



# St. Richard's Catholic College

*A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College*



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Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

## Newsletter No. 5 – March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you enjoy the range of news shared with you in this jam-packed newsletter which records a snapshot of school life beyond the classroom this term.

There is much to celebrate with Year 8 pupil, William Brown winning the National Finals of the Shakespeare Monologue competition; three of our STEM pupils (Katarzyna Fedor, Emma Van Zutphen and Emilie-Jayne Ralph) are at the finals of the National Science and Engineering competition this week; the Dance Company are through to the semi-finals of the British Dance Off competition as well as receiving exceptional praise at the Time to Dance event; Year 10 pupil, Emily Kimber, competed in the England Junior Squash championships last weekend; Year 7 pupil, Moe Murray, has won a national book design competition and there have been lots of sporting victories particularly in basketball. Congratulations to all the pupils concerned and to all those (too numerous to mention individually) who are achieving great success in the Hastings Music Festival. We certainly are blessed with pupils with a range of talents. Additionally, Mr Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, has recently sent the school a letter of congratulations for being in the top 100 schools in the country for Ebacc results in 2015.

Parents of pupils in Year 11 should have received a list of all the revision sessions on offer over the next few months. I do hope you will insist that your son/daughter attends these vital sessions which will enhance their overall revision programme. On your behalf, I would like to thank all staff providing sessions or acting as mentors to your son/daughter. This Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> March) is the final catch-up session (9.00-12.00) for the completion of Controlled Assessment – again, I would urge you to encourage your son/daughter to attend to make the most of the facilities provided. Please ensure your son/daughter has a revision programme underway during the Easter holidays.

All pupils should be working hard at this stage and addressing any gaps in their learning by attending intervention sessions. Pupils also need to be reading regularly. GCSEs are becoming more challenging and pupils must be preparing for these challenges from Year 7. Mr Byrne has kindly produced a booklet outlining the new assessment system for GCSE called Progress 8 and this is available for you to read on the website.

As the term draws to a close we say farewell to two members of our SEN department: our SENCO, Mrs Tadros, who is moving into primary education but will continue to support the school part-time until the end of the summer term and to Mrs Duly who has been our Reading Intervention TA. I would like to thank them both for their dedication, hard work and care of our SEN pupils. They will be sorely missed. I am pleased to report that the Governors have made two Vice-Principal appointments: Mrs Horton will be joining the school in September and Mrs Bligh is promoted from Easter. Congratulations to them both. This month, we welcomed Mrs Frangella-Cramp who has become my PA; Mrs Britt is now Learning Support Administrator. Next week, we welcome Mrs Adams back from her maternity leave and thank Mrs Fox for sharing her expertise as science maternity cover.

Term four has covered most of Lent and pupils have been involved in a range of fundraising activities. On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March pupils are being asked to donate £1 to CAFOD and an item of food for the Bexhill Foodbank. Jo, our Lay Chaplain will be leading a sponsored activity at the end of the school day to take the college community's items to the Foodbank. Pupils are allowed to wear mufti on this day (no cropped tops) providing they bring in some food items or Easter eggs and a £1 donation. The CAFOD donations will hopefully purchase water pumps for 2 villages in North Uganda. I thank you for supporting your son/daughter in their fundraising efforts.

The last day of term is Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15pm. Services will be held during the day to mark Holy Week. The start of term is Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April. Staff and I look forward to the return of the pupils revitalised and refreshed, ready for the opportunities and challenges of term 5.

Finally, on behalf of the whole college community, I would like to wish you and your family all the blessings of Easter. For those pupils and staff off to Lourdes or Space Camp, have a fantastic time.

Yours sincerely

*D. Cronin*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As we reach the end of this term and approach Easter I would like to take this opportunity to say how fortunate I consider myself to be associated with such dedicated staff who go that extra mile for the benefit of the pupils of this college. Praise must also go to the pupils who involve themselves in the life of the college community through various activities to help make it an amazing place to visit. It is a pleasure to meet with them and hear what they have to say.

Please remember this is the Year of Mercy and we should all do something to help someone else in whatever way we can. May I take the opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful time during this Easter period.

With my prayers and good wishes.

*Keith Osborne, Chair of Governors*

## YEAR SEVEN NEWS

As another term draws to an end, I would like to congratulate the Year Sevens once again. A theme for assemblies this term has been why I think they are the best year group at St Richard's. Currently, we hold the best attendance, the most letters of commendation (term 3) and the happiest faces within the college. The pupils continue to show what fantastic young people they are developing into by the way they get involved in all aspects of college life. This is highlighted in the 76 certificates of Commendation that were distributed at the start of term 4. I am also proud of all the pupils who are on track to achieve their grades, as well as those who have made a really big effort to improve in some subjects.

The highlight of term 4 has to be the PTFA Disco. I would like to thank all these dedicated parents/carers for their time and efforts. The night was another example of the excellent work they do to create something fun for the pupils and raise money for the college. The fun will continue into the summer terms with more activities for your child to get involved in. Coming up, a fundraising event run by Year 10 pupils who are going on an expedition to Morocco this summer and undertaking a village community project in the Atlas mountains. On Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, after school in the Hall, the Morocco team will host an Easter egg hunt. There will be top prizes, provided by our local Sainsbury's store. It will be £1 for entry into the Easter egg hunt.

Within PSHEe in term 5, the pupils will be exploring three themes. The first is 'My History' and the second is supporting others. The third area we will be discussing is Female Genital Mutilation, as part of our SRE programme. The aim of this lesson is to raise awareness of this practice and to keep our children safe. The resources used are age appropriate. I am happy to discuss this and any other topics with you.

*Mr Bligh, Pastoral Leader Year 7 ([mrblighj@strichardscc.com](mailto:mrblighj@strichardscc.com))*



## YEAR EIGHT NEWS

The Year 8 pupils remain hard at work as spring arrives. It is a time to take stock and consider new beginnings and opportunities. I am currently writing the Year 8 reports and am delighted to be reminded of their massive involvement in extra-curricular activities. There are many pupils who should now consider taking a leap of faith, and try a new club or activity. The hardest step on any journey can sometimes be the first.

**Charity work:** On Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, Year 8 pupils will be invited to participate in a 'Water Walk' to raise money for CAFOD. This money will go towards fixing and installing water pumps in northern Uganda. Water pumps will enable more girls to attend school, instead of walking many hours to retrieve water, and the whole community to access fresh and clean water. Pupils will walk 2.5 miles to the end of the 'Splash Deck' and then return. Form 8S and Ms Henry are currently driving ticket sales for their raffle to raise money for Sarcoma UK, the bone and soft tissue cancer charity, [www.sarcoma.org.uk](http://www.sarcoma.org.uk). Form 8O and Miss Chong are presently undertaking a variety of 'Lenten'

challenges in order to raise money for St Michael's Hospice, [www.stmichaelshospice.org](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org). Activities include swimming, walking and giving up chocolate. Soon to come, Miss Crawley reminds me that form 8I are preparing for their Easter Raffle and are currently deciding which charity to support. Form 8L and Mrs Robertson will be supporting 'Barby Keel's Animal Sanctuary' with activities after the Easter holiday, [www.barbykeel.btck.co.uk](http://www.barbykeel.btck.co.uk). As mentioned previously, I will be joining many other staff members from St Richard's and running the Hastings Half Marathon on March 20<sup>th</sup>. As a team, directed by Mr Byrne, we will be raising money for CAFOD.

**PSHEe:** Seven of the 8 forms have now had a visit from the Community Safety Officers from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. These sessions are pupil centred and encourage the pupils to identify their own safety strategies and consider their role when caring for other people. Moving on, interactive activities explore the impact on a community when young people engage in anti-social behaviour such as arson or hoax calling.

Sessions in PSHEe class time are moving on gradually from: 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education' to 'Citizenship and Diversity', a topic which is central to the core beliefs and ethos of St Richard's. Pupils will be considering identity, diversity and common values as well as the reasons behind migration. This will include the portrayal of migration in the media and its duty. Our community is a rich and diverse one, so I know this will be an interesting and invaluable unit to explore.

**Be the Best You Can Be:** In a slight correction to the last newsletter, The CUP will be awarded at the end of term 4, as terms 3 and 4 are shorter. Pupils must work to earn credits, participate in clubs and teams, complete activities and quizzes, and avoid negative factors, to accumulate as many points as possible. Mr Varney continues to collate the performance of each form and provide positive feedback and encouragement to all pupils in the year group. Please keep encouraging your sons and daughters to 'Be the Best They Can Be' every day.

**Liturgy:** Thank you to Father Seamus for joining form 8U and Mrs Carradine to celebrate their form service. The pupils put together a beautiful and thought provoking service on the subject of 'Journeys,' which served to remind us all of the support we have through our faith. In addition, it was great to see so many good musicians, readers and singers. Form 8R guided by Mrs Wood and Ms Westwood are currently preparing for their form service on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I will, no doubt, be impressed again by the talents on show.

**Events:** The PTFA disco took place on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. Ticket sales were superb in Year 7, but a little lacklustre in Year 8. Please do encourage your children to take an opportunity to put down their electronic devices and enjoy these events.

I would like to thank you in advance for supporting your children with the various charity events, as well as the demands of a busy school life.

*Mr Carradine, Pastoral Leader Year 8 ([mrcarradinee@strichardscc.com](mailto:mrcarradinee@strichardscc.com))*

## YEAR NINE NEWS

I was delighted to present 78 commendation certificates on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This reflects a lot of hard work and commitment by the Year 9 pupils. This is accompanied by 15 postcards sent home this term to praise hard work and endeavour. Can I remind all parents/carers who received letters about under-achievement to please look at the yellow full reports and sign them daily. Pupils on weekly blue A4 reports we expect to show them weekly to yourselves and to have them signed also.



**Crazy Tie Day:** Pictured are the winners of our Crazy Tie day: Joe Clark, Max Thompson and Joshua Sawyer.



**Trains:** We have had complaints about the 8.12am Hastings train to Bexhill and the 3.38pm train from Bexhill to Hastings. These complaints have come from yourselves, the public and Southern personnel also. We are encouraging as many pupils as possible to get the 7.38am train as the weather is getting better and the mornings lighter. There are several facilities they can

use at school such as the canteen space and many classrooms with ICT use. I am also offering the use of 2 classrooms in A Block. This is to alleviate congestion on the 8.12am train. We also encourage the attendance of extra-curricular activities after school which also alleviates the congestion on the 3.38pm and 4.03pm trains. Southern are aware of our concerns but due to the nature of the service being an Ashford to Brighton one it is a diesel train and they cannot use extra carriages. Some pupils are now having to either get the bus, be driven or get earlier trains, due to the complaints about their behaviour on the trains. However, the compliments sent to Miss Cronin about our pupils' behaviour on the trains from members of the public far outweigh the complaints.

