



# St Richard's Catholic College

## **Reports to Governors June 2016**

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## **TEAM REPORTS**

### **Emerging Technologies Team**

The ET team comprises a range of subject staff that has an interest in the use of ICT to improve teaching and learning. The team is (MF, SCO, JB, SC, JD, RFS, HH, FN, AP, JS, TS, RV and PA)

The aim of the team is to investigate how ICT could be used to improve teaching and learning at St Richard's and to share good practice in the use of ICT across the curriculum. We also plan for changes in teaching and learning arising as a result of new technologies.

#### **Objectives for 2015-2016**

1. Improve teaching and learning by sharing good practice with new technologies.
2. Continue to investigate the use of new hardware in the classroom such as laptops/tablets and assess their impact on teaching and learning.
3. Continue reviewing and improving the new school website and VLE.

#### **Actioned to date:**

1. **Improve teaching and learning by sharing good practice with new technologies.** Discussions at meetings centred around focusing on the continuous development of current technology already being used but may not be fully embedded whole school. Issues with so much new technology and the many different ways/options to improve teaching and learning some staff are overwhelmed. Focus was on delivering good quality training at staff meetings and CPD twilight sessions to help staff embed Google classroom, Google Drive, Kahoot.com and Quizlet.com learning tools.

Evidence shows that 'Show My Homework' has now been rolled out whole school on a parallel system. School is now in a position to remove or reduce the use of a journal. Google classroom and Google drive are in place in some subjects especially Science and Media Studies. Computing will make use of Google Classroom from September 2016 after Year 7 trial with MF classes. Further updates and training to staff should be penciled in for 2016-2017 to ensure that this technology is embedded within each subject.

Gathering data on teachers' use of twitter, facebook groups or other means for developing/gaining knowledge of learning tools and in education generally has been collected. For 2016-2017 this information will be disseminated to all staff.

2. **Continue to investigate the use of new hardware in the classroom such as laptops/tablets and assess their impact on teaching and learning.** MF visited BETT and circulated new technology and learning ideas for SEN and MFL. MF held brief discussions with e-learning team with regards to schoolcomms systems for parentmail for the reduction of paper and costs.
3. **Continue reviewing and improving the new school website and VLE.** No new website available and old VLE no longer in use. Google classroom and Google drive being used in some subjects

#### **Objectives for 2016-17**

1. Continue to investigate the use of new hardware in the classroom: research possible Chromebook and Google for education scheme for all pupils to develop teaching and learning as witnessed at Uckfield Community College.
2. Continue reviewing/improving/embedding good practice and current technologies found in some subjects.

**Mr Fegan – Emerging Technologies Team**

### **Finance/Health and Safety**

During the financial year 2015-2016 we have made several changes to financial procedures on advice from Audit and we have taken on more local administration as the services bought into from the Local Authority have changed the way in which they require information. For example, the personnel department will only accept paperless information so everything is required to be scanned to them. The number of trips and charity events have increased; procurement card purchases have increased due to better value and convenience to staff and our Teaching School programme is growing.

### **School Budget Account**

This is the main school business account. Our funds are delegated from the Local Authority through a devolved formula and this money is used for most of the college purchases. Teaching School income and expenditure have been recorded in the main budget; moving forward this will be a separate entity which will provide a clearer picture of actual spend.

### **School Fund Account**

This account is used to collect money in from our pupils for all college trips and activities and any charity donations. Our LCVAP money is held within this account which pays for our major building works. The account runs from 01<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August following the academic year and has been audited and agreed for 2014-2015.

### **Governors' Fund**

The finance office manages the Gift Aid and the contributions received are very healthy. Julie Jacob is the Gift Aid Officer.

### **SFVS**

The college submitted the annual SFVS return by the required date to the Local Authority; no response has yet been received.

### **Health and Safety**

A fire risk assessment has been booked for August 2016 and a health and safety audit is due to be carried out in September 2016. If any recommendations or changes are required following these inspections, they will be implemented as soon as possible to ensure a safe college site for all.

### **Building Projects/Works 2015-2016**

The following building projects/works have been carried out:

- Refurbishment of two science labs and the food technology classroom
- Removal of the old PE shed and a brand new replacement
- Refurbishment of ladies toilets in 'A' block
- Installation of internal signage across the site
- Boys changing rooms' refurbishment
- New roof on PE/Music corridor
- New automatic doors fitted in Tech block
- Replacement of old lighting to LED in several classes and the library
- CCTV installation in further areas of the site
- Replacement pipework/electrics
- Ongoing decorating and carpet cleaning

### ***Miss Pain - Business Manager***

### **Learning and Teaching Team**

The Learning and Teaching team have met three times (terms 1, 3 and 5). The team have discussed numerous issues from the new three year plan.

In the first meeting we looked at how to get the most from the pupil researchers. After splitting off into smaller groups we decided that assembling a volunteer group from all year groups and all abilities would be the best practice and giving the pupils the opportunity to select the areas to research within certain parameters would be of more interest and therefore likely to generate more effective results.

The Pupil Researchers were therefore selected from the School Council. Miss Wood and I delivered the training in the Principal's office to create a feel of professionalism. Following on from the training and subsequent meetings with myself, the Pupil Researchers were split into three different groups to research different aspects of the college (Pupil voice, emerging technologies and teaching styles).

At the last meeting of the academic year the Pupil Researchers presented their findings to the Learning and Teaching team where they received constructive feedback before their final presentation to LMT, which will happen in term 6.

This year the John Muir Award was also launched so DRH presented his plans in the first meeting. The Pupil Leadership policy was also discussed in the first meeting. The team put forward ideas they would like to be included within the policy. During the second meeting a draft version of the policy was scrutinised by the team and suggestions have now been incorporated into the policy which is now with DC for final approval.

The idea of a creating a pupil led pedagogy booklet has been put forward. However, a lot of the team objected to this and stated that they didn't like this style of teaching. Some staff, on the other hand, did have some suggestions which have been collated but not yet turned into a resource for all staff, as I would like all staff to have the opportunity to contribute to the booklet.

One significant area has been that of pupil voice. There are several different departments represented in the team so we have trialled numerous strategies of pupil voice over the course of the year. The most interesting examples were that of a department swap. This incorporates sending a selection of pupils to a different teacher (from another department) who has been given a list of questions to ask. From our research this had several advantages and disadvantages. The pupils felt they could be more honest in this focus group arrangement. However, the observing teacher found it difficult to expand on certain topics as they were not familiar with the subject content. At times it was also reported that certain pupils may be focussing their energy more on whether or not they like the teacher rather than the lessons/unit. Following on from this I used IRIS to record the focus group so that my 'buddy' teacher could observe the full focus group after the session. However, many teachers were not happy to use this technology and I believe that it made the pupils less likely to contribute as they were very aware they were being filmed.

### **Objectives for 2016-17**

1. To establish a network of research within St Richard's using staff in liaison with Sussex University.
2. To continue to develop outdoor learning and character building opportunities.
3. Create a cross departmental pupil voice pro-forma based on trialled experience.
4. Embed pupil leadership activities across the school and strengthen pupil voice.

**Mr Holloway**

## **Pastoral Care Team**

The Pastoral Care team consists of our five Pastoral Leaders (Year 7 - Mr Bligh, Year 8 – Mr Carradine, Year 9 - Mr Doherty, Year 10 – Miss Easton, Year 11 – Mrs Bligh), two Pastoral Key Stage Co-Ordinators (KS3 Mrs Gaines as part of her Pupil Premium role, KS4 Mr Campbell), the SENCO, Mrs Hills and Mr Padgham (form tutors with additional pastoral responsibility), Mrs Hoyle (PSHE Co-Ordinator) Mrs Kelly, Mrs Lea-White, Mrs Parks & Mrs Campbell (Teaching Assistant Co-ordinators), Jo Doyle (Lay Chaplain), and our ESBAS school link (Emma Taylor).

The team meets termly to discuss a range of pastoral care issues such as attendance, behaviour, anti-bullying, emotional health and the Three Year Improvement Plan. A large proportion of each meeting involves discussion of the pupils in our care. Mrs Bligh is in charge of Pastoral Care within the college, as well as being Safeguarding lead.

Essentially, the aim of the team is to meet the needs of all the pupils in line with the college Mission Statement. We are supported in our work by the Chaplaincy team, Behaviour and Attendance County team, The Anti-Bullying team, School Counsellor, School Nurse, the Substance Misuse Service, CAHMs, Young Carers and a range of other services which we buy into when required.

We run in-house groups on bereavement and loss, anger management, social skills and social use of language.

Each Pastoral Leader is responsible for: providing support to his/her tutors; helping to build up a year identity; organising fundraising activities; overseeing the spiritual, academic and social welfare of the pupils in his/her year group; organising liturgies and assemblies, running a year council and leading the PSHEe/Citizenship programme.

### **Pastoral Care Team Objectives 2015-2016**

1. **Alongside Mr Holloway ensure The CREST is something every pupil in the school aspires to**  
We have seen an improved uptake of The CREST in all year groups. The booklets are working well and pupils are wearing their badges with pride in increasing numbers. Assemblies raising awareness of The CREST took place and a link has been made with prefect application. Mr Varney has worked closely with Mr Holloway to track completion of the CREST and a KS3 version is being looked into for next year (to ensure pupils work on character building traits for the full 5 years).
2. **To develop revision strategies for pupils in both Key Stages**  
We began the year with a new revision evening for parents in Year 11. This was a very successful evening in which parents were able to try the online revision resources available to their children as well as hear plenty of tips and ideas for maintaining a productive working environment at home. This was then followed up with Michele Miller's (education consultant) workshops to Year 11 pupils and their parents in January. We also held revision workshops for Year 9 pupils and parents with the aim of getting them ready for the start of the GCSE years. Staff also attended a twilight inset with Michele on inter-leaving and at their request we have booked Michele in to lead our first inset of the year. Our aim is to get pupils more independent in their revision right from Year 7 and to ensure our testing is consistent and effective in assessing progress and raising attainment.
3. **To provide a series of workshops for pupils on issues such as: anxieties, exams stress and keeping safe**
  - Our meditation lady ran workshops once more on anxieties and stress busting techniques.
  - We offer monthly meditation sessions to all pupils on a Monday Morning.
  - Miss Vanvuchelen set up a yoga group to help with exam stress.
  - We had a series of presentations in PSHE for the pupils from road safety to keeping yourself safe on line.
4. **To review rewards, particularly in the Upper School.**
  - We have given The CREST higher priority by connecting it to the prefect application.
  - We have taken on board pupil voice to ensure rewards given out are ones they appreciate and would like to earn.
  - It remains a fact that pupils in the Upper School are less likely to want to collect prize points.
5. **To improve our anti-bullying work (through the implementation of the anti-bullying action plan).**  
This plan has been implemented. Further information is included below.
6. **To develop effective use of pastoral support plans in supporting young people with complex behavioural needs.**  
We are moving to adopt the school based plans and are due to attend a training event at College Central on this in June. This remains an area for development.

7. **To continue to educate year groups to support the vulnerable with fundraising projects and justice campaigns.**

Many assemblies throughout all year groups have concentrated on this. We have been pleased with pupils' fundraising activities once more this year.

**Pastoral objectives 2016-2017**

1. Improve communication systems related to vulnerable groups.
2. To further engage parents fully in pastoral care systems.
3. To increase the involvement of pupils in decision-making by instigating a systematic programme of seeking their views on behaviour, learning, rewards and sanctions, improvements.
4. Improve listening space for individuals/groups of pupils.

**PSHEe objectives for 2015-2016 in line with College Improvement Plan and progress**

1. **To revisit assessment in PSHEe** – assessment has continued with all year groups as in previous years with 3 assessments per year to inform tutors and Pastoral Leaders of pupil progress. Subject leader has been part of the meetings where Assessment without levels has been discussed. At this point, a system is in process of planning and Pastoral Leaders will be required to update assessments within schemes of work for specific year groups in 2016-17.
2. **To ensure the new guidelines on Citizenship in KS4 are embedded** – an audit of provision has been completed for British Values with areas for development identified and Pastoral Leaders to develop in schemes of work.
3. **To provide inset to staff of a PSHEe nature** – 2 training sessions for staff were given regarding sex and relationships education (SRE) and teaching within a catholic school. 30 staff were trained in total.
4. **To look at the possibility of a designated team of teachers to lead particularly sensitive topics, such as some part of SRE, for example.** This has not been possible at this stage but a member of staff has been trained to deliver SRE to small groups and this happens on a weekly basis to a rotation of Year 9 and 10 pupils.
5. **In conjunction with the pastoral team, to run two parental information evenings (Substance misuse, SRE).** No sessions were delivered due to low turnout on previous occasions. Information has been delivered in different formats through the termly newsletter and school website.

**PSHEe Objectives 2016-2017**

1. To develop assessment in PSHEe using assessment without levels.
2. To audit global learning in line with Ofsted requirements.
3. To review and develop schemes of work using pupil and staff voice with a focus upon emotional well-being.

**Friendship and Anti-Bullying (Mrs Hills)**

**Objectives and Progress 2015-2016**

1. Use of available experts, safer schools survey data (data only issued May 2016 will be shared with pastoral team and responded upon in PSHEe).
2. Advice and useful links for parents/ pupils in school newsletter.
3. Whole-school participation in county wide Safer Schools Survey completed.
4. Raise whole-school awareness of what bullying actually is - this is taking place through year group assemblies by Pastoral Leaders and outside speakers. Term 2 Anti-Bullying week included work in PSHEe, assemblies and information for parents and children in the newsletter. The whole school also took part in the Safer Schools Survey. Continued development of Smile Ambassadors.
5. Training for individuals as peer mediators – 2 per form Years 7-10. This continues to create a network of children in all year groups to strengthen the focus on friendship. Termly meetings with staff will also allow individuals to raise concerns in the early stages as opposed to staff being made aware when an incident is longer-term.

**Objectives 2016-2017**

1. Work alongside Student Listeners to develop a network of pupils across all key stages for peer support.
2. Continue to develop clarity and continuity of reporting and recording process re bullying incidents with a particular focus on follow up.
3. Advice and useful links for parents/pupils on new school website.
4. Consistent recording and review process recorded on SIMS.

**Other things the Pastoral Care Team have been proud of this year:**

- Two Spectrum groups have ran this year and been really successful. A much higher take up occurred this year.
- SAS course ran successfully for both boys and girls.
- Mentoring at both Key Stages has gone well.
- Anger management programme success.
- Attendance has improved but is not yet at 96% target of outstanding. Persistent absence has definitely decreased. The appointment of Gary Saunders has had a great impact and the work of Emma Taylor from ESBAS has also supported improvement in terms of punctuality.
- Prep Club Plus success.
- Intervention clubs for Years 10 and 11 have worked really well this year.

***Mrs Bligh - Pastoral Care Team***

### **Special Educational Needs**

#### **Progress against Objectives 2015-2016:**

1. **To record SEN provisions on SIMS to ensure clear tracking.**  
SEN provisions are being recorded on SIMS but more training will be needed to ensure that this becomes consistent practice.
2. **To expand provision for children with Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy Needs.**  
The college offers bespoke Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy input to our most vulnerable children. Each therapist has a full caseload of pupils and provides five hours per week of intervention.
3. **To develop and improve the Local Offer and SEN Report.**  
Latest guidance from the Local Authority indicates that it is not a statutory obligation for the college to provide a Local Offer. As most schools have a Local Offer on their website, it would seem prudent to maintain ours until final advice is given. It is now statutory to have an SEN Information Report published and updated annually on the website. An initial draft has been posted which will require editing and improving.
4. **To continue to embed the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice to Assess-Plan-Do-Review in the department and for all staff.**  
Training was given to staff on the SEN Code of Practice on the Assess-Plan-Do-Review structure. Further training will be required to keep this high profile.
5. **To continue to transition pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans as timetabled by the Local Authority.**  
Most pupils have been transitioned from Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans in accordance with the timescale decided by the Local Authority. Two cases are still pending, due to the parents.
6. **To introduce the ideas from the THRIVE training Mrs Clifford has attended into college.**  
Mrs Clifford has left her post at the college. Emma Taylor, ESBAS link, is conversant with the THRIVE approach and can disseminate appropriate ideas.
7. **To bring ALL TESTING FOR Access Arrangements in-house by summer 2016.**  
Kerry Tadros will complete the CCET qualification (Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing) and the qualification in Access Arrangements by the end of 2016. This is a masters level qualification. External professionals currently undertake testing for Access Arrangements.
8. **To develop the Pupil Passport and review documentation.**  
The use of Pupil Passports and Review documentation is embedded in college life. Pupils and Parent Voice has been very positive about this document.
9. **To encourage all pupils with Access Arrangements to use a Laptop/Scribe to touch-type.**  
English Type Senior, a touch typing programme is available on all computers. Many of the pupils have become competent touch typists. A more systematic timetabling of the intervention for touch typing needs to be developed.
10. **To encourage the use of reader pens and assistive technologies in all subjects.**  
Reader pens can be used by any child including those who do not have Access Arrangements. Many pupils use them but a greater uptake of this resource needs to be encouraged. Pupils use Read, Write Gold and Dragon Naturally Speaking where this is needed.

#### **Objectives 2016-2017 (subject to discussion with the new SENCo):**

1. Expand provision for pupils with Dyslexia by using Specialist TAs to provide blocks of intervention. INSET given to staff on Dyslexia.
2. Embed the graduated approach to SEN within the college. Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities as teachers of SEN.
3. Raise awareness of high incidence needs in the college and offer training and advice to staff on how to support the pupils. Ensure targeted revision sessions are offered by departments for pupils with SEN.
4. Ensure tutors select pupils with SEN for leadership roles. Pupils with SEN to be supported to complete The CREST award during tutor time and in Prep Club Plus.
5. TAs to support pupils in PSHEe and tutor time if they are not offering interventions.
6. Develop the use of the TA Shadow Timetable for TAs and Cover Supervisors.
7. Support pupils to use appropriate assistive technology in tests, examinations and in class.

**Mrs Tadros - SENCO**

### **Spiritual Life Team/Chaplaincy**

#### **Objectives: June 2015-May 2016**

1. To develop a common set of themes and suggested readings and resources for the Form services for Year 7 to make it easier for Form Tutors as suggested at the Deanery meeting. To investigate expanding this across the school.
2. To continue to offer retreats to pupils including the Year 10 and Year 8 block days, the weekends at St. Vincent's Centre, Whitstable and the Year 6 retreats for feeder primary schools. To offer the Rome pilgrimage to Year 10 and research a Holy Land and or Taize trip for the following year.
3. To promote/organise a 'faith in action' activity in either term 1 or term 2 in conjunction with the Liturgy Reps to raise funds for a designated charity.
4. Provide liturgy planning training sessions and streamline paperwork involved in planning services for staff.
5. Research and book a Mission Week for 2017, to develop and nurture spirituality across all curricular areas and build on previous Mission in 2012.
6. To continue to work closely with the music department and dance teacher to expand the school music selection for Masses and liturgical events. To possibly look at composing our own Mass setting.
7. To develop the role of Liturgy Rep, by composing in conjunction with the Reps, a Mission statement/job description, which lays out expectations. Involve them more in planning of year services and large liturgies.

#### **LITURGY, RETREATS, PILGRIMAGES AND PARISH LINKS**

St Richard's is very fortunate in its clergy chaplaincy team, who are most generous in their support of the spiritual life of the college. Sincere thanks to them for all their input and hard work, which is greatly appreciated.

