



1666

SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2003



1666

For several years the School has celebrated its foundation by holding a Founder's Day Service, recently at Holy Trinity Church in Longlevens. I have felt that this has not done justice to the history and traditions of Sir Thomas Rich's in which we take great pride. This year I wish to alter the format so that pupils are more actively involved. As well as talking about the school's history in assemblies and displaying archive material I intend to hold a "Founder's Week" when (i) our Year 7 pupils will visit St. John's Northgate, the Guildhall and The Old School House to learn of their significance in our history (the latter two were the sites of the school prior to moving to Longlevens); (ii) asking pupils to stage events which will raise money to fund the education of 20 poor pupils, emulating Sir Thomas Rich's aims when he founded the "Blew Coat Hospital". The beneficiaries will be pupils at our link school in Uganda who would otherwise not be able to afford to go to school.

J. Kell

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES

Our Upper Sixth students have completed their university applications and are now receiving offers. Oxford and Cambridge Universities send out their offers first, following interviews at the colleges in December. I am delighted to report that eight of our students have been offered places, conditional upon them achieving top A-level grades. Well done to all eight, this is the highest number of Oxbridge offers we have had. James Hodge (to read chemistry) and Akshay Nair (medicine) received open offers from Oxford; Tariq Piperdy (chemistry) has an offer from St. Peter's College, Oxford; Michael Smith (engineering, economics and management), Wadham College, Oxford; Tim Grant (engineering), Churchill College, Cambridge; Darrell Woods (economics), Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Michael Foxcroft (engineering), Clare College, Cambridge; Richard Parker (engineering), Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH REPORT

Training is now well under way for the 37 new Bronze participants this year. They have already been taught about the Country Code, Navigation and Route Planning by Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Gowler, Miss Lucas and Mr. Crewe. Further sessions on Safety, Weather, Campcraft and Food take place after half term.

Many participants have already started activities, which will be counted towards the Skill, Physical Activity or Service part of the award. Thank you to anyone who has agreed to act as an assessor for these activities. On 8th March participants will get their first practical exercise, which is a two-hour Orienteering activity in the Forest of Dean. Boys will be looking to get sponsored for this event and this is the main source of the unit's funding for equipment. DD

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

The County Schools' championships were held in December as a result of which the following boys were selected to represent the County. In the Minor Boys category - Andrew Clegg and Richard Farrow (both Y7); Intermediate Boys - Philip Hanson (Y11); Senior Boys - Richard Hanson (L6) and Richard Parker (U6).

BADMINTON

On 11th January the school entered a team into the Under 16 Carlton Top Schools Badminton tournament, playing in the regional finals at Archway sports centre in Stroud. The school competed against very strong opposition from schools all over the South West, enduring nearly six hours of badminton. The highlight of the day's play was a closely fought contest against the Cotswold School, which saw all players winning in their singles and doubles contests. DS

HOUSE EVENTS

At the end of last term the first of the House competitions were completed. Almost 300 entries were received for House **Art**, with Westgate winning from Northgate, Southgate and Eastgate. The House **Junior Rugby** competitions were close, Eastgate and Southgate tying as joint Year 8 winners, Westgate won in Y9 and Northgate in Y10 – overall Westgate and Northgate were equal, ahead of Eastgate and Southgate who also tied. Northgate won the **Senior Rugby** from E, S, W.

The House rugby cups were presented in the final assembly of last term by Clive Stuart-Smith and Kevin Howie. We were pleased to welcome Clive and Kevin back to school, both are ex-pupils. Kevin is now Gloucester Rugby Club's Community Development Manager, Clive is a member of their playing squad, he captained England Under 18s when he was at school and progressed to captaining their Under 19 team last year.

This term further House events have been completed. **Junior** and **Senior General Knowledge Quizzes** were held last month, Northgate won the former and Westgate the latter, overall Northgate won from S, W and E. The House **Music** competition comprised junior solo, junior ensemble, senior solo, senior ensemble and open events; all were keenly contested with performances ranging from a Vivaldi cello concerto to 'Purple Haze' by Jimi Hendrix. The adjudicator was Mr. Whittle, one of our peripatetic instrumental teachers. The final result was Westgate ahead of E, S and N. The House **Junior Swimming Gala** was won by Westgate from N, E and S, and the **Senior Gala** saw a victory for Eastgate ahead of N and W.

These results mean that, after seven House events, overall Westgate are leading with $28\frac{1}{2}$ points from Northgate ($25\frac{1}{2}$), Eastgate ($19\frac{1}{2}$) and Southgate ($15\frac{1}{2}$). There are a further twelve competitions remaining. We are grateful to the staff who organise and run the events and to the House captains who organise the teams. The House competitions provide important extra-curricular opportunities for large numbers of pupils.

GLOBAL ACTION

The Christmas card recycling went well and we took two large boxes of cards to the Cobalt Unit at Cheltenham General Hospital.

We are still collecting: stamps for Guide Dogs for the Blind; mobile phones & printer and toner cartridges for Winston's Wish.

The Global Action Team assisted by 7R was back in action this term doing a second audit of the School's waste. We have been recycling paper since September so we hoped for a significant reduction in our waste. The initial results show an overall reduction of 17,000g, approximately 25% of last year's total. This is due to paper being recycled but there is an increase in organic waste and waste due to crisp packets, plastic bottles and other lunch packaging. If we could find a way to reduce the packaging brought into school this would further cut the amount of waste sent to landfill sites.

All landfill sites in Gloucestershire will be full up in the next seven years. Incineration of rubbish would cost every household £1,000 per year. Thank you for supporting the recycling scheme, which reduces this problem just a tiny bit. We all have better things to do with £1,000.

