

# NEWSLETTER JULY 2025

## Welcome to our July Newsletter

The summer term, more than any, reminds me of the importance of ensuring our students have access to as many 'real' learning experiences as possible and this summer term has been the perfect example of this.

Our Year 12 biologists have enjoyed the usual field trip to Runswick Bay, Danby and Redcar with our Year 10 and 12 geographers participating in fieldwork in Arkengarthdale and Redcar.

The school's annual Year 7 trips to Brittany were concluded successfully, with our students gaining a genuine insight into life in France, enjoying beautiful sites and sporting activities and immersing themselves in French language and culture. We know that there is also considerable anticipation from our historians who are about to head off on the annual Battlefields trip.

Sports day also offered many opportunities for students to shine and to demonstrate the school's values of respect, excellence, determination, independence and teamwork. We are so pleased that this annual school tradition seems to go from strength to strength each year and that it enables so many students to get involved.

Our work with the local community has also provided so many learning opportunities for our students, as well as opportunities to give back to and contribute to the community in general. Students have recently been involved in a consultation with a Youth Engagement team from North Yorkshire Council about the Richmond Town Economic Plan, and our collaboration with the Richmond Building Preservation Trust and their plans for the Old Grammar School will continue into the next academic year and beyond.

On the final day of the summer term, we are really looking forward to welcoming alumni member Adam Dunwoodie back to school to be the keynote speaker in our summer Aiming High assemblies. Adam is the younger brother of Assistant Headteacher Emma Dunwoodie and was in the first year group that I took through the school when I was a Head of Year. Adam has been key in leading the well-known local football team 'The Mavericks' as well as carving out a very successful career with Northumbria Water - we are really looking forward to hearing the messages Adam shares with the students and feel sure it will be a memorable end to the term.

We are also delighted that we have developed a new 'USP' for the school in that we have recently been crowned national pom dance and cheerleading champions, following our teams' performances in Manchester. Some time ago we asked the Richmond School Trustees to fund some outfits and equipment to be able to set two teams up and following some really rigorous training, the girls performed brilliantly and won both titles. Staff were also lucky enough to enjoy a performance of the winning routines one evening after school recently and were bowled over by the quality of the dancing - it was fantastic to see the students 'shine' and we are really proud of their achievements.

We look forward to a good summer break and to meeting students and parents at our two results days in August.

Best wishes to you all and thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Jenna Potter, Headteacher.



**Page 51:**  
Giselle ballet



**Page 78:**  
Year 11 Prom.

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## JESS BECOMES MAYOR'S CADET

We recently heard that Jess Miller, Year 12 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, had been made Mayor's Cadet, a ceremonial position filled by a cadet who assists the mayor at civic events. She recently performed her first duty at the Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony at the Friary Gardens, Richmond.

Wendy, Jess's mum, was kind enough to provide a bit more information:

"The Mayor's Cadet acts as an ambassador for the youth of the town and provides a visible link between the council and local youth organisations.

Jess will be responsible for attending events in uniform, conducting herself professionally and liaising with the mayor and relevant authorities. She may be asked to help with tasks like welcoming dignitaries, carrying wreaths, or performing readings at events like Remembrance Sunday, Armed Forces Day and the Mayor's Christmas Carol Service.

Jess was interviewed by the Commanding Officer (Flight Lieutenant Donnelly) before being offered the post. She will be in the role for one year and has received a special badge to wear on her uniform.

Jess has been an Air Cadet for almost a year and a half and is currently a Corporal in the 2040 Richmond Squadron."

Congratulations to Jess on her appointment to this role – we look forward to hearing about her responsibilities as this year unfolds!



## MONSTERS, STORIES AND FRUIT – FREYA GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO HER CREATIVE MIND.

We recently discovered that Freya Thomas, Year 7 student, has a very interesting and creative hobby. She uses her active and wide-ranging imagination to conjure up characters that she then brings to life by drawing and writing about them, often in complex and highly involved plotlines! Her characters are monsters with original and very detailed personality traits, interacting with each other in not always completely positive ways. As you read on, you may recognise that some of Freya's stories may be based on some of her experiences at school!

We caught up with Freya to find out a little more about the world she has created.

RS: So, Freya, can you tell us a bit about the characters that you've created as well as the artwork you draw and the stories you write.

F: It's monsters. Monsters and their families. In this picture we've got Smarty and Storm, plus their mums and dads and siblings. The young monsters go to school. Smarty is smart and likes going to school, but Storm is a very unusual monster. He doesn't like school very much and has temper issues. If you give him a notebook, he'll probably just eat it straight away.

Storm's two best friends, Smarty and Bam, look after him the best they can. Smarty is very gifted – he loves maths and science and English, but he's not so good at PE. Bam is a 'half-and-half' monster – half pink and half red. She's a very rare monster but is a bit of an outcast. People tend not to be friends with her – they avoid her because of the way she looks. Monsters are normally just one colour. Smarty wants to change people's minds and has plans to make a famous speech about how all monsters are different and that it's OK to be half-and-half.

RS: I recognise some similarities between your monster world and the human world! Show us some more examples of things you've made and characters you've created.



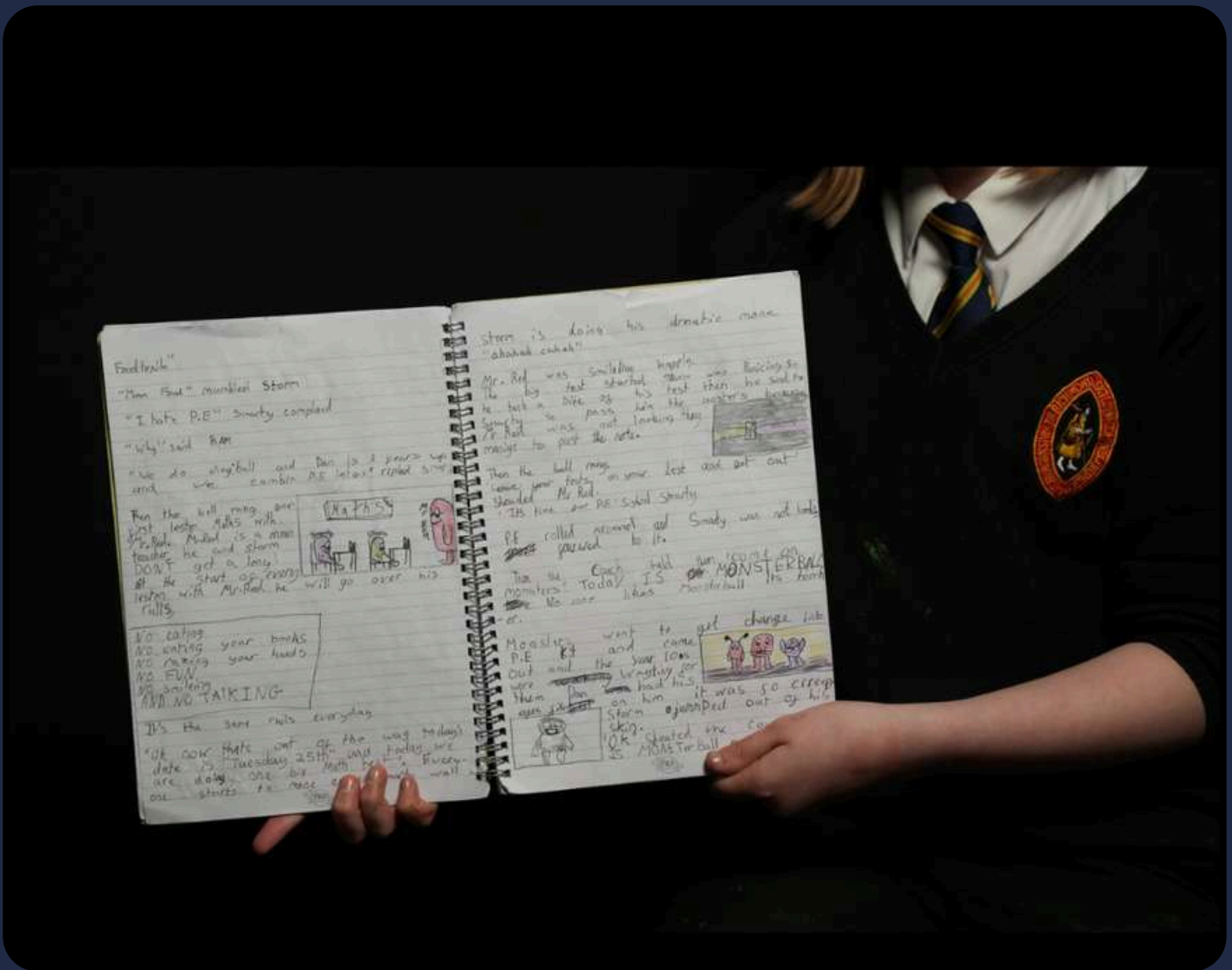
F: So, this is another monster, Betty. She's a bit different because she's got four arms and three legs. Betty's a maths monster – she loves maths and has another maths monster friend called Odd – he's got three legs, two arms and he's purple. He's also got three eyes. Even though Betty and Odd like maths the same as Smarty, they don't really talk to each other because Smarty has problems dealing with bullying by his brother Dan and Storm's brother Jacob. Dan always breaks Smarty's glasses.

RS: It's obviously not easy being a monster! Do you just draw monsters?

F: No, here's some fruit. It started with an apple, then I really got into it and added a banana, then a pear, then some grapes. It took me five days – I got a bit bored in the end, but I kept going.

Continues overleaf...





RS: And as well as drawing and creating characters. You also write stories. Can you give us an example?

F: I like reading the Dave Pigeon books, so this story is based on one of those. It's called The Mystery Admirer. It's set in Richmond School around Valentine's Day. People find letters around the school, but there's a twist at the end when they find out the letters are for someone else, not them.

Then there's the School for Monsters story, with the characters from the first drawing. Here, Storm is wet because he dived into a pond to rescue a chocolate bar he'd dropped – he didn't know how to swim, either. In this picture, there's a maths teacher called Mr. Red. Mr. Red doesn't like Storm and he's got a big list of rules – no smiling, no eating books, no fun. You can see that Storm's smile is downwards!

On this page it's PE. They're playing Monster Ball. Monster Ball is the worst. When you run out of balls to throw, the monsters are allowed to throw the other monsters at each other – and it hurts! Storm got so scared he jumped out of his skin – here's a picture of his bones!

RS: But he'd fall to pieces?! Though I guess they're monsters, not humans, so maybe not!

Thank you very much for giving us an insight into your artwork and stories, Freya. You have a brilliant and creative imagination and it's great to hear you talk with such enthusiasm and detail about your creations. Keep up the brilliant work! I'm sure we'll be hearing from you again in the future.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## RICHMOND AND NORTHALLERTON AIR CADETS RAISE MONEY FOR YORKSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE IN CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Meg Scott Hall, Year 10 student at Richmond, along with her support team, recently organised a charity football match between two local Air Cadet Squadrons.

The aim was to raise money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance service, as well as find out which squadron was better at football! Home-baked cakes were eaten as well, on what sounded like a 'challenging' day weather-wise. In fact, we hear that a gazebo was sadly lost during the proceedings!

Thanks to Meg for providing the following report:

"On a Sunday at the beginning of June, two incredibly closely matched teams of Air Cadets - 2337 (Northallerton) Squadron and 2040 (Richmond) Squadron - took to the pitch for a charity football match in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Despite the windy and rainy weather, both teams showed up with energy, determination and lots of team spirit.



The 60-minute match kicked off with a strong start from Richmond, who netted three impressive goals in the first half. Northallerton pushed back with skill, managing to score two goals and keeping the pressure on.

After a quick half-time break of cake and lemonade, the teams were back at it - this time with Richmond playing against the gale-force wind. Yet again, they delivered, scoring two more incredible goals to secure the win. Northallerton didn't go down without a fight, showcasing some fantastic shots on goal and never letting the intensity drop.

Referee, James, commented on the match, saying: "The game was played in great spirit despite the rivalry between the teams. It was a joy to referee and watch. There were some clear standouts - players who obviously play for clubs in their free time - but both sides played some amazing football. I'd love to see a rematch!"

The final score was 5-2 to Richmond Squadron, but it was truly a win for everyone involved. The event raised an incredible £400 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance service, supporting their life-saving work across the region.

A massive thank you to everyone who played, supported, donated, baked, refereed, and cheered!"



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## JASON – RICHMOND SCHOOL'S MASTER OF ORIGAMI!

We recently heard that Jason Ayes, Year 7 student, enjoys origami - folding squares of paper to make models of all sorts of different objects – cars, animals, planes, etc. When he brought some of the models in to show us, we realised that Jason was not just making simple shapes, but much more complex 3-D models with multiple intricate folds. His cars, planes and animals were truly impressive! We caught up with him to find out more:

RS: So, Jason, I hear you're a little bit surprised about the attention your origami is getting – can you tell us why?

J: Well, I thought it wasn't such a big deal, but people seem to really like my models and are interested in how I make them.

RS: We certainly are! How did you start origami and how do you learn how to make these complicated models?

J: I started watching videos. Even though it takes time and there are lots of different types of folds, I just seem to be able to remember it all and find it quite easy to make the models. I usually only have to watch a video once and I remember how to do it.

RS: That's really impressive, Jason. I'm looking at these models and thinking it would take me ages to work out how to make them!

I hear Mrs. Potter has seen them – how did she find out?

J: Mrs Miller saw them first and told Mrs Potter, then I showed them to her and she asked me if I would mind if school did an article about me for the website – I said yes, 100% I'm a bit surprised, though – I'm not very sociable and I never thought there would be an article about me!



RS: These skills that you have developed definitely deserve an article, Jason! I hear you asked Mrs Potter a question when she was looking at the models – what did you ask her?

J: I asked her what her favorite animal was – she said it was a hippo. I said I'd make one for her. I haven't yet, but I definitely plan to.

RS: That would be brilliant - tell us when you've made it and we'll get a picture!

OK – show us two or three of the models you're most proud of.

J: So, this is a dragon – I can make these quite quickly now – in about five minutes. Anyone can do it, it's just a case of practicing and remembering and learning. You have to be quite patient, though, especially to start with. This car is my favorite, and this one's a bit more streamlined. I can make speedboats as well – like this. I like the car because it's quite complicated and compact. I've seen a video to make a really complicated 3-D person that stands up – I think I'll try that one next – and the hippo, of course.

RS: Thank you very much for showing us your models, Jason, and giving us an insight into how you make them, as well as your plans to make even more complex ones. You'll have to tell us when you've made the human and the hippo and we'll take a few more photos!





## YEAR 10 STUDENT OSCAR TAKES THE STAGE AT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SPRING CONFERENCE

Last half term, Oscar Kendall, Year 10 student at Richmond School, won the weekly Head Teacher's Credit Values award. He was nominated by Mr Dawson for standing up at a North Yorkshire County Council area committee meeting in Northallerton Town Hall to speak about the Home to School Transport Policy. Mr Dawson said: "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."

We later found out that this was not Oscar's first political outing and that he was no stranger to taking to the stage to present an argument during a debate. In fact, he had been present at the Liberal Democrat Conference in Harrogate back in March and had spoken to present an argument during the debate of Policy Motion F23: Animal Welfare in the Food System, which was proposed by Tim Farron MP. Just a reminder – Oscar is 15 years old!

Oscar eloquently put forward several points for the motion from the perspective of a small-scale Dales farmer. He received a very fine round of applause from the floor!

The conference was live-streamed on YouTube and recorded. If you would like to watch all four hours, then you are very welcome to click on the link below and start from the beginning, but scroll to 1:22:15 and you will see Oscar take to the stage. He speaks until 1:26:20.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/vtytjYNCG28>



Oscar said this about his experience: "Admittedly it was slightly daunting at first. The auditorium had several hundred people in it, and I'd only written the speech at 10:30 the night before. I didn't even have an opportunity to print it, either!"

The motion was on animal welfare and British agriculture and coming from a farming background it interested me.

After my speech I caught the attention of Tim Farron MP (the mover and ex-party leader), as well as Danny Chambers MP, who mentioned me in his speech.

I was glad I spoke and would take the opportunity to do so again."

Well done to Oscar for getting involved in political debate at this level and putting forward arguments that are so important to the local Dales community. Something tells me this won't be the last we see or hear of Oscar – watch this space!

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## RICHMOND STUDENT SELECTED FOR ROTARY CLUB SPONSORED OCEAN YOUTH TRUST VOYAGE

Earlier this year we were contacted by the Rotary Club of Richmond, asking us to put forward names of suitable students who we thought would benefit from the fantastic experience of joining the Ocean Youth Trust North yacht James Cook for a five-day voyage this August. The opportunity had arisen because each year, Rotary Clubs from the north of England sponsor places for young people on these trips, to provide what is often a memorable, formative and even life-changing experience.

After a selection process and interview, Year 11 student Kunashe Gonyora was selected to take part in the trip. We caught up with him to find out a bit more about the process and what his thoughts were before the voyage.

RS: So, Kunashe, you've been selected to take part in this voyage – are you excited about it?!

K: Yes, very! I've done a bit of sailing when I was much younger with my mum, so this is an opportunity to sharpen my skills! But also to meet new people and gain a whole new set of skills.

RS: Tell us what you know about the boat and the trip so far.

K: Ok. It's a big boat – much bigger than the one I went on with my mum! There will be lots of young people from different schools and we'll be spending five days together, day and night. Exciting, but also a bit scary because I won't have met anyone on the boat before. I do like meeting new people, though, and finding out about how they see the world and what they've learned.