**Liturgy in School** - Mass is celebrated on a regular basis at St Richard's, ranging from whole school celebrations in the hall to the quieter, more informal voluntary early morning Mass each Friday in the Chapel. Large scale Masses have included the Beginning of Year Masses in September 2015, which were celebrated by Bishop Richard, the Year 7 Induction Mass in November 2015, and Year Group Masses. This year, a more concerted effort has been made with the help of the Liturgy Captain to meet with Liturgy Reps from the relevant year group prior to their Liturgy to plan and get ideas on theme and music. This has allowed their creativity and ideas to flourish and improved the standard of these services. Still to come are the St. Richard's Feast Day Masses and the Holy day of Obligation for St Peter and St Paul in June and the End of Year Mass in July.

The Lay Chaplain has made it an aim to increase and improve the cross-curricular collaboration between the Performing Arts departments and Chaplaincy. To this end we now have a new planning system which we have launched this term and have requested a termly meeting to be put in the diary for next year. We feel this will improve the running of Liturgical events in the school. In addition with the expansion of the Dance Company numbers, Mrs Knight and the Lay Chaplain put in a bid for funding for further costumes for our liturgical dancers to suit the liturgical seasons and all age ranges; the PTFA granted this funding and these have been put to good use across all our Liturgies. The Lay Chaplain has been working closely with Mrs Byrne to find new Psalms for use in service and this has proved a fruitful task with a number of new hymns being prepared for future Masses.

Services other than Mass have also provided unique opportunities for both pupils and staff to encounter and worship God. The Advent and Easter Services drew on the gifts and skills of readers, actors, musicians and dancers throughout the college, with the invaluable help of the relevant staff, to provide meaningful and powerful liturgy. This year we took on feedback from the Liturgy Reps and added to the theme of the Advent Service to reflect the many cultures in our community. The MFL department and Mrs Scott provided support in teaching a Spanish hymn to celebrate the new language being offered in the school, and many pupils read prayers in their home language. This was received really well by all pupils and is something we would like to ensure is continued across all Liturgies.

Form Masses have been, on the whole, intimate and reflective. Following our Deanery meeting it was established that at times it is difficult for the clergy to attend both prep session and the service. While these sessions are appreciated by the pupils and the staff it is felt that it is more important for the Clergy to be in attendance for the Service. To ensure that when there is no Priest available for the prep session that the Tutor and pupils have the tools to plan their liturgy the Lay Chaplain researched a project involving prayer boxes. With the financial assistance of the PTFA this project will be launched in September. The idea is that each group will receive a plastic A4 size box. In the box will be all the things necessary to plan a liturgy or assembly, put together a prayer focus, plan a prayer time in registration. For

example, they will include a bible, candle, cloths in colours of the liturgical season, standing cross etc. This will be accompanied by a guide book which the Lay Chaplain is developing with step by step guides and tips, resources and reflections. The boxes are currently being put together and to keep costs low and incorporate other departments in the project, the Product Design department and Mr Steadman are making the standing crosses and Mrs Williams and Textiles are helping hem and finish the cloths. The Lay Chaplain will launch this in September and will request time in Inset to explain this project to staff.

The Lay Chaplain has sent out a chaplaincy news email each week to staff including in it liturgical information, chaplaincy notices and a resource for daily prayer in college in the form of a weekly prayer PowerPoint. The PowerPoint has a prayer slide for each day, taking into account liturgical seasons, feast days in the Church's calendar, special UN days and multi-faith/cultural festivals. There is also a slide with a prayer for before lunch and at the end of the day.

**Parish Masses** - St Richard's pupils joined the parishioners of Christ the King, Eastbourne for the celebration of Mass for the Feast of Christ the King and also National Youth Sunday. They welcomed the congregation at the door of the church, led the music, proclaimed the readings, acted out the Gospel and took up the gifts at the offertory. Andrew Philips in Year 11 was the winner of the Homily Competition and got to deliver his homily during the Mass.

We also joined St Mary Magdalene, Bexhill in term 4 and again the pupils assisted in all aspects of the mass. Chris Varghese in Year 9 was the winner of the Homily Competition and got to deliver his homily during the Mass. This was all possible with the combined effort of Mrs Dunster in drama, Mrs Byrne and Mr Roadknight in music and Mrs Knight, dance.

**Grandparents Event in School** - St Richard's once again celebrated the Diocesan Grandparents' Week by inviting grandparents of current and past pupils into college. Over 50 grandparents attended and it was a wonderful time of celebration. Grandparents were treated to refreshments in the library, a special Mass of Thanksgiving for their valuable contribution and finally a tour of the college. Everyone involved had a great time and we can't wait to do it all again next year.

**Flame** - Having joined up with the parishes of Bexhill and Good Shepherd and their confirmation group to attend the Catholic Youth Ministry federation (CYMFED) National Youth Congress in Wembley Stadium in 2015, we have ordered 30 tickets for next year's Congress ourselves. This event is the largest Gathering of Young Catholics in the UK and last year the many wonderful speakers such as: Cardinal Tagle, David Wells and Cardinal Nichols truly inspired the young people. The day was enhanced by music from Christian Artist, Matt Redman, and he has been invited back to lead again next year. In fact the theme will be based around his wonderful worship song Bless the Lord (10,000 reasons) a firm favourite in our school liturgies. It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to meet other young Catholics and experience adoration in such a wonderful way so we look forward to participating again.

**Inset Session for New Staff on what it means to work in a Catholic School** - New staff attended an inset session on what it means to work in a Catholic school and to introduce them to the aspects of spiritual life that take place at St Richard's. Each member was given a pack with some useful material such as Glossary of Catholic terms, expectations of tutors in regard to liturgy and sample prayers and liturgy planning sheets. It was attended by 7 new and existing members of staff and a really fruitful discussion was had. Packs were passed to Lis Wood for the trainees who could not attend due to University commitments. This is hopefully going to be a recurring event for trainees and new staff.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage** - 24 Year 11 pupils, with Group leader Mr Campbell and deputy Group Leader Jo Doyle (Lay Chaplain) alongside staff members Miss Wood and Ms Vanvuchelen, took part in the HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes in the week after Easter this year. We further developed our links with Group 154 and expanded our links with other groups from our region 210 and 76; the latter also shared a hotel with us allowing for more interaction. Our pupils took an active role in supporting the pilgrimage in events throughout the week such as the Candlelight Procession, where they were key in the marshalling of the event and in the Trust Mass where they played a big part in marshalling and animating the celebration for the pilgrims. Their behaviour throughout the trip was impeccable despite work which involved long periods of standing etc. They got fully involved in all activities such that the staff accompanying did not have to even ask them to do something they were already doing it. A number of them have since asked about continuing to be a part of HCPT next year after they have left St Richard's and we were able to allow them some time with the helpers in 154 to ask questions and create links on one of our evenings there.

**Whitstable Retreats** - Two retreats were organised this year at St Vincent's Centre, Whitstable for Years 9 and 10 in October 2015, and for Year 7 and 8 in May 2016. Year 9 and 10 had a good response from Year 9, most of whom had been in previous years, Year 10 had a slow response but the timing at the start of half term holidays may have be the reason for this. Unfortunately, due to me not being here due to

bereavement the Year 7 and 8 retreat had to be cancelled. I have rebooked for next year and hopefully they will both go ahead.

**Rome Pilgrimage** - In February this year along with Miss Easton, Mrs Tadros and Mrs Truss, 24 pupils travelled to Rome. The trip was a wonderful opportunity to see the centre of the catholic faith. We were unfortunate that Pope Francis was away at the time of our visit, however Rome had plenty of culture and sites for us to visit. My thanks to Fr David Parmiter who joined us and acted as our unofficial tour guide, his help was invaluable. Pupils also had the opportunity to visit the English college in Rome where they were shown around by Tristian one of our Diocesan seminarians. For the future I would like to offer this trip on a bi-annual basis offering it to both Year 10 and 11 to allow the opportunity for more pupils.

**Year 10 Block Day at The Hastings Centre** - On Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, Year 10 pupils took part in a retreat day at the Hastings Centre. The theme of the day was 'What are you called to be?' with the emphasis on the Christian vocation that our baptism gives us. After an opening Mass, pupils attended three different workshops on various related topics, and then came together at the end of the day for a closing liturgy. My thanks must go to former pupil, Fr Aaron Spinelli, who joined us alongside Deacon Ian Moon and one of our Diocesan seminarians to lead a workshop on vocation to religious life. It was well received by the pupils on the whole and my thanks to the RE department who facilitated the workshops. While the Hastings Centre was an adequate size venue it was not as conducive to small workshops as we would have liked, so we have looked to book Ashburnham for next year's block day.

**Year 8 Block Day** - Pupils in Year 8 are due to attend a retreat day to Ashburnham this coming July. The theme of the day will focus on the world and injustice and we will also celebrate a mass during the day.

**Year 6 Retreats with Feeder Primary Schools** - The Year 6 pupils from St Mary Magdalene's and St Mary Star of the Sea primary schools will be coming to St Richard's in July for a retreat. Joining them will be the pupils from St Peter and St Paul School who will be on their taster days in the school. The day will focus around the year of mercy and its motto 'Be Merciful like the Father'. The pupils will take part in a series of workshops based around the theme, liturgical dance, learning a hymn, biblical drama and Lectio Divina Art. This will then be brought together in a service at the end of the afternoon. The hope is to give them a flavour of what we do in St Richard's as liturgy and explore the theme of Mercy and forgiveness.

Unfortunately, Sacred Heart School will not be able to attend this year, so in lieu of this the Lay Chaplain will be visiting them in June to help the Year 6 pupils prepare for their feast day. The Lay Chaplain will also be running a workshop for the Year 6 pupils at St Thomas a Becket Junior School, Eastbourne, at their retreat day at Christ the King, Langney in July as we did last year.

**Church Visits** - In September, all Year 7 pupils visited St Mary Magdalene church in Bexhill, The pupils were able to explore the various areas of the church and even try on the priestly vestments in learning what they all are and what they mean!

**'Good Shepherd' Celebration at Arundel Cathedral** - A selection of Year 7, 8 and 9 Liturgy Reps will be attending the Good Shepherd Celebration in Arundel Cathedral. This year Bishop Richard has changed the venue from Worth Abbey to the Cathedral. This will allow the pupils to take a pilgrimage to a holy door as part of the celebration. They will have a wonderful opportunity to meet pupils from other Catholic schools.

**Training for Special Ministers of Holy Communion in School** - Several pupils and staff will undertake the training to become Special Ministers of Holy Communion in college. They will be commissioned at the end of year mass and will then make use of their new roles in form services and year masses throughout the year.

#### **COMMUNITY LINKS AND CHARITY WORK**

**Rotary Tea Party** - On Friday, 27th November, nine club members attended the Rotary Tea Party for members of the community of mature years, to help with welcoming the guests, serving tea, and clearing up afterwards. They met the Mayor of Bexhill and his wife and the Rotary Club President, who thanked them for their help at the event. One lady in attendance called me over and said, 'These wonderful young people challenge the bad perception older people might have about teenagers and are a credit to your school and their parents.'

**Interact Club – End Polio Now Campaign** - For our End Polio Now Campaign, Holly Lehmann (7R) won the design a sticker competition. With regard to the cake and sticker sale we raised £178 which will be increased to £534 with Bill Gates' tripling promise.

**Love in a Box** - Interact Club began Christmas in earnest animating every form group in the school to collect and pack shoe boxes of presents for children in Eastern European countries who, otherwise, would not receive gifts at Christmas. This is the annual 'Love in a Box' appeal for the Mustard Seed Charity.

Every year the Interact members try to ensure we collect as much as possible for this wonderful charity and we were overwhelmed with the generosity of each year group. In total we collected a record breaking 422 boxes and raised £1366. The charity was overwhelmed with our pupil's generosity.

**CAFOD Campaign** - A large number of pupils and staff took part in a sponsored walk for CAFOD after school on Wednesday, 23rd March, walking up Galley Hill, along the beach and the sea front and stopping off at St Mary Magdalene Church before returning to school. Sponsor money raised from the walk was donated to CAFOD. Our Diocesan Branch sent us this message, "CAFOD would like to thank the pupils, staff and parents for their generosity in raising £871.13 to help reduce and bring about sustainable change in some of the poorest parts of the world, and provide the essential gift of water for people in parts of Africa. Thank you for your support and prayers.

In addition, pupils brought in items of food for the Bexhill Foodbank which they carried in plastic bags on their walk to give to Foodbank staff at St Mary Magdalene's. An amazing total of 438.3 kg was collected. Lisa Young from the Bexhill Foodbank informed me the food bank took in 1947kg in stock in April but gave out 2561kg. Our contribution therefore will go a long way and the Foodbank were very grateful for our help.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** - We had a busy Fairtrade Fortnight this year in college. Liturgy Reps ran the stall in the hall for a number of lunch times and my thanks to those who gave up part of their lunch for this. We also held a successful raffle for a lovely Fairtrade Easter egg that was well supported. Year 10 reps and volunteers helped to put on a new event to enable them to achieve their Crest badges and ran the inaugural Fairtrade St Richard's Big Brew coffee morning. We hope to make this an annual event and make it much bigger and better next year. We plan on participating as always at the Summer Fayre and hopefully do another event in term 6, as we are in the process of renewing our Fairtrade status this year.

#### **Objectives: June 2016-May 2017**

1. To launch the chaplaincy's Tutor Prayer Boxes across all year groups and monitor their effectiveness in helping Tutors prepare for Form liturgy and Form prayer. To continue to provide weekly themes and prayer PowerPoints for use in form Prayer.
2. To continue to offer retreats to pupils including the Year 10 and Year 8 block days, the weekends at St Vincent's Centre, Whitstable and the Year 6 retreats for feeder primary schools and bi-annual Rome Pilgrimage. To launch a Year 7 day retreat in term one.
3. To promote/organise a 'faith in action' activity in conjunction with the Liturgy Reps to raise funds for a designated charity.
4. To provide liturgy planning training sessions for new staff, and to streamline the role of the Liturgy Rep for staff/tutors – giving staff clear outline of responsibilities.
5. To research and book a Mission Week for 2017/18, to develop and nurture spirituality across all curricular areas and build on previous Mission in 2012.
6. To continue to work closely with the music department and dance and drama teachers to develop the planning for liturgical events. To instigate a termly meeting and develop planning paperwork that ensures all parties are significantly more aware of what's coming up and given time to plan their respective parts effectively.
7. To continue to establish the role of Liturgy Captain and Deputy Captain in the liturgical life of the school. To give Liturgy Reps training on the uses of the Tutor Prayer boxes and involve them in the launch of the scheme.

#### **Miss Doyle - Lay Chaplain**

#### **HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016**

This year I was delighted to take the largest group of Year 11 pupils and staff, twenty-four Year 11 pupils and four members of staff, on St Richard's HCPT Group 715's 7<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. Also celebrated was a landmark 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HCPT charity. The staff accompanying myself on the trip were Miss J Doyle (Deputy Group Leader), Ms H Vanvuchelen and Miss M Wood.

The pupils were involved in a comprehensive preparation programme of weekly workshops held on Tuesday break times and Friday lunchtimes. As well as dealing with admin tasks such as helper forms, DBS checks, photo card identification and medical forms, the workshops provided pupils with an opportunity to learn what was expected of them in their capacity as a Service Group and prepare resources for masses, entertainment and social interaction. The pupils are taught how to prepare Liturgies; perform practical duties to help the Pilgrimage such as marshalling the torchlight procession, and how to care for children with disabilities. The workshops also tackled the story of Bernadette and the formation of the HCPT charity to give the pupils a greater understanding of the purpose of their trip. The

pupils also discussed events that they would run to raise money for their trip and to send children to Lourdes with local family groups 71, 154 and 210.

The pupils took part in sponsored walks, bag packing, cake sales and ran the Halloween disco for Year 7 pupils. The pupils managed to raise over a £1000 for the charity and it will be used next year to send disabled children to Lourdes with the aforementioned groups.

The group left on Easter Monday and returned the following Saturday. Throughout the week pupils were involved in a wide range of activities such as leading the HCPT torchlight procession carrying the acolytes as well as carrying banners at the Regional and Trust masses; delivering the 'Daily Tatler' newsletter around Lourdes, as well as teaching songs to the children, face-painting, animating for the family groups at The Torchlight and Trust masses. To help support two family groups 71 and 154, the pupils put on a superb fancy dress party with games and prizes. The pupils played with the children in the family groups giving the helpers a short break away from their children.

Pupils took prayer intentions for their families, St Richard's community and their parishes. These were placed in the Grotto. A large candle was also decorated with the names of people whom the pupils wanted to pray for in our community. This was also placed at the Grotto in an emotional evening prayer time.

The pupils had a fantastic trip and were praised by both the Chair of the Central services region, Stephen Horsman, and Leaders of Groups 154 Clare Howell, 71 Deacon Dave Turner and ex-head boy Daniel Saunders, Group Leader of Group 210.

Next year's pilgrimage will be the Group 715 8th consecutive year in Lourdes, permission permitting due to the dates of Easter week falling in school time and increased exam dates due to changing exam specifications. I am hoping for a similar level of interest in the 2017 Pilgrimage and current pupils are promoting the trip to other year groups at present via their year group assemblies.

***Mr Campbell - HCPT Group Leader 715***

## **Subject Leaders**

The Subject Leaders team comprises of all Subject Leaders, Extended LMT, G Machin (timetabler) and K Tadros (SENCO). Some staff who are second in charge of departments or Key Stage Co-Ordinators also attend for professional development. Mr Byrne chairs this meeting.

The team continues to share best practice, look at curriculum design, assessment and marking policies, target setting and tracking of pupils, reports and parent consultation evenings; reflect on feedback from pupils, teachers, parents and Governors and try and plan for changes coming from the DfE. Main events such as Open Evening, Curriculum Evening and Block days are planned and reviewed.

### **Objectives for 2015 to 2016**

1. Continue to strengthen middle leadership so that all Subject Leaders have a clear vision for their department and demonstrate strategic leadership rather than simply managing their departments.
2. Celebrate best practice and develop a culture where departments work together to develop new pedagogies and systems that raise attainment e.g. intervention protocols.
3. Implement the new curriculum for English and mathematics including the additional curriculum time for these subjects.
4. Prepare to implement the new National Curriculum and reformed GCSEs for subjects other than English and mathematics that start in September 2016 (Please note some subjects have not had their new specifications finalised).
5. Reduce all in-school variation between subjects and gaps in pupil progress.
6. Increase tracking through Subject Leaders' use of 4Matrix to analyse GCSE results and prepare reports for Governors.
7. Strengthen Subject Leader monitoring by involving all members of the department and developing an open door culture of celebration and development.
8. Increase the quality of Teaching & Learning in all subjects through the use of IRIS.
9. Increase tracking through Subject Leaders' use of 4Matrix to track progress and analyse the data collection points in order to produce on going flight paths.
10. Implement an updated assessment system which embraces the philosophy behind Assessment Without Levels (AWL).
11. Implement a new reporting system which is streamlined and linked to the data collection points and ensures that all targets focus on progress.
12. Expand the data collection points to five a year and review the unified assessment system.
13. Introduce formal end of year exams in all years to reflect the terminal GCSE examinations now in place.
14. Strengthen Progress 8 achievement by relating targets to the new 1 to 9 GCSE points.

