for students and one for a staff member.

Mrs Cheesbrough, our brilliant Service Children's Advocate recently met with the nominees to tell them of their nomination and give them their certificate and badge – they also posed for a photo!

Nominees:

Sporting Champion: Mataiasi Lewavakula, Year 11 and Steeno Lewavakula, Year 8.

The two Lewavakula brothers are both rugby mad! They play for their respective school teams and also play League for Catterick Crusaders at U16 and U14 level as well as playing Union for Darlington RFC U16 and U13.

Caring Champion: Beth Franks, Year 7.

Beth was nominated in this category for reasons that are very clear from her nomination: "Beth is a young carer to her older sister. This last year has been the hardest one we have all faced and Beth has been the best sister and carer there could be, even when that meant putting her sister's needs above her own. She always helps out when asked and never complains, even going without things she enjoys to support her sister. We feel like although we tell Beth all the time that we appreciate everything she does, being considered for an award like this would be such a confidence boost for Beth and hopefully help her realise just how amazing she is!"

Service Children's Advocate: Mrs Cheesbrough

Mrs Cheesbrough said: "It is truly a privilege to work with the Service students at Richmond School, and to see them being recognised with these nominations is genuinely inspiring. The community spirit amongst military families has always been incredibly strong and the Service Children Awards provide a brilliant opportunity to celebrate that. I also feel honoured to be nominated for the Service Children's Advocate award and I am grateful to staff and students at Richmond School who support me in helping to amplify the voices of Service families in our school. Special thanks to Angela Campbell, Service Children's Champion for North Yorkshire Council, who organised the awards and does so much work to support our service children and their families."



IN THE COMMUNITY

LONDON EDINBURGH LONDON CYCLE EVENT: VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

This summer, from August 3rd – 7th, Richmond School will be the location of a control point on the world-renowned LEL: London Edinburgh London cycle event.

Once every four years around 2000 cyclists assemble from all around the world to try to ride 1500km in five days - that's around 200 miles a day - and this time they'll be stopping off at Richmond School for food and sleep, both on their way north and then a couple of days later, going south.

So, if you come across some weary-looking cyclists during the holidays at least you'll know what the riders are undertaking!

The success of the event is down to the people who volunteer to support the riders at the control points. The organisers already have a good team but are always on the lookout for more volunteers. If you'd like to represent Richmond with local knowledge and hospitality between August 3rd - 7th then you can volunteer to help at this link:

<https://www.londonedinburghlondon.com/volunteer>

LONDON EDINBURGH LONDON

London to Edinburgh. And back.
On a bike. In 125 hours.
That's 200 miles every day for 5 days.
Could you do it?
Would you like to volunteer to support 2000 people who are trying?!

We're supporting Britain's biggest bike ride when it comes to Richmond

You can be part of something special as well

Every four years, a couple of thousand people, from around the world try to cycle 950 miles between London and Edinburgh. And back. In under 125 hours.

It's a feat that only possible because ordinary people get involved, feeding them, encouraging them and showing them a little bit of Yorkshire hospitality to keep them on the road.

This August, **Richmond** is on the route as one of the rest stops. We'll be supporting them as they come through but you can get involved as well. Come and help out or just cheer them on their way.

Being a volunteer on **LONDONEDINBURGHLONDON** is truly generous and a chance to be part of something unique.

If you can spare a few hours or a few days between 2 & 8 August we'd love to hear from you. Find out more by searching 'London Edinburgh London Volunteer' or by following the QR Code

LONDONEDINBURGHLONDON is a non-commercial not for profit event, run by volunteers. It is not a race and not affiliated with any charity

This offer is extended to family and friends of staff and students but please be aware that volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied, the minimum age being 13. If you're over 16 and under 18, parental consent is required.

The control point is open 24 hours a day and you'll be provided with food and a T-shirt while you're working. If you have any queries about volunteering or the event, then Peter Davis is the contact:

volunteer@londonedinburghlondon.com

He'll be running the control with his wife and their team of international helpers.

For more info, go to the LEL website here:

<https://londonedinburghlondon.com>

IN THE COMMUNITY

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK RECEIVES COMMUNITY GRANT FROM MOTO FOUNDATION

We were delighted to hear recently that Richmond School has been awarded a grant from the Moto Foundation to support the set up and running of our school uniform bank.

Miss Hamer, our careers adviser, submitted the application on behalf of the Eco Club, led by Miss Spittlehouse, to support the purchase of equipment such as donation bins, storage boxes, rails and banners. These will help to promote the uniform bank across the school. Steve Snowdon, site manager of Moto Scotch Corner, presented Miss Hamer with a cheque for £700.

Miss Hamer said, "The uniform bank is such an important offering. We set it up to support parents with the ever-increasing costs of school uniform, coats, bags and so on. We recognise the pressure parents are often under to provide new uniform on a regular basis and in the current climate this is becoming more and more difficult for many families. So often school uniform has been outgrown but is still in excellent condition, often barely worn, so we hope to encourage parents, carers and students to donate as much as possible to help those who need it. We are committed to a sustainability policy that encourages all students and staff to think about our environment, how we can reduce waste and contribute effectively to the world around us - donating and reusing school uniform is a fantastic way to embrace this.

We were absolutely delighted to be awarded this grant from the Moto Foundation. It will be a huge help in setting up, running and promoting the uniform bank across the whole school. Thank you, Moto!"

Eleanor Evans, Trust Manager at the Moto Foundation, said: "Moto Foundation was delighted to support Richmond School and Sixth Form College with a grant for their uniform bank. The Foundation's community grant programme is designed to support good causes local to Moto sites and close to our colleagues' hearts – this grant did just that."

Students can find the donation bin near First Aid in school, and we soon hope to have further donation points around the school site. Please donate any good quality, washed, jumpers, skirts, trousers, shirts, PE Kit and coats whenever you can. Any parents in need of uniform will be able to find the uniform bank at parents' evenings and school events, assisted by volunteers from the Eco Club. All items are free and any voluntary donations will go towards supporting Eco Club projects throughout the year.



DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK CROWNED (JOINT) U15 COUNTY CHAMPIONS IN NAILBITING FINAL!

Rugby is a popular and successful sport in our local community, with several clubs giving students the opportunity to learn the game and often progress to playing at a very high level. The camaraderie, community spirit and competitive rivalries these clubs provide are a fantastic contribution to the lives of the young people who participate.

We recently received the following match report from Antony Lewis, dad of Harry, one of the key players in the U15 County Cup Final between Darlington Mowden Park RFC and Durham City RFC. If you like close fought games that hang in the balance until the dying seconds, read on!

"In a breathtaking County Cup Final at the Darlington Arena, Darlington Mowden Park and Durham City produced a rugby classic, sharing the trophy after an unforgettable 27-27 draw. With both teams having claimed a win apiece earlier in the season, everyone knew this would be close – but nobody could have predicted the rollercoaster drama that unfolded!

From the first whistle, City came flying out of the blocks, dominating the breakdown and threatening out wide. But Park were made of stern stuff. They met fire with fire, delivering crunching tackles and brave defence to keep City at bay.

Then came the first moment of magic. Against the run of play, Darlington scrum-half Golightly spotted a gap and exploded through it, bursting 60 yards upfield. Support arrived in numbers, and after quick recycling, Harry Lewis, one of Richmond School's rising stars, powered over for the opening try! Cavill made no mistake with the conversion: 7-0.

City hit back, scoring in the corner to make it 7-5, but Park responded immediately. A fumbled restart from City handed Park a scrum, and sharp hands released another Richmond talent, Josh Drought, to dive over in the corner: 12-5.

City's relentless pressure paid off just before half-time with two quickfire tries, but a crucial charge-down from Cavill kept the score close: 12-15.



The second half picked up right where it left off: intense, breathless rugby.

City scored twice more to stretch their lead to 15–27, and with just ten minutes remaining, Park needed something special.

They found it through a moment of sheer brilliance. Isaiah Delaidriti, another Richmond School standout, reacted first to a bouncing ball deep inside Park's 22. He hacked it ahead, re-gathered at full speed, rounded the last defender, and raced away for a spectacular solo try! 20–27.

Belief surged through the team.

City were pressing for a killer blow near Park's try line, but the forwards dug deep, scrapped for every inch, and won a vital scrum. With energy surging through the team, Lewis made a lung-busting carry up to the City 22. When City conceded a penalty, Golightly caught them napping with a quick tap-and-go, diving over to bring Park within two points.

The pressure on Cavill for the conversion was enormous, but he stepped up and slotted it beautifully to tie the game 27–27.

There was just enough time for the restart before the referee blew for full time, and under County Cup rules, the trophy was shared.

Darlington Mowden Park and Durham City: Joint Durham County Champions!



Special Tribute: Richmond School Heroes!

It wasn't just the players on the field who made this title possible. Jake Rogers, Josh Drought, Harry Lewis, and Isaiah Delaidriti all starred for Mowden Park in the final, showing incredible skill, resilience, and heart.

A special shoutout must also go to Alex Shepherd, another Richmond School representative, who played a vital role throughout Mowden's County Cup campaign. Though he didn't play on Sunday, Alex's contribution all season helped drive the team to this historic achievement.

Championships are built on the efforts of the entire squad – and Alex is every bit a champion too! Richmond School should be immensely proud of all five players."

Thank you to Antony for providing this brilliant report. Congratulations to the Richmond School players, but also to the whole of the squad, the DMP coaching team, as well as the parents, carers, friends and family who tirelessly give their support week in, week out. Without this wider team, clubs like DMP wouldn't be able to offer the opportunities that they do – thank you!



HARRY SHOWS PROMISE WITH U15 SCOTTISH RUGBY PROGRAMME

We recently received the following information from Antony Lewis, dad of Harry, Year 10 Student at Richmond School. "The final stage of this season's Scottish Qualified (SQ) Rugby Pathway Programme for U15 players took place at Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester recently, delivering an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Competing at the home of Gloucester Rugby provided a high-performance environment where young players could test their skills, tactical awareness, and adaptability. The event emphasized Scotland's key rugby themes: attack, ball movement, rugby speed, and defence, underpinned by quick decision-making and game intensity. With fast-paced triangular fixtures, players were challenged to perform under pressure, demonstrating their ability to compete at an elite level.