*Mr Doherty, Pastoral Leader Year 9 ([mrdohertyr@strichardsgcc.com](mailto:mrdohertyr@strichardsgcc.com))*

## YEAR TEN NEWS

**PSHEe:** The Year 10 pupils have recently experienced a theatre production from the Challenge Team about saving sex for marriage which was well received. Year 10 continue to work on their PSHEe unit on Emotional Health which we consider to be a vital topic. They will also be looking at study skills and revision techniques before we embark on our careers unit and preparation for work experience.

**Charity Work:** Year 10 pupils have been holding cake sales during Lent. Thank you to all those who have made an effort to contribute to this. We will be supporting the CAFOD sponsored walk on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March as part of our Lenten fundraising and the boys have organised the annual Hastings v Eastbourne Charity Football match on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

A reminder that Year 10 can be a time when pupils start to test the boundaries. We were told by some parents at the Parent Consultation Evening that parties their children were invited to that were supposed to be supervised by adults were, in fact, unsupervised. Such parties open up issues surrounding alcohol and other behaviours. Please ensure that you are fully aware of where your child is going; quite often young people can be reluctant to give all the details. Ringing and checking with the parents involved would always be our advice. We know this happens from conversations with other parents. However reluctant your son/daughter may be for you to do this, it is their safety you are thinking of which I will continue to reiterate to them in assemblies. If you are concerned at any time, please do ring me at the college. Parents have been incredibly grateful to learn of planned parties that were due to take place at their homes without their knowledge! Another issue that was raised by many parents during the evening was the amount of time pupils are spending on their mobile phones at home. We fully support parents taking away/'banning' the phones for at least a 2 hour period in the evening, as was suggested by several parents.

### **Year 10 Parental Survey Feedback:**

It was lovely to have the chance to speak to so many of you at the Parent Consultation Evening. For the vast majority it was an affirming and positive evening about your child. Thank you to the 57 parents who took the time to fill out the parental survey. Your views and opinions are incredibly valuable to us and instrumental in our quest to continue to improve and support further the young people in our care. When asked how well your son/daughter was coping with the demands of GCSEs, 86% of those who answered the survey felt their child was coping well or very well, which is a reflection of my view of the year group. With regard to pupil progress, I was very pleased that the vast majority of parents/carers believe their child's learning has progressed further this academic year. The demands of GCSE are plentiful and it is essential that your child is working to the best of their abilities throughout the whole of Key Stage 4.

In response to the question regarding the amount of time spent on homework, I am concerned that a small number of pupils are spending under one hour a night. Pupils should be completing one to two hours five times a week (really they should be closer to the two hour mark). I have spoken to a good selection of Year 10 following parents' evening. Following my interviews, there seems to be a difference between boys and girls, particularly when it comes to preparing for exams, controlled assessments or research work. Homework should never be completed on trains or buses (as a few confessed to). I will be going over with pupils how best to revise for exams and preparing revision schedules ahead of the Year 10 public GCSE exams (which affect a number of Year 10s in Science, Languages and RE) and the internal exams to be held the week beginning 13th June. Please sit down with your son/daughter as often as possible to look at the journal and to discuss with them the homework they are completing. Teachers will pull them up on low marks

and ask them to re-do pieces not up to scratch. Exam preparation needs to involve mind maps, spider diagrams, images, key word cards, postcards and so on. Reading over notes for twenty minutes before an exam will not get a child the best grade, however bright they are. A reminder that we have PREP Club running 4 nights a week (Mon – Thurs) and PREP Club Plus (to support pupils who struggle to learn more than others): please encourage your child to attend, if supervising them at home is proving tricky.

I was pleased to see again that the vast majority of parents (95%) feel their son/daughter is safe and happy at St Richard's. We would be grateful to hear from the three parents who had concerns here so we can put this right for you. We were also pleased to see that 96% of parents/carers felt that the school communicates well or very well with home. A reminder that we have a huge range of extra-curricular and leadership activities on offer, although I do acknowledge that some pupils are already committed with clubs outside of school. If there is something you feel we are missing let us know and we will do our best to provide it.

There were a low number of concerns raised about bullying and substance misuse. We remain vigilant in these areas at all times, but welcome any information you can give us. Please pick up the phone and get in contact if you have any worries about your own child or any other child; working in partnership with the young people involved is essential.

For the question regarding further support, many parents/carers responded with their child's name. If you requested support, but did not include your child's name, please contact me so that I can get this in place for you.

Finally, a really big thank you to all those who wrote positive comments. They are always well received by staff.

Miss Easton, Pastoral Leader Year 10 ([misseastonk@strichardsgcc.com](mailto:misseastonk@strichardsgcc.com))

## YEAR ELEVEN NEWS

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Year 11 parents' evening and revision evening. The survey results from both were extremely positive and I was pleased to read how useful you found the revision evening. We are looking to offer the same experience for Year 9 pupils and parents to help start building confidence in revision. Pupils should now find that the vast majority of homework is specific revision tasks – essential for building their confidence and preparing them for the exams.

**Response to Year 11 Survey:** The survey from the parents' evening was also very positive and all your kind words of thanks have been passed on to the staff. We are pleased to note you are finding the support in Year 11 helpful. I have collated names from the survey for pupils who would benefit from anxiety workshops and mentoring. I was delighted to note that no one had any concerns over bullying or transport and only two concerns over controlled assessments (hopefully both now rectified) and that everyone who responded found the summative reports timely and helpful. Rest assured that we will continue to give as much revision support and advice as possible.

**Profiles:** All Year 11 pupils should have brought home their final profile report sheet. The pupils who re-took their mocks were punctual and the majority worked hard to complete them so I was pleased to see improvement for many in this final round of profiles. They show that 38 pupils will be receiving a plus certificate – a marvellous achievement for these individuals and that the majority are on track. Pupils who have received a minus in a particular subject must now attend ALL revision sessions scheduled for that subject. Here they will receive the support needed to improve. All parents and pupils have been emailed home a copy of our revision timetable. This shows what is happening and when. It is a fantastic tool to help support revision and I cannot thank the staff enough for putting on so many extra revision sessions. I strongly suggest that all pupils attend as many as possible – this is a fantastic resource and pupils must make good use of it. The timetable will be regularly updated on our website so please always check there to see if new sessions have been added.

**Can I remind pupils and parents that we have the following online resources to help with the revision process:** GCSEPod, Google Drive and Padlets. All can be accessed via the school website at home.

We are in the process of setting up a new exams anxieties group (due to start after Easter) and teachers are kindly signing up to mentor all the pupils who requested one in their post mock interview with Miss Cronin, plus those parents who requested it in the Year 11 survey at parents' evening.

**Social:** The year book committee have been elected and all are busy collecting photos and memories to make this special book. We do this in house to keep the cost down. Pupils have requested a social to Clambers and laser quest! Details to follow.

Prefects continue to do a great job and their thoughts on the new Mission Statement have been much appreciated.

I will continue to email at regular intervals. If you are not receiving an email please contact the school with your email address.

Mrs Bligh, Assistant Principal & Pastoral Leader Year 11 ([mrsblighd@strichardscs.com](mailto:mrsblighd@strichardscs.com))

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## HCPT Lourdes Group 715 Sponsored Walk 2016



Above is a photograph of our hardworking Lourdes group at the half way point. The group managed the 6 mile walk to the Cooden Beach Hotel and back in under 2 hours and raised £700 on top of their £200 sponsorship for Lourdes. This means that the group will once again be able to send a disabled child on holiday to Lourdes this Easter. The group would like to thank everyone who has sponsored their endeavours to date. Well done, HCPT Group 715!

Mr Campbell, Group Leader

## Year 11 St Valentine's Day Charity Event



St Valentine's Day came a little earlier for the pupils of St Richard's Catholic College than in previous years. The Year 11 senior team stayed late on 10<sup>th</sup> February to prepare hand wrapped chocolates roses, messages of love and rehearse their love ballads for the lucky Valentine's recipients.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, teams of Year 11 pupils delivered roses, chocolates and messages of love via the medium of song throughout the college in order to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Over 40 gifts of chocolate, 45 roses and 30 love songs were delivered to pupils and staff. The singers had selected a range of classy, (or cheesy!) love songs and sang them beautifully throughout the school day. The quality of the music and accompanying blushes was excellent. In total the amount raised was in excess of £190. Well done to all of those pupils who contributed to the success of this charity event.



Mr Campbell, Pastoral Support Co-ordinator KS4



# MFL NEWS

**MFL Club meets**  
Every Monday: 12:45pm until 1:30 pm  
French (B14) Spanish (B13) German (B5)

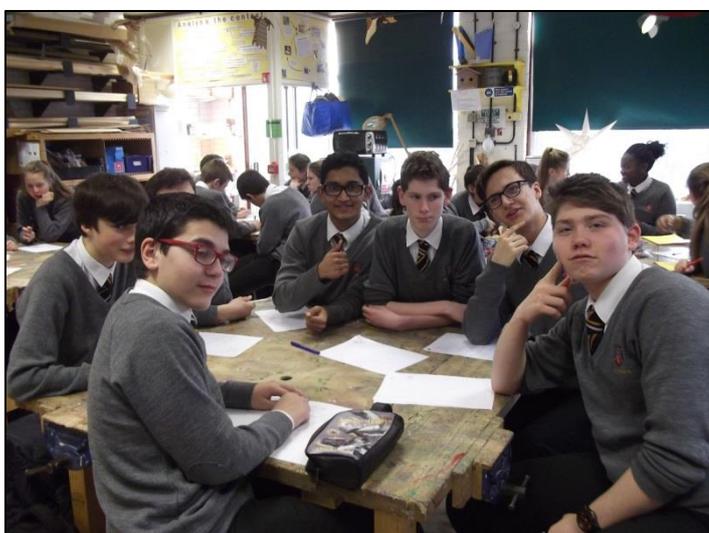
## MFL Speaker Event

The MFL Department were very pleased to have two speakers from industry visit Year 10 pupils at the end of February. Pupils were able to hear how the speakers had studied languages in school and how they had gone on to use them in a wide range of jobs. Lots of the pupils found the talks very interesting, with several pupils commenting on how they felt their eyes had been opened to the variety of jobs available in which they could use their language skills.

*'It made me think about doing a language for my A-Levels.'* Kim

*'It was inspiring and showed the wide variety of jobs out there.'* Poppy

*'The workshop really gave me a detailed insight to careers with languages.'* Maria



## This month's Fun Facts:

Here are some untranslatable words in German:

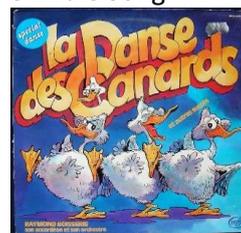
*Kummerspeck* – the weight you put on after comfort eating.

*Treppenwitz* – when you think of a really good come-back, but the conversation is long over.

*Mutterseelenallein* – the feeling of being completely alone – even your Mum is busy doing something else.

What is the English equivalent of the song 'la danse de canards?'