### **What has been achieved:**

1. Middle leadership continues to be strengthened. Ten members of staff have completed the SSAT's Middle Leader Award. This remains an ongoing objective.
2. Departments continue to share best practice and strategies that have been successfully used to raise attainment. A more formalised system of buddying will be introduced in the next academic year.
3. The new curriculum for English and mathematics has been successfully implemented in Year 10.
4. All subjects are planning for the new National Curriculum and reformed GCSEs ready for September 2016. However, this process has been frustrated by the fact that several subjects have not had their GCSE specification finalised
5. In-school variation between subjects remains a challenge although we are confident that the majority of 'monitored subjects' will have closed the gap. Gaps in pupil progress, particularly pupil premium, remains a concern.
6. 4Matrix was used by a majority of Subject Leaders to analyse their GCSE results and it was used extensively for the Governors' Report.
7. Departmental monitoring has been strengthened in the majority of cases.
8. Eight departments and nineteen members of staff have used IRIS to film a lesson. This has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. The key area for development is getting all departments using IRIS in creative ways that improves teaching and learning.
9. Mike Hollingsworth uses 4Matrix to analyse all profile data, something that used to be done individually by Subject Leaders. However, Subject Leaders need to utilise 4Matrix fully in relations to tracking and progress over time.

10. A new improved system of AWL has been designed that involves using the new GCSE 1 to 9 system for all years.
11. The new reporting system has been trialled with Years 8 and 9 and was preferred by pupils, parents and staff.
12. Four data capture points took place instead of five as there was insufficient time to analyse the data, report to parents and put intervention in place.
13. End of year exams have or are due to take place in the majority of EBacc subjects.
14. Targets in English and maths are based on the new 1 to 9 GCSE points. Other departments are planning to implement this from September.

**Objectives for 2016 to 2017**

1. Continue to strengthen middle leadership so that all Subject Leaders have a clear vision for their department and demonstrate strategic leadership rather than simply managing their departments.
2. Celebrate best practice and develop a culture where departments work together to develop new pedagogies and systems that raise attainment e.g. intervention protocols.
3. To introduce departmental reviews.
4. Strengthen KS2 transition in all subjects so that all departments are building on the increased challenge of KS2 and designing their own schemes of work in light of this.
5. Implement the new National Curriculum and reformed GCSEs for subjects other than English and mathematics that start in September 2016 (Please note some subjects have not had their new specifications finalised).
6. Reduce all in-school variation between subjects and gaps in pupil progress.
7. Strengthen the use of 4Matrix so that all subject leaders are using it to track progress over time in relation to internal data capture points.
8. Continue to strengthen departmental monitoring through greater collaboration of departments.
9. Increase the quality of Teaching & Learning in all subjects through the use of IRIS.
10. Implement an updated assessment system which embraces the philosophy behind Assessment Without Levels (AWL).
11. Strengthen Progress 8 achievement by relating targets in all years to the new 1 to 9 GCSE points.
12. Improve the quality of assessments so that they accurately assess progress and are reliable predictors of achievement at KS4.
13. Implement new reporting system in all years so that reports incorporate latest data capture and reduce the replication of data.
14. Introduce formal end of year exams in all years in all EBacc subjects.

***Mr Byrne - Subject Leaders Team***

### **Teaching and Learning Team**

The Teaching and Learning team consists of Mr Byrne (RE), Mr Gallivan (Maths), Miss Henry (RE), Mrs Herring (MFL), Mrs Howis (MFL), Dr. Littlejohns (Science), Mrs Robertson (Product Design), Miss Soan (History), Mr Tadros (Science), Mrs Vanvuchelen (RE), Miss Wood (English), Mrs Wood (English).

The team's core purpose is to improve the quality of Teaching and Learning across the college by reviewing current practice, sharing best practice and experimenting with new and innovative teaching strategies and interventions.

### **Objectives for 2015 to 2016**

1. Further embed the 'St Richard's 10 Features of an Outstanding Lesson'.
2. Introduce new termly T&L themes that feed into INSET, meetings and departmental/LMT monitoring.
3. Use educational research to evaluate existing practice and develop new and innovative best practice.
4. Further strengthen literacy and numeracy across the college.
5. Embed the use of IRIS to improve the quality of T&L in every department.
6. Develop a bank of video resources that demonstrate different aspects of outstanding pedagogy.
7. Develop a Teaching and Learning section on the new school website that can be used to share best practice, provide resources, and develop staff.
8. Develop assessments systems that demonstrate progress without levels.
9. Improve the quality of feedback that pupils receive including self, peer and teacher assessment.
10. Further strengthen the use of DIRT to improve the quality of marking and follow up across all subjects.
11. Develop strategies to ensure that all homework has impact and promotes pupil progress.
12. Further develop cross-curricular links between departments.
13. Work with Emerging Technologies team to ensure the VLE including Google classrooms continues to have impact in all subjects.
14. Increase the attendance and strengthen the impact of all twilight INSET.
15. Provide bespoke INSET and training for TAs on different aspects of classroom practice/ SEN provision.
16. Continue to share and promote best practice across the college.

### **Progress towards Objectives**

1. The 'St Richard's 10 Features of an Outstanding Lesson' are the basis of T&L based INSET, twilights, T&L tips. They are our vision of what constitutes an outstanding lesson.
2. New termly T&L themes were the basis of INSET, meetings and departmental/LMT monitoring. In particular, we timed
3. Using educational research is an area that needs to be strengthened.
4. Both literacy and numeracy is being strengthened though input at staff meetings, teaching and learning tips and activities during form time e.g. DEAR and Numeracy puzzles.
5. Eight departments and nineteen members of staff have used IRIS to film a lesson. This has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. The key area for development is getting all departments using IRIS in creative ways that improves teaching and learning.
6. The school is developing a bank of video resources. This has focused on questioning and AfL.
7. The new school website is not up and running.
8. A new improved system of AWL has been designed that involves using the new GCSE 1 to 9 system for all years.
9. Significant progress has been made in the quality of self and peer assessment.
10. The use of DIRT to improve the quality of marking and follow up is variable. There are some wonderful examples where it is fully embedded.
11. The quality of homework set has been improved through the use of 'Show My Homework. However, there are still examples of poor homeworks being set that have little impact on pupil progress. .
12. The Forensics Project has been updated and will involve three departments. There is also a joint project between the RE, Science and History Departments on the relationship between science and religion.
13. The VLE and Google Drive/Classrooms is used by the majority of departments.
14. The twilight programme has run successfully and has been received well by teachers. All teaching staff and TAs have attended at least five twilights.

15. There was a bespoke twilight programme for TAs. The majority of these were led by TAs with an expertise in a particular area.
16. Best practice is continually shared across the college through meetings, teaching and learning tips and the weekly bulletin.

**Objectives for 2016 to 2017**

1. Further embed the 'St Richard's 10 Features of an Outstanding Lesson'.
2. To implement a new twilight/meeting schedule that facilitates greater implementation of learning from meetings and INSET.
3. Introduce new termly T&L themes that feed into INSET, meetings and departmental/LMT monitoring.
4. To increase the impact of education research on all aspects of school life.
5. Embed the use of IRIS to improve the quality of T & L in every department.
6. Extend the bank of video resources so that all aspects of the 'St Richard's 10' are covered.
7. Develop a Teaching and Learning section on the new school website that can be used to share best practice, provide resources, and develop staff.
8. Develop the teaching and learning notice board in the staff room so that it impacts classroom practice.
9. Review the first year of Assessment without Levels (AWL).
10. Further strengthen the use of DIRT to improve the quality of marking and follow up across all subjects.
11. Strengthen the use of 'Show My Homework' so that all homework has impact and promotes pupil progress.
12. Further develop cross-curricular links between departments.
13. To develop links with the Learning and Teaching and Emerging Technologies teams to ensure that all three teams are contributing to staff meetings and improving the quality of teaching and learning across the college.
14. To increase the impact of TA provision through greater collaboration and planning between teacher and TA.
15. Continue to share and promote best practice across the college.

***Mr Byrne - Teaching and Learning Team***

### **Careers and Work Experience**

**Careers** - This academic year the statutory requirement continues to be to provide impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance, CEIAG, for all pupils in Years 8-11. To ensure that the college is meeting this statutory requirement the college has commissioned Hastings Works to deliver 60 one-to-one interviews with highlighted pupils in Year 11. ESCC provide one-to-one interviews for all pupils in Years 9-11 who have a statement of special educational need. The 3 main local FE providers: Sussex Downs, Sussex Coast and Bexhill have all delivered an assembly to the Year 11 pupils and are currently delivering assemblies to our Year 10 pupils. A training session was delivered to all of our trainee teachers in October on CEIAG, the schools statutory responsibilities and how we meet those needs.

The college also commissioned Hastings Works to organise the employers and FE providers for the Careers Fayre and Year 9 careers workshops. There were meant to be 8 Year 9 workshops being delivered, but unfortunately Hastings Works only managed to supply 3, it was also felt that the Careers Fayre lacked exhibitors, with only 9 in total. In previous years we have had double this amount. Upon my return from maternity leave, a meeting was held with Hastings Works about this. It was decided that we wouldn't be charged for the Careers workshops and as part payment for the Careers Fayre, they would deliver 15 more one-to-one interviews. Due to Hastings Works not living up to our expectations, I have begun commissioning of the CEIAG contract for 2016-17.

10 of our Year 10 pupil premium pupils attended the 'Big Futures Event' in Eastbourne. This was a large Careers Fayre run at the Winter Gardens. They attended a preparation lesson where they planned which exhibitors they would like to meet and prepared useful questions to ask them. During the event, pupils were able to find out information about college courses, apprenticeships and the different roles on offer in large corporations.

13 Year 9 pupil premium pupils are currently taking part in the Be the Change programme. They have attended two training days where they have looked at their barriers to success, future plans, how they can change their behaviour to enable them to succeed and have recently acted as mentors for Year 6 pupils. They have also received 1:1 sessions with mentors from businesses. Over the next two terms they will have another 1:1 session and will visit their mentors in their workplaces, before receiving certificates for completion of the programme.

The employer engagement programme is a new initiative run by ESCC, each school has been paired with an employer. The college has been paired with AXA, and the employer contact is Catherine Brunger, a former pupil. As part of the programme, Catherine will be taking part in the Mock interview morning. The aim of this is to develop the resources available to St Richard's and we have already had two Year 11 pupils offered placements at an intensive careers day in July.

11 Year 11 pupils have been referred to the Youth Employability Service (YES), who provide support for 16-19 for pupils who may struggle to transition from school to college. Half of the pupils have already had their first meeting with an advisor in school to discuss the support they require to enable them to attend college next year. Home visits are currently being arranged with other pupils, for whom attendance is an issue.

In November, we had a sign up careers workshop delivered by Stephen Welton. Pupils in Year 8-11 were invited to attend during a lesson. The talk was on Stephen's career path in the world of business from being in law. A careers workshop on Apprenticeships, what they involve and how you apply for one has also been organised. We have had outside speakers in Modern Foreign Languages and Media Studies.

We were lucky enough to secure a talk by Cambridge University in February. This was really well received by the pupils attending, with the feedback being that they really wanted to attend Cambridge now. I am currently looking into running a trip to a local university

In October, East Sussex County Council organised a fully funded Creative Café on the hospitality industry (including theatre, guest houses, Azur hotel). The idea behind the day is to give pupils direct contact and engagement with businesses from within this sector, undertake practical challenges and learn about the skills needed for jobs in that sector. The event took place at the White Rock Theatre, Hastings and was attended by approximately 15 of our Year 10 pupils.

**Alumni Network** - The college continues to use Future First, to run our Alumni network. We have increased the number of former pupils signed up to the network to 301. In January, Future First organised 2 two hour workshops for our Year 9 pupils. The theme was on 'making informed decisions'. There were approximately 25-30 pupils in each workshop. The aim of the workshop was to encourage pupils to think about how they make decisions about their future, and, in particular, option choices.

Some of the alumni network also came and delivered some of the careers workshops to Year 9 and the company Future First have delivered the Introduction to Work Experience assembly and brought along 7 former pupils to help to run this session.

**Work Experience** - Last year, Year 10 pupils participated in a week's work experience from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June in placements offered by nearly 200 companies and organisations based mainly in the South East. Whilst on placement the pupils had a work experience diary to complete about their experience and practice of the world of work. They are visited or telephoned by a member of staff who talked to them about their experience and checked on the quality of the placement. Overall, the employers were very impressed with the pupils, some even gaining part time jobs from their placements.

Work experience continues to be run by East Sussex County Council who charges the schools for taking part. It was decided that work experience was a valuable part of a young person's development whilst in school, and that the pupils tend to come back more grown up and with a positive attitude towards work. This year's work experience week will take place from the 27<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July, as this time of year has the least impact on curriculum time.

The preparation for work experience begins in October with pupils picking three possible placement choices from the online Aspire database of employers, provided by East Sussex County Council. With over 200 pupils to place this is a significant challenge and we are always looking for high quality placements that will stretch our pupils. Some pupils find their own placements which then need to be approved by East Sussex County Council on Health and Safety grounds. Whilst this process continues, the pupils begin to prepare for their placement week through their PSHE lessons. The final preparations happen one month before their placement in the form of a morning of activities. This year, this will be taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Along with writing their Curriculum Vitae and letter of application to their employers each pupil takes part in an interview. The interviews are conducted by local employers, parents/carers, alumni network and members of the Rotary Club who provide feedback to the pupils including tips and advice for the future. This year's event is looking likely to be very successful with 55 employers and parents/carers taking part.

***Mrs Adams and Miss Crawley, Careers and Work Experience Coordinators***

## **MATHS HUB**

After a successful first year as a Sussex Maths Hub, the second year saw an increase in the number of work groups being undertaken by the Hub. We have consolidated four workgroups into two in professional learning, now named Training to Teach Maths (SKE and ITT) and Leading Maths (Leadership Development and Leadership Networking). We focussed on 8 projects, the six NCPs and three local projects but sticking to two core group teams led by the co-leads, Jon Beaumont (St Richard's Catholic College) and Jo Stedman (St Paul's Catholic College).

Raising Achievement – Led by Jon Beaumont

- NCP2 – Singapore textbooks – St Mark's – Continuing leadership of this workgroup into year 2 - £20K
- NCP3 – Post 16 – St Richard's – Continuing leadership of this workgroup into year 2 but with the new input from the Core Maths Early Developers: Midhurst Rother College, Heathfield Community College and Uckfield Technology College - £5K
- NCP 4 – Mathematical Reasoning – This will be new for 2015/16 and we hope to engage Bishop Bell in East Sussex - £8K
- NCP 5 – Primary Maths Mastery - This will be new for 2015/16. We engaged Westdene TSA to lead this. £12K
- Transition projects – Key Stage 2 to 3 and 3 to 4 - £15k

Professional Learning – Led by Jo Stedman

- NCP1a – Shanghai Primary – Newick – Continuing leadership of this workgroup into year 2 – £10K
- NCP1b – Shanghai Secondary – This will be new for 2015/16 led by Chailey School in East Sussex - £10K
- Leading Maths: Leadership support and development – This involves the consolidation of two workgroups from last year into one and will be led by Millais TSA - £15K
- Training to Teach Maths: SKE and ITT – This involves the consolidation of two workgroups from last year into one and will be led by St Paul's/Inspire TSA. - £15K

As a school we led a Women in Mathematics Conference for Year 10 girls around the hub region. Letty Gallagher, organised an extremely successful and oversubscribed WIM conference hosted by Bexhill College. On 25th February, Letty managed to arrange for 75 Year 10 girls from Blatchington Mill, Priory School, Towers School, St Richard's Catholic College and Peacehaven Community School to attend the WIM conference at Sussex Coast College, who also kindly provided a tour of the college. This special day celebrated women's contribution to mathematics and is run in partnership with the Sussex Maths Hub and the Further Mathematics Support Programme. As well as two interactive talks by leading female mathematicians, there was an opportunity to find out more about mathematics at A-Level.

Our keynote speaker was Dr Hannah Fry, a lecturer in Mathematics at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at UCL. She works alongside a unique mix of physicists, mathematicians, computer scientists, architects and geographers to study the patterns in human behaviour - particularly in an urban setting. Her research applies to a wide range of social problems and questions, from shopping and transport to urban crime, riots and terrorism. Alongside her academic position, Hannah spends many of her days giving conference keynotes and taking the joy of maths into theatres, pubs and schools. She also regularly appears on TV and radio in the UK, most recently on BBC2's Six Degrees and in her own documentary charting the life of Lady Ada Lovelace.

Workshops from Cryptography to Graph Theory were also led by FSMP, Letty Gallagher (St Richard's Catholic College, Numeracy Coordinator and Outreach and organiser of the event) and Laurence O'Toole (Royal Holloway University of London).

Due to illness this year, Jon Beaumont will relinquish his role as Sussex Maths Hub Co-Lead and the role will be picked up by Michelle Gaines (Assistant Principal).

**Mr Beaumont - Sussex Maths Hub**

## **COMMUNITY LINKS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

During the past academic year, our pupils have once again demonstrated their care and consideration towards their fellow man. Both pupils and staff respond enthusiastically to the needs of the community, whether it be on a local, national or international level.

### **Whole School Projects**

#### ***Mufti Day - October 2015***

Each year the School Council receives requests from a number of organisations and past pupils to help them in their fundraising. Decisions are made at each Council meeting. A regular request of the School Council is to have a Mufti Day. This helped us raise £1525.44 which was donated to the following projects:

- £1000 CAFOD
- £100 Laksh Foundation

#### ***Syria Appeal***

All the pupils were touched by the plight of the children of Syria with a range of fundraising activities occurring. A total of £1288.34 was donated.

#### ***Love in a Box 2015***

The Interact club helped promote and organise the Love in a Box campaign which involved a commitment from every form in the school, collecting a record breaking 422 boxes of gifts for children of various ages in Eastern Europe and raising £1366 for the Mustard Seed charity.

#### ***Interact Club Members help with Rotary Tea Party***

In November, Interact Club members attended the Rotary Tea Party for the elderly at St Augustine's Church Hall, Cooden. The pupils helped to welcome the guests and serve them with refreshments. They then helped with the clearing up afterwards and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. As one Rotary Club member commented afterwards, "**Grateful thanks for all that you did yesterday at our Senior Citizens Party. I must say that your students are a credit to you, your college and the community.**"

#### ***Remembrance Appeal - November 2015***

Loose change collections over a seven day period netted £402.01 for the British Legion and a further donation of £100 was made.

#### ***Surviving Christmas - December 2015***

For many, many years St Richard's has raised money and organised food hampers in support of 'Surviving Christmas'. This year, the pupils once again exceeded their usual generosity by providing a record number of hampers filled with Christmas fayre and a staggering amount of boxes filled with gloves, coats, scarves, socks, toys and games. £1,652.36 was also donated to help needy families. The organisers were absolutely delighted with the college's contributions calling our pupils 'champion fundraisers' once again.

#### ***Interact Club – End Polio Now Campaign***

Interact Club members held a sticker design competition in February 2016 to raise awareness and interest in the End Polio Now campaign, choosing the best three designs for the stickers to be sold as part of the fundraising initiative. In March, a week of selling cakes at lunchtime proved very successful, and a total of £178 was raised which will be increased to £534 with Bill Gates' tripling promise.

#### ***Fairtrade***

During Fairtrade Fortnight in February and March 2016, liturgy reps took charge of the Fairtrade stall in the hall for a number of lunchtimes in the fortnight and successfully sold almost all of the Fairtrade produce we had purchased. We have made contact with the Fairtrade cotton company regarding them supplying the school Polo Shirt, this summer.

