



Science

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. 3 – December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another successful, productive term in the life of the school with much to celebrate and strong pupil progress evident.

I am pleased to inform you that Rother District Council approved planning permission for a four court sports hall on the field last week. LCVAP funding, supported by 10% funding from the Governors' Fund, will now allow us to build the sports hall with a hopeful completion date of October 2018. This is fantastic news for the college and, in particular, for the PE department who will be able to extend their curriculum diet and ensure that physical activities are available to the pupils, whatever the weather! I look forward to sharing further news with you as the project gets underway.

We began the term celebrating the talents of the pupils in music and dance when they performed at the annual Proms event. Over one hundred pupils were involved in a thoroughly polished performance of 'Supermarket Flowers' and 'Needed Time/I wish I knew how it feels to be free'. The standard achieved by all involved can only be described as exceptional. Days later, the choir were again in demand at our Annual Certificate and Prize Evening held at the De La Warr Pavilion. They performed a short concert to our guests and leavers ending the evening with John Rutter's 'May the Lord bless you and Keep You' as a final farewell and thank you to our leavers. We were delighted to welcome Father Aaron Spinelli, a former pupil, as guest speaker. Celebrating our leavers achievements (83% 5 or more 4-9 grades and 53% 5 or more 5-9 grades) and the successes of one hundred current pupils as well as the speeches delivered by the Head Boy and Head Girl, was an extremely proud moment.

As always, each term offers a variety of activities to pupils to extend their talents with a number of trips (Barcelona, CAT Camp, Christmas markets in Aachen, university trips, Neasden Hindu temple, Greenwich and stargazing at Herstmonceux) running alongside a range of enrichment activities including sport, dance, drama, art, creative writing, music, maths masterclasses and booster classes and competitions in cyber security, poetry, art and sport. Please encourage your son/daughter to get involved in at least one extra-curricular activity if they are not already doing so.

Fundraising continues to be a vital element of school life and this term has been no exception with monies/gifts donated to The British Legion Poppy Appeal, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, Love in a Box, MacMillan Cancer Care, Bexhill Foodbank, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Chestnut Tree House Hospice. Our final fundraising event of this term involves pupils contributing £1 and a donation to our annual Surviving Christmas Appeal.

As the term draws to a close, we say farewell to a long-serving member of staff who is moving into special education. Mr Beaumont has taught at the school for 13 years beginning his career here; he will be greatly missed. He is an outstanding teacher of maths who has always been calm and kind in his approach. Hundreds of pupils have benefited from his knowledge and talents, turning into strong mathematicians, and it was Mr Beaumont who achieved Maths Hub status for the school. As well as thanking him for his loyal service, I would like to wish him good luck in his new role. We also have one of our Vice Principals, Ms Horton, moving onto a new Vice Principal role having supported the leadership of the school for eighteen months. We wish her well and thank her for her many contributions to school life. Finally, can I thank Miss Kargbo-Reffell for all her help in the music department this term. She starts a new job in Brighton in January and will be replaced by Ms Mason, Subject Leader for Music and Performing Arts.

The annual ski trip heads off today and we wish all the pupils involved a fantastic experience. It would be lovely to see you at our Advent Service on Tuesday at 7.00pm. The theme this year is 'Do you have room for Christ this Christmas?' The PTFA raffle will be drawn at the end of the service before refreshments are served. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this term and wish you and your family a really happy Christmas. Term three begins on the revised date of Thursday, 4th January to allow for an Inset Day for staff to occur. I look forward to the pupils' return refreshed, smart and ready for the opportunities and challenges of term three.

A very happy Christmas and sincere good wishes for a healthy, happy 2018.

Yours sincerely

D. Cronin
Eco-Schools LEADING EDGE





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

As I get older time seems to pass ever quicker. It seems no time at all since last Christmas and we are now well into Advent. I am looking forward to attending the Advent service at the college, always a very special event helping us to reflect on the Christmas message. It also seems no time since the start of the academic year, although I am sure the staff and possibly the pupils would beg to differ.

At the start of the year you were asked to contribute to the Governors' Fund and you might wonder what happens to the money collected. The Governors' Fund is used to finance the 10% contribution required by the Department for Education or Local Authority for building projects and for other items of expenditure, approved by the Governing Body, for the benefit of St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill. It is audited annually by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton's Financial Secretary under the direction of the Diocesan Trustees. It is also independently scrutinised annually. The college is part of the registered charity number 252878. The coming year will see the development of a new sports hall on the school field and the Governors' Fund will contribute 10% of the capital building cost. Please consider supporting this fund if you have not already done so.

I would like to wish all staff, pupils and their families a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a very happy (and hardworking) New Year.

God bless

Alison Horan, Chair of Governors

YEAR SEVEN NEWS

Merry Christmas to all families from the Year Seven Team. This term, as you will have seen from reading your child's report and attending the parent consultation evening, has been an extremely successful and busy one. I am delighted with the hard work and caring nature of the year group who are certainly making an impact on school life. I know many of the Year Sevens are regulars at extra-curricular clubs and I shall be compiling a new Year Seven club list for Term 3; which will be shared on www.showmyhomework.com at the start of January. I am sure you have all been delighted with your notifications of achievement points via our new system – School Gateway. Currently, we are running a dual system of using credits and/or achievement points. Both systems show how well your child is doing and as a year group (pupils, tutors and subject teachers) we have been discussing which model best works for us all. If you have any questions/comments about either, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attendance in Year Seven is very good but can still be improved. One way to support your child is to ensure they wear a coat to school each day. I have been quite shocked with the number of children travelling to school without a coat this term. At college no Year Seven will be able to go on the playground at break or lunch without one to help prevent 'coughs and sneezes'. The issue with coats brings me onto a growing problem of **lost property**. I hope you all saw my picture on www.showmyhomework.com of a typical day of PE kits left on playgrounds or corridors. Sadly, only one of the twelve bags was labelled which makes it so much harder to reunite belongings with its owner. This week I have taken a picture of the many coats left in lost property. Again, very few are named and this is a typical day's haul of coats left around the school and placed in lost property.



On a much more positive note Year Seven have shown why I consider them to be the best year group in the college. **This year, we are supporting two charities as a year group**. The first is Guide Dogs for the Blind and the second is Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. We have a visit from the Guide Dog Association planned for Term 3. The pupils will meet a puppy being trained and get to ask many questions to its trainer. More about this in the next newsletter. On Monday and Thursday, pupils completed a sponsored Reindeer Run chasing Father Christmas around the cross

country course. Our plan is to raise over £1000 for the Chestnut Tree House Hospice and I thank you for your generous donations. As you can see from the photo it was a great deal of fun! Well done to Keira Fitzgerald for raising over £180 and Erin Todd for raising over £115.



Year Seven have also had the privilege of listening to the Gideon International Society speak to them in assembly and each received their own Gideon Bible. I am sure they came home and spoke to you about this.

An area that Year Seven have found the most challenge with since September has been **homework**. To support them I have compiled a list of useful websites specific to each subject. This has been shared on www.showmyhomework.com and should help pupils with their independent learning. Hopefully, you have noticed in your child's exercise books additions written in purple. The 'purple pen' work is either self or peer corrections aiming to support each pupil to close the gap in their learning. This is very similar to some of the work done in primary schools. Additionally, we are in the process of completing a programme to improve reading ages across the whole year group. This programme is referred to as 'Sound Training' and we are having incredible success in moving pupils forward.

Below is some **feedback from the Parent Consultation Evening**. Thank you to all who attended and completed a short questionnaire. This really does help me get an insight into how well we are supporting your child.

Parents were asked 'How well do you think your son/daughter has settled in to St Richard's?' 92% of responses were 'Very Well' and 8% replied 'Well'. No parent answered 'not so well'. **Parents stated a wide range of strategies and activities which aided their child's transition.** These included visits to the Primary school, close working partnership between home and school, personal letters and cards from Miss Cronin and myself to new pupils and taster days. Parents were also asked about improvements to the programme and I will be reviewing these over the next months to see if we can implement some of these suggestions. Thank you for these. **Parents were then asked about the length of time their child spends on homework.** Each piece of homework should take approximately 30 minutes. Pupils who have been spending too much time on single pieces have been told to ask their parent/carer to sign either their journal or exercise book to indicate they have completed the allotted time. Homework is designed to develop independent learning skills and I am very conscious that some pupils are spending too much time on it. Year Seven have been told about this throughout Term 1 & 2 in assemblies and form times. Please do not forget that Prep Club/Prep Club+ runs Monday-Thursday after school and you do not need to book or pay for this service. **Parent/Carers were asked how safe and happy you felt your child is at school.** No parent replied 'no', but 3 did reply 'sometimes'. If you haven't contacted myself or their form tutor please do so, so that we can provide support for your child. **Parents were then asked a range of items surrounding life at St Richard's.** I shall try to answer the ones that have not been covered above. **School dinners** - I can assure all parents that food never runs out in the canteen. However, the choice does decrease as time goes on. The items that sell out are the unhealthier options such as pizza and paninis. There are always main meals available even at the very end of lunch. **School Gateway** - This is a new system that shows parents how well their child is doing day-to-day. It shares achievement/behaviour points daily. If you haven't signed up to the School Gateway please get in contact with Mr Hollingsworth (IT Services Manager) who will get you signed up. His email address is mrhollingsworthm@strichardscc.com. **E-Safety** - This is a constant concern to parents/teachers. The best advice I can share with you is via the website www.thinkyouknow.co.uk. This website is designed for parents, children and all professionals that work with children on the theme of keeping them safe. At school, pupils are taught about keeping safe through their computing classes, PSHEe and assemblies.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas

Mr Bligh, Pastoral Leader Year 7 mrblighj@strichardscc.com

YEAR EIGHT NEWS

A successful term for Year 8 pupils with lots of involvement evident in College activities and support of our community.

Charity Work: Thank you and well done to those of you who have supported our charity efforts so far this year. A special thanks to the pupils for their generous work with the Christmas 'Love in a Box' appeal. Year 8 put together 105 boxes, with 80 collecting the most in the school, with an amazing 32 boxes. Well done to them!

Well done and thank you to 8F who raised a fantastic £327.50 from their sponsored silence and to 8I who held a banana sale for Harvest Day and raised £92.



Year 8 Talent Show: The Year 8 Talent Show took place on Friday, 8th December. It was both a Christmas social event and a charity event combined.

PSHEe: Learning activities continued in term 2 with work on 'Positive Friendships and Anti-Bullying'.

November, the national 'Anti-Bullying Week' was marked by an assembly and in PSHEe lessons. Term 3 will focus on work involving 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education' and will also see the start of visits from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, who will visit all forms by the end of term 4.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas.

Miss Easton, Pastoral Leader Year 8 (misseastonk@strichardscc.com)

YEAR NINE NEWS

The school year is passing by so quickly and it's hard to believe we are already into Advent. The Year 9 pupils continue to work hard in classes, participate in after-school clubs and learn more about themselves both socially and spiritually. We have been delighted to add Mrs White to the Year 9 tutor team this term, covering for Miss Lucas in her absence.

Charity Work: Yet again, I am delighted to say that Year 9 pupils contributed significantly towards the 'Love in a Box' for children in Eastern Europe. For the second year running, the highest individual form was 9U with Mr Fegan, who created 25 boxes. This figure was closely followed by 21 boxes from 9R and 19 from 9S. The other forms contributed as follows: 9F 8, 9L 17, 9O 3, 9I 12 and 9H 5. Not missing an opportunity to bring in a little maths, we managed 110 boxes as a year group out of a new record total of 475 boxes, making up 23% of the contributions. The Mustard Seed Relief Mission, based in Eastbourne www.msrm.org.uk, do rely on your annual generosity and I therefore must again extend a thank you to the respective parents and carers who inevitably support these acts and also to the tutors in Year 9 who gave generously in many ways.

All forms are currently completing the Bexhill Foodbank 2017 Advent Food Box. This involves each pupil bringing in 1 item of food from a list of 24. Hopefully we will end up with 8 food parcels which will certainly make a difference to several families at Christmas. May I thank you for your support.

We continue to support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and 9S are currently creating items to sell at their Christmas Market with the support of Mrs White, who happens to be a Product Design teacher. By the time you read this, I hope their sale of decorations, cards, labels and stockings will have raised a handsome sum.

A date for the diary, we will again be supporting 'Brain Tumour Research' by wearing a hat and donating £1 on Thursday, 29th March, the last day of term 4. There will be various prizes on the day for a variety of categories of hats. To find out more and get some hat ideas, please visit:

<http://www.braintumourresearch.org/fundraise/wear-a-hat-day>

PSHEe: Learning activities related to 'Sex and Relationships Education' have come to an end and work has begun on 'Emotional Health and Well-being'. This 6 lesson topic will end for most forms in term 3 when the focus will shift to 'Economic Well-being' and in particular, financial products, business finance and the moral and social implications of debt. Financial education is certainly something that our pupils need to have a keen awareness of.

Liturgy: It was a busy term liturgically for Year 9. On Wednesday, 8th November, 9L and Mrs Dunster conducted a form service with Jo, our Chaplain, on self-acceptance. Three weeks later, 9O and Mr Curtis were joined by Deacon Eugene and enjoyed a service focussing on Forgiveness. This term also saw the performance of two assemblies, 9I and Mr Lahache entertained us with the topic of Joy and 9S and Mrs Scott chose to communicate their thoughts on Happiness. Thankfully I was left smiling after both! I am really looking forward to Tuesday, 16th January, when Year 9 will come together to celebrate Mass.

