

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday and a good start to the New Year. It is with great pride that I can inform you that a group of our Year 11 students who are members of our Social, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural group were nominated for and have won the prestigious 'Diana Award' for their active citizenship. This was for a series of student led events which included support for the Stonewall anti-homophobic bullying campaign and our visit by Sir Ian McKellan, the development of our anti-racist programme and raising hygiene awareness with the installation of additional hand washing guides in the toilets.

The 'Diana Award' will be presented to the group later in March at a glittering event in Canary Wharf. Both of our local MP's and the Director of Merton Children, Schools and Families, Ms Yvette Stanley, will also be congratulating the students for their positive campaigning.

Attached to this letter is an update from the 'Friends of Ricards', who are in need of a bit of support from the parent body. You will find details overleaf.

Meetings for this term are as follows:

20.01.15	Friends of Ricards - 7pm – all welcome
10.02.15	Year 7 Parent Teacher Consultation
26.02.15	Year 9 Progression Routes Evening
03.03.15	Friends of Ricards – 7pm – all welcome
10.03.15	Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation
16.03.15	INSET day – school closed to students
20.03.15	FOR Quiz Night
27.03.15	End of Term

It has been brought to my attention that the car parks and roads around the school entrances are becoming increasingly congested and at times a health and safety concern. Can I ask that you do not enter any of our car parks to collect your child either before or after school and that you are sensible and sensitive to the number of children exiting the school at 3.00pm when you are parking.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Jerrard  
Headteacher  
arts colleges



**PLEASE TAKE JUST 2 MINUTES OF YOUR DAY TO READ THIS**  
**(ALL THE WAY TO THE END!!!!!!)**

As our daughters' school continues to improve year on year, the time has come to raise the profile of Friends of Ricards if we are to help achieve the outstanding credit that Ricards deserves. We are the equivalent of the PTA and whenever you see us at events we will be raising money for your school - and your daughter's education.

The money we raise will be pooled by the school and put to auction. The Heads of Department will then bid for what is most needed to improve the quality of teaching and facilities that your children get. These will be items that cannot necessarily be covered by the government funds that Mrs Jerrard works hard to apportion every year.

So we are looking for the following in terms of input from parents. Please take a moment to see if you can help with any of the below:

**GRAPHIC LAYOUT AND PRINTING**

Most urgently we need to make a banner to promote and advertise our presence at events. Can you help with either the design or printing of this? Could you help us reduce the cost of making it, or help us get it done for free?

**VOLUNTEERS**

We need three types of parents to help. Could you do any of the following?

1. Join our core team of helpers to help on quiz night or with any other fundraising events. This would involve coming to the odd Friends meeting. These are on a Tuesday night at 7pm (we meet once a month and dates are on the school website). Mrs. Jerrard currently chairs these. Email: [FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com) Subject: Core Team
2. Be an occasional volunteer, who may not be able to come to any meetings but is happy to be contacted to see if you are available to help for a little while (eg work the bar for half an hour at the annual play interval, etc.) Email: [FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com) Subject: Occasional Volunteer
3. Neither of the above, but now that you know who we are you will be happy to donate what you can when asked, or support us when you see us at events (running a bar or having a presence of some sort.)



### **FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

For such a large school the funds we raise annually are very low. We run an annual quiz night, which is the only money making event we have currently.

We would like to try and run a second event annually to help increase our revenue. Do you have a great idea? You don't have to get involved if you don't want to. But we need input from parents to put on the sort of events they would come to. Previous attempts have resulted in a poor turnout, so we want to know what you WOULD like to attend...

If you haven't previously come to the quiz night maybe you could try it out this year? Ricards pupils are also invited and last year had their own table (which they thoroughly enjoyed!). Fish and chips are included in the price and refreshments are also on offer.

OR do you know any Sponsors who might be interested in joining with us to help fund events?

### **FINALLY**

We always need items such as paper plates, plastic cups, polystyrene cups, and small paper bags. If you have any of these things left over at any time of year, or anything else you think might help us so we don't have to buy them in, please email us and we will collect them from you.

Friends have now setup their own email. If you can help with any of the requests we have made in this newsletter, or have any other suggestions you would like to put forward, please contact us on:

[FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsofRicards@hotmail.com)

We can't make this work without you, and we can't believe out of 1,200 pupils - potentially 2,000 plus parents - that we can't get something rolling!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

**FRIENDS OF RICARDS**