RS: I hear the selection process involved an interview – tell us a bit about that.

K: There were two people from the Rotary Club – Colin Grant was one of them. They asked about our experience of sailing and whether we could cook, if we liked to learn new skills, and if we could swim! Also, whether we had done any volunteering before. I answered all the questions and said that I do a lot of volunteering through our church – the Good News Church in Newcastle - we help the elderly and people in need in the local area. I think I gave a good impression – they were happy and excited at the end of the interview!

RS: Excellent – you obviously impressed the interviewers! Did they tell you anything specific about how the trip is going to work?

K: They said that we will be responsible for doing everything on the boat – cooking, sailing the boat, etc. We will work in shifts with one team working while the other team sleeps or has some down time. If it's our shift, we have to start work whatever time it is – even in the middle of the night!



Continues overleaf...





RS: And did they tell you where the trip starts and where it goes?

K: They did, but I can't remember the exact details! It starts somewhere near Newcastle and we sail along the north-east coast, stopping at night and visiting ports like Whitby and Scarborough. I think where we go also depends on the weather and the tides.

RS: Yes, of course. It sounds brilliant, and you sound exactly the sort of person who will have a fantastic time on a trip like this, Kunashe – friendly, outgoing and willing to learn new skills. We hope you have an excellent time – we look forward to talking to you afterwards to find out how it went!

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Richmond for providing Kunashe with this amazing opportunity.

The Ocean Youth Trust North website is at the link below:

<https://oytnorth.org.uk>

To download a leaflet about the OYTN, go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OYTNBrochure>

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## YEAR 12 STUDENTS IN CONSULTATION ACTIVITY WITH NYC COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT TEAM

We are very proud of the involvement many of our students have with the local community and the contribution they make to the Richmond area and beyond. A fantastic example of this was the consultation project we were involved in last year, where over 1000 of our students had the opportunity to share their ideas about the redevelopment of the Old Grammar School with representatives from the Richmond Building Preservation Trust and the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise. On the back of the success of this project, we were recently approached by the Communities Development Team at North Yorkshire Council asking whether they could come in and run a session with some of our Year 12 students. We said yes, of course!

Mr Hedley, Assistant Head Teacher (Sixth Form) and Lead Teacher of Geography, provides this report from the session:

"Earlier this week, six of our Year 12 students were involved in a highly engaging session led by Virginia Arrowsmith and Louisa Carolan of the Communities Development Team at North Yorkshire Council, together with Robin Casson of the Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust.



The session involved students Guy Feakins, Rhys Dowse, Francesca Rouse, Ellie Hughes, Sam Pickles and Arlo Wheatly engaging in group discussions with the team about four key aspects of life in Richmond and the local area for young people:

- What do young people like about Richmond and what it offers?
- What is missing in terms of services, facilities, and amenities for young people?
- How can we improve/rework/remedy/mitigate such issues for young people in the area?
- What do you want Richmond to look and feel like for young people in 10 years' time?

All the students were highly engaged throughout the session, providing thoughtful insights about a range of aspects of life for young people in the area. All spoke about personal experiences and how the town is both highly engaging, but also potentially challenging for young people living in the area in the 21st century. Ideas were explored and discussed as an open forum, followed by an activity where the students interacted with a large map of the town, adding annotations of all aspects discussed during the session.

Virginia and the team welcomed all the ideas discussed and will be taking these away with them over the summer to help inform plans for the future of the town. It is planned that the team will return to the school in September and re-engage with the Sixth Form students together with a number of those in the lower school to help cement plans and ideas going forward."

Thank you to our brilliant students for engaging so positively with the session. Watch this space next year for updates on how this consultation project progresses!





## CATTERICK CRUSADERS U14 SQUAD ENJOY REMARKABLE SEASON

Rugby, both union and league, is thriving in the Richmond School and Sixth Form College community. Students get fantastic opportunities to play and develop their game both in school and at the many local clubs in Richmond, Darlington and beyond.

Recently we received this report from Jamie Coburn, mum of Callum, one of the players in the Catterick Crusaders U14 rugby league squad – thank you!

“I wanted to share some fantastic news about our local rugby league team, the Catterick Crusaders U14s, who many of your students are proudly part of.

This season has been truly remarkable. In May, the team took on none other than the Scotland U14s and came away with an impressive victory – a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and dedication. The Scotland game was part of the Calcutta Cup regional, development and pathways fixtures held at Kingston Park, Newcastle. The U14 match was the opening fixture with the final score 20 - 16.



Their season didn't stop there. The Crusaders also battled their way to the League Grand Cup Final, where they faced a very strong Cramlington Rockets side. Cramlington were the only side to have beaten the Crusaders during the season, so it was always going to be a tough match! In what turned out to be a nail-biting game, Catterick secured a thrilling 16-14 win, clinching the cup in incredible fashion.

It's been a fantastic journey for these young players. Their success is a true reflection of their hard work, dedication, and passion for the sport, showcasing their growth and development both on and off the pitch. It also highlights the invaluable support they receive from their schools and the community. Thank you for continuing to encourage and celebrate their sporting achievements.”

Below is a list of students who play in the Catterick Crusaders U14 squad – congratulations on such an amazing season!

Ryan Wills, Harrison Baines, Callum Coburn, Oliver Pickles, Charlie Downes, Steeno Lewavakula, Moses Suguturaga, Zac Airey, Jackson Olliver, Sam Kawa, Finlay Holmes, Taniella Delaidriti, Tobyn Gardner.

We are very aware that many other Richmond students play for the Crusaders in other teams, and many others play at different clubs. We are always happy to publish match reports, season summaries and stories of achievement and success – please just get in touch!





## RICHMOND STUDENTS EARN SILVER AND BRONZE AT THE UNITED WORLD GAMES, AUSTRIA.

Earlier on this year we published two articles detailing how three Richmond students, Felicity Padgett, Amelia Westman, both Year 8, and Sophie Morris, Year 11, had been selected for the North East Eggchasers Ruby Sevens Academy at U14 and U16 levels. Both articles finished by saying that all three girls had been invited to represent the UK Lionesses teams at the United World Games in Austria later in the year.

The United World Games took place earlier in June and we have received some brilliant reports about the girls' success and experiences.

Firstly, over to Katy, Felicity's mum, for this fantastic report – thank you!

"What a phenomenal achievement! Year 8 students Felicity Padgett and Amelia Westman have returned from Klagenfurt, Austria with silver medals after competing in one of the world's largest youth sporting events – the United World Games.

This Olympic-style tournament brought together young athletes from over 30 nations, with competitions in rugby, tennis, hockey, football, basketball, ice hockey, and more.



The event began with a vibrant international flag parade and an awe-inspiring opening ceremony, complete with dazzling fireworks. Set in the iconic Olympic Stadium, the games weren't just about sport – they were about building friendships, sharing cultures, and creating memories to last a lifetime.

Felicity and Amelia, who both play for the North East region of the Eggchasers Academy in rugby sevens, were selected to represent the UK's Lionesses Cubs U14s Rugby Sevens Eggchasers Academy Team. Months of dedicated training and hard work in rugby sevens and rugby union paid off as the girls were part of a squad that truly lit up the tournament with their passion and performance.

### An Incredible Journey to the Finals

The Lionesses Cubs stormed through the preliminary rounds, winning all four matches, defeating teams from Ukraine, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Poland with an astonishing 130+ score points differential. The energy on the pitch was electric and the celebrations with teammates and other nations after each game showed the true heart and spirit of the team.

In the semi-finals, the girls delivered another powerful performance, beating Ukraine and securing their place in the final against Lithuania. In a gripping final match, the Lionesses fought bravely but were narrowly defeated by just three tries. Despite the result, Felicity and Amelia proudly brought home silver medals, marking an incredible achievement on the international stage.





A medal haul to remember

The success didn't stop there. The U16s Lionesses teams also brought home gold and bronze medals, rounding off a fantastic tournament for UK girls' rugby.

True to the United World Games' motto: "One World – A Thousand Friends", the event was as much about friendship and unity as it was about competition. Felicity and Amelia return not only as medal-winners, but as global ambassadors for youth sport.

Congratulations, girls – you've done us all proud!"

Back at school, Amelia talked about her experience during a presentation she gave to her English class. Her teacher, Miss Dunwoodie, was so impressed, she nominated Amelia for the Head Teacher's Credit Values Award. Her nomination is below:

"Amelia has been to the United World Games in Austria to represent the UK in the rugby sevens competition. The team came second, which was a phenomenal achievement. Not only that, but Amelia, without any preparation, spoke to our English group with real passion and eloquence about her experience. It was one of the best presentations by a Year 8 student, as well as being totally unplanned, that I have ever listened to! Amelia presented objects from her time in the tournament and spoke clearly about how much of a life-changing experience it had been. She exuded our values of determination, teamwork and excellence. Her enthusiasm was clear to see, and I hope Amelia takes this fantastic experience further in the future. The whole class felt inspired by the end of her presentation, which is not easy to achieve! Well done Amelia and keep being inspirational."

Kelly, Sophie Morris' mum, provided this report from Sophie's perspective. Again, thank you!

"Sophie represented the U16 girls in Austria, playing for the Lionesses Navy team.

She broke her elbow nine weeks before the games at a tournament on Good Friday, so we were a little sketchy as to how this would go. But, after she was given the all-clear to go to Austria, she had a blast!

In 30-degree heat, it was really tough going. Three days of games, all day, against strong sevens rugby teams from places like the Netherlands, USA, Ireland and Croatia. It was a tough competition with some excellent rugby on display - such a strong high level. But what a brilliant experience for the girls!

Sophie's team, Lionesses Navy, came away with a bronze medal in the tournament. Sophie had her first taste of scoring a try in another country too - she was so determined to get that ball over the line!

It was amazing to see all three UK Lionesses teams come home with a medal - a truly fantastic experience for all who took part."





# SPORT

## ATHLETICS ROUNDUP – AREA, NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS AND NORTHERN INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Richmond School and Sixth Form College students have been involved in a number of athletics events recently, starting with the Area Championships. Mr Westgate, Teacher of PE and Head of Year 9, provides this report from the competition:

Richmond School took 57 students from Years 7 - 10 to represent the school at the Area Athletics Championships at Middlesbrough Sports Village last Friday.

It was a fantastic day and every student performed their best throughout, doing the school proud.

Some notable performances were Charlie Downes winning the Year 8 boys' 100m and running in the 4 x 100m relay team, who also came first. The Year 8 boys finished second overall.

In the Year 8 girls' competition, Freya Atkinson and Isabelle Smith won the 200m and 800m respectively, helping the team finish third overall.

The Year 9 boys' team won the championships with wins in the 100m, 800m, 1500m, long jump and relay.

The Year 10 girls' team came 1st in the 100m, 200m, long jump and relay and came second overall.

An excellent day and some brilliant results overall:

Year 7 girls = 6th  
 Year 7 boys = 4th  
 Year 8 girls = 3rd  
 Year 8 boys = 2nd  
 Year 9 girls = 4th  
 Year 9 boys = 1st  
 Year 10 girls = 2nd  
 Year 10 boys = 6th



The students below qualified for the North Yorkshire Schools Championships which were held on the following day in York:

Archie Christon 300m - 5th  
 Josh Gaskell 800m - 2nd  
 Aiden Johnson 1500m - 3rd  
 Jake Murrell 100m - 5th  
 Connie Wilford 75m hurdles - 5th  
 Tegan Smith 200m - 4th  
 Adi Saumalua 300m - 3rd  
 Harvey Wilkinson Shot and Discus - 1st in both

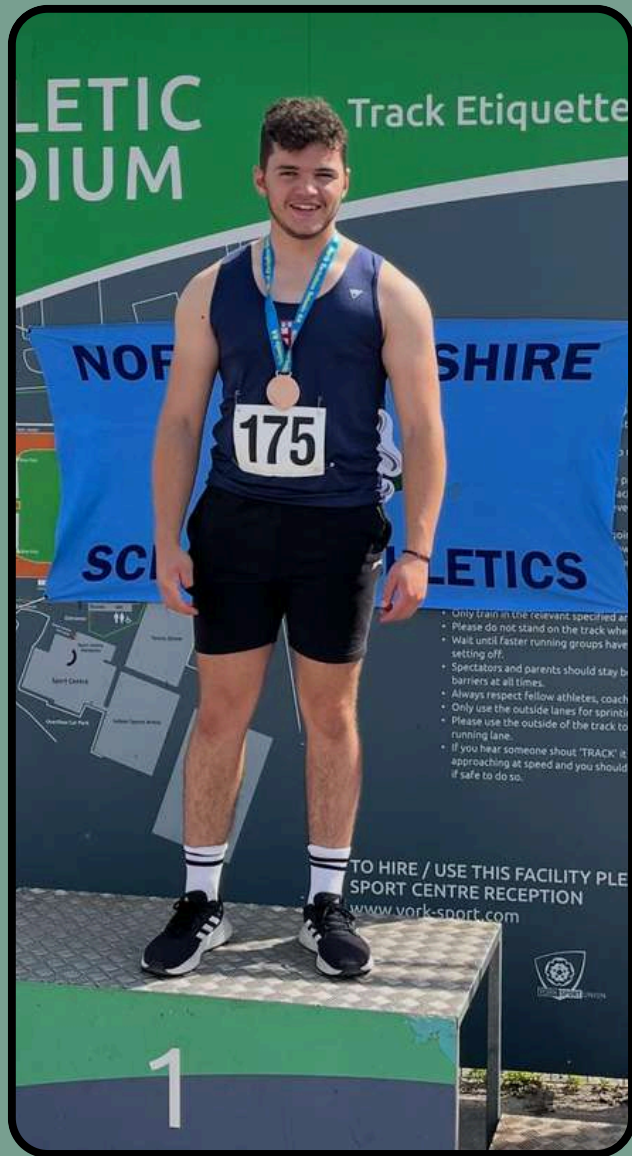
Emma, 1500m athlete Aiden's mum, provided us with the following information from the North Yorkshire Schools Championships – thank you!

"Aiden had a great race, placing third, with Josh also placing very well. This meant both students progressed even further, qualifying for the Northern Inter Counties Championships at Middlesbrough the following weekend – a fantastic achievement!"



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Sally, Harvey Wilkinson's mum, was kind enough to provide us with this information about Harvey's success:

"This year Harvey won the shot and discus in the senior category at the North Yorkshire Schools Championships in York, qualifying him for the English Schools Championship in Birmingham. This is the second year he has qualified, though last year he had to withdraw due to injury, so he is hoping for a better result this year.

He trains with and competes for City of York Athletic Club, training twice a week at their stadium in York.

He has already competed in the indoor National Championships this year as well as in the National Senior League."

Congratulations to all students on their brilliant performances at all three of these competitions. The athletics season continues and we look forward to reporting on further Richmond success later in the year.

## RACE FOR LIFE – WHAT A FANTASTIC EFFORT!

Thanks to Mrs Southgate, joint Lead Teacher of PE, for this report from last week's event:

Last Tuesday, students from Years 7 to 10, plus Sixth Formers, were challenged to complete either a 3km or 5km 'Race for Life' event around the school site. The route was a 1km loop which took our students across the astro turf pitch, down and around the bottom fields, back up to the top of the school site, along the front of the Sixth Form building and back down to the pavilion.

It was fantastic to see our students rise to the challenge and really enter into the spirit of the event. Many had opted to wear something pink and, despite it being quite a warm day, lots of the students really pushed themselves, demonstrating a desire to strive for excellence.

At the end of the event all students were provided with a Race for Life medal and given the opportunity to have a photograph taken with friends.

There was a real buzz about school and a sense of teamwork throughout the whole day; every individual playing their part to contribute to a bigger school-wide effort. It was lovely to see some of our staff members donning their pink running kit and getting stuck in alongside the students.

We'd like to thank absolutely everyone who took part or supported the event in any way and everyone who has donated so far.

We are very close to our target of £3000 and will be leaving the JustGiving page open for a little while longer - it would be fantastic to meet or even beat our target - please think about donating if you haven't yet!

The money raised will be split between Cancer Research UK and the PE Department for phase two of our fitness room refurbishment."

The JustGiving page can be found at the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/RichmondRfL2025>



The photos accompanying this article are only a very small selection of those taken on the day. For many more photos, go to the links below:

Year 7: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5cxtGf8nMuWAEPkf7>

Year 8: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/t2DpR4cx6yax33p3A>

Year 9: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qpgp7KfTVvNKLgXu9>

Year 10: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ueFCNgW9dRiuN7Hf7>



## RICHMOND MATHS TEACHER ON THE PODIUM AT PRESTIGIOUS ULTRA-TRAIL SNOWDONIA!



For the third year in a row, Mr Wigley, maths teacher at Richmond, competed at Ultra-Trail Snowdonia.

Over 2,800 athletes from 60 nations took part in the series of events, with Mr Wigley entering the highly competitive 100km race. This event has 6800 metres of elevation gain, over three-quarters the height of Everest, and is run over some of the most challenging mountain terrain in the UK.

Mr Wigley finished in an exceptional 3rd place after 12hours 18minutes of running.

The race is regularly one of the most competitive in the UK and this year was no different, with Mr Wigley battling it out against several professional runners in the unseasonal heat of Snowdonia.

In 5th position for most of the race, Mr Wigley paced things perfectly and only moved into 3rd position on the final climb with less than 5km left in the race.

For a taste of the scale of the event and what it involves, watch this amazing 2025 highlights video:

<https://tinyurl.com/UTSnowdonia2025>

We wait to hear if Mr Wigley's phenomenal effort on the international stage of Ultra-Trail Snowdonia has been enough for him to qualify to represent Great Britain at the Mountain and Trail Running World Championships in Spain in September. Watch this space!