Parents' Evening: This will take place on Thursday, 11th January. Appointment sheets will go out on Thursday, 4th January 2018.

Mr Carradine, Pastoral Leader Year 9 (mrcarradinee@strichardscc.com)

YEAR TEN NEWS

Rewards: Throughout Year 10, pupils have collected 'achievement points' which you have been notified of by the School Gateway. I am really pleased to highlight some exceptional performances from: Isabella Gibbons, Dilys Cornford, Erin Osman, Lily McGregor, Rebecca Appleton, Joseph Neilan, Dominic Sharp, Christian Whiteley, Deshan Sureshan and Gregory Blake.

PSHEe: Year 10 have been focussing on some crucial topics in PSHEe this term with visits from external speaker, Penny Beale, on domestic violence. The forms have also studied gender stereotypes, risk taking and consequences, pregnancy and parenting, and homophobia.

Work Experience: A reminder to encourage your child to sign up to a WEX placement as soon as possible to ensure a valuable placement is selected. The final date for all placements is Friday, 26th January 2018. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Adams msadams@strichardscc.com.

Assemblies: Year 10 have been lucky enough to have had two very informative assemblies performed by their peers. The topic of Love by Miss Crawley and 10I was extremely thought provoking and well received by the year group. 10O produced an excellent assembly on the theme of Aim Higher, which was enjoyed by all!



Year Services: Year 10 had a beautiful Mass on the theme of Community. Rose Wood and Alastair Rey led the music for the Mass and the whole year group offered their prayers and intentions for one another and all of the communities they are part of.

PTFA Quiz evening: This was well supported with Year 10 entering a team, who managed a respectable points haul. Well done for supporting the school PTFA; Erin Osman, Isabella Gibbons, Abby Smith and Mwansa Chileshe.

Individual Successes: Well done to Oskar Lockyer who completed a 3 day trial at Tottenham Hotspur. A fantastic achievement, well done!



Extra-Curricular activities: There are plenty of extra-curricular clubs and activities for Year 10 pupils to get involved in at lunchtime and after school. Please encourage your child to attend at least one club per term. A reminder that Prep Club and Prep Club Plus run every week, Monday to Thursday, to further support pupils with their homework. In Year 10, homework should be taking a minimum of 45 minutes per subject.

Fundraising/Social Events: Well done to those pupils who took part in the Year 10 Phone Fast, over £150 was raised for Kiss Charity. Congratulations also go to pupils who collated over 90 boxes for this year's Love in a Box campaign. Thank you for your support of 'The Foodbank Advent Calendar.' Eight Christmas hampers have been collected with over 200 items passed on to the Foodbank by Year 10 pupils. Thank you also for the items donated for Surviving Christmas.

Year 10 have some exciting fundraising and social events planned for Term 3 and I look forward to your child's engagement with these events which the Form Captains will be publicising closer to the time.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support and wishing you an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

Mr Campbell, Pastoral Leader Year 10 (mrcampbellj@strichardsgcc.com)

YEAR ELEVEN NEWS

I was very pleased with the conduct of the Year 11 pupils during the mock exam period. In fact, our invigilators couldn't praise them highly enough. The vast majority have appeared prepared, focussed and, best of all, calm. I am sure you will share our pride in them. Hopefully this translates into positive results for the young people and for those where it was not successful then a plan of intervention will be put in place. Parents of pupils who are currently attending intervention on Tuesday to Thursday weekly have been informed via email in the last 2 weeks. I was delighted to hand out over 30 Certificates of Commendation during assembly in November. This is a very positive sign of how Year 11 are working so far this year. Year 11 have amassed over 2500 positive points on our new rewards system. I have taken pleasure in posting over 30 postcards home this term following our last set of profile reports.

Revision and Intervention Sessions: These were well attended by pupils. We will send out a similar timetable of sessions well in advance of the summer exams. The intervention timetable to date is below and I will email this out to you via School Comms. Additional English intervention is provided by teachers as their pupils need it and parents are always informed. We also run in-class intervention.

Prefect Applications: There has been an opportunity for pupils to re-apply or apply for the first time to be prefects. I have spoken to the year group as a whole and to many individuals who are interested in taking a leadership role within the school. Please try to encourage your son/daughter to apply. The following have been appointed Prefect status in the last week: Alex Bissett, Eloise Hennelly, Katie Ebrat, Simon Hampton, Emily Holford, Jasmine Lawes, Esme Lawton, Jessie Malone, Ben Masters, Jake Ludlam, Caitin Oastler, Reinah Ruiz, Sandra Sabu, Sophie Whitbourn, Olivia Robertson, Mahir Mukith, Arelle Walker and Theo Tadros. There will be a further opportunity next term to apply. I have placed the application form on Show My Homework and I look forward to adding to the prefect cohort next term.

Praise for current Prefects: I am very pleased with the efforts made by the current Senior prefects and prefect team. I would like to thank Alexander Field and Ben Stotesbury-Byrne for their continued support in weekly assemblies. I would also like to thank Alfie Angella, Ethan O'Hara-Harris and any others I have overlooked for their reading in assemblies. In organising the prefect

rota the help of Maisie Edwards and Panashe Makwiramiti has been invaluable. On Monday, 18th December there will be another Prefect training and Pizza after-school session in the hall from 3.20pm -4.10pm.

College Applications: I know many pupils have submitted applications already to colleges outside of Bexhill, Sussex Downs and Sussex Coast - applications for these colleges should now all be done before the Christmas holidays. Tutors will have finished writing references and pupils have received a lot of support and guidance in their PSHEe lessons. Many pupils have been attending after-school and lunchtime intervention/help sessions to get their applications done. I would urge all parents to ensure that their son/daughter has completed their online UCAS application by the end of this term.

PSHEe: This term we had a PSHEe presentation on driving safely. This was a fantastic production and a deeply emotional and reflective piece of theatre on the importance of keeping yourself and others safe. Next term, we will look at managing anxiety and physical and emotional well-being. As always, if any parent wishes to discuss the content of our relationships programme or wishes to withdraw their son/daughter from SRE (relationships education), please contact me at the school before the end of term.

Contact: I will continue to make contact with parents/carers through regular emails. If for any reason you are not receiving emails from the school, please do contact Mrs Klein to be added to the list (mrskleink@strichardscc.com).

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Reg: English Miss Wood – A3 invite only	Maths – Mr Gallivan	Maths - Mr Gallivan	Maths - Mr Gallivan	
Lunch time		French Booster 1.10-1.30pm Rotation - B14 & B4 (Miss Chong, Mrs Howis, Mrs Herring)		French Booster 1.00-1.20pm Rotation B14 & B4 (Miss Chong, Mrs Howis, Mrs Herring)	Textiles CAT - Tech 4 (Mrs Handrihan)
After school		Intervention group - Mr Doherty in B8 3:15-4:40pm – pupils by invite Sports Studies in A1 – Mr Bligh	Intervention group – with LMT in B8 3:15-4:40pm – pupils by invite History – Mr Doherty in LAB7 Geography Mr Howe - A2 Product Design – Mrs Robertson Tech 1 Maths	Intervention group - Mr Doherty in B8 3:15-4:40pm – pupils by invite Business – Mrs Forster-Simmons in BIT Computer Science (every 2 weeks) starting Thursday, 23rd November Textiles Tech 4 every week practical CAT	Drama – Mrs Dunster Design Technology (Resistant Materials) – Mrs Robertson - Tech 1

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of Year 11 and their families a wonderful, peaceful and restful Christmas. With every best wish for the coming year.

Mr Doherty, Pastoral Leader Year 11 (mrdohertyr@strichardscc.com)

Parents, Teachers & Friends Association NEWS

The PTFA worked hard organising the Family Quiz which recently took place. Members brought in raffle prize donations to the PTFA meeting the week beforehand and they were won later at the Quiz evening, along with prizes for the winning team. Well done to all those who took part. Everyone had a great time and over **£600** was raised which will go towards much needed equipment.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise, sold and bought raffle tickets. We will be drawing the raffle at the **Advent Service on Tuesday, 19th December.** Thank you to everyone who provided donations for the prize hampers.

It would be appreciated if more parents/carers could provide help to serve the refreshments at Parents' Evenings and other events, as recently we have been quite thin on the ground. If you would like to be included in the rota list for teas & coffees please email: PTFA@strichardscc.com with your details; any help you can offer would be most welcome.

We are hoping to organise a **Year 7 & 8 disco** early next year, possibly during March 2018. Tickets will be available from Mr Bligh and Miss Easton along with further details nearer the time.

The **Summer Fayre 2018** will be held on **Saturday, 30th June** and planning for this event will be starting shortly. If you are able to offer a raffle prize for this event it would be greatly appreciated. If you run a business you can reclaim the cost against your tax bill and we can provide you with a letter should it be required. We also need any hamper baskets which you no longer require, any unused and unwanted toiletries, gifts along with good clean condition toys and books. If you have any ideas that will make this event a success, please feel free to attend any of the PTFA meetings or email the PTFA.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents about Easyfundraising.com. You can register either by downloading the app or using your browser then follow the instructions when doing your online shopping, arranging insurance, paying for holidays etc. The companies you are using such as John Lewis, Amazon, Tesco and thousands of others provide St Richard's Catholic College with a donation. It costs you no extra and is quick and simple to do along with making the PTFA's job easier regarding fundraising. If you need any help or have any questions please let me know.

Finally, we would like to wish our Treasurer, Naomi James, a speedy recovery and we hope to see her soon and wish you all a **Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2018.**



Best Wishes

Nicky Cave

PTFA Chair (PTFA@strichardscc.com)

Charity Registration Number **1174645**



Poppy Appeal 2017

£425.86 was collected by the school community this year. The Royal British Legion send their thanks. Without your help they would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work. Well done to all the pupils for their generosity with particular thanks to Malachy Skilton and the School Council for taking the collecting pots around during each break and lunchtime.

Please note that all pupils should be on the school premises by 8.40am each day so that they are ready for a prompt start to registration or assembly.

St Richard's Catholic College's 'Certificate and Prize Evening' 2017

The St Richard's Catholic College community of current pupils, the leavers of 2017, families, staff and Governors gathered together in November to celebrate the triumphs and successes of another excellent academic year. The annual Prize Evening, held at the De La Warr Pavilion, was once again an opportunity for the college to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of its staff, parents and pupils and to thank the leavers and current pupils for their outstanding contribution to college life. Academic, artistic, sporting and pastoral successes were all honoured equally, with over 100 individuals and groups being awarded prizes during the evening.

All present were inspired by this year's guest speaker, Fr Aaron Spinelli, a former pupil of the school. Fr Aaron spoke with great warmth, humour and humility about his journey to priesthood. He retold many fond memories of his time at St Richard's and had the audience laughing out loud at some of his cheekier tales of school life. Fr Aaron focussed on the importance of following your dreams but in doing so, never forgetting those who have helped you achieve them. He spoke about each of us coming to an understanding of our own identity; of seeing the uniqueness and importance of each individual; of embracing all we truly are and, in doing so, look to celebrate and affirm others.

Head Girl, Maisie Edwards, offered the vote of thanks to Fr Aaron for his moving and profound speech and articulately reiterated the effect of the speaker's story upon the listeners. She highlighted how important it is to always follow your dreams, to invest in your friendships, to show kindness to all and to meet the world and all its ups and downs with determination and hope. Maisie reminded everyone of the beautiful words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta who said, "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile." Head boy, Jack Eaton, gave the final vote of thanks at the end of the evening, reminding us to hold on to all the wonderful memories of school years, to strive to be our best and to be true to ourselves at all times.

The Principal, Miss Cronin, gave a report on the achievements and events of the past academic year (2016-17), thanking all the staff who inspire, encourage and challenge the pupils to get involved. A summary of her words included:

I am always really proud of the pupils' response to fundraising and the past academic year was no exception, with over £17,000 being raised for our local, national and global community. In total, the pupils donated funds to 28 different charities and supported organisations such as Surviving Christmas, Bexhill Foodbank and Love in a Box.

Pupils volunteered to participate in an extensive range of enrichment activities across all subject areas including national awards/events such as John Muir, the DofE Scheme, Crest and Stem Awards, national Dance Competitions, singing at Westminster Cathedral and participating in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and the National Theatre's Connections project: 'Three'. They also participated in 85 educational trips which included visits to Austria, Barcelona, the Coral Coast, Space Camp UK, Aachen, Glyndebourne along with university trips to Oxford and Cambridge.

Pupils were winners or runners up in a range of competitions covering sport, art, science, geography, computing, astronomy, public speaking, creative writing, chess and the Maths Challenge.

A highlight in terms of enrichment in the past academic year had to be the inaugural debate of the Debating Society organised by former Head Boy, Ethan McDonald, who arranged for the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, and the MP for Bexhill and Battle, Hugh Merriman, to be the judges.

As a school community we received the following accolades in 2016-17: Nick Gibb wrote a congratulatory letter to the school for the high levels of progress and the high standard achieved in the English Baccalaureate; the SSAT awarded the school two certificates for being in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for attainment and progress based on 2016 results; our International Schools status was re-designated; we became Fairtrade Champions; achieved a silver Sportsmark from the Youth Sports Trust; Art and Science both achieved the Prince's Teaching Institute Mark again in recognition of the range of enrichment activities supporting

subject teaching and learning and a Gold level SEQM (Space Education Quality Mark) was awarded in recognition of the school's commitment to Space as a context for teaching across all subjects.

