



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

PROSPECTUS



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SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
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**RICHMOND
SCHOOL &
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE**



The Northern Echo
**EDUCATION
AWARDS**

Celebrating Education and Learning in 2021

Welcome

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

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

As we are a big school, they are very likely to meet people just like themselves - this often means making friends for life! Do enjoy the read and I look forward to meeting you and your child in school in the near future.



Jenna Potter, Headteacher

Our six core CREDIT Values are integral to your child's education, both academically and in extra-curricular activities, and they underpin everything we do. We encourage our students to apply these values every day.

OUR VALUES



About us and the area

The students who join us have the potential to do great things. With inspirational teachers who go above and beyond, our students are supported and challenged to be the best they can be. Our students have respect for themselves, each other, their teachers and their school and leave us well prepared to face the world as confident, caring, independent and resilient young people.



What is it like to start my own business or to sing in a theatre? I love Science, I'd love to learn how to canoe and abseil? The answer to all these questions can be found at Richmond. Our students experience life at work, perform on stage and embark on local and international expeditions with teachers leading these events who share their interests and wish to develop them.

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

We currently have 1,289 students on roll, with 12 feeder schools in our catchment area which covers 350 square miles. We do, however, frequently take students from a wider geographical area - last year, for example, students came to us from a total of 38 primary schools. We serve the area of Richmondshire, taking in many outlying villages, Catterick and extending up to the top of Swaledale, with approximately half our students travelling to school by bus. Despite our rural location, as a school we are very much outward facing and convinced of the value of collaboration.

In December 2017, we joined the **ARETÉ LEARNING TRUST** and work closely with our Trust colleagues at Stokesley School and Northallerton School. Our name, Areté, was chosen because of the values represented by the Greek word ἀρετή which encapsulates striving for excellence, fulfilling our purpose and becoming the best we can be: it is associated in mythology with bravery, with generosity of spirit and with moral courage, as well as with achievement - aspirations we hold dear for all students in our Areté Learning Trust Schools.

Steeped in a rich history, our heritage goes back nearly 700 years and throughout this time Richmond School has been at the heart of its community. This recognition and standing within the community continues to be key to our success and will always remain a focus of our day-to-day life. The school is a genuine community hub with extensive sport, performing arts, STEM and business links, so much so that you'll find a dedicated page about the value of the community to us on page 10 and information about our facilities, available for use by the community, on page 20.

We are a school that places great value on inclusion and diversity. To support and recognise the development of inclusive practice for students with cognition and specific learning difficulties we have developed

YES@Areté Learning Trust. This service helps parents to make informed decisions by providing access to up-to-date information about services and support available to them, and focuses on ensuring that pupils are central to their own learning.

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

RICHMOND SCHOOL TRUST was established in the days of Richmond Grammar School and exists essentially to offer financial support to our students and the school and college as a whole. Former students under the age of 25 are also eligible to apply. The Trustees have supported many students, predominantly ensuring that 'disadvantage' does not prevent them from taking part in the many activities and educational experiences on offer, but also offering financial support to students who strive for excellence in a particular area, eg sport or the arts.

Transition - a year in the life



Finding out how things work from a Student Leader



The open evening was electrifying!



Mixing things up in Science!



Give it a whirl!



On the ball!



On our toes, ready to go on stage



Number crunching



Enjoying saying hello to my tutor

We would like to thank you and all your staff for the support that Myles has received since joining the school. We are so impressed that Myles has been supported 'to be the best he can be'. There is no pressure to conform to 'fit a certain mould'. This support has promoted his happiness which has now grown into his love of school. He is happy and settled which is all that we could ask for as parents.

Parent

Transition to Year 7

“I can’t wait a year, I want to go now!”

We couldn’t put it better ourselves, words of a Year 6 student at our last open evening.

It’s a big step moving to secondary school and we do everything possible to support students through this new chapter of their lives. It is natural to feel a little nervous, as the anticipation and excitement builds. We know it can be daunting, as the school is a big place, but it is something to be excited about rather than worried about.

Being big means we offer a packed programme of experiences. There will never be a dull moment, the students will be spoilt for choice - we guarantee they will find new interests that they didn’t know they had!

Building confidence and being ready!

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

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

Transition timetable: Year 6 to Year 7

OPEN EVENING: an informative, interactive and inspiring event for Year 6 students and their families.

