



Lowther School Family Newsletter

Issue 11

4th February 2013

www.lowther.richmond.sch.uk

School leadership and governance

As you know our school leadership team structure has changed this year—the details of this structure are available online under the staff drop down. We thought however, it may be useful for you to know the role of governors within the school's organisational structure. So what do governors actually do?

- Together with the headteacher they are responsible for making sure we provide a good quality education.
- They provide challenge and support to headteachers, drawing on their knowledge and experience.
- They help make decisions together on matters such as performance, targets, school policies and school development plans.
- They monitor the impact of policies and oversee school budgets and staffing.
- They report on school achievements and respond to inspection recommendations.
- They hear appeals from pupils and staff and consider complaints.
- They ask questions and respect the position of headteachers as professional leaders of schools.

At Lowther we are very proud about the way governors and the school work together to aid school improvement.

To find out more about our school governors and the work they do please visit the governor section of the school website where you'll also be able to read the headship teams annual report to governors.

RPA

If you'd like to know more about RPA then the details of their upcoming open evening are outlined here →

Twitter

We continue to use the website as a key means of keeping in touch but we think it is important that we consider to think about how we can use technology to communicate with parents and the wider community. We are continuing this with the introduction of a school Twitter feed – Mrs Colenso has set this up as a way for parents to stay up to date with school goings on. As we go to press we now have 30 followers! You can access the feed directly from the school website top MenuBar — there is no need to register with Twitter.

The key communication tool for us as a school though remains the school teams availability and accessibility for parents. We expect all staff to be welcoming, personable and positive with parents and of course available.

Website updates

If you haven't browsed the school website recently please do check it out. Just some of the recent new additions include:-

- Italian day pictures
- Making day gallery
- Lowther's got Talent pictures
- The school improvement plan
- A direct link to our Twitter feed
- The latest newsletter
- Nativity gallery

School Council Lunch box check

On Thursday the 24th of January the School Council completed a healthy lunch box survey. Although the vast majority of children have a healthy school dinner we want to make sure everyone does—including those children who bring a packed lunch. Of the random lunches that were checked the results were as follows:
FS/KS1 healthy = 43 unhealthy = 8
Ks2 healthy = 21 unhealthy = 0

Total 64/8 = 64/72 = 89% healthy.

Thank you for your support in making Lowther a healthy school.

Being on time

We had a one day internal inspection last week alongside our local authority inspector. There were many great things that we saw across the school—the children's attitude to learning and behaviour in particular stood out. However, one thing that was noted for improvement was how many children were late—often only a few minutes—but late. This is such an important life skill that we all need to model being on time. As a result next week (w/c 11th February 2013) Mrs Colenso and I will be on the school gates every morning monitoring who turns up late for school. Please support us with this important part of school life. Don't forget 5 minutes late a day over a school year is the equivalent of your child missing 3 full days off school—that's a lot of learning!

Lunch money

Please keep track of school dinner payments—it adds up very quickly if you fall behind. Also it would be much appreciated if payments could be made in labelled envelopes. Thank you in advance.

School Improvement Plan

We have made some minor changes to the plan. Our top five priorities remain the same. We have added a new drop down to the school website so that parents can see what things the school is focusing on to get even better this year.



Richmond Park Academy
To make our best better

QUESTIONS ...

- Why should you choose Richmond Park Academy?
- What do parents of current Year 7 students think of us?
- How are RPA students progressing?
- Why has Ofsted rated RPA a GOOD school?
- How will the campus refurbishment enhance teaching and learning?
- What will RPA's 6th Form, opening September 2014, look like?

An Invitation

Wednesday 13th February
6.30 - 8.00pm
The Acorn, Year 7 Learning Base,
(Entrance in Hertford Avenue)

and ANSWERS ...

Come and talk to Headteacher Lesley Kirby, senior staff and parents of students already at RPA.

