

SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2002



As the term closes I am in Melbourne, Australia as a member of a small group of Gloucestershire Headteachers. We are funded by The British Council to investigate and compare how Melbourne's education system and schools are managed. In keeping with our Language College status it is important that we broaden our horizons and thus continue to develop.

LANGUAGE COLLEGE

The new Language Centre is taking shape. Adverse weather set the scheme back a couple of weeks, completion is due in mid-June.

A "Celebration of Primary Languages" was held in the Hall on the afternoon of 4th March. Entertainment was provided by our own staff and pupils together with those from Longlevens Junior School and Widden Primary School. Acts were performed in French, German, Spanish, Gujarati, Bengali and Italian. Our particular thanks to Mrs. Hewett who organised the event.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Replacement uniform can only be ordered through school. Any pupils requiring new items of uniform for September should order **now** to ensure sizes required are available. Members of the Parents' Association will be available on Wednesday, 17th April between 3.30 and 4.00 p.m. If this day/time are not convenient please ask pupils to see the School Secretary to arrange an alternative time. Payment for any items of uniform ordered will be required on collection.

Senior ties have to be worn in Year 11 and these will be available for Year 10 pupils to purchase during the lunch break on Friday, 12th July (price £3.00 each).

If you have any queries regarding the above please telephone the School Secretary, Mrs. J. Brown on 01452 338400 or Mrs. P. Lancaster on 01452 530838.

CIPFA MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

On 5th March seven Lower Sixth Business Studies students represented the School at the annual CIPFA Management Challenge at Cheltenham Town Hall. In all around twenty schools took part in the competition to run a town council for a year, budgeting for both foreseen and unexpected events. The team put together an excellent written report complete with illustrations in less than two hours, made a presentation, wrote press releases and met angry residents as the day unfolded.

They were rewarded with the prize for the best written report and came third overall. Congratulations to all who took part. Participants: John Reimer (Chief Executive), James Boyd, Bradley Clark, David Edwards, Asif Musaji, Claire Simpson and Daniel Tingle.

GEC

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Tom Burdett (11R) who won the Gloucestershire Under 16 boys table tennis championships;

Robert Payne (7T) who won three gold medals at the Gloucestershire County Swimming Championships and set a new County record (and National qualifying time) of 2m 57.83s in the 200 metres breaststroke, hence Robert has been selected to represent the County;

our **Year 7 and Year 8 cyclists** who all passed their Silver Level Cycle Training.

BOWLS

Sir Thomas Rich's Bowling Club is now over 30 years old and enjoys an excellent relationship with the School. It has one of the finest bowling greens in the county and an excellent clubhouse with bar facilities.

Are you interested in a game of bowls? Have you ever watched it on TV? Would you like to try your hand at this fascinating game? If the answer to these questions is YES then you are cordially invited to attend an open evening at Sir Thomas Rich's Bowling Club on Friday 10th May between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

The Club is actively seeking to increase membership, particularly of pupils, former pupils and parents. It is a mixed club and this invitation extends to ladies and gentlemen of all ages.

The Club will provide the bowls and members will be happy to give you an introduction to the game and some basic tuition. All you have to do is attend suitably dressed with flat smooth soled shoes (no heels please); plimsolls or trainer type shoes, provided they are not heavily cleated, are suitable for the occasion.

You can be assured of a warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere so do come along and give it a try.

EXCHANGE TRIPS TO GERMANY

A party of Lower Sixth students has just returned from a week in Trier, Gloucester's twin town in Germany. Mrs. Hewett accompanied this trip and reports that, apart from enjoying the experience to the full, they also worked with enthusiasm on a number of language tasks which should greatly benefit their spoken German.

Mr. Peffers has meanwhile departed to Göttingen with a party of Year 10 pupils. In addition to some time spent experiencing life in our partner school, they will be visiting a number of places of interest in the Göttingen area. The highlight of the visit will be a trip by high-speed train to Berlin.

Both parties stay at the homes of their partners and thus gain a taste of real daily routine and have practical opportunities to use their German.

