

■ HIGH FLIERS: Sir Thomas Rich's School students who have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge, from left back Tariq Piperdy, Michael Foxcroft, James Hodge, front Richard Parker, Tim Grant, Michael Smith.

Eight heading for Oxbridge

OXBRIDGE is calling for eight pupils from a Gloucester school who have achieved places at the country's top universities.

The success of the youngsters from Sir Thomas Rich's School has delighted head teacher lan Kellie – and broken a school record.

Mr Kellie said he was proud eight pupils would be studying at either Oxford or Cambridge. It is a record number of pupils going to the select universities.

Akshay Nair, Tariq Piperdy, James

Hodge and Michael Smith have been offered places at Oxford.

While Tim Grant, Darrell Woods, Michael Foxcroft and Richard Parker were successful in their applications for Cambridge.

Mr Kellie said he was very pleased for the pupils and that their hard work had paid off in clinching their places.

"They are all good students who have worked with consistent effort and done well. This is a marvellous achievement," he said.

Entry to Oxford and Cambridge has never been more competitive and a potential applicant must have top grades in their chosen subjects and impress during an intense interview.

James will study chemistry, Akshay will study medicine, Tariq chemistry and Michael Smith engineering, economics and management at Oxford.

Tim, Michael Foxcroft and Richard will be studying engineering at Cambridge and Darrell will study economics.