Answer: 'The Birdie Song'



Several uses for milk in Spanish!  
The word for milk in Spanish is *leche* but they don't cry over spilt *leche*, instead they have: "*estar de mala leche*" which means to be in a bad mood and if you are running away from someone in a bad mood then go "*a toda leche*," meaning "at full speed."



## German Club?

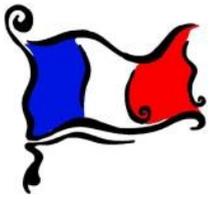
Come along to German Club! Monday lunch-time at 12:45pm - play lots of fun games, take part in quizzes and win prizes in German!

The German Department are holding a Film Night on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 3.15pm - come and see 'Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer' a fun film for all ages.



## Spanish Club Update

We have started using the new Spanish language board games in Spanish Club (all three clubs have their equivalent). Pupils are quickly learning new vocabulary whilst solving a murder mystery as well as revising their numbers whilst buying up properties all over! We will also be researching Easter traditions in Spain.



## French Club

In February, the French Club has been learning about the "Mardi Gras" carnival traditions both in France and the French-speaking world. This has involved learning about the French traditions and language associated with this day. With the help of the Upper School leaders, pupils researched and prepared a presentation about the carnival season. A competitive, but friendly atmosphere ensued, with an interactive quiz created by Year 10 helpers, Amy and Megan Tattersall which tested the pupils out on what they had learnt!

Pupils are currently learning language and researching about Easter traditions in France in preparation for a French-themed Easter treasure hunt at the end of term. A group of helpers are also preparing an Easter themed song and dance for us to try out – can you guess the English translation of the song's title: 'La danse de canards'? (see this month's MFL factoid to find out!)



Our friendly Year 8s and Upper School helpers would love to welcome some Year 7s to join us at French Club. Come and try out the activities in B14 on a Monday lunchtime!



## New Foreign Language Section in the Library

Come and browse and borrow the new collection of readers in French, German and Spanish. We will be expanding the collection over time. If you have any suggestions for foreign language books, let us know.

### Interested in Teaching?

If you are a past pupil or parent/carer with a good quality degree and are interested in teaching, why not consider Thrive Teaching School Alliance as your training provider? Alongside the University of Sussex based in Brighton, we offer a School Direct route into teaching which awards you a PGCE and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) upon its completion.

Within the Thrive Teaching School Alliance (Search on UCAS) we have many training places available at St Richard's and within our other partner schools for September 2016. For some subjects, funding is also available. Have a look on the college's website under 'Teaching schools' or contact [mrswoode@strichardsc.com](mailto:mrswoode@strichardsc.com) for more information.

**St Richard's Catholic College**  
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**Clerk to the Governing Body**  
**225 clerking hours plus 10 hours of training per annum**  
**Single Status Grade 7**

The Governing Body are looking for someone who is reliable, confident, good with people and with an interest in school governance.

Full details are available on our website or from Mrs Sally Jenkins (01424) 731070.

St Richard's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

## Surviving the Teenage Years

### Parent Support Group

Starting Thursday 21st April 2016  
7.00pm – 9.00pm

A ten week course to support parents of young people over the age of 9.

An informative, supportive and confidential group with opportunities to share strategies and experiences.

Our aim is for parents to be empowered with appropriate strategies and skills to support themselves and their young person.



Venue: The Beacon Centre, Claremont Road, Sidley.

For more information or to book a place, please call or text Teresa on 07808 024 736



# Careers Information

## WORK EXPERIENCE MOCK INTERVIEWS

Year 10 pupils will go on a week's work experience in June 2016. In preparation for this, the timetable is suspended for one morning of activities. The activities include writing a curriculum vitae, role play and health and safety whilst in the work place. Each pupil also attends a 20 minute one-to-one interview. I am looking for volunteers to act as interviewers for this morning, which will take place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Each interviewer will see approximately 3-4 pupils over the duration of the morning. Feedback should be given to the pupils in terms of their CVs and any tips or advice for the future.

## ONLINE CAREERS RESOURCES

The college subscribes to the following online careers resources, both can be accessed via the school website or by the web addresses listed below:

- [www.fasttomato.com](http://www.fasttomato.com) This website is simple and easy to use, using sophisticated psychometric assessments to highlight each person's interests, attitudes and motivations. Fast Tomato is then able to suggest individualised and personally tailored careers and courses. Pupils are given genuine insights into accurate and highly relevant career information. For the code to create an account, please contact Miss Crawley.
- [www.eclips-online.co.uk](http://www.eclips-online.co.uk) This is an easy to use information system that can be accessed wherever you can get online, with details on over 500 jobs and careers. The system also includes a wide range of leaflets on topics relating to career choice, education, training and employment as well as information on lifestyle topics such as health. To log onto this resource, please contact Miss Crawley for the password.

## CAREERS FAYRES

Year 9 pupils were able to attend a Careers Fayre in school at the end of February, where they had the opportunity to speak to local colleges and businesses. Pupils were able to take home college prospectuses and ask for information about courses and entry requirements. Many pupils came away feeling enthused about their subject choices and excited about the range of opportunities available, many of which they had not previously considered.

The Big Futures Show is another Careers Fayre being held at the Winter Garden, Eastbourne on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016. All pupils and parents are welcome to attend from 3.30-7.00pm. There will be a wide range of exhibitors from local colleges and employers and the entry fee is £3. If you wish to book online please go to <http://www.bigfuturesshow.org.uk/>.

## CALLING ALL FORMER PUPILS

Did you go to St Richard's Catholic College? If you're a former pupil who would like to support current pupils, the college would love to hear from you! Right now, there are pupils in the assembly hall where you once sat, facing similar challenges and opportunities that you did. Being connected to you could really help them. The college is one of more than 500 state schools across Britain which have registered with the charity Future First to set up networks of former pupils or alumni. Future First's vision is that every state school or college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community that helps it to do more for its pupils. More than 50,000 former pupils across Britain have already signed up to stay connected with their old school. They are inspiring young people in a number of ways: as career and education role models, mentors or e-mentors, work experience providers, governors, donors or fundraisers. It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away; there are still ways you can help! You can sign up to Future First's alumni scheme by following this link:

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-ms-s1/strichards>

If you have any queries with regards to careers information, advice and guidance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss Crawley, Careers and Work Experience Co-ordinator  
([misscrawleys@strichardscs.com](mailto:misscrawleys@strichardscs.com))



# The BIG Futures Show

The Employability and Skills Show

20 April 2016

Winter Garden, Eastbourne

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## Free school meals – are you entitled?

At St Richard's, we are committed to working with pupils and their families to ensure that they receive support both within and beyond the classroom. One way we can help is to ensure that families eligible for free school meals receive them. St Richard's receives funding from the government for pupils who are eligible for free school meals and this money is used to provide extra support, for example by supplying eligible pupils with free study guides.

**Who is entitled?** Free school meals can be provided to parents/carers if they are in receipt of any of the following benefits: Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs), Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit **and** during the initial roll out of the benefit, Universal Credit. **Anyone entitled to Working Tax Credit is not entitled to free meals regardless of income**

**How to apply?** You can apply directly to East Sussex County Council for free school meals via the following link: <https://admissions.eastsussex.gov.uk/Enrol/Website/default.aspx>

Alternatively, your child can pick up an application form from the Reception office for you to complete and return to County or to Mrs Hollands in Reception. The school can then use the Checking Service to confirm entitlement but you may need to show up-to-date proof that you meet the qualifying criteria. If approved, the entitlement will be credited daily to the cashless catering system. Once entitlement is established, free school meals are continuous unless the school is notified of a change in your circumstances. If this happens we will contact you for up-to-date proof of entitlement. It is your responsibility to let us know of any changes that may affect your entitlement to free school meals. If you do not tell us of a change and your child continues to receive free meals when not entitled, you may build up a debt which will have to be repaid. **Further benefits of claiming Free School Meals include: help with transport costs, Pupil Premium funding and help with the costs of curriculum trips**

## Mission Statement

As a school community we are currently working on a new Mission Statement. We have run sessions with staff, pupils, parents and Governors and below are some of the thoughts they shared. We hope to have our Mission Statement launched in term 5.

### Our Teachers:

- To encourage and give children the tools they need to live happy and fulfilling lives.
- To be there for the younger person/people - to help, to care, to guide, to listen, to share my knowledge and give them better chance/start into adult life.
- To help young people fulfil their full potential by raising aspirations as well as attainment.
- Instil into young people the value of education. How it could enrich and change their lives, with faith and with conviction.
- I came into teaching to work hard so that others may achieve. I continue to stay in teaching as every day I feel I have a moment whereby the reason for me being here is validated. My role is to support young children on their journey.

### Our Parents:

- To get a good education in a happy school environment to give them the best start into adulthood.
- To fulfil potential and to be happy. To be confident with who they are physically, academically and spiritually.
- To be a well-rounded, kind, thoughtful member of the community.
- To do the best they can do without being fearful of under-achievement.
- To love embrace, and be happy within the world they live in.
- To be proud of himself and not follow the crowd.
- To find his passion and follow his dreams.
- That they treat others the way that they would like to be treated themselves.
- That the love of God stays with them in their hearts to help carry them through the trials of life.

### Our Governors:

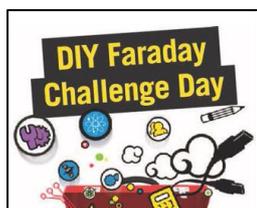
- To share and be part of the passion that St Richard's has for helping its pupils grow and flourish spiritually while they learn.
- To help ensure that every child is given every opportunity to reach their maximum potential. And to provide a Catholic environment for them and their families to grow.
- Give back and support somewhere which has given my children the best start in life and helped them towards fulfilment.
- To contribute to the work of the college, that gives children the opportunity to learn and grow into happy fulfilled adults, loving God and others.

### Our Pupils

- St Richard's is a friendly environment to learn in, promoting equality and friendship. A community that incorporates trust, faith and education to create the best possible place to further education and flourish as an individual.
- To create trust and a sense of community in the school between teaches and pupils. As a college we are equal. We should care for everyone's individuality. Friendships are valued.
- St Richard's Catholic College takes a big interest in the community, allowing pupils to express their individuality showing equality, also allowing pupils to build friendships on trust.



# COMPUTING AND ICT DEPARTMENT



## IET Faraday Challenge

The Computing and Science department in conjunction with the BBC Micro:bit and IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology) held a Micro:bit competition between St Richard's, Bishop Bell, Robertsbridge, Cavendish, Gildredge House and Willingdon School. It was a fantastic day and pupils really enjoyed the challenge. Pupils learnt core computing skills such as design, programming and testing, while developing other skills such as team work, budget control and presentation skills where they had to pitch their idea to the judges. While St Richard's did not win on the day, the pupils and teachers enjoyed taking part and huge congratulations to Willingdon School who were the eventual winners. Look out for other exciting competitions taking place within the Computing and ICT department.