Remember **REDUCE**, **RE-USE** and **RECYCLE**.

JMA

COTSWOLD MARATHON

Well done to members of the School's Explorer Scout Unit who took part in the gruelling overnight 36 mile Cotswold Marathon. They brought home two of the main trophies: the Lowry Trophy for the fastest team was won by Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Stone, P.Hanson (11R) and Adam Griffiths (Rich's 1993-2000) in a time of 7 hours 54 minutes; the Junior Trophy for the fastest first-time entrants was won by A.Hitchcock, G.Hardy and T.Dalton (all Year 11) in 11 hours 14 minutes.

Many of the entrants raised money for the Crack Cancer Campaign, thanks to all who sponsored them.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

8R were hosts to an interview from MORI polls during their PSHCE lesson. They were taking part in a confidential survey of school children's opinions on a range of items. We will be looking at the results later in the year on the MORI web site.

The whole of Year 10 took part in a Citizenship Day in January. There were lectures and workshops involving eight outside speakers. The themes were Personal Finance, Trading Standards, the wider role of the Army in today's world, Energy and Sustainability issues and Global Food issues. The latter involved cooking some staple foods from around the world. The pupils were involved in discussions, activities, taking photographs of the events and several acted as receptionists, meeting the guests and showing them around. JMA

SPRING CONCERT

Your attention is drawn to forthcoming concerts: firstly, to the Spring Concert which will take place on Thursday, March 20th at 7.30 p.m. where you can enjoy examples of the full range of music-making at Rich's.

Advanced notice is given of the Choir's May concert, to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens on Wednesday, May 7th at 8pm. The works to be performed are: **St Nicolas – Britten;**
I was glad – Parry. JWT

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

members of 8B who organised a disco in the School Hall last month for Years 7 & 8 pupils from Rich's and The High School, which was very successful and raised over £400 for the Blue Peter Waterworks Appeal;

Samantha Lyons (L6T) on her selection for the Gloucestershire Under 18 netball team which will contest the Alex Barlass Tournament in Middlesbrough next month;

Christopher Surman (7T) who has been selected for the Gloucestershire County cricket Under 12 squad;

Nicholas Walkley (U6C) who has made it through to the final of the prestigious Gloucestershire Young Musician 2003 competition, to be held at Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham on 5th March.

LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Language lectures were arranged in the School Hall last month, attended by Sixth Formers from several County schools. The speakers were Françoise Tidball, from the University of West England in Bristol, and Dorothea Martin, a TV presenter on Berlin TV.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to this evening's celebration of International Mother Language Day with a wide range of performances in the Hall.

LETTERS SENT HOME

07/01	Lessons in Urdu
09/01	Y9 - Shakespeare Workshop
14/01	Y11 – Trial Examinations
14/01	Y11 – Information for parents
16/01	Y7 – Trip to Paris 2003
24/01	Y10 – Citizenship Day
31/01	Y9 – GCSE Options
04/02	Y11 English Revision Guides
04/02	Technology Materials Contributions
05/02	Y9 – Ice Skating Trip
06/02	International Mother Language Day
13/02	Child Tax Credits
18/02	Y7 – Trip to Paris 2003
18/02	Y9 – Parents' Consultation Evening

RUGBY

Year 7 'A' Team: P3, W1, D1, L1, F17, A20

The Year 7 'A' team has been involved in three very difficult fixtures and has emerged with great credit. They have shown spirit in defence and are beginning to combine well as a unit going forward. With continued hard work they will have a good future. Results: v Marling (A) drew 5-5; v Bristol Grammar (A) lost 5-0; v St. Peter's (H) won 12-10. Unfortunately two fixtures were lost to the weather. IJG

PARENT GOVERNORS

Parents were informed last term of four vacancies for Parent Governors. We received four applications so there was no necessity for an election. The four new Parent Governors are Mr. C. Alderman (son in Y7), Mrs. L. Walter (Y7), Mrs. C. Hawes (Y8) and Dr. C. Wise (Y9).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

24th – 28th February

3rd – 14th March

Thursday 6th March

Monday 10th March

Monday 31st March

Wednesday 9th April

Friday 11th April

14th – 25th April

Monday 28th April

Tuesday 29th April

Monday 5th May

6th – 9th May

6th May – 13th June (inclusive)

Monday 12th May

12th May – 6th June

Wednesday 14th May

19th May onwards

26th – 30th May

Monday 2nd June

Monday 9th June

9th – 27th June

Wednesday 11th June

19th – 25th June

Thursday 26th June

30th June – 4th July

Friday 4th July

7th – 11th July

Friday 18th July

HALF TERM

Upper Sixth Trial A2 examinations

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening 6.00 p.m.

Nearly New Uniform 6.00 – 7.30 p.m.

Lower Sixth Parents' Consultation Evening 6.00 p.m.

Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening 6.00 p.m.

END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

Easter holidays

Term begins 8.40 a.m.

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening 6.00 p.m.

BANK HOLIDAY

Year 9 National Curriculum tests (SATs)

L6 Exam. Study Leave

Nearly New Uniform 6.00 – 7.30 p.m.

AS examinations (Lower Sixth)

Year 11 Exam. Study Leave from Period 5 (11.55 a.m.)

GCSE examinations

HALF TERM

U6 Exam. Study Leave commences

Nearly New Uniform 6.00 – 7.30 p.m.

A2 examinations (Upper Sixth)

Sports Evening 6.30 p.m.

School Examinations

STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)

Sixth Form Induction Week

New Year 7 Induction Day

Year 11 Work Experience

END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.