The atmosphere at Kingsholm was electric, creating the perfect setting for aspiring rugby talent to push their boundaries and refine their game. Every moment on the field demanded precision, speed, and strategic execution, contributing to valuable learning experiences that will shape future development.

Harry seized the opportunity with confidence and determination, embracing the intensity of the competition and showcasing his ability to thrive in a high-performance setting. His commitment to developing his game was evident throughout, as he adapted to the demanding pace and delivered moments of skillful play. This experience has undoubtedly strengthened his understanding of the sport and further fueled his aspirations within the Scottish Rugby Pathway.

This was a standout opportunity, allowing players to immerse themselves in a professional rugby setting, grow in confidence, and take significant steps forward in their sporting journeys."

Well done to Harry for showing the maturity and commitment to perform at this high level. Harry is a key player in the school squad and at his club, Darlington Mowden Park RFC, and clearly has his sights set even higher with Scottish Rugby. A player to watch - we look forward to hearing how his rugby journey progresses.



LOGAN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP TO PLAY RUGBY IN USA

We recently heard that Logan Hayden, Year 10 student at Richmond School, had attended a rugby trial, then post-trial feedback and an interview in Scotland, after applying to join an organisation called FirstPoint USA. FirstPoint USA works closely with some of the leading universities in the States, securing scholarships to study and play rugby in the USA after A Levels in the UK. After this intensive process, and all that travelling – Edinburgh then Glasgow in two consecutive weeks – Logan was successful and has been awarded a place on the FirstPoint programme.

We caught up with Logan to find out a bit more about his recent experiences and what the future holds for him:

RS: So, Logan, what an opportunity! Are you excited about it?

L: I was really happy about it when I found out I had got in, but I don't think it's really sunk in yet. It's such a long time in the future that I don't feel I can really get too excited about it just yet.

RS: That makes sense. You're only in Year 10 now and they're talking about you going to the USA after your A Levels – that'll be 2028! What happens between now and then – I guess FirstPoint will support you through that time?

L: Yes. I'll get assigned to a group of people and receive training and nutrition plans. I have to do my best to be good enough at rugby and fit enough to get a scholarship. I also have to make sure I do well at school – that's the biggest part of it, actually – they won't let you go if you don't do well enough at school. When you go to the USA, you're playing rugby, but you're also studying an academic course at the college you join.



RS: OK. Let's look back to the start of the process – how did you hear about FirstPoint and how did you get onto the trails?

L: My mum found a link to it on social media. I had to fill in a form about my club – Darlington RFC - and my history of playing rugby. Then they invited me to the trial in Edinburgh. It was in my half term, so the dates worked.

There were about 30 players at the trial – most of them much older than me. We started off with a briefing, then we went out and did a warmup, some fitness, some drills, then played a game. That's when they saw that I was coachable and had potential. Jamie Berrisford, an ex-professional player and the Graduate Assistant for FirstPoint, was taking notes on the sidelines and Stuart McCaffery was there as well. He played professional football in Scotland for a long time and is Director of Sport at FirstPoint.

Continues overleaf...



RS: Wow – some really high-class ex-pros!

Ok, so that was the trials – what about the next week in Glasgow?

L: They'd already selected a certain number of people – in fact they emailed the same day as the trials. They invited us up to Glasgow – it was quite informal – we didn't have to wear a suit!

Stuart was doing the interview. He asked me about my grades at school, what I wanted to do at A Level and what I might want to study at college in the USA – I'm quite interested in Law. He also told us a bit about what life would be like at college in the USA – it's hard work! Lots of academic work with your fellow rugby players and a packed schedule. Early wake up, gym, training, classes, then more training, more classes. Free time starts at 9pm!



RS: That sounds pretty full-on! How do you feel about it?

L: I think the early starts might take a bit of getting used to! But it's all very organised and all seems to be put together to help you in the future.

It all seems a long way from when I started in Year 7 when my friend Elliot Miller – he's a really good player – spotted I had the look and the build for rugby and persuaded me to try it!

RS: You've certainly come a long way since then, Logan!

Thanks for giving us an insight into FirstPoint USA and congratulations on getting onto the programme. We look forward to hearing about how you progress over the next three years in your rugby and your studies and wish you all the best with your future both in the UK and the USA!

Update: Logan has recently been assigned to a Talent Management Coach, Adam. He has a personal profile which he will keep building on over the next few years which all USA colleges that Logan may apply for have access to. His task now is to make that profile as comprehensive and impressive as he can, from an academic, sporting and personal perspective.

To give a bit more information about FirstPoint USA, there is an interview with Jamie Berrisford, Head of Rugby, at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulBgtXKKSds>



RICHMOND SCHOOL FOOTBALLERS EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER.

Mr Beresford, one of Richmond's two Girls Football Development Coordinators, provides this report from a recent trip he took to Durham University, for a number of our dedicated and hard-working football playing girls.

"A selection of girls from Year 7 and 8 from Richmond school were invited on a trip up to Durham University, Maiden Castle, to experience what a professional footballer gets up to in their day-to-day life.

Aisha Ali, Ellie Buchanan, Eleanor Dinsdale, Gracie Gaskell, Imogen Landray, Madi Leighton, Orla Noone, Daisy Richardson, Kezia Rodway, Charlee Stead, Charlotte Stone, Izzy Taylor and Phoebe Willis were selected for the trip due to their consistent dedication to training after school, week in, week out throughout the school year so far. Emmy Raggett, Year 11, was also invited as a thank you from the PE department for all the help and time she has given to PE, leading events, refereeing games and coaching the Year 7 and 8 girls.

The students had a full day ahead of them with sport science sessions, strength and conditioning sessions and an opportunity to watch the Durham women's football team train as well as have a Q and A with some of the players.

The day started with a session in the labs looking at some basic fitness tests. The girls threw themselves into everything, completing a 30m sprint test to look at acceleration and top speed, a hand grip dynamometer to test their grip strength, reaction tests to see how well they reacted to a stimulus, a maximal back muscle strength test using a back dynamometer and a peak air flow test providing insight into lung function. This session was done to show the girls the wide range of tests players might do during pre-season, the playing season and any rehabilitation following an injury.



After this the students took part in a 45-minute strength and conditioning session where they were put through their paces, completing a range of exercises in a circuit including pull ups, press ups, goblin squats, box jumps, sled push and pull. This session was designed to highlight the exercises footballers might do when aiming to improve certain components of their fitness, including strength and speed or the exercises that could be done when aiming to reach full fitness following an injury.

Finally, there was time to watch the Durham Women's football team train, in a light session following their result at the weekend. The team played 4 vs 4 games with the intention to practice either playing out from the back (defensive) or to press quickly, win the ball and score (offensive). This gave a real insight into a professional training session: how quickly the session transitions from one drill to the next and how information is passed on to each player – it really showed the standard of the professional game.

The students were then lucky enough to have the opportunity to talk to four of the players, Rylee Foster (GK), Abby Holmes (DEF), Beth Hepple (MID & Captain) & Michaela Foster (DEF) who all had very different backgrounds and experiences in football. The girls asked some fantastic questions, with subjects ranging from injuries, nutrition and diet, to playing in the World Cup. Plus, of course, the classic question - when did you know you wanted to be a footballer?

The day was very informative and a fantastic opportunity to really see what the professionals experience daily. A truly rewarding day for some of our brilliant Richmond School footballers."

U13 GIRLS CROWNED AREA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS, SCORING 33 GOALS IN FOUR MATCHES!

Mr Beresford, one of our two Girls Football Development Coordinators, as well as coach and manager of the U13 girls football squad, provides the following report from a recent cup final match against Bedale High School:

“At the end of April, the U13 girls faced off against Bedale in a highly anticipated cup final. The weather was sunny, the pitch was clear and the supporters were out in full force, parents and students alike, all there to show their support for the team.

The game started in the glorious sunshine to rapturous applause. Richmond school lined up: Pippa Gibbon in goal, Orla Noone, Pippa MacLelland, Chloe Hollins and Eleanor Dinsdale made up the back four, Annie Holliday sat just in front as the defensive midfielder, Freya Atkinson on the left wing, Phoebe Willis on the right wing and Daisy Richardson in centre midfield. Charlee Stead and Liv Rogerson were the two strikers. On the bench were Aisha Ali, Ellie Buchanan, Madi Leighton, Millie McKinlay, Connie Wilford and Rosie Hall.

The game started quickly with Richmond taking the lead within the first three minutes. Liv made one of her trademark runs through the Bedale defence and slotted the ball calmly into the bottom corner. After the first goal, the game settled into a nice rhythm, Richmond school maintained possession and tried their best to carve out chances. Freya and Phoebe both made fantastic runs behind the defence and crossed the ball back into the middle to create chances. It took until the 14th minute for Richmond to double their lead after a forward pass from Annie was closed down by the Bedale goalkeeper and defender who collided with each other leaving the ball for Charlee to put into the back of an open net.



The third goal didn't take too long after that. On the 18th minute, Liv found herself one on one again against the Bedale keeper after a mazy run through the Bedale defence. Once again she kept a cool head and put the ball in the back of the net. By 21 minutes, Charlee added another. Phoebe beat her player on the right-hand side and crossed the ball onto Charlee's feet, who made a clever cut back on to her right foot before finishing the ball past the keeper at their near post. Determined to keep scoring, Liv completed her hat-trick by the 26th minute after Freya made a darting run from her own half down the left-hand side of the pitch, getting all the way into the 18-yard box, before cutting the ball back for Liv to shoot and score her third of the game. To add to her tally before half time, Liv fancied another goal! She received a pass on the turn from Pippa 30 yards out, then shot from distance and saw the ball go into the top corner of the net on the stroke of half time, making it 6-0.



At the half time break substitutions were made, meaning the team for the second half lined up as: Pippa in goal, a back four of Millie, Orla, Chloe and Eleanor, Pippa taking the defensive midfielder role, Freya on the left, Liv in the middle and Aisha on the right, leaving Connie and Rosie up front. Due to the heat in the second half, constant substitutions were made to allow players to rest as and when they needed it.



The game restarted as the first half had ended, Richmond on top of possession and creating chances. Not to say that Bedale didn't have their chances as well but resolute defending from the back four and some superb saves from Pippa meant that the clean sheet would stay intact. Six minutes into the second half and Richmond added to their score: Rosie received the ball on the edge of the box, turned, nutmegged the defender and rifled the ball past the diving opposition keeper.