### Thoughts from pupils who took part in the day:

“The team began with a number of ideas that could possibly be created, however after a few discussions we soon realised that some of these ideas were impossible to produce in the short time that we had and also the lack of hardware available played a role in our decision. We came up with two ideas: a stopwatch and a smart-torch. We had some Faraday money that allowed us to purchase certain hardware items and we got straight to work, designing, coding and building both items. We developed problem solving skills along the way, especially when it came to creating the smart-torch. It was fun working as part of a team because most pupils had different ideas and we worked well together. Finally, we pitched our idea to the judges who were impressed with our smart-torch. They really liked the idea that the torch knows when it gets dark and automatically switches on and off depending on the amount of light. It was great using a computer to program and control this device - I just wish we could sell our invention!”



## Online Risk: Myths and Facts

The internet is a wonderful resource for young people and offers unprecedented opportunities for connecting and learning. But it can also be scary. Many parents are afraid their children will be exposed to upsetting content or meet dangerous people online. What are the facts about online risk?

**Myth 1:** Adults who want to harm children target them by pretending to be young people themselves.

**Fact:** This can be the case, but according to the Crimes Against Children Research Centre. Most online offenders admit they are older before trying to convince their victims to meet in person or engage in sexual activity online. They typically rely on flattery and young people's normal interest in sex and relationships to target children, not solely on deception about their age.

**Myth 2:** Online child sex offenders typically target very young children.

**Fact:** Offenders typically target children they think will be vulnerable, so many try to connect with teenagers who are open to talking about sex. Some do specifically target young children (especially young children who are very active online), so it's important to talk to children of all ages about using the internet safely. The fact is though, it's teens who are most vulnerable to exploitation online.

**Myth 3:** Social media is too risky and should be for adults and older teens only.

**Fact:** 'Social media' is a broad term referring to a wide range of platforms for connecting and communicating online. Some are safer than others, but they all involve a certain amount of risk – and many incorporate tools for preventing harm, like reporting functions, privacy settings and moderators who remove inappropriate content. Many young people use social media safely and productively.

For further information go to: <http://parentinfo.org/article/online-risk-myths-and-facts>

Mr Fegan, Subject Leader Computing/ICT

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**Glydebourne Visit – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February:** 25 pupils enjoyed a performance of the youth opera 'Nothing', the highlight for us being able to see our own Elena Murdoch (11) as part of the cast! Elena was fantastic, and deserves a huge amount of credit for being selected for the production, and for fitting the exhausting rehearsal schedule around her studies. Here are a few comments from pupils who were lucky enough to be there:



*'I thought that the opera was really exhilarating, and there was a surprise around every corner. Both the setting and the props were unforgettable.'* (Ethan O'Hara Harris)

*'We are all very grateful that we got the tickets so cheaply, and a programme for free!'* (Sophie Whitbourn)

*'Overall, I think that the story was close to perfect!'* (Xavier Ralph)

*'The opera 'Nothing' is amazing. It involves comedy, death and awesome*

*singing.'* (Lewis Harkins)

*'For me, the best part of experience was seeing the opera-house, but I would give the opera nine out of ten!'* (Eve Simmonds)

*'The trip to Glydebourne was beyond words.'* (Kasey Cosens)

*'I would recommend it to anyone, and I would definitely go to another performance.'* (Lucinda Hamilton-Burns)

*'The opera was very emotional, and made me think about the meanings of everything in life.'* (Katie Clifton)



**Holocaust Day Memorial Event – Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January:** Congratulations to our young musicians, dancers and dramatists involved in this event. Their performance was moving, and very professional, showing the results of intense rehearsals over many weeks. Of particular merit was Sean Hayden-Ling's very moving and expressive violin solo. Here are a few photos from the event.



**Forthcoming 'Music Showcase' – Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April – College Hall at 7.00pm:** This is an

opportunity to hear some of our best musicians performing solos and small ensemble items. The evening will, in particular, showcase work from our current Year 11 GCSE music group. Admission is free, with a retiring collection to support the extra-curricular work of the department.

Mr Roadknight, Subject Leader – Music



### Pliers Required

Mrs Robertson in Product Design is looking for old pairs of pliers in good working condition for a project. If you are able to help, please email her:  
[mrsrobertsonv@strichardsgcc.com](mailto:mrsrobertsonv@strichardsgcc.com)

### Year 9 Option Choices 2016-2018

On Monday, 14th March, pupils in Year 9 received a copy of the option pack. The pack contains a letter explaining the personalised option pathway, the option grid to complete their choices on and a booklet: Guide for parents and pupils who are starting GCSEs in September 2016. Please sign the acknowledgement section at the bottom of the letter in order to confirm that your son/daughter has completed the choices in collaboration with you. The options choice grid must be returned to the Form Tutor by Tuesday, 22nd March.

Miss Machin, Timetabler

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STUDY  
DRAMA**

The drama department is a hive of activity and excitement with the school show preparations under way; the GCSE pupils about to perform their final pieces of coursework and lots of rehearsing for liturgy performances. Good luck to everyone this term!

**British Values Project:** The five pupils who were involved with the filming of an educational resource on 'British Values' had the great pleasure of attending the East Sussex PSHEE conference in Eastbourne where they got to introduce their film, and talk to teachers and local police about what they had learned. Well done Year 10, you should be very proud of what you have

achieved.

**Performance Workshop:** A selection of Year 11 English and Drama pupils had the opportunity to work with Mike Southern from Stage-Ed for a whole day on performance skills and text exploration. Mike was in the West End show 'Blood Brothers' for eleven years and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring 'An Inspector Calls' with him. Well done to all for getting involved. We look forward to welcoming Mike back for more thought-provoking drama workshops next year.



**Theatre Trip:** The Year 10 GCSE drama group thoroughly enjoyed their night in the West End watching the award winning National Theatre show – 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.' The adaptation of the famous book gave the pupils a lot to think about and Joe Burford commented that it was. "By the far the best thing he had ever seen!" The drama department is looking forward to organising more theatre trips before the end of the year, so keep an eye out for further information.

### **A Thoroughly Exciting Summer Production:**

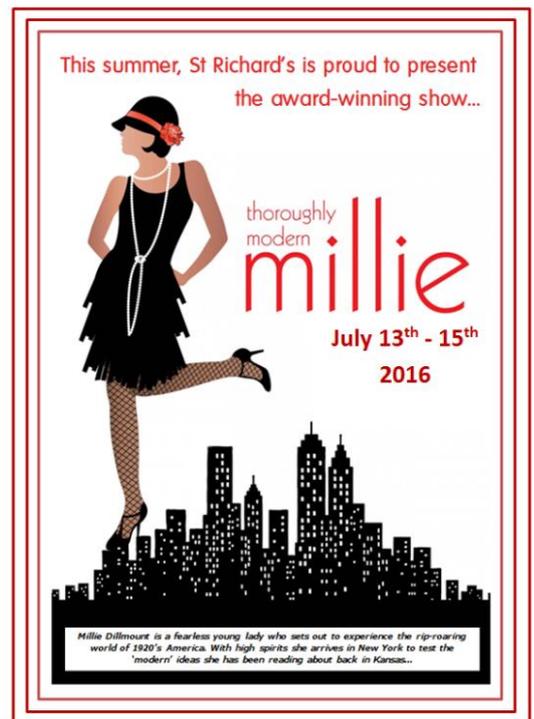
The Performing Arts department are very happy to announce that this year's school show will be the rip-roaring, fast-paced, 1920's musical made famous by Julie Andrews - 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.' The auditions proved we have a huge amount of talent and enthusiasm here at St Richard's, so thank you to everyone who made the effort. Don't forget, even if you don't get a part, we need a hard-working production team to make it look fantastic. Please come and see me if you want to help out.

**The Arts Award:** For all of you who haven't seen me with your portfolio this term, please pop into the drama studio, and well done on all the fantastic Arts Award work I have seen so far!

*Mrs Dunster (mrsdunsters@strichardscc.com)*

## ART DEPARTMENT

We are already half way through the academic year and that can only mean one thing in the Art Department. All the Key Stage Three 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. 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 whilst 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. The Year 11 GCSE group are only two weeks away from their exam which occurs over two consecutive days. Mr Halligan and I are looking forward to some



inspiring and exciting main pieces produced over the duration of the 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 and posters for the summer production, 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. Pupils who did not take part in the Bronze Award last year, but would like to help the Production Team please see Mrs Dunster or myself. There is still the opportunity to take The Bronze Award as well.



Both our Year 10 and Year 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



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 ventured out again last weekend on another practice walk. They navigated a 10 mile route near the villages of Jevington, Litlington and West Dean. It was a stunning day, foggy low down in the morning but gloriously sunny and warm higher up on the Downs. The aim of the day was to practise navigating and be a bit more independent from members of staff. This independence usually results in teams making their first route-finding blunders, getting a bit lost and learning the hard way how to avoid adding unnecessary extra miles or hours to their journey, this weekend was no exception! It's all part of getting prepared for the final qualifying expedition. All the groups did really well and are one step closer to being ready for this. Another important lesson, regarding animals, was learnt by one team member (cough... Robyn) don't store mini eggs in the top of your rucksack when walking through a field with horses in!

Here are a few quotes from the weekend:

*"The Downs looked like Spain in the heat which was nice."*

*"The Downs reminded me of the countryside in Ireland where my grandparents live."*

*"DofE has made me team up with people I don't normally hang out with and is helping me be more confident when it comes to taking a leadership role."*

Mr Harwood (DofE Coordinator)





## Morocco Expedition 2016

A team of eleven Year 10 pupils will be heading off to Morocco this July on an expedition to climb 4167m up North Africa's highest peak,



Jabel Toubkal, and serve a local village by helping with a sustainable community project. They've recently been fundraising for the trip and raised over £800 during a two day bag-packing bonanza in our local Sainsbury's; if you were one of the many who allowed us to pack your shopping, we are very sorry for any broken eggs, but thank you for your generosity and thank you Sainsbury's for having us! For our next fundraiser on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we will be hosting the biggest Easter egg hunt ever (at St Richard's) for pupils in Year 7. There will be some serious chocolate up for grabs! It's £1 for the Easter egg hunt. See the owners of the surrounding faces for more details. You might also see us in the Linkway with a ridiculously big jar of mini eggs, pay us a £1, guess the number of eggs in the jar and YOU could be a chocolate millionaire... THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



A picture speaks a thousand words, here's a glimpse of what the Year 7 John Muir Award groups have been doing on the beach this term. Activities included: beach cleaning, beach games, scavenger hunts, beach art, teambuilding, trust activities and using the beach as a place for personal reflection.

### JOHN MUIR AWARD @ ST RICHARD'S





## History Department News

**YEAR 9.** With Options choices being made I would like to remind pupils that if you have any questions regarding the GCSE History course please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the department. We are really excited about the new units of study which will be as follows:

- *Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches*
- *The American West, 1835-1895*
- *Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88*
- *Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39*

**YEAR 10.** Pupils are continuing to work on their Controlled Assessment unit focused on the Vietnam War. All will have completed Part B by the Easter holidays and will have one final piece to complete in Term 5. Remember, this Controlled Assessment is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade you are awarded so focus, drive and effort are required to achieve your potential. Weekly intervention for the Controlled Assessment is held on a Thursday, afterschool, in A9. All are welcome to attend.

