



**Riverside School**  
Be All That You Can Be

# Riverside Roundup

6th January 2017

## #riversideroundup

Our third Riverside Annual Conference, entitled “The Pursuit of Happiness” was the perfect way to kick start 2017. “The Pursuit of Happiness” is neither a fad nor some new jargon to incorporate into our School Development Plan. It is a concept we have been talking about for some time at Riverside School, and the time is right for us to take it further and deeper than ever before. Two and a half thousand years ago, Aristotle was writing about what the ancient Greeks referred to as Eudaimonia – in effect, happiness, wellbeing and fulfilment. In more recent times, the Positive Psychology movement has gained momentum and is founded on the belief that people are driven to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives and to cultivate what is best within themselves. The wisdom of the Dalai Lama can also be drawn upon as we strive to define concepts such as happiness, wellbeing and fulfilment for our very special pupils.



At Riverside School, for a number of years we have talked about being “in our element”, being in a state of “flow” and of course, Being All That We Can Be. This notion is based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, what he refers to as self-actualisation, right at the top of the pyramid. And as well as the Riverside Be All That You Can Be mantra, today’s conference also reflects our mission, to transform our children’s lives and the lives of their families, and our vision, to inspire breakthroughs in the way society enables children with complex needs to find true fulfilment. One of our four pledges stands out on its own and is simply this: “We will influence the world of specialist education by creating an innovative curriculum framework based around The Pursuit of Happiness”.

The charity “Action for Happiness” refer to the ten keys of happier living. These ten keys make up the acronym GREAT DREAM and we will be exploring these in more depth in the coming months as we place The Pursuit of Happiness at the heart of our curriculum. As the Riverside School community continues to grow and flourish, we are confident that together, we will succeed in building the most incredible school for our pupils, families and staff. The future is very, very bright.

**Steve Solomons**  
**Headteacher**