SIR THOMAS RICH'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 2003



Every year we seem to pack more and more into school life. Over the past 12 months there have been significantly more educational visits and activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, than I can ever remember. Rich's culture has always been to support such activities which provide real insight, inspiration and lasting memories for pupils. We are most fortunate to have such a hard-working staff who commit untold hours to enhancing our pupils' education way beyond the confines of timetabled lessons. I wish them and our pupils a thoroughly deserved, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

Replacement uniform can only be purchased through school. For anyone wishing to make late purchases a member of the Parents' Association will be available on Tuesday, 2nd and Wednesday, 3rd September between 1.00 and 2.00 p.m. It will not be possible to purchase uniform during the first two weeks of term except on these two occasions. Any enquiries concerning the above please telephone Mrs. P. Lancaster on 0.1452 530838.

SAM TAUNTON

We were distressed to hear that Sam Taunton suffered severe head injuries when knocked off his bike two weeks ago. Despite wearing his cycle helmet he was in a coma and taken to Frenchay Hospital where his condition was critical and he was placed in intensive care.

Sam is in our Lower Sixth but known to many younger pupils too through his involvement in school and House drama, the choir and the Railway Society. As well as good wishes and prayers offered by pupils and staff, Mrs. Stanley organised a collection for The Friends of Frenchay Hospital and donations were sought, instead of charging for tickets, at the Summer Concert – over £150 has been raised.

The news on Sam has been much better than we had cause to hope for. He regained consciousness and has been able to speak. However his condition remains serious. We wish Sam well as he recovers his health and strength and look forward to welcoming him back to the school community.

STAFF LEAVING

We bid farewell today to the following members of our staff:

Mrs. Grocott who has taught part-time at Rich's for the last 13 years, primarily History but several other subjects too, she is to move to south Wales;

Mr. Nehra who has taught Physics at Rich's since 1999, he is moving to a teaching post in the Cayman Islands:

Mr. Stone who joined us as a Chemistry Teacher in September 2000, he is to take up a post in Bangkok. Thailand.

We also lose the services of Mr. McCormick, who joined us as caretaker in July 1995, he then became our Site Manager – and Mr. Conlon, our resident caretaker, who has joined the Army full-time after serving in the Territorial Army.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to these valued members of our staff but we extend our thanks for all they have done for the school and we wish them well in their new posts

CREST AWARDS

Some of our Year 10 Design & Technology students had their work displayed at a CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) Awards ceremony held at Du Pont's Woodlawns Social Club last month. The following boys received Silver Certificates, not normally achieved until Year 11: J. Barker, P. Butler, A. Curtis, T. Howell, B. Turner, S. Parker, B. Russell, M. Surty, H. Patel

YEAR 8 TRIP TO COALBROOKDALE

Recently pupils travelled to Shropshire to study the development of the iron industry during the Industrial Revolution. For many the highlight was the visit to Blists Hill Open Air Museum. We saw a replica of the world's first railway locomotive in operation and iron casting at the Forge. Working steam engines were also studied with interest. Others enjoyed the produce of the 'Victorian' food stores! (GB)

YEAR 7 ACTIVITIES

Paris - May 2003

Following the success of previous years a group of forty Year 7s visited the sights of Paris accompanied by Mr. Gowler, Mr. Stone, Miss Adamson and Miss Brake. A fantastic week of sunshine in which to view the attractions of Paris. which included the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, a Seine river cruise, the Science museum, a bus tour of Paris and a visit to the Louvre where we admired the Mona Lisa amongst other slightly less famous paintings. The final day of the trip was spent at Disneyland where pupils were entertained by the delights of the "Indiana Jones" and "Space Mountain" roller coasters. Even the staff took the opportunity to impress pupils with their bravery on these rides! A trip much enjoyed by pupils and staff.

Sailing & Canoeing - June 2003

On 29th June twenty four boys from Tommie's accompanied Mr. Gowler and Mr. Fowler to Croft Farm Leisure and Water Park near Tewkesbury. Pupils were given instruction in the art of sailing and paddling canoes and were soon out on the water under the supervision of the park staff. Much fun was had on the lake with sailing boats trying to avoid each other and canoes being raced. Several pupils and one member of staff also learnt what happens when you stand up in a canoe. A great day on the water.

CHEMISTRY

The Chemistry Department took a team of four students to compete in the Institute of Chemical Engineering Challenge as part of a 'taster day' at the University of Bath. They investigated typical chemical engineering problems such as choice of materials and faults in equipment and even manufactured their own lipstick on a small scale! The team gained a valuable insight into this diverse industry and narrowly missed out on first place, finishing runners-up. (DS)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Many Year 11 students have undertaken work experience this term. The range of placements has been diverse, from media to engineering. All those who opted for work experience have reported positive benefits from the week and the employers have made many complimentary remarks about our students. Our thanks to all those organisations that provided placements for our students. (PDL)

SIXTH FORM

Next year we shall have two School Captains: Samantha Lyons and James Martin. The team of Observators will be Dexter Bradley, Nicholas Day, Mark McBride, William Savory, Amar Shah, Nicholas Shipley and Andrew Watkis. Well done to all those appointed.

125 students have applied to join our Sixth Form in September. All were invited to an Induction Week earlier this month which started with a session on Impressions Management followed by outdoor exercises in the Forest of Dean, a "Challenge of Industry" day, explanations about life in the Sixth Form and approaches to learning, all rounded off with a barbeque. Thanks to Mrs. Cormack-Hicks, our Assistant Head of 6th, for organising and running this.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Many thanks to all those students who have contributed to the weekly loose change collections. Special thanks this term go to Joe Hackett, Ben Kitchen and Blake Franklin, all of 7B, who helped manage the donated funds. This term the total collected amounted to £407.16 which will go to the Uganda School Sponsorship Fund.