**YEAR 11.** Revision rotations have begun for Year 11 which sees pupils visit each departmental member for 6 lessons to receive intensive revision on a specific area of the GCSE. In these sessions pupils will also be receiving revision guides for each of the three examined topics. To cover departmental printing costs for these detailed revision guides, pupils are asked for a voluntary donation of £2.00, which should be given to their current History teacher. We thank you in advance for this. The department are also running a number of revision sessions between now and the end of May; please do encourage your son/daughter to attend as many of these as possible. Pupils are reminded that they should be well underway with their revision at home. There are a wealth of resources available to support them with this. They should see their teacher for guidance if needed.

Finally, I would like to say thank you and good luck to trainee teacher, Miss Beadle, who sadly leaves the History Department at the end of term 4. We have been so lucky to have you and you will be very much missed. Good luck in your next school.

Happy Easter!

*Mrs Campbell, Subject Leader for History*

# Mufti Day

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

In aid of CAFOD and the Bexhill Foodbank



Please bring in £1 for CAFOD to help purchase water pumps for 2 villages in North Uganda and a donation of food for the Bexhill Foodbank.

Please note food items should not include baked beans or soup, as the Bexhill Foodbank has a huge supply of these already, but breakfast goods, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, toiletries and small Easter gifts would be much appreciated.

## Numeracy Highlights

### Numeracy Club

Every Thursday in B6. Gain confidence with problem solving.

**Booster sessions for Year 11** are happening every morning with Mr Beaumont and Mr Gallivan.

### Problem Solving Wall

Ms Gallagher and Miss Machin have a problem solving wall in their classrooms. Have a go and get a postcard home!

February 22-26th 2016 was St Richard's second annual Maths in Action Week. Pupils from Years 6-10 took part in trips, activities and competitions. Our feeder schools sent 40 pupils to The Royal Institute in London to learn about the story of Pi and Superhero Mathematics, calculating how far Superman can actually leap!

Year 7 pupils took part in Mathematics in Art workshops at the De La Warr Pavilion. Year 10 pupils competed against other schools from Sussex in our Maths Feast. The teams won three rounds and received lots of individual certificates.

The Maths in Action Week was a great success and highlighted the importance of Mathematics across the curriculum and in our everyday lives.



### Women in Mathematics

St Richard's organised their second Women in Mathematics Day for Maths in Action Week. 75 girls from around Sussex attended the event held at Sussex Coast College.

Hannah Fry, a mathematician and broadcaster from the BBC, gave a fantastic lecture. All the pupils took part in cryptography workshops, A-Level Graph Theory workshops and were given details about why A-Level Mathematics could be an option, as well as career pathways and opportunities.

This event went hand in hand with the numerous events St Richard's Science department are involved in to celebrate International Women's Day.

Ms Gallagher, Numeracy Coordinator

## **Mathematics GCSE (9-1): Explaining the changes for Parents of Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils - Grading and Tiers**

In 2013 the DfE announced plans for reforming GCSE qualifications. GCSE Mathematics along with English is in the very first group of the new, reformed GCSE qualifications that will be taught and examined. These exams will be sat by the current Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils. One of the main changes is the new grading scale. Pupils will no longer receive a grade from A\* to G. Instead a numbered grade will be used from **9** (the highest) to **1** (the lowest). Overleaf is the Ofqual guideline for equivalent grades. These new qualifications are being referred to as GCSE (9-1). A grade 4 is considered a pass and pupils achieving this will not be required to re-sit the exam at College. A grade 5 is considered the minimum for a good pass.

GCSE (9-1) Mathematics will still have two tiers of entry (Foundation and Higher), but these new tiers will cover slightly different ranges of grades than before. The Foundation tier now covers a slightly wider range of grades and goes up to grade 5 (comparable with a high C/low B on the old scale). The Higher tier will now concern grade 4 (comparable to grade C from the old scale). Previously the Higher tier included grades from D and above. Higher tier

learners, just missing out on a Grade 4 can pick up a Grade 3 though. Pupils who have older brothers or sisters who did the previous GCSE may now find themselves entered for a different tier than their siblings, even if they feel their ability is the same. The top Grade 9 will be awarded to the top 20% of those who get Grade 7 or above. It has been introduced to identify the very highest performers.

### Exam Structure

The new GCSE (9-1) Mathematics will have three papers, each 1½ hours long. This will total as 4½ hours. This is an increase from the current two papers, which are each 1¾ hours long.

### Content

There is a 1/3 more content in the curriculum with some new topics. Some of the old Higher topics will now appear on the Foundation tier and there will be new topics in both tiers.

### Formulae

There is now a greater requirement for pupils to memorise important mathematical formulae by heart. Pupils will be made aware of this by their teachers and will be taught this in lesson time, but it is also vital that they practise these at home too.

### Assessment Objectives

The Assessment Objectives are designations given by the exam board to each question in the exam, which ensures that they are asking the correct balance of questions. There are 3 assessment objectives which are:

- AO1 Use and apply standard techniques
- AO2 Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- AO3 Solve problems within maths and in other contexts.

Compared to the previous GCSE maths, there is a greater emphasis on problem solving skills in the new GCSE (9-1) Mathematics.

If you have any questions about the changes, please contact your child's teacher or Mr Beaumont at

[mrbeaumontj@strichardscc.com](mailto:mrbeaumontj@strichardscc.com)

*(adapted from OCR New GCSE (9-1))*

The image shows a chart titled 'New GCSE grading structure' from Ofqual. It compares the 'New grading structure' (grades 9-1 and U) with the 'Current grading structure' (grades A\*-G and U). A dashed line separates the 'AWARDING' range (grades 4 and above) from the 'GOOD PASS (DfE)' range (grades 5 and above). The 'GOOD PASS' range is noted as being the top of C and above, while the 'AWARDING' range is the bottom of C and above.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

# Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

## PTFA NEWS..... PTFA NEWS.....

**Chair:** Natalie Gaymer & Fiona Connor **Vice-Chair:** Nicky Cave & Karen Marsh

**Treasurer:** Carina Hilton **Secretary:** Amanda Isaacs & Carole Clifton

Dear Parents/Carers

The PTFA have continued to support the various Parents' Evenings and other evening events by providing much needed refreshments to pupils, staff and parents. We do this on a rota basis and always appreciate new names and faces who may be able to volunteer their services. As the majority of us are working parents and juggling our lives constantly, we do not have expectations of our PTFA members being at every event.

The much anticipated Year 7/8 disco was held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March and was a successful fundraiser for the PTFA. We are now starting to make plans for the biggest event in the PTFA calendar - the Summer Fayre - watch this space for more details.

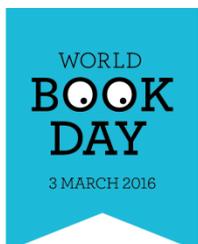
As usual we would like to say that we always welcome new members on the PTFA, and really do appreciate everyone who gives up their time to support us and ultimately the pupils and staff of St Richard's Catholic College.

Kind Regards

*From the PTFA team*

## Library News

**1066 Schools Book Award** is coming to a close, with our readers busy finishing books, activities and reviews. Congratulations go to Margarita Smirnova of 7O for being the first to complete all the reading and the 4 reviews – well done! On 16th March we will welcome pupils and librarians from other local schools to celebrate great writing together as we vote for the winner of the Award at a Prize Ceremony in the Library. Watch this space for photos in the next edition!



**World Book Day** was celebrated this year by all Year 7s having a choice of a World Book Day book or a £1 World Book Day token. Tokens were distributed to Years 8 and 9 during their Library lessons, and to older pupils by application. Remember to use your token by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The Library also donated all fines paid from overdue books in the week of World Book Day (February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>) to The National Literacy Trust, an independent charity transforming lives through literacy. They support families in deprived areas, give books to disadvantaged children and provide literacy resources to schools.

They also support young people by helping them develop the communications skills and confidence to get a job. Donations to this charity totalled £20.00. Thank you all for your support.



**Film Club News** Film Club screened 'Super 8' in the middle of March, an adventure about growing up in a small town, making movies, and inadvertently capturing something dangerous and



secret on film. Our Film Clubbers empathised with a group of young Americans caught up in a conspiracy.



**Read for My School** More than 400 pupils in Years 7 and 8 at St Richard's are signed up for this scheme and have read 1170 books between them, on-line since January. I am hoping we will top the 1500 mark before Easter! This is really excellent work – well done, Years 7 and 8!

**New Stock** We have invested some careful thought, time and money, in conjunction with the Modern Foreign Languages Department, to set up a new collection of French, German and Spanish books. Many are dual language, and have additional glossaries to enable pupils to engage with and expand their knowledge of the modern languages taught at St Richard's. We hope this collection will challenge pupils and support them in their learning.



Additionally, **The Carnegie Long List 2016** comprises of 20 books of the very best new and exciting teen fiction reads have just arrived, ready for the beginning of the Carnegie Shadowing Award after Easter. I can't wait to read them all!!

**Book Quote of the Month:** *'My television fed me visions, but I never created my own until I became a reader.'* Barry Green, author and education guru.

**And Finally...** The Librarians wish all readers and their families a very happy Easter - and remember, a book lasts longer and gives far more pleasure than an egg 😊!

Miss Tocknell, Librarian

## **English Department News**

### **The Joy of Reading by Kaira Rubit, 8I**

Reading is just like an extended version of a movie – but you cannot see it. Every story has a purpose and a true meaning. Reading has words of inspiration, imagination and it makes you feel intrigued. Motivation and enjoyment is the purpose of what authors want their readers to feel. You can do whatever you want with reading. Reading is just the thing when you're feeling bored. When we read, it comes straight from the heart – and if there's a particular book you like, you will start to feel a passion for it. Reading gets you to dream – and you never know – some dreams might just come true. You will understand and explore more – free to do anything. Reading is an inspiration for others to write their own story, it will be good as long as the author enjoys and really means it. It can be any book, as long as you start to feel for it. Wouldn't you like to read? It could change your life forever.



### Shakespeare in Performance Winner

Many congratulations to William Brown in 8F, who won the English Speaking Union, Shakespeare in Performance National Final in London's West End on Tuesday, performing a monologue by Trinculo from *The Tempest*.

### Poet Visit

On Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, the English department were delighted to welcome Adam Kammerling to perform his poetry and lead workshops with More Able pupils. Year 10 were lucky enough to kick-start their study of the new GCSE anthology with a performance and Q+A session in the hall, which included original rap poetry, spoken word performances and a little background to Adam's career. Adam managed to convince the year group with a detailed knowledge of the rap scene in response to their questions and the overall experience was well summarised by one pupil who told us, "Miss, that guy was awesome – get him to come back!"