It was at this point that Pippa and Chloe decided they weren't going to let the attackers have all the fun and went on several driving runs, getting to the edge of the box before shooting, wanting to get their names on the scoresheet. Pippa was unlucky on several occasions with good saves from the keeper. However, Rosie capitalised from the Bedale keeper spilling the ball into her path after saving one of the many shots from outside the box. Rosie stayed composed and scored her second goal of the game. Then followed some clever work on the left-hand side by Daisy, passing the ball to Chloe who then curled it into the net. The game ended exactly the same as the first half, with Liv collecting the ball on the turn 30 yards out and letting it fly, scoring another screamer to make the final score on the day 10-0! Richmond School U13 girls won the Area Cup in emphatic fashion. The girls have been a real credit all year long and are reaping the rewards of their hard work. Their results through the whole competition have been nothing short of unbelievable:

Round of 16 vs SFX: 8-1

Quarter final vs Northallerton: 11-0

Semi Final vs Thirsk: 4-1

Final vs Bedale: 10-0

The only game that remains for the U13 Girls this year is the County Cup final vs Tadcaster on May 19th, 4:30pm kick off at Queen Ethalburga's College, York."

Congratulations to this fantastic squad – we look forward to hearing about how they get on in the County Cup Final!

U13 GIRLS WIN THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY CUP!

In a direct follow-up to the previous article, Mr Beresford provides this report from the recent County Cup Final:

"In a thrilling contest hosted by Queen Ethalburga's, the 2025 North Yorkshire County Cup final between Richmond School and Tadcaster took place on earlier this week. Both sides were determined to take home the Cup but only one could! The pressure was on.

The Richmond side to face Tadcaster was: Pippa Gibbon in goal, a back four of Daisy Richardson, Orla Noone, Chloe Hollins and Eleanor Dinsdale, Annie Holliday held the defensive midfield position, Freya Atkinson on the left wing, Phoebe Willis on the right and Pippa MacLelland (captain) was in the middle, leaving Charlee Stead and Liv Rogerson upfront. Aisha Ali, Connie Wilford and Madi Leighton were on the bench for the first half.

The game started with Tadcaster on the front foot, controlling the ball and catching the Richmond defence out with a through ball that no one except the Tadcaster forward reacted to. Left one on one, the Tadcaster forward put the ball past Pippa. Richmond were 0-1 down within the first three minutes. Things went from bad to worse, when a few moments later, Richmond conceded a penalty through a handball. this was converted by Tadcaster to make the score 0-2 in eight minutes of the first half.



Not disheartened, the team rallied together and did what they did best, play football. Through the midfield, Pippa M, Annie, Freya and Phoebe did their best to start getting the ball forward and putting pressure on the Tadcaster defence. Over time the chances started coming, with shots from long range and balls into the box. It wouldn't be too long before Richmond found the breakthrough. In the 19th minute, the ball went into the back of the Tadcaster net. A throw-in on the right-hand side from Chloe found Pippa on the edge of the box with her back to goal. She turned cleverly to her right, putting the ball onto her left foot and curling it into the bottom corner, making the game 1-2. Two minutes later the game was level. Liv put immense pressure on the Tadcaster defence, pinching the ball off a defender, stormed into the box and smashed the ball home from close range to draw the game 2-2.

Now the game was level, Richmond got into their stride. Resolute defending from Orla, Daisy, Chloe and Eleanor limited the Tadcaster chances, however they were a constant threat. Some clever organising swapped Annie into the back four and pushed Chloe slightly higher on the pitch, allowing Richmond to control the game even more. Half time was quickly approaching and it looked as though Richmond could take the lead, however against the run of play. Tadcaster stole the ball in the midfield and played through to their forwards who were a constant threat. They scored right on the stroke of half time - 2-3 to Tadcaster.



Just before the whistle, Richmond restarted the game quickly and forced their way upfield. Pippa received the ball on the right-hand side and turned three Tadcaster players, sending them the wrong way, giving her the chance to run forward. Tadcaster were determined to keep the lead going into half time and tackled Pippa. From the tackle the ball fell to Charlee inside the box. She pushed past two Tadcaster defenders, got to the ball first and smashed it into the roof of the net making the game 3-3 at the half time break.

At half time the message was simple: keep playing the game we know how to, play to our strengths and stay composed. With the second half starting level, it was an opportunity to throw everything in to finally try to get ahead. Three changes were made: Madi came on for Daisy at left back, Aisha for Phoebe on the right wing and Connie for Charlee upfront.

The second half started with Richmond controlling possession and being clever when they were out of it. Madi at left back was given a simple instruction - play the ball forward to Freya on the wing or clear the ball so that the back four can regroup. She did her job perfectly: any time there was a threat down the left-hand side she cleared the lines and organised our defence. This allowed Chloe, Pippa and Freya to dominate the opposition's left. Five minutes into the second half a corner was won. Chloe delivered the ball into the box where Pippa headed into the net making the game 4-3 in Richmond's favour. Seven minutes later, Richmond got their fifth goal of the game when Connie and Aisha pressed the Tadcaster back line and won another corner. Once again Chloe floated the ball into the box, finding Connie at the back post who cleverly played it into Pippa's path, who smashed home for her hat-trick. It goes without saying that the back four still had one hell of a job to do as the pressure from Tadcaster was ever present.

Eleanor cleared the lines forward to Aisha, Orla made last ditch tackles to retain possession, Annie won the ball from the air and controlled possession and Madi did her job on the left. Chances kept falling to Connie and Liv, but good defending from Tadcaster kept them at bay.



In the 53rd minute the goal of the game was scored. Pressure mounting from a Richmond attack pushed Tadcaster to the edge of their box when a pass from Pippa rolled along the 18-yard box line towards the left-hand side. Freya made an inside run from the left wing across the pitch, meeting the ball near the 18-yard line. She curled the ball magnificently into the top left-hand corner of the goal. Euphoria! An unbelievable goal and a three-goal cushion. Richmond were in control of this final, finally. 17 minutes to go and all the girls had to do was stay composed, keep calm, carry on and see the game out.

The game ticked away. Richmond continued to go forward to get more goals but kept brilliant defensive shape through teamwork and determination. Tadcaster did everything they could to go forward and try and get some goals back but quick thinking from Pippa G in goal on several occasions saw the Tadcaster forwards frustrated, as Pippa would claim the ball before they could have a shot. As time ticked down to the full-time whistle the girls kept the ball, knowing that if they stayed in possession for as long as possible, they would be crowned champions. Finally, the full-time whistle went and the Richmond School U13 girls were crowned North Yorkshire County Cup Champions!

The final was a fantastic display from both teams, each of which should be very proud of reaching the final, 34 schools having originally entered the competition. In the end though, there could only be one winner, by sheer determination, hard work and teamwork, the winners were the Richmond School girls."

For a video clip of the moment the team received the Cup, click on the link below:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/znkv6xUui34?feature=share>

RICHMOND SCHOOL YEAR 7 STUDENTS HELP RICHMOND TOWN ROYALS TO FOOTBALL LEAGUE VICTORY!

Richmond Town Football Club is one of the many fantastic local community sports clubs giving opportunities for Richmond School and Sixth Form College students to play sport outside school, developing skills, friendships and competitive rivalries!

We recently heard from Katie Blenkarn, one of the tirelessly supportive mums who make junior sport so successful in the area. She told us about the fantastic contribution seven Richmond School Year 7 students had made to the league-winning success of the U12 Richmond Town Royals team. As well as telling us about their success, she also provided a match report from their pivotal penultimate game – over to Katie!

“After a very successful season in the Teesside League the Richmond Town Royals U12 team went into their penultimate game just before Easter with the chance of being crowned champions of division three. A win away against Riverside Madrid would mean they’d have gained 40 points, which could not be equaled by any of the other teams!

It was a tense start, but after ten minutes Olly Rogers opened the scoring with his quick reactions after a save from a shot by Seth. Then at 23 minutes, Seth took a free kick at the edge of the box which he curled into the back post to find Sam’s head to get goal number two for the Richmond blues!



Both Luca at left back and Alfie at right back battled hard to prevent the opposition gaining too many chances and a super save by Louis Morris meant that it stayed 2-0 up at half time.

The second half continued to be a very competitive game with Eddie having to work his socks off in midfield. An unstoppable shot to the top of the net by a Riverside Madrid player narrowed the gap to 2-1. Thankfully Seth worked his magic and scored his 34th goal of the season making it 3-1, setting up his team mate a few minutes later so that it ended 4-1.

When the final whistle blew there were cheers all around from the Richmond Town supporters - the boys had done it!

There are seven Richmond School Year 7 students who play for Richmond Town: Alfie Bottomley, Edward Jopling, Louis Morris, Luca Clark, Olly Rogers, Sam Blenkarn and Seth Ward. All of them have played brilliantly throughout the season!

Now on to the next challenge of division two and playing 11 a side next season!”

Thank you to Katie for providing such an excellent report and well done to the team!



U17 CRICKETERS BOW OUT OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS CUP FOLLOWING SEDBERGH RUN-FEST



Mr Swanwick, PE teacher, as well as coach and manager of the U17 cricket squad, provides the following report from a recent fixture of the Cricket Paper National Schools Cup.

“For the first time in a long while, Richmond School and Sixth Form College entered a U17 side into the Cricket Paper National Schools Cup, a fiercely fought country-wide competition including some iconic establishments such as Harrow, Repton and Shrewsbury Schools. After taking the prize scalps of Barnard Castle and Yarm in the early rounds, it was Sedbergh College that finally sent us packing in a bruising encounter down at Richmondshire CC.

Going into the match, Richmond were rocked by an injury to Jack Platt, joining fellow all-rounder Max Percival with a side strain that ruled him out of the fixture. With Max playing only as a batter and no Matty Watt or Sophie White in the team, we were a little short on bowling. Captain Joe White was hoping to win the toss and insert the opposition to see if we could chase down whatever they got. Sadly, plans don’t always come off, the Sedbergh skipper rightly choosing tails and electing to bowl first.

