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SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2002



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One of the great figures in Sir Thomas Rich's history died on 4th January. Mr. W. J. Veale was, by the common agreement of all who knew him, an outstanding Headmaster who turned around the school's fortunes. Many of the initiatives he introduced continue to this day, but his greatest legacy is the fundamental ethos of the school which he established. It cannot be described easily, nor can the formula be bottled, but he ensured a calm yet purposeful atmosphere in which pupils and staff treated each other with respect, where each pupil had valued contributions to make and in return for whom the School had high expectations.

We are grateful to Mr. Veale and we strive to maintain his ideals.

W. J. VEALE

Mr. W. J. Veale, who was Headmaster of Sir Thomas Rich's from 1936 to 1957, died last month. 'Peter' Veale commanded tremendous respect and loyalty from his staff and pupils and it is impossible to exaggerate the contributions he made to the school. He is undoubtedly one of the most influential Headmasters the School has had.

He was born in Redruth, Cornwall and educated at Redruth Grammar School where he developed his lifelong passion for rugby. His first teaching post was in London, during this time he played rugby for Saracens. His teaching career then took him to Cambridge and Tunbridge Wells before he was appointed Second Master at Rich's in 1933. Three years later he became Headmaster, at a time when Rich's reputation and fortunes were suffering, pupil numbers were falling and accommodation in Barton Street was very poor. He gradually transformed the school's ethos through firm leadership and high expectations. He was awarded an MBE for taking on responsibility for the Air Training Corps in the county. Upon his retirement from Rich's in 1957 pupil numbers had almost doubled, he had laid the foundations upon which future success was built.

The School is indebted to Mr. Veale for his unceasing efforts and impressively successful Headship. Sir Thomas Rich's, former pupils and staff mourned his passing, just three weeks short of his 99th birthday. A memorial service will be held at St. John's Northgate on Friday 22nd February at 1.30 p.m.

INTERNET SITE LAUNCHED

January saw the launch of the school internet site. A huge amount of hard work has gone into this site, managed by members of Year 11 and the Lower Sixth, with writers in Years 7-9.

We are getting into the swing of adding match reports weekly and are in the process of producing prospectuses, photos and other information. We hope that the site will become a vital tool for communicating with parents, pupils, Old Richians, prospective parents and the local community. For example (all being well!) this newsletter was on the web site several days before you received the printed version.

Have a look today and e-mail us with your comments. We would be delighted to receive suggestions and positive criticism.

The site can be found at:
http://www.geocities.com/strs_glos

GEC (gec@richbusiness.org.uk)

SPORTS CENTRE

Our Sports Centre continues to be very popular, extremely busy and caters for almost every indoor sport imaginable. Should you be interested in hiring this facility then please contact either Tony Barton or Karen Hemming on 01452 338439.

WE CATER FOR SPORTS PARTIES TOO!

Well done to six members of our Upper Sixth who have been offered conditional places following interviews at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. They are required to achieve top A-level grades but they have done extremely well to gain such prestigious offers. They are James Allison (to read physics at St. Peter's College, Oxford University), Peter Kellie (chemistry, St. Peter's, Oxford), Matthew Key (geography, St. Catherine's, Oxford), David Leung (economics, King's, Cambridge), Michael Preece (natural science, Pembroke, Cambridge), Jonathan Taylor (materials science, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford).

CHARITIES

£99.40 was collected for **The Royal British Legion** through the sale of poppies in school in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

Collections during our Carol Services last term raised £120 for the **St. John's Northgate restoration appeal** and £150 at Holy Trinity Church for the **Afghanistan Crisis Appeal** for Children.

During lunch on the last Wednesday of last term 8R, supported by Mr. Maxfield, held a 'Bring and Buy Sale' in the Hall which raised £119 for the **Blue Peter Wheel Appeal** to provide transport for the elderly.

The school's charity this term is the **Spring Centre Trust** which provides for children with disabilities.

MUSIC

The date for the Spring Instrumental Concert has been changed – it has been brought forward two days to Tuesday, 19th March. It will commence at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall, featuring a range of music and everything from soloists to orchestra. All parents and families are very welcome to attend.