A WIDE RANGE OF VISITS: opportunities to take part in sport, science, music and maths events throughout the year.

WE VISIT YOU: Ms Johnson and current Year 7 students visit feeder schools for Year 6 students to ask questions and get an overview of life at school.

MEET YOUR TUTOR: students and their parents are invited to visit to meet their tutor.

INDUCTION DAYS: students visit for three days, a great opportunity to forge friendships, find their way around and get a feel for life at school.

September

October – June

Summer term

July

July

Being bigger than primary school means students will make many friends. They’ll get to know everyone in their tutor group, plus friends they will meet through joining music groups, sports and other clubs.



Transition testimonials

WE FEEL IT IS AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOL AND HAS A LOT MORE TO OFFER THAN OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AREA

Parent

I just wanted to say a HUGE thanks for the Year 5 Science workshop. Our students had a wonderful time. I have had a number of lovely emails from parents saying what an amazing experience it had been for their children.

Croft Church of England Primary School

The transition from primary to Richmond School is seamless and second to none. The children have a carefully structured programme of activities to ensure the process is smooth and stress free. Towards the end of Year 6, children have the opportunity to take part in after-school clubs, activity days and a disco. There is also a full 'day in the life' transition day to give children an exact taster of what to expect.

The staff at Richmond School work incredibly hard to liaise with local primary schools to ensure the best-possible transition for each and every child.

**Ian McCulloch, Year 6 Teacher
Richmond Trinity Academy**

The Year 6 children really appreciate the visit from two Year 7 students, giving them the chance to find out what life is like from a student's perspective.

The transition days help the Year 6 children to feel comfortable and familiar with the surroundings and layout of their new school long before they start in Year 7.

**Kate Auger, Year 6 Teacher,
Richmond Methodist School**

ACADEMICALLY, THIS IS THE BEST CHOICE

Parent

The pupils and staff spoke amazingly well and were polite, helpful and genuinely enthusiastic about their subjects. It was great to see so many excited Year 6 children there; my son says he can't wait a year and wants to go now!

We are so lucky to have such a good school and talented students, well done for such a lovely and positive open evening.

Parent

OUTSTANDING FACILITIES, BEST SCHOOL FOR EDUCATION

Parent

Having talked to teachers and pupils, we were very impressed with the facilities and enthusiasm of everyone. The pupils were a credit to the school.

My son is already familiar with the school, having spent days there on trips with his primary school. We felt the combination of facilities and encouraging teaching staff would give him the best chance of maximising his potential.

Parent

OFFERS IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES TO ITS STUDENTS

Parent

The choice of options on the curriculum is far greater than the alternative schools. My daughter would love the opportunity to study dance which does not seem possible at any other school.

She also plays the piano and wishes to continue this at Richmond and we were very impressed with the music department. The staff and pupils seemed far more friendly than the other schools we visited .

Parent

I LIKE HOW THE TEACHERS ARE HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE AND AM GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP I RECEIVED WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO RICHMOND SCHOOL

----- **Year 7 Student**

The young woman I dropped off at the bus this morning may still have glimmers of the little girl who anxiously walked through your gates last September, but she is certainly a braver, more confident and much smarter person. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I am very grateful that our village is now Richmond School and Sixth Form College.

Parent



A family at the heart of our community

We pride ourselves on being a close-knit community, inside and outside of school. Within school, we have a strong community spirit whereby students and staff pull together for the good of each other. However, we have equally-strong links with a host of organisations, businesses, the military and charities in our local area and pride ourselves on how we are actively involved in many projects and initiatives that benefit our local community. Below are just some of the organisations who we are proud to collaborate and partner with for the benefit of our students and the wider community. Please refer to page 24 to find out about the facilities available for community use.



RICHMOND CASTLE
ENGLISH HERITAGE



The Company
of
Fellmongers
of Richmond Yorkshire



RADS



NHS
Yorkshire
Ambulance Service
NHS Trust

In essence we are A Community Within A Community

A family with exceptional pastoral care

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

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



Sometimes, students and families experience more trying times and Mrs Macey, our Home School Support Worker offers a highly-supportive extra level of care if needed.

We also have close links with a wide network of external agencies who support students more directly with specific issues, such as: Early Help, Children and Young People's Services, Police, CAMHS, Young Carers and bereavement support.