We were also delighted with the pupils' academic achievements in 2016-2017. Year 9 pupils taking GCSE Astronomy achieved excellent results as did early entry classes in GCSE MFL and RE, 100% success was achieved in the AS Philosophy and Ethics course with half of the pupils achieving an A grade. Finally, our leavers produced excellent results (83% 5 or more 4-9 grades including English/maths and 88% 5 or more 4-9 grades across all subjects) which placed the school in the top 4% of schools in the country for Progress 8 and the top 6% of schools in the country for attainment.

At the end of the evening Miss Cronin paid tribute to the leavers, who were leaving St Richard's as well-rounded, talented young men and women, reminding them of the importance of taking on board our guest speaker's advice to work hard to achieve their dreams and to show care, kindness and respect to all they come into contact with throughout life.

Mrs Bligh, Vice Principal



Special Educational Needs

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Well done to all Year 11 pupils on their mock examinations week. These exams will have been as close an experience to the 'real thing' - their summer GCSE exams - as possible. My grateful thanks to Mrs Fletcher, the Examinations Officer, and Mrs Britt, the SEN Administrator, who were behind the wider organisations which helped these exams run well, and all Teaching Assistants and invigilators who supported pupils throughout this busy time.

Pupils who have use of a reader, laptop or additional time sat these exams in the Dance Studio, as will be the case this summer. These arrangements will be discussed with those pupils who did not use the laptop or additional time, and this may not be offered in the summer exams as a result.

Please contact me if you or your child have any queries about exam access arrangements.

Pupil Passports

Parents/carers and pupils will shortly be receiving the first Pupil Passport update of this year, drafted by the SEN Year Co-ordinator for each year group. Many thanks to all parents/carers who have contributed towards them. These are important documents, made available to all staff who teach or support your child, and indicate their current support needs in their own words. For your reference, the names and email contacts of our team of SEN Year Co-ordinators can be found below:

Year 7 - Mrs Campbell (mrscampbelln@strichardscc.com)

Year 8 - Ms Hubbard (mshubbardc@strichardscc.com)

Year 9 - Mrs Park (mrsparkk@strichardscc.com)

Year 10 - Mrs Lea-White (mrsleawhitek@strichardscc.com)

Year 11 - Mrs Kelly (Mon-Wed only; mrskellym@strichardscc.com) and Mr Nuckhir (mrnuckhirj@strichardscc.com)

Future Events

Looking ahead to after the Christmas break, I look forward to seeing Year 9 parents/carers at the Consultation Evening on Thursday, 11th January 2018, alongside Mrs Park (Year Co-ordinator). Please ask your child to make an appointment with us in advance of the evening if you would like to meet with us.

With best wishes from myself and all in the SEN department for an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

Mr Smith, SENCO

Prep Club/Prep Club Plus

Need somewhere quiet to complete homework?

Why not come to **Prep Club** one or two nights a week?

Open 3.15 - 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday in 'C' Block ICT Suite. **Give it a try!**

Supervised by a member of staff.

See what a difference it makes to your evening by completing homework in school rather than at home.

Prep Club Plus takes place in BICT from 3.15-4.15pm and is for pupils with SEN.

The library is also open until 4.30pm Monday to Thursday with computer facilities available as well as plenty of books!

Early Closure on Wednesday, 20th December

There will be an early closure on Wednesday, 20th December when the pupils will be dismissed at 1.10pm. Please ensure that you have signed the acknowledgement for newsletter number 3 to give your son/daughter permission to leave early. Transport arrangements for pupils using public transport are as follows:

Trains to Hastings depart at 1.24pm and 1.34pm.

Trains to Eastbourne depart at 1.24pm and 1.35pm.

The 357 and 359 buses will leave from outside school at 3.20pm as normal.

Hailsham bus (98) departs 1.05pm from Bexhill Station (please note that this bus will **not** be diverted to pick up from Dorset Road). All pupils who catch the 98 bus **past Sidley** should sign out with Mrs Jones at 12.50pm and make their way to the station bus stop. Pupils travelling on the 98 bus only as far as Sidley should catch the 1.45pm bus from the station.

Mobile Phones

Pupils with permission to bring in a mobile phone must hand it in at Reception at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the day. The pupils concerned must not be using the phones travelling to or from school. Any phone confiscated will need to be collected by a parent/carer.

Adverse Weather

Should adverse weather occur and there is a possibility that the college may be closed, please check the following for information:

- **The college website:** www.strichardsgcc.com. This will give a clear statement about whether the college is closed or open. The information will be available by 6.45am. The delay is caused by the need to speak to public transport and they will not make a decision on travel until 6.30am.
- **School Gateway:** an App message and email will be sent.
- **The East Sussex County Council school closure website:**
<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolclosures.htm>. This information will be available before 7.00am. This link also provides parents with the opportunity to subscribe to receive automatic RSS news feeds and emails which tell them when the college is closed.
- **Please also listen to local radio:** Radio Sussex, Heart or Arrow FM.

I would like to point out to you that we will always endeavour to open the school, however a health and safety risk assessment will be the deciding factor if we find ourselves needing to close/close early.

If the closure is for more than a day then work will be placed on Show My Homework.

St Richard's Admission Arrangements for 2019-2020

St Richard's Catholic College's Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2019-2020 have been determined by the Governing Body and will soon be available on the school website.

Pay Online for School Uniform & Trips

Don't forget you can now pay for school uniform and trips online. Email the Finance Office, finance@strichardsgcc.com for your login information.

ATTENDANCE

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE/LATENESS TO SCHOOL

There are many ways in which you can alert the school to your child's absence:

- Send a message via the School Gateway app. You can do this as follows:
 1. On the app's home page, tap on your child's name.
 2. Tap on attendance, and the Notify tab in the right hand corner.
 3. Fill in the details of the absence, and press send.
- Parents/carers can leave an answerphone message reporting their child's absence from school or lateness to school due to an appointment by dialling the school telephone number – (01424) 731070 and then pressing 1 when prompted. Wherever possible, please ensure this is done before the close of registration at 9.10am. You will be asked for your full name, the pupil's name, their form group, the reason for their absence and your relationship to the absent pupil.
- You can email the dedicated absence email address with the same details as shown above: pupilabsence@strichardscc.com.

Please note that without a reason for the absence e.g. illness, medical, I cannot authorise an absence. Please specify the nature of the illness. If a pupil is absent for **more than three days** for an illness, **we may not be able to authorise the absence without some form of medical evidence**. This can be in the form of a medical appointment slip, a hospital appointment letter, a prescription slip or a prescribed medication box showing your child's name on the printed label.

Please can you ensure that any letters regarding past or future absences (other than holiday requests which must be addressed to Miss Cronin) are addressed and sent/given to me and not your child's Form Tutor so that the appropriate information is shown on your child's attendance records. My email address is mrsjonesh@strichardscc.com It is also very important that, should your child miss registration, he/she remembers to come to the Attendance Office to sign in or sign out as appropriate so that we have an accurate record of all pupils on the college site. This is to ensure their safety.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET US KNOW FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT DAY OF ABSENCE.

ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

This year we are continuing our competition, the Attendance Games. For every complete week a pupil attends school, their name will go forward to win the termly prize, a cinema voucher. Every pupil who attends daily for 6 weeks gains an extra entry into the competition, increasing their chances of winning. We aim to reward pupils for good attendance, without penalising those who are absent for unavoidable reasons. **The winner of the £20 cinema voucher for Term 1 was Ruby Gentry of 7R. Congratulations, Ruby!**

175 NON-SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR:

spent on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

190 days in each school year	10 days off	19 days off	29 days off (one school term)	38 days off	47 days off
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
GOOD Best chance of reaching your target grades		WORRYING You will have to work harder outside of school hours to reach your target grades		SERIOUS CONCERN Unlikely to achieve target grades at GCSE	

If you have any questions about anything to do with attendance, please give me a call or send me an email.

Many thanks

Mrs Jones, Attendance Officer (mrsjonesh@strichardscc.com)



Parking

We would like to kindly request that drivers are more considerate of our neighbours in surrounding roads when dropping-off and picking up their children. Please remember to park avoiding blocking driveways.



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, equipment and some funding for educational trips. This money helps to raise aspirations.

To check if you are entitled please read the information on our website:

<https://www.strichardscs.com/parents/pupil-premium/> 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. You can also check online to see if you qualify, in our new School Gateway app.

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE



APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a job with training which allows individuals to earn while they learn and gain nationally recognised qualifications. An apprenticeship enables a young person to enter the job market and develop their skills.

With over 250 different types of Apprenticeships covering over 1,400 job roles, Apprenticeships provide a route into training in the skills employers want in a variety of industries and sectors, from Nursing to Graphic design, Horticulture to Electric Vehicle Engineering. There are over 100,000 employers offering Apprenticeships in the UK.

The National Apprenticeship website: www.apprenticeships.org.uk houses the on-line vacancies system. At any time there are up to 15,000 Apprenticeship jobs being advertised on the website. Pupils can search for vacancies on this site or they can register and set up to receive alerts informing them of new vacancies that might interest them. If you require any further information about Apprenticeships please contact me.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Just a quick reminder, that all Year 10 pupils must pick 3 possible choices for work experience from the database or put in the information of an own placement by Friday, 26th January 2018. This can be accessed by entering the following website address (there is also a link on the school website):

<https://aspire.eastsussex-brighton.org.uk/wexpupilchoiceslogin.aspx?aspirenetview=student>

Once this has been done we can then start to contact employers and place the pupils at a suitable placement, this will work on a first come first served bases. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CAREERS WORKSHOPS

This term, pupils in Years 8 -11 have been given the opportunity to take part in various careers workshops. The workshops have included, 'Becoming a doctor and in particular working in A&E' by Dr Joshua Getty (former pupil); 'Becoming a triathlete and working in fitness' by Thomas White (former pupil); 'Careers in Architecture' by James Thompson (former pupil) and 'Apprenticeships and how to apply' by Charlotte Thurston, Education and Employers. The workshops included details on what it is like working in the industry, what qualities and qualifications are needed and, for some, the foundations provided by St Richard's. The pupils have found them very interesting and really like hearing from the former pupils. Thank you to the Alumni network who have signed up to offer these workshops. Please do contact me if you would like to offer a valuable insight into your profession.

Mrs C Adams

Careers and Work Experience Coordinator - mrsadams@strichardscs.com

English Department News

We have had such a busy term and we are very proud of our English groups' achievements! Firstly, a reminder to all parents to encourage reading at home. A large selection of books are available in our college library for free, so please encourage your child to use this great facility! Any reading, non-fiction or fiction, you can encourage your child to do at home regularly is proven to have a positive impact on Literacy skills.

The **'Write here, Write now' Creative Writing Club** continues on Tuesdays in A8 at 1.10pm -1.40pm. All abilities and ages are welcome. This is an opportunity to develop creative writing skills and enter writing competitions to get work published and win prizes! Huge congratulations to Kaira Rubit in Year 10 who won the St Michael's Hospice *Capture the Moment* competition. Kaira won a book and voucher for herself and for the school, as well as an opportunity to work with an actor to record her short story.



'What's in the News?' club is now underway on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes and if anyone is interested in discussing current affairs, exploring newspapers and more, please see Mrs Leggatt in Link 3 for more details. In addition to this, **KS3 Debating Club** runs weekly with Miss Rowland in B12. If you are interested in attending, do pop along and see her.

On Thursday, 11th January we have an exciting Creative Writing themed day planned for year groups 8-11. Popular author, Matt Whyman, is visiting as well as writing expert Jane Branson. Both will be leading a series of talks and workshops for the pupils based on developing creative writing skills.

Reading intervention, Sound Training and Spell Zone interventions for targeted pupils are now underway. If you have questions, comments or suggestions you'd like me to know, please email me at mrswoode@strichardscc.com.

Mrs E Wood, Acting Subject Leader of English

KS4

Years 10 and 11 - Well done for approaching the term so successfully. We're really impressed by all your hard work. Try to read as much as you can (fiction and non-fiction are relevant to your exam). As well as being a great way to relax, the more you read the better you will write as you pick up tips and vocabulary from writers without even realising!

Year 11 - thank you for taking such a mature approach to your English mock exams and please listen to the advice and feedback of your teachers. If they ask you to attend an intervention group it is for your benefit so please make sure you attend. Make sure you are regularly returning to your keywords and continuing to learn your key quotations. Everything you need, including keyword lists, is accessible on the Google Drive and padlets. Ask your teacher if you're not sure where to find these.

Year 10 - by the time you read this you will have completed your literature data capture and will be preparing for your language. Try not to forget *'Macbeth'* entirely when we leave it to start our next text! Keep it ticking over by returning to TV/film versions and practising keywords.

Parents - We have a stock of Collins revision guides which cover language and literature - they include revision materials, practice questions and exam guidance. They are available from Miss Wood in A1 for £5 (cheaper than the £10.99 RRP!). For text-specific guides we recommend the Yorknotes 9-1 guides or CGP for a more simplified option. Teachers can show pupils copies of these guides and they are available in all good bookshops and on Amazon. As always, thank you for your support. If you would like any further information about KS4 English, please email me: misswoodm@strichardscc.com

Miss Wood, English KS4 Co-ordinator

Maths Department



ARE YOU A NUMERACY NINJA?