Richmond didn’t get off to the best of starts, as pinch hitter Isaac Bottomley was dismissed for a duck, but Bertie Morris and Will Fudali steadied the ship and saw off the new ball. With the score on 42, Bertie Morris (23) departed to bring skipper Joe White to the crease, and after being dropped on 0 he went on to put Sedbergh to the sword. Plundering a total of 126 off 63 balls, including 14 fours and six sixes Joe sent the ball to all parts; one went into the petrol station forecourt, one crashed into a parked van and the Richmond Bowls Club players needed hard hats as he went about his brutal assault. One over in particular went for 27 as he raced to his century. Joe was well supported by Will Fudali (30) and Isaac Tate (19) as Richmond posted a competitive 236-9 from their 35 overs.

Photo: Back row: Max Percival, Isaac Tate, Alasdair McKechnie, Andy Percival (sponsor), Joe White, Isaac Bottomley and Daisy Pyrah

Front Row: Guy Feakins, Will Fudali, Bertie Morris, Fred Lamb, Lewis Pybus and Jake Wright.

Continued overleaf...

In reply, Richmond went for an interesting opening bowler in the form of Isaac Bottomley. Usually known for his fast glove work behind the sticks, Isaac took the new ball in the absence of Jack, Max and Matty and tried his hand at some gentle off breaks. In truth these never really troubled the batters as they raced away, Fred Lamb trying his best to support Isaac with Tate and White coming on to try and stem the flow. It was a tough second innings as the Sedbergh side, with a centurion of their own, seemed keen to get the runs knocked off. However, before they could, the innings will probably be remembered for one of the best catches Richmond CC has ever seen. Bottomley fielding at long on had to react quickly to a lofted drive from the Sedbergh opener. It looked like he would never get there as he traversed the iconic Richmond CC bank, however, with out-stretched arms he threw himself forward headfirst down the bank to hang on to an absolute snorter of a catch which sent the players and supporters into raptures, many not believing what they had just witnessed!

Unfortunately, Sedbergh never looked in danger after this. Fudali and Tate bowled well to limit the flow of runs, but Sedbergh finally reached their total with 7 overs to spare.

It has been a nice little cup run for the U17 side, especially after beating Barnard Castle in the first round thanks to an Isaac Tate spin masterclass and also overpowering Yarm in an exciting run chase thanks to Max Percival's swashbuckling half century. A special mention also must go to Year 7 student Louis Morris for live scoring during this cup campaign, a huge help on match days.

The season takes a pause for the side now with exams looming, however we hope to play Queen Ethelburga's under the lights in September and also welcome The Forty Club for a rematch.

Pictured below is the team that took on Sedbergh, also featuring Andy Percival (of Andy Percival Glazing and Windows) who has very kindly sponsored two cricket kits for the school this summer. We are extremely grateful to Andy for his support in supplying our students with both white and coloured tops to wear this summer!"



Y8 GIRLS BENCHBALL SUCCESS!

The Year 8 Girls benchball team travelled to Thirsk recently to play in a tournament with three other local schools.

It was a beautiful day, and the event began with some coaching drills for all teams to allow the students to mix and get to know each other.

Each school then went on to play each other in the tournament.

Richmond played Boroughbridge School first. It was a very even game with both teams growing in confidence as the game progressed. The game finished with a win for Richmond.

The second game saw us playing Thirsk School. The team had grown in confidence so much in the first game and started making some excellent tactical decisions during this game. We narrowly won this game in the last minute! The final match saw us play Queen Mary's School, who were also unbeaten at this point. Queen Mary's took the lead, but the Richmond School team displayed excellent determination. They never gave up and managed to turn the game around, taking the win which resulted in them being crowned tournament champions.

Congratulations to the whole team!



Back row (left to right):

Jorja Stephenson, Poppy Atkinson, Lottie Meynell, Ebony Welford, Charlotte Dobinson, Meleofa Nacamavuto

Front row (left to right):

Maisie Braund, Ava Williams, Helena Berney, Lucy Scullion

YEAR 7 AND 8 NETBALL TEAMS IN CLOSE-FOUGHT BEDALE FIXTURE

Mrs Southgate, joint Lead Teacher of PE at Richmond, provides this report from a recent netball fixture against Bedale High School:

"Tuesday evening saw some of our Year 7 and Year 8 netballers back in action in an additional out of season fixture vs. Bedale.

We had hoped to fulfil this fixture before the Easter break but had been unable to find a time when both schools were available. As a result, we enjoyed a lovely sunny evening of netball on our outdoor courts.

Despite having had no training sessions since Easter, the girls settled quickly into the games with the Year 7 team from Richmond taking an early lead. At the end of the first quarter we were drawing with Bedale 3-3 before the visiting team pulled ahead in the second and third quarters. Richmond entered the last quarter 7-3 down but undeterred, they played on with determination and some brilliant shooting from Izzy H brought the score back to 8-8 with one minute to go.

Despite this fantastic effort, Bedale scored in the final moments of the game to seal the victory and win 9-8.

Our Year 8 team also took an early lead with an impressive long range shot from the edge of the shooting circle from Freya A. Richmond finished the first quarter 4-2 ahead and extended this lead in the second quarter to 6-2. Bedale were the better team in the third quarter and their composed shooting closed the gap to just 2 goals. Richmond went into the final quarter 7-5 up and a fantastic display of teamwork resulted in a final score of 12-6.

Two really competitive and close fought games to finish the season in style! Well done girls!"



RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS NATIONAL FINALS

Just before the outdoor athletics season swings into action, indoor finals take place. For a number of our students, this means Sportshall Athletics – a fast-paced, high-intensity event where athletes compete in a series of individual and team track and field events, scoring points to add to their team total.

This year, three Richmond School students qualified for the National Finals, held at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent. Mathilda Townend (Year 8), Tegan Smith (Year 9) and Henry Robb (Year 7) had already been selected for the North Yorkshire team through a series of trials and had recently taken part in the regional finals at Middlesbrough, back in March. North Yorkshire victories at this event meant that all three students could travel down to Stoke-on-Trent to represent their teams in the National Finals.

The event took place in the Easter holidays, the students travelling down to the West Midlands with their families in support. The venue was a large public leisure complex with a huge sports hall, big enough for six teams or individuals to compete in the track events at once. There was a seating area for spectators and a separate warm-up area and track – a proper professional set-up, only adding to the electric atmosphere on the day. This was a high-profile, prestigious event – all the athletes had performed brilliantly just to be here!

The event was compered by a knowledgeable and charismatic commentator, who kept things organised and flowing well – Tegan said that this was one of the highlights, really adding to the atmosphere on the day. Each event had an individual or team from nine different national regions. The results of some events were decided on times, heights or eg number of jumps, with some consisting of heats, then a final.

Some notable performances from Richmond athletes follow:



Mathilda, who trains with the City of York Athletics Club, competed in the U13 girls category. She took part in the 4 x 2 lap relay, coming 7th, and the obstacle relay, coming 5th. Her highlight, though, was running first leg of the 4 x 1 lap relay, where the team placed 2nd, earning North Yorkshire a silver medal. An official team photo was taken, but we can't find it anywhere – any help gratefully appreciated!

North Yorkshire U13 girls team eventually placed 8th.

Tegan, who trains with the Richmond and Zetland Harriers, took part in the U15 girls competition. She took part in the 4 lap individual race, coming 6th in her heat, and the 4 x 2 lap relay, coming 5th in the heat. The first leg runner dropped the baton, though – Tegan said they would have come 2nd otherwise! Tegan's highlight was the speed bounce, where she achieved a personal best of 78 jumps in 30 seconds, placing 15th= overall out of 29 athletes. The U15 girls team eventually placed 6th.

Henry, who trains with the Allerton Juniors Athletics Club, competed in the U13 boys category. He took part in the vertical jump, plus a number of the relays, helping the North Yorkshire team to a very creditable points score. The team placed 9th.

As mentioned above, just getting to the national finals is a fantastic achievement in itself!

We look forward to hearing how the outdoor season unfolds for these athletes, plus for many other Richmond School and Sixth Form athletes. A busy few months of training and competing, both at school and further afield awaits – watch this space!

RICHMOND STUDENTS EXCEL AT AREA ATHLETICS TRIALS

Mrs Southgate, joint Lead Teacher of PE at Richmond, provides this report from the recent Area Athletics Trials:

"Last week we took a group of students to attend trials for the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Athletics team.

They represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating many of our CREDIT values - certainly their determination, independence and excellence shone through!

Due to the way the age categories fall, the Year 8 students had the added challenge of competing against students from the year above. They more than took this in their stride and did not look out of place at all, which bodes well for them for next year.

We are very pleased to report that 11 of our students have been selected (with a further five students being selected as reserves) to represent Hambleton and Richmondshire at the North Yorkshire Athletics Championships on Saturday 14th June at York University. We wish them the best of luck!"



YEAR 7 STUDENT ACHIEVES TAEKWONDO BLACK BELT!

We recently published an [article](#) about Richmond School Year 7 student Henry Robb's selection for the U13 North Yorkshire team at the Sportshall athletics UK finals.

At the end of the article, we mentioned that Henry also plays football for Northallerton Town Juniors and attends Taekwondo, soon to be going for his black belt grading.

We recently received this message from Dawn, Henry's mum: "We shared before Easter that Henry was going for his black belt grading in Taekwondo. Whilst many people were enjoying a day of rest and plenty of chocolate on Easter Sunday, Henry travelled to Keighley for the grading.

He was tested on patterns, sparring and self-defence. The grading included both adults and children. We are very proud of Henry's achievement and received some great feedback."

Well done Henry – what a brilliant achievement!



We caught up with Henry to find out a bit more about his Taekwondo and the process of earning his black belt.
RS: Congratulations on your achievement, Henry – you must have been doing Taekwondo for a long time – when did you start?

H: I was only five when I started, so seven years ago. Me and my dad started at the same time. We go to TH Taekwondo at the Forum in Northallerton.

RS: Tell us about the black belt – where does it fit into the other grades and where do you go from there?

H: So, you start with a white belt, then progress up through the grades. There are yellow, green, blue and red belts before the black, but each of them has 'tags' - grades in between the main belts. When you get to black belt, you are a 1st Dan. Because I'm under 14, this is 1st Poom. You then progress through the Dan ranks. Each rank takes one year longer than the last, so 1st to 2nd Dan takes one year, 2nd to 3rd takes two, etc. It gets harder and harder to progress!