Richmond School is proud to be part of SCISS, an affiliation of schools in England that have Service children on roll. The aim is to champion the education and wellbeing of Service children so that they achieve the best-possible outcomes.

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



Curriculum

Our Curriculum Intent and Our Curriculum Values

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

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

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

We continue to offer the full range of subjects as Level 2 courses over **Years 10 and 11**. Additional subjects offered include Media Studies, Engineering, Health and Social Care and GCSE Physical Education.

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

As part of our commitment to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), specific content is delivered through the Learning for Life programme, students also experience SMSC across other curriculum areas and through the Topic of the Week programme delivered during Tutor time. Learning for Life lessons also promote students' personal, social, health and citizenship development and understanding.

Careers

There is a strong careers programme that supports students to understand the options available and to make informed choices about their career aspirations. Please refer to pages 23-24 for Years 7-11 and page 29 for Sixth Form.

Enrichment

Students are provided with opportunities to add depth to their learning and develop personal skills through a rich and varied enrichment programme. Students have the chance to enjoy new experiences and consolidate their timetabled learning through a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and experiences. Please refer to page 19 for examples of these opportunities.



The intent of our curriculum is therefore to maintain breadth and depth until the end of Year 9 and to bring in choice from a wide range of subjects, supported by effective careers advice and guidance, for the GCSE and A-level years.

Reward and Recognition

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

CREDITS

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

Headteacher's Values Award

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

Student of the Month

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

Aiming High Assemblies

At the end of each term we hold an Aiming High Assembly for each year group. These are real causes for celebration - we are entertained by high-quality dance and music, we enjoy a motivational input from either a member of staff, a member of our alumni or other visiting speaker and we celebrate all the exceptional achievements in each year group. This includes the students who have 100% attendance and those students who have all Attitude to Learning 1 and 2 grades in their reports. These assemblies provide an opportunity to showcase a variety of performances from our vibrant Performing Arts departments as well as acknowledging all students who have excelled throughout the term, exemplifying the school values both in the classroom and beyond.

Annual Presentation Evening

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

Newsletter

Our half-termly newsletter is jam-packed with all of the positive stories and successes that have taken place in school. Please visit the news section of the website to read the latest editions.

Website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Keeping a regular eye on the website and following our Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages will ensure you



YouTube

are always kept up-to-date with the latest news, success stories and events in school. You can also find a host of useful day-to-day information on the website at www.richmondschool.net

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube at facebook.com/RichmondSchoolandSixthFormCollege and www.instagram.com/richmondschool_sfcollege/ and www.youtube.com/channel/UCmqnBGAMf5hFigFW7-oJBIA



Aiming High



Keeping on track

Our performance, reporting and tracking system is called 'Aiming High'. Students receive Aiming High Reports at key points throughout the academic year: two reports during Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 and three reports for Years 10 and 12.

The reports contain four crucial pieces of information about each subject:

- An aspirational target grade
- In Years 7, 8 and 9, a current working grade which is based on evidence from assessments
- In Years 10, 11, 12 and 13, a professional prediction grade which is the most likely grade a student will achieve based on the evidence of the work produced so far
- Attitude to learning grade which reflects each student's application to their studies

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

The personal touch

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

Our aim is always to work with parents and carers to find an approach which draws out the best qualities in each student in order for them to succeed and fulfil their potential. At the end of each term, we recognise and celebrate students' achievements in an 'Aiming High Assembly'. Please refer to page 16 for further information on these positive, inspiring and rewarding assemblies.

Progress

Our Progress 8 scores show that, over time, students make very good progress and achieve strong outcomes.

Students in Sixth Form make more progress than similar students nationally. In 2017, Ofsted stated that the outcomes over time for both vocational and academic courses are strong. The number of students continuing their studies from the beginning of Year 12 to the end of Year 13 is higher than the national average, with very few students leaving their courses before the end.

Student Leadership



Our ever-growing network of Tutor Representatives and Student Leaders, which extends from Year 7 to Year 13, is something we are immensely proud of.

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

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

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

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



Extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities

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

Clubs

There is a packed programme of after-school activities and clubs, such as Chess, Science and Food Preparation and Nutrition Clubs, plus an extensive choice of Sports, Dance, Drama and Music. Check out pages 18 and 19 for further details about our excellence in Performing Arts and Sport.

Out and about!