Thanks to @gilly\_photography for the photos.



## YEAR 9 STUDENTS ENJOY COLOURFUL DAY AT DALBY FOREST

Mrs Southgate, joint Lead Teacher of PE at Richmond, provides this report from a recent trip to Dalby Forest: "15 Year 9 students from Richmond School recently enjoyed a day out in Dalby Forest for North Yorkshire Sports' Wellbeing Festival.

They took part in a wide variety of activities including archery, circus skills, bracelet making, doodle art, badminton, dance/aerobics, Kin-Ball, an inflatable bungee run and an inflatable obstacle course. But the standout favourite amongst the students was the Colour Run course through Dalby Forest.

The girls were brilliant and got stuck in to all the activities without hesitation and the smiles on their faces showed how much they were enjoying themselves. The slightly damp dance session was the only exception, but Mr Westgate and Mrs Southgate made up for this by embarrassing the students with their enthusiasm and questionable rhythm and co-ordination!



Whilst we had a slightly soggy start, the rain soon cleared, and it was lovely to witness the students' talent and creativity during the doodle art activity and bracelet making. They also demonstrated fantastic teamwork during Kin-Ball, with some of the students showing impressive independence and respect by stepping up to take the lead and helping the group figure out the best way to complete the challenges.

A great day was had by all - huge thanks to the team at North Yorkshire Sport, we'll be back next year!"





## SOARING AT 13 – NOW FLYING SOLO AT 14!

Back in November 2024, we published an article about Year 9 student Sarah Nolan's newly discovered love of gliding at the Yorkshire Gliding Club, on the edge of Sutton Bank. The article mentioned that Sarah had already accumulated over 15 hours of flight time, but she wasn't allowed to fly solo yet because she hadn't reached the age of 14.

Fast forward to June of this year...

Thanks to Sarah for this report:

"Thanks to the British Gliding Association (BGA) 'Go Gliding' Scholarship and the Launchpoint (Caroline Trust) Scholarship, I got to learn how to fly a glider at just 13 years old!

My first flight was in June 2024 at the Yorkshire Gliding Club, and it was the start of something amazing. Since then, I've completed 76 flights and logged over 35 hours of flying time. Every launch taught me something new and brought me closer to my goal, but I had to wait until I turned 14 before I could fly solo.



That moment finally came six weeks after my 14th birthday, less than a year after my first flight, when I completed my first solo aerotow flight. And only 12 days later, I completed my first solo winch launch. Flying alone was such an incredible experience, peaceful, exciting, and something I'll never forget.

Gliding has taught me confidence, focus, independence, and just how incredible it feels to be in the sky. I'm so grateful for this opportunity. It's been life changing, and I'm just getting started!

The next step in my journey is converting to flying a single-seater glider. It's a big milestone, and I'm really excited to keep building my skills and experience as I continue to grow as a pilot.

A huge thank you to the BGA, Launchpoint, Yorkshire Gliding Club and my family for supporting and encouraging me every step of the way. I couldn't have done it without them all.

If you're a young person who loves the idea of flying - go for it! Gliding is an amazing way to start your journey in aviation."

Sarah also won the Yorkshire Gliding Club Chief Flying Instructor Trophy 2024/25. She received the award from Bruce Grain who wrote a fantastic, congratulatory citation for Sarah, recognising and thanking her for the contribution she has made to the club since she joined.

Congratulations to Sarah for these fantastic achievements. We look forward to hearing about – and seeing the pictures from – her single-seater flights!

## YEAR 10 CRICKETERS NARROWLY MISS OUT IN YORKSHIRE CUP

Thanks to Mr Swanwick, PE teacher at Richmond, as well as coach and manager of the Year 10 cricket squad, for this report:

"The Year 10 cricketers' 2025 campaign finished recently with a defeat to a strong Scarborough College outfit following another excellent run in the Yorkshire Cup.

Since competing in the final of the Bunbury Cup in Year 7, our Year 10 cricketers have made a habit of beating some of Yorkshire's finest to progress deep into the competition each season.

Having been runners up in Year 7 and Year 9, they nearly made it three finals in four years. However, they came up just short against Scarborough College.

Following an excellent bowling and fielding display we restricted our visitors to 126-9, with some standout bowling from our Year 9 contingent of Joe Brookes (3-30), Lewis Pybus (2-17) and Fred Lamb (2-23), who clean bowled the two dangerous opening batters.



We felt at the break it was an achievable total, but we needed a couple of partnerships to see us there. Sadly, it was the Scarborough attack that came out on top, bowling with flight and guile to have us reeling on 43-5 after 10 overs. Our only true resistance came from a swashbuckling Ollie Taylor, who bucked the trend and finished with an accomplished 28. Dan Crowther was the final batter dismissed to leave us on 82.

It has been a fine run to the semi-final this year, having seen off St John Fisher, High Tunstall and Thirsk. One real standout performance came in the previous round against Thirsk. On a rain affected day, the two sides played a 10 over match to get the game played. Having lost the toss and being put in to bat, Will Fudali (51\*) and Bertie Morris (103\*) plundered boundary after boundary to put the opposition to the sword. A fantastic display of power hitting saw a total of 12 sixes from the dynamic pair as we posted 166 from our 10 overs. In reply, Thirsk struggled to get close to the required rate of 16.5 runs per over and finished 59-2.

It has been a thoroughly enjoyable campaign for the boys, and it was great to see a number of Year 9 students stepping up an age group to play a major role in the cup run. A big thank you to Richmondshire CC and Rockcliffe Park CC for hosting our games this season and to Andy Percival for his continued sponsorship of the Boys Team."





## YEAR 9 CRICKETERS VICTORIOUS IN THE NORTH YORKSHIRE CUP!

Mr Westgate, PE Teacher and Head of Year at Richmond, as well as coach and manager of the Year 9 cricket squad, provides this report from their cup run this term, culminating in their recent victory in the final against Ermysted's Grammar School:

"First game v Northallerton

Northallerton finished on 113/6 after 20 overs.

Richmond knocked that off in 8 overs (Bertie Morris 61 not out, Joe Brookes 51 not out).

Second game v St. Aidan's (Quarter Final)

St. Aidan's batted first and finished on 130/6 with some excellent bowling from Lewis Pybus and Fred Lamb.

Richmond knocked off the score in 13 overs with Joe Brookes 52 not out and Jack Sykes scoring a quick 30.

Third game v Harrogate Grammar School (Semi Final)

Harrogate scored 134/5 off 20 overs with Fred Lamb taking 2 wickets in the third over.

Richmond scored 134 in 17 overs. Joe Brookes scored 36, Louis Morris scored 29 not out and Lewis Pybus scored 22 not out to finish the game on a high note.

Final v Ermysted's Grammar School

Richmond batted first and were flying in the first 10 overs.

Bertie Morris and Joe Brookes were on a partnership of 109 off the first 10 overs (Bertie 80, Joe 32). Then the wickets came thick and fast, and Richmond were put under a lot of pressure. Lewis Pybus steadied the ship with 14 runs to get us to a very respectable total of 151/9 after the 20 overs.

Ermysted's started off well, but Lewis Pybus made an early breakthrough followed quickly by Jake Wright leaving them 41/3 off 8 overs. A fight back from their middle order batters meant they managed to get up to 131/9 with one over to go. Some excellent fielding led to the fourth run out giving Richmond the win and the North Yorkshire Cup.

An excellent team performance throughout the series. Everyone contributed with the bat or the ball and in the field. A fantastic way to finish the season!"



## YEAR 12 STUDENT SELECTED TO PLAY FOR YORKSHIRE MEN'S 2ND XI CRICKET TEAM!

Joe White, Year 12 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, recently made his debut in the Yorkshire Men's 2nd XI team against an MCC Young Cricketers team in a two-day friendly game played at Park Avenue Cricket Ground, Bradford. We caught up with him to find out more about the game and how he came to be selected for such a prestigious team at only 17!

RSFC: How did you come to be selected for the Yorkshire men's second team?

J: This is now my third season playing for Yorkshire, after being selected in 2023 after performing well for my North Yorkshire side. I then played for my age group side for the 2023 and 2024 seasons with the odd game for the team above. I was selected for the Yorkshire Men's 2nd XI last week after playing for the Academy side and putting in some key performances during the start of this season.

RSFC: What are the other players like - I guess not many of them are in Sixth Form?!

J: Most of the rest of the team are adults and have been playing 2nd XI cricket for a fair few years now. I played alongside some big names such as Finlay Bean who has played for Yorkshire 1st team for a number of years, and a few real up and coming professionals.

RSFC: How was the game? How did Yorkshire do, and how did you do - any personal highlights?



J: The game was amazing - playing my 2nd team debut against a very strong MCC side made up entirely of current and ex-professional players. Although I wasn't needed to bat in the run chase, I did bowl 13 overs and managed to pick up two wickets. Overall, we finished with a draw, and it was a great game to be a part of.

RSFC: What's next for your cricket?

J: That's not easy to answer, as it depends almost entirely on performances for me to make any more developments. I play for Richmondshire CC, so I am hoping to keep contributing to that team and ideally help us to get back-to-back league victories and then hopefully have similar success in other cup competitions.

RSFC: Thanks for the insight, Joe. Congratulations on the Yorkshire 2nd XI selection and good luck for the rest of the season - I'm sure this isn't the last we'll hear from you! For a link to the game's scorecard, go to the link below:  
<https://tinyurl.com/JoeYorkshireCricket>

For a video clip of each of Joe's wickets in the game, go to these two links:

<https://youtu.be/kZNRBFIDDv8>

<https://youtu.be/rjyrB6LlaDY>

Thanks to Ray Spencer:

[www.flickr.com/photos/raysp](http://www.flickr.com/photos/raysp)

and And Ever After Photography:

<https://andeverafterphotography.pic-time.com/portfolio>



## RICHMOND SCHOOL GIRLS CRICKET TEAM REACH LAST 8 IN THE NATIONAL 100 CUP

Thanks to Ms Abbey, Assistant Headteacher and coach and manager of the girls' cricket team, for the following report:

"Following on from their early success as North Yorkshire Indoor Champions and Yorkshire Indoor semi-finalists, the girls cricket team hit the ground running with the start of their outdoor season. We entered the Cricket Paper U15 Girls National 100 Cup competition for the first time. This is very prestigious competition which is predominantly entered by independent schools. With only three state schools entered across the country, we had very few expectations other than to test ourselves against some new and potentially challenging opponents. This is the story of their journey through the competition...

### Round 1 vs. Yarm School

Yarm School proved tough opponents with the bat, setting a run score of 154-2 for us to chase. Their opening batters contributed 96 of their runs. Both wickets came from Isla for Richmond School. The chase was on! Pippa M retired on 53 not out from 37 balls and captain Sophie also scored 48 not out from 25 balls. The game was close and it came down to the final 2 balls, but our team held their nerve to close the match out.

Richmond School 156-1: Richmond won by 2 runs!



### Round 2 vs. Sedbergh School

Sedbergh School has an excellent reputation for cricket but with some impressive fielding and excellent team spirit the Richmond School team kept their run score to 101-7. Captain Sophie took most of the wickets - 3 bowled out, 1 run out and 1 bowled and caught behind the stumps by the reactive Pippa M as wicketkeeper. Isla also took 2 wickets (1 bowled and 1 run out) with the rest of the team contributing with economical bowling and tight fielding to minimise the runs. The Richmond team chased the score down in 80 balls with Pippa M scoring an impressive 64 not out.

Richmond School 102-4: Richmond won by 6 wickets

### Round 3 vs. Stoneyhurst College

This time it was Richmond's turn with the bat in the first innings, posting a strong 121-3 for Stoneyhurst College to chase. Captain Sophie made a significant contribution with the bat scoring 45 not out, with Pippa M, Annabel, Jorge and Isla also adding to our run total. It looked to be another tight game with our best fielding needed to put pressure on the Stoneyhurst College batters. Richmond took 9 wickets in the innings - a combination of bowled, run outs and lbw, reflecting the depth of our bowling and fielding. It came down to the final ball with Stoneyhurst College requiring 2 runs to win. This didn't make for comfortable viewing for coach Ms Abbey from the scoring table (she couldn't watch!) but the girls seem to thrive in these high pressure moments. With the ball safely in the hands of Sophie after 1 run the Richmond team were victorious. Onto the last 16 round of the competition. Richmond won by 1 run



### Last 16 round vs. Scarborough College

The team had a long bus journey across the North Yorks Moors to play Scarborough College. Being among the last 16 schools in the country and the only state school left in the competition was a significant achievement, but the team wanted more. Richmond won the toss and elected to field. Scarborough had some strong batters and posted 136-4. Wickets came from Sophie (2 bowled), Isla (bowled) and Jorge (run out). After losing an early wicket the pressure was on the shoulders of experienced batters Sophie and Jorge who kept calm in the field and forged a magnificent partnership of 88 runs. Once again, the match came down to the final over. With the team watching eagerly from the boundary, captain Sophie required 17 runs off the last over (a tough ask for any batter). With a couple of no balls and some excellent boundary hitting, the over demonstrated how quickly momentum can change in a game of cricket. We chased down the score with one ball to spare, scoring 135-4. Overall, Sophie contributed 74 runs not out, including 9 boundaries. And just like that, we were into the quarter finals of the National Cup, celebrating in style with a team McDonald's. Richmond won by 8 wickets

### Quarter final vs. Repton School

Hosted by Richmondshire Cricket Club we came up against a very strong side in Repton School, who were last year's winners of the competition. Repton won the toss and elected to field. They had strength and depth in their bowling line up, taking 7 wickets and minimising our run score to just 47. Equally strong with the bat, Repton chased us down quickly, scoring 53-1. Beaten by a very strong team on the day, our team were naturally disappointed but their first act after the last ball was bowled was to congratulate Repton School on the win, shaking hands and wishing them good luck in the semi-final, epitomising our school CREDIT value of Respect. Repton School won by 9 wickets



Ms Abbey, Girls Cricket Coach said "The team have had an exceptional season this year and surpassed all expectations. Although there have been some players already mentioned above, this success is truly a team achievement and we have had to draw on a full squad of 15 players with every single one of them playing their own part in the team's success. It is a great feeling to win but, for me, the proudest moments come from the little things such as the joy they feel for each other when one of them takes a wicket, scores a run or stops a boundary. Their superpower throughout the tournament has been their ability to lift each other up in the tougher moments in the game and bounce back after mistakes. It is teamwork and determination that have been the drivers of our success. I couldn't be prouder".

National 100 Cup Team: Sophie White, Jorge Lumley, Isla Jenkinson, Katie Smart, Amelia Atkinson, Alice Botting, Meg Scott Hall, Pippa MacLelland, Freya Atkinson, Pippa Gibbon, Ruby Ford, Tallulah Whent, Annabel Hodges, Anna Barber and Ellie Buchanan

Special thanks to our shirt sponsor James Ford Construction and the support we have received from Richmondshire Cricket Club and the Cricket Development team at Yorkshire Cricket.

An album with some action shots from earlier in the season can be found at this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RwMcnGXjXN7npu7YA>



## RICHMOND SCHOOL GIRLS CRICKET TEAM CROWNED REGIONAL CHANCE TO SHINE CHAMPIONS

Thanks to Ms Abbey, Assistant Headteacher and coach and manager of the girls' cricket team, for the following report:

The Richmond School girls cricket team have proved their strength and depth across all formats of the game with even more success in the U15 Girls Chance to Shine Softball competition in June and July.

### Chance to Shine North Yorkshire Finals

The North Yorkshire Chance to Shine Finals, hosted by Ampleforth College, were played as an 8-a-side round robin format with six schools entered. Matches are played with an incrediball (no helmets or pads required) with all players expected to bowl at least one over.

Match 1: Outwood Academy (40) vs. Richmond School (78) - Richmond won by 38 runs

Match 2: Macmillan Academy (41) vs. Richmond School (56) - Richmond won by 15 runs

Match 3: Fulford School (37) vs. Richmond School (56) - Richmond won by 19 runs

Match 4: Richmond School (53) vs. Acklam Grange School (53) - match tied

Match 5: Richmond School (26) vs. Ripon Grammar School (66) - Richmond won by 30 runs

With 4 wins and 1 tie across our 5 games Richmond School were crowned North Yorkshire Champions and qualified to represent North Yorkshire at the Yorkshire Finals.



### Chance to Shine Yorkshire Finals

The next round of the competition proved a little more challenging, facing the top teams across Yorkshire with most of the games throughout the tournament being very close. This format of the competition was played as 2 groups with a semi-final and final to be played to determine the winners.

Richmond School won 2 out of their 3 groups games, beating Driffield School and Mercia School and losing their final group match against Allerton School on the last ball. However, we still qualified first in our group to reach the semi-final, demonstrating how closely matched the teams were in terms of ability. Unfortunately, we lost to Acklam Grange in the semi-final with another tight game coming down to the last 2 balls. Resilient in defeat, we returned home still proud of our efforts and accepted that our softball Chance to Shine journey had ended. Or so we thought...

A few weeks later, we received an email from Chance to Shine inviting us to represent Yorkshire at the Chance to Shine North East Regional Finals. Acklam Grange had withdrawn from the competition and due to our impressive run total across the group stage of the competition, Richmond were asked to step in. Of course, we said yes!







### Chance to Shine North East Regional Finals

The final round of this competition was played as a round robin with the top 2 teams from Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland battling it out for the trophy at Banks Home Riverside Stadium, Chester-Le-Street (home of Durham Cricket). Supported by Chance to Shine the day was a great opportunity to celebrate our successful season, with players getting a chance to be interviewed on social media and chat to Durham and England Women's star Mady Villiers.