We are pleased to congratulate the following pupils upon passing their instrumental examinations:

M. Lamb – clarinet grade 2; J. Wilson – clarinet grade 3; K. Hu – violin grade 4 (merit); P. Chapman – flute grade 5; L. Patorski – saxophone grade 5 (merit); E. Williams – harpsichord grade 5 (distinction); M. Duxbury – piano Grade 6 (merit); R. Duxbury – flute Grade 6 (distinction); L. Leighfield – piano grade 7; G. Williams – harpsichord grade 7 (distinction); R. Grant – jazz saxophone grade 8 (honours).

At the end of last term the Junior House rugby competition was finalised. Overall Northgate were the winners (they won all their Y9 matches), Westgate and Eastgate tied for second, with Southgate fourth. However Southgate made amends in the Senior rugby event, winning from Westgate, Northgate and Eastgate. We were pleased to welcome Tom Beim and Andy Blaylock (community development officer) from Gloucester Rugby Club to our final assembly last term, Tom presented the colours, certificates and trophies.

The Junior House swimming gala was won by Northgate and Eastgate from Westgate then Southgate. The Senior swimming finished Northgate, Westgate, Southgate, Eastgate. Several new school records were set: in the 2 length freestyle in Y8 (T. White) and Y10 (B. Feakins, R. Griffiths, J. Loftus); the 4x freestyle Y7 (T. Burlinson) and Y8 (T. White); 2x backstroke Y8 (R. Jones); 4x backstroke Y10 (D. MacArthur); 4x breaststroke Y7 (R. Payne); 2x butterfly Y10 (O. Howley); 4x2 medley relay Y8 (Westgate) and Y9 (Eastgate); 4x2 freestyle relay Y7 (Northgate), Y8 (Westgate) and Y10 (Eastgate).

Westgate won both Junior and Senior House General Knowledge quizzes, overall Eastgate finished second (second in the Junior, third in the Senior) followed by Northgate and Southgate.

ECONOMICS LECTURE

On Friday, 17th January, 2002 Dr Stefan Dercon, University Lecturer in Economics at Oxford University, and a man with a very hefty CV, presented a lecture to our Upper and Lower Sixth Form Economists. The lecture was entitled 'Poverty Reduction Strategies: Which way forward?' and whilst being particularly relevant to our Upper Sixth students, who were taking their Development Economics module just ten days later, it formed a wonderful introduction to a new area of Economics for the Lower Sixth.

All were impressed with Dr. Dercon's enthusiasm for his work – indeed his excitement was quite infectious and all present were dreaming of the travel opportunities that such a field presents. Dr. Dercon discussed poverty and the role of economics in reducing it. His lecture was very thought-provoking and enjoyed by all. GEC

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

100 Club winner for January – Mrs. S. Gibbons.

LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Parents may be interested to know of recent developments resulting from our Language College status:

- * work is progressing well on the new Language Centre, with completion due at the end of May. We intend to name the building "The W. J. Veale Language Centre" in honour of the school's Headmaster from 1936-1957 who, amongst manifold contributions to Rich's, organised and led foreign visits through taxing times when such expeditions were almost unheard of for school children.
- * Rich's has organised language teaching in local primary schools e.g. all Year 4, 5 and 6 children at Longlevens Junior School are taught German, French and Spanish respectively; French, Gujarati and Bengali classes are provided at Widden School for pupils and adults.
- * Additional language teaching is being offered to our pupils (and staff), with lunchtime and after-school classes currently operating in Italian, Latin, Gujarati and Mandarin Chinese; Esperanto lessons are about to commence; a ten week Norwegian course has just started; we would like to start Hindi lessons if there is sufficient interest.
- * Timetable changes are planned from September, when Year 7 will study French (two Forms), German (one Form) or Spanish (one Form), each language to be pursued into Year 9 with a second language being taught, in addition, from Year 8. This will allow greater flexibility in choices of languages to be studied.
- * Opportunities for 'work experience' abroad are being offered to A-level linguists.