Our students enjoy a host of visit opportunities throughout their time with us. They can experience outdoor pursuits at East Barnby in Year 8, go out in the field with Geography or Biology in Year 10, take part in university visits, Careers' events and so the list goes on. There are also trips and experiences offered to multiple year groups, such as the Battlefields visit and theatre experiences.

Enrichment

A wide-ranging offer of projects and activities across each department enhances students' learning and deepens interest in their subjects.

For example:

- In English, students have opportunities to see live performances of drama and poetry, enjoying trips to the theatre or theatre companies visiting school to do workshops.
- Our Design and Technology department takes part in the Rotary Club Technology Department as well as many others.

Further details on enrichment are on the dedicated stretch and challenge summary overleaf.

Community Conscious:

We are committed to ensuring our students leave Richmond as well-rounded, kind-hearted and community-conscious individuals. This ethos is supported with extensive opportunities for students, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the National Citizen Service (NCS) initiative, for which we are extremely proud to have been awarded Gold status for our tremendous support of the programme. Students are also encouraged to take part in voluntary projects in the community, such as the History department's work on restoration projects at Croft Church and The Green Howard's Museum and close partnership work with The Station and the Walking and Books Festival in Richmond.

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



Stretch and Challenge

Students benefit from a wealth of projects, activities and competitions to stretch and challenge them across all aspects of the curriculum. Whether they are passionate about the arts or are really driven by science, there are both group and individual opportunities to inspire them. Our stretch and challenge programme dovetails with our core values of Creativity, Excellence, Independence, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork, to motivate students to be the best they can be.

There is a strong focus on developing students' knowledge and excellence in **STEM subjects** (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths). This begins even before students start at Richmond School, with a range of events hosted for primary students, such as the Lego challenge, Science taster sessions and the UKMT Maths Challenge. From Year 7, through to Year 13, students are challenged across all areas of STEM, with visits to universities, competitions, challenges as well as residential trips. Examples include: the Isaac Physics project, the Salters Institute Chemistry Festival, the Biology Olympiad competition, the Newcastle University Maths challenge, and the BEBRAS Computational Thinking challenge.



English, History and Geography deliver inspiring initiatives to stretch students. In **English**, students are provided with stretch and challenge in a number of ways. Right the way across the curriculum, students will read and study challenging texts, from 'Beowulf' and 'Oliver Twist' in Year 7, to 'Animal Farm' and 'Fahrenheit 451' in Year 8 and Year 9. Units of work are designed to ensure that students explore sophisticated concepts and ideas, learn and embed higher tier vocabulary and acquire key cultural and literary knowledge. At Key Stage 4, students are encouraged to explore texts in a critical way, using literary theory to challenge their thinking. At A-level, students are encouraged to become independent critical thinkers, as they choose the focus and title for their NEA work. Our **Humanities Department** regularly offer projects to challenge students, from visiting experts who talk to students about key historical events to field visits where students benefit from hands-on experience.



Our **Performing Arts Department** promote an extensive choice of events, workshops and projects to enhance students' learning and experiences. In **Dance**, students have the opportunity to take part in advanced training, delivered by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and Dance City. **Drama** students are encouraged to stretch themselves with additional performing opportunities and in **Music** there's a long menu of competitions, shows and groups that students can take part in. Further information about our excellence in Performing Arts is on page 18.



Our **Modern Foreign Languages Department** is highly regarded for its commitment to the learning of French and German. As one of only eight schools nationwide, the department is proud to be a PASCH partner school, offering students opportunities to take part in national and international projects in association with the German Goethe Institut.

In **PE**, students have exceptional leadership and coaching opportunities to develop their mentoring and communication skills. They are also stretched through participation in area and county trials in a range of team and individual sports. Please refer to page 19 for more information about our excellence in Sport.



Excellence in Performing Arts

We are proud of our Performing Arts and our reputation for high-quality performances through Dance, Drama and Music. Clear in our belief that performing arts experience is valuable for all students, lessons and extra-curricular opportunities in each discipline begin in Year 7 and run right through to Year 13. We are outward-facing and driven by community cohesion and collaboration. We celebrate the fact that our groups are in high demand. The uptake of our subjects in GCSE is high, reflecting our students' passion for exploring the arts. We bring in world-class performers and students take part in hands-on workshops with them. Our enviable alumni from the industry drive us forward into the future



Our many ensembles are highly-sought after allowing for diverse performance opportunities. We perform at regular engagements at school and events across the area.