Match 1: Ponteland (55) vs. Richmond School (77) - Richmond won by 20 runs

Match 2: Easington Academy (49) vs. Richmond School (110) - Richmond won by 61 runs

Match 3: Mercia School (105) vs. Richmond School (82) - Mercia won by 13 runs

Match 4: Richmond School (113) vs. Kings Priory School (62 all out) - Richmond won by 47 runs

Match 5: Richmond School (135) vs. Boldon School (96) - Richmond won by 39 runs

With the results from other matches unknown, we had to wait until the team presentation to find out the final outcome of the tournament. The competition was so close that the organisers had to get the calculator out to work out run difference (runs scores vs. runs against) for the top teams who had tied on points and wins. With shocked faces and screams of joy Richmond School were announced as Chance to Shine Regional Champions, winning by just 6 runs when compared to Mercia School. A fine way to end our very successful season.

Chance to Shine Softball Team: Sophie White, Jorge Lumley, Isla Jenkinson, Katie Smart, Amelia Atkinson, Alice Botting, Meg Scott Hall, Pippa MacLelland, Freya Atkinson, Ruby Ford and Ellie Buchanan

A (very short!) video of the girls lifting the trophy can be seen at this link:

<https://youtu.be/Pcy0AJChYX0>



## SMART ARCHERS COMPETE FOR GREAT BRITAIN

Some time ago, we published an article about Bert and Johnny Smart, then students in Years 8 and 13. We detailed their success at the UK Junior Masters archery competition, with the article going on to focus on Johnny's performances and selection for the Yorkshire county team.

Things have moved onwards and very much upwards since then for both Johnny and Bert. We recently heard that Bert, now a Year 10 student, has been selected to represent Great Britain at the European Youth Cup in Slovenia later this summer. Johnny has represented GB at U21 and senior level in a number of competitions over the past three years and will also travel to Slovenia this summer, as well as to Winnipeg, USA, for the World Youth Championship.

Rog, Bert and Johnny's dad, provided us with this detailed report about Bert's progression from his senior debut in April 2024 to his recent selection for the GB team and his recent near-miss of the U18 national record!

Note: The term 'compound' indicates the type of bow that Bert uses - a hi-tech bow with a system of pulleys. This contrasts with a recurve bow – still very hi-tech, but without the pulleys.

"Bert progressed throughout last season having made his senior debut in April, in the rain at Thirsk and securing national ranking points for coming second. He managed to shoot a PB and it was only the start of things to come. His scores continued to improve throughout summer 2024. He competed in the National Junior Archery Series in the Youth Compound section where all youth and U21s compete together. He held his own and ultimately came fourth at the final in Coventry, just losing out in the bronze final. He was also U15 Junior National Outdoors Champion. Bert's scores were submitted for both the junior and senior Yorkshire teams, and he was selected for the senior team where he was part of a very successful weekend for Yorkshire, winning a bronze medal in the overall compound team. He also won the boys compound team trophy at the Northern Counties inter-county match in Penrith.



Bert submitted his scores to Archery GB for progression to the Development Squad. He was selected to join the squad and attended the Performance Archery Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire throughout the winter and early spring where he has had some top-level coaching with GB's best archers, amongst them the Women's World No.1, Ella Gibson. He has also learnt about the demands and expectations of elite sport: nutrition and anti-doping, strength and conditioning, and so on. He hopes to advance to the National Squad later this year.

For international selection, Bert needed to achieve six qualification scores before 18th May this year. By that deadline, he had achieved five of them, with the sixth being just one point under the required score. Despite that he submitted them and he was invited to attend to the national squad's qualification shoot which is a closed competition where all the archers who have achieved the qualification scores shoot against each other to determine the final team to represent GB. Bert had a great weekend: he beat some of the U21 team members and scored three more qualification scores! Despite the wind and despite being after the deadline, his hat was thrown into the ring for consideration, and he was selected as the only U18 compound boy to go to Slovenia for the European Youth Cup. He will shoot in the individual competition and also in the mixed team competition with the highest ranking U18 girl.

Continues overleaf...



Since then, Bert has shot a new PB in this season's Junior Archery Series at York where he finished top of the ranking with 691/720, just 2 points behind the U18 national record, before taking silver in a close-run final.

He is in action this weekend at the Archery GB Masters tournament at Lilleshall.



He's currently trying to get some sponsorship from local businesses as well as some support from the equipment manufacturers - not easy. If any local businesses happen to read this and are interested, please get in touch!"

Congratulations to Bert for achieving this incredibly high standard of archery. We look forward to hearing how things go in the summer – good luck! We also look forward to hearing a bit more detail about Johnny's progress over the last few years and his performances this summer.





## CHARLIE IN BRILLIANT 5TH PLACE AT BRAMHAM HORSE TRIALS ARENA EVENTING COMPETITION

We recently heard that Charlie Ingham, Year 7 student at Richmond School, had placed 5th in a highly competitive arena eventing competition at the internationally renowned Bramham Horse Trials. We contacted Louise, Charlie's mum, to find out more. She provided this brilliant account, giving us a real insight into the event, Charlie's riding and her horse, Lily:

"Charlie and her horse Lily (Secret Desire II) competed at Bramham Defender International Horse Trails recently in the Saracens 80cm Arena Eventing competition. She finished 5th in an open class of 53, which is an amazing result!

The competition is held at Bramham Horse Trails, next to part of the main cross-country course, for riders over 12 years old who have competed at other arena eventing competitions in the last season.

Arena eventing gives riders the chance to mix the two equestrian disciplines of show jumping and cross-country into one event. The horse and rider jump nine show jump fences then nine cross-country fences all in a large arena together. The jumps in Charlie's class are 80cm high and at least that width. At the end of the course, they have to jump a joker fence, which is a tricky show jump at 90cm. They are competing to get as close as possible to an optimum time of 350m/minute, which gave Charlie and Lily 151 seconds, or 75 seconds per section to jump the course.

The riders are given penalty points for knocking a fence down, or the horse stopping or refusing to jump a fence. Three of these over the course, or if they jump the wrong fence means they are eliminated and have to retire. This course was on undulating ground, with some tricky turns and offset jumps making it a real challenge, which is what Bramham is known for. A message from the organisers thanking competitors acknowledged that the course was technical and a real test of partnership between horse and rider!



Charlie walked the course on foot several times before the competition to learn the course of 19 jumps, working out the best lines to run, what was safe for Lily and what other distractions they may have outside the course.

Charlie has done a lot of preparation with Lily over the last few months, ensuring they were both ready for the competition.

Competing at 9.03am on the Sunday morning meant a 5am start to get Lily ready, have her breakfast and travel to the event. After we arrived, we had several checks and tacked Lily up, they had a final warm up in front of Bramham House, surrounded by huge horse boxes, trade stands, as well as lots of the general public watching. They were then ready to walk along the horse walk path, around the edge of the site, to the competition field.

In the warm up arena set to one side of the main arena, Charlie had a final run through to check she knew her course, watching for the speed and route others were taking to see if she could learn any last minute tips. She rode Lily over a couple of warm up fences with other competitors. Finally they were called to be next to go in, with a crowd of people watching and lots of friends supporting.

They were jumping 12th in the class of 53 entries but only one competitor before Charlie had managed a clear round; everyone else had picked up faults or been eliminated. Charlie and Lily jumped a fantastic clear round, making all the turns and clearing all the fences. The results screen showed them in second place but with lots still to compete.

Charlie cooled Lily down and she grazed, whilst we had a long two hour wait for all the other riders to compete. Lots of poles were knocked down and riders and horses eliminated, showing just how tricky the course was. Charlie stayed high on the leader board.

The final result was 5th out of 53 competitors, with only six completing the course without any jump faults. Charlie and Lily were a little bit fast compared to the optimum time which lowered their placing but it's something for them to work on in the future - a fantastic result for them both!

They won a rosette and lots of goodies for Lily from the competition sponsors and were part of the lap of honour around the course with hundreds of people watching. Lily's owners, Charlie's instructor and lots of friends were all so pleased for them.

Charlie started riding at a riding school when she was four. Her first pony arrived when she was five and she has had riding lessons at home ever since, learning how to ride and look after her pony. Charlie joined Hurworth Pony Club, making friends from a wide area and competing with and against them over the years at various venues. Lily is Charlie's current horse. She came to us on loan in November and the pair clicked straight away: both love to go fast and jump! Lily is the horse's everyday or stable name, but her full name which links to her family tree is Secret Desire II. Lily is 21 years old and used to compete at a very high level of eventing but has come out of retirement to teach Charlie how to ride and jump the bigger fences. The pair are doing fantastically well together, winning and being placed at lots of shows and competitions across the region.

In October they are aiming to compete in the National Schools Equestrian Association Championships in Buckinghamshire in both arena eventing and show jumping, which they qualified for earlier in the year. There are also several Pony Club competitions and one day events coming up over the summer: dressage, show jumping and cross country. Charlie wants to try the 90cm course at Bramham next year, so training to move up to larger fences will start."

Thanks to <https://www.1stclassimages.com> for the photos.





## MYLES GETS SEASON OFF TO A FLYING START!

Last year we published an article about Myles Hartland, Year 7 student at Richmond School, and his brilliant achievement of qualifying for the International Horse of the Year Show 2024.

We recently received the following report from Rebecca, Myles' mum, describing what Myles and his ponies have been up to at the start of this season – Myles, his family and support team have been busy and also very successful!

"Myles has had a fantastic start to his season. He has qualified three separate ponies for the Royal International Horse Show in July held at Hickstead. He managed to qualify two of the ponies at the first attempt.

Horse of the Year Show qualifiers kicked off at the start of the month. Myles attended Midlands County Show picking up a second and a sixth place.

We then went to the Royal Three Counties Show at Malvern where things didn't go to plan for him, but a big learning curve on one of his younger inexperienced ponies. His sister won and achieved champion of her class, getting her Horse of the Year show qualification in the process.



We then had a very busy week with the Royal Cheshire Show, Lincolnshire Show and finishing with The Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh.

Myles was second at Lincolnshire, then went on to win at the Royal Highland, gaining his ticket to Horse of the Year Show on his show hunter pony Taz.

This year he is also riding a show pony for the Royalview Stud and has his first qualifier for Horse of the Year Show this weekend at the North of England Summer Show."

Well done to Myles – we look forward to hearing more from the family as their busy season progresses – good luck!

## HORSE MAD RUBY AND RUBY SET UP BUSINESS VENTURE – GALLOP GIRLS!

We recently received the story below, sent to us by Sam and Suzanne, mums of Ruby Ford (Year 7) and Ruby Bell (Year 8) – thank you, it's brilliant!

"Horse mad best friends Ruby Bell and Ruby Ford would like to share their recent business venture.

Last Christmas, the girls spent time together researching equestrian clothing brands, looking at popular brands such as Holland and Cooper and Le Meux for inspiration. They wanted to create a clothing brand that would hopefully help fund their expensive hobby!

The girls agreed on a company name, designed a logo, and set out to find a manufacturer. They arranged to meet Equithread, a local company that supplies local racing yards with branded equestrian clothing. Their meeting was a success, and they received really positive feedback.

They successfully sold knitted woollen hats over the winter and now their range has expanded to include T-shirts, base layers, vests, riding leggings and more. Between the girls, they have 10 ponies, all very different, ranging from a seven-week-old foal to a golden oldie still competing at 28 years old.

The girls are members of the local 3 Valleys Riding Club and are part of the Richmond School Equestrian team. Between them they have competed at Hickstead, Arena UK and Lincoln Showground.



They are both very dedicated to their horses and work incredibly hard with their upkeep, fitting the work around between being positive and hard-working students at Richmond School!

Since starting their business, they have had to learn about managing sales, record keeping, profits, ordering stock, and design ideas. The profit they have made to date will remain in their business with the hope of reinvesting and expanding their product range.

Ruby and Ruby will have a stall at the following events this summer if anyone would like to show their support:

Hollies Riding School - Sunday 6th July  
Catterick Saddle Club - Sunday 13th July  
Scorton Feast Gymkhana - Sunday 17th August

They also have an Etsy shop at the link below:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/gallopgirlsrr>

All first time orders made will get a 10% discount using the code RICHMONDSCHOOL

With the help of their parents, they use social media to promote their venture and to showcase what adventures they get up to:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)





## RICHMOND ROYALS CHEER AND POM TEAMS ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

Thank you to Miss Pemberton, Teacher of Dance, for this report. She also happens to be an Allstar Worlds Silver Pom Medalist – a genuine inspiration for the Richmond Royals!

"We are absolutely thrilled to share the incredible achievements of our Richmond Royals Cheer and Dance teams at the UKCA Cheerleading and Dance Nationals held at the National Cycling Centre, Manchester recently.

Both of our competing teams – Key Stage 4 Level 1 Cheer (Ruby) and Key Stage 3 Pom Dance (Onyx) – delivered flawless performances, securing first place in their divisions in a clean sweep victory. Each team competed against six other schools from across the UK and truly stood out with their talent, confidence, and dedication.

We had an incredible 43 students involved across the two teams, and every single one of them gave it their all. Their performances were nothing short of show-stopping, earning praise from other coaches and even a special feature on UKCA's social media for Pom's incredible precision and sharpness.

Our Level 1 Cheer team hit zero deductions, despite a few last-minute routine upgrades on Friday and executed every stunt and skill with confidence and sass!

A massive thank you to our fantastic junior coaches Jessie Hankin, El Hughes, and Molly Shanley – all Worlds athletes from Lazer Cheer – for leading the Cheer team with heart, skill, and dedication. They've been incredible role models, building the girls' confidence and helping them grow both on and off the mat.

We've been so lucky to receive support from Worlds Pom Coach Sophie Wintersgill (Hartlepool Hawks) and Worlds Cheer Coaches Mandy and Chelsea Foreman (Lazer Cheer). And of course, a huge thank you to the parents and families whose support, encouragement, and commitment helped make this possible.

Since January 2025, these teams have trained tirelessly – and their hard work truly paid off. I am so proud to represent Richmond School, and I cannot wait for the next season. Well done, Royals – you've made us all incredibly proud!"

Video links:

Manchester 1 – Cheer routine - partial:

<https://youtu.be/frhqE5dZ7lw>

Manchester 2 - Pom Dance routine in full:

<https://youtu.be/CuwnW467Q4k>

Manchester 3 – Cheer routine in full:

<https://youtu.be/uWpK8E3O2GQ>

At school – both routines: <https://youtu.be/Ge1e009uA-4>





## ONYX TAKE THE FIELD WITH GB LIONS U17 AMERICAN FOOTBALL TEAM!

Miss Pemberton, Teacher of Dance and coach and manager of the Richmond Royals Cheer and Pom teams, provided this report from a recent trip to Derby with the Onyx pom dance team:

“Last weekend, Richmond School’s National Champion Pom Dance Team, Onyx, had the incredible honour of supporting the GB Lions American Football U17s as they faced off against a US based EXACT International All-American team.

Onyx were specially invited by team managers Rebecca and Mark, with a proud connection – our very own Richmond Sixth Form College student Riley Read plays for the GB Lions! Riley’s sister, Sophia, is a member of Onyx, so the family connections were two-fold!

From cheering on the sidelines to an energetic half-time performance, the Onyx girls brought spirit, energy, and pride throughout the day. It was a true once-in-a-lifetime experience, showing their passion for dance and support for their fellow athletes.

Thank you to Team GB Lions for the opportunity and a huge shoutout to Kim Hollins Photography for capturing these amazing moments.”



For a video of the tunnel run click on this link:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/YCYWdlkcU1I?feature=share>

For a video of the half time performance, click here:

[https://youtu.be/g1\\_V1VSL8X4](https://youtu.be/g1_V1VSL8X4)



## RILEY MAKES HISTORY WITH THE GB LIONS AMERICAN FOOTBALL TEAM

Over the last four years, we have published a number of articles tracking the progress of Riley Read, now in Year 12, and his continued success with the GB Lions American Football team. The team recently travelled to Derby to host a high-profile match against a US based EXACT International All-American team.

Paul, Riley's dad, provided his customary excellent report about the match and a summary of Riley's unique achievements with the GB Lions:

"Riley made his own little piece of history this weekend as one of only two players in history to have ever played in four different seasons for the GB Lions U17 American Football team, earning his fourth international cap. He is the only defensive player to do so in this age group, having first played aged 14 for the GB U17 team. He has now played in four internationals: Austria '22, Norway '23, Spain '24 and US All Stars '25.



### GREAT BRITAIN U17

GAMEDAY ROSTER  
EXHIBITION GAME VS. EXACT ALL AMERICAN

**QUARTERBACKS**  
HARRY VICKERS • MILD RAPACCIOLI

**RUNNING BACKS**  
BAILEY JERMAIN DAVIS • DYLAN COE • HENRY BURFIELD • LOUIS BYRNE

**WIDE RECEIVERS**  
CARTER WOODWARD • ENZO DRAPER • JAMIE ENNIS • LANCE YEO  
MALACHY MCMAHON • TATE GARRETT • THOMAS DAWSON • WILLIAM HICKS

**TIGHT ENDS**  
HUGO SHORT • JOEL STOKES • KINGSLEY STANDING

**OFFENSIVE LINE**  
ALEXANDER KNOX • ALFIE GALLOWAY • FINLEY MORGAN • HARRY FREDERICKS  
JOHN BOYLE • JUSTIN GOODALL • KIAN MCGAR • SAM CHAMBERS

**DEFENSIVE LINE**  
AARON GREEN • AKOREDE ADEFULU • CIAN BERGIN • COLE COPELAND  
LACHLAN KERR • RILEY READ • SAM BYRNE

**LINEBACKERS**  
DAYOMI ADEJUMO • ETHAN CHRISTIE • JAIDEV RADIA • KEVIN QUIVETTO  
LOUIS GRAY • THEO THOMPSON • TOM GREEN

**DEFENSIVE BACKS**  
BAILEY CROSS • BRADLEY T PASIPANGODYA • BRENDON PASIPANGODYA  
CHARLIE CHARALAMBOUS • DANIEL BURTON • EDWARD GRAYSON • JUDE PALMER  
JUNIOR KILETJE • LEWIS CAMERON • LUCAS AHERTON • MISHKAAT SOHEL

This may be his last game in the age group, but it was also his best game as he recorded 2.5 sacks and four 'tackles for loss' - the ultimate goals for a player in his position. Riley was also named the Defensive Captain for the game which was a huge honour, and he proudly carried the Union Flag onto the pitch.