Continued overleaf...

RS: Ok – I think that makes sense! Tell us about what you do during your Taekwondo sessions and what the grading process involves.

H: I go once a week for a 90 minute session. The sessions are led by Tracy who's the main instructor – she's a 4th Dan – or my dad Neil – he's a 2nd Dan. The sessions are really varied, but we mainly concentrate on three things: patterns or Poomsae – these are complex sequences of movements, sparring – working with a partner on combat moves, and self-defence – learning how to defend yourself in real-world situations. These three things are what they look at when you're doing a grading. Everything has to be done in a very exact way. The sparring, for example – there are three types – non-contact, controlled – with light contact, and sport – full contact. We wear lots of protective gear – it's very safe, though when I was doing my grading in Keighley, Rick, the 6th Dan instructor, said if anyone knocks anyone out, they won't achieve their belt!

RS: So, I see how you progress through the belts, but Taekwondo is a competitive combat sport, isn't it?

H: It can be, but only if you want to get into that side of it. I've had two competitive fights and won them both and I'm thinking of doing some more later on this year, but it's not the main reason I like it at the moment. It's a really friendly environment and learning the patterns and the skills is good fun, as well as keeping fit and active.

RS: Thanks for taking the time to give us some insight into Taekwondo, Henry. All the best with your continued progress in the sport – make sure you tell us when you've become 2nd Dan!

The photo below shows Henry on the left, immediately after his black belt grading, proudly wearing his new belt. On the right is Henry, aged 6, just before his very first grading, where he progressed from a white belt to a white belt with a yellow tag.



CHARLIE AND RUBY QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN COMPETITIVE NSEA EVENT

We recently received news that Charlie Ingham, Year 7 and Ruby Ford, Year 8, had both qualified for the National Plate Showjumping Championships that will take place later on this year.

They achieved this brilliant result by taking part in a National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) qualifying event, recently held at Northallerton Equestrian Centre. Both riders were competing under the banner of the Richmond School Equestrian Team.

The event was very competitive, with many entries in each class. Schools had entered from across the North East, from as far north as the borders and as far east as the Humber.

Louise, Charlie's mum, said, "The girls rode incredibly well against many much older competitors. Ruby came 7th in the 70cm class and Charlie came 8th in the 80cm class. Both qualify for the National Plate Championships later this year."

Louise added: "Before Easter, Charlie also competed in the National Schools Arena Eventing competition, again involving schools from the North East. This competition format comprises of six show jumps, followed by 10 cross-country fences within an enclosed area. Charlie came 4th in the 80cm event, again qualifying for the National Schools Final later in the year."

Congratulations to both riders – we look forward to hearing about the national finals later on in the year – watch this space!

Photo of Ruby taken by Paul Dobson Photography

<https://www.pauldobsonphotography.co.uk>



JACK REPRESENTS NORTHERN ENGLAND AT ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW PONY CLUB TETRATHLON

Last year, we published a story about Year 8 student Jack Madden's success in qualifying for the British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships which took place this February. We also published a report about his performance there, where he narrowly missed out on the placings. In both articles, we mentioned that Jack was much more used to competing in multi-discipline Pony Club triathlons or tetrathlons, rather than pure shooting competitions. On that note, we recently received the following information from Jack's mum and dad. They signed off their email from 'Rebecca and Scott, proud mum and dad of Jack' - read on to find out why!

"A few months ago, Jack was selected to represent the North of England Pony Club Tetrathlon team at the prestigious Royal Windsor Horse Show, along with two other athletes. 24 young people in total were selected from the UK and Northern Ireland.

We travelled down to Windsor last Friday with Jack's 17.2h Irish Sport Horse "Max", which took a gruelling six hours.

The events started on Saturday with the shoot, where competitors shot from seven metres with a hand pistol at turning targets. They all had 10 shots with a possible maximum score of 1000. Jack managed a fantastic 920 score.



Jack then went on to the swim where he swam for 3 minutes. He swam 8 lengths 13 metres in a 25metre pool. Jack did brilliantly - this is his best discipline. Early evening on Saturday they went on to their run along the river Thames with the backdrop of Windsor Castle. They ran 1500 metres, with Jack narrowly missing out on a personal best.

Sunday was the big day with the horses where riders jumped a round of show jumps and rustic fences at a height of 90cm, including a slip rail where they had to dismount at a jump, put one side of the jump on the floor, walk over with their horse, put the jump back up and then get back on to the horse all within 30 seconds. Jack flew round with an unfortunate one pole down. This was done in one of the main rings where there were 1000's of people watching around the arena with running commentary. Jack has never taken part in anything like this big before.

Overall, Jack finished 16th out of 24 as an individual, and as a team Northern England finished 6th out of 8.

What an incredible weekend we had at Royal Windsor Horse Show! It was an absolute privilege to be part of such a prestigious event representing Northern England in the Pony Club. The standard of performances was truly inspiring, and it was amazing to witness such dedication, determination and sportsmanship across the board. Jack has worked so hard with every aspect of this Tetrathlon, and we are very proud of him and his horse Max."

Well done to Jack! We look forward to hearing more from him in the future, both from the shooting range and the Pony Club.

ACADEMIC NEWS

HISTORY CLUB MARK VE DAY WITH SESSION FROM GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM.



Zoe Utley, Head of Collections at Richmond's brilliant Green Howards Museum, recently led a session for members of Richmond School's History Club. The idea was to commemorate VE Day by asking students to research and make links between the school, the Green Howards regiment, and World War II. The students were given names of different members of the regiment and were asked to piece together their stories.

Mrs Moore, History Teacher and leader of the History Club, said: "It was a lovely session that got our students really thinking about the true meaning of VE Day and what this day represents for so many. The history clubbers were so respectful and really got stuck into the research and tasks that Zoe set - it was a fab way to mark the occasion. Thank you so much to Zoe at the Green Howards Museum and to Richmond School Trustees who funded the session."



LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS VISIT FOR PHYSICS INVESTIGATIONS



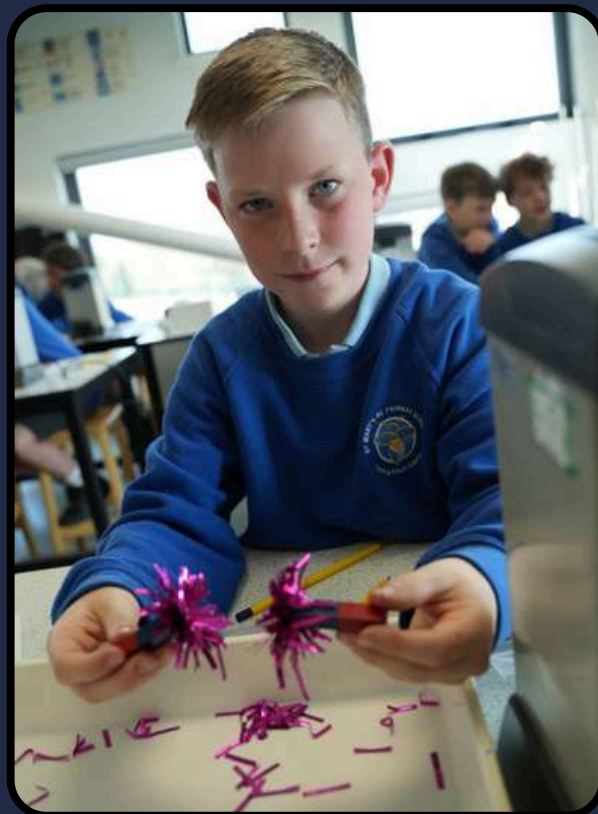
As part of the Ogden Trust Partnership between the secondary schools in the Areté Learning Trust and their local primary schools, a Year 4 and a Year 5 class from St. Mary's visited Richmond School recently to investigate magnetic attraction and repulsion.

The Ogden Trust Partnership aims to promote collaboration between secondary schools and primary schools to enhance the teaching and learning of Physics, inspiring students to take the subject further as they progress through their education.

Mrs Harrison, Lead Teacher of Physics and coordinator of the visits, gives some more detail: "We recently welcomed Year 4 and 5 students from St Mary's Primary School as part of the Ogden Trust Partnership to promote Physics in schools.

We explored the attraction and repulsion between the poles of magnets, worked out a way to see the invisible magnetic field lines around a magnet using glitter bag ties, and investigated the strength of electromagnets. The students were amazing, asking lots of questions and using their keen scientific minds to collect and analyse data for the experiment.

Thanks to Mrs McCormack (St Mary's) for accompanying the students, and to Year 12 students Guy Feakins and Charlotte Harrison for their assistance."



BRILLIANT CLUB - YEAR 12 STUDENTS EXCEL ON SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

The Brilliant Club is a charity formed with the aim of providing access to university-style tutoring and learning experiences in order to raise students' aspirations. They work with schools and colleges to give students tuition delivered by PhD students as well as providing university visits.

The Scholars Programme, run by the Brilliant Club, is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to succeed in university-level studies. Richmond School and Sixth Form Trustees kindly funded places for twelve of our Year 12 students to take part in the programme this year.

The course took place between January and April. Gordon, a PhD specialist in ethics, delivered this year's programme which was entitled "The Robots are Coming!". The course explored the pros and cons of the use of artificial intelligence. To complete the course, the students wrote a 2500-word essay which was graded by Gordon using university-style grades.

Leslie Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, said, "I am delighted with the way our students engaged enthusiastically with the course. Gordon posed many ethical dilemmas for the students to explore which sparked a good exchange of ideas. It was excellent to see how the students interacted with the tutorial-style approach, and they certainly rose to the challenge. The icing on the cake was that they all achieved one of the top two grades available- they all got either a First or a 2:1!"



Our students recently attended a graduation event at Trevelyan College, Durham University. They had a tour of the university grounds, visited three colleges and asked the university student ambassadors lots of questions. Francesca, Izzy and Paige even became "Spokes Scholars" by volunteering to speak at the graduation ceremony about their reflections on the course.

Francesca said in her speech, "I really enjoyed exploring the ethics of using AI in the workplace and in care settings. It made me think creatively and critically about virtue ethics and consequential thinking. I will definitely be applying the skills I learned on the course to other areas of my study. I hope to become a Primary Teacher in the future. Today's visit has confirmed that Durham is one of my top choices!"