Our Sixth Form and School Theatre Companies regularly produce shows ranging from site-specific work to commissioned pieces in our community.



Evolution Dance Company is fast gaining a community-wide reputation for high-intensity and compelling dance. Truly a collaborative project, teachers and student mentors push our students to explore dance and to perform in a range of exciting venues in the area.



Importantly, it is not just about performance. Everyone is welcome, with opportunities in design, technical lighting and stage management. Come and be inspired!

Highly respected, we regularly collaborate, combining our skills in performance. Our Performing Arts productions sell out and are over-subscribed with participants.



Our extra-curricular Music is continually growing and evolving, with a vibrant and extensive range of ensembles. We offer our own tuition, bringing in innovators and experts in their chosen instruments.

Excellence in Sport & Outdoor Activities

Sport can bring many positive benefits to people of all ages. Alongside the obvious physical and health benefits it can help form a sense of camaraderie and long-lasting friendships.

Richmond School has an enviable reputation for sporting excellence with success at area, county and national level across a wide range of team and individual sports. Our extensive extra-curricular programme includes clubs for football, netball, rugby, hockey, rounders, cricket and athletics. In addition to this, we strive to support individuals pursuing excellence in other areas and the school has also recently experienced great success with its equestrian and gymnastics teams.

There are numerous opportunities for our students to help coaching, mentoring and officiating at sporting events with Young Leaders active from Year 9 right through to Year 13. Outdoor education is also well catered for through a residential visit in Year 8, plus opportunities in Years 10 and 12 to complete the Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.



We also offer a number of opportunities to students to try their hand at other activities, which challenge them, are great fun, test their resilience and also develop their teambuilding and leadership skills.



Be part of a team.....there are so many to choose from, you will be spoilt for choice!

Fabulous facilities for students, staff & the community

The innovative design of our campus blends the school's heritage with the needs of modern education. The extensive improvements and James Tate building, open up possibilities for the school to deliver a more flexible curriculum, offer more facilities to the wider community, and provide high-quality learning spaces for pupils and excellent working environments for staff. We are privileged to offer extensive outdoor playing areas and fields for our students to enjoy.

We are immensely proud of our sporting facilities: astroturf, pitches for rugby, cricket, football and athletics, tennis/netball courts, sports hall and fitness suite, plus a custom-designed pavilion.



Offering well-equipped science labs, music-recording, dance and drama studios, rehearsal rooms, plus a fantastic library space, we also have an enviable suite of sporting facilities. We are delighted that our excellence in sport is strengthened with the Dave Clark Arena, our new 3G pitch, with grandstand and floodlights.

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

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

HIRE OUR FACILITIES AND JOIN OUR COMMUNITY HUB

Richmond School is an integral part of the local community and works closely with many groups and organisations, as well as primary schools in the area. Our facilities reflect the value and importance we place on being a central part of the community. We welcome and partner with many groups and organisations, hosting numerous concerts in our hall, as well as workshops and other Performing Arts events.

We can offer the following facilities to hire: Two performance halls, a dance studio, rehearsal rooms, sports hall, 3G sports pitch, astroturf, tennis courts, activities hall, sports fields (including grass and artificial wickets), fitness suite, pavilion (including meeting room, changing rooms, social space, kitchen, viewing space) and coaching course facilities. We already partner a number of local sporting clubs, who offer football, hockey, pilates, taekwondo, to name but a few. We are open Monday-Friday, between 5.30pm and 9.30pm. Weekend/school holidays by prior arrangement. To find out more about hiring any facilities or further information on Partner Clubs please phone our direct line on 01748 828123 or email communitysport@richmondschool.net



Our main hall has a large stage and 300+ seats. The dance studio is light-filled and spacious.

Learning Support

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

WHAT TYPE OF ADDITIONAL NEEDS ARE CATERED FOR

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

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

WHAT MIGHT SUPPORT LOOK LIKE?

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

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

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

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

A PERSONALISED APPROACH

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

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





Careers support and guidance

We commit to providing a high-quality, planned programme of careers education and guidance for all students.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

Students have careers education which helps to provide them with access to information and advice from an early age. Students discuss the world of work, the types of careers available and how careers link to education. This work enables them to be able to make better-informed decisions. It also helps to raise aspirations and improve motivation for learning.