A bonus for us as a family and Richmond School and Sixth Form College was the fact that the UKCA National Champion Pom Dance Team Richmond Royals Onyx also travelled down to Derby and did a half time show at the event as well as creating a tunnel for the players to enter the field through. Sophia, Year 8 student and Riley's sister, is part of the pom team. Onyx became the GB Lions pom team for the day, so a special moment for us having both Riley and Sophia involved."





Michael Davis, Head Coach of the U17 GB Lions team, had this to say about the team and Riley: "I absolutely could not be prouder of these boys. They played their hearts out, and the scoreboard is irrelevant when looking at how far this team has come, not only in the last few months, but since the formation of the U17s. It's been amazing to have Riley and the Read family along for that journey too.

Riley is the kind of hard-working and dependable player that every coach wishes they had more of on their team. His work ethic and preparedness not only drive his own personal development but also elevate those around him by setting the standard and leading by example.

It has been an honour to see Riley grow from a 14 year old boy pushing for more game time at his first international cap in Austria, into the man that this year led his team out on to the field, as captain and the most capped player the Great Britain U17s have ever had.

As Riley graduates from the U17 programme, and up into the high echelons of the national teams, I wish him all the best and know that he will be sorely missed as a leader of this team both on and off the field."

Congratulations to Riley for this fantastic achievement. We look forward to hearing about his progression beyond the U17 squad and into the senior ranks of GB American Football.

For some video footage of Riley's significant moments in the match against the US team, click on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/RileyGBLions>



## FRENCH TRIP 1

During both French trips this year, students helped out by writing accounts of their days, which were then posted on the Richmond School social media every morning.

What follows are these accounts, for both trips:

### FRENCH TRIP 1 – THEY'VE ARRIVED!

Mrs Norman sends this report from the long journey south – it sounds like everyone's ready for action today!

"We had a really good journey down to Portsmouth and a smooth crossing.

Now in Saint Malo for the day before heading to the centre at the end of afternoon.

All students happy and excited for a day of exploring."

Watch this space for further updates as they come in...



### FRENCH TRIP 1 - DAY 2 REPORT

Thanks to Lottie James for this report!

6:00am

A very early start for us this Monday morning as we hauled ourselves out of bed at 6:00 AM! After very few hours of sleep and a draining day on Sunday, this wasn't everyone's cup of tea, but everyone was ecstatic about the day ahead of us. On y va - that's French for "Off we go"!

8:30am

By this time, all of us were off the boat, loaded onto the coach and through customs. This was when we met Julie, our wonderful guide. She will be here until we eventually get on the ferry back to Portsmouth.

9:00am

We now arrived at the restaurant where we would eat a lovely traditional French breakfast: Le Chateau Briand. We all treated ourselves to croissants and baguettes with sweet jam.

10:30am

Now - when we were full of wonderful French cuisine - we were left for half an hour to explore St Malo and we each had money to spend on whatever we wanted from the little shops: drinks, bracelets and ice cream galore!



1:00pm

We now arrived at the aquarium in St Malo where we yet again had some French food for lunch: baguettes filled with ham with a side of...crisps!

4:30pm

We were now on the coach to our accommodation where we will stay for the next 3 nights. Finally! A place where we could decompress (and sleep, hopefully).

7:15pm

By now, we were at an idyllic little restaurant where we would have a nice tea. It was called Le Maudez and we tucked into some homemade lasagne. We all looked forward to and enjoyed this well-deserved evening meal.

8:45pm

We headed back to our accommodation and burned off some energy we had been storing all day. We settled into our dorms and got washed and cleaned then changed into our night clothes, ready for lights out. Goodnight!

## FRENCH TRIP 1 - DAY 3 REPORT

Thanks to Noah for this report.

Today we started off the day with a breakfast of cereal, bread, butter and jam.

After breakfast, we visited the biscuit factory in Belle Isle and found out how it started and how the biscuits were made. We even got to try some!

We then stopped at the beach for a bit to have our lunch. Next, we went on the high ropes course. It was a fun experience that *\*almost\** everyone enjoyed. Then we went bowling. Mr Randall was champion, with Sammy Dean a close second. We had tea at the Buffalo Grill – it was amazing!

We finished off with a relaxing evening and a game of football.

Mrs Cheesebrough added: "It's been a wonderful and very busy day. Some very happy students! Ready for a day along the coast tomorrow, it's going to be a hot one."



## FRENCH TRIP 1 - DAY 4 REPORT

Thanks to Phoebe Willis and Anna Barber for this report.

We all woke up eager and hungry at 7:30am and got ready for the day ahead. At 8:30, we tucked into a delicious breakfast consisting of fresh baguettes, creamy yoghurt, sweet jam, a range of cereals, butter and refreshing orange juice to energise us for the busy day, followed by a hot chocolate to wake us all up.

After a nice breakfast, we headed out for the costal walk. The views were spectacular! The sun was blazing down on our backs, and the waves were rolling against the rocks as we began our ascent. After half an hour walking, we stopped at Richmond Rock to learn about its history and its importance to our school. We then kept on going until we arrived at the beach. The warm sand on our toes and the breath-taking views were perfect for an afternoon of games. After picking the best spots to tan, we ate our lunch and occasionally said 'bonjour' to the passing locals. Next there were games: cricket, badminton, football and trips into town to buy ice cream - so enjoyable!

Then we headed to the Armoripark and we had two hours to explore the activities: high ropes courses, toboggans, pedaloes and so much more. After our time was up exploring, we headed back to our meeting point and came back to where we were staying.

Next, we were given half an hour to get ready, then we went out for tea at a lovely restaurant and had mouthwatering sausages and mash (with vegetables on the side for all you overprotective parents!) Finally, we all came back to the hostel and packed for the early start in the morning leading to the ferry home!

Au revoir!



## FRENCH TRIP 1 - DAY 5 – HOMEWARD BOUND!

Thanks to Henry Robb and Ethan Bowen for this final report.

Thursday, 12th June. Our last day here.

We started the day off by waking up and having to make our rooms spotless by cleaning the floors and making our beds nice and tidy. However, some people struggled to fold their blankets properly, so had to have some help!

Once we finished that we then headed into the building next to us where we ate our breakfast and this time it was croissants with jam and butter. We had orange juice and hot chocolate with it as well, which was very yummy.

After we did that, five volunteers cleaned up while everyone else made sure that their rooms were spotless and that they had everything before heading off. We had plans to go to the market in Dinan and then a Hypermarket.

When we got to the market we got a quiz from our teachers that we had to complete before we could go off and buy things. Once everyone had completed the quiz we all went off in pairs or 4s and had a look round the market to see if there was anything that we liked. After everybody finished their shopping spree at the market we then went to a restaurant and had one large chicken nugget with mashed potato and some ratatouille. For dessert we had a chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce inside of it with some kind of sour cherry on top. Once we had all eaten, we headed to the bus which took us to the Hypermarket. It was a one hour journey.

Some people went into a gaming shop, some into a beauty shop and most went into the massive supermarket where people got all sorts of things, especially sweets and drinks for the bus journey to the ferry port. Everybody was getting very excited about going home! See you soon!



## FRENCH TRIP 2

## FRENCH TRIP 2 – DAY 1 – BUS BINGO AND A SMOOTH CROSSING

Miss Bainbridge provides this report from Day 1:

"After having set off from Richmond, we had a very clear journey down to Portsmouth including the first game of bus bingo, which Alice won. Following our meal on board the ferry, we all enjoyed the sunset from the deck and then had a good night's sleep.

We have arrived safely in St Malo after a smooth crossing and we are all looking forward to our first French breakfast and our first day en France!"



## FRENCH TRIP 2 - DAY 2

Thanks to Kitty Brindle for this beautifully written report!

From the ferry windows we could see St Malo on the horizon, faintly obscured by the morning sun. We gathered our bags and headed for the bus, where our amazing driver Steve was waiting for us. When the ferry doors opened, we were able to leave the ferry first and head to Passport Control. After the security checks, we went to a traditional French café for breakfast. We enjoyed croissants and fresh baguettes, orange juice with delicious passion fruit jam.



We then walked around the walls of St Malo with our tour guide, Julie, and took many pictures of the views. The clear, blue water lapped the golden sand and rocky crevices with the sun's rays reflecting off the azure waves. This made for a super photo opportunity! Julie told us stories of pirates and poets along the way.

Next, we had some time to explore the local streets and go into many shops to buy some souvenirs.

The Grand Aquarium was next and is actually the biggest aquarium in Europe. We looked at many different sea creatures and we were even able to see a baby shark! One group was lucky enough to see the shark feeding time! There were two fun rides to experience - the first one was a simulation of a giant squid attack and the second was an underwater experience with a glass window and seats where we could see the fish swimming around us.

After sorting out our dorms at the centre, we drove to Le Maudez where we had sausage, mash and peas for dinner and a delicious, authentic chocolate mousse.

The day ended with games outside. A fun filled, tiring day.



## FRENCH TRIP DAY 3 – BISCUITS, HIGH ROPES AND BOWLING!

A brilliant team effort with today's report!

In the morning, we went to a biscuit factory where Christelle, who had been working for the company for 30 years, showed us a short film explaining the history of the galettes biscuits that are made there. We learnt that the recipe is authentic and has not been altered much since its creation. The film showed that the factory has always been a family affair involving multiple generations of the same family. The recipe's exact measurements have remained a secret to this day due to the unmarked tins on the measuring scales. We then sampled the naturelle flavour and the caramel chip biscuits. Both were delicious! The factory also has a shop where we marvelled at the many different flavours of the galettes as well as the other touristic offerings. The biscuits were sold in packs of 16, 30 and 40. Delicieux!

Written by Alice and Sophie



To start the evening, we went bowling. The bowling was so fun, and we got to choose our groups. The overall student winner was Rafton with 123 points. Out of the teachers, Steve the bus driver won. We then drove to Buffalo Grill for dinner, and the food was lush. We had steak and chips, which was really nice, and for dessert we ate brownies with chocolate sauce. We had a really fun, action packed day with loads of activities.

Written by Charlotte, Izzy T, Amelie, Olivia and Aisha



The activity for the afternoon was a high ropes course. Before we started, we had lunch outdoors: baguette, cheese, ham as well as a fruit crepe. Some of us bought ice cream. After a safety briefing and a quick practice, we went on the courses, which were of different difficulties, through the woodlands. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed it.

The teachers said that they were really pleased and impressed by our teamwork and encouragement of each other. All the teachers joined in, too.

Written by Katie and Oscar





## FRENCH TRIP DAY 4 - THE COAST AND FUN AT ARMORIPARK

Thanks to Abi and Lydia for today's report!

Today in Brittany, France we went on a walk by the lovely coast!

The views were amazing and it was very warm. We stopped at the legendary Richmond Rock to take photos, we then carried on and stopped for a nice picnic lunch at the beach. After lunch we played games on the beach, and we were even allowed to go into the sea (only up to our knees though!) then we all went to an ice cream shop and ordered ice creams in French.

We then came back to the centre and walked across the road to Armoripark which was a lot of fun! There were lots of different rides and activities to do such as a boat ride, toboggan ride, high rope nets and a bean bag slide. Our favourite was definitely the toboggan ride. Afterwards we went back to Le Maudez restaurant where we had lasagna and ice cream for dinner.

Today was a lot of fun and we can't wait for tomorrow!!



## FRENCH TRIP DAY 5 – DINAN, HYPERMARKET, POEMS AND HOME!

Thanks to Reuben, Charlotte and Jack for this report.

To start the day we had to wake up at 7:30 to get ready and get our suitcases on to the bus. For breakfast we had croissants with butter and jam and cereal, which everyone really liked.

We then drove to the medieval town of Dinan where we visited the market. We did a short quiz there looking for fruit and vegetables and prices. Some people tried crêpes and olives while other people bought fresh strawberries and cucumbers, which they said were delicious. Then we had some free time to look around some of the other market stalls and buy souvenirs.

We had our lunch at a restaurant where we had mashed potatoes and chicken with ratatouille. We walked back to the bus through the massive marketplace with loads of shops. We went to the supermarket where we had some free time to explore the store. I bought batteries for my arcade game, so I can play on the bus. We had our picnic at the Pegasus Bridge, which was famous during World War 2. Then we arrived at the ferry port, ready for our journey home.





Below are three brilliant poems that beautifully capture the essence of the trip:

Poem 1 - written by Kitty Brindle

Sunlight splinters  
Shattering over rolls of azure  
Soft hues radiate from the sky  
The sun immersing in pellucid waters  
Surrendering into night

The eye of heaven rises again,  
Bouncing off of waves  
Highlighting the quay  
Accentuating the pure bliss we call France  
Unveiling the tapestry in the walls  
Woven with affluent legacy

Ecstasy.  
Among the pines  
Sky strung pathways leading us  
Flying effortlessly  
Embracing the spirit's fire  
Living.

The ocean re-emerges once more  
Foot-fall paints the ivory sand  
Only the rim to the boundless cerulean  
Following the seaway.  
Walking in a dream

The bustle of the market  
The echo of patrons bargaining  
The orb of incandescence beholding,  
The prospect of life in essence.

The endless blue comes again.  
Stealing the sun.  
Surrendering into night.

Poem 2 - written by Macy Churchill

The sunset sky, shining bright,  
The sweat glistening on our warm faces,  
The intra murus walk at a great height,  
Then we got to unpack our suitcases,

An aquarium to see the fish that are shy,  
Swimming quickly  
As other fish come by,  
To escape the creatures that are sickly

The biscuiterie with a delicious treat,  
A yummy snack for the journey  
For all of us to eat,  
Then to high ropes, t'was stomach turned!

A costal walk to exercise  
Then to the beach,  
With the cold water and the blue skies  
Collecting shells and rocks we could reach

Then the last day came,  
Two markets, time and some money  
Unfortunately some had no aim!  
Just to wander about and be funny

That's all to France,  
A trip we will all remember  
This was an amazing chance  
For all of us to be a member.

Poem 3 - written by Robert Paley

It might not make the headlines, but in our hearts it will stay.  
First time with no parents, we travelled around France with friends,  
Like we were family  
Going to places like a biscuit factory, the Aquarium and the beach  
The memories, making new friends, going to a new country, trying new food.  
Will be there in our hearts for years.

## YEAR 9 STUDENTS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND WITH DRAMA SET DESIGN TASK

Every week, staff submit nominations for the Head Teacher's CREDIT Values Award, nominating students who they believe have gone above and beyond in demonstrating one or more of our core values – creativity, respect, excellence, determination, independence and teamwork. All the nominees receive a letter of congratulations from the Headteacher, and the winner has their photo and citation published on our social media and website.

Last week, however, as well as the very well deserving winners – Cameron and Kai, there were also some other nominations who we thought deserved a mention, particularly because their nominations involved creativity – they had made something brilliant which deserved a picture.

Over to Mr Maddocks who nominated three Year 9 students, Chloe Mae Hanratty, Abigail Leighton and Ellerie Moore:

“Year 9 have been working on a pantomime pitch project, and as part of the project they have had to create something alongside their pitch. Chloe Mae, Abigail and Ellerie chose to do set design for their specialism and have gone above and beyond by working on their project at home! They used two shoeboxes to recreate two different scenes from Rapunzel and have even created a boat out of cardboard to give an idea of what the real set design could look like. The set designs are 3D, painted, and clearly have had a lot of work and heart put into them. These girls are an example of pupils in the school who always work hard and think outside the box when it comes to creativity. Fantastic work!”

The photo shows Abigail and Ellerie with the three girls' set designs – Chloe Mae couldn't make the photo as she was helping out at a primary school sports event at the time. She's there in spirit!