After the performance, Adam worked with two small groups of More Able pupils from KS3 – Year 8s and Year 9s – to create some original performance poetry on the theme of 'community.' The pupils were challenged to create some extended, unusual and successful metaphors (keep a look out for what they produced appearing around the school!) From schools of fish to beating hearts, the pupils managed to take their theme of community and their medium of poetry and bring it alive with Adam's encouragement. We hope to continue to work with Adam and the Poetry Society in the future.

### Shakespeare 400

As more details begin to emerge about the anniversary celebrations in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, our day trip itinerary is starting to take shape! Amongst the events planned on the South Bank to celebrate Shakespeare's 400 year anniversary are short video versions of all the plays broadcast to the South Bank from all the original locations – we will see 'Romeo and Juliet' performed in Verona, 'Hamlet' broadcast from Denmark and 'Macbeth' streamed from the depths of the Scottish moors. Over half the spaces have been filled over the past fortnight so see Miss Wood in AI ASAP for a letter if you would still like to go. Deadline for returns is Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### BBC School Report

On Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs Midghall's band of intrepid reporters embarked on national journalism project, BBC School Report. More Able pupils from Year 8, assisted by three Year 9 editors, spent the morning gathering reports, images and videos for their own news website. Pupils involved went all over the school and delved into newspapers, looking for the 'hot button' stories and issues of the day. They are currently in the process of putting together their webpage which will be available in the 'Latest News' section of the school website. A full report will follow in the next newsletter.

### Poetry Live

Year 11s enjoyed a trip to Brighton Dome on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March to see many of the poets they are studying for GCSE perform and speak about their poetry. They also received a talk from the chief examiner for AQA, who shared useful advice on how to approach the Literature Paper.

### Bookbuzz Competition Winner

Moe Murray in Year 7 has won a nationwide competition to design a book cover competition for Bookbuzz. Moe designed a book cover for *Dandelion Clocks*, by Rebecca Westcott.

<http://www.bookbuzz.org.uk/news-and-press/news/44/>



### Access2books Website Competition

Jordan Westbrook in Year 9 has won a competition in the 12-17 year old category through the access2books website. Jordan entered the competition 'through Scarlett's eyes' at Christmas, for children with sight loss, which was to write a book up to 400 words that includes the child and is fun to read. Entrants were also asked to supply a front cover design which illustrates the main characters and story line. Jordan won a voucher and a book of his choice from the Access2books catalogue. Well done, Jordan.

# Science News

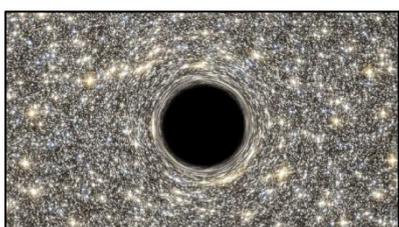
## STFC Certificates

Year 9 pupils were awarded certificates for their participation in the STFC Science Communication Prize.

## Institute of Physics Lectures

### The Rosetta Mission: What? Where? How? And where is it now?

The Rosetta Mission's aim is to map the comet 67-P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko by remote sensing, to examine its environment in situ and its evolution in the solar system. The lander, Philae is the first device to land on a comet and perform in situ science on the surface. Nearly ten years after launch the spacecraft woke up from hibernation and subsequently entered into orbit deploying Philae to the surface. Dr Matt Taylor, still employed on the mission, summarised the mission both operationally and scientifically. St Richard's pupils were invited to undertake some competitive comet cooking for the public audience due to their previous experience – to huge applause!



### 100 Years of General Relativity

Professor David Berman of the Centre for Research in String Theory at Queen Mary's University, London entertained the audience with his interpretation of Big Physics past, present and future on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Einstein's Nobel prize winning paper on General Relativity. His wry take on current physics had to be rewritten only three weeks ago with the newly published discovery of gravitational waves – a fitting birthday present!

## CERN Trip

After a very early start, pupils from St Richard's joined Bexhill College students for a whistle stop visit to Geneva in Switzerland during half term. With a very busy itinerary that included an early flight, a visit to the world's largest experiment at CERN and a fascinating guided tour of the United Nation's European Headquarters along with some exploration of the historic town and chocolate shopping. Year 11 pupil, Gabriel Goncalves-Balde, thought the UN building tour to be excellent but would have preferred to see the accelerator itself underground – not currently possible as it is running! The trip was inspiring but also exhausting and most pupils wanted to spend more time in Geneva.



Year 10 pupils William Carey and Aedan Lawrence reported that the thought the trip to Switzerland was really good. *'I enjoyed learning about CERN and unlike others, stayed awake during the lecture. I liked going through the UN as the ceiling was really interesting. I liked how the hostel had Wi-Fi which enabled me to share photos and communicate with those back home. My favourite part was getting to explore Geneva and go around the city.'*

Year 9 pupil Theo Tadros also enjoyed the trip. *'The accommodation was good and there was Wi-Fi. The canteen food was nowhere near as dreadful as anticipated. The United Nations tour was very good and the roof looked cool in the big assembly room. The best part was learning about the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and the extreme cooling.'*

All of the pupils were really impressed with the UN tour, in no small part due to the engaging guide who happily answered any and all questions thrown at him. Our very engaging guide gave an impressive summary of the development of the United Nations over its 70 year history and we were able to observe a scheduled debate on women's rights with contributions from across the member nations. It was fascinating to think that the discussions we were viewing could dictate future international policy – truly democracy in action.

## IET Faraday Challenge

Samuel Satow, Odhran Blastock, Max Taylor, Nasim Bellagnaoui and Ruby Byrne of 7I joined Aswani Arun of 7F in representing the college in the IET Faraday Challenge. The pupils really enjoyed using the BBC microbit device ahead of their national rollout to all Year 7 (see full report in the Computing section).



## Star Club

The Star Club pupils have been continuing to meet regularly in preparation for both their Foundation Amateur Radio Licence examination and our confirmed link with Tim Peake aboard the International Space Station. Congratulations to Lucy Woolridge, William Carey, Aeden Lawrence, Moira Mendoza, Shona Waldron and Ancy Augustine who qualified in early March and must now register their personal call signs.



## ARISS Contact

Pupils across the school have been invited to enter the 'Ask an Astronaut' competition to have their burning questions for Tim Peake related to him during our ISS contact. I recently visited a Welsh school that hosted an ARISS link and am pleased to report that St Richard's plans are now well underway.

## GCSE Science Live

Pupils returned to the London stage to hear from eminent scientists including Professors Lucy Green, Jim Al Khalili, Robert Winston, Andrea Sella and the intriguing Richard Fortey and his amazing research work into fossil trilobites. Ben Stotesbury-Byrne reported, 'I enjoyed Jim Alkalli's talk about black holes and parallel universes. It made me think about universes and reality differently.' Lucinda Hamilton-Burns' favourite speaker was Professor Winston, 'his talk about biology was incredibly interesting and I learnt a lot'. Year 9 pupils Helena Hudson and Dillon Miles offered different favourites: Helena preferred Dr Lucie Green's talk on the solar system, whereas Dillon preferred Jim's talk about paradoxes, 'because it was cool'.



## Moon Rocks & Meteorites

St Richard's was fortunate to have priceless lunar rock samples in college for pupils to handle in a prelude to the Tim Peake contact. Pupils from all year groups were able to investigate these unusual materials and reflect on the Earth and Moon's place in the Solar System. Consideration of the origin of these samples allowed GCSE astronomers to reflect on their learning – an unusual revision aid!



## STEM Lecture

Women in STEM: home and abroad was the title of a keynote address at UCL featuring Professor of Astrophysics, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

*'The opportunity to meet somebody that we learn about in school in the same way that we are taught about Einstein and Newton was incredible. Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell is amazing, and the lecture she gave was really interesting. Listening to the lecture was definitely worth the long journey to and from London, and even the slight technical issues we encountered with google maps and satnavs.'* Reported by Lucy Woolridge.



After the lecture and Q&A that followed, pupils were delighted to be able to chat with both Dame Jocelyn and also Professor Lucy Green – an inspiring evening for all.

## STEM Space Projects

**Rocket Science:** Year 7 Young Investigators will be taking part in this countrywide *Principia* project with seeds from space!

**Exoplanets:** For pupils in Years 8 and 9 will run from 3.30-5.00pm on Tuesdays after school in Lab 4 commencing Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**Mission Starlight:** Year 10 pupils join in an RSC Global Experiment in Science Week (Pupils taking part in these STEM projects can earn Bronze CREST Awards).

**Family STEM Challenge:** The Family STEM Challenge evening has been rescheduled to be part of the STEM Space conference hosted as part of our ARISS celebrations.

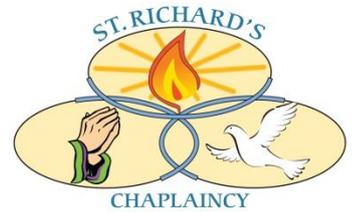
## Forthcoming Science Trips

Space Camp and Ethical Eden Trips are now both full and so future residential trips will be the 'Oxford Overnighter' Trip in July and possibly a CAT Camp in October half term. Details to follow in registers soon. On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a day trip to Chichester to visit the South Downs Planetarium and Fishbourne Roman Palace. Letters are available now from Dr Durkin in Lab 4.





# Chaplaincy News



The season of Lent is now in full swing, and both pupils and staff are involved in a number of Lenten activities, outlined below. During Lent we are encouraged to focus on three main areas. The first is to give more time to prayer, perhaps five minutes each day. The second is to fast, this could be not consuming a favourite food or drink (or even spending less time on Facebook or Twitter!) to remind us not to become too dependent on material comforts. The third is to help those in need, making some practical and real effort to support people suffering the effects of poverty, whether overseas or here at home. If we are able to put these three areas into practice, then Lent becomes a season of getting closer to God so that, when we reach Holy Week and Easter, the most solemn and important time in the Church's year, we will be well prepared and ready to receive the Risen Lord. May I wish you every blessing on your Lenten journey.



## The CAFOD - Lent Campaign

This year's CAFOD Lent campaign focuses on water and how there are still people in our world without clean water. Pupils and staff will be taking 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 will go to CAFOD. In addition, pupils will be bringing in items of food for the Bexhill Foodbank which they will carry in plastic bags on their walk to give to Foodbank staff at St Mary Magdalene's. In this way, St Richard's will be helping those in need both at home and away.

## Ash Wednesday Services

On Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February all the pupils in college attended an Ash Wednesday service in the morning, at which they were encouraged to think about, and commit themselves to, reflecting on their lives and the idea of mercy this Lent. Year 11 pupils, who earlier in the year had been commissioned as Ministers of Holy Communion, distributed the ashes.

## Holy Week/Easter Services in college

Pupils and staff are busy preparing for the end of term services that will take place on the morning of Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. The services will focus on the Last Supper and the Trial of Jesus. The liturgy will comprise of some of the most dramatic moments of the trial, and will include readings, drama, music and dance.