#### ***CAFOD Campaign***

Throughout Lent pupils in their form groups undertook a myriad of fundraising activities to raise money for CAFOD's 'water' campaign. The campaign culminated with a sponsored walk after school on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, involving over one hundred pupils and ten staff. The route took us from school, along the seafront to end up at St Mary Magdalene's church hall. The pupils also collected items of food for the Bexhill Foodbank and carried these on the sponsored walk to deliver to Foodbank staff at St Mary Magdalene. The experience gave them a small insight into what it might be like to have to travel long distances, carrying heavy items, for those suffering poverty overseas in their search for food and clean water. They collected 438.3kg of food for the Foodbank which will help a large number of people. The total raised from this campaign was £3081.92 which has been donated to CAFOD causes.

### **SOS Children**

Mr Gallivan and his form lead the fundraising for this worthwhile charity. Two Year 8 pupils organised their own cycle ride of 50 miles to raise £475 and another two Year 8 pupils carried out a sponsored walk raising £225. £700 has been donated so far this year.

### **St Michael's Hospice**

Support of St Michael's Hospice is planned for term 6 with former Subject Leader of MFL, Mr Heseltine, planning to cycle 100 miles for the charity. Pupils at school will sponsor him.

Just over £15,000 has been donated to worthy causes so far this year.

### **Miss Cronin**

## **Other Charitable Works organised by Year Groups**

### **Year 7**

Year 7 have continued the tradition of previous years by contributing to the life of St Richard's and making an impact in the wider world. This year they have raised awareness and monies for the following good causes:

7F- Beaumont's Bon Bon Bonanza (sweet raffle).

7L- Raised money for Cancer Research and will take a lead in our 'Race for Life' (Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July).

7O- Raised money for Guide Dogs for the Blind by organising a Christmas party and doughnut sale.

7U- Will take a lead role in the 'Race for Life' & Year Seven BBQ (Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July).

7R- Sponsored Silence and Easter Egg hunt for Save the Children.

7I- Organised a film night.

7S- Sold Guide Dog badges and made Christmas wreaths.

7H- Sold Christmas cakes and will take a lead in the 'Race for Life' (Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July).

In particular 7R raised over £370 for their charity and 7S have raised in excess of £400.

As a year group we have also raised money via film nights and discos. The main event for Year 7 this year will be a BBQ and 'Race for Life' event in July. The theme of supporting cancer is close to many of my year group as several pupils have family members who are fighting cancer, lost parents to cancer or are survivors of cancer themselves. The total raised so far this year by Year 7 is £2718.06.

### **Mr Bligh – Year 7 Pastoral Leader**

### **Year 8**

The Whole Year Group:

- Year 8 Water Walk for Uganda, CAFOD raised £292.12.
- Year 8 Movie Night raised £46.00.
- Year 7 & 8 Disco (PTFA) raised £600.

The forms have completed charitable activities and a massive thank you must be made to the tutors and organisers.

- 8F ran a 26.2 mile Marathon in aid of CAFOD and another charity tbc. This is ongoing and they are hoping to raise over £300 and will complete this in term 6.
- 8L raised £26.00 worth of donations for the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary.
- 8O have currently raised over £472.00 during Lenten Individual Challenges for St Michael's Hospice. This is still ongoing and will be completed in term 6.
- 8U raised £73.20 by organising a doughnut sale in aid of Alzheimer's Research
- 8R raised £25.00 with a cake sale in aid of Motor Neurone Disease, They are conducting another charity event in term 6. Pupils in 8R and 8S have completed a bike ride and raised £475 for SOS Children, Cambodia. The bike ride is being repeated in July and over £80 has been raised so far.
- 8I raised £44.07 by organising a chocolate raffle in aid of Cancer Research. They also have a planned Basketball tournament for term 6.
- 8S raised £108 with an Easter Egg Raffle in aid of Sarcoma UK. Miss Henry also raised £552 for Sarcoma UK by running the Hastings Half Marathon.
- 8H raised £225 by 2 pupils doing a sponsored walk in aid of SOS Children, Cambodia. They are planning to conduct a cake sale in term 6.

### **Mr Carradine – Year 8 Pastoral Leader**

### **Year 9**

As a year group we had the very successful crazy tie day. This raised £185 and was supported by over 90% of pupils. We have one further year wide event planned for term 6. In addition forms held the following charity events:

- 9F raised over £70 with a cake sale to raise money for VICTA (a visual impairment charity)
- 9L raised money with 9eLf Post – a Christmas card and candy cane postal service. They also have an ongoing 'Ram of Repent' and aim to do a bake sale to raise money for Alzheimer's.
- 9O raffled a DVD and raised over £20.
- 9U have raised £30 through 2 charity events.
- 9R continue to raise money for SOS Children and have so far raised over £300.
- 9I support 2 families through Lend with Care.
- 9S completed a cake sale for Macmillan Nurses. Pupils divided up the roles from the selling/advertising to the making and buying of cakes. They raised £65.
- 9H carried out a name the teddy competition raising over £40.

### ***Mr Doherty – Year 9 Pastoral Leader***

### **Year 10**

The Year group have been very generous and supportive of our charity/community events this year.

10L - raised £28.40 by organising an Easter egg raffle.

10O - Megan Isaacs led a cake sale which raised £45.77 for Macmillian Cancer Support.

10U - Ethan McDonald organised the annual Hastings v Eastbourne charity football match.

10I - Lucy Jackson and Roshana Iruthayaraj organised cake sales.

10S – organised a sweet sale and guess the number of sweets in the jar which raised £47.73 for Cancer Research. Amy and Megan Tattersall organised a coffee and hot chocolate event.

Year 10 were also involved in the following year group events/charities sponsored; Christmas Carol Singing, Glyne Gap Christmas Party, CAFOD sponsored walk, End Polio Now Campaign, Fairtrade, Love in a Box and the Snowflake sleep out, which raised over £1000, with half being donated to Snowflake and the other half to CAFOD. The Christmas social was an Open mic night which raised £150.

### ***Miss Easton – Year 10 Pastoral Leader***

### **Year 11**

Year 11 have been fully involved in whole school charity events and were particularly generous in the 'Love in a Box' campaign at Christmas. As a year group they ran another successful Valentine's charity event for the British Heart Foundation – distributing roses, chocolates and singing love songs. A lovely good natured event with a clear message of helping others. In addition forms held the following events:

- 11F organised a cake sale for CAFOD.
- 11O raised £550 by taking part in a 5k run for Save the Children, Syria.
- 11U raised money for CAFOD by holding cake sales and a raffle of soft toys.
- 11R have raised £500 in total by organising a doughnut sale, birthday table and cakes and a fudge sale for haemophilia.
- 11I raised £60 for the Chicken Trust by guessing the name from baby photos of Year 11 pupils. They also collected coins in CAFOD boxes, raising £100.
- 11H held a chocolate raffle for CAFOD.

### ***Mr Campbell***

## **LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

As well as participating in Community Links Projects, our pupils have many opportunities during the school year to try something 'new' or extend their talents in some way. Daily, there is a wide choice of extra-curricular clubs ranging from sporting activities, drama, art, chess, computing, orchestra, choir, Young Investigators, Creative Writing Club to extra study support classes in all subjects. We have a Liturgy Council, an Interact Club, a Sports Council and a School Council which meets monthly.

Outlined is just a sample of the activities that have taken place since the 2015 Report.

### **Art Department**

The GCSE results for Fine Art were reasonable in 2015. The A\* to C pass rate was 80.95% in Fine Art and 92.3% in Art and Design.

The 2015 cohort's exhibition displayed in the Art rooms, stairs and the lobby, also filling large areas of the lower floor of B Block was particularly noteworthy this year. The department continues to be active in both local and national competitions and arts activities. Pupils again entered the International Peace Poster competition run by the "Lions" and Brooke Murphy (Year 8) was awarded first place in the South East of England. Miss Sara Howard has continued her Year 7 and 8 Art Club after school club.

### ***Mr Halligan, Subject Leader - Art***

#### **Art & Design**

All the Key Stage 3 pupils have now swapped subjects, meaning that those who studied Ceramics (Art and Design) in the first three terms are now experiencing Drawing and Painting (Fine Art) and vice versa. The Year 7 face and figure drawing is going really well and the ceramic nightlight project is now on display in the entrance hall. The new groups have settled quickly and all are designing with enthusiasm. Year 8 Fine Art are working on Still Life focusing on proportion and colour theory, looking at the work of Wayne Thiebaud and using oil pastels. Year 8 ceramics groups are all focused on designing their novelty teapots. Year 9 Fine Art groups are working on the Conflict competition and will start painting next week and Year 9 Ceramics groups are all in their third week of designing a sculpture inspired by personal symbols and Native American Indian Totem Poles. Both the Year 10 Fine Art and Art and Design GCSE groups are working towards their Mock exam with lots of interesting work being produced. Mr Halligan and I are looking forward to some very inspiring and exciting main pieces produced over the duration of the Year 11 exam. Good luck to all our Year 11s taking the exam.

After last year's success with the Bronze Arts Award our pupils are looking forward to the next challenge: The Silver Award. They will form a Production Team along with myself and Mrs Dunster and will be responsible for the design and creation of the stage set, along with flyers, posters for the summer production, 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.' There is still the opportunity to take The Bronze Award as well.

Both our Year 10 and 11 GCSE pupils have recently benefited from a visit by an artist in residence. Keith Pettit is a designer, sign maker and wood engraver from Lewes in East Sussex and his story spans some forty three years to date; full of trial and error and a brain full of creative ideas. Keith lives and works in his native Sussex. Driven by his lifelong urge to create, his artistic output takes many forms. An incredibly accomplished wood engraver, achieving increasing critical and commercial success. His sculptures are equally varied; from the towering bonfires to more permanent public sculpture. Letter and lettering are a common thread throughout his career. Our pupils will benefit from Keith's artistic experience over a period of time.

### ***Mr Peachment***

#### **Chess Club**

Chess Club takes place after school every Wednesday from 3:15-4:15 in A6. It has been quite popular this year with every year group represented on a regular basis. Pupils have been participating in in-house competitions.

### ***Ms Vanvuchelen***

#### **Classics**

**Learning** – GCSE Classical Civilisation has commenced this year and the pupils are making excellent progress, engaging well with the subject and currently on track to achieve good grades in June 2017. The lack of prior knowledge has not inhibited their progress, particularly as many undertook the advised pre-reading over the summer. The class have already completed two of the four units of their study (Ancient

Athens and The Odyssey) and have just begun the background learning to their controlled assessment unit on Antigone. Classical Civilisation units that were successfully embedded into the Key Stage 3 humanities curriculum last year have been streamlined to work within History units following the split of History and Geography into discrete subjects. Collaboration with English took place in June 2015 and a scheme of work for their Text and Language though time provided. Some collaborative teaching with Miss Wood in English has taken place and Classics support provided to the department in terms of content on an ad hoc basis, when required by staff. This has allowed for more explicit teaching of Classical Civilisation across subjects to enable pupils to fully comprehend the nature of the topic and provide more practical experience before choosing their GCSE options. Further cross-curricular opportunities with Drama and RE departments will be explored.

**Trips** – A selection of 20 Year 9 pupils and 3 Year 10 pupils (as helpers) took a trip to the British Museum in London in October where they explored the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Uptake was slightly less than the previous year, but pupils completed an activity booklet diligently. The booklet is formed around some of the key GCSE topics, which gave them the opportunity to more fully explore the broadness of the subject. This will be edited for future trips in line with changes to the specification in 2017. It is envisaged that this trip will be repeated with the current Year 8 next academic year. Following the launch of Classical Civilisation GCSE, a joint trip to Italy and Pompeii with Science is also being considered for Easter 2017 with Dr Durkin.

**Extra-Curricular Classics Club** – Classics Club has continued to be a regular feature, running every Wednesday lunch time this year with a pleasing number of regular Year 9 attenders. As a result of the group dynamic we have spent more time discovering the Greek myths and applying previous knowledge by writing our own myth stories, taking into consideration some of the moral messages and usage of myths in the Ancient World. After completing the Colosseum project, we have re-visited the Roman period, specifically focussing on Pompeii. The recent episodes by Mary Beard have been very informative. As many of the group are now in Year 9 and hope to go on to study Classical Civilisation at GCSE next year, they are currently developing their research skills and using evidence from Pompeii to create a project about an aspect of Roman life that interests them. Uptake from the lower years has slowed and there are currently no Year 7 regular attendees. Ways to engage the lower years will be developed if uptake is limited next September, perhaps developing a competition to get them involved.

### **Latin**

**Extra-Curricular Latin Twilight** – This club has continued from last year and numbers have now stabilised. The regular attenders are now focussing on developing their skills and will be entered for a WJEC level 2 certificate in June 2017, which is the equivalent of a GCSE. Study of the Cambridge Latin Course text has slowed whilst fundamental vocabulary and grammar is developed. Vocabulary is promising with regular tests showing generally good results; the use of the online vocabulary testers I created last year being a huge success. The pupils have tested their understanding by completing a past paper at home and are starting to understand the requirements of the specification. A great deal of work will be required to develop this knowledge on from basic grammar, but the pupils are showing good progress in now applying more of their understanding of the structure of the language to their translations. A test on the Roman Sources Context paper is planned for the near future. Work on the Cambridge Latin Course two is planned for the summer term and activities will be created for the summer holiday to ensure that pupils make the most of this opportunity to enable them to confidently sit the exam.

### ***Miss Soan***

### **Creative Writing Club – ‘Write Here, Write Now’**

Creative Writing Club is in its eighth year and runs every Thursday lunchtime in A8. This is publicised by form and English teachers at the beginning of the academic year. The sessions are run in an informal style and the group consists of ten pupils across Key Stage Three, including two more-able pupils, one SEN pupil, two pupil premium pupils, three EAL pupils and two boys.

Each week the pupils are introduced to a different writing focus (for example, conflict poetry, autobiography, narrative style) and the pupils will work on ideas related to that genre or theme. Pupils then receive group and one-to-one feedback to improve their writing skills. Pupils also share work that they have been working on in their own time.

Each month we also work on an entry for a different national writing competition. This year has included Young Writers, BBC 500 Words competition, Battle Rotary Young Writers and International Women's Day poetry competition as well as many more. One of our members won the first round of the Rotary competition and was chosen to read their work to Battle Rotary members in March.

As a group, we are now working on collating the pupils' work to produce an anthology by the end of the school year entitled *History, Mystery and Fairytales*. To support this, we have set up a creative writing noticeboard in A block to display pupils' work and as a way of advertising the Club.

The Creative Writing Club were fortunate enough to have a workshop led by published author Jenny McLaughlin. They found this session inspiring in particular because many wish to have a career as a professional writer.

Overall this year, Creative Writing Club has been highly successful as the members have been consistently attending and the Year 9 established members have been able to guide the younger members with their writing.

**Mrs Wood**

### **Dance**

This academic year has been the most successful to date for the Dance Company, with over 50 members joining and participating. A boys' Dance Company has also been formed with over 20 boys attending regularly on a weekly basis. The Dance Company holds rehearsals 4 times a week after school and also many pupils attend the Imperial Society for Teachers of Dance (ISTD) exam classes.

I would like to introduce you to the new Boys' Dance Company which meets every Friday 3.15-4.15pm. We have had a fantastic response with 20 pupils attending weekly. I have been really impressed by the work they have produced so far. This runs alongside the well-established Dance Company with pupils attending from all years. Auditions were held in September with the largest number attending that we have ever had. The Dance Companies now have over 70 members between them.

### **Performing Arts Summer Productions**

**Back to the 80s:** The school's creative departments came together at the end of the academic year to produce a very successful performance of 'Back to the 80s;' over 100 pupils were involved. The pupils performed on 3 nights to full audiences and the show was extremely well received. The work between Music, Drama and Dance has gone from strength to strength.

**Thoroughly Modern Millie:** This year's show is Thoroughly Modern Millie, with rehearsals well under way. Rehearsals are being held across drama, dance and music every night. This year we have opted for a small cast of 30 pupils plus both the Dance Company (who will for the first time in a show get the chance to tap) and for the first year ever, the Boys' Dance Company will perform. We are also proud to be initiating a pupil-led production team. The show will be performed in the penultimate week of term 6 and the pupils and staff are looking forward to it immensely.

### **Liturgy**

Music, Drama and Dance have regularly worked collaboratively in preparing items for Liturgies throughout the year. We have also worked closely with the Lay Chaplain and Liturgy Reps to develop meaningful and powerful liturgies.

**End of Year and St Richard's Day Mass:** The End of Year Mass and St Richard's Day Mass provided the Dance Company with an opportunity to dance two pieces of liturgical choreography on each occasion. The End of Year Mass also gave the Performing arts team the chance to perform a medley of numbers from the show after the Mass had concluded.

**A and B Jubilee:** At the end of last year, the Dance Company and the school choir performed at the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Jubilee celebrations at the Amex Stadium, Falmer. They performed twice: firstly a 15 minute medley with the choir, and then at the gathering of Mass they performed 'One Step, Two Step' written by Ann War. The pupils were extremely proud to be part of the celebrations.

**Grandparents' Mass:** In term 2, the Dance Company took part in the Grandparents' Mass, performing to the Psalm 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. The pupils enjoy taking part in this Mass every year.

**Induction Mass:** Year 7 dancers took part in their Induction Mass during term 1, dancing two pieces. For many this was the first time they had performed in front of an audience and they coped extremely well.

**Parish Mass:** On Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 4 dancers attended the Parish Mass at Christ the King in Eastbourne, dancing to the Psalm 'Sing a new song'. The second Parish Mass of the year at St Mary Magdalene's in Bexhill saw the Dance Company beautifully dancing to the Psalm 'The Lord is my shepherd.'

**Year 9 Mass:** 14 pupils from Year 9 participated in the year Mass dancing a piece to the Psalm 'The Lord is my shepherd'.

**Advent Service:** The Advent Service saw us introducing a lyrical hip hop piece which involved 2 boys dancing to 'Mary did you know'. The elite team performed a new piece of choreography to 'Be Born in me' and the whole Dance Company danced to 'Mary's Boy Child'.

**Easter Service:** The Dance Company participated in the Easter service on the last day of term four. The Year 7s danced to 'Look at all my trials and tribulations' (a piece from Jesus Christ Superstar), based on the last 7 words of Christ. For many of the pupils this was the first time they had presented on stage. 'Crucified' and 'We are the reason' were both powerful and moving pieces danced by the senior team, who provided a wonderful visual of the crucifixion scene and really set the atmosphere for the service.

**Future Events:** For term six will again see collaboration between the dance and music departments including: St Richard's Day Mass, Year 9 Service, Year 8 Service, Holy Day St Peter and St Paul, Year 7 Mass, Year 6 Retreat, Block Day retreat and End of Year Mass.

### **Performances**

**Great Big Dance Off:** At the end of last year, the Dance Company attended the Grand Finals of 'The Great British Dance Off' in Birmingham, performing a piece 'Stay with me'. 16 members attended made up predominantly of Year 7 and 8 pupils and one Year 11 pupil who returned for her last performance with us. The Dance Company performed extremely well, finishing in the top twenty. All should be extremely proud of their efforts, particularly as they were the youngest group competing against GCSE and BTEC students.

This year we once again won through to the regional finals of The Great Big Dance Off. The Great Big Dance Off is a national competition that is open to all schools in England and Wales. The Dance Company were competing in the Southern Regional Heats at the Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall. The Key Stage 3 pupils performed 'We will never forget what happened. We will never stop mourning those lost. But this year, and hopefully for many more years, we will also dance'. Key Stage 4 Dancers performed 'Fight for Freedom'. This is based on the idea that we are all fighting for some form of freedom. It was yet another fantastic opportunity for the pupils to dance in a professional theatre, working with a professional sound and lighting crew and competing against 24 other senior schools.

