

Full Profile Of Richard Pittman Weekes II

The Richard Weekes Chess Academy

Coming to England from Dominica in 1963, Richard has spent most of his life in London. An ex barrow boy from age 10 and a boy scout, he schooled at



Essendine Primary and was a former pupil of Rutherford Comprehensive School, now Marylebone Lower House of North Westminster Community School, where he learned to play badminton the drums and chess.

A trained mechanical engineer, Richard also became an active volunteer and got involved in a large community project in West London. A former Notting Hill Carnival Director from 1982 to 1991, Richard helped to plan and coordinate the event for many years and also Chaired the British Association of Sounds Systems (BASS) which arranged the placement of the disc-jockeys, sound systems and other entertainers at the Carnival. He helped to set up the Southwark Youth Project in Peckham when it was first introduced and became the second Chair of the Project from 1991 to 1993. The project arranges outings and trips for children that live in Southwark during the Easter and Summer holidays.

As the years came and passed Richard raised a family and was also a school governor at a large mixed comprehensive school in Eltham and was Chair of the Greenwich Black Minority Ethnic Governors Support Forum which helped to recruit and support new BME Governors for Greenwich schools. Richard was also a Trustee of the Widehorizons Outdoor Education Trust, which

provides outdoor education to schoolchildren where they learn from environmental experiences. Richard has operated the Greenwich Chess Group since March 2006 teaching children how to play chess in both primary and secondary schools. He recently changed the organisation name to Richard Weekes Chess Academy and promotes chess as an educational tool and a socially cohesive activity.

Starting off mainly in Greenwich he now teaches children and young people in Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth. With five chess clubs running at the moment, it's turning out to be a lot of fun because chess is a passion for him. Richard knows and understands the educational and social benefits that chess gives to children and young people and he believes that all children can be motivated to learn and that more children and young people should learn to play chess.



So far Richard has taught over 1200 children and is currently teaching around 300 children every week. Being active and self motivated his general aim is to develop, popularise and raise the profile of chess so that many more children and young people learn to play. The challenge is to persuade more Headteachers of the educational benefits of chess and how playing it can help to improve academic performance and enhance life skills for children

He is planning to champion all his efforts into promoting and introducing chess into as many Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark schools as he can. The aim is to bring back that competitiveness we had in schools by having more chess teams competing against each other and to develop the talented chess players from these teams to represent their local boroughs at chess. The plan is to inspire them to compete with chess teams from other parts of London and to encourage them as individuals to enter local and national chess tournaments.

Finding A Chess Club in South East London

There is clear evidence to demonstrate that children who learn chess perform better in school, have improved calculating ability, are more imaginative, creative, and self-motivated. Did you know that chess and reading are decision-making activities & children will naturally learn to read better? Chess also challenges the minds of both girls & boys; gifted & average, and it's a fun game that all children can play.

Your child will first learn the basic rules of chess and how the chessmen move and capture. Once they are comfortable with these concepts, they'll be introduced to 'check' and 'checkmate' techniques and how to start and complete a game. Lessons will be conducted using a 'hang up' demonstration board. This helps to encourage questions and discussion and improves concentration, visualisation and focussing abilities.

We use chess to strengthen children's minds as it's one of the best games that develop logical, precise thinking. Children will get better at analysing problems and making choices. They will be more patient and have sharper memories; all of which improve communication, confidence and builds self-esteem. These skills will be useful in real life situations as they develop and grow.

Please let your child give chess a try at one of my chess clubs in SE London. Both girls & boys from 6 years upwards are welcome in all my clubs.

Riverside Junior Chess, Phoenix Hall, Walpole Place

Brookhill Road, Woolwich, SE18

Mondays 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm £4.00 per session

Heron Junior Chess, Herne Hill Baptist Church

Side Entrance in Winterbrook Road

Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill, SE24

Tuesdays 5.30pm to 7.00pm £6.00 per session

Gambit Junior Chess, Eltham Park Baptist Church

The Friendship Centre, Glenure Road, Eltham, SE9

Wednesdays 5.30pm to 7.30pm £5.00 per session

Brambleberry Junior Chess, Glyndon Community Centre

75 Raglan Road, Plumstead, SE18

Fridays 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm £4.00 per session

Noakes Hall Junior Chess, St Hilda's Church

In the Parish room at the rear of the church.