## Year Group and Form Masses and Services

This term Year 10 pupils helped to prepare their Year Mass with the readings focusing on the Feast of St David, Patron Saint of Wales and his famous saying 'Do ye the little things' - the challenge was given to the Year 10s to try to focus on the little things they can accomplish and trust in God's help for the larger things in their life. Year 8 Liturgy Reps will be beginning to plan their service on our return from the Easter holidays.

Form Masses and Services have also taken place for a number of forms and sincere thanks to pupils, form tutors, Mrs Byrne and Mr Roadknight for making these liturgies, prayerful, meaningful and very special occasions.

## Rome Pilgrimage in February

Year 10 pupils set off very early on the Monday of the February holiday for a pilgrimage to Rome. After the very wet and windy weather of January and February, blue skies, warm sun and pleasant temperatures came as a wonderful change in the Eternal City. Highlights of the trip were the Colosseum, Vatican Museum, The Pantheon and the Dome of St. Peter's (9 intrepid pupils, Miss Easton and Jo climbed the 537 steps to the very top!)

We were unlucky that Pope Francis was away in Mexico, so we were unable to have a Papal audience. However, we did have the opportunity to enter through not one but three Holy Doors, including the Basilica of St Peter where Pope Francis launched the Year of Mercy.





Huge thanks must go to Fr David Parmiter who acted as our guide on a number of occasions and to the staff who gave their time to enable the trip to take place - Miss Easton, Mrs Tadros and Mrs Truss. Rome is truly a beautiful city and hopefully we can run this trip again in the future.

### Parish Mass at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bexhill, 13th March 2016

A Parish Mass took place on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March and a number of pupils were involved in many different aspects of the liturgy, including the readings, music, offertory and Communion reflection. Thank you to them for their contribution, and to all pupils and families who attended. Thank you also to Mrs Byrne, Mr Roadnight, Mrs Knight and Mrs Dunster who assisted in preparing this Mass. Feedback from the parish has been very positive.

### Whitstable Retreat

Year 7 and 8 retreat to St Vincent's Centre in Whitstable will be coming up in the summer term and an assembly will be held on this before the end of term 4. Watch out for more information or come and see Jo if you are interested.

### Friday Morning Mass for staff and pupils

Early morning Mass at 8.10am on Fridays continues to be celebrated in room A3. Staff, pupils and parents are very welcome to attend. If you have a special prayer intention that you would like to be included at Mass, perhaps for someone who is unwell or for someone who has died, then do let Jo know.

### Interact Club

The 'End Polio Now' campaign was very well prepared and executed by members of the Interact Club. A very large number of fairy cakes were sold in college in February. The total raised is being calculated as we go to press so well done to all involved!



### Fairtrade Activities

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

Our raffle for a lovely Fairtrade Easter egg was well supported and the winners of the prizes were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Harrison Bailey 10F
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Charlotte Power 7L
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Miss Howard

Year 10 reps and volunteers helped to run the Fairtrade



St Richard's Big Brew and raised £20. We hope to make this as an annual event and make it much bigger and better next year. My thanks to Year 10 Reps and Amy and Megan Tattersall who helped make it a success this year.

### Liturgy Reps

The next Liturgy Reps meeting will take place next term on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 12.45pm in A3. Sincere thanks to the Liturgy Reps from all the year groups who have gone the extra mile for the Chaplaincy events in the college, it is a pleasure to have your help, ideas and enthusiasm.



## Confirmation Candidates

Let us continue to remember in prayer all those who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Richard in May, June and July this year. As they approach this important commitment, may the confirmandi deepen their love of Jesus.

## Icon of Mercy

We were fortunate to have had the Icon of Our Lady of Consolation, visit us as part of Arundel and Brighton diocese celebration of the Year of Mercy. The Icon was on display in the hall on Thursday and Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March and pupils had the opportunity to leave a prayer intention if they so wished. Year 8 and Year 11 had an opportunity to use the icon for a moment of reflection in their assemblies also. I attended RE lessons and gave pupils an Icon of Our Lady of Consolation prayer card. If for some reason you did not get one, please come and see me as I still have a number in my office.

With very best wishes for a Spirit filled and holy Easter.

*Jo Doyle*

Miss Jo Doyle - Lay Chaplain ([missdoylej@strichardsc.com](mailto:missdoylej@strichardsc.com))



## RE DEPARTMENT NEWS

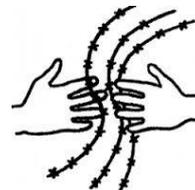
The Year 7s have been learning about the events that took place in Holy Week. The Year 8s have been learning about vocation and calling. Pupils have had a Deacon or Priest come into lessons to talk them through the vocation of ordination and holy orders. Thank you to Deacon Eugene, Fr Raglan and Fr Gerald for taking the time to talk to our pupils, and most importantly allowing the pupils to give them a 'grilling!' The Year 8s found these visits very valuable and allowed them to see how vocations can change and develop through life. The Year 9s have continued their studies in Mark's Gospel and are learning about how Jesus got into trouble with the authorities. The Year 10s are near the end of the Year 10 course and are learning about Crime and Punishment. Finally, the Year 11s have started their revision rotation for their GCSEs this summer. At the end of term 3, the Year 11s had a visit from the Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group. They offer emotional and practical support for those who are seeking asylum and those who are immigration detainees. This supported the Year 11 GCSE course where we look at asylum seekers. This allowed pupils to hear real life stories from detainees and asylum seekers giving them an inside look at the issues involved.



**Gatwick  
Detainees  
Welfare  
Group**

At the end of term 3, the Year 11s had a visit from the Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group. They offer emotional and practical support for those who are seeking asylum and those who are immigration detainees. This supported the Year 11 GCSE course where we look at asylum seekers. This allowed pupils to hear real life stories from detainees and asylum seekers giving them an inside look at the issues involved.

This term, Years 9, 10 and 11 had an opportunity to take part in another Homily Competition. They had the task of writing a homily for the parish Mass at St Mary Magdalene's Church. This Homily was then used for the Sunday Mass on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The winner was Chris Varghese. His homily showed an understanding of the gospel passage (The Adulterous Woman) and he explained how it could be applied to our lives today. In addition, Chris was able to make references to the Year of Mercy as well. Chris won a £20 cinema voucher.



Philosophy Club continues to grow and grow with pupils exploring and challenging the big questions in life. It's open to all years and abilities. It takes place every Friday lunchtime in A5 with Ms Henry. New members are always welcome and their attendance could go towards their CREST award.

Ms Mead, Acting Subject Leader - RE

## **Sponsored Sleep Out**

Congratulations to the pupils in Year 10 and 11 who took part in the sponsored 'Sleep Out' at the college at the start of term 3. Twenty pupils and members of staff slept under cardboard boxes on what turned out to be a cold but dry night.

The purpose of this event was to raise money for the Snowflake Trust, a local Christian charity that provides shelter for homeless people living in Hastings during the winter months. The pupils also wanted to raise money for CAFOD's partners, Caritas France, who are supporting the 5000 migrants living the 'The Jungle' in Calais.

As part of the evening, members of Snowflake spoke about their work and gave a unique insight into the growing problem of local homelessness. The pupils also heard from a former homeless person who gave a first-hand account of what life is like on the streets and spoke honestly about the events and decisions that led to him becoming homeless. After the talk, we went for a late night walk to Galley Hill where the pupils met the Bexhill Street Pastors who spoke about their work and the Christian motivation behind it. On our return, we found Mr Harwood who had lit a fire to help keep us warm. We also enjoyed a bowl of home-made soup (thanks to Mr Calladine-Evans) and some bread, mirroring the meal that homeless guests receive when they stay in one of the Snowflake shelters. By 11pm, everyone was feeling the cold and we all got into our cardboard shelters. As Emilie Jayne Ralph in Year 10 put it: *"This is when everyone started to feel the cold and could see that it would be a long night ahead of them. Personally, I must have woken up about three times in the night due to the cold and uncomfortable floor! This makes you realise what many homeless people have to go through every day of their lives and just how lucky we are."*

Although, there is still sponsorship money coming in, the pupils have raised an impressive sum that exceeds £1000. If you would like to make a donation, please send in a cheque made payable to 'St Richard's Catholic College' and indicate 'Snowflake Sleep Out' on the envelope.

Finally, thanks to Mr Campbell, Mrs Vanvuchelen, Dr Durkin, Miss Cronin and Mr Calladine-Evans who supported the sleepout. But most importantly, thank you to the pupils who took part; you are an inspiration and a wonderful advert of Christian living.

*Mr Byrne, Vice Principal*



## **Special Educational Needs**

The next SENCo Surgery is on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. This is an informal opportunity to discuss your child and their progress.

Exams will begin in earnest soon for Year 11. Please encourage your child to ask for help with revision strategies should they need this support. Mrs Campbell (Learning Coordinator, Year 9) is able to offer support with mind-mapping tools. If your child has access arrangements for public examinations, please remind them that they must use them in all subjects where they apply.

*Mrs Tadros, SENCO*

### **Holocaust Poem**

They died in their hundreds, thousands, millions  
died for no cause, an injustice  
No point, no meaning, no option whether to live or to die.  
We say they were lost, in a meaningless task  
a genocide of a people  
of an ancient religion  
of a hope born long ago

We say they were lost, in a meaningless war  
No hope for their souls  
to rest in peace, for the rest of their days  
But they were never forgotten  
and instead found a place in the kingdom of God

We say they were lost in meaningless battle,  
But in that battle they found their courage  
they sought protection, found none from their captors  
Sort for protection with each other  
They found it in abundance

This searing scar on humanity  
which wiped out millions  
may make you say it has no place in our history  
But it does  
It is not just a line of countless deaths  
But of nobility beyond comprehension  
Of love beyond life  
Of hope beyond the boundaries.

by Dilys Cornford (81)

### **Acrostic Poem**

**H**earing the cries of helpless babes and  
**O**penly showing the dismay at the disregard  
for their lives  
**L**ove kept them strong and together  
**O**thers knew not of their sacrifice  
**C**an't they learn to change, and not mourn the  
dead yet  
**A**lways the answer's the same. Our humanity  
is what's making  
**U**s human, to be without it is like to be  
without yourself, or your  
**S**oul. yet pity not the stranger, standing next  
to you with food in hand.  
**T**he true test of character is knowing how to  
love, and show mercy for those who have died  
in the conflict of war

**These holocaust poems were written for  
Holocaust Memorial Day which took place on  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

### **Congratulations to...**

Max Lai, Year 10, played rugby for Sussex at Brighton on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. The other team, Middlesex, were made up of many big London club players, from Saracens, Wasps, London Irish and many others, so it was a tough game! Despite this, Max enjoyed his day.

Emily Kimber in Year 10 has once again qualified for the English Junior Squash Championships. The tournament runs from Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> March in Birmingham.

Christian Whiteley in Year 8 has qualified with his swimming club for 3 county times (50m butterfly, 100m butterfly and 50m backstroke) and swims regularly for the county squad. He has recently represented them in the county relays in Horsham.