**Summer Fayre:** At the end of last year, we once again supported the school summer fayre; this was an excellent opportunity to showcase some of the work we do throughout the year. We were also lucky enough for the PTFA to generously purchase new liturgical dresses which will enhance the liturgy greatly.

**Eastbourne Proms:** In November, the music and dance departments headed to the Winter Gardens for the annual Eastbourne Proms performance. We danced two pieces to 'The Prayer' and 'Stop', accompanied by the Choir and Orchestra. The collaborative work between music and dance resulted in a spectacular performance.

**Time to Dance:** The annual Time to Dance Festival was held at White Rock Theatre Hastings. This year's theme was 'I wish'. The Dance Company presented 2 pieces this year. The Key Stage 3 pupils performed 'We will never forget what happened. We will never stop mourning those lost. But this year, and hopefully for many more years, we will also dance.' and Key Stage 4 Dancers performed 'Fight for Freedom'.

**Holocaust Memorial Day:** The Performing Arts team were invited to perform at the Holocaust Memorial Day Service at St Mary in the Castle, Hastings. The Dance Company accompanied by the choir who performed 'Eli, Eli'. The performance was based on the true story of Hannah Senesh who was trained by the British army to parachute into Yugoslavia during the Second World. Hannah was arrested, imprisoned and tortured, but she refused to reveal details of her mission and was eventually tried, and executed by firing squad. While in prison Hannah wrote the poem 'Eli, Eli'.

### **Workshops**

**Trinity Laban:** The Dance Company welcomed Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Dance training who held a workshop. This is a scheme which offers young people with exceptional talent and potential in dance the opportunity to take part in a training session which can lead to selection to attend Laban's open day and an audition. It is a national programme funded by the Department of Education. Twenty-six pupils, members of St Richard's Dance Company, took part in the workshop and they have now been invited to attend a further open day and audition for Laban's Saturday school. One pupil is now regularly attending Trinity Laban's programme on a Thursday evening.

**Rambert Workshop:** The Dance Company were delighted to welcome Rambert Dance Company who held a workshop during term 4. Twenty-six pupils, members of St Richard's Dance Company, took part in the workshop. Rambert is the oldest dance company in the UK, first performing in 1926, and are world renowned for their contemporary dance. The workshop covered contemporary technique warm up and learning of the Rambert repertoire '3 dancers'. The pupils were able to carry out creative tasks to generate

their own piece of choreography and their own movement based on the repertoire, giving them the chance to explore their own creativity.

**Bexhill College Workshop:** In April, 10 pupils attended Bexhill College for a workshop with LAX Dance. They had fun with the workshop project which was based on the current craze of pop artists using contemporary dance in their videos. The creative workshop looked at the pupils learning a set piece of choreography before developing their own ideas resulting in a creation of their own dance video at the end of the session! This was a lovely morning spent at the college and the Dance Company also got the opportunity to work with the A level dance students, two of whom were former pupils and members of the Dance Company.

**Boys' Dance Company workshop:** 'Banksy: over under around through' was a theme of a workshop attended by the newly formed Boys' Dance Company. The boys were lucky to have professional dancer, AJ, visit the school and hold an inspiring workshop. 22 boys attend the 2 hour session looking at contact work, speed and agility.

### **Trips**

**Wicked:** In February, Year 11 Performing Arts pupils, accompanied by Mrs Knight and Miss Crawley, travelled to London to watch the West End production of 'Wicked' at the Apollo Theatre. It was a fantastic chance for pupils to experience a West End production, some for the first time.

**Move IT:** In March, both the boys and the girls' Dance Company attended 'Move It' at London Excel. 'Move it' is everything dance under one roof, offering the pupils a chance to take part in workshops throughout the day, watch professional performances as well as shopping and meeting students from professional dance colleges. Highlights this year for the pupils included the chance to meet Flawless, Twist and Pulse and Abbey Lee Miller from the hit TV show Dance Moms. Several of the boys took part in a dance off, pitting themselves against other dancers, including those from professional dance colleges. They made it to the semi-finals during the day!

### **Southern Youth Ballet Auditions**

Several members of the Dance Company took part in the auditions held in Eastbourne for the Southern Youth Ballet's production of 'Nutcracker'. They were also able to participate in a masterclass with Mary Goodhew. Several of the dancers were successful and performed with the company in December at The Congress Theatre. Pupils have again been invited to take part in the auditions and a masterclass this year for their production of 'Tales of Beatrix Potter'; the auditions will take place in June.

### **ISTD**

Some pupils are now enrolled on the Imperial Society for Teachers of Dance graded syllabus learning grade 3 and 5 modern, and standard 4 ballet. This allows them to develop their technique and allows them to have all their results recorded which is recognised on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). This will benefit them as they move forward to college and university.

### **Mrs Knight**

### **DofE Activities**

**Sept – Oct** - St Richard's renewed its DofE centre registration. Mr Harwood successfully completed his assessment to become a DofE expedition assessor. We also registered our new Year 10 participants for the Bronze DofE and assembled a new group of 42 pupils. The ten pupils doing the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness were also enrolled on the Award and began working on their sections.

**Oct – Dec** - The group met with Catherine Corfield the DofE area manager and began the process of choosing activities for each of the sections (skills, volunteering, physical and expedition). They set up their eDofE online account and learnt how to record evidence of their progress in each of the 4 sections. We ran sessions to introduce them to the basics of navigation in preparation for their assessed expedition. In November they completed their first practice walk on the South Downs near Firle. We welcomed Michelle Gaines onto the DofE staff team, a very strong addition as Michelle is a qualified expedition leader and comes with experience of DofE.

**Jan – May** - Our Year 11 participants received their Bronze Awards at the DofE Rother District Awards evening which was hosted here at St Richard's. The event was very well attended by DofE centres from around the area and received much positive feedback for the smooth running of the event and the excellent spread of food provided afterwards. Our own pupils were, once again, the single biggest cohort receiving Awards. The Year 10 group completed their second practice walk on the South Downs and also spent a Saturday at school focusing on route planning, erecting tents, using stoves safely and first aid. The first aid session was run by a company called Adventure Life Signs. The rest of the day was run by members of the DofE team notably: Michelle, Floss, Geraldine, Dr Durkin and myself. The Year 10

practice expedition weekend was successfully completed near Sedlescombe. Due to changes in the age at which participants are able to begin the Bronze Award 42 Year 9 pupils have been enrolled and have started working on their various sections.

**June onwards** - The group will be continuing to prepare for their final expedition which will take place over a weekend at the end of June. During this weekend external assessors will assess the teams on the skills they have been learning during the training. If successful they will be eligible to pass the expedition section of their Award once they have completed a presentation about their expedition. We hope that all the pupils taking part will be in a position to receive their Bronze Award at next year's area Awards ceremony.

It has been another fun and rewarding year for all of us involved with the DofE group and I particularly want to thank all the staff (Mrs Nicholls, Mr Padgham, Dr Durkin, Miss Machin and Mrs Gaines) who have contributed their time and energy to making it happen. We look forward to welcoming Mr Howe onto the team next year, another qualified expedition leader.

**Mr Harwood**

### **Drama Department**

**Arts Award** - There are currently 35 pupils signed up to complete the Arts Award which is a nationally recognised qualification accredited by The Arts Council England. Six pupils were awarded their bronze last year through the guidance of Adrian Peachment, and two of those pupils are now under-taking their silver. We expect to be able to have approximately 20 pupils moderated by the end of this school year. Other pupils have chosen to complete the award over 2 years. We aim to recruit similar numbers next year, and to take the pupils who achieve bronze into their silver award also.

**Drama Clubs** - Year 7 drama club currently takes place on Wednesday lunchtime and is consistently attended by 20-30 pupils. The impact on their progress in curriculum drama is noticeable and many pupils have commented that they have found it a good way to make friends. Year 8 and 9 drama club has been running on a Thursday after school all year, but due to school show rehearsals has now moved to Friday lunchtimes. It is consistently attended by 10-20 pupils, most of whom are boys. They have been working on the devising and recording of their own films in a variety of genres. I will organise a performance evening for them all in the next academic year.

**Shakespeare Schools Festival** - We are officially signed up to take part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival which this year is being hosted at The White Rock in Hastings (for the first time). This national festival gives young people the opportunity to perform abridged Shakespeare plays in commercial performance conditions and to also take part in a workshop facilitated by professional actors from the National Youth Theatre. The performance takes place at the beginning of November and rehearsals will begin as soon as our script has been confirmed. I will be including the committed attendees of the Key Stage three drama clubs in this project.

**Stage-Ed Workshop** - In February the Year 11 drama cohort and a selection of Year 11 English pupils benefitted from an afternoon workshop with a professional actor from Stage-Ed; a theatre in education company working in schools across the UK. The drama pupils took part in a performance workshop which greatly improved their skills and the impact was evident in their final GCSE pieces which were moderated in March. The English pupils (supported by Kate Standen) were led in a workshop based around their GCSE set text 'An Inspector Calls.' This practical exploration of the text helped to develop their understanding of the themes and characters in the play, which has led to a deeper understanding of their GCSE coursework text.

**Thoroughly Modern Millie Junior** - Rehearsals are underway for the summer show 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.' The cast consists of 30 pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the production team consists of a further 10 pupils (so far). The pupils rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday after school until 5pm, and also take part in singing rehearsals with Beccy Byrne on Thursday lunchtime. They will also take part in dance rehearsals with Rebecca Knight on a Wednesday, and both the boys and girls dance club will also be involved. The show will be performed over three nights in the school hall to a paying audience in the penultimate week of the school year.

**British Values Project** - In December and January, a group of six Year 10 drama pupils had the opportunity to be part of a project on British Values in conjunction with the Safer East Sussex team and the local police. They acted in a film which was written and directed by a professional film-maker and spent three Saturdays on location - the product of which will be used as a PSHEE resource in schools across the area and potentially the country. They are also involved in the launch of the initiative and have attended two PSHEE area conferences in Eastbourne.

**Liturgy** - A range of pupils have taken part in the dramatisation of various biblical stories as part of the school liturgy, including the Advent, Easter and Ash Wednesday services. There was also a drama contribution in the parish Mass at St Mary Magdalene. Plans are currently being made for future services with close liaison with Jo Doyle.

**Holocaust Memorial Service** - In November a group of ten Key Stage three and four pupils took part in the Holocaust Memorial service held at St Mary in the Castle in Hastings. They performed as part of a performing arts tribute to the victims of the holocaust, within an ensemble of singers, readers and musicians.

**Artsmark Accreditation** - Through liaison with Joanne Calladine-Evans, St Richard's has begun its application to gain accreditation from the Arts Council England for all the extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our pupils. The statement of commitment is about to be submitted, and if this is accepted we will begin the compilation of a case study to evidence the strength of the arts provision at St Richard's. We aim to work towards platinum status based on the work already evident across the school.

**Year 11 Intervention and Revision** - The current Year 11 cohort are deep into revision for their exam on 24<sup>th</sup> May, and through the use of data, targeted intervention, revision sessions every Wednesday after school and analysis of past papers and mark schemes, their written response to GCSE drama is improving greatly. I have also visited Ratton School in Eastbourne and Blatchington Mill School in Brighton to undergo moderation of written work with high-achieving drama departments studying the same exam specification. Resources have been exchanged, and contacts have been firmly made to ensure the teaching of the AQA GCSE specification is of the highest possible standard.

**Theatre Trips** - The Year 10 drama pupils have had the opportunity to watch top quality theatre when they went to London's West End to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' in February. 20 pupils attended and pupil voice evidenced that the experience was very beneficial to their understanding of modern theatre. Future theatre trips are currently being researched.

**'Idle Hour' Theatre Company Visit** - Two past pupils have made contact with the school and have offered to perform their adaptation of 'Wuthering Heights' called 'Isabella' which they plan to debut at The Hastings Fringe Festival this year. I have booked them to perform for the pupils in February 2017 as an enrichment opportunity for both English and drama pupils.

**School Hall Technical Upgrade** - After extensive research and several on-site visits from technical theatre professionals, a date has been confirmed for the school hall's lighting and sound systems to be upgraded. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Kave lighting technicians will be installing approximately 20 LED lights and a new lighting board, completing pat and load testing of the rig along with additional alterations to all speakers. The department is also benefitting from the new demountable staging units which have recently been acquired. The impact of the upgrade in facilities will be beneficial to the whole school, as the hall and staging units are in constant use by all.

**Mrs Dunster, Subject Leader - Drama**

### **English Department**

The English department organised a varied and entertaining range of trips for pupils this year. Year 7 pupils went to a talk by Michael Morpurgo in the autumn term. Year 11 pupils attended Poetry Live at the Brighton Dome. Trips to see live screenings of the National Theatre Productions of 'Of Mice and Men' and 'Jane Eyre' both took place. Year 11 pupils went to see a stage production of 'An Inspector Calls' and a workshop on the play was offered to Year 11 pupils in the spring term. Pupils also participated in the celebrations for Shakespeare 400 on London's Southbank.

**Mrs Standen**

### **Geography**

#### **Trips**

**Year 9/10** – 25 pupils were taken to the world famous Jurassic coastline in Dorset to explore the amazing geography of the area. The 3 day trip was organised to enhance the learning that had taken place in the coastal zone and tourism units covered in Term 6 of Year 9 and Term 1 of Year 10 and took place in June. Pupils saw and learnt about Europe's best example of a barrier beach, learnt how erosion affects the coast and embarked on a journey through time as the geology of the rocks told their very own unique story! These locations are vital case studies used for the exams in both the physical and human geography paper and enabled pupils to have a greater grasp and understanding for the controlled assessment. It has also encouraged a number of those in Year 10 to take this as an A level subject at college.

**Year 10** – all Year 10 geographers were taken to Birling Gap for the day to complete their fieldwork for the controlled assessment in June. All pupils were allowed to explore the beach environment using a range of fieldwork equipment as well as their own homemade experiments to measure longshore drift. Pupils walked to Belle Tout lighthouse to understand the geography of the area as well as the human land uses and the consequences of the erosion. Finally, the National Trust ranger gave all pupils a talk about the location and the role of the charity caring for the environment after they had visited the education centre.

### **Out of Class Experiences**

**Year 7** – the curriculum has been rewritten to give pupils greater opportunities to put their learning into action in the real world. All pupils were given the opportunity to practise their map work skills in the school grounds as well as create a map using grid references, symbols and scale to create a walk which they had to follow. Pupils have also had the opportunity to use fieldwork equipment to measure and understand the microclimate of the school. They enjoyed the opportunity to understand why temperature and local climate can vary so much over a small area.

**Year 8** – all pupils have visited Galley Hill and Bexhill beach in September to investigate the impact of coastal management on the local area. This was an opportunity to explore the local environment using a range of newly purchased fieldwork equipment. They became fully aware of the future concerns for the local area due to global warming and the standard of work produced was extremely pleasing.

**Year 9** - following the taking of their options in June 2015, Year 9 geography groups were taken to Galley Hill to explore the learning of the coastal unit. They were able to see evidence of coastal processes first hand as well as see coastal management and its impact locally.

### **Enrichment**

**Year 11 Block Day** - the department led sessions to support the completion of the controlled assessment as well as supervising groups in the completion of outstanding tasks.

**Year 11 Weekly Intervention** – Pupils in Year 11 have been targeted to attend weekly intervention sessions which have been run on Wednesdays after school. This has focussed on exam technique solely with the aim that pupils remain in the group for a short period of time only (max 2 terms). Since the start of term 3, the sessions have been targeted at preparation for the forthcoming GCSE and pupils have attended on a voluntary basis. Parents are kept fully informed. As required, SEN pupils are supported by the link TA who runs sessions after school when key issues arise or in preparation for exams.

**Year 11 Easter Revision Morning** - Pupils were invited to attend a 3 hour revision session during the Easter holidays on a voluntary basis. The session focussed on the content of the Physical Paper which is the first paper that the pupils will take ahead of the May half term. A similar session will be run for the human paper in the forthcoming half term break.

**Year 10 Weekly Intervention** - Pupils in Year 10 have been targeted to attend weekly intervention sessions which have been run on Wednesdays after school. This has focussed on exam technique solely with the aim that pupils remain in the group for a short period of time only (max 2 terms). Parents are kept fully informed.

**Geography Awareness Week** - During the last week of November, the department held a Geography Awareness Week. This is a national campaign run by the Geographical Association to promote a greater appreciation amongst young people of how we encounter geography in our every day lives. Activities varied from those with form tutors to quizzes run at lunchtime. It was great to see all year groups as well as staff participating and having fun with geography.

**Geography Club** – our Schools Direct trainee has launched a geography club on Thursday lunchtimes in the last term (Term 4). This looks at topical issues through to making models of geographical features. Uptake has been limited at present and we look to re-launch it after half term.

### **Forthcoming events in Term 6 2016**

**Year 8** – a second cohort of pupils will visit Bexhill Beach and Galley Hill to understand coastal issues.

**Year 9/10 residential to the Isle of Wight** – 30 pupils are staying at Little Canada PGL centre to complete geography and team building activities on the beautiful island in July.

**Year 10 field trip to Eastbourne and Birling Gap** – all GCSE geographers will complete their fieldwork data collection on a day trip in June so that they can successfully complete their controlled assessments. Speakers have been booked for the day from the National Trust and the Environment Agency.

**Visiting Speaker from Bexhill College** – a teacher of travel and tourism is coming to speak to GCSE pupils about Geography at college as well as helping them with their revision.

**Themed weeks** – there are 2 further themed weeks planned supporting the Oxfam Water week and the Geography Association's week in June and July.

**Mrs Hoyle, Subject Leader - Geography**

### **History**

**GCSE History Berlin Trip** - Miss Neilan led this year's four day residential trip to Berlin for Year 11 GCSE History pupils. It was a highly successful trip with all pupils developing a greater understanding of life in Germany during Nazi rule and the impact of the Cold War on the city of Berlin. Pupils visited many significant sights including: Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Olympic Stadium, the Reichstag, the Holocaust Memorial and a number of museums in the City. Thank you to Miss Neilan, Miss Soan and Mr Fegan who led the trip, it was highly valued and enjoyed by all.

**World War One Battlefields Trip** - At the start of the year two year ten pupils accompanied Mrs Campbell on a four day residential trip to the Battlefields of WW1. This trip, which was funded by the government, was designed to educate and inform pupils from across the country as part of Legacy 101. David Opalka and Florence Forde, who attended the trip, have been working on legacy events for the coming academic year and hope to hold a memorial event in 2016/17. With this they have worked with Mrs Campbell to develop lessons and displays, linking the theme of Remembrance and Legacy.

**Holocaust Memorial Day at Sussex University** - As part of Holocaust Memorial Day this year the school was involved in the live testimony transmission from Rudi Oppenheimer, a survivor of the Holocaust. Two pupils from every form and every year group were involved in this morning and heard the extraordinary story from Rudi, sharing this afterwards with their form groups. This was a national event that our pupils were very lucky to be a part of and was fascinating for all involved.

Alongside this, in February, a group of Year 10 pupils travelled to Sussex University to take part in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day lectures. The group heard stories from people who had been caught up in the horrors of the Holocaust and were moved by their accounts. Pupils shared their thoughts with the department and helped to influence our understanding of the Holocaust and its far reaching effects. We have already made links with Sussex regarding next year's events and plan to continue to attend this worthy afternoon of reflection and remembrance.

**History Club** - The History Club has been well attended by a number of keen Year 7 and 8 pupils this year who have given up their time to develop their passion for History. Led by trainee, Miss Beadle, the focus began with individual pupil interests in History with a number of fascinating presentations being created. Following this, pupils investigated the sixties and created lively presentations looking at aspects of interest to them. Miss Neilan will continue to lead the club into the next academic year and is looking to widen the attendance to include pupils from across Key Stage 3.