COTSWOLD MARATHON 2002

In spite of atrociously wet and muddy conditions, the school's 44th Venture Scout Unit took top honours in the annual Cotswold Marathon.

Over the 38 mile full course, our senior team of Adam Griffiths, Dan Wright (both Old Richians) and Mr. Lloyd won the Lowery Cup by clocking the fastest time of the night of 8 hours and 48 minutes.

Matthew Key and Geoff Coombs came in overall third with a time of 10 hours and 15 minutes to lift the Junior Section trophy, while the Male Novice

Trophy was jointly awarded to Alasdair Burchill and Sam Davies.

In the first experience of "The Marathon" the unit's Year 10 members took on the shorter (20 mile) Scout course and all but one managed to complete this demanding event.

The unit wishes to thank all those people who sponsored the unit members in their endeavours – all money will go to the Cobalt Appeal's 'Crack Cancer Campaign'. (PB)

JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB

This popular club has started up again this term, led by Mrs. Briscoe. Currently about twenty pupils from Years 7 and 8 meet in the gym on Tuesday lunchtimes, 1.30 – 2.00 p.m. and there are plans for a production next term. (ERS)

ESPERANTO LESSONS

These are now available Thursday lunchtimes 1.30 – 2.00 p.m. We have received a number of requests for penfriends from schools in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and China, from students learning Esperanto and English. Anyone wishing to learn Esperanto please see Mrs. Stanley. A free correspondence course (twelve lessons) is also on offer to any interested parents; requests to my pigeonhole please, with your child's name and form so that I can reply via pupil post. (ERS)

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the following boys who represented Gloucestershire Schools in an inter-counties event in Cardiff: Kevin Ellis (juniors), Philip Hanson (intermediates), Peter Kellie and Richard Parker (seniors). Kevin, Philip and Peter then ran for the County in the South West Cross Country Championships, Peter winning the Senior Boys race. Peter Kellie also represented Wales in an international event in Dublin.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Ashley Burgum (L6H) who completed a gliding scholarship at Hullavington, near Swindon, in December, completing 40 launches which culminated in Ashley flying solo.

Jonathan Maxted (7R) who won two gold, a silver and a bronze medal in a Drama Festival in Bristol.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING TERM

18th February – 1st March	Upper Sixth Trial A2 examinations
Monday, 25 th February	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 26 th February	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Thursday, 7 th March	Year 10 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio Booster vaccinations
Monday, 11 th March	Lower Sixth Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 19 th March	Spring Instrumental Concert, Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 20 th March	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Friday, 22 nd March	END OF TERM, 12.45 p.m.
22 nd March – 5 th April	Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM

Monday, 8 th April	Term begins, 8.40 a.m.
8 th – 18 th April	Trial AS examinations
Tuesday, 9 th April	Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m.
Monday, 15 th April	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 17 th April	Year 8 Dental screening 9.15 a.m.
Friday, 19 th April	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
Thursday, 25 th April	House Drama Competition, Hall, 9.05 a.m.
Monday, 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY
7 th – 10 th May	Year 9 National Curriculum tests (SATs)
Tuesday, 14 th May	Choral Concert, Holy Trinity Church
14 th – 31 st May	AS examinations (Lower Sixth)
Friday, 17 th May	Founder's Day Service, Holy Trinity, 2.30 p.m.
3 rd – 7 th June	HALF TERM
10 th – 28 th June	A2 examinations (Upper Sixth)
Wednesday, 12 th June	Sports Evening 6.30 p.m.
Monday, 17 th June	Nearly New Uniform, 6.00-7.30 p.m.
20 th – 26 th June	School examinations
Thursday, 27 th June	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
1 st – 5 th July	Sixth Form Induction Week
Friday, 5 th July	New Year 7 Induction Day
8 th – 12 th July	Year 11 Work Experience Week
Friday, 19 th July	END OF TERM, 12.45 p.m.

2nd and 3rd September, 2002 will be Staff Training Days. The Autumn Term will commence for pupils on Wednesday, 4th September at 8.40 a.m.