Can you explain to a parent or carer how you would answer this question? How do they do it differently?

Sam had a rectangular desk measuring 1.2m by 0.25m. How much space does the desk need in his room?

PRIMARY MATHS MASTERCLASSES

2017/18 Royal Institute Maths Masterclasses have begun. The biggest in the South of England with over 65 pupils attending from local primaries. The pupils have had two sessions - one team competition and a session on coding.

Pupil comments from ARK Blacklands Primary Academy, Netherfield and Glenleigh Park Primary Schools.

'It was fun maths instead of boring maths, it was interactive.'

'It was fun learning how to break codes. It was great meeting new people.'

'It was fun and really, really, really challenging.'



KS4 GCSE

After the mocks pupils will want to get on with improving on their success. There are several great websites around:

- mrbartonmaths.com
- mathswatch.com

All pupils have intervention sessions they can attend; please make sure you ask your maths teacher when they are running theirs.

Ms Gallagher, Numeracy Co-ordinator

Science Department News

I am delighted to report that St Richard's has been awarded the Space Education Quality Mark at Gold Level based on the school's extensive use of space as a context for teaching science, collaborative work with partner schools from primary partners to Universities, and a commitment to cross-curricular enrichment.

CAT Camp (residential trip to Wales): In October half term, a small group of intrepid science explorers went to Wales to walk the talk of sustainable living. With an 'Energy' themed four day excursion, the pupils braved dragons aplenty as they explored castles, mines and wild Welsh woodland. As well as investigating the rich heritage in the Welsh Marches, Snowdonia and surrounding countryside, pupils also considered the use of energy over the years. The environmentally equipped log cabin in which we were based generated electricity by wind turbines and water falls (hydroelectric micro-generator), and photovoltaic solar cells were everywhere. Hannah Chan described CAT Camp as, *'a place full of fun, happiness and friendliness. Living in an eco-cabin at CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) was amazing and my favourite part was exploring Wales and dragon hunting!'*

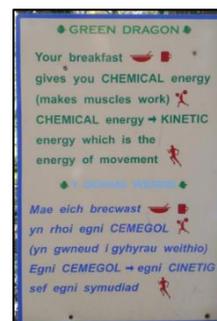


On our second day in the hills we travelled deep underground to the massive turbine halls under the mountain in Dinorwic, once the second largest slate mine in the world. This pumped storage hydro-electric plant, named 'Electric Mountain,' has been superceded in sheer size, but remains the world's fastest response generator. The repurposed former quarry shows little visible evidence of the gargantuan engineering project that resulted in the generating halls. The Electricity Generating Board *'excavated three million tonnes of rock to build 10 miles of tunnels and a central hall that could swallow St Paul's Cathedral.'*

Statistics swish by, such as the fact that each of the six valve units can handle water equivalent to 15 million cups of tea – every second.'



On the third day, we headed North again to the Greenwood Adventure Park, which has become a much larger affair since our last visit! Pupils were thrilled to ride on the world's only people-powered roller coaster, the Green Dragon, but it was the Solar Splash water ride that proved to be most popular. This is the first solar powered ride of its kind in the UK and boasts two water slide flumes and a spiral tunnel. Other new attractions were a quiet and tranquil poetry corner, 'The Big Bounce' and a forest fortress. Pyrographer Reece, made some mementos to order and there was much swashbuckling. Our intended route home via Big Pit, was curtailed as it seemed that all roads to South Wales were closed off, and we stopped in a small town on our alternative cross-country route home, which turned out to be most fortuitous. Talgarth Mill is a restored waterwheel with a community café, featured in a television programme some years ago and it was serendipitous that one of the original volunteers, Rob, offered to give a guided tour of the site, thus ending our energy themed week with more stealth learning about energy transfers – he even sent us



away with the flour that we milled!

Rowan, 7H, reported, 'The Green Dragon rollercoaster was fab. I also loved King Arthur's Labyrinth where we learned about the red and white dragons and King Arthur of the Britons – the 'Once and Future King'. I loved all the stories including the legend of Ritter's Beard.'



Year 9's Melissa Anthony, 'Loved the Big Bounce and the solar-powered water slide'. Both pupils noted that the day at the Park ended in a fun way with Miss Vanvuchelen using her amazing yoga skills to be super aerodynamic and speeding down the Great Green Grass run, leaving Dr Durkin trailing in her wake!

Shanice Blair, 8R, reported, 'I really liked the rides in Greenwood and seeing all the different types of energy where we stayed in the cabin. My favourite part was probably the waterwheel we stopped at on the way back. There were dragons everywhere, in statues and on signs and even hanging in the trees and I really enjoyed the Green Dragon rollercoaster!'



Miles Davies, 'Really liked the cosy cabins and how friendly everyone was – we all got on really well and the whole trip was good fun. King Arthur's Labyrinth was amazing but full of scary models and we went on an underground boat and saw chambers with models and mannequins to

illustrate the legends – it was lots of fun. We also saw lots of types of energy including waterwheels, solar powered electricity in the cabins, wind power too, but the best one was the people-powered roller coaster – it was really good!'



Parents sent along messages of 'thanks and gratitude for organising and running such an amazing trip,' adding that their son had had an 'amazing time. He didn't know any of the other children prior to the trip, but told us you both made everything really enjoyable for them. He couldn't stop talking about it and sharing his experiences! It was especially good of you to make the learning such fun!'

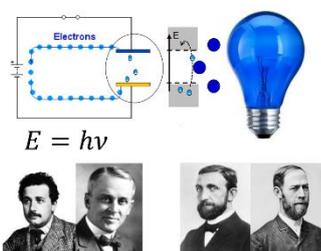
GCSE Astronomy Day Trip to Royal Observatory, Greenwich: Year 9 GCSE Astronomers visited the Royal Observatory at Greenwich for a day of astronomy revision and stealth science learning at the 'Home of Time'. The weather was kind and the early Christmas shopping at Greenwich's famous market was very popular. Pupils watched a new planetarium presentation called 'Solar Superstorms' which perfectly complemented recent learning for their course.



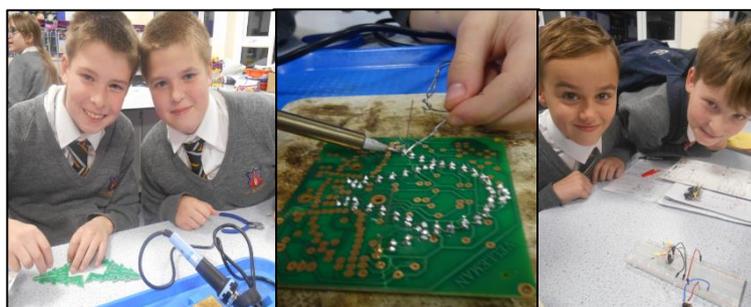
Sussex Universe Lecture, Falmer: The Sussex Universe lectures are presented to students (as opposed to the public lectures hosted by the Institute of Physics) at A Level and undergraduate level and St Richard's has been taking MAD science pupils along, by invitation, since they started two years ago. In this talk, Dr Alessia Pasquazi invited us on "A Journey Through Quantum Technology: Mirrors, Gems and Combs". This technology is currently utilised in many STEM applications including laser use across a wide range of disciplines and espionage techniques, including seeing through solid objects

with THz electromagnetic radiation! Photonics will shape the digital future and it was very interesting to hear the many possible future applications.

Year 9 Astronomer, Ciara Davey, enjoyed the evening, reporting, *'We learnt about many things like the photoelectric effect which developed at the end of the 19th century, atomic clocks, medical imaging and more. The photoelectric effect consists of electrons being emitted when light shines on material - 100 years ago this was being discovered and scientists spent hours, days, even months, trying to decipher the photoelectric effect (and then getting a Nobel Prize for its discovery much later!) and we've learnt it in just an hour! We also learnt a lot about lasers and how they can be applied to many different sectors of our life like entertainment, medical imaging, cutting and shaping building materials, etc. In medicine, lasers can be used for things like laser eye surgery which can help those who are short sighted - the laser reshapes the cornea so that you can see better. There are many other topics we learnt about as well like atomic clocks, laser comb reduction gears, optical frequency, micro combs, photon matter and the first quantum revolution. To conclude, the trip was very advantageous and we learnt a great deal from the lecture. It was explained very well and was informative as well as fun.'*



St Richard's Amateur Radio Club (StAR Club): StAR Club has been meeting on Wednesday evenings this term and has been splitting their after school session between preparation for the Amateur Radio Foundation licence exams in the late spring, and soldering practice ready for construction of radio kits. Given the time of year, the pupils have all enjoyed soldering their flashy Christmas trees, bells-a-dinging, or Santa and his sleigh.



Think Space Lecture at Peter Harris Planetarium: Year 9 Astronomers travelled to the Peter Harris Planetarium in Greenwich to hear a lecture on 'The relevance of science in modern culture' given by UCL's Francisco Diego. Pupils were highly engaged, with Jackson Stewart-Porter reporting, *'In this lecture we learnt about the history of the Solar System, the Universe, galaxies and stars, the lifecycle of stars and things that have happened before we even thought about human life on Earth! I asked a question about how long our solar system took to form. I thought it only took a few seconds, but it turns out it actually took millions of years.'*

Ciara Davey continued, *'The lecture covered a range of things from the creation of the universe to the wipe-out of the dinosaurs. During the lecture, Francisco put up a timeline to demonstrate the lifespan of when the universe was created up until now. He hung up pictures to represent specific events like the creation of the universe, the creation of the first stars and the extinction of the dinosaurs amongst many other topics.'*



Hannah Chan was also impressed with the lecture, linking it to the Science Storytellers project in which she is also involved: *'This lecture started with a*

review of the most imaginative myths of creation, some of which are still dominant in our culture. We explored the discoveries of modern science. The true nature of the Universe was explained to us from its simple and still mysterious origin, to the complexity and diversity around us today.'

Georgia Robson noted that the lecture clearly explained, 'How the universe started (about the Big Bang), the wipe out of dinosaurs, us/the human race and how there could be life of another form than us in the universe. One thing I really enjoyed about this lecture was that he made time for the audience by asking if they had any questions and when they did he would answer in full detail'. Nuala O'Rourke was also enthralled by the presentation recalling that the whole Universe started 'with a Big Bang and the first atoms being made, which happened in less than a second.'

Science Storytellers - Space Race: The first year of Science Storytellers was a collaborative project with History focusing on the Space Race and Sputnik 60th birthday celebrations. For the pupils, the project culminated in the summer term with a presentation tea with parents and carers. The project was well received by the guests and their performance piece 'In the Beginnings' has recently been recorded and will shortly be featured on the school website.

Diana and John Town, Duncan Norris's grandparents and community elders, sent the following letter: 'This was an imaginative, dramatic and informative presentation. After a brief introduction, the pupils filed in and took their seats, forming a semi-circle. The project leader sat to one side and, as the lights dimmed, a drum roll captured our attention. A low murmuring chant ensued in which the Biblical version of the creation was told, the lighting gradually returned, so the volume increased as each pupil narrated a part of the scientific explanation of the Earth's beginnings. This clever overlaying of the two beliefs, one upon the other, created a harmonious balance, whilst acknowledging the differences. We were taken on a journey through time to the Space Race between Russia and America, so much at stake for those global rivals. The Russians took the lead launching a rocket into space carrying canine passengers. Cute photos circulated around the world establishing the Russians as a force to be reckoned with. Unfortunately, the canine 'volunteers' fared less well. A touch of black humour entered the presentation with one pupil's reference to a 'hot dog'. The charismatic Yuri Gagarin was the first human astronaut to travel through space. He soon assumed rock star status and so the Space Race was well and truly underway. It was clear that all the pupils had been inspired by this project and they presented their material enthusiastically. We were particularly impressed with Duncan's contribution: he had obviously researched his brief meticulously, demonstrating a clear understanding of the facts he had discovered. It was a confident delivery with no recourse to notes. As his grandparents, we were very impressed and proud. Our congratulations go to all the pupils who took part and to the school and project leader for staging such a challenging and enjoyable event.'



Science Storytellers: In the Beginnings: In this, the second year of the Storytellers project, 15 Year 7 pupils have been invited to consider the beginnings of the world from the viewpoint of the world's major religions and from science's Big Bang. Our new storytellers began with a visit to the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple in Neasden, Europe's largest Hindu Temple. Popularly known as the 'Neasden Temple', the Mandir is a traditional place of Hindu worship designed and constructed entirely according to ancient Vedic architectural texts – using no structural steel whatsoever. Here they explored the magnificent and very impressive temple building and learned about the aims of enlightenment amongst Hindus.



Sarah Halleron reports that, 'During the trip we saw how the different religions practised their faith. We looked at special statues of their Gods and the Hindus. Some of the inside of the temple was carved in metal or stone. It looked beautiful especially as it was hand made with no machinery to cut up the parts. This temple is recorded as the largest Hindu temple outside of India. I definitely would go again.'

Leo Jones also enjoyed the day, commenting that, 'The trip was an amazing experience and was enjoyable for all. When we arrived at the temple, our shoes needed to come off before we could start making our way around the temple. After that, we went upstairs to the main dome where lots of statues of Hindu Gods stood.'