**Classics and Latin Clubs** - Miss Soan has continued to run weekly clubs for both Classics and Latin this year and has also successfully led GCSE Classics for a group of Year 10 pupils. This is significant progress for the department and an exciting opportunity for the school. In October, Miss Soan also led a trip to London to visit the British Museum to investigate Ancient pottery, a trip which has now become an annual event. The trip was enjoyed by all who attended and no doubt influenced the option choices of many of those who went. Alongside this, Miss Soan has developed new Classics units for teaching in English this year. This has really helped pupils to understand the requirements of the subject and appreciate its cross curricular nature, something that will also hopefully help influence Options choices.

**Holocaust Education Research Project** - In June 2015, Mrs Campbell completed the Holocaust Education Research Project which is a highly intensive course designed to develop teachers' delivery of the Holocaust. The course consists of two Sunday sessions in London and a mid-week day trip to Auschwitz. The trip has enabled the department to develop lessons and resources focussed on the Holocaust that are increasingly challenging and diverse. With this Mrs Campbell is planning to lead a trip to Auschwitz in the near future (following maternity leave) that will be open to all Year 11 pupils and family members. This is something that the department is particularly passionate about and we look forward to seeing this happen in the near future.

**Active Historian Award** - This year Miss Neilan has introduced the Active Historian Award which is a competition for enthusiastic Year 8 historians. It is an independent learning project that aims to enhance pupil passion for the subject and develop their academic skills in History. Recognition of achievement is acknowledged by a Gold, Silver or Bronze Active Historian Award. This year, 8 pupils have taken part and have been receiving ongoing support from a Year 10 historian, who has acted as their mentor and guide for the duration of the project. They have met weekly to share their research and discuss their work which has not only helped the Year 8 pupils to develop their skills, but has also encouraged our Year 10 pupils

to take a lead and further develop their historical skills. There are two components of the assessment: a written project and a formal presentation. Once completed a prize evening will take place where candidates will deliver their presentations and will receive their certificates of achievement with an audience of mentors, friends, teachers and family. This has been a great addition to the extra-curricular provision within our department and something that we hope to see continue and grow into the next academic year.

**History after St Richard's** - In term 4 Dominique Newport (former pupil) visited the school and gave enthusiastic talks to Year 9 History groups, discussing life after St Richard's with a specific focus on the study of History post-16. This was very well received by pupils who were enthused by her passion for the subject and optimistic look at life after St Richard's. This is something we would like to provide annually and we will continue to look to develop our Alumni links.

**Mrs R. Campbell, Subject Leader – History**

### **Library Activities**

Library activities, changes and innovations may be followed by reading the Library page of the school newsletter, issued each term.

The Library continues to run three **Book Awards** per year:

The **Southern Schools Book Award** runs between September and Christmas and is aimed at pupils in Year 9, although younger pupils may also join. Five books must be read, discussed at lunch time meetings, and reviews written prior to voting in December. There is a special Award evening attended by the authors, at Roedean in January. I took a small group of pupils, in conjunction with Mrs Stanley, Librarian at Bexhill Academy, and her pupils, encouraging our pupils to meet with and engage with pupils from another school over dinner on the way. All had the opportunity to meet the authors, ask questions, and have books signed, after witnessing a really entertaining presentation from each author. Thirty seven other schools also attend, giving a real sense of the wider reading community.

The **1066 Schools Book Award** runs from January until Easter, and five other local secondary schools were involved this year. Four books are chosen and pupils in the Lower School are invited to join in. Reviews and meetings are a must. Each year I design and produce bookmarks, posters, certificates and a booklet in which pupils can write their reviews, complete a quiz, enter competitions based around the books, and get involved. These resources are also used by the other schools involved in the Award. We were privileged to be the host school for the 1066 Book Awards Event again this year, with pupils, teachers and librarians from the participating schools all celebrating the books and reading together. (See May's Newsletter for a fuller report and photographs taken at the event).

The **CILIP Carnegie Book Award Shadowing** takes place over the summer term. We have again invested in both the long list of 20 books, and the final shortlist of 8. This award is open to all pupils. There are no reviews to write or meetings to attend, I just aim for them to read from the very best that new teen fiction has to offer. There is a concluding summer party in the library, invitations and music designed and decided by the pupils, catering by our school kitchen staff, with the winning book announced live from London via video link.

In all cases, pupils may decide to join the Awards themselves, or be encouraged to join by their English teacher or myself.

**Film Club:** St Richard's Catholic College Library continues its association with 'Into Film', the national film club for schools, colleges and youth organisations. Since September, I have shown a range of films focussing on different genres:

'Hidalgo' – a western with an Arabian horse race

'The Monuments Men'- WWII and Nazi art theft

'27 Dresses' – a fabulous romantic comedy

'After Earth' – a futuristic Sci-Fi starring Will and Jagen Smith

'Super 8' – 1970s teenagers making a film in small town America

May's film has yet to be decided at the time of writing. Our young film critics have submitted reviews to the national film club website and a Year 9 pupil has won awards for 'National Reviewer of the Week', receiving prizes for his work.

**Read for My School:** an on-line reading scheme between January and April, saw over 400 Year 7s and 8s enrolling to read on-line for free. This scheme appealed to many children because they could download books for free, read in school, at home, and on Ipads, whilst also logging any physical books they read onto the website. I wrote a brief evaluation after the conclusion of this year's scheme, which is being considered by the English Department, with the idea of next year's opportunity being more targeted for

those pupils who use this way of reading. The scheme also donates books to sub-Saharan African schools.

**Scholastic Books Teen Magazine:** continues to supply catalogues each term with an excellent range of well-priced books to order. I co-ordinate this with Years 7 and 8, enabling children and parents to purchase books cheaply, and receiving reward points to spend on books for the library. There are always extra catalogues available in the library for older pupils and staff to collect. This company has recently made it possible for parents to order through their on-line site, awarding reward points to the school, enabling us to claim free books for the Library.

**Book Lists:** These have now been compiled for a range of interests and curriculum needs: 25 best books, 15 book series for Hunger Games fans, Local Reading/ Local Writing (to support the reading passports), Summer Reading suggestions, and the continuing 'One World' multicultural list. I also display recommended reading lists from the National Booktrust, National Literacy trust, newspapers and others. Pupils should always be able to find some inspiration for reading. I have recently added 'Free On-Line Reading', enabling pupils to use a range of websites to access on-line content.

**Author Encounters** - Jenny McLachlan, author of 'Flirty Dancing', 'Love Bomb' and others, returned to present her book and the process of publication to year 8s in the hall. Steve Clifford author of 'Walking with the Hood' presented a thought provoking talk on the troubles faced by children in sub-Saharan Africa, engaging Year 7 and 8 pupils with emotive material to fuel their own writing, in a series of workshops around the school in June, 2015. A group of pupils were taken to Sussex Coast College for a talk by Michael Morpurgo, due to my contacts at Hastings Borough Council. They not only listened to his presentation, but also met him, and had books signed and photos taken – a really lovely experience for all involved. Southern Schools Book Award pupils also met the authors of the 2015 selection of books, and Chris Riddell, the current Children's Laureate, at Roedean in January 2016.

**Year 7 Library Skills** sessions are taught to every Year 7 library class over the course of six weeks during the autumn term. These lessons include library rules, how fiction and non-fiction stock is organised, how to access reference books, encyclopaedias and atlases, the careers library, special collections and biographies. Because our library is designed to reflect libraries in colleges, towns and universities, I hope that the skills the pupils learn in these sessions will help them to access any library, anywhere.

Some **Year 10** English classes have also been down to the Library for a session on new Teen Fiction as we have invested in fiction specifically aimed at Upper School readers. There are now a number of books with a '14+' rating for this age group.

**New free bookmark designs** are regularly provided, encouraging the children to treat the books they borrow appropriately, raising awareness of book related issues or giving information on new books in the library.

**Library key rings** have replaced the old yellow laminated Library Cards. The key rings have the St. Richard's crest on one side and the pupil's name and library barcode on the other. The idea is that they attach their locker key to the key ring, then, should the key be lost, it will find its' way back to the school and the child fairly promptly, minimising the need to supplying replacement keys and cards and lamination every time a pupil has lost one. Between October and Christmas 2015, I issued the new key rings to all except Year 11s, as they will be leaving us in June. Form Tutors were very helpful in facilitating the distribution of the new key rings. Having issued 52 replacement cards between September 2015 and Christmas, one year group at a time, I only needed to replace 22 key rings between January and the end of April 2016. The pupils seem to like them, and they are more convenient to carry about than the old yellow cards.

**Shop-in-a-Box** continues to be very popular, selling stationery at cost price to pupils. Unfortunately, we had to discontinue the sale of St Richard's 4GB memory sticks due to IT issues and viruses being imported to the school system. Staff may still use them to download training material for CPD sessions here in school. We have added in-ear headphones to the stock available in school. Calculators are also stored in the Library for collection by pupils. I encourage pupils to use their Maths skills to calculate their bill for purchases, embedding numeracy in an everyday shopping task.

The **Librarians' Christmas Party** was a hit again this year, with presents, catering provided by the school canteen and music chosen by the pupil librarians. The **Librarians' Summer Party** will be combined with Carnegie Day in June, when pupil librarians will receive certificates and a small gift to thank them for all their hard work through the year. Small Christmas and Easter gifts also show my thanks and appreciation for their commitment to the running of the library.

**Open Evening** in October saw our young Librarians interacting with prospective pupils and their parents, encouraging young visitors to make a poster showing their favourite books, authors and websites, and introducing people to our resources and the Library. Their conduct was exemplary throughout a very busy evening.

In addition to the Open Evening, the Library is often the host for events such as **Grandparent's Day**, **Work Experience Day**, the **Deanery Meeting**, **SENCO events**, **Union meetings**, **Parents Evenings** (English Department), **Science events**, **Author events**, **Book Awards** with pupils and staff from other schools, **Vaccinations** for Years 8 and 10, **Full Governors Meetings** etc. For all of these events the Library helps to form a good impression of the school as a whole. Keeping it welcoming, tidy and accommodating is an ongoing task. These events often involve liaising with teachers and re-rooming classes, groups and the after school homework group, but are invaluable to those attending them. I also look after Prep Club when needed, as Mrs Hubbard's time is taken up with exams for part of the summer months.

**National Poetry Day** was celebrated in the library in October with a lunch time activity run by Mrs Westwood, supported by a display of poetry books old and new.

**World Book Day week** in March saw Year 7s being given a choice of a World Book Day Book, or a token for £1. Year 8s and above received a World Book Day Token. Nurture groups were offered the opportunity to challenge themselves with **The Readathon Challenge**, raising money for books for children in hospitals in the UK. We also collected all the library fines for the **National Booktrust**, a charity providing books for disadvantaged children, and resources for teachers and school libraries.

**Laptops** - The Library currently holds 15 laptops for general issue and 13 laptops for issue to SEN pupils. The bookable class sets (2 trolleys) of 30 are now co-ordinated via the IT technicians using an on-line booking service. My librarians are very helpful with replacing barcodes which get worn, and ensuring they are plugged in properly over break and lunch periods, so that they are charged. These are a very popular resource.

**New books and DVDs** have been added to our shelves, and old, out of date materials withdrawn with the help of pupil librarians, ensuring that our materials are enticing and appealing to young readers. Surplus stock is retained to add to the Summer Fayre book stall. The Reference Library, non-fiction and fiction have all been reviewed this year. Stock checks have been carried out for Fiction, Non-Fiction, Reference and DVDs, ensuring that our records are as accurate as we can make them. A new Modern Foreign Language section has been launched, in connection with MFL, of French, Spanish and German texts and learning materials, enabling pupils with an interest in languages to read appropriate texts in these languages. Some are parallel texts, in the target language and English, others are only in the target language. A range of new graphic novels, both Marvel and Classics have enhanced the selection we hold. Novels more appropriate for older pupils have enhanced our fiction holding, and encouraged older pupils to keep reading - vital for their academic development. We also now have a selection of Revision Guides for lending and reference, useful for those pupils who can't afford to, or don't want to buy their own, or have forgotten to bring their own copy into school.

Our **magazine subscription** from DLT supplies 8 top quality magazines a month, tailored to our needs and supportive of both the curriculum and pupil interests, is proving popular with pupils and teachers alike. Additionally, we also receive support from the Humanities department for a subscription to the *Geographical* magazine and from Science for the *New Scientist*. SEN supports our subscription to *Aquila* and we also take the *Phoenix*. Back numbers are now archived in order to provide a pool of resources for English, Media, Science, Geography, History, Textiles, Music, Computing and Food Technology. These are stored in attractive boxes, and may be borrowed by staff for use in lessons. We continue to subscribe to the 'I' newspaper, delivered into school each day by a pupil in Year 11. The newspaper is scanned every day and any useful articles copied and disseminated to appropriate staff and departments, giving up-to-date insight into curriculum subjects. We are currently seeking a new paperboy or girl to start after Leavers' Day on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

New to the Library from 2015 is **'The Oxford Overnighter Trip'**, in conjunction with Dr Durkin. We took a select band of pupil librarians and historians to Oxford, had a tour of the Bodleian Library, an exclusive close look at original works by Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, and others in the Ashmolean Print Room, and viewed the 'Works of Genius' exhibition, containing an original copy of the Magna Carta, music by Mendelsohn, the Mapa Mundi, letters from Mary Wollstonecraft, Blake's 'Songs of Innocence', the draft of Mary Shelly's 'Frankenstein', and many other fabulous and iconic cultural works. We stayed overnight in Keeble College, in student accommodation, and came back with the pupils' heads full of dreams and eyes full of wonders. We aim to repeat this trip in July 2016.

Our **new computer layout** and a wall being moved gave the Reprographics room a more functional space and provided the opportunity to have a major sort out of the biographies, reference and careers materials, as well as refreshing 4 display boards after Easter. We also have a **new printer/photocopier** in the Library as part of the new 'Print Solution', enabling pupils to photocopy as well as print off their work.

We have four **new pupil librarians** from Year 7 and 8 who joined us after Christmas and are proving an asset to the running of the Library. My older librarians have been training them up, and encouraging them to see the Library as a safe place to be, whilst they serve the wider college community in a useful way. They are also keen to run errands, such as replacing Mrs Westwood's 'Word of the Week' notices, or assisting staff with new text books which need labelling and stamping with the college address stamp.

The Library has continued to be a **safe place** for those who are injured or require a refuge to work in, away from the normal run of school activities, as well as providing welcome study space for those in Years 10 and 11 who have dropped some subjects in order to concentrate on others. I gained a Level 2 *Safeguarding Children* certificate from Pivotal Education in February 2014. The Library is also home to reading and maths intervention groups, peer reading groups, and individual catch up groups, including our Dutch, Portuguese, Polish and other first language speakers. This makes for a lively and diverse cross-section of pupils using the Library.

**Perfect Purple People Cards** have been issued to Year 7 Pupil Premium children, enabling them to borrow from the proof read collection without penalties. These cards were issued to older pupils last year too. The idea is to enable children to always have a book, and to read as much as possible.

**Central Displays** - I have continued with central themed displays in the centre of the library over the past year, dependent on the need to keep the space clear for parents' evenings or other meetings. I incorporate fiction, non-fiction and reference materials, as appropriate, to help pupils see the links and differences between fact and fiction, and to inspire them to read something different.

**Overdues** - I continue to issue overdue notices to each form every term, encouraging pupils to return items before they get too overdue, and hopefully before the items are lost. I also issue the overdue lists to the Pastoral Leaders, so that they are able to add the information to the overall picture of each child. If books are lost I send letters home, explaining the need to replace school property.

**Lifelong Learning** - I have become a Union Learning Representative, and have hosted CPD sessions for members on Professional Boundaries and Sensory Difficulties. The next one planned will be about Teenage Mental Health. This shows my commitment to Lifelong Learning and support of others working in educational settings. In addition to this, I have attended the 'Prevent' training session in school and completed an on-line Schools Library Association training programme, 'Academic Honesty and Plagiarism'. This course required me to write a policy for school about Academic Honesty and Anti-Plagiarism, which I submitted to Mr Clark for possible inclusion with the school policy documents.

In conclusion, these notes just give a flavour of the opportunities, services and experiences open to pupils in the Library. As always, the children are at the heart of all I do to make the Library friendly, accessible and accommodating for all.

**Ms Tocknell**

### **MFL**

**Introduction of Spanish** - In September Spanish was re-introduced to the school starting with two classes in Year 7 and two in Year 8. Pupils in Year 7 experienced a language carousel, where they learnt French, German and Spanish for a term before making their final choice at the end of term 3. Pupils in Year 8 experienced a language taster day in July last year after which they chose their language to study until GCSE. The focus in Spanish, as in German and French, is on teaching pupils the skills required for the new GCSE specification but also to impart our own love of language so that every lesson on the journey from first words to fluency is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for them.

**Cross-curricular learning** - The relevance and increasing importance of mathematical skills across the three languages is being promoted with our Maths department colleagues. Since term 2 we have team taught maths skills in language lessons on topics that are relevant to practical everyday language use such as using grid references when giving directions, quantities when buying fruit and veg and working out scale and proportions in target language recipes. This has been a great success and some lessons have even been filmed using the IRIS software.

**MFL Club** - The club is open to Years 7-8 who are enthusiastic about French, German and Spanish and helpers are drawn from Years 9-11. We usually have between 5-10 pupils attending each of the languages. Helpers from Years 9-11 have been involved during the year by planning and leading a variety of activities. It has been a valuable opportunity for the older pupils to forge supportive relationships with

their younger peers, practise their own language skills as well as gain confidence in leadership skills (a number of the Upper School pupils have been able to use their regular commitment to gain references for their Duke of Edinburgh and Crest awards).

The MFL club meets every Monday lunchtime and our topics and activities vary from small group games, singing French, German and Spanish songs, bingo games on numbers and the alphabet, spelling quizzes and games to using the interactive whiteboard and MFL tablets. We have also been looking at how the French, Spanish and Germans celebrate special occasions during the course of the year including Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter. During term 2, for example, pupils created an Advent Calendar incorporating language and cultural facts about Christmas traditions in the French, German and Spanish speaking countries. This calendar was shared with the whole school community via the daily prayer PowerPoint throughout December. Pupils also researched recipes in the lead up to the 'The Great European Bake Off', a Christmas cake competition where all language pupils were asked to bake either a *Roscon de Reyes* (from Spain), a *buche de noel* (from France) or a *Stollen* (from Germany). The cakes were judged and then sold off at lunchtime. We raised nearly £80 on the day and all proceeds were donated to 'Surviving Christmas'. Plans for term 6 include using language skills to play well known board games such as Monopoly and Cluedo which have been purchased by the department; a project about "Bastille" day which is the French National Day in July and a football film night for German pupils. Spanish pupils will continue to watch and discuss a documentary film series about the history of Spain.

**Visiting Speakers** - Three guests from industry and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office came in to speak to an invited group of Year 10 and 11 pupils in February about how they have used languages in their particular fields and also the importance of foreign languages in an increasingly competitive business world. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions about career prospects with languages. All were interested to hear about the many and varied careers which would be open to them with a foreign language skill, particularly if continued at university level.

**Overseas Trips** - A trip to Barcelona is scheduled for October 2016. The take up for this 5 day trip is high given that Spanish has only just been introduced to the school. The German department were disappointed that last year's Christmas market trip to Aachen had to be cancelled at short notice due to the Paris terror attack. However, planning is already underway for this year's trip and letters will be going out in term 6 to Year 8 and 9 pupils of German about this exciting opportunity. We are also hopeful to offer a trip to Year 10 German pupils next year to give them the chance to experience the German culture for themselves and practise speaking the language in a real life context.

