

SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 2002



Daily school life is dominated by examinations throughout this term. Trial AS exams for the Lower Sixth were followed by Year 9 SATs, now GCSE/AS/A2 exams are underway with Year 7-10 school examinations to come. Although we anticipate another set of excellent results Sir Thomas Rich's is not an 'exam factory' - as can be seen from this Newsletter school life continues to offer much more of interest than academic study alone.

MUSIC

The annual May Choral Concert this year, held in Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens, presented another challenge for the Choir in the Magnificat by John Rutter. Its melodic charm and serenity combined with rhythmic vitality and complexity keeps both singer and listener interested. We are once again very grateful to Susan Black who sang the Soprano solos most beautifully as ever. The Fauré 'Cantique de Jean Racine' was received very warmly by the audience and it was delightful to have a harp and lower strings accompaniment. The orchestra, rather, the string section, along with organ (Mr. Fowler) supplied two instrumental interludes between the choral items, namely, the ever-popular Pachelbel 'Kanon' and the Albinoni 'Adagio for Organ and Strings'. Proceeds from the concert will go to Christian Aid.

(JWT)

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS STUDIES

On the 24th April a small group of Sixth Form students battled through the massed ranks of the anti-globalisation campaigners to attend the prestigious Institute of Directors annual conference at London's Royal Albert Hall. This is the Institute's flagship event attracting over 2500 of the UK's top directors. The topic this year was globalisation and its impact. The subject matter not only attracted the protesters but also speakers of world renown including Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland, Henry Kissinger, Nobel Peace Laureate and former US secretary of State as well as captains of industry such as the Chairman of Unilever UK and the Chairman of Shell UK. The students made the most of hearing such prestigious speakers and hopefully added considerable breadth to their business and economics subject knowledge.

(MJB)

SOCCER

Congratulations to the U16 soccer team who won the Gloucester City Schools Cup. They defeated Severn Vale 3-1 in the semi-final and Beaufort 3-2 in the final on 24th April. Well done to captain Mark McBride, all the Year 11 squad members and to their coach Mr. Barton. The Year 7 team secured a place in their final by defeating Beaufort 3-0. Against Severn Vale they led 1-0 until ten minutes from the end but, despite valiant defence, went down by 2 goals to 1. The Under 13 and Under 14 teams each went out in the semi-finals.

TOKENS

Many thanks to pupils and parents who have collected and sent/brought in the various tokens. You may be interested to know how we have benefited. Nestlé tokens: 261 received, the school therefore claimed £26.10 which will be used to help with clubs and societies. The Technology Department is grateful for the 7600 Tesco vouchers and the 4125 Sainsbury's points received. These will be 'banked' until next year when, if similar numbers are accrued, a computer can be acquired.

SIXTH FORM

The Upper Sixth enjoyed an afternoon presentation by Mike Hurst entitled "Musikmakers". Mike talked, played and sang his way through a history of Anglo-American popular music.

We were pleased to welcome Tony Higgins, the Chief Executive of UCAS, to lead our Higher Education Evening for Lower Sixth students and parents. This forms part of our programme of preparing students for university entry.

The award of Honours is reserved for a small number of students who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the School. It was a pleasure to bestow Honours upon the following Sixth Formers in assembly earlier this term: David Leung (School Captain, contributed to House Drama and to House and School public speaking); Adam Langley (assistance with the school computer network, stage manager and trained other pupils in stage management); Craig Stevens (Captain of Choir, major contributions to the school orchestra and to House and school drama); Ian Hill (help with school computers and important contributions to the choir and to instrumental music); Jonathan Ellison (school computer network, Chairman of Venture Scout Unit, important rôles in House drama and to every school production since he joined Rich's).

At the end of last term the Sixth Form Committee organised a number of novel charity events. These included Pupils v Staff arm-wrestling, female staff v Sixth Form girls indoor football, male staff v Sixth Form boys basketball. Spectators were charged to watch, raising £366.78, which was split between the National Meningitis Trust and Winston's Wish. Our thanks to all Sixth Formers and staff involved and particularly to Mrs. Cormack-Hicks, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, for her oversight of the week's events.

RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Society's latest day trip saw a group of twenty visit the South Devon coast, spending time in the seaside resort of Paignton and travelling on to Dartmouth by the scenic railway and ferry. Fine weather and punctual trains made for a pleasant day out.

(SWP)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The annual skittles game played by the four local grammar schools was won by Crypt this year, Sir Thomas Rich's came a close second. The highest scorers (male and female) of the event were two of our parents, Alan George and Julie Sagar (2nd year running for Julie). Well done. We also raised £90 on the evening for Winston's Wish.

At the beginning of May we sent out 696 envelopes for donations towards purchasing a new mini bus. Many thanks to those who have already sent in a donation (140 envelopes received so far). The overall amount received will be announced in the next newsletter when, hopefully, all envelopes will be in. Again, thank you for your support.

On 15th June Richard Young (7T) will undertake a sponsored climb to the height of one kilometre to raise funds towards the school minibus appeal. Richard will climb 100 times up the wall at The Warehouse Climbing Centre in Gloucester as fast as possible. Anyone wishing to sponsor Richard should contact Tim Young on 1242 257751.

Nearly New Uniform

The sale planned for Monday 17th June has been moved to the morning of Saturday 29th June, from 10.30 a.m. to noon. A reminder – blue blazers are required together with any other outgrown uniform.

Sally Langley will be giving up her duties this term as her son leaves school. Volunteers are therefore desperately needed to help with future sales. If any parent has an evening to spare once or twice a term please contact either the School Secretary or Eleanor Constable (01242 674836).

100 Club

Winners in the last two months were:
March: Mr. & Mrs. Priest; April: J. DeSaulles.

RECYCLING

Just a reminder that we can recycle for you old printer cartridges, mobile telephones and used stamps. The stamps will go to "Guide Dogs for the Blind", the other items for Winston's Wish.

(JMA)

PGL ICT TRIP 2002

On Friday, 10th May 48 members of Year 8 departed for Coreatton Park near Shrewsbury in Shropshire for a long weekend of adventure activities and ICT work. Accompanied by four teachers, activities included web page design, raft building, data-logging (involving the 'trapeze'), Formula 1 track programming, 'roamer' programming and much more.

To say that this highly successful trip was action-packed does not do it justice. We literally did not stop from morning till night. We were pleased that all objectives were met; pupils with little knowledge of ICT were given confidence, and those with a great deal of experience got to use their skills in new areas. A very exciting 'first' for the trip was that an Internet photo diary was created and published to the school website every day. It received over 500 'hits' during our stay, showing that parents and friends were keen to watch our progress. You can see this diary and some of the student work on the school website at: http://www.geocities.com/strs_glos.

Many thanks to all involved.

(GEC)

FOUNDER'S DAY

Our annual Founder's Day Service was held in Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens on 17th May, to commemorate and celebrate the foundation of the School in the will of Sir Thomas Rich made on 16th May 1666. We were pleased to welcome Chris Davies to give the Address. Chris was a pupil at Rich's from 1972-80, School Captain, and now owns a Public Relations company in Bristol.

CHESS

North Glos League

It has been a difficult season for Rich's in Division 4 due to the loss of strong players from last year's Upper Sixth, resulting in the team finishing bottom of the division. Strong opposition from adult teams such as Cetera and British Energy meant losses with scores often being as close as 3-2. There has been good commitment from every player this season, including James Allison (captain), Luiza Patorski and Alex Allen of the Upper Sixth who have consistently played for the team throughout their time at Rich's. Also from Alex Timms, David Wells, Mr. R. Fowler, Mr. M. Swann, Robert and Keith Charsley.

Musketeers' Junior League

Rich's A have had an impressive season in the Junior League division 1 under the leadership of captain Luiza Patorski. Rich's are currently top of the division and the championship is to be decided in the next three games. The Junior League is designed for pupils to represent their school and compete on Friday evenings in a less formal atmosphere than the adult leagues. We hope that more players from the lower school will be joining D. Wells, A. Timms, C. Aston and A. Downes next season.