Students spend time carrying out careers research which includes use of the online resources such as First Careers, BBC Bitesize Careers and i-could. This helps to link curriculum subjects to careers aspirations.

YEAR 10

Students develop their understanding of the world of work, employment opportunities and health and safety at work. All students develop a CV, a letter of application and notes for preparation for an interview. They then take part in a mock interview day which is run in partnership with our local employers.

CAREERS IDEAS EVENT

Year 10 students attend a careers event in the summer term which includes the following:

- **Post-16 area:** Further Education Providers attend including: Richmond Sixth Form College, Darlington College, Askham Bryan and specialist Technical Providers.
- **Meet the employer:** A Local Employers area, some who can offer apprenticeships
- **Higher Education Hub:** University representatives talk to students about post-18 opportunities.



YEAR 11

We are committed to providing all students with impartial careers information, advice and guidance to enable them to make the right choices for their futures. Students in Year 11 have careers education in Learning for Life lessons. This helps them to make decisions about the next steps in their education and careers post-16.

Students also have the opportunity for face-to-face careers interviews with one of our Careers Advisers.

Students also take time to carry out a self-assessment using online careers software, for example Unifrog.org. Other support that is available includes use of Morrisby.com software which is designed to offer comprehensive and accurate information about an individual.

It focuses not only on their interests, motivations and the subjects they are studying but, most importantly, on their strengths and potential.



QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

We are delighted to have been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard for the fourth consecutive year. One of the first providers in the country to receive the accolade, it recognises our commitment to careers for all students in school and the Sixth Form.

FURTHER EDUCATION & APPRENTICESHIPS

We work closely with a range of other education and training providers who offer technical education qualifications or apprenticeships to keep students fully informed of their options.

Students have presentations about different local colleges and are able to assess the provision for academic and vocational courses in the area. We also organise trips to local further education colleges, taster events, application workshops and mock interviews for students.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

We also work in partnership with higher education providers, for example Newcastle University, The University of York, and the University of York St John, who offer visits and workshops.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2023

Each year in March, National Careers Week is “Topic of the Week” for all year groups. We hold career assemblies and invite guest speakers from local businesses to talk about apprenticeships and other related themes.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

We are committed to ensuring that all students, parents and carers have access to good-quality information about the labour market and future opportunities. A web link on the Richmond School website provides an overview for North Yorkshire and also national trends.

APPRENTICESHIPS

We provide extensive support to students to research and apply for apprenticeships and carry out mock interviews, as required.

EQUALITY IN CAREERS

We are committed to career education and equal access to opportunities for all students, empowering young people to give them the tools and self-belief they need to be successful.



Transition to Sixth Form College

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

In Year 10, our staff speak to our own students, and visit students from other secondary schools in the area, to explain what our Sixth Form has to offer. All Year 10 students are invited to a taster day, packed with experiences across our curriculum.

The Year 12 open evening, in October, provides opportunities to talk to staff and student ambassadors to become familiar with the college environment. In the Spring Term, applicants are usually invited to an interview to discuss their application and offers are made, subject to the entry requirements being met.

In June, applicants are invited to two taster days. These are an opportunity to experience life in the Sixth Form. In August, after GCSE results, students who have met the entry requirements enrol and meet with staff to discuss options if necessary.



Getting the measure of things



Great teamwork in the Lego challenge



All fired up for Chemistry



Having fun on the Astroturf

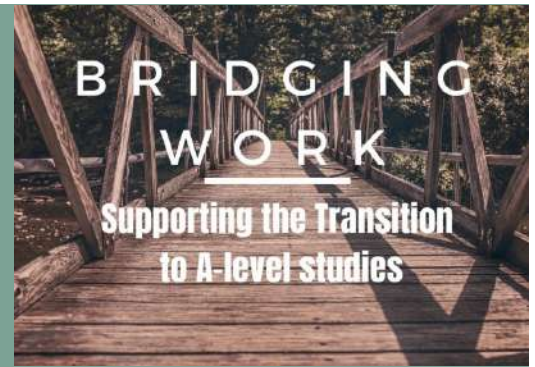


In step for Sixth Form



Easy on-line application

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



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

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



Sandra Johnson, Leader of Sixth Form Transition, said: "We are delighted with the exceptional Bridging Work that our future students produce, ahead of joining our Sixth Form. They are really engaging with subject tasks and tackle them with great enthusiasm. They not only deliver excellent work, but also demonstrate how they embrace independent learning which is so important for post-16 study. It really impresses us how they become involved with the activities and their feedback highlights how valuable they find the work and the fun they have doing it.

