

Notes from Friends of Ricards (FOR) Meeting 2nd December 2014

The meeting was attended by Alison Jerrard (AJ), Anita Mannan (AM) and Annabelle Taylor (AT)) together with parents from most year groups.

AT gave a very interesting and informative talk about the charity work done within the school and included the following :

- In 2013/14 £8,881.05 was raised including over £2500 raised by Year 7 for Sports Relief
- Other charities supported were War Child, Macmillan Nurses, Wimbledon Guild, Royal Legion, Barnardos, Beatbullying and the Tanzania Livingstone Trust
- The Tanzania Livingstone Trust has been an ongoing project over 5 years – Ricards has been sponsoring 3 girls through their schooling and this sponsorship has now come to an end. We were shown a delightful video of one of the girls talking about her life and thanking Ricards for their support
- This year the students are going to vote for their favourite charities out of Smalls for All (which donate underwear and hygiene items to Africa), Plan, Tanzania Livingstone Trust, Rosa, Merton Vision and War Child.

Mandy Doig (year 8 parent) spoke of her enthusiasm to initiate more fund-raising activities. Suggestions included :

- A Summer Fair
- An International Evening
- Car boot sale (AJ pointed out that the school does not have the right to use the premises outside school hours so they would probably be a charge for the car park)
- Producing a Friends of Ricards banner to promote awareness at all events (Sarah Sawyerr has a good contact to do this)
- Asking parents to volunteer services eg printing
- Setting up a dedicated email for FoR
- Having specific targets to raise money for

Forthcoming dates to note are:

18th December – BTEC Showcase

8th January - 6th form Open Evening at Rutlish

AJ told us that she had been invited to speak on Channel 4 News, together with the head of Kings College and a Ricards student, to discuss the partnership between private and state schools. It was filmed in the Resource Centre at Ricards and went very well!

Georgie Hopkins mentioned that she had been asked to attend another school's careers evening (she is a physiotherapist) and AJ agreed that we should ask Ricards parents if they would be prepared to do the same so that the girls could speak directly to people involved in varied careers. Year 9 Careers Event is planned for the February (date TBC), Ms Mannan took details of interested parents and thanked them for their support.