



INSIDE THE STARS' FAVOURITE CLINIC

The celeb haunt for the haunted

Ever wondered what goes on behind the gates of the Priory? Celebrity psychotherapist Richard Reid spills the beans to **Joanne Christie**

Some celebrity haunts never go out of fashion. Just as famous faces continue to dine at the Ivy, they continue to check in to the Priory for rehab. For some, the Roehampton facility is simply seen as a weekend break of choice. But the publicity-hungry stars who alert the press to their stay are the exception, says a psychotherapist at the centre.

Richard Reid, who also has a Harley Street practice, says the very nature of public life means celebrities are much more prone to mental health issues than the rest of us.

"The obvious conditions which make headlines are drink and drugs, but you also get a lot of celebrities dealing with stress, particularly if they are in the public eye all the time," he explains.

"When they're surrounded from a young age by people who make decisions for them, they can feel they're not in control of their lives. They don't trust the people around them to give an honest opinion. Ultimately, they lose their sense of identity.

"I encourage them to revisit old relationships, friendships and family – people who knew them before they were famous, who can help them rediscover who they really are."

Addictive behaviour, such as an eating disorder, is a classic symptom of a celebrity trying to assert what little control they might have over their life and body.

Buckets of money don't help either. "Celebrities don't have the same restraints as other people," says Reid. "There was an 80s pop star

whose cocaine addiction was so bad, he sent his brother on a £7,000 round trip to New York by Concorde to meet his dealer."

Luckily, these same wads of cash mean stars can afford the weekly fees of around £5,000 at the 107-bed Priory.

The SW15 clinic, which has admitted a glut of City bankers in recent weeks, boasts of treating celebs and Joe Public alike. But patients tend to be shielded from one another in private rooms.

Reid says: "Confidentiality is paramount, but besides the levels of privacy, it's pretty much like any typical private hospital."

Extra-curricular activities of writing, art therapy and yoga are indeed refreshingly ordinary – but not enough to keep some celebs in check.

Reid says there are occasional prima donnas who flout rules by smuggling in contraband and sneaking out. Eating disorder patients also have a habit of pocketing food and disposing of it in the flowerbeds.

Let's just hope they don't do the same at the Ivy.



KEEP OUT | Priory patients pay £5,000 a week