DJS

CAREERS

Gloucestershire Skills Festival

Over fifty Year 10 Students attended the Gloucestershire Skills Festival, which was held at Cheltenham Town Hall in February. The students had the opportunity to access information, undertake practical skills organised by the many exhibitors and make important careers contacts with many employers. Top honours went to Steven Bosworth (10S) who won a prize from the Army after performing the most competently in one of their skills tests.

Army Officer Introductory Course, Sandhurst

Richard Hanson, Timothy Dodwell, Daniel Gladwell, Mark McBride and Nicholas Shipley of Year 11 enjoyed the opportunity of spending a number of days with the Army at Sandhurst, as part of a special programme for those interested in Officer entry. The students obtained first hand experience of life as a prospective Officer at Sandhurst. Reports back from the students were exceptionally complimentary and insightful, with a clear recommendation to any interested Richians to attend the course if they get the chance.

Connexions Adviser at Parents' Evenings

Parents should be aware that Pauline Quinn, from the Careers' Service "Connexions" is always available on Parents' Evenings for Years 9 to the Upper Sixth. Parents and students can seek additional careers advice during these sessions and it is an excellent opportunity to clarify any issues that concern you in relation to future careers planning.

PDL

YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE

(8th July to the 12th July, 2002 – inclusive)

Parents should be aware that all Year 11 students have the opportunity to undertake Work Experience during the above week. It is critical that students are actively seeking their placements. No student will be allowed to undertake their placement unless Mr Lloyd has received full details and the 'Trident' organisation has had the opportunity to check that the placement is secure and safe. Please note that all details of placements must be given to Mr Lloyd by Monday, 22nd April, 2002. If details are not supplied by this date, the student concerned will not be allowed to undertake Work Experience.

PDL

CROSS COUNTRY

The term has been a busy one for many of our students. Highlights have included three of our runners reaching the English Schools' National Cross Country Championships held at Chelmsford, Essex, after progressing through all the local and regional rounds. Peter Kellie (U6R) finished 10th out of over three hundred runners in the Senior event, despite not having been able to train fully due to an injury during the weeks leading up to the event. In his first appearance in the Nationals at Intermediate level, Philip Hanson (10R) gained valuable experience for the coming years, while Kevin Ellis (9R), who reached the Junior finals, was unable to make the race but displays tremendous promise for the future.

In the Worcester Junior Spring Relays, our team produced a promising display, being well in contention and at one stage leading the race. However the team had to settle for 4th place behind Christ College Brecon, RGS Worcester and the winners Monmouth. However, Luke Barns (8S) produced the third fastest leg of the day.

In separate races against RGS Worcester, a combined Years 9 and 10 team beat their hosts, with Richard Hanson (10R) winning the race easily followed by Kevin Ellis (9R). Other noteworthy performances came from Timothy Dalton (10B), coming back from injury, and Joseph Taunton (9R).

A Year 9 'triangular' match between RGS Worcester, Monmouth and Rich's produced an encouraging victory for the school. In terrible conditions Joseph Taunton judged the course well to win the race by just under a minute. He was closely followed by determined runs from Andrew De-Camps (9T) and John Stafford (9T) who finished third and fourth respectively.

Finally, in a dual Year 8 and Year 7 fixture against RGS Worcester, again in terrible conditions, our Year 7's were led to victory by a wonderful run by Richard De-Camps (7T), who incidentally beat many Year 8 runners in the process. Our Year 8's could not 'pack' well enough and subsequently lost narrowly, despite excellent runs from Luke Barns (8S) and Joshua Denley (8B).

Many thanks to all those who turned out for the school, often in awful conditions! PDL

HOUSE EVENTS

In the Senior House Swimming the overall result depended upon the final relays. Northgate edged out Westgate and Southgate.

The House General Knowledge Quiz was won by Westgate - who triumphed in both Junior and Senior sections - followed by Eastgate, Northgate and Southgate.