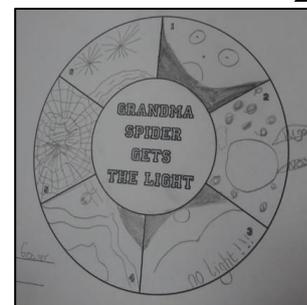


Erin Towns agreed, adding that, *'The temple was very big and ostentatious and I learnt a lot from the visit. At the temple we went to an exhibition and learnt how they thought the world began, I had a lot of fun.'*

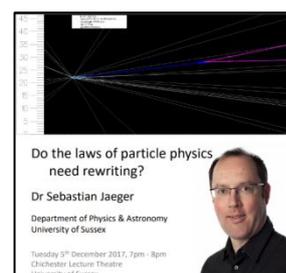
The storytellers enjoyed a workshop with Kevin Graal the storyteller. During the session the pupils explored the means and mechanisms behind building a good story and capturing an audience's imagination. The workshop proved to be very



interactive with pupils engaging enthusiastically in enacting stages of a story, and throughout the afternoon they gradually heard the Cree Indian tale of the origin of the world's light, captured by Grandmother Spider. The pupils constructed storyboards relating the tale, enacting various stages along the way. The afternoon was summarised in recorded poems about the light or the dark.



Institute of Physics Public Lecture, University of Sussex: Melissa Anthony, keen Year 9 astronomer, has enjoyed a number of science based trips this year, having visited CAT Camp, the Telescope Supper at Herstmonceux and also the neuroscience talk at the University of Sussex. She was among two minibuses crammed with pupils, all keen to hear about the amazing cutting edge research that is possible when particle physics and neuroscience collide, but alas the speaker had had a family bereavement and so the somewhat less appealing subject matter of rewriting the laws of physics became the lecture's focus. Melissa



reports that although the lecture was interesting and she *'understood some of it, my brain felt a little melted by the end.'* Of equal interest to pupils was the model car in the foyer, constructed by BSc Engineering undergraduates.



Herstmonceux Telescope Supper Tour: 7S's Luyanda Peterson reported that, *'This was my second trip to Herstmonceux Science Centre and I learned lots of stuff this time. My favourite bit was looking through the biggest telescopes.'* Melissa Anthony really enjoyed using the telescopes reporting that she *'could see lots of the faint stars in Orion and other constellations. I also saw the Pleiades cluster really clearly which is amazing as it had been raining all day!'* Actually, she said her favourite part was *'learning about electromagnetic repulsion when we used the levitating chair!'*

Carys Munro in 7H thought that, *'It was a great experience and the supper was nice too! I liked all the science hall exhibits. The exhibits were fascinating with the electricity one being quite shocking!'* with Miles Davies adding that they *'all enjoyed the vacuum chair and we all really liked the rising floor in the telescope dome'*. Erin Towns, also of 7S, reported that, *'Herstmonceux Science Centre was very big and when we looked through the telescope it was quite cool as we got to see a star exploding 18 million light years away. I found the science games quite cool too!'* Benedict Shimmons liked being able to see the stars through the telescopes. He *'liked the stars, especially the exploding one – a supernova star in a galaxy far, far away!'*



***** Forthcoming Science Events *****

'A Galaxy of Her Own' IET Christmas Lecture at Canterbury
Think Space Lecture at Greenwich
Stargazing Live at University of Sussex
Space Camp UK
Ethical Eden Trip

RE DEPARTMENT NEWS

RE in term 2 has continued at an energetic and engaging pace in which pupils have been working hard and taking pride in their work.

Our **Year 7 pupils** continue to thrive and by now are well settled in to the rhythm of learning, and are becoming well acquainted with essential knowledge of liturgical celebrations, the role of Mary and the events leading up to Christmas. In recent times, you may have found yourself a part of their homework interviews on Advent customs. Year 7 have responded well with the recent preparation for reconciliation sessions in lessons, and their enthusiasm and contributions in lessons are a real credit to them.

Year 8 pupils have been treated to the benefits of an experiential lesson in which they recalled the events and significance of the Jewish Passover. This has involved having a Passover meal with the readings from the Haggadah. The pupils enjoyed entering in to the fascinating symbolism of the foods and discussing how they linked to elements of the Exodus story of our ancestors in faith. The pupils tried karpas, which is parsley dipped in salt water, to recall the bitterness of the tears of slavery, and homemade haroset to harken to the texture of the mortar which the Israelites used when building under the oppressive reign of Pharaoh. The meal included the pupils learning the rituals and recitation of the blessings, and playing the traditional game at the end to find the hidden Matzah in the classroom.

Year 9, like the disciples in Mark's Gospel, have been asking the question of Jesus 'Who is this man, even the winds and the waves obey him?' They have been examining key stories which allude to Jesus' identity through the demonstration of his divine power and authority over the natural elements, evil spirits, and life. With having the beginnings of a Christological portrait together, they will be moving on to ask the question of what Jesus asks of his disciples, and will be considering the challenges and relevance of his teachings on discipleship in the 21st century.

Year 10 have been exploring the practices of our faith, namely the sacraments, the funeral liturgy, prayer, Catholic social teaching, and most recently mission and evangelism. Most of Year 10 have responded positively to extra intervention after the first data capture profile and have improved in their repeat tests—well done for your efforts, Year 10. As the new GCSE course is rich in new terminology, it is important that pupils continually review their work, as their learning must be cumulative. Pupils ought to make full use of the shared resources on Google Drive. Moreover, if any pupil still wishes to purchase a GCSE textbook, they can be ordered through the Finance Office.

Year 11 have recently sat their mock exam. It is important they reflect honestly on their efforts and identify exactly how they can improve. Following the results, Year 11 will review their paper in RE lessons and learn exactly what is required to answer questions accurately. This is a skill to learn, but regular practice is crucial. In the week after the mock exams, the Year 11 group had a thought provoking talk from a representative of the Life charity on abortion in the UK. The speaker encouraged pupils to consider their arguments on the issue and framed this in the wider context of the value and dignity of human life and the resultant response to defend and protect the life of the unborn. The speaker gave the pupils many angles of the abortion debate in relation to UK law and gave pupils the opportunity at the end to ask their own questions.

As term 2 draws to a close, I would like to extend my thanks to Ms Horton for her contributions to RE lessons, and wish her every success in her new role at Helenswood School. To all parents and carers, thank you for your continual support of your children with RE. May the blessings, peace and joy of the infant Christ be yours this Christmas.

Ms L Henry, Acting Subject Leader - RE





MFL NEWS

MFL Club meets

Every Wednesday: 1:00pm until 1:30pm
French (B14) Spanish (B13) German (B4)

Spanish

Barcelona trip: In October, a group of 40 Year 9 pupils plus accompanying staff enjoyed an activity packed visit to Cataluña. There were plenty of opportunities to speak Spanish as well as participate in a variety of cultural and fun excursions in and around Barcelona. These included tasting the local cuisine, watching a Flamenco performance, visiting our pen-friends at Sant Pau school in Tarragona, a visit to the Dali museum, taking in the view of the pitch at Camp Nou, and not forgetting a fun filled afternoon at the largest theme park in Europe. Pupils also valued the opportunity to

see the splendour of the beautiful Sagrada Familia which is always a spiritual highlight of the trip. Here are just a few of the positive comments which participants shared after the trip:

“It was an amazing trip and I feel lucky to have had this opportunity”

“A brilliant visit to a cultural place. Once in a lifetime experience with friends”

“One of my favourite trips”

“A very enjoyable learning opportunity”



The letters for Barcelona 2018 will be going out in the next week. We hope that this will be a popular trip also. A big thank you to those Year 9 pupils who gave a talk about the recent trip in Year 8 assembly. It was very well received as lots of pupils asked for a letter about the next trip!

You can now follow us on Twitter when we have trips and events - just go to @strichardsmfl



Spanish theatre company performance of “La Casa Encantada”:

“The Year 10 Spanish groups saw the Spanish theatre production put on in the hall. The whole performance was in Spanish as Mrs Scott had organised the whole thing for year 10 as it was fortunately based around what Mrs Scott had recently and is currently teaching us about houses and different things which you do at home. It was to do with part of our GCSE course. It was a comedy production all performed by just two people with their props and all the sound effects. It was very professional and all the “mistakes” that happened are staged to add to the comedy side of it. It was called ‘La Casa

Encantada' and it lasted for about an hour. People were invited up and everyone got involved. My favourite scene was when they had Paella and it kept on falling out of the pan and they asked people to go and pick it up for them. I really enjoyed it as it was very entertaining and it was very influential to our learning." by Duncan Morgan, Year 10

"This term, a Spanish production was brought to St Richard's Catholic College and the play was put on in our school hall. The production was in Spanish and set up by the performers and put on for Year 10. The show was called 'La Casa Encantada' and played by some great performers. The show helped me with some Spanish pronunciation and some new words were found. The show went towards the GCSE Spanish course. The show lasted for about an hour and was so much fun. The performers invited pupils up onto the stage and asked people to help when something went 'accidentally' wrong. My favourite scene was when the ghost came out to scare the girl and the boy. At one point the ghost kept coming out at the wrong times deliberately. The show was great and certainly amused me. Many thanks to the actors for putting such a great show on and coming to England to put the show on." By Jack McCarthy, Year 10

French

MFL French Clubs: A big thank you to our French Ambassadors who have been leading the Year 7 MFL club during term 1 and 2. They have prepared activities and games for our Year 7 as



well as organising the club and providing cakes in order to welcome them. The Year 10 French Ambassadors Club is open to all Year 10 pupils and takes place every Monday in B4 at 1pm, during which the pupils plan for the Year 7 club, learn about French cultural aspects and get extra support to reinforce and practise their linguistic knowledge.



Year 11 French Revision Update: The AQA Revision Cards and workbooks have now arrived. Please can all those who ordered these see Miss Chong in B14 to collect them before the end of term.



GCSE French Booster sessions will continue in term 3. All pupils are welcome and some pupils will be expected to attend as part of their post-mock intervention (pupils and parents/carers will be informed in January). Booster sessions will run **every Tuesday (1.10-1.30pm)** and **Thursday (1.00-1.20pm)** in either B4 or B14. Details of each session will be shared weekly on 'Show My Homework'.

Year 8 and 9 Residential Trip to Normandy, Northern France Thursday 8th February - Sunday 11th February 2018: We are very excited that our residential visit to the Normandy in France is fast approaching. Many thanks to all parents and carers for encouraging and supporting their children to take



part in this trip which we hope will be an enriching and enjoyable experience.

There will be a parent/Carer meeting on Wednesday, 24th January at 6.00pm in the school library in order to go through the final itinerary and arrangements. If you have any particular questions before the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Chong by phone at the college or email (misschongc@strichardscc.com). A few reminders include: the remaining instalment dates are £122 by 15.12.17 and £122.50 by 12.1.18 and each pupil will need his/her own current valid passport and EHIC available to hand when required in the first part of Term 3 (pupils will be informed of the exact date at a lunchtime meeting at the start of January).

German

Christmas in Germany: A trip to the famous Christmas markets in the German town of Aachen gave 22 Year 8 pupils the ideal opportunity to get into the festive spirit! Pupils were able to buy traditional Christmas gifts and try different German foods on offer like 'Bratwurst' and 'Flammkuchen'. The highlight for many was the ice skating on the second day and a visit to the Lindt chocolate factory shop. The trip was a really enjoyable and valuable experience from the point of view of both language practice and the cultural and personal experience that can be gained from taking part in a visit like this one. This is what the pupils said:



'I liked it because it was really big and there was a lot of different stuff.' Josh W.

'It was good and fun with lots of different things to do and see.' Ali V.

'It was eventful and sehr gut.' Josh A.

Miss Chong, Miss Auzinger & Mrs Scott

News from the Geography Department

KS3 Geography

Term 2 has seen the **Year 7 Geographers** exploring their local environment and developing their fieldwork skills. The pupils visited Galley Hill View to study traffic, housing and quality of life and compared this residential area near the college to Wilton Road, Bexhill which



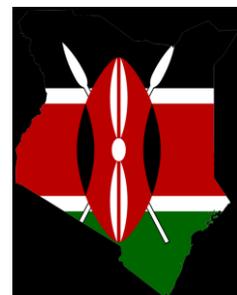
Year 7 carrying out a traffic survey and measuring noise levels using a decibel recording device to assess the quality of life in urban areas

they investigated as a virtual field trip using Google Maps and street view. The pupils have learnt important skills of fieldwork, data presentation, analysis and drawing conclusions which will be used throughout their geography units of work as they progress through the college.



Our latest unit of work is about Kenya and as pupils study this fascinating country to discover more about the wealth of wildlife,

tribes, cities and scenery they will also understand the reasons for the inequalities in wealth and attempts that are made to help develop social, economic and environmental growth within the country. The Geography Department has been developing links with a school in Kenya and is supporting them through fundraising activities such as our 'Shop in a Box' and WaterAid projects. We also hold craft sales selling walking sticks and jewellery made by the Poket Tribe of Northern Kenya.



Geography Club - Throughout this academic year, the Geography Club has continued to explore and enjoy new aspects of Geography, creating working models of tectonic processes, gathering microclimate data and researching news articles for our 'Geography in the News' display. The Geography Club is a fun, friendly and welcoming environment for Years 7 to 9, and is always looking for more pupils to join us in exploring the world of Geography. If you are interested in joining us, please come to A2, Thursday lunchtime, 12:45pm until 1:10pm or ask Mr Howe for more information.