# ACADEMIC NEWS

## YEAR 9 STUDENTS SUBMIT DESIGN FOR YOUNG FASHION DESIGNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

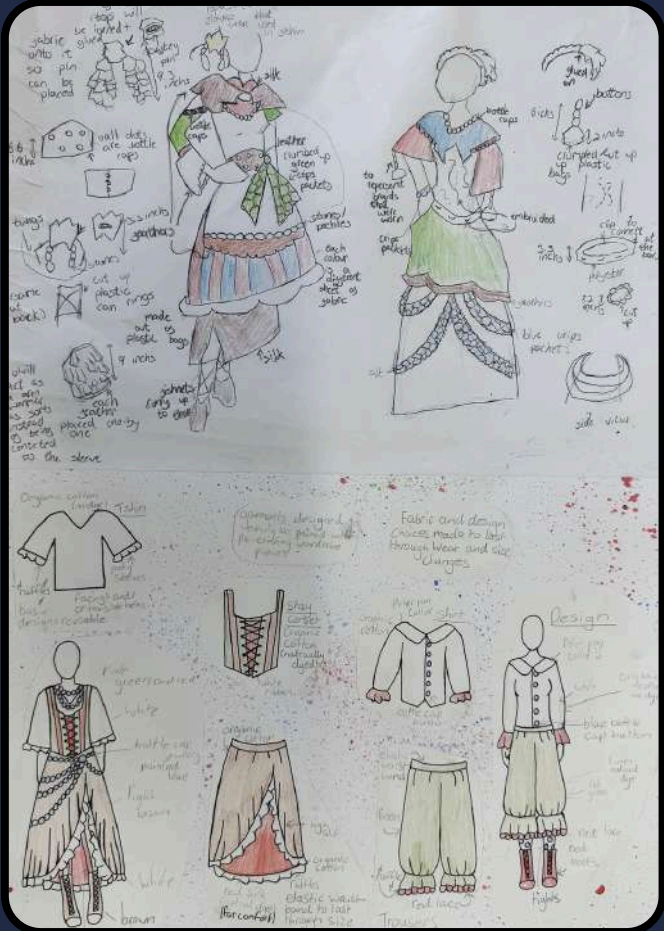
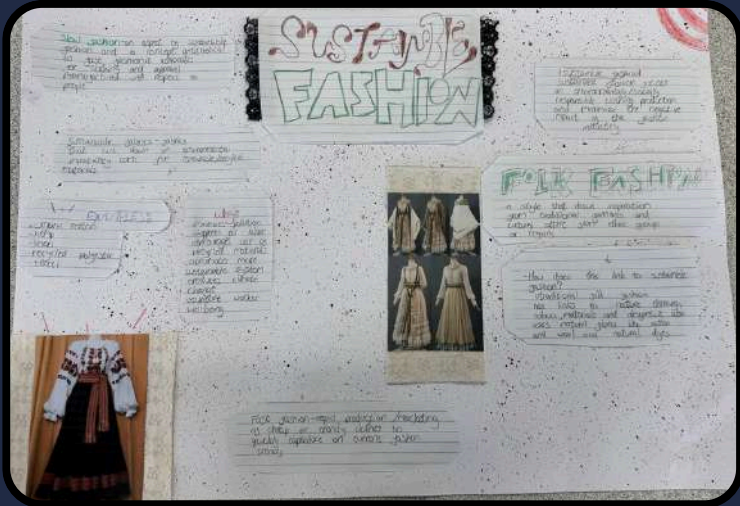
Following on from the previous article, two more students were also nominated for the HTCVA award in the same week. Once again, we thought they deserved a mention because their nomination involved creativity – they had made something brilliant which deserved a picture.

Over to Miss Jackson who nominated two Year 9 students, Leyla-Jade Lonsdale and Thomas Arrand.

“Both Thomas and Leyla have been attending Textiles Club and when given the opportunity they signed up to enter the Young Fashion Designer of the year 2025 competition.

They spent weeks in Textiles Club and many hours at weekends working on their submission, which they were extremely proud of and were very excited to show me. Their determination and commitment to get their submission done was amazing, and I am keeping everything crossed for them as we wait for the results later this month.”

Note: The crumpled crisp packets are part of the accessories for one of the designs – part of Layla-Jade and Thomas’ idea was that they should include sustainability as a feature of their designs.





# SIXTH FORM

## YEAR 12 BIOLOGY FIELDWORK



Year 12 A Level biology students recently took part in their annual two days of fieldwork, learning valuable skills and content essential to their exam performance next year.

Day one involved a trip to Runswick Bay to survey a rocky shore to investigate how the distribution of organisms changes with their distance from the low tide line. This was followed by a visit to an area of moorland near Danby to study the effect of human activity on the species found in a managed environment.

Day two saw a visit to the sand dune ecosystem at Redcar to carry out transects to investigate the principle of succession.

The weather was variable, as you can see from the pictures, but students and staff had a fun and very productive two days.

Thanks to Mr Hays and Ms Wright for running the fieldwork.





# SIXTH FORM

## THOMAS ATTENDS NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND OF GREAT BRITAIN EASTER RESIDENTIAL

Thomas Pyrah, Year 13, is one of Richmond School and Sixth Form College's outstanding musicians. He has recently achieved grade 8 on the tuba and has plans to carry on his musical studies at one of the country's leading music establishments when he leaves us this year, having attended auditions at The Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music, the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy.

As part of his drive to gain ever more experience, Thomas recently attended the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain's easter residential course at Pangbourne College, Berkshire. To be invited to join the NYBBGB is an outstanding achievement – places are few and hotly contested.

During the week, the musicians received tuition from a team of world-renowned tutors. They were led by Guest Conductor Colonel David Barringer MVO MBE and Guest Soloist Isobel Daws, a trombonist of global repute. The week culminated in a sell-out concert at Tidworth Garrison Theatre, a recording of which can be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5oXV2LNETc>



The band also played a concert the following weekend at Halifax Minster, this time joined by the British Army Brass Band.

The week also included the Katie Ogden solo competition, where Thomas won the award for best tuba solo. This qualifies him for entry into the prestigious Harry Mortimer Solo Competition which will take place during the second of the year's NYBBGB residencies over the summer.

We wish Thomas all the very best with his music, both in the near future at this summer's residential, and further on as he becomes a full-time undergraduate musician!

Thomas and family would like to pass on their thanks to the Richmond School Trust for providing support for the Pangbourne residential. To find out more about the funding available from the Richmond School Trust, go to this link:

<https://www.richmondschool.net/about-us/richmond-school-trust>





# SIXTH FORM

## MATTY WINS COMPETITION WITH 200-YEAR-OLD SHOTGUN!

Students at Richmond School and Sixth Form College are involved in a huge range of activities in their local communities, ranging from the relatively mainstream like football, rugby, dance and music, to the slightly more niche. With the latter in mind, how about shooting clay pigeons with a 200-year-old muzzle loading shotgun?!

Thanks to Tom, dad of Matty Partridge, Year 12 student at Richmond Sixth Form College, for the following report:

"I just wanted to let you know that Matty recently won a round of the Scottish National Muzzle Loading and Black Powder Clay Pigeon Championships.

Matty has always enjoyed shooting and was interested in shooting older guns. To that end we became members of the MLAGB - Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain.

The shotgun branch of the MLAGB holds a number of competitions throughout the year at different locations, and their second round was at Cluny Clays, north of Edinburgh, Scotland. Matty, shooting a muzzle loading 14 bore shotgun and using black powder, won the single barrel event with 16/20. Matty's gun is around 200 years old!

He also came second in the breach loading single barrel event using cartridges but also using an old gun and with black powder.

The school have always been very supportive of Matty's shooting so I felt it was good to be able to share this!"





# SIXTH FORM

## RICHMOND STUDENTS IN TEES VALLEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERT AT THE GLASSHOUSE

Four Richmond Sixth Form College students recently took part in a concert performed by the Tees Valley Youth Orchestra (TVYO) at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead, formerly The Sage. The TVYO is a full-size orchestra, drawing on the best music students from across the North East. The Richmond students who took part were Noah Boyd, Year 13 and Grace Barker, Year 12, both playing in the violin section, with Sam Pickles, Year 12 in the cellos and Tom Pyrah, Year 13 playing tuba.

Mr Boyd, Lead Teacher of Music at Richmond, gives a bit more detail about the concert: "They played the Leningrad Symphony by Shostakovich, which is a traumatic musical depiction of the siege of Leningrad during the war. It is one of the most evocative symphonies in the repertoire and is seldom performed due to the large orchestra required and the fact that the symphony lasts approximately one hour forty minutes!

Despite all the angst in the music, Shostakovich somehow manages to conclude the symphony with a ray of hope for humanity during the most wonderful climax."

Congratulations to these students for taking part in such a high-profile concert. We look forward to hearing more stories of success and achievement from our fabulous music department next year!





# PERFORMING ARTS

## RICHMOND AND BAMMENTAL ORCHESTRAS COMBINE IN TRIUMPHANT UNITY AT THE SWALEDALE FESTIVAL!

The musicians of Richmond School and Sixth Form Orchestra joined forces with the Orchestra of Gymnasium Bammental, Germany for a wonderful day of music making in St Mary's Church Richmond recently, entertaining a large audience and receiving a standing ovation! This was a fabulous opportunity to perform at the prestigious Swaledale Festival which has this year, once again, hosted concerts by world-renowned musicians.



The students are familiar with each other following the Richmond School Orchestra and Jazz Band tour to Germany in 2024, where the schools united for their first joint concert in Bammental. This time it was Yorkshire's turn to host!



And boy, this concert did not disappoint. Richmond School Orchestra opened the concert with an excellent rendition of Finlandia by Sibelius, followed by music by Ennio Morricone from the spaghetti westerns.

The Bammental Orchestra then took to the stage, taking the audience through terrific performances of Ancient Echoes of Time, the second movement of Symphony No.7 by Beethoven, a Carmen Suite by Bizet, Overture to "Die Fledermaus" by Strauss, Cumberland Cross by Carl Srommen, The Jungle Book by Sherman, and Fiesta Tropicale, arranged by Victor Lopez. The Bammental Orchestra were led by the charismatic conductor Ingo Scheullermann, who talked the audience through the programme.

Both orchestras then united performing some English music with the March from English Folk Songs by Vaughan Williams, and Coldplay Classics, followed by the great German Grand March from "Tannhäuser" by Wagner, then finishing with Stallion of the Cimarron by Hans Zimmer, and Let's Get Loud by Gloria Estefan.

Stephen Boyd, Lead Teacher of music at Richmond, commented "What triumphant unity! Our students have gained so much from this amazing performance opportunity and have made memories and friends for life! The students really rose to the challenge of having a short rehearsal then a concert, performing so brilliantly. The musical standard these students achieved was outstanding and that could be seen in the rapturous standing ovation at the end!"

Richmond will be returning to Bammental in 2026 to further deepen the ties formed between the two orchestras and schools. Watch this space for further information.

A two minute video of the orchestras in action can be seen at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/oYsFCtVDy8I>





## RICHMOND STUDENTS PERFORM 'GISELLE' ALONGSIDE PROFESSIONAL DANCERS AT DARLINGTON HIPPODROME

We recently heard that Layla Stead, Year 9 and Esmee Campbell-Watt, Year 10, were both rehearsing for a performance of Giselle with the English Youth Ballet. This organisation gives young dancers the opportunity to take part in full length productions of classical ballets with professional principal dancers in the leading roles in regional theatres across the UK – an amazing experience!

We caught up with Layla and Esmee to find out a bit about the production and their preparations and how they came to be involved in the first place.

RS: So, take us back to March when you auditioned for a place in Giselle – how did the process work?

E: I'd already been through the process before, back in 2023, so I knew how it worked. I was really keen to do it again because I had such a great time before – the production was Coppélia in 2023. This time the audition was at the Theatre Hullabaloo in Darlington. It was a class where they did some techniques then the audition. It was a bit stressful because you're being observed, but it went OK and they offered me a place – I was really happy!

L: It was the first time for me. My dance studio was promoting it, which is how I ended up going to the audition. The audition was good, but I didn't get in straight away – I got on the reserve list. They didn't have quite enough people, though, so I did get in in the end.

RS: Ok, so what happened then? I guess you started rehearsing?

L: Yes - on a rehearsal day, there will be a class first, then rehearsals with the different groups of dancers. So, for example, our group is the 'Wilis', so we rehearse together.

E: The first rehearsal was also a casting where they decide who's dancing the different roles, so there was quite a lot of sitting around! There were also press photos with all the different newspapers and media.



RS: Part of this experience is about dancing with professional principals. Tell us how they're involved.

L: There are seven of them in the production. We've met four of them so far – there's one we do quite a big dance with, then a few that we do shorter sections with.

E: The principals teach us as well, especially technique. We're really involved and work with them all the way through the process.

RS: They're obviously very keen that the dancers they are working alongside are good enough to take part in a paid-for professional production. How does that feel? I guess it might feel quite scary?!

L: It can be a bit scary, especially when you have to learn a new step and you might not get it straight away. But usually it's OK – everyone's experienced and already good at dancing.

E: The artistic director likes things to be exactly right – she's quite old-school. If you make a mistake, she'll notice and make it obvious to everyone that she's noticed. She's not exactly strict, but she definitely encourages you to get it right!

RS: That must be Janet Lewis OBE – I've seen her name on the EYB website. She sounds quite scary! I assume you call her Miss Lewis?!

L&E: Definitely!

# PERFORMING ARTS

RS: Ok, so what stage are you at with the rehearsals – you must be quite near the end as the performances are at the end of next week?

L: We've done loads of rehearsals. We've done all the dances and the finale, but we haven't been to the actual venue yet – that comes next week.

E: We did five days in a row during half term – it was hard work, but still really exciting. It also gives you an idea of what it's like to be a professional dancer.

RS: And I see from the schedule that there's a technical dress rehearsal at the Hippodrome next Thursday from 6-10pm. What will that involve?

L: That'll be a run through of the whole thing, getting the spacing and the lights and all the technical things right.

E: It's the first time we'll have danced on that stage, so getting used to the size of the space will also be really important.

RS: Ok, then the next day – Friday. A dress rehearsal in the afternoon – and that's the first time you'll have a proper audience, including some students from Richmond. How did that come about?

L: I told Mrs Fox that students could come to the dress rehearsal, so she's bringing some A-Level dance students.

RS: And I guess there'll be lots of other dance students from local schools and dance studios – it should be a good audience! And then an evening performance on Friday, and a matinée and an evening show on Saturday. I'd love to catch up with you after the performance weekend, to find out how it went, if that's OK? Just a couple more questions now, though. First, looking back, how has the whole experience been so far?

L: It's been really exciting! I've loved working with the professionals and seeing what it's like to dance every single day – I'd really like to pursue this as a career. It's been really inspirational!



E: It's been great too. Compared to Coppélia last time, Giselle is much more deep and serious, especially in the second half, which I've really enjoyed. There's a lot of death and emotion – it's quite sombre - different to anything I've done before. I'm also dancing as one of the two leaders of the 'Wilis', which will be amazing. The principals are brilliant to work with, too, and I've loved being able to learn from them.

RS: It certainly sounds like it's going to be a fantastic experience – I look forward to hearing about it.

Ok – final question – you're doing this because you're very experienced and capable dancers. How did it start – give us a very brief history of your dancing up to this point?

L: I started when I was three, at Miranda Lee Ballet School in Wareham, Dorset. We moved here quite recently and now I'm at Richmond Dance Centre – we did a show not so long ago – West End to Broadway – that was really fun!

E: I started when I was six. My mum runs Xpressions Dance Studio in Northallerton, so that's where I dance. I didn't want to dance when I was really young, though, but now it's my life! I dance every day after school, then at the weekends I'm usually doing competitions or festivals. I also help out with workshops at Xpressions – I did my work experience there too.

RS: Thanks Layla and Esmee – you've given us a real insight into your dancing and the production of Giselle next weekend. All the best for the performances and I look forward to talking to you afterwards!





As promised, we caught up with Layla and Esmee after the performance...

RS: How was it?! What are your overall impressions about the performances, looking back?

E: It was amazing! Especially backstage – everyone in our group made such good friends with each other. And the performances were great, too. The audiences were huge – I had a bit of a solo at one point and to have 1000 people watching just you was pretty special!

L: It was amazing for me, too! As Esmee said, the atmosphere and the feeling backstage was brilliant and when we were performing, it finally felt real. The buildup and the effort all seemed worth it.

RS: It sounds fantastic. Interesting that both of you mention backstage first, then the performance – that feeling of camaraderie and teamwork must be really special.

Ok – what about some specific highlights?

L: For me, it was making friends with everyone. To start with there were different groups, but in the end, there was just one and it felt like we'd known each other forever! It was such a good atmosphere. There was a moment in the performance, too, when I just said 'Wow, this is really happening!' to myself.

E: The finale was a real highlight for me – everyone onstage together, and we were finally allowed to smile! Because we're ghosts in the performance, we're not supposed to smile, so it was great to be ourselves and have fun and soak up the cheers and the applause. The final bow with the principals was great – we practiced it a lot!

RS: And what about just before the very first performance – how were you feeling?

E: I wasn't actually as nervous as I thought I'd be. I definitely had butterflies, but I was confident that I knew it, so I just got out there and had fun!

L: I was a little nervous, but when I got on stage, all that just disappeared. I danced like no one was watching, like a rehearsal – and it went perfectly! We'd rehearsed for so long, when the music started, the dancing was almost automatic.

RS: It sounds as though it went very well. Can you think of a moment where maybe it wasn't perfect and you were challenged, and had to adapt?

E: There was one section where we had to do an arabesque – balancing on one leg with the other leg extended behind – for about 10 seconds. We were in pointe shoes, but not 'en pointe' - on the tips of our toes. I find it harder keeping perfect balance when I'm not 'en pointe', so that was quite hard! The stage was raked as well – sloping from back to front – that made it even harder. I only wobbled a tiny bit!

L: The raked stage definitely made it quite hard. There was one point in quite a technical sequence when I moved from the back of the stage where it was flat, to where it was sloping – it was hard to make it look easy!



# PERFORMING ARTS



What's next for your dancing?

L: Auditions for the Yorkshire Theatre Ballet production of Twelve Dancing Princesses next year are open, so I'm going to try for that. The rehearsals are much more spread out over the year, so a bit less intense than this one has been.

E: I'm going to have a bit of a break! As well as Giselle, I've been doing the CYD – Can You Dance – convention, so I've been really busy. Then I'll be back to my usual competitions and championships.