**Our Partner Schools** - In January we once again welcomed two German students from the Hollenberg Gymnasium in Waldbröl who spent nearly two weeks work experience with the German department. They worked mainly with Year 10 and 11 pupils on their oral skills, but also provided younger pupils with an insight into life in a German school and answered questions about the main differences between German and English schools.

At different points during the past year, lower school French pupils have produced materials about their life in the UK to share with pupils in our partner French school, the 'Collège Antoine de Saint-Exupéry' in Lesneven, Brittany. Members of the MFL French Club prepared photos, video and audio clips alongside information about school life at St Richard's as a padlet which was exchanged for a padlet about life in France from the French school. Groups of Year 8 pupils used what they had learnt in class in the spring term to prepare written pieces on Google Drive about how they typically spend their holidays which are ready to be shared as a second cultural insight project with our partner school.

In the Spanish department we hosted a group of Peruvian students who sat in with the Spanish lessons and gave presentations about their culture. The Spanish department has also established a pen friend relationship with Colegio St. Pau in Tarragona. Both Year 8 Spanish classes have been exchanging emails in Spanish with their new pen friends who have been practising their English. Those who are to participate in the Barcelona trip in October 2016 will have the opportunity to visit their pen friends when we spend the day at the school exchanging information about life in school and our local communities.

**Mandarin for the More Able** - Plans are currently being made by the department to offer a 5 week pilot of 'My Chinese Teacher' to More Able pupils from Year 7 and 8 during term 6. This is an online programme which is being taught in over 80 schools globally and is being offered as a trial to a selection of schools in the Rother area. It involves a Chinese teacher from Beijing being broadcast live using video-conferencing software. We hope that this will be an exciting chance for pupils to get an introduction to Mandarin Chinese with a native speaker as well as gain insight into the Chinese culture.

**Foreign Language Library Books** - In collaboration with the school librarian French, Spanish and German fiction and non-fiction reading books are now available to pupils. Particular emphasis has been

placed on parallel readers in order to encourage access to stories and to prepare pupils for the new, more challenging GCSE examinations where they will be asked to read extracts from literary texts. The collection at the moment is small but we hope to build on it over the coming years.

**Miss Auzinger, MFL Department**

**Mathematics**

Primary Maths Master Classes – Up to 45 able pupils from feeder primaries took part in six sessions of Master classes in Mathematics. These sessions included a Primary UKMT Challenge, Maths in Art at the DLW Pavilion and a visit to The Royal Institute in London. Feeder schools sent TAs, parents and head teachers along to help supervise. Feedback was extremely positive from all involved.

Women in Mathematics – 25 of our Year 10 able Mathematicians attended the WIM second annual conference organised by St Richard's Catholic College. Many schools from Sussex participated in the very successful day held at Sussex Coast College. The pupils were able to take part in A-Level activities delivered by the FMSP. The highlight of the event was a presentation by author and broadcaster, Hannah Fry.

Year 7 Mathematics in Art – 25 pupils from Year 7 were given the opportunity to meet a local artist who demonstrated why Maths was vital to her art work. A tour followed and the opportunity for the pupils to work in the studio at the pavilion.

The last Block Day of the year will be themed around Coding and the mathematics department will be working with the Year 7s. Bletchley Park will be sending a representative to assist in delivering our coding day and will bring an Enigma Machine. The day will consist of several workshops for all levels of ability. The history of coding will be covered, teachers will dress up and prizes will be won.

Weekly Numeracy Clubs are held in B6 where the pupils are gaining confidence in problem solving through IT, games and challenges.

**Miss Gallagher, Numeracy Coordinator**

The Mathematics department at St Richard's has continued in the successful participation in the UKMT Mathematics Challenge. The Challenges are national competitions organised by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust. The competitions encourage reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in basic mathematical techniques to solve non-standard problems.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 were entered in the Junior Challenge. In recognition of their high scores the following certificates were awarded to St Richard's pupils: 3 Gold, 19 Silver and 29 Bronze. The pupils achieving gold certificates were Edvards Blinovs, Tilly Harrison and Zacharia Ward.

The Intermediate Challenge was taken by pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 in February 2016. The following certificates were awarded to St Richard's pupils: 6 Gold, 20 Silver and 33 Bronze. Gold certificates were awarded to Year 11 pupils Harry Markfort, Peter Gibbons, Jordan Kemp and Joseph Moulding and Year 10 pupils Noah Canby and Harry Hawkins. Following on from their high scores in the Intermediate Challenge, Year 11 pupils Harry Markfort and Peter Gibbons, Year 10 pupil Noah Canby and Year 9 pupils Theo Tadros and Edvards Blinovs were invited to participate in the next round: the European Kangaroo. The European Kangaroo is taken by pupils from over 30 countries worldwide. Noah Canby achieved a certificate of merit.

**Miss Machin, Maths Department**

**Music Department**

In addition to its high quality curriculum work, the department continues to offer pupils a wide range of musical enrichment opportunities, and we have worked, this year, on ensuring that there are opportunities for pupils of all abilities and interests to be involved in extra-curricular music at some level. This enrichment element is a vital component of a rounded musical education, particularly as there is quite limited curriculum time at KS3 for our young musicians. A visit to the music area almost any break-time, lunchtime or after-school will give some idea of just how busy and vibrant the area is; pupils are encouraged to participate in a planned range of activities, use the area to practise for a performance, or record. Regularly rehearsing ensembles:

- Orchestra
- Choir
- String Orchestra
- Drum Club
- Rock School

Drum Club, String Orchestra and Rock School are run by East Sussex Music staff, and funded by the school. Drum Club and Rock School, in particular, open up the opportunity to enjoy group music making without a commitment to expensive music lessons. This inclusive philosophy is a key driving force behind as much of our work as possible. There is no doubt that far fewer pupils are signing up for instrumental/vocal tuition than was the case just a couple of years ago; there are probably many reasons for this, including financial pressures, and the re-structuring of East Sussex Music, where some lessons are now offered only at a central location and not necessarily in individual schools. Our challenge is to adapt to this situation, offering opportunities to pupils who may not otherwise be able to enjoy practical music beyond their single lesson classroom allocation. The situation with fewer pupils now learning an instrument impacts heavily on orchestra; very few pupils, relatively, are starting to learn 'traditional' orchestral instruments, and the days of being able to run a balanced orchestra with all instrument groups represented are sadly all but over. I now have to rely on my own skills in arranging music that will work for the instruments we have at our disposal, which is perhaps challenging and exciting in equal measure. A successful bid for recent grant funding has allowed us to purchase a range of technology/instruments that will encourage pupils with an interest in group music-making, but lacking previous experience, to participate in orchestra and other ensembles.

Some of the 'high profile' performances pupils have been involved in this year are:

- 'Back to the 80's' Summer Show (Performing Arts team)
- Grandparents' Event (choir and instrumentalists)
- Open Evening (performances in the hall & music area)
- Year 7 Induction Mass (Choir, soloists and orchestra)
- Prize Evening (Choir, orchestra and soloists)
- Eastbourne Proms (Choir, orchestra, soloists)
- Parish Masses
- Advent Service
- Ash Wednesday Services
- Music Showcase (Solos and duets)
- Recording of Year 7 choir (every child in Year 7 for ARRIS event)
- Eastbourne confirmations
- Worth Abbey – induction Mass for the Diocesan Director of Education

In addition, music has been provided weekly for a full range of form and year services, for end of term services and for Feast Days.

We were lucky enough to be able to take pupils to see two Glyndebourne operas this year. This is always a great deal for pupils, with a ticket price of just £7! One of our pupils, Elena Murdoch, had a part in the youth opera 'Nothing'; this was inspirational for pupils lucky enough to be able to see it, and their written 'reviews' of the opera without exception showed that they had gained something very valuable from the experience. Every pupil came away saying that they would definitely go again; many said that it had inspired them to get involved in singing.

We are a host school this summer for the 'Ten by Ten' project, run by East Sussex Music in collaboration with the BBC. On Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, we will be joined by pupils from several other local schools to participate in a day of percussion workshops based on the piece 'Mambo' from 'West Side Story'.

The summer production this year is 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' (Performing Arts team). This is a departure from the last two years, with the decision taken to work with a smaller cast this time.

The collaborative work of the Music, Drama and Dance departments continues to build in strength. Regular planning meetings are held by the team, so as to be able to provide the best possible experiences for pupils. Examples of strong collaborative work include: Eastbourne Proms, end of term services, parish masses and, of course, the annual summer show.

Ongoing developments:

- Continuing to develop the opportunities for pupil led extra-curricular work.
- Exploring new opportunities for pupils to perform work.
- Developing innovative ways of bringing technology into performance work, for pupils without 'conventional' performance skills.
- Continuing to make new links with outside agencies, such as performers and composers.
- Encouraging more GCSE music pupils to form ensembles.

**Mr Roadknight, Subject Leader - Music**

## **PE Department**

Once again it has been a very busy, successful and enjoyable year. Staff have striven to develop extra-curricular activities, extending the provision on offer and pupils have once again risen to the challenges set. As you will see below the year has proved to be one of the most successful in the college's history. Our links with the local sports partnership have also led to greater opportunities for our pupils to display their leadership qualities through the medium of sport. As a result of the pupils' successes in this area, a group of pupils were invited to the World Indoor Cycling championships held at the Olympic Velodrome stadium.

College teams continue to have successes at national, county and local teams:

- Football, rugby, netball, basketball and cross country has seen outstanding successes in local, area and county competitions.
- Numbers of pupils representing area, county and regional teams has increased across a wider range of activities including; football, rugby, hockey, triathlon, golf, basketball, cricket, karate, horse riding, athletics, cross country, swimming and squash.

Successes linked to the Physical Education and School Sports for Young People Strategy:

- First ever winner of the Hastings and District Schools Partnership Boys Sports Trophy, for successes and participation in competitions run in football, rugby, basketball and cross country.
- 150 Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils helped organise and run multi skills/sports Festivals for 500 Bexhill primary school pupils.

## **Team Successes**

### **Year 7 Boys:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up
- Football - SE Sussex Schools Cup Semi-finalists
- Rugby - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Basketball - Hastings and District Schools League Winners
- Cross Country - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up
- Athletics - Hastings and District Schools Indoor Sportshall Winners
- Athletics - Sussex Schools Games Super 6s 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Cricket - Hastings and District Schools Super 6s Winners

### **Year 7 Girls:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Cross Country - Sussex Schools Championships 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- Cross Country - Hastings and District Schools Runners Up
- Rounders - Hastings and District Schools League Winners

### **Year 8 Boys:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools League Winners
- Football - SE Sussex Schools Cup Finalists Runners Up
- Rugby - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Basketball - Hastings and District Schools League Winners
- Cross Country - Hastings and District Schools League Winners
- Athletics - Hastings and District Schools Super 6s Winners

### **Year 8 Girls:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Athletics - Hastings and District Schools Super 6s Winners

### **Year 9 Boys:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up
- Football - SE Sussex Schools Cup Finalists Winners
- Rugby - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Runners Up

### **Year 9 Girls:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Football - Sussex Schools Cup Semi-finalists
- Cross Country - Hastings and District Schools Runners Up

### **Year 10 Boys:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up
- Rugby - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up

**Year 10 Girls:**

- Cross Country - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up

**Year 11 Boys:**

- Rugby - Hastings and District Schools Tournament Winners
- Basketball - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up

**Year 11 Girls:**

- Football - Hastings and District Schools League Runners Up
- Football - Sussex Schools Cup Semi-finalists

The achievements by pupils at the college would not have been possible without the time put in by staff. Thanks to all the PE department.

***Mr Varney, Subject Leader - PE***

**Philosophy Club**

Philosophy Club has run throughout the year on a Friday and has been popular with Year 8 and 9 pupils. It has given pupils a great opportunity to discuss, present, and debate theological and philosophical questions. One notable highlight of the year was a thought-provoking, challenging, and entertaining lunchtime session led by Mr Tadros to coincide with Science week and the school's conversation with Tim Peake. Mr Tadros explored the question of 'Where have all the aliens gone?' In this session, he explained the Fermi Paradox prompting the pupils to suggest why we haven't made contact with other civilisations despite the size of the universe. In addition, a workshop for more able pupils in Year 8 was run in term 3 which focused on exploring the philosophy of Socrates. This was attended by ten pupils.

***Miss Henry, More Able Coordinator for the RE Department***

**Prep Club**

There are a number of St Richard's pupils who find it difficult or impossible to study at home, and so the after school Prep Club provides an invaluable opportunity for them to complete homework or undertake independent study in a calm orderly environment. It is very popular with girls and boys in all year groups and runs immediately after lessons finish from 3.15 to 5.00 pm.

Most pupils will choose to work entirely independently, but there is always at least one member of staff on duty who can assist with queries and provide guidance. Staff consistently encourage and support pupils to achieve their full potential and they are also there to be a source of inspiration. The St Richard's ICT network is freely available for internet access and a comprehensive range of educational software. Pupils can choose to print their homework in the ICT suites.

'Prep Club Plus' is now firmly established; it is aimed at pupils who require Learning Support. Two or three members of staff are always available, often on a 1:1 basis, to inspire, encourage and support children with specific learning needs.

***Ms Hubbard***

**Product Design Club**

A fun, relaxed club that allows pupils to catch up on class work especially practical, learn to use the department laser cutter and any of our range of tools and equipment. The club has a good mixture of Upper and Lower School pupils attending and it is a great way for the pupils to make friends across the year groups. Pupils can design and make new products or work on those started in the department.

This year we have purchased a small 3D printer and pupils will be able to experiment using this. Alongside the laser cutter, this should allow for some very professional results. This year has seen the Year 11 pupils making good use of the workshops during club time to work on their wonderful lights. The results of the practical this year have been outstanding.

***Mrs Robertson***

**Pupil Leadership**

There are numerous roles of leadership in which pupils are encouraged to partake, many of these are mentioned elsewhere in the report, and these roles include:

- Head boy/girl
- Senior prefect team
- Prefect team

- Student listeners
- Pupil researchers
- Pupil interviewers
- School Council
- Sports Council
- Liturgy representatives
- Form representatives
- Eco representatives
- Play leaders
- Career Ambassadors
- Interact club
- Librarians
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors
- Sound technicians
- Smile Ambassadors
- Year eight transition buddies

**The CREST Award** has become further embedded this year. The CREST is comprised of eight letters and it is regulated by different members of staff with Mr Holloway co-ordinating the roles and awards. Every pupil was given a CREST logbook last year to see them through their journey at St Richard's and there is a digital version should a pupil misplace their copy. The CREST has been launched this year to Year 7 with the help of pupils who have completed the full complement of letters. Reminder assemblies will be run in term 6 as pupils have the opportunity to back date the entire academic year. Once a pupil has fulfilled the criteria laid out by a certain letter they write a short reflection, and in some cases produce a report, or present to a class or year group. Each letter is a celebration of different leadership opportunities. Upon completion of four letters a pupil will be awarded the bronze award, completion of six letters will be awarded with a silver award and completion of eight letters will be awarded the gold award. Several bronze and silver badges have already been awarded as this new initiative has developed.

**Prefects** - To help with prefect applications, Mrs Bligh and myself have decided that Year ten pupils are required to achieve a minimum silver accreditation of The CREST to be successful with their application. We believe that this will not only be an award for a long term commitment to college life but it will also select more committed pupils who will be fulfil their prefect roles dutifully. The senior team was then whittled down through a process of interviews by myself, Mr Campbell, Mrs Bligh and LMT. To assist in the selection of the senior team and head girl/boy the shortlisted candidates had to prepare a one minute video which would not only express why they were suitable applicants but also what they could bring to the college. These videos were then shown in assemblies and PSHE so that all staff and pupils could be made aware of who they were voting for and who was representing them.

This academic year we have run prefect training four times. This has helped not only with duties and timetabling issues, but has also helped to raise any concerns around the college and helped to create a supportive peer network where prefects can help other prefects if they have any concerns.

**Pupil Researchers** - More pupils have been trained as pupil researchers to investigate certain areas of the school. This cohort was selected from the School Council and each year is represented. Following the training we have met frequently as a group so that the pupils can investigate areas of school life that interest them. The group has been divided into three smaller research groups to focus on emerging technologies, pupil voice and teaching styles. The pupils have already analysed their results and have presented to the Learning and Teaching team. Following constructive criticism, the team are now improving their research in order to present to LMT in term 6.

**Youth Councils** - Following on from the Big Vote assembly last year, several pupils expressed an interest in joining the East Sussex Youth Council via Rother. St Richard's were very successful to have two pupils elected onto the Council. Those two pupils then ran a whole school ballot style vote for the big issues that affect young people. Following on from this St Richard's was awarded the silver democracy award and the two members of the East Sussex Youth Council collected the award at the Houses of Parliament. As St Richard's was the only school to have two pupils on the East Sussex Youth Council they were chosen to host the event and had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with their local MP. One pupil has now been elected onto the National Youth Cabinet as a result of her hard work.

In the summer term, through connections with the Bexhill Youth Council adult support group, one of the current Bexhill youth councillors will be coming into the college to encourage pupils predominantly from Bexhill to get involved with future plans for the town by joining the Council.

**School Council** - This year Mrs Bligh and myself have run a training session for pupils in the School Council for the first time, which was very successful. The School Council has been used to represent pupil voice with issues including: uniform, homework, block days, facilities, the new school gym, to name just a few. The School Council has also been used to lead in creating a new School Mission statement.

**Student Listeners** - The Student Listeners have continued to be vital with transition into the St Richard's community, as well as dealing with individual issues. They have been integral members of the forms in which they are allocated and the Year 7 playground during break and lunch time.

**Interact Club** - The Interact Club have also had another very successful year. Again breaking the record for 'Love in a Box' with over 400 boxes (beating last year's record), helping with the senior citizens tea party with the local Rotary club and along with Bill Gate's contribution, helping to raise over £500 for the End Polio Now campaign. We are now looking to support a local charity at the summer fayre.

**Pupil Leadership Policy** - The Pupil Leadership policy is in the final stages and will soon be complete for all staff to observe and help encourage pupil roles within the college.

### **Mr Holloway**

#### **Public Speaking**

This year, we hosted the local round of the Public Speaking Competition – Youth Speaks, organised by the Rotary Club. A senior team took part, speaking on the topic of Women in Sport. Another senior team entered a competition organised by the English Speaking Union. They won the first round at Brighton College and took part in a second competition in Hove. Competitors spoke on a range of 'unseen' topics as well as delivering a prepared speech on 'Taking Responsibility.'

Year 8 pupil, William Brown, won both Regional and District rounds of the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition before winning the National Final in February.

### **Mrs Standen**

#### **Science Trips**

The science department has maintained a rich programme of extra-curricular 'Learning Outside of the Classroom' with opportunities for pupils across all year groups. In the 2015 summer term pupils enjoyed trips to 'Schools' Day' with the Society for Radiological Protection; a residential trip to view Da Vinci and Michaelangelo artwork, Magna Carta and a guided tour of the Bodleian Library in Oxford and a prize-winning trip to the Big Bang: South East's National Science & Engineering Competition at STEM Fest 2015. Pupil work was represented at STEM Fest in 4 competition entries and 2 exemplar projects.

In other school visits, Year 8 Fab Fizzicists visited two primary schools delivering a 'Science Circus' in support of subsequent successful application for Primary Science Quality Mark.

