

## Notes from Friends of Ricards (FOR) Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

The meeting was attended by Alison Jerrard, Anita Mannan and Paula Simmons together with parents from most year groups.

Apologies were received from Philippa Foskett and Janice Cameron.

Paula Simmons began the session with an extremely interesting and informative presentation on the work the school is doing as part of the government's **Prevent Agenda**. She shared with us the kind of discussions that are encouraged on subjects including vulnerability and what kind of behaviour it can lead towards. The Prevent strategy has three key objectives : challenging ideology that supports terrorism; protecting vulnerable individuals; and supporting sectors and institutions where there is a risk of radicalisation. The girls have been very interested in the discussions, particularly in the light of their interest and concern for the three schoolgirls from East London who travelled to Syria to join ISIS. Teachers have been trained to view the exploitation of vulnerable individuals in this way as a form of grooming. It was suggested by a parent that some of the information (such as warning signs to look out for) could be usefully shared with parents across the school.

There was a short discussion on the success of the **Quiz Night** this year which raised over £500. Georgie Hopkins (FoR Treasurer) encouraged the school to spend some of the money raised. FoR will keep a float of about £500 which leaves £2000 to be used. Alison Jerrard will ask department heads to bid for up to £250 each.

We all admired the new table top **Friends of Ricards Banner** and leaflet, as organised by Mandy Doig – the full size banner is also finished but was locked safely in the FoR cupboard and so will be brought out at the next event!

Alison Jerrard informed us that year 8 are trialling email appointments for the next parents evening.

Paula Simmons advised us that there have been some teething problems with FROG, but all parents will have a Login by September.

There was some discussion on how girls should best catch up on work they have missed if they are away. This will be discussed with staff.

Events for which Friends of Ricards volunteers would be most welcome are as follows :

**Year 6 Testing Day** Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June. Help needed to run a bar and tuck shop from 1 – 2.30 pm with set up from 12pm.

**New Uniform Days** Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June 3.30 – 7 pm

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June 9 – 12 pm

**Hairspray Production** Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June )

Thur 11<sup>th</sup> June ) Bar to be run in the interval

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> June )

**Summer Sounds** Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July 6 – 8 pm A new musical festival event to be held outside if possible!

FoR to run a bar.

Please email Mandy on [friendsof Ricards@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsof Ricards@hotmail.com) if you can help at any of these – it would be much appreciated. As I have now been secretary for 2 years I would also much appreciate it if someone would like to take over this role. If you feel you could write a brief report after each FoR meeting, just let me know! Thank you. FS