"By completing the tasks that have been set by different subject areas, Year 11s should be much better informed about what studying a subject might be like and also be better prepared to continue their studies, having had the opportunity to develop study skills and discover strengths and interests relevant to Sixth Form"



Peter Longstaff explains why he found the bridging work so valuable: "I feel the bridging work was beneficial for a number of reasons; it allowed me to get an understanding for the subjects that I had chosen and offered vital insight into what they involved, helping me to make my mind up.

"The work itself increases your interest in the subjects and gives you key critical thinking skills that help hugely when studies start in September."

For further information about Bridging Work, please email Sandra Johnson at sjohnson@arete.uk

Sixth Form College



A warm welcome is guaranteed at our Sixth Form College, where a thriving, vibrant community of over 250 awaits. Our positive ethos is underpinned by the six CREDIT Values we share with the school:

Creativity | Respect | Excellence | Determination | Excellence | Teamwork
as we consider these to be integral to our students' success and wellbeing.

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

Our dedicated prospectus offers a comprehensive guide to all our subjects at www.richmondschool.net/6th-Form/Prospectus



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

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

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

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



If I could have imagined the best start ever for Katie's sixth form journey her actual start has far exceeded what I could have hoped for.

Parent

Sixth Form College

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



Extra-curricular and Enrichment: As in the school, a wealth of opportunities exist for our students to be part of a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, including dance, debating, drama, music, sport, board games and travel.

We recognise the importance of students developing their personal qualities alongside their academic studies because working outside of the classroom really enhances a student's learning experience. Our personalised approach and rich curricular and extra-curricular offer make Richmond Sixth Form College a supportive and very positive place to learn.



Sixth Form Careers

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

Our comprehensive careers guide is featured on pages 10-14 of our dedicated Sixth Form Prospectus. Please visit www.richmondschool.net/6th-Form/Prospectus for further details.

**GET IN
GO FAR**
APPRENTICESHIPS

Our service includes:

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

unifrog

The Quality in Careers Standard >>>



Jim Pyrah, Geoscientist, talks to students about career opportunities for his fascinating work.



Alumnus Mark Woolley's inspiring product design workshop with our Design & Technology students.

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

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



Our Alumni and Friends community

You'll always be a part of Richmond Sixth Form College and Richmond Sixth Form College will always be a part of you! Diverse, dynamic, illustrious, inspiring and impressive, we are fortunate to have a rich and hugely-supportive Alumni and Friends of Richmond School & Sixth Form College who are very much part of our family. Their legacy stays with us (students have included a Prime Minister and a well-loved children's author) and we are immensely proud of the strong links we have with our former students and friends, and we really value their support.

Our Alumni and Friends make a significant contribution to the life of the school and college in so many ways, including: giving inspirational talks, conducting mock interviews, offering work experience and informal guidance to students and generally continuing to be an intrinsic part of the wider life of the school community. So much so, that over 30 of our former students work in either teaching or support staff roles

They contribute each day as members of staff. Alumni and Friends are invited to become part of our community by registering at www.richmondschool.net/alumni-community-and-friends-of-richmond-school/



Rt. Hon. The Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE was the UK's first female President of the Supreme Court. Following her retirement, Baroness Hale is a current member of the House of Lords.



After qualifying as a Maths and Music teacher, Mark Millman returned to school as a teacher in 2015. Mark was promoted to Lead Teacher for Maths in 2022 and also leads the jazz band. His sister, Jill, a former student, is also a Maths teacher at Richmond.



Jason Burt became the Executive Editor of The Independent when he was just 30 years old. With a passion for football, he loves his current role as Chief Football Correspondent for The Telegraph.



Laura Smith never gave up on her dream to become a midwife, in spite of facing a number of challenges. She is now a midwife at Doncaster's Women's hospital and is loving every minute.



Prof. Sarah Hainsworth OBE is one of the world's leading Forensics experts. She is the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at Bath University. Sarah was responsible for establishing how King Richard 111 died.



Tom Barningham is a project manager for the British Antarctic Survey and leads the Halley Automation project which enables continuous monitoring of the ozone hole over Antarctica.