The U.K. Chess Challenge

L. Patorski (U18), D. Wells (U14), C. Aston (U13), M. Lamb (U13), A. Timms (U12) and K. Turner (U12) all reached the Megafinals of the U.K. Chess Challenge held at Headlands school, Swindon in May putting them in the top 2,500 players in the country. A Timms and L. Patorski both came top of their sections, becoming Supremo and Suprema. Both are on their way to the Gigafinals to be held in Sheffield in July. Despite playing well the others narrowly missed out. James Allison (U6R) & Luiza Patorski (U6H)

RE GCSE EXAMINATION

Monday, 20th May saw the arrival of Year 10's first experience of GCSE; it was the day of their RE examination. They gathered under the Dutch Barn just after lunch with a cocktail of anticipation and a touch of dread.

Soon it was time to file into the hall, find the right seat and fill in the personal details on their answer booklets. The next 100 minutes flew past: frantic scribbling, a few moments of panic and some useful pauses for careful thought and (even) planning. Then it was all over and time to wind down again. We trust that their considerable efforts will be suitably rewarded in a couple of months' time.

(CG)

VENTURE SCOUTS

Top Scouting Honours for "Three of the Best"

On the evening of 10th April the Gloucestershire County Reception for the Queen's Scout Award was held at the new Gloucestershire University Park Campus in the presence of HWG Elwes, JP HM Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

At the reception Adam Griffiths (STR 1993-2000), Matthew Key (U6R) and Rachael Brown (U6S) from the 44th Gloucester, the School's Venture Scout Unit, were among the fourteen Venture Scouts from Gloucestershire who this year have earned their Queen's Scout Award and who were presented before the Lord Lieutenant.

The following weekend Adam and Matthew attended the St. George's Day Parade and Service at Windsor Castle and were presented to Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Rachael, Matthew and Adam will officially receive their awards at the national presentation evening, a prestigious event to be held in the Guildhall in London later this year.

Snakke Du Norsk?

The unit has taken advantage of the School's Language College status by embarking on a series of after-school lessons in basic Norwegian. This has been part of the preparation for their summer expedition to Norway.

A party of fifteen, including leaders Messrs Lloyd and Brown, will be spending time working on various projects based in the forests of eastern Norway. We hope to put our new-found language skills into practice working alongside some of Norway's Rover scouts! (PB)

HOUSE EVENTS

One of the House events which involves more pupils and more preparation than most is the House Drama competition. This has become an important event in the school calendar, it is always keenly contested and provides opportunities for many pupils to display their acting as well as organisational talents. Southgate were the winners with an entertaining and well-rehearsed *Rapunzel Uncut*. Westgate (*The Book of the Banshee*) and Eastgate (*Tom Fool*) shared second place, each with strong story lines which held the Year 7 audience's attention. Northgate performed different stories and did well to include a large cast. The winner of the Best Individual Performance was judged to be Tom Constable.

The House Cross Country races were completed towards the end of last term and early this term:

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	House result	Overall
Y7	R. Turner	R. De Camps	M. Day	E,S,W,N	Junior
Y8	J. Denley	L. Barns	W. Middleton	N,E,S,W	E,N,S,W
Y9	K. Ellis	J. Stafford	B. Russell	N,E,S,W	
Y10	T. Dalton	C. Gallant	H. Molloy	W,N,S,E	Senior
Y11-13	M. McBride	T. Richards	H. Lewis-Barned	N,E,S,W	N,W,S=E

At the end of last term the Public Speaking competitions were closely contested. However Eastgate won both Junior (tied with Southgate) and Senior events and hence won the overall competition, from Northgate, Westgate and Southgate.

The House Chess competition was won by Southgate (25 points) from Northgate (19), Westgate (18) and Eastgate (14).

LANGUAGE COLLEGE NEWS

Austrian Day

In April Michaela Gigerl, an Austrian graduate currently lecturing at Bristol University, visited the School to promote Austrian culture and the German language. She involved students of German in a number of activities covering cooking, games, quizzes and a scenic tour of Austria. Declining the need for any free time during the day, she also visited history classes and spoke of Austria's response to the "Anschluss" and answered questions on the Second World War.