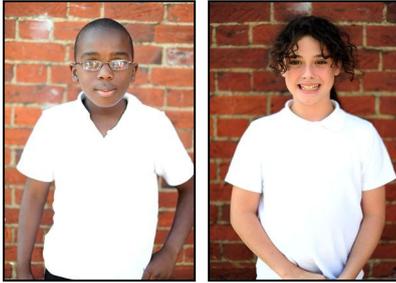
Meet our students and hear first hand about the exciting changes taking place at your local secondary school.

Wine and light refreshments

RSVP
Debra Barlow, PA to the Headteacher
dbarlow@richmondparkacademy.org
tel: 020 8876 8891



School Council News



The school council ran a brilliant tuck shop duel last week to see who could make the greater profit. They also arranged the recent mufti day. They now need to decide what play time equipment to buy with the money raised. Good work councillors.

Outdoor Ping Pong (aka Wiff Waff!)

The school and the PTA have clubbed together to buy a rather fantastic outdoor table tennis table. It should be a welcome addition to our playground. I can't wait to have a game!

Lowther's Got Talent

Wow! We had 29 different acts showcasing so many different children's talents. We even had a staff band perform this year. It was a really cracking afternoon. Check out the events page of the website for more pictures.



Targets

Children knowing what they need to do to get better is such an important part of being a good learner. We are working to ensure that marking and oral feedback gives children clearer guidance on what they need to do to move their learning on.



Targets – children can win prizes, attend secret ceremonies, win certificates and get their picture up in the headship office

A message from the Local Authority

Parents might be interested to hear about a fantastic parenting talk we have arranged. The world famous author Noël Janis-Norton is coming to Richmond on 27th February, to talk about 'Calmer, Easier, Happier Parenting' with all proceeds going to local family support charity Home-Start Richmond. The 'Calmer, Easier, Happier Parenting' talk is on Weds 27th February 7.45pm at King's House School, Richmond. Noël Janis-Norton, author of the famous book, will be talking about her parenting techniques designed to improve children's cooperation and self-reliance.

- Tired of repeating, reminding and nagging?
- Upset with your children not doing what you ask?
- Do you wish family life were calmer, easier and happier?

Calmer, Easier, Happier Parenting is every parent's goal, but it's easy to lose patience if children don't listen or cooperate. We end up repeating, reminding, negotiating or shouting just to get our children to do the simple things they need to do each day. Noël Janis-Norton explains that there is a better way.

£10 ticket includes light refreshments. All proceeds to local family support charity, Home-Start Richmond. More information and tickets from Angie Ahmed 020 8487 8500 or info@homestart-richmond.org.uk

Gee (gee) it's the PTA race night!

After the storming success of the quiz night last year (what a blast that was) the PTA are planning another cracking night out for parents. Their next venture is a Race night to be held in the Great Hall on the evening of Friday 1st March. More details coming soon, but get the baby sitter booked now!

KS2 Open evening

KS2 are busily preparing a night to showcase what goes on in the upper school. This really is something that will be relevant for all parents. If you'd like to come along it is from 6-7pm on Tuesday 12th February. The evening will include food, tours, talks and performances. It should give you all a great insight into life at Lowther in the older years. We do hope you'll join us.

School Inspection

On the 28th January we conducted a mini –inspection across the whole school. This process followed a typical Ofsted type format – though condensed into one day. Mrs Colenso and I worked alongside Elaine England from the Local Authority and did 12 lesson observations (of typically 25 minutes) looked at books, heard readers and interviewed children. It was a very useful learning experience for us all. Some common points and trends did come out from the day and we will use that to help us move forward in the future.

Collection of Children after School

Please note that we are finding that some children are not being collected from school promptly. Whilst we recognise very occasionally there can be an unavoidable delays we do expect children to be collected at 3.15. In future if a child is not collected on time we will book them into the Fit for Sport after school club at the parents expense. Thank you in advance for ensuring children are collected promptly.