Graeme Newton is the MD and owner of Randall Orchard Construction. He has nurtured over 30 apprentices from Richmond School and takes on more students each year.



Alice Dawes graduated with a First in English Literature with Creative Writing and forged a fascinating career as an Editorial Assistant at Walker Books. Walkers publish for authors such as Michael Morpurgo.



Since completing her Honours Degree in International Development, Lucy Mills has held senior roles in the field of sport, using football to promote social development. Lucy is the Programme Manager at FC Barcelona.



Richard Sargent's work as a video journalist with Sky and BBC has taken him to some amazing countries to cover incredible stories. He has hung up his camera to make a career change and become a teacher.

The last word.....

MY DAUGHTER IS VERY MUCH INTO DANCE, NO OTHER SCHOOL COULD OFFER THIS. WE FEEL THE SPORTS FACILITIES ARE A LOT BETTER THAN OTHERS. THE DISCIPLINE AT THIS SCHOOL WAS BETTER ALSO.

Parent

IT IS GREAT TO HEAR ABOUT THE DIFFERENT CAREER PATHS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM FORMER STUDENTS. AS A SOON-TO-BE YEAR 7 RICHMOND SCHOOL MUM IT IS QUITE INSPIRING .

Parent

A massive thank you for all the support you put in place to help my son succeed. I cannot believe how well he has done and can't get over how he has chosen to do English of all subjects being severely dyslexic. He is a testament to how well supported children like himself are at Richmond School and Sixth Form College and I am so grateful for it. In my darker days when he was around 6 years old I could never have imagined we would be where we are today so thank you again.

Parent

MY DAUGHTER IS THRIVING AND FEELS SECURE - KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK TEAM RICHMOND SCHOOL.

Parent

THE STAFF AND PUPILS SEEMED FAR MORE FRIENDLY THAN THE OTHER SCHOOLS WE VISITED. RICHMOND SCHOOL HAS GREAT FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AREA. IT HAS STRONG LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND HAS A GOOD REPUTATION.

Comment from a parent following the

Year 6 open evening

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

Parent of Year 13 student

AS WE LEAVE RICHMOND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE BEHIND US, WE CAN REFLECT ON THE CONSTANCY OF GOOD TEACHING AND EXCELLENT TEACHER SUPPORT, FOR ALL THREE OF OUR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO BENEFIT IN THIS WAY.

Parent

Richmond School really embraces the benefits of the NCS scheme and is so enthusiastic and proactive. It is the support of Sandra Johnson and the Senior Leadership Team at Richmond that really sets the School apart, they have a fantastic ethos and commitment to developing well-rounded students which works hand in hand with their focus on student achievement in studies and exams.

NCS Recruitment Co-ordinator

AN AMAZING STUDENT! LOVE HIS INITIATIVE AND HARD WORK. A CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL AND HIMSELF.

THE STUDENT HAD A GREAT WEEK AND WE HAVE DECIDED TO EMPLOY HER

Employers offering work experience placements

Thank you for your help, you somehow managed to get me five university offers after finishing my application in a matter of days.

Year 13 student on Sixth Form support

WITH HIS OLDER SIBLING ALREADY AT RICHMOND, WE HAVE VISITED SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS, SO WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE SCHOOL FUNCTIONING NORMALLY DURING LESSON TIMES. WE ARE CONTINUALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES OF THE STUDENTS. THE CHILDREN WERE ENGAGED DURING LESSON TIMES AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CONTINUALLY EDUCATIONALLY FOCUSED.

WE FEEL OUR SON COULD NOT ONLY REACH HIS POTENTIAL AT RICHMOND BUT STRIVE BEYOND IT WITH THE FACILITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT RICHMOND OFFERS.

Parent

Richmond School students are enthusiastic participants in our careers workshops and university campus visits. They are always keen to get involved in whatever is on offer, asking interesting and relevant questions, as they make informed decisions about their future.

Helen Smith, Project Director,
York St. John University

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w.richmondschool.net
f: facebook.com/RichmondSchoolandSixthFormCollege
i: Instagram.com/richmondschool_sfcollege

Richmond School &
Sixth Form College
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Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 7BQ

We hope our prospectus has given you a flavour of life at Richmond School and Sixth Form College. If you have any queries, or would like to visit, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to meeting you soon.



This prospectus may be subject to changes at any time.



**Richmond School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

Areté 
Learning Trust
Being the best we can be