In the House Music competition the Year 9 audience enjoying a varied programme of solos and ensembles. Two performers scored maximum marks - Nicholas Walkley (trumpet) and Tim Hole (kit). The event was judged by Mr. Hearn: overall winners were Westgate from Southgate, Eastgate and Northgate.

CHARITIES

The school's charity this term is the Spring Centre Trust which provides for children with disabilities. £628 was collected through the weekly collections and Free Dress Day. Next term's collections will go to Cloud 9 a local charity which gives children with very serious illnesses a 'holiday of a lifetime'.

HOCKEY

Played 6, Won 6.

The team effort against King's last week capped a thoroughly enjoyable season. Robert Charsley bravely defended sustained attacks, tremendous goals were scored by Jason Bell and Harry Lewis-Barned, Nicholas Shipley was a tower of strength. Other fixtures were played against Newent, Chosen Hill, Denmark Road and Ribston. Indoor training in the Sports Hall on Tuesdays has helped to hone skills.

Robert Charsley has been a superb captain and gained well-deserved full colours. He has been ably supported by Clare Bladon and Kirsty Weyman. Our goalkeeper James Allison has conceded only one goal since September. James, Kirsty, Clare, Harry and Christopher Holder earned half colours. They have all shown great commitment. Kevin Lenton is most improved player. JMG

RAILWAY SOCIETY

This term's main activity was the journey to the famed Settle and Carlisle line through the Pennines. This was successfully accomplished on Saturday, 9th March despite some typical Pennine weather of snowstorms. Further trips are planned for next term. SWP

SOCCER

Year 7 - P3, W2, L1

Our Year 7's have had a good season to date. In the Gloucester City Schools' Cup competition, the team has reached the Semi-finals by producing excellent wins against Churchdown and Brockworth. In a friendly against RGS Worcester, they narrowly went down 1-0. However all the team must be given credit for their attitude and commitment. PDL

Year 8 - P6, W2, D1, L3

A mixed set of results for the Year 8's, with some narrow defeats. However the team produced good wins against Oxstalls and Brockworth, which have ensured that they have booked a place in the semi-finals of the Gloucester City Cup. Players worthy of mention include Luke Ashley (8T), Luke Barns (8S) and Luke Murdock (8S). The team has every chance of getting to the final if they play to their full potential. PDL

Under 14 - P6, W3, L3

The Under 14 team had a rather mixed season, showing inconsistent form but still managing to progress through to the semi-final of the District Cup which is due to be played in the near future.

The highlights from their matches were undoubtedly the last two games in which they travelled first to RGS Worcester and secured a fine 3-0 victory during a winter squall followed by the 8-0 demolition of Oxstalls two days later.

Their other victory came against Brockworth, although they surprisingly played better against a very strong Bournside team despite losing. Further defeats against less formidable opponents in Marling and Churchdown merely confirmed the inconsistent nature of the team's form. RJL

Under 15 - P4, L4

A very disappointing season. Games against Churchdown, Worcester and Brockworth could all have been won with a little greater effort and commitment. The boys lacked self-belief and gave up too easily when they fell behind. Gareth Mohamed was one of the few exceptions who battled tirelessly all season, never missing a practice or game, he also captained the team. JRN

2nd XI: P5, W1, D2, L2, F9, A10

A relatively young, inexperienced second XI played open, attractive football and probably deserved to finish up with a better record. A good win was recorded at King's, Worcester and there were drawn games with RGS Worcester and Pate's. Failure to convert our chances partly explained defeats at the hands of Bournside and Newent. Indeed this failure to turn opportunities into goals was an unfortunate feature of senior football this term.

Most of the squad will be available next year and, having benefited from this season's experience, should have better fortune. MAS

1st XI: P8, W2, D3, L3

The first XI have experienced an indifferent season in respect of results, despite maintaining most of the possession and creating numerous opportunities in the vast majority of matches. Their inability to 'finish' from good, creative play throughout the season has frustrated all who have witnessed some very good football otherwise. AJB

RUGBY

Year 7 'A' Team: P7, W5, D1, L1, F111, A44

The team can be very pleased with the progress made over the season. Every game has been against difficult opposition and they have risen to each challenge showing a good combination of speed, strength, understanding and, above all, determination. All members of the squad have worked hard both on and off the pitch and they have supported each other well.

