

SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2001



We are now settled back into routines at the start of the School Year. Everyone's confidence has been boosted by another set of excellent examination results – I would emphasise that these are the product of hard work through the year, not merely in last-minute revision. The School buildings have benefited during the summer holidays from considerable redecoration to ensure a good environment for staff and pupils. We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

J. Kelly

DATE CHANGES

Because of late notification of the Queen's Golden Jubilee holiday, there are some important changes to school dates for the year ahead. Please do not be caught out!

This term will end on **Friday, 21st December** at 12.45 p.m. (not Thursday 20th).

The Easter holidays will run from **Monday, 25th March** (not Wednesday 27th) to Friday, 5th April.

Hence the **Lower Sixth Parents' consultation evening** has moved, it will now be on Monday, 11th March from 6.00 p.m. (not 25th March).

NEW STAFF

We have welcomed four new colleagues to our teaching staff this year:

Mr. C. D. Carter, our new Assistant Headmaster, who will be teaching Geography and Games; Miss D. Brake, teaching French and Spanish; Mrs. A. Briscoe, teaching English; Mrs. C. Castle, teaching Food Technology.

We are also delighted that Mrs. Spilsbury and Mr. Swann, who have taught part time at Rich's for several years, are both now teaching full time; and Mr. Hanney, following his retirement as Senior Master, remains with us but is teaching mathematics part time.

NEW PUPILS

We have 112 boys in Year 7 who join us from 55 primary schools. The new Lower Sixth has 96 students of whom 22 join us from other secondary schools.

Thirteen of the Lower Sixth are girls, giving a total of thirty girls in a Sixth Form of 205 students. Total pupil numbers are 756 (compared with 753 in September 2000).

SPEECH DAY

Our Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving will be held in the Hall on Friday, 28th September, starting at 7.30 p.m.

We shall be delighted to welcome Ian Beer CBE as Guest of Honour. Mr. Beer is a former Headmaster of Harrow School. He captained Cambridge University rugby team and was President of the Rugby Football Union. He is currently Chairman of the Independent Schools Council.

Attendance for all Year 7 boys is obligatory. All parents are warmly invited to attend, it is one of the School's most important occasions, an excellent way to celebrate the achievements of the School and our pupils over the last year.

In order to help with seating arrangements, please complete and return the slip enclosed with this Newsletter. I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy the evening.

SENIOR PREFECTS

We have two School Captains this year, David Leung and Matthew Key. We therefore do not have a Vice Captain. Our Observators are: Claire Bladon, James Boley, Peter Kellie, Kevin Penter, Alexandra Phillips, Adam Sheppard, Adam Stokes and Matthew Taylor.

OFSTED INSPECTION

Parents should have received a letter regarding our forthcoming Ofsted inspection. All parents are invited to a meeting with the Lead Inspector, in the School Hall on Monday 24th September at 7.00 p.m.. I would urge as many parents as possible to come along.

With the letter giving parents this information were an agenda for the meeting and a questionnaire, the latter is to be returned in a sealed envelope addressed to Mr.A.Shield (the Ofsted inspection team leader) c/o Sir Thomas Rich's.

Our last Ofsted inspection was in October 1996. Schools are normally inspected every four years but our last Ofsted inspection report was very positive and examination results show that we have maintained high standards. We shall therefore receive a 'short inspection' i.e. a small team of inspectors for only part of a week. However, under new regulations, all 11-18 schools will be subjected to more detailed inspections of their Sixth Forms. So we shall not get away too lightly!

SCHOOL CHOIR

On Friday, 9th November at 7.30 p.m. the School Choir and the Churchdown Male Voice Choir will be holding a concert in aid of Gloucestershire Lifestyles. Tickets priced £4 (£3 concessions) will be available from the School.

100 CLUB

Winners of the £50 prizes are:-

August: Dr. & Mrs. Dodwell
September: Mr. & Mrs. Lyall

LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Following the award of Language College status last September we saw many developments, detailed in our Newsletters. Further progress this year includes the introduction of lunch-time language lessons for beginners. Initially these are being offered to Sixth Formers, in Latin, Italian, Spanish and Gujarati.

Planning for our new Language Centre is progressing well. Building work on the £540,000 Centre is due to commence at the end of October, with completion at Easter.

SUMMER REDECORATION

During the summer break, a great deal of work was completed in and around the School. The most obvious change was a complete re-laying of the School quadrangle, it is now a very attractive centre-piece. We also purchased and fitted LCD projectors in three classrooms, to enable enhanced class presentations. The old Tuck Shop area has been converted to additional space for catering and the provision of an extra serving hatch. Windows were cleaned, walls painted, carpets cleaned, new flooring fitted, the Gym floor sanded and re-lined, blinds washed, a new display cabinet fitted, a new office built - we are indebted to our caretaking staff who have worked hard while the school was on holiday to ensure that our learning environment is attractive and well cared-for.

U16 DISTRICT RUGBY

Congratulations to the following players who have gained selection for the Gloucester District rugby team:

Dexter Bradley, Timothy Dodwell, James Martin, Alex Pike, Daniel Rice, Charles Woolhead.