Ryan said, "Before the Scholar's Programme, I wasn't sure if higher education was right for me. However, after completing the course and the visit to Durham, university is definitely an option now."

Leslie added, "I am so glad that our students were able to have this opportunity. I would like to thank the Trustees for providing our students with this opportunity. We are all very grateful for their continued support."

This year's brilliant (!) Brilliant Club students were:

Arlo Wheatley, Caitlin Holcroft, Euan Millar, Ellie Hughes, Izzy Heap, Faye Hankin, Francesca Rouse, Lenny Blowes, Lily Parker, Naser Al-Bargooth, Paige Baker, Ryan Raine



SIXTH FORM

RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE INTRODUCES NEW A-LEVEL SUBJECT FOR 2025

In order to increase the breath and diversity of subjects offered by Richmond Sixth Form College, the decision has been made to introduce a new A level – Sociology – to our Sixth Form curriculum.

Sociology's popularity has been increasing over the last few years, ranking fifth most popular A level subject with the 2023 exam cohort.

Miss McFall, Lead Teacher of Sociology, has this to say about the new introduction:

"I am so excited to be introducing a new A Level here at Richmond Sixth Form College! Sociology has always been one of my favourite subjects and is the subject that I remember most vividly from school. It has changed my view of the world as it has allowed me to understand the deeper forces that shape our everyday lives—from culture and identity to inequality and power. Sociology doesn't just explain society—it encourages you to think critically, act compassionately, and work toward a more just and equal world."

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Sociology: A-level (Awarding Body AQA)

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English.

Content:
A-Level Sociology is a two-year course assessed via three external examinations:
Paper 1
Education with Theory and Methods

- Are teachers biased? What causes different exam results - social class, gender, ethnicity? Do you go to school to learn the national curriculum or is there a hidden curriculum society teaches you? We look at these and other questions and at how we gain scientifically robust evidence to support our theories.

Paper 2
Topics in Sociology 1 – Families and Households

- What is a family? Does society need families? Is a family's role solely to meet a child's needs so they grow into an adult? In this unit, we explore the role of the family in society and how the family unit is changing.

Topics in Sociology 2 - Global Development

- In this unit we look at how the world is changing and becoming more interconnected. We analyse the impact this has on education, society, health, gender and employment around the world.

Paper 3
Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- Why do people commit crime? Is it linked to gender, ethnicity, social class? Does the media have an influence? Does the threat of punishment make people conform? What might happen if there were break down in society's 'systems'. Could there be a revolution in the future? We look at these and other questions as well as scientific research methods, data analysis and the ethics of research.



Progression
Studying Sociology at A Level is all about understanding how society works—how people interact, how institutions influence behaviour, and how things like class, gender, ethnicity, and culture shape our lives. Life after studying Sociology A Level may involve university or apprenticeships. Career opportunities are vast, some examples include social work, human resources and criminal justice roles.



General Comments
Sociology is classed as a social science. It is thought provoking, ever changing and tries to tackle real world issues. It will develop skills that will expand beyond the classroom, shape you as a person, and challenge your thinking.

Student Profile
As Sociology is a new course, there will be a student profile next year!





Sociology will be taught from September 2025 and has been included in the subject choices list of our application form since its release last year. A link to the form can be found here:

<https://www.richmondschool.net/sixth-form/apply-now>

We have recently updated our Sixth Form prospectus to include detailed information about the Sociology course – you can view it at this link:

<https://www.richmondschool.net/sixth-form/prospectus-curriculum>

If you have any questions about the information above, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Hedley, Associate Assistant Head Teacher, Sixth Form at phedley@richmond-alt.uk

SIXTH FORM

YEAR 13 STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR LAST DAY

Year 13 students celebrated the end of an era last week. Exam season is well underway, so formal lessons concluded last Friday, their final day at Richmond Sixth Form College.

Students celebrated the end of seven years of secondary and college education by wearing their old school uniforms, some even wearing the signed shirts they created at the end of Year 11.

We held a 'Good Luck' assembly where we reflected on all the achievements in the last two years as well as having a cheeky look at some photos from when the students were much younger.

Ms Richardson, Assistant Head Teacher, Sixth Form, said: "We will genuinely miss the Year 13 students, and we are extremely proud of the young adults they have become. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the brilliantly positive contribution they have made to our college community - they really have helped to make the college the happy place it is. I look forward to hearing about the wonderful things our students do in the future. I know they will go on to achieve amazing things."

After the exams have finished, we look forward to our final goodbye when we hold our Year 13 Prom. It is always a glamorous occasion- tinged with sadness but full of excitement for what lies ahead."

More photos can be found at the following link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4t4LL1gTqHeMMPKF8>



SPRING LEAVERS CONCERT – FAREWELL TO NINE YEAR 13 MUSICIANS

Just before Easter, one of the most significant milestones in Richmond School and Sixth Form College's calendar was reached – the Spring Leavers Concert. This concert is designed to showcase the hard work and talents of our Year 13 musicians, some of whom have been at Richmond for seven years, as well as wishing them all the best for their futures. It also provides a chance to hear our brilliant music ensembles in full voice, as they work their way through a varied and challenging repertoire.

Mr Boyd, Lead Teacher of Music, had this to say about the concert: "What an unforgettable night we had! We were absolutely blown away by the ability, passion, and dedication that each and every student brought to the stage during last term's Spring Leavers Concert. From the very first note to the final bow, the energy was electric, and the performances were nothing short of spectacular.

The students' hard work in rehearsals truly paid off, and it was inspiring to see how much heart they put into every piece. Whether part of the band, orchestra, solo acts, or behind-the-scenes helping things run smoothly – everyone made the night a success!

We also want to thank our amazing music staff and volunteers who supported our students every step of the way. And to the families and friends who came out to cheer them on, your support means the world.



This concert was more than just a performance – it was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and community. We're so proud of what they've accomplished, and we can't wait to see (and hear!) what they do next."

Nine Year 13 students are leaving us this year and Mr Boyd duly celebrated their contribution to music at Richmond in the now time honoured way – by presenting them each with a coveted mug!

The nine Year 13 students are: Philippa Kind, Will Hume, Andrew Lunn, Nathan Wilson, Thomas Pyrah, Elsa Wright, Noah Boyd, Tom Grigg and Jacob Wharton.

These photos are only a selection. An album containing many more can be found at this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/HpP3Sb2fk2Jnkw3m6>



PERFORMING ARTS

FREDDIE HELPS RIPON CITY BAND QUALIFY FOR PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Richmond School and Sixth Form College have a fantastic music department, with many hard-working, talented musicians, both students and staff. As well as playing in school ensembles, many of these musicians are active in the local musical community. A particular highlight of this community is the rich tradition of brass bands centered around the Dales – Leyburn Band being a fantastic example. Many of our musical students and staff, as well as copious numbers of their friends and family play for or have played for the Leyburn Band – it's a bona-fide local institution!

Leyburn Band, however, is not a competitive brass band, though many of their players are very much involved with other local bands that are. The UK competitive brass band scene comprises a highly structured and hotly contested national competition. There are eight national regions, with five different sections, from Championship at the top, through Sections 1-4. Bands compete regionally for a chance to qualify for the national finals, a highly prestigious two-day event, this year to be held at The Centaur, a 2,250-seat auditorium based at Cheltenham Racecourse.

The above introduction sets the scene for a message that we recently received from Emma Lundberg, Bandmaster and cornet player of the Leyburn band, as well as Year 10 student, Freddie's mum:

"Freddie had a great weekend banding recently. He was playing cornet with Ripon City Band in the North of England Brass Band Championships in the Gala Theatre in Durham. This was Freddie's first time in the area contest. After two months of extra rehearsals the hard work paid off - the band came second and qualified for the national finals. Freddie also picked up the award for the youngest player in the highest placed band."

This is clearly a fantastic achievement for Freddie, but raises an interesting question. What was Freddie doing playing for the Ripon City Band – he's listed as Solo Cornet for the Leyburn Band? Was Freddie out on loan for the fixture?! We were intrigued and had to find out more – we caught up with Freddie to find out some details about his banding, the competition and to clarify which band he plays for!

RS: Freddie – I thought you played for the Leyburn Band – how did this come about?!

F: Well, in about November of last year me and mum were asked to play for the Ripon City Band, specifically for the North of England regional competition – me as 3rd cornet and mum flugel horn. Because Leyburn aren't a competitive band it's OK – players often play for other bands – it's called 'depping'. Mum plays for lots of different bands. My Auntie Becky (Rebecca Lundberg) is first trombone for the Fairey Band – one of the top 20 brass bands in the world, but she's also conductor of the Leyburn Band. Auntie Vicky (Victoria Lundberg) plays for the Fairey and Leyburn bands too.



RS: Ah, I see – so, nothing dodgy, just normal practice! Tell us about the competition and the preparation the band went through.

F: We spent months practicing this one long, complex piece – Introduction, Elegy and Caprice by Morley Calvert. All seven bands in our section – Section 1, one down from the Championship Section – had to play the same piece. Whoever plays it best in the regional competition, wins. If you come first or second, you get an invite to the national finals. We came second, so we qualified!

RS: Brilliant! But how did the Ripon City Band make the same piece sound different and better than five other bands. And who decides, and how?

F: It's about how the conductor and the players interpret the piece. The same piece can sound very different. For example, in the third movement our conductor Gary Hallas made sure we really brought out the notes, made them longer than normal. I think that gave us a very particular sound and made us stand out. We won 'Best Bass Section' as well, proving that our sound was really distinctive.

Coming second and qualifying was a bit of a miracle, I think, because we were drawn first. It's hard because you have no idea what the standard is like before you play, plus I think the judges find your performance hard to properly remember after all the others. The pressure's on too, if you're drawn first, because you have to play the National Anthem. If you mess that up, you've got no chance in the competition! Gary Hallas made us play the Anthem quite specifically, with the cornets quite quiet and the lower brass section to the front. It sounded amazing, even though we literally had five minutes to rehearse it – they told us we were drawn first at the very last minute!



RS: Definitely a high-pressure situation! How did the judging work?