After losing 10-0 to Bournside in their first match the team then drew with Bristol Grammar 5-5. Both of these results were very creditable against strong opposition. After these matches the team has gone from strength to strength showing a better balance to their game. This has led to victories over Marling, Crypt, Newent and Monmouth schools. They have very good potential if they can keep working with the enthusiasm and commitment that they have shown this year. IJG

Year 7 'B' Team: P4, W3, D1

The squad has gone from strength to strength this season. Dedicated in training, the boys have gone on to produce an attractive brand of committed running rugby. Tries have been shared between forwards and backs, with the whole squad buying into the idea of moving quick ruck ball wide. Defence has also been impressive with particularly fine displays from Conway and Jenkins. The team was ably captained by Broady and Edwards. An excellent season. RS

YEAR 7 ACTIVITIES

This term has seen a group of Year 7 boys broaden their cultural horizons with a visit to the Bristol Hippodrome. The production was Beauty & the Beast. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. The show was spectacularly staged with amazing special effects and fine performances throughout. I would like to thank Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Stanley and Mrs. Brown the school secretary for their help. I would also like to congratulate the boys on their excellent behaviour. They were all attentive throughout the performance.

This half term will see 48 Year 7s climbing at the Warehouse in Gloucester, a challenging and very rewarding experience. The Year 7 five-a-side football tournament takes place after Easter. Boys should keep their eyes open for details. MJF

SENIOR INDOOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In reply to demand among the upper school pupils a five-a-side indoor football tournament was created containing 18 teams indiscriminate of age or sex. The matches ran from September through to January. The teams competed in group stages followed by a knock-out section. The victors received a cup and the top scorer, first, second and third teams received medals.

Credit must go to all the players who showed great sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Also to Tom Richards and Bilal Moolia for their support in organising, running and refereeing the matches. Special mention must go to the victors 'The Soo Samba Crew', the team 'Femme Fatale' who demonstrated the spirit of the tournament and Craig Brignall (11T) who scored 16 goals over the four games. Thanks also to Mr. Barton, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Seales for all their help.

Organiser: Dave Allen (U6S)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

After something of a respite last year due to Foot and Mouth, the Award unit is now back with a vengeance. With around thirty new Bronze participants from Years 9 - 12 and ten participants continuing their Bronze from last year, the Cotswolds will be covered with Richians come the summer.

Training sessions have been taking place every Tuesday evening this term and the annual sponsored Orienteering day took place on 2nd March in the Forest of Dean. Thank you to family and friends for supporting this event.

Expedition season will very shortly be upon us with a Silver group planning one expedition in the Easter holidays and Bronze groups starting their ventures at the end of April. Thank you to all the staff who help with training and expeditions. DD

LETTERS ISSUED

18/02 Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening
22/02 Year 7 Trip to Paris
27/02 Year 7 Climbing Event
01/03 L6 Parents' Consultation Evening
11/03 Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
13/03 Lower Sixth Home Study Leave

DATES FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Monday 8th 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.
Friday 19 th April	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
Thursday 25 th April	House Drama Competition, Hall, 9.05 a.m.
Friday 26 th April	Years 7 & 8 Disco, Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Monday 29 th April	Drugs Awareness Evening, all parents invited, Hall, 7-9 p.m.
Wednesday 1 st May	L6 + parents, Higher Education evening (with Mr. A. Higgins, UCAS Chief Executive), Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY
7 th - 10 th May	Year 9 National Curriculum tests (SATs)
Monday 13 th May	L6 study leave (to 14 June)
Tuesday 14 th May	Choral Concert, Holy Trinity Church, 7.30 p.m.
14 th - 31 st May	AS examinations (Lower Sixth)
Thursday 16 th May	Year 11 study leave commences
Friday 17 th May	Founder's Day Service, Holy Trinity, 2.30 p.m.
Monday 27 th May	U6 study leave commences
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	L6 return to lessons
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.