Year 9 Geographers have completed their topic on Tectonic Hazards and have impressed us with their creativity, imagination and skills by making 3D volcanoes. The detail for some of the volcanoes was amazing and the pupils now have a good understanding of the structure of a volcano. The generous use of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to initiate explosions of these volcanoes was exciting but we are reminded again of the absolute power of nature as we wait to see the full implications of the eruption of Mount Agung in Bali.





Year 9 are now starting to learn about Asia and the diverse culture, climate, people and places that make up the largest continent on earth. We will be focussing upon Japan and its social, economic and environmental challenges that it faces today, for example.

KS4 Geography

Parents and carers of pupils studying GCSE Geography have been sent home via letter and email, details about another chance to buy the textbooks and revision guides at very special rates, as per below. If you wish to purchase any of these resources, please complete the reply slip on the letter that was sent home and submit it to the Finance Office with the required money.

Textbook/Resource	ISBN	Cost
GCSE Geography AQA textbook	9780198366614	£20.00
CGP GCSE Geography AQA Revision Guide	9781782946106	£3.25

Mrs Hoyle, Subject Leader – Geography



History Department News

KEY STAGE 3 HISTORY CLUB

This term members of History Club have successfully participated in the Great Historical Bake Off. The history enthusiasts used historical recipes to create cakes which were sold at lunchtime for charity. The winner of the Great Historical Bake Off was Benedict Shimmons in Year 7. Congratulations Benedict! History Club continues to meet weekly on a Wednesday in A9 at lunchtime. Please join us for many more fun projects.

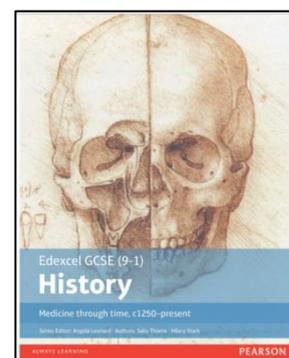


YEAR 9

As our thoughts start to turn to the New Year, the options process is fast approaching. History is a diverse and exciting subject to study. The topics we will be delivering at GCSE will be:

- *Medicine in Britain, c1250-present, and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches*
- *Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88 or Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588*
- *The American West, 1835-1895*
- *Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39*

Members of the department will be available at the Year 9 Curriculum Evening to discuss the course in more detail, but if you or your son/daughter have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact their history teacher, in the first instance.



YEAR 9 & 10 BERLIN TRIP

A few reminders for the Berlin trip:

- Submit a copy of your son/daughter's passport to Mrs Fegan or Miss Crawley
- Payments may be made online via the school website
- EHIC cards can be ordered or renewed via the NHS website



Important Dates:

Second instalment: Thursday, 1st March - £155

Final instalment: Tuesday, 1st May - £155

YEAR 11

Congratulations and well done to all our Year 11 historians who worked so hard during the recent mock exam period. It is clear that much revision and preparation has been carried out independently by pupils. There was also a high uptake at the revision sessions held by Mr Doherty which we would encourage all pupils to take advantage of when they begin again in the New Year.



Year 7 pupils have made models of castles (above and right) and Year 8 pupils have made models of a guillotine (below).



Wishing you all a peaceful and restful Christmas.

Mrs Fegan, Teacher of History



ART DEPARTMENT

I am very pleased to announce that the Art Department has celebrated some fantastic successes recently: Farley Arts Award, The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund and The Lions Peace Poster Competition. Gabrielle Stein won the Peace Poster competition. She will now go on to the District Competition. We have already run two enrichment days - one at Brighton University for our Year 10 GCSE groups, and The De La Warr came into college and worked with Year 9. We are liaising with Geography for the South of England Agricultural Society Schools Competition and Mr Carradine on Secret Postcard Project.



The Royal Navy & Royal Marines
Children's Fund Winners



Farley Arts Award: St Richard's Art Department took part in the Farley Art Trust Awards - a Celebration of East Sussex Schools and Colleges Visual Arts at Farleys Gallery. I'm happy to announce that our pupils won the very prestigious first prize in each of their categories. Katarzyna Fedor won first prize in the

GCSE painting category; Serena Coyle won first prize in the GCSE works on paper category and Nina Espiritu won first prize in the sketchbook category. Shona Waldron, who left St Richard's in 2016, won two prizes at A Level. The parents were very proud of their children as were Miss Pennington and I. David Dimpleby handed out the prizes and there was lots of press photography.



Brighton University Art Workshops:

30 Year 10 GCSE Art pupils spent a very busy day at Brighton University taking part in a series of exciting art workshops delivered by trainee art teachers at the School of Education. The pupils learnt many new skills and techniques including photograms in the dark room, how to create chemigrams and drawing with light sensitive papers and fabrics. They were also shown how to design



presentation pages in their sketchbooks using different materials and ideas about composition and finally how to create unique rubber stamps.



All the pupils who took part deserve special praise for their engagement, attitude to learning and wonderful behaviour during the day. The artwork they produced was exceptional. I would like to thank Sally Johnson who is the route leader for Art & Design PGCE at Brighton University for all her help and organisation which meant that this amazing enrichment day could take place. Thanks also to all the trainee art teachers for their time, planning and enthusiasm and lastly thanks to Mrs Britt for all her help during the day.



Pamela Busuego's stunning self-portrait



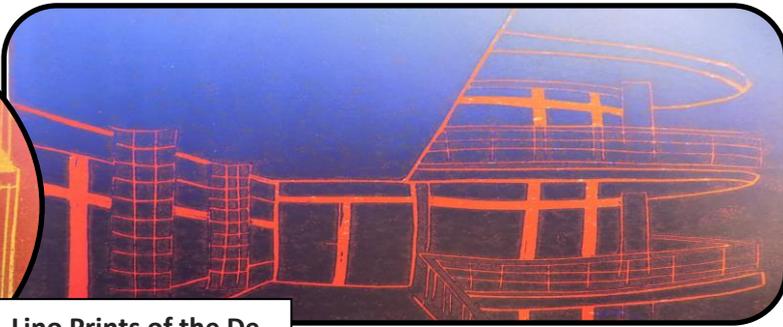
Francesca Cordell Year 11 GCSE



Mia-Bella Bonett Year 11 GCSE



Year 10 Linocuts



Lino Prints of the De La Warr Pavilion



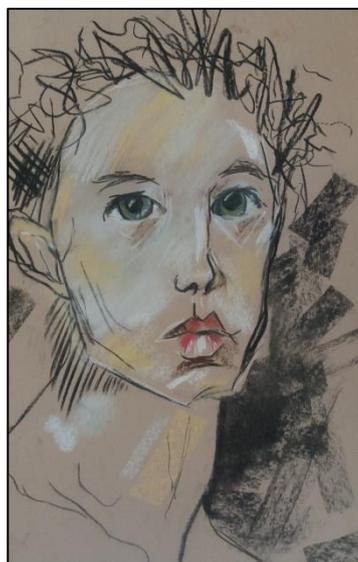
Year 11 Biro Study



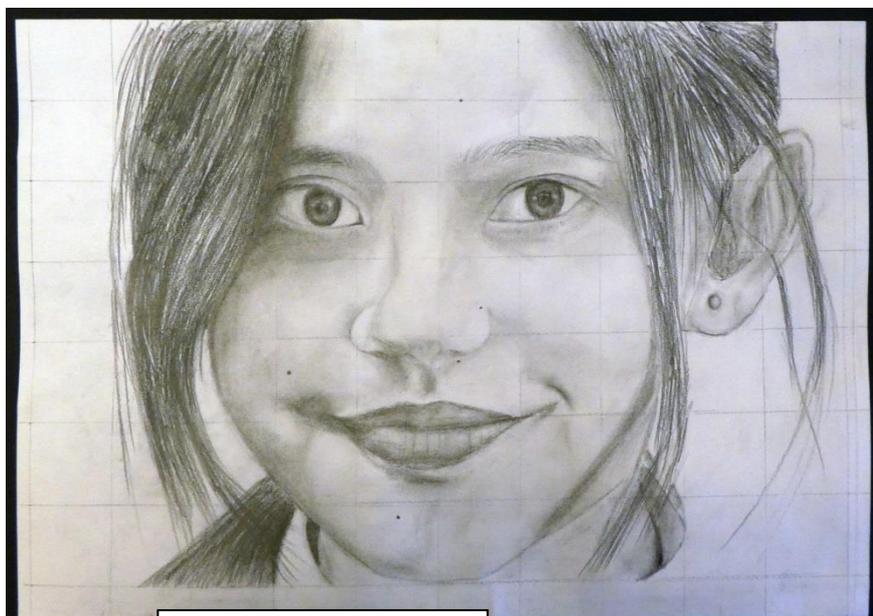
Sketchbook Analysis of Giacometti



HUNDERTWASSER Y7



Year 9 Pastel Portrait



Year 10 Portraits



Mr Peachment, Art Department

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

This has been an extremely busy term and the music department is more in demand than ever!

Staffing: We are really looking forward to Ms Mason joining us in January 2018 as our new Head of Performing Arts. She will arrive with a wealth of experience behind her, boundless energy and passion. Ms Mason will be looking after music, dance and drama and will be developing the orchestral/instrumental side of the department.... so watch this space! I would personally like to say thank you and goodbye to Miss Kargbo-Reffell who has been teaching in the department for the last two terms as a cover music teacher. She has been an outstanding teacher and I can safely say that the pupils have loved being taught by her. She has secured a full time music teaching position at a school nearer to home. Congratulations! Miss Savage will continue to work her magic during terms 3 and 4 in *Songwriting Club, Electronic Club, Campfire Songs and Band Night*.

Secondary School Proms: Congratulations to all involved in the Proms at the De La Warr Pavilion last month. It was an incredible experience for all who participated and I was immensely proud of every single one of them. We had 95 pupils in the choir, this is the most we have ever had. They all sang their hearts out and produced the most wonderful, polished, professional sound. We collaborated with the Dance department and the outcome was extremely moving.





"Inspirational! Choir has given me the confidence to sing on a large stage at the DLWP. Listening to other pupils perform from other schools gave us a chance to see how we can develop as a team." Hannah Chan, Year 9

"The proms were amazing! It gave me and other people more confidence and made us closer as a community. I feel very privileged to be able to sing the solo in 'Supermarket Flowers' and a massive well done to everyone who performed so brilliantly." Millicent McIvor, Year 9

Music Team News: This is a team of musicians who are currently taking music GCSE who are helping and supporting the music department throughout the year. Please see any of these pupils if you have ideas for the music department. You might want to talk to them about the GCSE course. Their duties include:

- 1: Keeping the department tidy and manageable
- 2: Stringing guitars
- 3: Compiling concert programmes
- 4: Promoting the department
- 5: Supporting extra-curricular clubs and running them in some cases.



Extra-Curricular Clubs: Please do encourage your children to attend an extra-curricular club. Here is the timetable to help you choose.

	CLUBS	Lunchtime @ 1pm	After School 3.15pm -4.15pm
MONDAY	ELECTRONIC CLUB ORCHESTRA SONGWRITING SCHOOL	ELECTRONIC CLUB	ORCHESTRA SONGWRITING SCHOOL
TUESDAY	Music Team meeting CHOIR	MUSIC TEAM MEETING	CHOIR
WEDNESDAY	GARAGEBAND CLUB GCSE Intervention	GARAGEBAND CLUB	GCSE Intervention
THURSDAY	GCSE Club GCSE Intervention	GCSE CLUB	GCSE Intervention
FRIDAY	CAMPFIRE SONGS BAND NIGHT	CAMPFIRE SONGS	BAND NIGHT

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Ben Stotesbury-Byrne, Year 11: Eastbourne College Scholarship/Grade 5 piano

Sean Hayden-Ling, Year 9: Grade 7 violin with Merit.

Eliza Brown, Year 8 and William Brown, Year 10: Grade 4 singing with Merit

If your son/daughter has passed any music examination, please do let us know so that we can celebrate the achievement.

Bexhill Christmas Concert at the De La Warr Pavilion: Last Thursday, the choir ventured to the DLWP (our new home) to perform at the Bexhill Christmas Concert. They were joined by different primary schools and the fantastic East Sussex Orchestra. We sang two Christmas songs, 'Carol of the Bells' and a song called 'Do You Have Room?' The 90 strong choir were fabulous as always. Such a proud moment standing in front of them all - they never disappoint! Congratulations to all of my lovely singers and a huge thank you for your constant hard work and energy!

Prize Evening: The Prize Evening started with the choir singing and our wonderful orchestra joined us for the school hymn. Thank you to all involved.



Events: There are a few concerts and events coming up in the next month....

We will be performing at the **Advent Service** on Tuesday, 19th December. Please do come along. Both the choir and orchestra will be involved. Please could you ask all pupils who are in the choir to return their slips to Mrs Byrne as soon as possible.

Holocaust Service at St Mary in the Castle, Hastings: I will be picking 40 singers to come and perform at the beautiful service on Saturday, 27th January at 11.00am. Watch this space...

MERRY CHRISTMAS from all in the music department. Try and imagine the St Richard's choir singing this to you!



We wish you a Merry Christmas

www.singing-bell.com

We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a Mer-ry Crist-mas and a Hap-py New Year. Good ti-dings we bring to you and your kin, good ti-dings for Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year!

If your child is interested in having instrumental lessons in school, please ask them to come and see me in Mu1 or don't hesitate to email for more information at: mrsbyrner@strichardscc.com

Here's to a fantastic year ahead and lots of music making!