F: The judges are in the audience, but they don't know which band are playing, just a number. They're in a sort of box. We played the Anthem, then there was a klaxon telling us to start playing. There weren't that many people in the audience, and they were coming and going with the different bands – it'll be different at the finals. After we played, the band retired to the Wetherspoons next door to the Gala Theatre to wait for the results. We went ballistic when we found we'd come second and qualified for the finals! I then also had to run back to the theatre to pick up my award for Youngest Player.

It was quite a special evening, actually. I've played in contests before but the pride I felt from our result compares to anything I've felt before. The amount of effort we put in and the pressure on the band to perform after being relegated from the Championship to First section this year and then nailing it after being drawn first was just such a delight.



RS: It certainly sounds amazing – all the best for those finals – make sure you tell us about them.

What about the rest of this year and beyond that? Your enthusiasm for playing really comes across, as does your knowledge and passion for the culture and history of brass banding, especially in the Dales. Is it something you're keen to stay involved with?

F: Absolutely. I'd love to take all the opportunities I can to get more and more involved in brass banding. If I get asked to play for another band, I'll say yes. That's how you build up your experience and your reputation. I'd love to play for a Championship Section band sometime in the future – the Fairey Band is my dream! I'd also love to come to Richmond Sixth Form College to study music and maybe even become a music teacher in the future – that's a long way off, though! As you say, also, I do love the history and culture of banding, though it's dying, unfortunately. 100 years ago, every village used to have a band – now there are only a few left, like Leyburn. It's definitely worth raising people's awareness of brass bands and getting more people out to come and see and support them.

RS: Very true. It's excellent to have young people like yourself and many other Richmond musicians to keep things going and to help keep banding culture alive. Thank you, Freddie!



PERFORMING ARTS

GABRIELLA SHINES AS TEEN FIONA IN HC ACADEMY PRODUCTION OF SHREK



We recently heard that Gabriella Boddy, Year 9 student at Richmond School, had been part of a local musical theatre academy's production of Shrek the Musical, and had taken to the stage in four performances, playing the role of Teen Fiona. This is a not insignificant role, involving solo singing, acting and dancing - it was clear that this wasn't Gabriella's first time on stage! We caught up with her to find out more.

RS: Tell us about this most recent role, Gabriella – Teen Fiona in Shrek the Musical.

G: It was brilliant – I loved it! It was the first time I'd done some proper solo work on stage and I was nervous, but once I got up there in front of the audience, I think I did OK!

RS: It certainly looks and sounds like you did – I've seen the video clips! Take us back to when you started in musical theatre – what was your inspiration?

G: It was realivly recently, actually – 2021. We went to a production of Joseph by Teesdale Operatic Society where my step-dad was playing the part of Simeon and I just wanted to get involved – I especially loved the characterisation of the narrator, played by Karen Davison, and the way she acted so brilliantly through her songs – she was a real inspiration.

RS: Ok, so that's where it started – what happened from there?

G: I started going to HC Vocal and Performance Academy in Darlington, run by a fabulous lady called Holly Clifford. I spend quite a lot of time there, in fact! We do lots of different dance styles – ballet, contemporary, commercial, lyrical, modern jazz and musical theatre dance. We also do acting, acting through song, singing – the choir, musical theatre and pop songs. I go on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and because I'm part of the Elite Team, I go to a class on Saturday where we mostly focus on ballet. I also have a singing lesson with Holly on a Friday.

RS: Wow! You're obviously very committed and prepared to work really hard on a huge range of different aspects of musical theatre.

How about performances – you've done quite a few, and with a few different companies – how have you managed to get so much experience?

G: Yes, I have done a few – mostly in the ensemble, so far, though – apart from Shrek. I've been in Matilda with Teesdale Operatic Society, Wizard of Oz with the Northallerton Theatre Company, two pantomimes with the Hudswell Village players, then Little Mermaid, Frozen and School of Rock with HC. And I also took part in the Mayor's Concert at the Darlington Hippodrome. It has helped that John, my step-dad, is part of NODA (National Opera and Dramatic Association) – he reviews lots of productions in the local area, but mostly it's just about going along to auditions – companies are always on the lookout for people.



RS: That makes sense – if you go to lots of auditions, you’ll get parts! NODA play a big role in local theatre, especially with their reviews – I saw that Shrek got a good review from NODA and that you were mentioned! Tell us a bit about Shrek – how did you get the part of Teen Fiona?

G: I auditioned specifically for that role – I’ve always wanted to play Teen Fiona. I got a call back and went through that process, eventually getting the part – I was very happy!

RS: And then the performances – you took part in four of them – what was your favorite memory of playing the part?

G: I loved having a part where I could sing and act and dance solo – I hadn’t really done that before. I also remember being huddled behind the tower on stage with Amber, who played Adult Fiona, when Young Fiona was on stage singing, whispering to her about how nervous I was about my solo. I love those little moments backstage with the other cast members, as well as the performance.



RS: It sounds as though you and the whole cast had a great time.

But now you’re on to the next production – what is it and what’s your role?

G: So, we’re doing Beauty and the Beast with HC – I auditioned and am playing the role of Babette, a French maid. It’s a supporting role and there’s some singing in a number called ‘Human Again’. I’ve also got a recall for the part of Veruca Salt in HC’s production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – that’s later on this month.

RS: You’re definitely going to be busy! All the best with these upcoming roles, Gabriella, it’s been great to talk to you and find out more about your experiences and your love for musical theatre – thank you!

For video clips of Gabriella in action, go to the links below:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/319Y6tJQBQs?feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/axXpUtKWBWw?feature=share>



PERFORMING ARTS

OLIVIA GAINS PLACE TO STUDY AT PRESTIGIOUS JELLI STUDIOS THEATRE ARTS COLLEGE

We recently received news that Olivia Brotherton, Year 11 student at Richmond School, had recently been successful at an audition at Jelli Studios, Liverpool, and had been offered a place to study on their two-year BTEC National Extended Diploma course in Performing Arts Practice. Sarah, Olivia's mum, said: "It is a massive achievement as places are highly sought after, and the course has very limited availability. She will now be working with some of the most influential people in the industry, giving her a real head start in doing what she loves as a career."

We asked Sarah for some information about Olivia's background in the performing arts and her feelings about Olivia's pending move to Liverpool. We also, of course, caught up with Olivia to find out more!

RS: Congratulations on gaining your place at Jelli Studios, Olivia! What are your feelings about it, especially considering the next two years are going to be so different to what the majority of your peers will be doing?

O: It's an amazing opportunity. It's weird because all I'll be focusing on is dancing, singing and acting – all the things I love! There are also so many contacts and links like Britain's Got Talent and the biggest dance event in the world – Move It. It's a brilliant place to be.



I'm a bit scared about the residential side of things – I'll have to cook for myself and clean and actually *live* by myself! It's a big accommodation block, though, with loads of other students in the same situation, so it shouldn't be too difficult to get to know people. We've already been up to Liverpool to pick the room, actually – I picked one with a big window, so it doesn't feel too enclosed. Scared, but a bit excited, too!

We also asked Sarah via email about her thoughts: "We are super proud of Olivia and couldn't be happier that she is chasing her dream. To have the opportunity to dance and learn at Jelli Studios is fantastic and we have always encouraged her to grab any opportunity with both hands. Jelli Studios work closely with the likes of Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney, BBC, ITV, West End Shows and Cruise Companies alongside their own management/performers agency, providing Olivia with the best possible exposure to these industry leaders. Not many people are offered an opportunity like this, and we are incredibly thankful and immensely proud of Olivia."



Now back to Olivia.

RS: Let's go back in time a bit, Olivia. Your mum has given us some great information about where and when you started in musical theatre and some of the highlights. She said you started at the age of 6 at Rowan's School of Dance at Weeton, near Blackpool. You then moved to Catterick and attended the Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy in Richmond where you extended your range of dance disciplines and started taking exams. You also took part in lots of productions – Matilda, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Little Shop of Horrors, as well as entering a number of dance competitions. You're now at Xpressions Performing Arts in Northallerton where you've expanded your dance genres even more and taken more exams, including a Level 1 Teaching Assistant qualification. You've obviously gained loads of experience over the years – tell us about some highlights from your perspective.



O: I did acro, ballet and tap at Rowan's School of Dance in a village hall. Our teacher was lovely- she pushed us hard, but we learned a lot. I remember feeling brave when I was there. I also remember why I went there to start with – it was Happy Feet – whenever it was on I just danced!

At Rhythm and Shoes they were lovely too, and I started doing modern and ballet and contemporary. I also started going more often – Tuesdays, then Wednesdays as well as Fridays and Saturdays. I remember getting used to being a performer then, too – all the preparation and the backstage work, as well as being on stage. I was one of the main dancers in Little Shop of Horrors, leading the ensemble dancers and singing – that was quite a highlight.

I'm doing some advanced dance classes at Northallerton now and also doing some teaching – on Mondays and Fridays I teach ages 4 – 14. I've been doing it for over a year now and I love being able to help them progress. It's also really nice to see that they want my help.

RS: And recently you had quite a bad injury – tell us a bit about that. That must have interfered with your dancing quite a bit?

O: Last summer I was playing hide and seek at Easby Abbey, and I broke my ankle quite badly, tearing some ligaments. To start with I was in a cast, but I begged them for a boot so I could go on holiday. Luckily, they gave me a boot! I also had a dance show in November. I went along to dance lessons with my boot so I could learn the choreography – I did some dancing with the boot on too! There was quite a bit of physio involved in my recovery, but I eventually managed to take full part in the performance.

RS: Ok, let's talk about the process of you getting your place at Jelli Studios. I hear that you spotted them at the Move It dance convention in London, and you were impressed with their performances. You talked to some of the students and teachers, who encouraged you to apply, then you attended an open day in Liverpool. You applied, then had to attend what sounds like quite an intensive audition and interview before you were offered a place. Give us a bit more detail about the process.

Continues overleaf...

O: I was at the Move It convention in London, but I already had a place for next year at Stockton, so I wasn't really looking for anywhere else. I just loved Jelli's performances on the main stage, though. I spoke to them on the first day and went back for the next two days as well. I applied and was asked to attend an audition. The audition day was six hours with back-to-back lessons including an interview at the end where you had to sing or do a monologue – I did a monologue, though I did say that I was a confident singer!