Millie White, Year 7, recently won the Modern Cup (under 13) and the Most Promising Junior (under 13) at the Royal Tunbridge Wells Dance Festival.

Freya Collard in Year 9 helped to choreograph a gym display for Nursery pupils at Charters Ancaster School. It was really well received.

Emilie-Jayne Ralph, Loula John, Lucinda Price-Farmer and Porscha Bratley for church fundraising for the Snowflake Appeal.

Michael Turner, Year 9, is the schools representative on the 'Into Film' youth council and he represents the South East region going up to London on Saturdays six times a year. On Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the 'Into Film' awards held at The Odeon Leicester Square.

Maria Crowter has been very successful at the Hastings Musical Festival in her drama classes. She has achieved: 1st place in Original Verse, 1st place in Humorous Verse, 1st place in Speech Monologue, 1st place in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Musical Theatre Show Song and 2nd place in Show Song. She has been invited to perform her monologue (for the third year running) at the end of festival highlights concert on Saturday. She has also recently achieved a Grade 4 LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Solo Acting and Grade 5 LCM (London College of Music) Musical Theatre examinations.



## PE Department News

### DANCE

**Wicked Theatre Trip:** On Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 engage with some classic American literature and see the costumes and music of the roaring twenties come to life.



**Trinity Laban Centre:** The Dance Company welcomed Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Dance training who held a workshop on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February. This scheme offers young people



who have 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.

**Time to Dance:** The Annual Time to Dance Festival was held at White Rock Theatre in Hastings on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February. This year's theme was 'I wish.'



The Dance Company presented two pieces this year. The Key Stage 3 pupils performed 'Never Forget.' 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 a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to dance in a professional theatre, working with a professional sound and lighting crew. Well done to all those involved with the performance, they were extremely professional.



**ICC Cheer Competition:** Congratulations to Maddy Thwaites in 9I, who recently competed in the ICC Cheer competition at The Guildford Spectrum. Maddy danced a duet, 'Flashlight,' in which she danced blindfolded, taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in her category. She also performed a group dance, a contemporary/lyrical piece, which took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the competition.

**PTFA Thank You:** The Dance Company would like to say thank you to the PTFA for the purchase of new liturgical dresses, our presentations will benefit from these greatly.

*Mrs Knight, Dance Teacher*

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL

#### **Results**

Both the U14 (Year 8&9) and the U16 (Year 10&11) progressed to the semi-finals of the County Cup.

The U16 Team are: Elisha Ballard, Amelia Bysouth, Abi Drewett, Charlotte Greenlees, Megan McHale, Vicky Murphy, Vita North, Tabitha Portch O'Neill, Kiera Spring,



Tara Willis, Serena Coyle, Lillie McSweeney and Gabriele Mercado. They lost 2-4 to Warden Park at Haywards Heath, however it was an excellent team effort and achievement. Well done!

The U14 team are: Isobel Corbin, Poppy Derhun, Chantelle Fullam, Ma Shaina Mallorca, Mikaela Rodriguez, Reinah Ruiz, Olivia White, Stephanie Bone, Pamela Busuego, Kiera Davey, Janel Maneclang, Abbie Pinnington and Amber Pisani-Cleland. They lost 3-6 to Dorothy Stringer, Brighton, however it was an excellent team effort and achievement. Well done!

The Year 11 6-a-side Area Tournament took place at Bexhill Academy. The St Richard's team were joint winners of this tournament, well done! The team are: Elisha Ballard, Amelia Bysouth, Charlotte Greenlees, Megan McHale, Vicky Murphy, Vita North and Tabitha Portch O'Neill. The results were:

v Hastings Academy – won 2-0.

v St Leonards Academy – won 2-1.

v Bexhill Academy – drew 0-0.

v Claverham A – won 1-0.

v Claverham B – won 2-0.

### **NETBALL**

Year 11 - 5<sup>th</sup> in the Area Netball Tournament.

Year 10 – cancelled due to the weather but will hopefully be re-scheduled after Easter. Good luck to the Years 7, 8 and 9 teams who all have their area tournaments before the end of this term.

### **BASKETBALL**

Attendance at basketball club has been fantastic with over 70 pupils attending on a regular basis-well done to all the girls. New members are always welcome.

#### **BASKETBALL (HASTINGS AREA LEAGUE)**

Year 7 v St Leonards Academy. Won 50 – 4.

Year 7 v Claverham. Won 48 – 8. This means they are A League Winners.

Year 8 v Hastings Academy. Won 18 - 14.

Year 8 v Bexhill Academy. Won 28 – 14.

Year 8 v St Leonards Academy. Won 16 – 12. This means they are A League Winners.

Year 9 v St Leonards Academy. Lost 12 – 23.

Year 9 v Bexhill Academy. Lost 14 – 18.

Year 10 v St Leonards Academy. Lost 8 – 18.

Year 10 v Rye. Lost 10 – 16.

Year 11 v Hastings Academy. Won 24 – 10.

Year 11 v St Leonards Academy. Lost 17 – 25.

#### **RUGBY (HASTINGS AREA A LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS)**

Year 9 v Hastings Academy. Won 25 – 5.

Year 9 v Robertsbridge. Drew 10 – 10.

Year 9 v St Leonards Academy. Drew 10 – 10. This means the Year 9 team finished runners up.

Year 7 v Bexhill Academy. Drew 10 – 10.

Year 7 v St Leonards Academy. Won 25 – 10. This means the Year 7 team are the A League Area Schools winners.

#### **SUSSEX SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY**

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 runners who represented the college at Christ's Hospital School in Horsham. Competing against ALL the counties top Sports and Independent schools they produced some outstanding performances. In each race there were over 150 runners.

Year 7 Girls: Erika Body 3rd, Lucy Boreham 28th, Maddie Baszczak 67th and Lily Gibbs 75th. 5th Team Place.

Year 7 Boys: Tomas Abad 51st, Quincey Gilbert 62nd, Nasim Bellagnaoui 104th, Kacper Soczawa 106th and Daniel Hampton 107th.

Year 8 Boys: Francis Simpson 22nd, Baxter Orchard 33rd, Oskar Lockyer 54th, Harry Murphy 57th and Patrick Willis 70th. Team finished 9th.



## SUSSEX SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COUNTY INDOOR SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS FINALS

Having qualified for the event by winning Hastings Area competitions, the Year 7 Boys and Year 8 girls competed at Tanbridge House School in Horsham. The Year 7 boys finished a strong 5<sup>th</sup> place and the Year 8 girls 8<sup>th</sup>.

In the local event the Year 7 girls finished 5<sup>th</sup> and the Year 8 boys were runners up to St Leonards Academy in a very close competition.

### SPORTS LEADERS

As one of the Youth Sports Trust 'Get Set ' Schools, a number of Sports Leaders from Year 7-10 attended the World Indoor Cycling Championships held at the Olympic Velodrome. They were lucky to watch a number of Olympic cyclists, including Sir Bradley Wiggins, compete in front of a large crowd.



### ST RICHARD'S RIDING TEAM UPDATE

The team are off to the National Schools Show Jumping Championships in Buckinghamshire at the end of April. The team have beaten many other schools in East Sussex to qualify for a place at the Championships. They will be competing against schools from all across the Country. We wish them lots of luck and a full report with photos will be in the next newsletter.

## **P.E. DEPARTMENT - CLUBS/PRACTICES (April - May 2016)**

Commencing Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April

	Boys	Girls	Dance
MONDAY	3.15-4.15: Badminton	3.15-4.15: Badminton	3.15-4.15: Dance Company 4.15-5.00: Grade 5 Modern (exam)
TUESDAY	Basketball Match Night Away	3.15-4.15: Year 7-8 Basketball	3.15-4.15: Dance Company 4.15-5.00: Grade 5 Modern (new class)
WEDNESDAY	3.15-4.15: Rugby All Years	3.15-4.15: Football All Years 3.15-4.15: Year 9-11 Basketball	3.15-4.15: Dance Company 4.15-5.00: Grade 3 Modern (new class)
THURSDAY	8.05-8.30am: Year 7-8 Basketball 3.15-4.15: Year 8-9 Basketball	8.05-8.30am: Year 7-8 Basketball Basketball Match Night Away	3.15-4.00: Ballet
FRIDAY	8.05-8.30am: Year 7-8 Basketball 3.15-4.15: Year 10-11 Basketball 3.15-4.15: Football All Years	8.05-8.30am: Year 7-8 Basketball	3.15-4.15: Boys' Dance Company 4.15-5.00: Boys' Modern

**There are also lunchtime fitness clubs as follows:**

Year 10 - Wednesday and Year 11 - Friday, both 1.05-1.30pm.

## St Richard's Catholic College Calendar

Academic Year 2015/2016 (as at March 2016)

Please keep this sheet in a safe place and replace when updates are provided.

### Term 4

Mufti Day for CAFOD

Wednesday, 23rd March

Last Day of Term Four

Thursday, 24th March

Easter Holidays

Friday, 25th March to Sunday, 10th April

### Terms 5 and 6

#### **First Day of Term Five**

Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening

#### **Monday, 11th April**

Thursday, 21st April (5.00-8.00pm)

Parental Focus Group meeting (am)

Wednesday, 27th April (9.15am)

Parental Focus Group meeting (pm)

Thursday, 28th April (6.15pm)

#### **INSET Day (school closed to pupils)**

#### **Friday, 29th April**

GCSE exams start

Tuesday, 3rd May

Last Day of Term Five

Friday, 27th May

End of Term Holidays

Saturday, 28th May to Sunday, 5th June

#### **First Day of Term Six**

Year 10 Exams begin

#### **Monday, 6th June**

Monday, 13th June

Parental Focus Group meeting (am)

Wednesday, 15th June (9.15am)

Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening

Thursday, 16th June (5.00-8.00pm)

Year 10 Exams end

Thursday, 23rd June

#### **INSET Day (school closed to pupils)**

#### **Monday, 27th June**

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Week commencing Monday, 27th June

Parental Focus Group meeting (pm)

Thursday, 30th June (6.15pm)

PTFA Summer Fayre

Saturday, 2nd July

Block Day

Thursday, 7th July

Sports Day

Wednesday, 13th July

#### **Last Day of Term Six**

#### **Friday, 22nd July**

### ***Newsletter Acknowledgement***

Don't forget to sign the newsletter acknowledgement located in your son/daughter's journal.

### **Newsletter**

Our newsletter is distributed in the penultimate week of each term. The youngest member of the family in the college has responsibility for passing the newsletter on to parents/carers. **However, all pupils in a family need to have a signature from a parent/carer to indicate that the newsletter has been received.** The acknowledgement is in the journal. It is important that this is signed within a week of publication, particularly when we have a planned half-day closure. **If you are willing to receive the newsletter via email please inform Mrs Klein at [mrskleink@strichardsc.com](mailto:mrskleink@strichardsc.com) and she will add you to the email group. It would help the college greatly if more parents/carers chose to receive the newsletter via email or were willing to access it via the website. The money saved could buy further resources for the pupils.**