Mrs Byrne, Acting Subject Leader for Music

Drama Department



The Tempest

It's with great pleasure I can tell you our first ever Primary Shakespeare project was a great success! For two weeks in November the local area was buzzing with workshops and performances around the theme of The Tempest, which culminated in two fantastic days of collaboration at Bexhill College. The project included 9 schools (St Mary Magdalene, St Peter and St Paul, Chantry, Little Common, Etchingam, Bodiam, Bexhill Academy, Bexhill College and St Richard's) and nearly 200 pupils from ages 9 to 19 took part in the initiative. They were all treated to a workshop in their own school run by professional actor Milton Lopes who travelled from London specially to facilitate. They then had the chance to

show off their skills in a one off performance at the Izzard Theatre in front of all their family and teachers. Their performance days included spending time with all the other pupils involved, playing games and touring the college with the hope of supporting the transition process between primary, secondary and college.

Our aim was to provide the local youngsters with an enriching experience within the arts that would encourage positive well-being, therefore we were kindly funded by the 'Hastings and Rother Health Inequalities Fund' so thank you to them. We cannot wait to organise another project as myself and Kim Byford from Bexhill College were overwhelmed with the pupils' enthusiasm, focus and commitment throughout the process. We are so proud of what our local youngsters achieved, so well done to all who took part! See you next year...



Arts Award

As part of the Shakespeare transition project I am now lucky enough to be qualified to lead the Arts Award at DISCOVER and EXPLORE level as well as SILVER AND BRONZE which means that no matter what level or pace our pupils are working at with their individual projects around the arts, they will be able to achieve some form of accreditation for all they do. It's exciting times as now Mrs Byrne and Mrs Knight are qualified to lead the award too – which takes our total number of advisors on the staff to 4! This is great progress and hopefully you can now all jump on board the Arts Award journey with us (if you haven't already!) We will be running drop-in sessions for pupils as they get nearer to completing their projects so please keep an eye out for further information.



Advent Service

On Tuesday, 19th December, Christmas will officially be upon us as all the hard work we do annually for the St Richard's Advent service will come to fruition. This year, the Year 7 Drama Club will be taking to the stage to share with you a moving portrayal of Mary's journey to the stable with musical accompaniment; and my Advanced Skills Drama Club have put together a poignant modernisation of what it means to 'have room for Jesus' at Christmas. We look forward to greeting the community on this special occasion, a real highlight of the school calendar in my opinion!

Stage-Ed Workshop

On Monday, 11th December the Year 10 and 11 GCSE pupils took part in an acting workshop delivered by the renowned actor, Mike Southern, from Stage-Ed. They spent the day exploring 'Blood Brothers' practically as part of the set text study element of their exam, and they really got into role! Mike played the parts of Mickey and Sammy in the famous show and his expertise really helped bring the story to life for our pupils. Their acting skills were tested to the limits, with sessions on voice, physicality, ensemble, plot and language. All 32 pupils who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thank you to the talented Mike Southern for coming all this way to run the workshop for us. Photographs to follow in the next newsletter!

Team Performing Arts has arrived...

I would like to personally welcome Ms Mason who is joining us in January as our brand new Subject Leader of Performing Arts. It's very exciting that we are now an official Department, and she will make a fantastic leader I'm sure, as Ms Mason is already a good friend to us all. The pupils will see immediate benefits from this new holistic approach, especially with the introduction of the vocational Performing Arts courses into the new curriculum here at St Richard's. The variety of arts-based learning on offer is now bigger and better than ever and we can't wait to get started as a team!

Finally, thank you to all who contribute so enthusiastically to the arts at St Richard's. Have a happy Christmas and a healthy, happy new year!

Mrs Dunster, Subject Leader - Drama (mrsdunsters@strichardscc.com)



Worried your child has shared too much online?

If your child has shared too much information online, don't panic. There are things you can do and organisations who can help safeguard and support your child.

Overshare

It is easy to share things online that you wouldn't face to face. Some of the most popular sites and apps are designed to enable people to share information, pictures and videos. This is part of their popularity but it can make it easy to share things we later regret.

If you think your child has shared too much about themselves don't panic. It's rare that things get out of control, but even if they do there are ways you can respond and organisations who can help.

What are the risks?

- Once information has been shared online, particularly pictures and videos, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it or shared it.
- Personal or embarrassing information in the wrong hands can lead to bullying.
- Knowing that others have seen embarrassing things about them can cause stress and anxiety, and affect a child's confidence and self-esteem.
- Unwanted information online could affect educational and job opportunities later in life.
- People with a sexual interest in children can use personal information online to work out if a child might be vulnerable or ways to attempt to groom them.
- Sharing images, particularly sexualised images, can increase the likelihood of a child receiving inappropriate sexual contact from strangers online.

What can you do?

If you find out your child has shared too much personal information online you should first assess the risks by considering the following questions:

- **What did they share?** Was it a picture, video or personal information when chatting? Are they embarrassed by the content and if so why? Could the information be used to locate them?
- **Who did they share it with?** Many apps allow you to share with an individual or a small or large group of contacts. Find out how many people might be able to see the content your child has shared.
- **Do they know the people they've shared it with?** Have they met them face to face? If they've shared something with school friends are they worried about what they will do with the information?
- **Was it shared with someone they don't know?** If they have never met the person face to face, find out what else your child knows about them and whether they have been in contact since. Ask if they have at any point, felt threatened in any way. Have they been asked to share inappropriate images? If so, this is a matter for the police. You can either contact your local police or report to CEOP.

You should report any concerns about online grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

How to take control

The quickest way to get content removed from the internet is for the person who posted it to take it down.

- If your child posted the image using their account on a social media site, ask them to log in and delete it.
- If someone else posted the image or re-posted it, ask them to delete it on any sites they've shared it on - St Richard's may be able to help identify them.

- If you do not know who has posted it, or they refuse to take it down, then report the image to any sites it's been posted on. All major social media sites have ways to report content. It's not guaranteed that they will take it down but if it breaks their terms and conditions or 'community guidelines' it should be removed. (www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites/).
- Some sites do not have reporting processes. If the content is a sexual image you can report it to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Sexual images of anyone under 18 are illegal and the IWF can work to get them removed from sites which don't have reporting procedures. You can report directly to the IWF (www.iwf.org.uk) and children can contact Childline (www.childline.org.uk) who work with the IWF.
- If someone is using personal information online to bully your child, do not take matters into your own hands or retaliate, you should speak to St Richard's urgently.
- If your child feels threatened by someone who they only know online you should report it to your local police. If they are acting sexually towards your child or asking them to do sexual things you should report it to CEOP (www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre).

Thinkuknow factsheet for parents/carers: Worried your child has shared too much online?

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Mr Fegan, Subject Leader - Computing and ICT

Congratulations to...

Lucy Sparkes, Year 11, passed her Intermediate Amateur Radio Licence recently. She has been attending sessions at the Herstmonceux Science Centre and is planning to undertake the full licence next year.

Hollie Young, Year 10, is continuing to impress with the challenging training schedule she undertakes each week for **Sussex Cricket Girls' Academy Emerging Players Programme (EPP)**. She has had positive feedback from the coaches, who are all extremely proud of her development and attitude to learning. When she has a rocky time with learning new skills, she shows maturity and experience to process the advice to improve her overall performance. Well done, Hollie! We are really proud of you. See the Sussex cricket website: <http://www.sussexcricket.co.uk/news/girls-academy-epp-intake-announced>

Safeguard the Future of Catholic Education

As you will be aware, there is considerable concern that the Education Secretary Justine Greening is considering renegeing on the Government's promise to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. The policy of imposing a 50% cap on admissions has effectively banned new Catholic schools as our Bishops ruled that opening a Catholic school that turned away Catholics for being Catholic contravened Canon Law. The Catholic community needs to make its collective voice heard and tell Justine Greening this discrimination is absolutely unacceptable. I know this is an exceptionally busy time of year but simply by clicking on the link provided, you can contact Ms Greening and your MP expressing concern that this manifesto pledge could be broken. The process takes less than a minute in total. Please visit: <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Featured/Safeguard-the-future-of-Catholic-education2> insert your details and click 'send'. We hope that through a concerted effort on the part of all members of the Catholic community, we can effect real, and much needed, influence.

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service

Young Craftsman of the Year Competition

This is a highly prestigious competition open to anyone aged 14-21 years. Entries include woodwork, metalwork, ceramic, textiles and design and technology. It is open to anyone living or studying in Berkshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex. For more information please visit: <http://www.seas.org.uk/educational-grants-competitions/young-craftsman-year/>

The Prize fund is in excess of £5500, with a first prize of £1300. The closing date is 20th April 2018 and judging takes place on 5th June. The competition is held at the South of England Show – 7th, 8th and 9th June 2018.

Library News



Film Club News So far this academic year we have watched the beautiful 'Swallows and Amazons', the Disney Pixar 'Finding Dory' and the original and

fabulous 'Grease'. All have been well received. Our Christmas film has yet to be decided, but we hope for something exciting! We have space for new members; if it is something your child would enjoy, ask them to see me for more details.



Calling all Year 11s Do you have a library book overdue? I know you've all been really busy with the mocks, but the time has come to think about returning your books and paying the very modest fines of 1p per school day. Please note, I cannot sign your leavers' sheet if you still have school property on loan. **Get it done now** and it's out the way... **you know who you are** as I've been reminding you at least once a term since your books went overdue! If it's lost, see me to find out the replacement cost. Many thanks for your help and cooperation.



Remembrance Day was marked in the library by a display of Library resources exploring the subject War and supported by two book lists. Fiction writers such as Michael Morpurgo, Sam Angus and Theresa Breslin have drawn extensively on this topic for inspiration, helping pupils to understand and empathise with those caught in confusing and terrible circumstances. Non-fiction, the History magazine and DVDs on this subject help our young historians to unpick the complexities of war and is a useful support to those doing GCSE History.



Chemistry Week - Science and the Library Unite! The week of 20th November saw some beautiful Science books, key cards, careers information and Science magazines displayed alongside molecule models, scientific equipment and meerkats, illustrating the helpful materials we hold in our Library for all our young scientists.



We even hold quite a few novels about science and scientists! Chemistry is a field which overlaps with Geography, Food Tech and even forensic science, so there is much to interest a range of pupils. My thanks to Dr Durkin for the loan of all the props, helping us to encourage pupils to think about Chemistry not just as a subject in school, but as something that affects us all in the real world.

Librarians' Christmas Party My helpful and trusty Librarians will celebrate the end of term with our traditional St Richard's Librarians' Christmas Party on Monday, 18th December at lunchtime, with the Library being closed to other users. A buffet, mad dancing and daft games will ensue, together with presents and an exchange of Secret Santa gifts, to thank them for all their help and hard work. Our Librarians are: Katie Nash (11S), Lucy Sparkes and Helena Hudson (11I), Emily Day, Aleena Aju and Eleanor Klein (8S) and Amelie Croft (8L). I will be advertising for new librarians from Year 7 in the New Year.

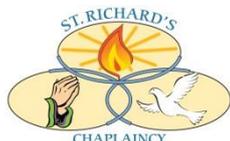
Book Quote of the Month: 'A fondness for reading, properly directed, must be an education in itself.' Jane Austen, Mansfield Park.

And Finally... The Librarians wish all readers and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year – and remember, there is no better gift than a BOOK – unless it's a BOOK TOKEN!

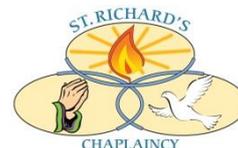


Ms Tocknell, Librarian





Chaplaincy News



As we enter the season of Advent we look forward to the arrival of Jesus on Christmas morning. Here in college we have prepared with the sacrament of Reconciliation being offered to all pupils in the week beginning 4th December. Preparations are under way for our annual Advent Service in the school hall on Tuesday, 19th December at 7.00pm. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to help us finish the term ready for our Christmas celebrations.

Form Liturgies

There have been a number of Form Services this term and my thanks to all the Liturgy Reps who helped to put these together. Mr Holloway's form, inspired by the



visit of a deaf and hard of hearing person to a Lower School assembly, decided to use some sign assisted singing for their form service. Their theme was self-acceptance and proved to be a lovely thought provoking Mass. They also placed photographs of themselves and lit candles to remind them that they are beautifully created by God. 70 held a lovely Christingle service as part of their advent



preparations. In their service they spoke about how they could prepare for Christmas this year.



Liturgy Reps

Liturgy Reps have been busy updating the Liturgy boards in each form room this term and I hope to be able to award a prize for the best display in the coming week.



Interact Club

Our new Chair and Vice Chair were elected this term and my congratulations to Imeldah Ambetsa and Kiara Senthilkumaran. I

look forward to working with them this year. They were, unfortunately, unable to join us at the Rotary tea Party due to exams.



However, a small collection of the club members enjoyed this annual visit to St Augustine's Church hall to help out with the Rotary Tea party. Lots of fun was had and even a bit of karaoke was performed by the group. They got to meet the current Rotary President and many lovely members of our community.



Love in a Box

Yet again, we were astounded by the generosity of pupils who collected a record number of boxes for our annual Love in a Box appeal. 475 boxes were collected, which I know will be greatly appreciated by the young orphans who receive them. Interact Club would like to thank all pupils and tutors for their hard work for this year's appeal. What a great sight to see our main corridor filled with boxes! Well done to all.