RS: It's been fantastic following you through this experience, Esmee and Layla – thank you for giving us such a detailed insight. I'm sure we'll hear from you again in the future!

Esmee and Layla both thanked their support teams for this fantastic experience and their dancing over the years, especially their parents, families and their dance teachers. We know brilliant students like these two couldn't do what they do without you – thank you!

RS: Last time you both said that dance was something you wanted to do as a career. Has this experience changed your thinking?

L: It's made me want to do it even more! There's a thing called 'Dancers' Depression' when once you've finished a show, everything feels a bit flat and you just want to do more – start the next production, and the next, and the next.

E: It's confirmed it for me too, definitely. Also, working with the principals has made me feel more professional. They're professional all the time – not just on stage. They behave in a certain way backstage and in rehearsals – seeing that has been really interesting.

RS: It certainly sounds like you're both even more committed to dance than you were!





## ALUMNI PROFILE – JON BARTON – OUTDOORSMAN AND PUBLISHER

Earlier on this year, we received the following message from ex-student Jon Barton:

“Hi, I graduated from Richmond School in 1985. I was back in the area last week to run in the Fremington Frenzy Trail race. Not sure if it’s newsworthy, but I came first in the over 50s! I’ll be back in Richmond this weekend as I’m competing in the Dales Traverse race - Kirkby Stephen to Richmond. Here’s a photo!”

We love getting emails like this! It’s great to hear about our ex-students and it often sets us off on a fascinating trail, finding out about what they’ve been up to since they left, what they’re doing now and the journey they’ve taken to get there.

We sent Jon some questions, which he was kind enough to answer:

RS: Describe some of your memories of school. Were there any particular subjects or teachers or trips or highlights that you remember?

JB: I remember it was geography with Mr Edmondson that changed my life. He brought the subject alive and awakened a lifelong interest in it for me. It has shaped my life ever since. I also believe my confidence grew academically in other subjects because of my interest in geography. While I enjoyed sport, I wasn’t particularly sporty, or particularly anything, but the rounded nature of the education at Richmond helped. I loved the biannual walking trips to the Lake District. Perversely I liked cross country even though I was generally at the back.



RS: What did you do straight after school? University, training, employment? How did you do? Any particular stand out moments or memories?

JB: In my last couple of years at school I got somewhat obsessed with rock climbing and left school for life as a professional climber. Initially I worked for a year at an outdoor centre in Swaledale, teaching climbing, caving and canoeing. After that I went to Manchester and did a degree and a master's in environmental management, but really it was climbing that I spent the next ten years doing.

RS: What did you do next? A description of your journey up until the present day.

JB: After university I would over winter somewhere warm to climb, either Australia or Spain/France. I kept up this lifestyle into my early 30s. I had some success and a lot of fun as a climber - a highlight was coming second in the British Championship in the early 90s.

RS: What are you doing now? A bit of detail about your job and the roles and responsibilities it involves.

JB: Eventually life catches up with you and I started a publishing business called Vertebrate Publishing - I have still never had a CV or been to a job interview. We sell about 12,000 books a month, internationally. We specialise in the outdoor pursuits market, being the UK's largest publisher of cycling guides, climbing instruction books and running narratives. Winning the 'Small Press of the Year' award 2022, a first for a Yorkshire based business, was a huge highlight for me.



RS: Do you have any other interests or roles - hobbies, volunteering, family etc?

JB: As I got a bit older I started doing more running, and now find myself running in the hills most days. It has been a joy to get back to Swaledale and Richmond for some recent races like The Dales Traverse.

RS: What are your plans for the future - near and more distant?

JB: I guess I love my work and I love that I'm still fit enough to run, walk and climb.

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

JB: Believe in yourself!

Thank you to Jon for giving us an insight into his journey from Richmond School to Vertebrate Publishing.

As you can imagine, this brief glimpse into Jon's life hides a huge amount of fascinating detail. A bit of digging reveals a bit more about Jon's uncompromising approach to the quality of the books his company publishes as well as a life very well lived in the outdoors. He has climbed and worked with some legendary names from the 80s and 90s climbing scene and was there as the whole nature of hard climbing evolved in this period. We would very much encourage you to take a closer look!

To read a more detailed interview with Jon, go to this link:

<https://travellinglines.com/outdoor-publishing-vertebrate>

To see Vertebrate Publishing's brilliant selection of books, go to this link:

<https://www.adventurebooks.com>



## LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPETE FOR A PLACE IN NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET FINALS

Richmondshire Sports Partnership hosted a number of primary school cricket festivals during May and June.

Young Sports Leaders from Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as three Year 12 students took responsibility for running these events. The Leaders managed all aspects of the competition, from setting up and registration as schools arrived, umpiring and scoring games, calculating results, and leading the presentations.

Competitions have been run for boys and girls from Years 3 to 6.

In the first round of competitions, primary schools played against other schools in their geographical area.

The second round then saw the top teams from each of these events progress through to an area final. These took place in early June. Congratulations to the following schools who all made it to the area finals:

Bedale  
Brompton  
Burneston  
Leeming RAF  
Reeth & Gunnerside  
Richmond Methodist  
Thornton Watlass

The top team from each area final then progressed through to the North Yorkshire County Finals which will take place in the very near future. Congratulations to the following teams who achieved this standard:

Brompton on Swale  
Richmond Methodist  
Richmond St Mary's





# PRIMARY LINKS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL CRICKETERS PLAY IN HIGHLY COMPETITIVE NORTH YORKSHIRE OPEN FINALS

Richmond School hosted the North Yorkshire Open Cricket Finals for pupils in Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 recently.

Teams qualified for this event by winning their area competitions and therefore had already achieved significant success to make it to this event. This resulted in a very high standard of cricket being played.

The matches were officiated by young Sports Leaders from Years 7 - 10 at Richmond School.

A full list of Primary Schools that participated in these County Finals can be found below:

Brompton-On-Swale Primary School  
Richmond Methodist Primary School  
Cayton Primary School  
Dunnington Primary  
Easingwold Primary  
Glusburn Primary  
Helmsley Primary  
Knayton Primary School  
Lealholm Primary School  
Northstead Primary  
Oatlands Junior School  
Pallister Park Primary  
Pannal Primary  
Saltburn Primary  
St Alphonsus  
St Augustines Primary  
St Wilfrid's Primary  
Waterstreet Primary School  
Whinneybanks Primary School



The results are below:

Year 5/6 Open

- 1 - Saltburn Primary School
- 2 - Pannal Primary School
- 3 - St Augustines Primary School
- 4 - Brompton-on-Swale

Year 3/Year 4 Open

- 1 - Whinneybanks Primary School
- 2 - Brompton-on-Swale Primary School





# PRIMARY LINKS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL FUN RUN AND GAMES FESTIVAL

Last week, Richmond School hosted a fun run and games festival for many of our local primary schools. Many thanks to the following schools for supporting the event:

- Bolton
- Croft
- Great Smeaton
- Michael Syddall
- Middleton Tyas
- Ravensworth
- Richmond Methodist
- Richmond St Mary's
- Trinity Academy Richmond

The event was led by a team of outstanding young Sports Leaders from Year 9 at Richmond School. These students independently organised fun and safe races for approximately 350 4-7 year olds. They also led games, communicated with staff and pupils and ensured that the event was enjoyed by all.

As well as competing in the fun run, the pupils had the opportunity to play rounders, parachute games, relay races and much more.

Fun Run Results		
Reception Girls		
1ST	Olivia Petch	Trinity Academy Richmond
2ND	Mia Beaumont	Richmond St Mary's
3RD	Jesse Rowlit	Ravensworth
Reception Boys		
1ST	Alfie Smith	Richmond St Mary's
2ND	Max Toogood	Richmond St Mary's
3RD	Oisim Revins	Richmond Methodist
Year 1 Girls - Heat 1		
1ST	Poppy Bagley	Richmond Methodist
2ND	Robyn Mason	Richmond Methodist
3RD	Francesca Newton	Richmond Methodist
Year 1 Girls - Heat 2		
1ST	Jessica Alice	Michael Syddall
2ND	Emily Hughes	Great Smeaton
3RD	Willow Robinson	Croft
Year 1 Boys - Heat 1		
1ST	Joshua Jack	Bolton
2ND	Noah Chopectan	Croft
3RD	Max Parkin	Bolton
Year 1 Boys - Heat 2		
1ST	Talnia Nacine	Trinity Academy Richmond
2ND	Yarik Bishko	Richmond St Mary's
3RD	Max Hill	Richmond Methodist
Year 2 Girls - Heat 1		
1ST	Maddison Balls	Croft
2ND	Sophia Harrison	Croft
3RD	Ada Petchy	Trinity Academy Richmond
Year 2 Girls - Heat 2		
1ST	Mela Mickey	Michael Syddall
2ND	Elisa Hull	Middleton Tyas
3RD	Darcy Cox	Richmond Methodist
Year 2 Boys - Heat 1		
1ST	Harrison Buffy	Croft
2ND	Asa Dawson	Bolton
3RD	Eric Caron	Croft
Year 2 Boys - Heat 2		
1ST	Richard Newton	Richmond Methodist
2ND	Theo Southgate	Trinity Academy Richmond
3RD	Ronny Perkins	Richmond Methodist



# PRIMARY LINKS

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPETE IN QUADKIDS ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Richmond School recently hosted a Quadkids Athletics competition for pupils in Years 1-6.

Thirteen local primary schools brought over 450 pupils to take part in the event. All pupils had to perform in a sprint race, a longer distance run, a Vortex Howler throw and a standing long jump. By doing this they earned points for their school, with the team accumulating most points winning the competition.

The event was supported by 65 young Sports Leaders from Year 9 at Richmond School. These pupils had to work in small teams to lead their individual athletic event, communicate with the primary school pupils and record the results fairly so that the competition could be valid.

The Sports Leaders created an outstanding event with many primary school staff commenting on their maturity and kindness when delivering their event.



Quadkids Athletics Results - Year 1/2

Team	Points	Rank
Bedale	1,409	10
Bolton	1,601	3
Cambrai	1,616	1
Carnagill	1,435	9
Croft	1,567	4
Richmond Methodist	1,616	1
Hipswell	1,488	7
Wavell	1,288	11
Trinity Richmond	1,474	8
Colburn	1,135	12
Michael Syddall	1,532	5
Middleton Tyas	1,512	6

Quadkids Athletics Results - Year 3/4

Team	Points	Rank
BAWB	1,191	4
Bedale	1,138	7
Bolton	981	10
Cambrai	1,062	8
Carnagill	992	9
Croft	755	13
Michael Syddall	1,236	2
Middleton Tyas	1,201	3
Richmond Methodist	1,323	1
Hipswell	1,179	5
Wavell	956	12
Trinity Richmond	1,144	6
Colburn	979	11

Quadkids Athletics Results - Year 5/6

Team	Points	Rank
BAWB	1,504	5
Bedale	1,592	3
Bolton	1,319	10
Cambrai	1,023	13
Carnagill	1,241	11
Croft	1,332	8
Michael Syddall	1,558	4
Middleton Tyas	1,427	7
Richmond Methodist	1,682	1
Hipswell	1,504	5
Wavell	1,234	12
Trinity Richmond	1,603	2
Colburn	1,327	9



# PRIMARY LINKS

## LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS GO HEAD-TO-HEAD IN ANNUAL 24S MATHS COMPETITION

Just before half term, Richmond School and Sixth Form College welcomed six local primary schools for the annual 24s competition.

The 24 Game is a mental arithmetic card game based on making a total of 24 using four digits. A card is dealt at random from a pack and the first to correctly make 24 from the four digits on the card wins that point. It's fast, furious, and very competitive!

Each primary school brought four students and over the course of the morning competed in a head-to-head contest against the other schools.

In a close contest, it was eventually Brompton-on-Swale that emerged victorious for the third year running, with Richmond Methodist School a close runner up.

The Richmond Maths department, who organise the competition, were extremely impressed by the mental arithmetic displayed by all the students in attendance. The competition was adjudicated by a team of Year 9 mathematicians who had competed in their own 24s competition to earn a place at each table. They were particularly impressed with the mathematical speed and focus of the primary school pupils.

We look forward to inviting the schools back again next year.





# PRIMARY LINKS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL LEGO COMPETITION - ROBOTS AND CREATIVITY!

Thanks to Mr Wigley, maths teacher and coordinator of the Lego competition, for this report:

"Last week, Richmond School once again opened its doors for local primary schools to compete in the annual Lego Competition.

Three schools were in attendance, each bringing two teams. One set of teams were challenged with a creative task where they had to design, build, and ultimately perform a story with Lego. Meanwhile, the second set of teams had to construct a Lego robot. This then had to be programmed to navigate around a challenging obstacle course that had been designed by a group of Year 7 helpers, who were on hand to assist the primary students with both challenges throughout the day.

In the creative task it was Trintiy Academy Richmond that emerged victorious. As for the robot task, this was the best performing year on record. Each school came close to navigating the entire obstacle course. Ultimately, it was St. Mary's robot which managed to travel the furthest, crowning them as the winners.

We look forward to hosting the competition again next summer."





# PRIMARY LINKS

## RICHMOND SCHOOL STUDENTS DELIVER TRANSITION WORKSHOP TO OVER 200 PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

Four Richmond students: Orla Noone and Annabel Hodges, Year 7, with Noah Hodges and Dan Harding, Year 8, all student leaders, recently took part in the Dales Trust Transition Event at Oakbridge C of E Primary School, Northallerton.

The students delivered a presentation about the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 before answering questions about life as a secondary school student.

The event, which takes place in the last week of the academic year, brought together around two hundred students from across the schools of the Dales Academy Trust to celebrate the end of their primary education.

Year 6 students from across the region took part in eight workshops including forest school, outdoor games, memories from primary school and PSHCE.

Poet and author, Matt Goodfellow (author of *The Final Year* and *The First Year*) led an assembly and also delivered a workshop.

Mrs Weston said, "Our student leaders are excellent ambassadors for Richmond School. Their workshop, which they prepared themselves with minimal support, was delivered with compassion and professionalism beyond their years. The workshop was repeated eight times throughout the course of the day, and at no point did their enthusiasm for their subject matter wane. Huge thanks to Orla, Annabel, Noah and Dan for all of their hard work."

You can find out more about Matt Goodfellow by going to the link below:

<https://youtu.be/1cublzrCgF8?feature=shared>



# CAREERS

## STUDENTS STEP INTO THE NHS WITH THE MELISSA BUS

This week, 72 Health and Social Care students from Years 9, 10 and 12 had the chance to explore NHS careers aboard the MELISSA\* Bus.

\*Mobile Educational Learning Improving Simulation Safety Activities

Staff from James Cook University Hospital and the Friarage Hospital shared their experiences in intensive care, COVID-19 research, and nurse training.

On the lower deck, students engaged with a range of NHS career pathways, discovering just how many roles are available across the sector. They also learned that there are currently 590 national NHS apprenticeships, offering real training and career progression opportunities. Impressively, South Tees NHS alone offers 360 of these, making it one of the largest local providers of healthcare training and development.



Upstairs, students met Ollie, one of the NHS's most advanced simulation manikins. Ollie is designed to support training across a wide spectrum of clinical scenarios, from basic nursing care to complex post-operative procedures. These high-tech simulations mirror real-life medical situations, helping to ensure safer patient care and better clinical outcomes. With their help, healthcare professionals and future practitioners alike can train in everything from pharmacology to surgical recovery, supporting excellence across our region.



A huge thank you to the MELISSA Bus team for inspiring our future healthcare professionals!



## TEAM BUILDING WITH THE ROYAL NAVY

Mrs Cheesbrough, Teacher of MFL and Service Students Advocate, provides the following report from a recent visit by two representatives from the Royal Navy:

“Earlier this week, 30 Year 9 and 10 students took part in a dynamic team-building day led by the Navy Attract Team. Through a series of engaging and hands-on activities, students developed key skills in leadership, communication, and problem-solving – all essential qualities for future success, both in the military and beyond.

The afternoon began with an insightful presentation about the modern role of the Royal Navy. Students were then split into five mixed-year groups by Leading Hand Khan and Able Seaman Sugden. Working in unfamiliar teams, they faced a range of tasks designed to test their collaboration, adaptability, and leadership.



The activities encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, building confidence while strengthening vital soft skills. As the session progressed, enthusiasm grew – along with a healthy sense of competition!

With employers increasingly using group exercises in recruitment processes, this experience gave students a valuable head start in preparing for the workplace.

A big thank you to the Navy Attract Team for delivering such a valuable and memorable day. We look forward to welcoming them back next year!”



# CAREERS

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE SUCCESS!

We're incredibly proud of our Year 10 students who took part in work placements this May.

Over 200 students stepped into the world of work across a wide range of industries – from primary schools and hospitals to engineering firms, construction sites, retail, and more.

The feedback from employers has been fantastic, with students showcasing our core values every step of the way.

Miss Hamer, Careers Adviser said: "We place great importance on providing students with opportunities to engage in employer-based activities throughout their time at school. Work experience plays a vital role in this, serving as a bridge between academic learning and real-world applications. It enables students to explore potential career paths, develop essential workplace skills, and build confidence in professional environments. Through these experiences, students gain insight into how organisations operate, form valuable relationships, and prepare themselves for future employment."





## SPOTLIGHT ON WORK EXPERIENCE - 1 - AMBER BISICKER

Spotlight Stories start now! First up is Amber, who spent four days with TUI in Darlington. Find out more about her experience below – more inspiring stories like Amber's will be shared over the coming weeks.

