

## Notes from Friends of Ricards (FOR) Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The meeting was attended by Alison Jerrard (AJ), Anita Mannan (AM) and Paula Simmons (PS) together with parents from most year groups. It was great to see large number of new year 7 parents!

AJ reported:

- the school's 2014 GCSE results are now officially confirmed as 71% of girls achieving 5 or more A\* - C grades including English and Maths – a quite remarkable improvement on the 44% of 2005 ;
- in 2 years' time the school will be judged instead under the new scheme of 'Progress 8' + 'Attainment 8' – how much progress each student has made in her time at the school over 8 different subjects as well as A\* -C in English and Maths.
- 6<sup>th</sup> form recruitment is very healthy – this year has seen the largest and most able cohort so far
- Everyone should have received the latest school newsletter
- Aspirations evenings are taking place this term for all the year groups
- 160 of the new Year 7 have been on their activity trip with great success
- There is an Inset day next Friday!

AM described the inspirational visit of Sir Ian McKellen to the school as part of the Stonewall project with which the school has been involved for many years. The year 7 students impressed everyone with their serious and mature questions and Sir Ian responded in a very open and generous manner.

PS gave a very informative talk about the current changes taking place in both GCSE and A Level courses. The aim will be for all courses to be taught and examined over 2 years, with the exams at the end. There was a discussion on the potential problems this could cause and how the school is planning to manage the change. GCSEs will be marked in a different way (grades 9 - 1 instead of A\* - G) and the current year 9 students will be taking some exams under the new system, and others under the old system!

PS also showed us the new 'Frog' online learning system which is gradually being introduced with all year groups and which will provide a hugely flexible and 'paper-free' method for setting and marking work, sending messages etc. Parents will be able to access parts of the system in order to help their daughters and will be provided with log in details towards the end of the term. PM also demonstrated how to find the curriculum maps on the school website – by clicking on 'Learning' and then the particular subject required.

The Xmas concert will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December and Friends of Ricards always organise the mince pies and mulled wine for this event. Set up in St Mary's Church, Wimbledon Village will be from 5pm and the concert usually starts at 6pm and runs for about an hour and a half. This is a lovely festive occasion and many girls will be performing – please do volunteer to help if you can as we will need about 4 people. It will not prevent you from enjoying the concert! If you would like to help please reply to this email – Polly (Mrs Jerrard's PA) will pass your details to me, Fiona Sayer (Friends of Ricards secretary) and I will get in touch with details. Georgie Hopkins (FoR Treasurer) will buy the food and drink as necessary. Thank you!

Finally there was a short discussion on whether FoR should try to fund-raise more for the school. Currently the main event is the Quiz Night in March although we also run drinks and tuck stalls at many other events. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the next FoR meeting. Mrs Jerrard was asked about School Fun Collection and FoR Staff bids, and will update at the next meeting.

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