Courtrai Road, Crofton Park, SE4

Saturdays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm £8.00 per session

Please contact Richard for more information by email on

rwchessacademy@hotmail.co.uk or call him on 07538 035896

Visit his blog : <http://chessforchildren.influencer.biz>



Chess tuition in South East London schools may inspire more participation and improve academic excellence

Richard Weekes is a chess teacher and chess club organiser. He runs five junior chess clubs in South East London and his plan is to include and introduce chess into more schools and community settings. Richard has taught over 1200 children to play chess in Greenwich, Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark schools and in the community for nearly six years and holds the view that more children should learn to play the game. He works in partnership with the Extended Schools Services, Learning Mentors and Gifted, Able and Talented coordinators within schools.

One of his many aims is to engage and stimulate children who are beginners and those who have played a little chess before. It is anticipated that the children will eventually develop a liking for chess and will want to continue learning and playing more, so regular attendance at a junior chess club is also encouraged so that knowledge, understanding and technique are accomplished.

Aims of the Richard Weekes Chess Academy

The aim is to provide chess knowledge to children from 6 years old and young people, in a fun and enjoyable environment. Because chess is a complex game to learn, a variety of examples will be taught to enable children with different abilities to grasp the basic rules. Lessons will vary session by session and will be adapted to the age, strength and experience of each child. Lessons will begin with discussions, tips and puzzles but the majority of the time will be spent playing chess.



Chess is not only fun for children of all ages, but there are many benefits from learning to play it. Chess plays an important role in the educational, social

and personal development of children and helps to enhance their thinking and problem solving skills. It can also improve reading, memory, language, and mathematical ability and children will have many opportunities to learn more about the game.

Content of the lessons

The children will learn the basic rules of chess; setting up the board; how the chessmen move and capture; values of the chessmen; castling, draws and a few openings. Once they are comfortable with these concepts, they'll be introduced to 'check' and 'checkmate' techniques and how to win in the End Game. This should give them a solid foundation along their journey to learning and playing better chess.

They will also learn algebraic notation, en passant, pawn captures, how to record their moves and get regular homework sheets. Lessons will be conducted using a 'hang up' demonstration board and all other equipment is supplied. This style of teaching chess will help to encourage independent thinking, confident speakers, questions and discussions; all of which will improve concentration, visualisation, memory and focussing abilities.

Outcomes and benefits

Richard uses chess as a learning tool to strengthen children's minds. It's one of the best games there is for developing logical, precise thinking and it's fairly easy to learn. A game of chess is full of tension, where good nerves can make the difference between a winner and a loser. Children should get better at analysing and solving problems and puzzles and decision making. They will become more patient and develop sharper memories; all of which will also improve communication skills, confidence and build self-esteem. These skills will be useful and may be applied in real-life situations as they develop and grow. The knowledge that the children receive will stay with them for life and empower them to succeed.

There is evidence to demonstrate that children who learn chess perform better in school, have improved calculating ability, and are more imaginative, creative, and self-motivated. Chess and reading are both decision-making activities so children will feel confident and good about themselves and naturally learn to read better. Chess equally challenges the minds of girls and boys; gifted and average, and children who are shy. It's a universal fun game that anyone can play. The children will develop the ability to take more time to think before they act and to consider other choices before responding either verbally, physically or inappropriately.

What's next?

There is certainly a need to improve the image of chess. There is however, no doubt that children are attracted to chess; maybe because it appeals to their competitive nature, or because it's only a game and all children like to play games. It must be remembered also, that win or lose we learn from our mistakes. The expectation is that the children will understand the importance of chess etiquette, good behaviour and sportsmanship.

Building on the success of what I've already achieved in other schools and in the chess clubs I run, it is hoped that chess will have a positive impact on each child that learns. It may be that a child identified as a low achiever may find some success in learning to play chess. With practice, the self-confidence they develop would extend to other areas of their academic, social and emotional life.

It is recommended that if the children enjoy learning and playing chess and would like to take the game more seriously then they may want to consider participating in local chess tournaments. These could provide a natural setting for them to interact with children from other schools as the tournaments are divided by age group and not ability. Opportunities to represent their school or chess club in a competitive activity would be a worthwhile thing to be part of and give them a sense of pride. It would also give them a chance to make new friends.

Get In Touch With Richard Weekes

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