To download a pdf of Amber's Spotlight Story, go to the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/AmberSpotlight>

## Spotlight on Work Experience

Amber, one of our Year 10 students, recently took part in a 4 day in-person work experience with Tui in Darlington. Here she gives us a little more insight into her placement.



Amber received excellent feedback from the branch manager and team at Tui, Darlington, noting that her independence and confidence were her strongest skills and that her overall attitude, her communication and problem solving skills were all exceptional.

Q: Why did you choose Tui for your work placement?

A: I chose TUI for my work experience because I have always wished to learn more about the travel industry, and I hope to be a pilot in the future.

Q: How did you go about securing your placement?

A: I went in and asked them if I could do my work placement there, then Miss Hamer helped me to complete all the forms and get all the information I needed from the employer.

Q: What are the most valuable things you learned?

A: Discovering I can communicate well with others, even when out my comfort zone in an unfamiliar environment.

Q: What did you enjoy the most?

A: Learning all the different aspects of the travel industry and how it runs.

Q: How has it helped you to think about your future plans?

A: The experience has really helped me to think about my future plans, and that there are lots of other careers I can consider if I am not successful with my plans to become a pilot.

Q: What advice would you give students who are nervous about doing work experience?

A: Just give it a try and don't be afraid to be put out of your comfort zone – and don't leave finding your placement till last minute!



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## SPOTLIGHT ON WORK EXPERIENCE - 2 - FAITH LINCOLN

In the second of our series of work experience Spotlight Stories, we take a look at Faith's experience at G's Beauty Boutique, Richmond.

To download a copy of the poster for a closer look, go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FaithSpotlight>

### Spotlight on Work Experience

**Faith, one of our Year 10 students, recently took part in a 4 day in-person work experience with G's Beauty Boutique in Richmond. Here she gives us a little more insight into her placement.**



**Faith received great feedback from her employer, they enjoyed having her in the salon and complimented her cheerful nature and willingness to learn**

**Q: Why did you choose G's Beauty Boutique for your work placement?**  
**A:** I wanted to explore the Beauty industry and see what it would be like to work in it as it's something I have an interest in

**Q: How did you go about securing your placement?**  
**A:** I contacted them directly through Social Media message, and also had a little help from Miss Hamer to follow this up

**Q: What are the most valuable things you learned?**  
**A:** Communication skills, and discovering talents I never knew I had!

**Q: What did you enjoy the most?**  
**A:** Exploring different pathways in the beauty industry and learning about all the different routes I could take

**Q: What was your biggest challenge?**  
**A:** Probably taking responsibility for booking clients in without messing it up!

**Q: How has it helped you to think about your future plans?**  
**A:** The placement has definitely helped me to understand what it would be like to work in the beauty industry which will help me to make decisions for my future

**Q: What advice would you give students who are nervous about doing work experience?**  
**A:** Don't be scared to get in contact with employers directly – they are really nice and are there to help you. Make sure to ask questions and apply for a placement at different places, in the same industry or completely different, so that you have a good chance of securing a great placement.



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## SPOTLIGHT ON WORK EXPERIENCE - 3 - EILIDH ARMSTRONG

In the third of our series of work experience Spotlight Stories, we take a look at Eilidh's experience at Neeps and Tatties Greengrocers and Café, Richmond.

To download a copy of the poster for a closer look, go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/EilidhSpotlight>

# Spotlight on Work Experience



## Neeps & Tatties

### Greengrocers

**Eilidh, one of our Year 10 students, recently took part in a 4 day in-person work experience with Neep and Tatties Greengrocers in Richmond.**

**Q:** Why did you choose Neeps for your work placement?

**A:** I chose Neeps and Tatties for my work placement as I knew they supported the local community and every time I walked past the shop it looked really inviting.

**Q:** How did you go about securing your placement?

**A:** My place at Neeps was secured with help from school. I asked for some help as I had contacted lots of employers initially but had no luck.

**Q:** What are the most valuable things you learned?

**A:** I learned various things from Neeps. From weighing and packing orders to serving in the café and manning the till. I was always learning new things.

**Q:** What was the biggest challenge?

**A:** The biggest challenge for me was overcoming my shyness when it came to serving people. I was really apprehensive at first, but the staff were really welcoming, and I felt at ease. I felt that by the end of the week I overcame some of this shyness.

**Q:** What did you enjoy the most?

**A:** I really enjoyed being able to serve people at the till and build on my communication skills. I also really enjoyed making a range of coffees to serve to the customers.

**Q:** How has it helped you to think about your future plans?

**A:** I enjoyed interacting with members of the public and this may be something I would like to consider in the future. I certainly would like to develop on my skills in a customer-focused environment.

**Q:** What advice would you give students who are nervous about doing work experience?

**A:** Don't be afraid. I was pretty nervous on my first day but they're just people too, who were once in the same position as you. Just go for it, there's nothing to lose!



**Eilidh received amazing feedback from her employer and now has a part time job with them!**



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## SPOTLIGHT ON WORK EXPERIENCE - 4 - AMELIA ATKINSON

In the fourth of our series of work experience Spotlight Stories, we take a look at Amelia's experience at Tennants, Leyburn.

To download a copy of the poster for a closer look, go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/AmeliaSpotlight>

# Spotlight on Work Experience

## Tennants

AUCTIONEERS

**Amelia, one of our Year 10 students, recently took part in a 4 day in-person work experience with Tennants In Leyburn**



**Amelia has been offered a part time job and the possibility of an apprenticeship with Tennants!**

**Q: Why did you choose Tennants for your work placement?**  
A: I love organising things and planning and preparing for little events and gatherings we would have at home. The more I looked into it, the more interested I became in this as a potential career. Tennants is our nearest large events space, catering for many different kinds of events so I knew it would be exciting to go there!

**Q: How did you go about securing your placement?**  
A: My dad knew Paul, the manager at Tennants Garden Rooms. We emailed him asking about the feasibility of getting some work experience there. He was delighted he had been approached and we went from there!

**Q: What are the most valuable things you have learned...**  
A: How much time and effort that goes into each and every event. Small details really matter! As Paul said in my interview before I started work experience, even though they do events nearly every day, they are quite often, for the customer, a "once in a lifetime" experience so every detail has to be perfect and there are no excuses for getting anything wrong.

**Q: What was the biggest challenge?**  
A: On my first day, the cafe was really busy so they asked me to help waitressing, which I had never done before so it took some getting used to!

**Q: What did you enjoy the most...**  
A: That particular week, we were hosting a 60th Wedding Anniversary party. All week, we had been meeting with the customers, prepping and planning the event down to the last detail. At the end of the week they asked me if I would like to work the event on the Saturday, so that I could see the whole process through. I think it was amazing to see the final outcome after all of the planning and preparations that had taken place throughout the week.

**Q: How has it helped you to think about the future...**  
A: It has helped me as I now know that Event Management is the career I would love to pursue. I would love to be able to go back to Tennants in the future, and be part of the Events Management team.

**Q: What advice would you give to students who are nervous about going to a placement.**  
A: Just go for it! It could open up so many opportunities for you. Find something that interests you, work hard, be yourself and really go for it!



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## SPOTLIGHT ON WORK EXPERIENCE - 5 - GRACE

In the fifth of our series of work experience Spotlight Stories, we take a look at Grace's experience at Scorton Village Pre-school.


To download a copy of the poster for a closer look, go to this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/GraceSpotlight>

# Spotlight on Work Experience

## Grace at Scorton Village Pre School

**Grace, one of our Year 10 students, recently took part in a 4 day in-person work experience with Scorton Village Pre School.**



Scorton Village  
Pre - School

**Grace received brilliant feedback from her placement**

**Why did you choose Scorton Village Pre School for your work placement?**  
I chose Scorton Village Pre School for my work placement because I wanted to explore what it's like working with young children as it may be something I am thinking about doing in the future.

**How did you go about securing your placement?**  
I emailed the person in charge of the Pre School. I got this idea from a family friend's suggestion. It also helped that I used to go there when I was younger.


**What is the most valuable things you learned?**  
That I have a lot more patience than I thought I did! I also realised that how the children feel reflect how you feel, so the nicer and more helpful you are to them, the more you get in reward.

**What was the biggest challenge?**  
Going to a new place by myself and meeting new people. I am not very good with new things, but I did end up enjoying it a lot more than I thought I would.


**What did you enjoy the most?**  
I enjoyed the love I felt from the children even though they hadn't known me for long. I also loved how welcoming everybody there was to me.


**How has it helped you to think about your future plans?**  
It has made me realised that I would like to work with young children, and I have looked at the qualifications I would need to do so.

**What advice would you give students who are nervous about doing work experience?**  
It doesn't matter if you don't know what you want to do in the future just do what you think you will enjoy because it may help you realise your future. Also don't be afraid because as long as there is a nice work environment then you will have lots of fun.



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## WORK EXPERIENCE - EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

As you can see from the poster below, employer feedback has, once again, been fantastic!

# Spotlight on Work Experience

## Employer feedback

Oscar was a credit to himself and the school, he was punctual, determined, respectful and hardworking

Olivia has been a joy to have with us for her work experience.

Max is real a credit to both himself and the school

Izzy, Adam and Jay - it has been a pleasure having them all in school. They have all represented Richmond School so well, very polite and friendly.

Daniel was confident and comfortable chatting to my customers in a polite and respectful manner.

Her creativity and independence were excellent and way beyond what we'd have expected  
Francesca was an absolute pleasure

Skye was a very confident member of the team, Skye made the residents feel safe and engaged

She is also a very positive young lady and a great team player. everyone loved Jorge, we would be very happy to welcome her back to work at Whinstone View.

Amelia shone all week, a huge credit to herself, her family and to the school.

I have had really lovely feedback from all the colleagues and managers that Quaide has worked with during the week.  
All we can say is that he has been a pleasure.

Max has excellent communication skills and we found him to be very articulate and intelligent. He was like a sponge when it came to learning about our therapies here.



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## Week beginning 19th May.

Joe Coldwell, Year 10, was nominated by Miss Hamer who said: "I'd like to nominate Joe Coldwell for demonstrating all our values to an exceptional standard during his work experience with Richmond Methodist Primary School. Joe demonstrated his independence by initially contacting the school directly to ask if he could undertake his placement with them. He then went on to complete his placement over four days receiving the following feedback from Mr Larder, Deputy Headteacher of Richmond Methodist:

"I would like to make a special mention regarding Joe Coldwell for the way he conducted himself throughout the week with us. He was an exceptional ambassador for your school. He embraced every opportunity and challenge he could throughout the week, immersing himself in the daily life of a primary school. He supported in lessons and spent the majority of his lunch time facilitating play and games with pupils in the yard. He showed enthusiasm and genuine care in every task he completed, which was exemplified on the Thursday afternoon when Joe supported me with the delivery of PE lessons. He coached pupils, provided feedback and led small games. Joe continued to go 'over and above' by offering his support at our after-school cricket club the same day. I am sure he will do very well in whichever career he pursues in the future but teaching and working with young children seemed to come naturally."

We are so proud of all our Year 10s this year who took part in work experience, and there were many who have received wonderful feedback, but to receive specific feedback like this from an employer is something which deserves to be applauded. Well done, Joe!"



## Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Eleanor Mortimer and Lucy Scullion, Year 8, were nominated by Mrs Fox who said: "On Tuesday 20th May, Eleanor and Lucy delivered a dance workshop to a group of children at Middleton Tyas Primary School as part of their Sports Week activities. The girls planned and organised this totally independently, contacting the headteacher and event organiser directly to offer their expertise in dance. They gave up their time to use the studio after school to choreograph movement and plan their session - all of which was done independently and with no input from teachers. One the day of the event, Mrs McLean, Headteacher of Middleton Tyas School left us a message to say how brilliant the girls had been and that they are a credit to Richmond School. The level of maturity, professionalism and sense of independence shown by Eleanor and Lucy in putting together this workshop is incredible, I'm so proud of them for wanting to inspire other younger children with their passion and enthusiasm for Dance. Keep shining and influencing others with your respect and kindness girls!"



## Week beginning 9th June

Abi Booth, Year 7, was nominated by Mrs Southgate who said: "Abi is a really positive and hard-working student and always demonstrates our CREDIT values. What stands out most for me though is her emotional intelligence - she is one of the kindest and most understanding students I have ever come across. On numerous occasions during the year, she has independently identified when a classmate is struggling to find someone to work with or is feeling upset or unsure. She has then taken it upon herself to subtly and gently ask them if she could please work with them or has invited them to join her group or team. Her independence, respect and teamwork have had a hugely positive effect on students in these situations - an absolute masterclass on the importance of kindness."





## Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Cameron Thompson and Kai Findlay, Year 7, were nominated by Mr Randall, Mrs Norman, Mrs Cheesbrough and Mr Oliver who said: "During the first French trip, Cameron and Kai demonstrated outstanding maturity, resilience, and responsibility during the recent school visit to Brittany. Both boys were amazing ambassadors for our school and exceptional team players, remaining positive and engaged during all stages of the visit, some of which were quite challenging!

Cameron and Kai are credits to themselves and the school. Their behaviour throughout the trip exemplified the values we aim to foster in all our students, and they are truly deserving of this recognition."



## Week beginning 30th June

Isaac Crowther, Year 8, was nominated by Mr Boateng who said: "I am pleased to nominate Isaac for the Headteacher's Credit Values Award. As a cover teacher, I have been consistently impressed by his exemplary attitude and demeanour. In an environment where some may resort to excuses, Isaac stands out as a remarkable embodiment of determination and independence. He never seeks the spotlight nor allows obstacles to hinder his progress, particularly in Physical Education. His participation in PE lessons is truly commendable; he engages with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Isaac actively immerses himself in all activities, consistently giving his best effort and setting a positive example for his peers. His unwaveringly positive attitude, perseverance and quiet strength resonate deeply, inspiring those around him to rise above challenges. Isaac is defined by his relentless effort, positive attitude, and drive to succeed. He is a true role model and a shining example of determination. I firmly believe that his character and conduct embody the very essence of the values this award represents."



*Congratulations*  
**SHAYNE**



Week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Shayne Gilligan, Year 7, was nominated by Miss Charlwood who said: "I'd like to nominate Shayne Gilligan for the Headteacher's Credit Values Award this week.

I'm not often in Shayne's lessons but it's a real delight to see him from time to time in French. Shayne gives everything his best try and confidently tackles the dreaded French phonics!

Above all else, Shayne is unfailingly polite and easy going, always asking how I am and considerate also of his peers.

He is interested in all sorts of topics and exceptionally curious and thoughtful - he hopes to travel when he is older.

Shayne is just a lovely student whose family can be extremely proud, both of his conduct and of his ambition.

I would nominate him in the categories of Respect and Determination and wish him a great summer break with his new rabbit!





# AND FINALLY...

## LAST DAY FOR YEAR 11

The Friday before half term saw the final full school day for our Year 11 students.

All of the students took an exam in the morning, but afterwards the students enjoyed a longer break where they took the opportunity to show off the shirts they had brought in and have them signed by friends and teachers. At lunchtime, a large number of students took part in a final football match with a trophy awarded to the winning team.

In the afternoon the students and a large number of staff members gathered together in a final assembly to share memories and photographs from the previous five years. It is always an emotional end to the day as students are able to see how they have changed during their time at Richmond School.

Mr Coldwell, Head of Year 11, said: "The students entered into the spirit of the day brilliantly and it was a good-natured end to formal lessons. It has been a pleasure for me to have worked with this group of students as Head of Year. We wish them every success in the future, and we hope to see lots of them at the Year 11 Prom later in June and Results Day in August."

These photos are just a selection. An album with many more can be seen at the link below:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cT5LzNwaJJriQL7z7>





# AND FINALLY...

## YEAR 11 PROM

In a final celebration of their time at Richmond School and the end of their GCSEs, Year 11 students came together for the Year 11 Prom.

As usual, there was a dazzling array of methods of arrival, from a fairy-princess horse-drawn coach, to tractors, motorbikes, a pink wheelbarrow and a very stylish entrance on Cookie - the calmest horse anyone has ever seen!

The students had all made an amazing effort and looked fantastic on what was a tropically hot evening. They danced the night away, ate fish and chips, watched their tutors show off the dance they had choreographed, and received awards in various categories.

The hall had been decorated to a fabulous standard - thank you to the huge team of people who had worked so hard to make it all happen.

It was a fine and fitting celebratory finish to the past 11 years of these students' compulsory education - we wish them all the very best with the next stage of their lives and look forward to seeing many of them next year in Year 12 at Richmond Sixth Form College.

For more photos, go to these two links:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/E9pK8GzfPanjczB98>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/2UU9eV3mHKwvxg9>





# AND FINALLY...

## YEAR 13 PROM

Thank you to Ms Richardson, Head of Sixth Form, for the following:

“Students from Richmond Sixth Form College attended the Year 13 Prom at the Morritt Arms, Great Bridge last week. It was an evening of celebration and fun, marking the end of an era for these students and also the promise of an exciting future.

It was lovely to see the students arrive, watched by their friends and family, then enjoy the evening and dance the night away!

The Head Students organised awards for students and staff which were presented by Hannah Slater, Cameron Smith, Philippa Kind, Andrew Lunn, Elsa Wright and Anna Rosie Scott-Hall.

Hannah made a heartfelt speech reflecting on her two years at college and then presented thank you gifts to Sixth Form College staff.

We were all very proud of our students, and a great night was had by all!”



For an album of photos taken as the students arrived, both at school and at the venue, go to the link below:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DauvUKDYiw73Z4pQ9>

For an album of photos taken at the venue during the event, go to the link below – thank you to official Year 13 photographer on the night – Daniel Smithson!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xY2D3Zvu5p9mRjNU7>