Advent Service

Our annual Advent service takes place on Tuesday, 19th December at 7.00pm and all are welcome. Our theme this year is 'Do you have room for Christ this Christmas?' Our Performing Arts department are busy preparing what will be a thought provoking service to get us ready for Christmas. We look forward to welcoming many of you there.

As we approach the Christmas holidays may I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Jo Doyle

Miss Jo Doyle – Lay Chaplain

(missdoylej@strichardsc.com) Tel: 01424 731070 Ext. 126

PE Department News

DANCE

Induction Mass: On Thursday, 19th October, Year 7 pupils took part in their Induction Mass, dancing a piece called 'Footprints'. For many this was the first time they had performed in front of an audience. Three dancers Evie Dawes (7I), Amelia Allen (7O) and Leah Sandy (7H) danced to the Psalm 'Song of Ruth'. Two members of the senior team Hannah Sandeman (9R) and Rosa-Jayne Cave (10O) were on hand to help out, calming nerves and helping backstage. They did a sterling job. Well done, girls.



I would like to congratulate all pupils who took part either performing or helping backstage.



Eastbourne Proms: The music and dance departments headed to the De La Warr Pavilion on Monday, 6th November for the Annual Music Proms performance. We danced a piece to 'Supermarket Flowers' accompanied by the choir and orchestra. The collaborative work between music and dance resulted in a very emotional and moving performance. The



piece was created to include duets, as well as a group dance. Well done to all those who took part. A big thank you to those who came to help on the evening. Natalia Szelest (9H) commented, *'It was a great experience to share our talents through music and dance to other schools and to watch other performances. I really enjoyed performing at the De La Warr Pavilion, it was the first time I had danced on this stage.'*



Prize Evening

Congratulations go to Millie White, 9R, for receiving the Dance Cup at Prize Evening. Millie was awarded the prize for her commitment to the Dance Company. Noah Burrows, 9H, received a dance prize for his achievements and progress that he has made including attending Trinity Laban following a successful audition.

Boys' Dance Company

It is lovely to see so many new faces in the Boys' Dance Company. They are currently working extremely hard on the piece for Time to Dance in February, where they will be performing at the White Rock Theatre in Hastings. I have also entered them, for the first time, in The Great Big Dance Off in March where they will be joining the both the Junior and Senior Dance Company in competing in this National Schools Dance Competition. Good luck, boys.

Ballet Boyz

Wednesday, 29th November saw the Dance Company head off to the Brighton Dome to watch a performance by BalletBoyz. Fourteen Days, their new show, includes choreography by Craig Revel Horwood renowned judge on Strictly Come Dancing.

Emma Sandeman (7F) commented, *'BalletBoyz was amazing! There was a lot of excitement and the dances were incredible! They did all sorts of moves and it was all very creative. There were different dances for different things and they all got the message across. I loved it and I know everyone else did'*.

Louise Kavanagh and Natalia Szelest commented, *'BalletBoyz was incredible, creative and really got the message across. It was an amazing opportunity to see professional dancers perform and also we loved being able to spend time with other member of the Dance Company. It really inspired us to perform to professional standards and to work as a team like them. It was definitely worth going.'*



Noah Burrows, 9H, report on Trinity Laban

I started advanced dance training at Trinity Laban in September. Laban is an amazing mirrored building in Deptford SE London, one of the largest contemporary dance centres in the world. Each Saturday I train for six hours, completing three workshops. Creative choreography is my favourite. I have met many famous dancers and choreographers as part of the course, including Alexander Whitley and Hofesh Shechter. Some do Question and Answer sessions with us. In the holidays we have intensives. Over October half-term we worked with specialists in African dance, Kathak (Indian storytelling), Folk and Hip Hop. I loved doing the different dance techniques. Folk was fun and entertaining, though Hip Hop was my favourite. At first, training for such long days on top of travelling to London was tiring, but now I've got used to it. I have made lots of friends who also travel from different parts of the UK. We will celebrate the work we are doing this year with a final show performed in London in July. The course starts again in September and I'll move up a group each year until I reach college or university.

Congratulations

Evie Dawes competed at the West Sussex Dance Championships during half term. She was placed 5th. Evie was by far the youngest out of a group of 22 dancers. Well done, Evie. Edie Crowther (7S) and Hannah Sandeman (9R) both recently took part in the Sussex Championship Gymnastic Competition. Edie was placed 1st with her floor routine and Hannah Sandeman was placed 3rd overall. Well done, girls.

Next term is proving to be equally busy with performances that we will be taking part in: Time to Dance, Great Big Dance Off and a trip to Move It. Look out for all the details in the New Year. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you and well done to all of the Dance Company for their hard work this term and some amazing performances.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year.

Mrs Knight, Dance teacher



PE NEWS

Girls' Football

U16 (Year 10 & 11) English Schools FA Cup round 2 v Dorothy Stringer, Brighton. Won 6-4. We were 4-0 down! In the next round they played Warden Park and lost 4-8. The team were: Isobel Corbin, Poppy Derhun, Ma Shaina Mallorca, Olivia White, Stephanie Bone, Pamela Busuego, Kiera Davey, Imelda Ambetsa, Janel Maneclang, Abbie Pinnington, Amber Pisani-Cleland, Jade Coleman and Lexie Coleman.

U14 (Year 8&9) County Cup v Seaford Head. Lost 0-8. The team were: Bethany Dineley, Aimee Mooney, India McCann, Beatrice White, Olivia Zheng, Maddie Baszczak, Erika Body, Lucy Boreham, Anique Crouch, Isabella East, Izehi Ebhohimen, Jasmine Moulding and Charlotte Power.

Boys' SE Sussex Schools Football

Year 8 v Robertsbridge. Won 6 – 5. George Murphy scoring ALL SIX goals.

Year 9 v St Leonards Academy. Won 9 – 3.

Year 10 v St Leonards Academy. Won 4 – 1.

Year 11 v St Leonards Academy. Lost 0 – 2.

Year 7 v St Leonards Academy. Won 5 - 0.

Year 8 v St Leonards Academy. Lost 3 - 4.

Year 7 v Rye College. Lost 2 - 0.

Year 9 v Claverham. Drew 1 - 1.

Year 10B v Bexhill Academy A. Lost 0 – 4.

Year 7 v Bexhill Academy. Won 9 - 0.

Year 7 v Claverham. Lost 0 - 1.

Year 7B v Hastings Academy. Won 3 – 1.

Year 9 v William Parker B. Won 11 – 2.

Congratulations to the Year 7, 9 and 10 teams who have qualified for the semi-final stages of the SE Sussex Schools Cup. Matches will be played after Christmas against teams from the Eastbourne area.

Sussex Schools Swimming Relays championships

Congratulations to ALL who competed against many of the county's top private schools and sports colleges at the event in Horsham. Particular congratulations to the Inter Girls team of Jade and Lexie Coleman, Beth Saldana and Genevieve Grant who produced our best results in the freestyle and medley relays.

Cross Country

Well done to the 30 pupils who represented St Richard's at the Area schools cross country held at Battle Abbey last Friday. Overall, St Richard's came 2nd in both the girls and boys team events, as well as having a number of individual medal and age group team winners.

Year 7 Girls: Jessica McCann (2nd) and Elina Saklunova (3rd). The Year 7 girls team won the team event.

Year 7 Boys: Jasper Colwell (2nd). The Year 7 boys team finished 3rd overall.

Year 8 Girls: Talia Cahill (2nd)

Year 9 Girls: Erika Body (2nd)

Year 9 Boys: Zak Prawanna (3rd). The Year 9 boys finished 3rd overall.

Year 10 Boys: Dominic Sharp (3rd). The Year 10 boys team finished 2nd overall.

Badminton

Well done to the KS3 badminton team who competed at the Area Schools Tournament held at William Parker. The boys' team finished 3rd beating Bexhill, William Parker and Rye before losing out to St Leonards. The girls' team finished 5th beating Rye and Bexhill.

**PE DEPARTMENT
CLUBS/PRACTICES (JAN-FEB 2018)**

	Boys	Girls	Lunchtime
Monday	Badminton	Badminton	
Tuesday	Year 10 & 11 Basketball	Year 9 & 10 Football	Year 7 & 8 Boys' Basketball
Wednesday	Year 7-9 Basketball	Year 7 & 8 Football	KS3 Table Tennis
Thursday	Year 7-11 Rugby	Year 7 & 8 Basketball	
Friday	Year 7-11 Football	Year 9-11 Basketball	Year 10 & 11 Boys' Basketball



NSEA County Qualifier Competition - 18th November 2017

The St Richard's Catholic College Equestrian Team put forward 6 riders for the County Qualifier this November. Georgina Morgan (Year 8), Chloe-Rose Considine, Amber Townshend, Emma Folwell (Year 9), Duncan Morgan (Year 10) and Megan Bassett (Year 11).

Chloe-Rose made her debut with the team on her horse Harry in the 70cm and rode a fantastic round for her first competition; she has made a great contribution to the team.

Georgina, Duncan, Emma and Amber rode really well as a team in the 80cm finishing on 0 faults, putting them in the top 10 against some very fast teams.

Megan rode as an individual in the 80cm, a last beautiful round on her horse "Smurf" who has now gone to a new home. Smurf has been an amazing horse member of the team, competing at most of the competitions, qualifying and competing at Nationals in 2016 with not only Megan, but also Amber!

Duncan, Emma, Amber and Megan then rode in the 90cm class, Megan and Emma riding clear and a pole down each for Duncan and Amber. This strong round put them in 5th place overall with the promise of an exciting year to come.

A great day out for all the team who were a real credit to the school.



My first competition for the school's equestrian team – by Chloe-Rose Considine

On Saturday, 18th November, the school team went to Petley Wood for the NSEA team and individual show jumping qualifiers. I competed in the 70cm as an individual; we also had an 80cm and 90cm team. My first NSEA competition was fun and exciting with lots of people and their horses. Even though I fell off in the warm up, I was still enthusiastic about starting my class. I went into the arena with confidence and began my round. The judges commented on how lovely and smart our school looked. The first 3-4 jumps went perfectly but I then lost my stirrup and instead of stopping I just carried on. The last few jumps went very quickly and were not the best, but I tried my hardest to finish my round with all of the support of the people who came to watch me. Although I knocked down a pole, it was a fantastic day and all of the other team members did amazingly!

St Richard's Catholic College Calendar - Academic Year 2017/2018 (as at December 2017)
Please keep this sheet in a safe place and replace when updates are provided

Advent Service	Tuesday, 19th December (7:00pm)
End of Term 2	Wednesday, 20th December at 1.10pm
First Day of Term Three for staff	Wednesday, 3rd January 2018
First Day of Term Three for pupils	Thursday, 4th January 2018
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 11th January (5:00pm-8:00pm)
Parental Focus Group (am)	Wednesday, 17th January (9:15am)
Parental Focus Group (pm)	Thursday, 18th January (6:15pm)
Year 9 Curriculum Evening	Thursday, 25th January (7:00pm)
Careers Fayre (in the college gym)	Thursday, 1st February (2:00pm-4:00pm)
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 1st February (5:00pm-8:00pm)
PTFA meeting	Monday, 5th February (7:00pm)
End of Term 3	Friday 9th February
First Day of Term Four for pupils	Monday, 19th February 2018
Music Showcase	Wednesday, 28th February (7:00pm)
Parental Focus Group (am)	Wednesday, 7th March (9:15am)
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 15th March (5:00pm-8:00pm)
SENCo Drop-In (for parents of pupils with SEN)	Tuesday, 20th March (3:15pm-5:00pm), Library
Parental Focus Group (pm)	Thursday, 22nd March (6:15pm)
End of Term 4 (Easter Services for pupils)	Thursday, 29th March
First Day of Term Five for pupils	Monday, 16th April 2018
PTFA meeting	Monday, 16th April (7:00pm)
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 26th April (5:00pm-8:00pm)
Parental Focus Group (am)	Wednesday, 2nd May (9:15am)
Parental Focus Group (pm)	Thursday, 3rd May (6:15pm)
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 17th May (5:00pm-8:00pm)
End of Term 5	Friday, 25th May
First Day of Term Six for pupils	Monday, 4th June 2018
PTFA meeting	Monday, 4th June (7:00pm)
Year 9 Performing Arts Showcase	7th and 8th June (6:00pm)
Parental Focus Group (am)	Wednesday, 13th June (9:15am)
Parental Focus Group (pm)	Thursday, 14th June (6:15pm)
New Intake Evening - September 2018 admissions	Wednesday, 20th June (7:00pm)
MUFTI Day for the Summer Fayre	Thursday, 21st June
INSET DAY	Monday, 25th June
PTFA Summer Fayre	Saturday, 30th June
BLOCK Day	Tuesday, 3rd July
CREST Awards Evening	Thursday, 5th July (6:00pm)
Summer Production	11th, 12th and 13th July (evening performances)
End of Term 6	Friday, 20th July

Newsletter Acknowledgement

Don't forget to sign the newsletter acknowledgement no. 3 located in your son/daughter's journal.

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is emailed in the penultimate week of each term on a Friday. **All pupils in a family need to have a signature from a parent/carer to indicate that the newsletter has been read.** 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 would prefer to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter then please email your details to Mrs Klein (mrskleink@strichardsc.com), indicating whether you would prefer an A4 or A5 edition.**