Pupils combined a trip to Royal Greenwich Parks with a visit to the Bloodhound SSC Expo in Docklands, in September, where they met the landspeed record holder, Andy Green.

The Institute of Physics Evening Lectures at the University of Sussex have remained popular with pupils during the winter months. National competition success in the STFC's 'Schools' Science Prize' won a trip to Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, Oxford, for 3 Year 9 pupils: Amina Bastante-Pain, Angel Joy and Lucy Woolridge. A GCSE Astronomy Day and 'Stargazing Live' trip to University of Sussex were equally popular. Upper School pupils enjoyed a Marine Conservation careers evening at the newly refurbished Brighton Aquarium and enjoyed a Travelling NASA talk from an ISS Project Engineer at University of Brighton. An evening 'Women in STEM' lecture at UCL was particularly rewarding, with pupils able to chat with television's Professor, Lucy Green and GCSE Astronomer, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. The Herstmonceux Telescope Supper Tour was very popular with 80 pupils attending. Year 7's Block Day destination was the Port Lympne Animal Preserve and proved to be very popular.

St Richard's has taken pupils to an increasing number of Big Bang Near Me events – a combination of a keynote address by an eminent speaker with an accompanying careers fayre – both in Brighton and Hastings. We eagerly await the annual visit to STEM Fest 2016 at the South of England Showground, Heathfield at the end of June.

Other trips have been cross-curricular with an evening trip with GCSE Art pupils to a 'Light & Shade' installation at Herstmonceux Science Centre, a day trip with RE to Chichester and also the residential trip known as 'Ethical Eden' in Cornwall.

Residential trips have been well supported during the year. In February we once more joined with Bexhill College (including former St Richard's pupils) to visit Geneva. During this very successful trip, pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the world's largest experiment at CERN, but were equally impressed with the

United Nations tour. The first Space Camp UK trip during the Easter break was a resounding success, with glorious accommodation and a packed and fun-filled itinerary – truly stealth learning in action! Pupil voice was overwhelmingly positive and plans to return next year are underway. It is pleasing to report that our hosts and activity providers were all impressed with pupil behaviour and manners and we will be most welcome to return.

In the summer term of 2016 we return to Farnborough International Air Show for Future's Day, but the scheduled Oxford Overnighter has been postponed to the autumn term. Forthcoming trips for the next academic year will include many return visits to tried and trusted destinations but will also feature a planned cross curricular trip to Bath for Astronomy and Classics pupils and an overnight trip to Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxford.

***Dr Durkin***

### **Science Week 2016**

The time period that included Science Week proper was very busy this year with enrichment activities across all year groups and abilities. Upper school pupils enjoyed lectures at the University of Sussex on the Rosetta Mission and 100 Years of General Relativity and on visiting UCL heard from eminent astronomers including Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Professor Lucy Green. On our annual visit to GCSE Science Live, pupils encountered Professor Jim al Khalili and Professor Robert Winston amongst others and their ground-breaking research activities. In a cross-curricular event with Computing, Year 7 St Richard's pupils hosted other local secondary schools in the IET Faraday Challenge and our Year 9 Astronomers made excellent revision use of the priceless Moon rocks and meteorites on loan from NASA. Lower School pupils also enjoyed a number of enrichment trips and STEM competitions during the Science Week period; Year 7 pupils attended the 'Cool Maths & Science Show' at St Marys; Year 8 pupils competed at the STEM Antweight Robot Competition at Ricardo Engineering and the IMech E Slots Trucks Challenge at STEMSussex at University of Brighton. Year 11 pupils contested the IET Great Electric Egg Race at Moulsecomb Campus, placing a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> despite being the youngest teams.

Science Week itself saw 10 of our Thrive Teaching School Alliance primary partner schools spend a morning in the college laboratories accompanied by 30 Year 8 Science Ambassadors. This year's theme was James Bond inspired and the science team once more set up a 'whodunnit?' conspiracy involving a dastardly plot to control pupil behaviour via satellite technology. The undoubted star of the show was Mr Lahache making a very confident debut. St Mary's pupils joined us for their Special Science Supper hosted by Dr Littlejohns and Year 10 Student Listeners. Year 10's Science Magicians: Levitation team of Emile-Jayne Ralph, Katarzyna Fedor and Emma Van Zutphen represented the South East in the Intermediate Level Science & Maths competition at the National Science & Engineering Competition in Birmingham.

In my role as Space Ambassador, I have visited 4 Tim Peake Primary Project schools delivering outreach activities relating to the Principia Mission. The department also ran an 'Ask An Astronaut' competition to source likely questions for the ARISS contact with Tim Peake himself. 11 pupils and 2 science staff comprising the St Richard's Amateur Radio (StAR) Club took their Foundation Amateur Radio licence exams, with 8 qualifying. All of the primary schools in attendance have requested further outreach or enrichment from St Richard's.

To complete the celebrations surrounding Science Week, Lower school pupils headed to the UK Midlands to take part in our first Space Camp UK, a residential trip featuring the 'Physics of Flight' at Duxford and a day of workshops at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

***Dr Durkin***

### **Science Curriculum Enhancement featuring ARISS**

The science team has delivered a packed programme of extra-curricular enrichment this year and amongst regular activities including Science Week, STEM Competitions, CREST Awarded project work and trips galore, the department embarked on a Space Programme of its own. I trained as a Space Ambassador, securing funding to support four Tim Peake Primary Project (TPPP) schools in engagement in the Major Peake's Principia Mission and subsequent application for Space Education Quality Mark (SEQM). In addition to celebrating Space Week 2015 in October, with a day of activities delivered by Dr Das Baskill and the Astronomy and Physics Outreach team from University of Sussex, we also joined Mr Peachment's GCSE Art pupils in a visit to the 'Art of Art' installation at Herstmonceux, part of the 'International Year of Light 2015' event. In October, we welcomed over 200 primary school pupils during Chemistry when we hosted the Open University's 'Magic of Oxygen' stage show on our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual

Science Sparkle Day. The Space Programme continued with GCSE Astronomy Day at Falmer and a focus on the Principia Mission during the annual Herstmonceux Telescope Supper Tour.

Our well established programme of enrichment lectures has been extended this year to include 'Women in Science' events at BB@Brighton and UCL. We shall be returning to Farnborough Air Show and BBSE: STEM Fest in July. Residential trips have included 'Big Science' experiments in Switzerland (CERN) and Oxford - to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) - Oxford and our first KS3 Space Camp UK in the Midlands.

Year 9 pupils enjoyed competition success in the area of science communication, in liaison with Miss Wood, the English G&T lead, with one pupil being commended in the RSC Bill Bryson Science Communication Prize and 15 pupils receiving commendation certificates in the STFC School's Science Prize. Three girls progressed to the final stage presentations hosted at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. The STEM Space focus amongst Upper School pupils extended to lectures from NASA about living on the ISS and another lecture from a Rosetta Mission scientist, updating us on the extraordinary 10 year mission to catch a comet. Meanwhile Year 8 Fab Fizzicists visited two primary schools delivering a 'Science Circus' in support of subsequent successful application for Primary Science Quality Mark. This term, we have received funding from our EIP to support our 4 Catholic feeder schools in SEQM application after the success of the ARISS event and STEM Space Conference – we will be hosting a 'Talking to Tim' stage show in late June for all primary partners and our Year 7 pupils. During next term, our Year 8 Science Ambassadors will deliver outreach activities to two primary schools applying for SEQM. We are awaiting the outcome of a further application to support 4-6 more local primary partners in TPPP Round 2 commencing in September 2016.

The Science team was recognised this year for consistently delivering an outstanding programme of curriculum enhancement with a third year of Prince's Teaching Institute accreditation for Science. Our delivery model for Fab Fizzix and its pupil centred focus was shared with Science Subject Leaders at a Leaders Meeting hosted by the Sussex Science Learning Partnership at Millais, and I will be acting as a Consultant Partner in this summer's PTI Schools Days in London. St Richard's were successful in a funding application to the Institute of Physics (IoP) to serve as a Stimulating Physics Network with Link Advisor school (SPN with LA) in Physics CPD delivery and I have been developing our newly accepted role as Science Subject Leaders' Network Lead School for East Sussex. In celebration of our strong STEM promotion, I attended the House of Lords to receive a report on the success of Silver CREST awards in promoting STEM subjects in the secondary curriculum.

Science maintained a STEM focus during the year and awarded over 100 CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) Awards at Discovery, Bronze and Silver level in recognition of club attendance, completion of project work and competition entry during the 2014-2015 academic year. That figure is likely to be equalled or even exceeded for the current academic year. RSC Global Experiment projects on Hydrogels and Mission Starlight and the IoP's Exoplanets project were well supported by Upper School pupils and StAR Club (St Richard's Amateur Radio Club), supported by QRZ Megacycles Radio Club, was established. The club prepared 11 pupils from Years 9-11 for Foundation Level Amateur Radio Licence examination in preparation for our ARISS contact.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, St Richard's played host to a live Amateur Radio contact with Tim Peake on board the ISS. We were joined by pupils from 19 schools and colleges with a broad pupil profile from ages 5-19 represented. Bexhill's mayor was present, as were governors, staff and pupils, past and present. The hall was packed with priests, parents, parishioners, press and public as we hosted a full day of STEM Space Conference supported by NASA, ESA and the UK Space Agency. Both Brighton based universities and a host of educators and community groups were also represented. The whole experience was very moving as the staff and pupils created a most memorable event for all present. Close to 1000 people enjoyed the day's activities on site, with 38,000+ shares on BBC South East's Facebook Live stream alone, during the following week. The week continued for KS3 pupils with off-timetable enrichment activities from the Principia Mission profile.

The whole experience was richly rewarding for the whole community and we have received many words and notes of grateful thanks from our guests. There was extremely positive press coverage across all media. A truly life-enriching experience for all!

Our plans for next year include a strengthening of the cross-curricular co-operation that led to the remarkable success of ARISS, research work to support associate partner status for PTI and fresh enrichment opportunities including a joint trip to Bath for Astronomy and Classics. St Richard's has been nominated in both the Individual STEM Teacher and STEM School Enthuse Celebration awards and I shall be submitting a St Richard's SEQM application in the summer term with hopes of immediate 'Gold' award.

Following a visit from a SSAT representative, I have also been asked to write an article on St Richard's space activities for the next edition of their magazine which goes out to all high performing schools in the SSAT in the summer term.

**Dr Durkin**

### **Ski Trip**

Once again, the ski trip was an amazing experience and all 56 of us had a great time. Concerns about the lack of snow were quickly dispelled as we could immediately see that people were skiing all the way down to the resort, something we were unable to do last year. The quality of the snow was excellent and we were blessed with blue skies and beautiful conditions.

For the majority of pupils, it was their first time skiing. It was amazing how quickly everyone progressed and by the end of the week everyone was using the chair lift and skiing down challenging terrain. The days were structured as a two and a half hour lesson in the morning, lunch in a mountain restaurant, followed by another two and a half hour lesson in the afternoon.

At the end of the week, the pupils took part in a timed race against pupils from other schools. This was followed by a prize ceremony on the last evening. Harry Whiteley, Year 11, returned to regain his title as the fastest skier from all the different schools, a title he won two years ago but narrowly missed last year. This year, he was unbeatable and put in an incredible time leaving his challengers in no doubt about who the fastest skier was.

Each evening we took part in fun activities including tobogganing, swimming, a bowling evening and a party at the hotel on the last night. The 'Guess the Teacher' and 'Mr and Mrs Goldegg' rounds were particularly funny. As always, this is a hilarious and fun packed evening and one everyone will remember.

The pupils were excellent throughout the week. They gave 100% all week and joined in the skiing and activities with a real sense of fun and enthusiasm. As always, our pupils were complimented on their polite, respectful and helpful conduct throughout. George Handrihan, Year 11 pupil and Head Boy, summed up the experiences of all the pupils, "It was an amazing week! The skiing, the activities in the evening, everything, was brilliant!"

Finally, my thanks to Mr Bligh, Mr Carradine, Miss Crawley and Mrs Knight for making the trip possible by accompanying the pupils.

**Mr Byrne, Trip Leader**

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

### **PTFA**

At the AGM in September 2015 it was decided to elect two Chairs of the PTFA (Fiona Connor and Natalie Gaymer), two Vice Chairs (Nicky Cave and Karen Marsh) and two secretaries (Mandy Isaacs and Carole Clifton). Carina Hilton was elected as Treasurer. This system of two parents sharing key roles has really worked well and it is hoped that elections in September 2016 will result in a similar format so the workload can be shared. Attendance at meetings has been really high this year with lots of new parents offering ideas and support. In terms of the PTFA's fundraising efforts, it has been another productive year.

The 2015 Summer Fayre was once again our biggest fundraising event and proved very successful. Our takings were in excess of £5000, making a profit of £3500. Lots of pupils and parents come to support and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Plans are in full swing for this year's Fayre which will be held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. We look forward to it being even more of a success and hopefully our prayers for sunshine will be answered.

The PTFA helped with the sweets, drinks and ice-lolly counter on Sports Day. As it was a very warm day, we sold out of everything raising more than enough to pay for the children's medals. The PTFA then served refreshment on the three evenings for the Summer Show in July. They were very warm evenings so we sold a lot of drinks, ice lollies and sweets.

The annual Quiz took place in November, put together and hosted by Barrie Pope and Ros Patterson. Although this is not a massive fundraiser, it remains an extremely popular social occasion with teams of parents, teachers and pupils. It raised over £400. Plans are in place to keep it as an annual event.

A new fundraising event this year was to organise a disco for Year 7 and 8 pupils. This was a great success raising in excess of £600. Highlights of the evening included the DJs Mr Peachment and Mr O'Brien, sales of glow items and a photo booth. We plan to offer such an event next year too.

The PTFA continue to supply a refreshment counter for all Open Evenings, Consultation Evenings, sports day, as well as performances in music and drama. These generally raise a few hundred pounds a year as well as satisfying the parents, children and staff. Some new PTFA members have volunteered to man these events plus a list of 'helpers' who are parents who cannot commit to the meetings but are willing to help.

The PTFA continues to invite requests for funding from all those within the college community to ensure that we bring the maximum benefits possible to the college. We discuss a 'Wish List' devised by the teachers and pupils at most meetings. Last year, the PTFA purchased various items for most departments. This year so far we have purchased liturgical costumes for the Dance Company and liturgical items and symbols for the form liturgy boxes. We continue to pay for the lease for the minibus. We are currently assessing very recent requests for financial assistance and we shall continue to support requests made in the future, on the basis that the pupils benefit.

Our Principal, Miss Cronin, is a keen advocate and enthusiastic supporter of the PTFA's activities and has been ably supported by Mr Clark and Mr Byrne. Staff input remains as ever an invaluable element of the PTFA's work and activities.

The PTFA members continue to be a willing and enthusiastic group of volunteers who give their time and effort to a wide range of activities that reach far beyond the fundraising events. In addition to a very strong core of stalwart members within the PTFA, we have been pleased to welcome a number of new members this year that we hope may step into office at some future point. My thanks go to all of them for their support and commitment. Particular recognition and thanks go to Nicky, Karen, Carina, Mandy and Carole, who put an awful lot of time into making everything run smoothly.

***Fiona Connor & Natalie Gaymer, PTFA Chairs***

### **Parental Surveys**

At each Consultation Evening we ask parents/carers to fill in a short survey which questions them about college life and what is offered. It also asks parents/carers to list concerns.

Generally, parents/carers are very positive about the teaching and learning on offer to their children. The vast majority of pupils feel safe and secure and the reporting of progress is well-received. Concerns expressed by parents/carers over this academic year include the following:

### Transport

Early morning trains in particular remain over-crowded. The Ore to Bexhill train has been identified as worrying as pupils are cramped in and often have to wait for a later train – Miss Cronin has spoken to our MP about this. Some parents request mobile phones for travellers as trains are often delayed.

### Curriculum

More help with revision strategies. This has been addressed in the Upper School and Year 9 with presentations to pupils and parents by an external consultant and there are plans to introduce something similar in the Lower School. Some parents found this year's option pathways too restricting – timetabling of staff and EBacc requirements make greater choice difficult.

Homework – some pupils struggle with extended pieces of homework – it needs to be broken up into manageable units. Sometimes a teacher has the exercise books so some children are unsure of where to do the homework. Year 7 need strategies on how to plan/organise their homework time on transition and some pupils spend too long on it. A staggered start to homework introduced for Year 7 from September 2015 was successful. 'Show My Homework' has proved effective this year following some teething problems.

### Reports

The over-whelming feeling is that the personal comments made by teacher are the most important. Parents would prefer content of courses to be on the website. A new reporting schedule and format was introduced from March 2016. Pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 received the revised format and it was well-received by parents.

### Behaviour

Year 10 parents, in particular, raised the issue of substance misuse. The school works with the Substance Misuse Service to support any child needing help in this area. The issue is also explored in PSHEe. Parents must work with the school to monitor out of school activities and discourage the availability of alcohol at house parties. Our Drug Education Policy is available on the school website and it outlines clearly the strategies we employ to deal with any incidents of substance misuse brought to our attention. Theft from school bags was also raised as a concern as well as incidents of bullying. Such issues are monitored.

### School Dinners

This topic is always raised by Lower School parents who are given the impression that there is little choice for those last in the queue. This is not the case. The PFG has made a visit to the canteen and expressed pleasure with the menu choices on offer.

### Website

Make it user-friendly for parents, advertise clubs/trips/experiences on it and put copies of all letters on it are frequent requests. Parents also requested that for some subjects homework was put on Show My Homework earlier – this is now occurring.

### Uniform

Durability of school jumpers remain an issue particularly as holes appear in the elbows quite quickly. We have adopted a policy of replacing any faulty jumpers within 6-9 months of purchase. A Fairtrade polo shirt has been introduced for term 6.

Responses to all surveys are analysed by the relevant Pastoral Leader and follow up is shared in newsletters.

### **Parental Focus Groups**

These groups meet termly: a morning group on a Wednesday and an evening group on a Thursday. The agenda is led by members of the LMT or other staff with parents adding requests.

We always begin the year by looking at the priorities in the College Improvement Plan and by reviewing the past year in terms of WWW (what has gone well) and EBI (Even Better if). The ideas suggested by parents form part of the next term's meetings.

Minutes of the meetings are available on the website and we regularly advertise for new members via the newsletter. The parents attending represent a good cross-section of the school community and their views/opinions have proved invaluable in moving the school forward.

Topics this year have covered:

- School polo shirt – a Fairtrade polo shirt for use in term 6, 2015-2016 has been agreed.
- Revised option pathways 2016-2017.
- Safeguarding and the school's approach to keeping pupils safe.

- Revision presentation by Mrs Bligh.
- Careers and Work Experience led by Mrs Adams, Careers and Work Experience Coordinator.
- Canteen visit.
- School tour to view the teaching and learning.
- Progress 8 and what it means.
- Rewards/certificates/incentives/The Crest
- Marking – purple pen initiative/Peer marking.
- List of websites useful for homework.
- SEND Local Offer.
- Design of a shorter summative report in Year 8.
- A new Mission statement.
- Show My Homework.
- Key Stage 3: OFSTED's Report 'The Wasted Years'
- Support Services.
- A typical week of extra-curricular activities.
- Journal 2016-2017.
- Assessment without Levels.

Details of a range of issues that the parents raise towards the end of each meeting are covered in the minutes. This two-way communication provides school and home with a greater understanding of each other. Strong relationships have been built with the parents who attend and I will be sorry to see a number of parents leaving this year who have been members since PFGs began in 2009.

***Miss Cronin***