QUIZ NIGHT

The first of the School's Quiz Nights this year will be held on Friday, 23rd November at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall. All pupils, friends and families are invited to take part. Details will be included in a letter nearer the time. PVS

EXAMINATION RESULTS

With so many 'league tables' published nowadays, there are many different ways in which schools' examination results are judged. By all measures our students achieved excellence, by most measures the results were the best ever at Rich's. Congratulations are due to the students and to their teachers.

GCSE

98% of GCSE examinations were passed at Grade C and above, with 57% of all grades at A and A*, significantly our highest ever proportion of top grades. 85% of all grades were B or better. The average points gained by each Year 11 boy (based on A*=8, A=7, B=6, etc.) was 66.4, which equates to over eight A*s or over nine As each, again our highest ever score. Fifteen boys each passed their GCSEs all at grades A and A*. Of particular note were the results in Geography, where 51 of the 73 candidates achieved A*s, indeed 92% of those boys who took the examination gained grade A or A*, a remarkable achievement.

The twenty nine Year 10 boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early all passed at grades A and A*.

AS

The new AS examinations were taken by our Lower Sixth. These examine three of the six A-level units and carry half the marks for A-level. The grades awarded are as for A-level i.e. A to E are passes.

99.1% of all papers were passed with 64% at grades A and B. Twenty three students each gained four or more grade A passes, seventy one students each gained at least one pass at grade A. The average points gained per candidate (based on A=5, B=4, etc.) were 18.8. These are impressive results and they ensure a solid foundation for progress towards full A-levels.

A-LEVEL

96% of papers were passed, 54% at grades A and B, again our highest proportion of top grades. The only disappointment was General Studies, where grades were below expectations and lower than in recent years, we have asked the Examination Board to look again at their marking to ensure that no mistake has been made. The average points gained per candidate (based on A=10, B=8, C=6, etc.) was 21.3 excluding General Studies, a new record at Rich's, and 26.0 including General Studies. Ten students gained grade A in all their A-level subjects.

These excellent results ensured that our students again gained places at their first-choice universities.

LAST TERM

At the end of last term, after the Newsletter went to print, the final House event was completed. Southgate won the cricket competition, defeating Eastgate in the final. However this could not prevent Eastgate (65½ points) from being convincing winners of the Cock House Trophy ahead of Southgate (51½), Northgate (51) and Westgate (42).

In our last assembly, at the end of term, we welcomed Stuart Priscott, Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's schools coach, who presented colours and cups.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Matthew Barns (10S) who passed his GCSE Music at the Brookfield Music Centre with an A* grade; **Thomas Burdett** (11R) on his selection for England at Under 16 level in an international table tennis competition in Belgium; **Ashley Burgum** (L6H) who, during his summer holidays, undertook Air Training Corps courses in personal awareness and leadership then completed the four-day 100-mile Nijmegen March in Holland; **Christopher Parry** (8R) who won the prize for the most impressive diary of the Year 7 five-day Paris trip; **Andrew Watkis** (11S) and **Lewis Ferneyhough** (U6B) who represented the Sea Cadets at an international exhibition of defence systems at London Docklands.

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2001

Monday 24 September	Ofsted parents' meeting, 7.00 p.m.
Friday 28 September	Speech Day, 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 2 October	Governors' AGM, 6.00 p.m.
3-5 October	7T trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
10-12 October	7R trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
17-19 October	7B trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
Wednesday 17 October	Informal Year 7 Parents' Evening, 7.00-9.00 p.m.
29 October-2 November	HALF TERM
5-9 November	Lower 6th examinations
Monday 12 November	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 14 November	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
5-7 December	School Drama Production – Oklahoma! – 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 8 December	P.A. Xmas Fayre, 1.00-4.00 p.m.
Monday 10 December	Upper Sixth Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday 18 December	Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 19 December	Carol Service, Holy Trinity, 7.30 p.m.
Friday 21 December	END OF TERM, 12.45 p.m. (note change!)
22 December – 4 January	Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2002

Monday 7 January	Term begins, 8.40 a.m.
7-18 January	Trial GCSE examinations
Monday 14 January	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Monday 21 January	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
Wednesday 30 January	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday 6 February	Sixth Form Open Evening, 7.00 p.m.
11-15 February	HALF TERM
18 February-1 March	Upper Sixth Trial A2 examinations
Monday 25 February	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 26 February	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Monday 11 March (note change!)	Lower Sixth Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday 20 March	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Friday 22 March	END OF TERM, 12.45 p.m. (note change!)
22 March – 5 April	Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM 2002

Monday 8 April	Term begins, 8.40 a.m.
8-18 April	Trial AS examinations
Tuesday 9 April	Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Monday 15 April	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Friday 19 April	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
Monday 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY
7-10 May	Year 9 National Curriculum tests (SATs)
Friday 17 May	Founder's Day Service, Holy Trinity, 2.30 p.m.
3-7 June	HALF TERM
Wednesday 12 June	Sports Evening
Monday 17 June	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Thursday 20 – Wednesday 26 June	School examinations
Thursday 27 June	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
1-5 July	Sixth Form Induction Week
Friday 5 July	New Year 7 Induction Day
8-12 July	Year 11 Work Experience Week
Friday 19 July	END OF TERM, 12.45 p.m.