My thanks to the kitchen staff who supported the day with Frankfurter and Sauerkraut, SchwarzwälderKirschtorte and Apfelstrudel.

Europe Day 9th May

Two events took place to celebrate Europe Day.

In the morning the European Theatre, a professional touring company specialising in foreign language theatre, performed "Un pont vers le passé" to an enthusiastic audience of Year 8 and 10 pupils. The interactive production allowed members of the audience to demonstrate both their linguistic and thespian talents. We were pleased on this occasion to welcome pupils from Barnwood Park and Oxstalls.

This was followed by a stimulating talk by Lord Stockton (MEP) to a select group of Sixth Formers from STR and Pate's Grammar School on Europe, present and future. The quantity and quality of the questions which ensured testified to the interest his talk generated. The depth of his knowledge and his skill as an orator were much appreciated.

More details and pictures of the above events can be found on the school's website.

(JH)

LETTERS ISSUED

19/03 Year 7 Trip to Paris - Documents
08/04 Years 8/9/10 School Uniform
22/04 Year 7 Trip to Paris - Meeting
29/04 Year 10 GCSE Study Leave
30/04 Year 7 Windsurfing/Canoeing
16/05 Year 7 Windsurfing/Canoeing

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Ciaran Conway (9T) on his selection for the County Under 14 cricket trials;

Andrew Downes (8T) who finished a very impressive second in the Gloucestershire Schools Under 16 golf championships. Against much older boys Andrew finished with a net score of 61 over the 18 holes;

Philip Hanson (10R) who won a bronze medal in the Midland Counties AAA Under 15 1,500 metres;

James Hodge (L6H), who was given the Robert Nairac Award by the Gloucestershire Royal Society of St. George for his bravery in rescuing his mother from their burning car;

Oliver Howley (10R) and **William Russell** (10B) who represented the County Under 15s at rugby;

Adam Langley (U6R) who took part in the British Informatics Olympiad, which involved taking a three-hour programming test in school. As a result of his success in this Adam was invited to the finals which were held over three days at Cambridge University. The scores were not announced but Adam was selected as one of the top four invited to represent Great Britain at the international final which will be held in South Korea in August;

David MacArthur (10R) who won 14 medals, including 5 golds, in the County Under 15 swimming championships;

Mark McBride (11S) upon his selection as referee's assistant for the Women's National Under 16s Cup Final which was held at Ashton Gate on 9th May;

Luke Roberts (U6B) on winning the title of British National Yo-Yo Champion. At the national finals, held at Whitstable in Kent, Luke had to perform a set list of 10 tricks, as a result of which he led his division - the top three in each of the three divisions then competed against each other, Luke was awarded top marks.

DATES FOR NEXT 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
Thurs 20 th - Weds 26 th June	School examinations
Thursday 27 th June	STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)
Saturday 29 th June	Nearly New Uniform, 10.30-12.00 a.m.
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.

DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2002 - 2003

AUTUMN TERM 2002

Mon/Tues, 2 nd /3 rd September	STAFF TRAINING DAYS (non-attendance for pupils)
Wednesday, 4 th September	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
Tuesday, 8 th October	Open Day
Wednesday, 9 th October	Open Day and Open Evening
Friday, 27 th September	Speech Day 7.30 p.m.
28 th October - 1 st November	HALF TERM
Friday, 20 th December	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

SPRING TERM 2003

Monday, 6 th January	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
24 th - 28 th February	HALF TERM
Friday, 11 th April	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

SUMMER TERM 2003

Monday, 28 th April	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
26 th - 30 th May	HALF TERM
Friday, 18 th July	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2003 - 2004

AUTUMN TERM 2003

Mon/Tues, 1 st /2 nd September	STAFF TRAINING DAYS (non-attendance for pupils)
Wednesday, 3 rd September	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
27 th - 31 st October	HALF TERM
Friday, 19 th December	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

SPRING TERM 2004

Monday, 5 th January	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
16 th - 20 th February	HALF TERM
Friday, 2 nd April	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

SUMMER TERM 2004

Monday, 19 th April	Term begins 8.40 a.m.
31 st May - 4 th June	HALF TERM
Wednesday, 21 st July	END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