The people there are so lovely! I felt it when I met them in London and at the audition day and at the open day. They're so bubbly and friendly and happy. I love the idea of being part of a group of people like that. I'm actually quite a nervous person, but talking to and dancing with these people just felt normal – like I'd known them for ages. Chatting to them and talking to the teachers, even though I'd never met them before, was completely abnormal for me, but it just felt right.

There had been a few audition days already before mine and there were only 30 places on the course, so we certainly weren't 100% confident I would get a place, but some days later they called and offered me one – I didn't know what to say to start off with! Now they're sending me emails quite regularly – it's definitely happening.

RS: It definitely is! What about further on down the line? This is a real commitment – I guess it's something that you see as part of your future?

O: Yes. There are loads of opportunities for performers – cruise ships, West End shows, travelling companies, dance teaching, even having my own dance school – I've already got good teaching experience, and I love inspiring other people. Whatever I end up doing, I know I'll be doing what I love.

Thanks to Olivia and Sarah for providing such an excellent insight into Olivia's background as a performer and her future as a student in Liverpool at Jelli Studios. We very much look forward to hearing how she's getting on this time next year – she's promised to send us an email!

Photos taken by Emma Hignett www.emmahignett.biz

Olivia is wearing designs created by Angela Earl at www.earldancewear.com



PERFORMING ARTS

GCSE & A-LEVEL DANCE SHOWCASE!

Miss Pemberton, Teacher of Dance, and Mrs Fox, Lead Teacher of Dance recently hosted the annual Dance Showcase evening in Richmond School's Clarke Hall.

Miss Pemberton provides this report:

"Dancers from both GCSE and Year 12 A-Level cohorts took to the stage recently for a student-led showcase - and what a night it was!

Year 12 students presented choreography pieces in preparation for next year's A-Level exams, while our talented GCSE students brought performances to life, inspired by stimuli set by the exam board.

It's always a joy to open our doors to parents, friends and family, celebrating the creativity, passion and performance skills of our incredible students. We're so proud of the hard work and imagination that lit up the stage. Huge well done to all involved and a shout out to our student tech team for lighting and sound - what an inspiring evening!"



Some short video clips can be seen at the links below:

<https://youtu.be/-VKJuVmisJc>

<https://youtu.be/ININ1JdzJIA>

<https://youtu.be/WKLGFnqkkqI>

https://youtu.be/2GQ9x7BaZ_M

PERFORMING ARTS

RICHMOND STUDENTS EXCEL AT RHYTHM AND SHOES DANCE ACADEMY VISIT TO IDTA AREA WORKSHOPS

We recently received the following information from Louise Richmond at the brilliant Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy, one of several community dance schools providing fantastic opportunities for young people from the local area:

"I wanted to take a moment to share some wonderful news about three of your students – Nell Downing, Erin Mullen, and Eva-Grace Short – who represented themselves, your school, and our academy with such dedication and enthusiasm this weekend.

The girls travelled up to Gateshead to take part in the IDTA Area Workshops, led by the fabulous examiner Michelle Upton. They spent the afternoon working hard on some challenging contemporary dance choreography and approached the entire experience with maturity, focus, and great energy.

It was lovely to watch them push themselves outside of their comfort zones and thrive in such a demanding environment. Their commitment to learning throughout the workshop was a real credit to both The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy and to Richmond School."



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

AIMING HIGH – AN INSIGHT INTO A RICHMOND SCHOOL END OF TERM TRADITION

On the last Friday of every term, all students at Richmond School attend an 'Aiming High' assembly. Five of these assemblies happen throughout the day, each one specific to each year group – 7 to 11. They are led by the Head of Year and Mrs Potter, Headteacher, and serve as an opportunity to celebrate the successes and achievements of students in that particular year group. These range from excellent attendance, high numbers of CREDITS awarded, academic achievements, sporting successes, but also community contributions, fundraising efforts, performing arts highlights and leadership accomplishments. The assemblies also feature performances from a range of that year group's musicians, dancers and singers.

Every Aiming High assembly also features a keynote speaker, someone who is invited to give a short presentation to the students with an inspirational message focusing on our CREDIT values: Creativity, Respect, Excellence, Determination, Independence and Teamwork. We have had a fantastic range of speakers over the years – usually ex-students and often either members of staff at the school or people who have gone on to do brilliant things elsewhere either locally, or sometimes very much further afield.

Most recently, our keynote speaker was Miss Hamer, our brilliant Careers Adviser who gave an insight into the varied and fascinating career she has experienced since leaving Richmond School as a student, then joining again as a staff member. Mrs Potter gives some more detail: "We were delighted to welcome Miss Hamer, our Careers Advisor, as the keynote speaker at our recent Aiming High 2 Assemblies. As a former student of the school and sixth form college, Miss Hamer told the students the story of her life to date and the valuable lessons she has learned along the way.



Key pieces of advice were 'make the most of all opportunities that come your way - you don't have to know what you want to do in your career now' and 'never again in your life will you be surrounded by as many supportive and helpful people as when you are at school - listen carefully to the words of advice of your teachers.'

Miss Hamer's introduction led on to the usual fantastic celebration of achievements for each year group, interspersed with high quality dance and music performances - a brilliant way to end the term."

Miss Hamer looks back on the experience:

"I was honoured to be asked to present at this term's Aiming High assembly. It was such a great opportunity to hear about all the fabulous things our students are doing - in and out of school: a real celebration which it was lovely to be part of.


I really wanted to give the message to our students that the road ahead is very rarely going to be a straight one, and that's OK. Determination, respect and taking as many opportunities as you can to explore different pathways and careers are so important. It was great to reflect on my own career journey and remember how lucky I am to have ended up working back in Richmond School!"
If you would like to see a copy of the presentation Miss Hamer used in the assembly, go to the link below:



<https://tinyurl.com/RHAimingHigh>

Miss Hamer

Careers Adviser
Aiming High Assembly

Life isn't a straight line



PRIMARY LINKS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS CRICKET SKILLS FESTIVAL – IN THE SUNSHINE!



Just before the Easter break, Richmond School hosted a cricket skills festival for pupils in Years 2 and 3. Brompton on Swale, Michael Syddall, Richmond Methodist and Richmond St Mary's primary schools brought over 70 pupils to take part in the event.

The pupils took part in a range of throwing, catching and batting based activities to test and develop their skills. The event was managed by three Richmond Sixth Form College students: Jack Platt, Isaac Bottomley and Max Percival. These students provided training to the younger Sports Leaders from Richmond School who led each of the skill stations at the event.

The focus of the festival was to provide a fun yet competitive event and make the pupils aware of local community club opportunities.



Week beginning 31st March

Oscar Kendall, Year 10, was nominated by Mr Dawson who said: "On the 17th March North Yorkshire Council held an area committee meeting at Northallerton. The focus of that meeting was the Home to School Transport Policy.

On that morning five public speakers addressed the councillors and officers. One of those speaking was Oscar Kendall.

The main council chamber is an imposing sight, and it amplifies the pressure that can be felt by all those within the room. Oscar stepped up to the microphone and delivered his statement with clarity, calmness and conviction. He was applauded by those in the public gallery, and he was congratulated by officers and councillors.

It is not an easy task to speak up in front of others, but Oscar did 'a grand job'."



Week beginning 21st April

Joe Cox, Year 9, was nominated by Mrs Norman who said: "I would like to nominate Joe for in recognition of his outstanding work in French since September. During each lesson, he has never failed to show exceptional linguistic ability, engaging fully with all the tasks and he has made excellent progress. Joe consistently completes all Independent Learning to a high standard and always obtains the highest marks on assessments. He will always share his knowledge to help other students too. Joe is willing to take creative risks, crafting original and engaging narratives in French, making Joe a particularly worthy winner as creativity is our focus value this half-term. A truly impressive student in French!"

Week beginning 28th April.

Noah Edwards, Year 13, was nominated by Ms Dunwoodie who said: "Noah volunteered to team teach my Year 7 Drama group once per fortnight. He has been brilliant; leading sessions with the group and exuding creativity in the process. It is not easy commanding the attention of 30 x 11 and 12 year olds in drama, but Noah has done this with ease and a confidence I don't always see in qualified teachers!

Noah has shown determination by showing up every fortnight, rain or shine, with enthusiasm and dedication during period 5 on a Friday. He is able to build excellent relationships with young people very quickly and develop teamwork as we both deliver the content together. Noah would make a fantastic teacher one day should he choose to go down that route and I am eternally grateful for his support with teaching drama and the care he has shown towards the young people. He is a shining example to others, and I know he will go on to do great things in the future. Well done Noah!"



Week beginning 5th May.



Harry Davis, Year 11, was nominated by Mrs Weston who said: "I would like to nominate Harry Davis for the Headteacher's CREDIT Values Award for his overall progress and attainment in English.

Harry has worked hard throughout Years 10 and 11 in English, producing work of an excellent standard. He has worked consistently and with determination throughout the year to perfect his exam technique. Furthermore, he has a superb knowledge of his English Literature texts. However, it is in his creative writing where Harry especially excels; his writing is mature, sophisticated and a genuine pleasure to read. Harry is highly competitive and always pushes himself to get the best marks in the class.

With his GCSE exams fast approaching, I am incredibly proud of the progress Harry has made in English. Well done!"

Week beginning 12th May.

Catherine Harrison, Year 11, was nominated by Miss Spittlehouse, her tutor, who said, "I would like to nominate Catherine Harrison in 11CSP. Throughout her school career with us, Catherine has been an exemplary student, going above and beyond in all our credit values. I am sure every one of Catherine's teachers would affirm that Catherine is exceptionally clever, kind, respectful and incredibly hard working.

Since day one of Year 7 Catherine has exemplified each of our school values with aplomb and will no doubt go on to be supremely successful in her future endeavours. As Catherine's tutor, I am immensely proud of the hard work she has put in and overcome her own challenges, showing great determination and independence, especially on the approach to her GCSEs.

Catherine is an exceptional academic and we are very lucky to include her in the 11CSP roll call, having topped the CREDIT leaderboard for the past 5 years thanks to her triumphant display of the credit values every week in all her lessons. Over the past five years we have had several new students come and join our tutor group and Catherine has always volunteered to show them around, sit with them at breaks and lunches until they find their "groove" and is always a faithful friend to all. Catherine is truly the epitome of our wonderful Richmond School values, highlighting the importance of embedding these values into our students to ensure they become the fantastic individuals they can be - just like our "super Catherine".