Overall, during the course of the year, the kind generosity of the students each Thursday has resulted in a total amount of £1,495.87 for the three nominated charities: ACE's, St. Rose's School and Uganda. Many thanks! (PDL)

MANDARIN CHINESE

The Mandarin School, Gloucester, is interested to hear from anyone (parent, friend or child) who wishes to learn Mandarin Chinese. For further information please contact Mrs. J. Hewett at school.

UGANDA

Following the very successful visit by Mr. Seales and Mr. Crewe to Uganda earlier in the year we were delighted to welcome to STRS our Ugandan visitors Mrs. Petronella Lujwala (Headmistress) and Mr. Ben Lwigale (Head of Physics and ICT). Familiarisation with the English school system, lesson observation and curriculum planning, although important components of their visit, were not allowed to dominate their days. Excursions to places of local interest and visits to concerts and the theatre ensured an action packed week. The good humour and overt friendliness of our visitors have made a lasting impression on us all and we look forward to furthering our link with the PMM school in Jinja which has certainly been strengthened by this visit.



To coincide with this visit a number of activities were organised to enable pupils to enjoy the richness of African culture and to understand some of the issues which face Africa today. Martin Parks from Christian Aid spoke of the Aids crisis and the unfair trade rules. The drama "Chocolate" by the Fairgame Theatre Company provided a thought-provoking insight into the suffering and poverty caused by unfair trade.

8T took up this theme and set up a fair trade tuck shop, selling a staggering £200 worth of fair-trade products during the week. On Wednesday the gym vibrated to the sound of African drumming. In the course of the day over 100 pupils were able to beat out rhythms. Other pupils enjoyed taster sessions in Swahili from Leopold Chaligha (Tanzania) whose enthusiastic teaching was much appreciated.

Fund-raising continues – on Monday Will Rees (10R) and Jonathon Lowe (9R) organised a 'Gig for Uganda' which raised about £120 and so far, a total of just over £3,500 has been raised i.e. our target of being able to fund the education of 20 poor girls has been reached. Congratulations to all who organised events, to those who ran them and to all who contributed. This has been a magnificent effort, with a most worthwhile outcome.

So "Jambo, jambo" everyone. "Hakuna matata".

(JH)

SATS

Our Year 9 pupils sat their National Curriculum tests in May. They have been given their individual results, as well as their Teacher Assessment levels in each subject. Overall the percentage of our Year 9 boys at each level are:

	Test Level					
	4	5	6	7	8	
English	0	9	56	31		
Maths	0	2	11	61	25	
Science	0	4	33	63		

SCIENCE

Four Lower Sixth students attended Science Master classes at Brasenose College, Oxford for three days. The students found them challenging yet interesting and said they would thoroughly recommend them. The students involved are Mark Donaldson (Biology), Luke Materacki (Chemistry), Imran Moolla (Engineering) and Phillip Pymm (Biochemistry). (REB)

RAILWAY SOCIETY

A group of nineteen has just returned from the year's most ambitious trip: a four-day residential tour of Scotland. We visited the Glasgow Science Mall and Edinburgh Castle, and made overnight stays at Crianlarich and York. For many, the steam-hauled journeys over the West Highland Line to Mallaig and the East Lancashire Railway near Manchester were the highlights. In all we travelled over 1,200 miles on twenty trains, without suffering a single cancellation or delay! A superb tour which we will remember for a long time. (SWP)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

At the time of writing two Bronze groups have taken part in their Final Assessed expedition and four more will have done so before the end of July. Although we don't go too far afield with Bronze groups most boys find that they are as unfamiliar with the footpaths around Painswick as they would be if we travelled to another part of the country.

They also get the opportunity to appreciate the local countryside and are within collecting distance should anything go wrong. Parents should be aware that we may need to contact them to collect their son if the expedition is curtailed for any reason (as it was for one group this year for the first time).

Boys will be busy once they return from expeditions writing up reports on their purpose. It is important that they get these finished as soon as possible after the expedition and that they take a pride in their presentation.

Congratulations go to Tom Scoble of 10T who achieved his Bronze Award this half term.

Thank you as always to all the staff, parents and assessors for helping the boys to achieve their awards. (DD)

GÖTTINGEN EXCHANGE 2003

At the beginning of the month seventeen Year 10 boys said their final goodbyes to their German exchange partners from Göttingen. The visit had been awaited with great excitement and our pupils were determined to give the visitors as good a time in Gloucestershire as they had had in Göttingen. The German party's excursions included Oxford and London. They also spent a day in Gloucester and had some "taster" lessons in school. One of the highlights of the exchange was the Barn Dance at STRS, including all six Gloucestershire schools that participate in the exchange. With a total attendance of over 200 people it was a resounding success.

I would like to express my thanks to everybody (pupils, parents and teachers) who went to great lengths to make this exchange such a special and enriching experience. (BTR)

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

This term it was Year 7's turn for fieldwork with all four forms enjoying a morning studying rivers at Wench Ford in the Forest of Dean. Besides getting wet and muddy we learnt about the mysteries of erosion and deposition, velocity and currents. Many boys showed excellent practical skills, abilities which it is often difficult to develop in the classroom, making the work well worthwhile. (SWP)

THE POND IN THE CONSERVATION AREA

After an act of vandalism leading to pollution of the pond we feared for the wildlife present in the pond but luckily nature has triumphed and all seems well again. The pond is looking good at the moment with water lilies and marginal plants flowering well. The Year 7 pupils have been pond dipping and there are many organisms easily visible including dragonfly nymphs, water scorpions, water boatmen and plenty of young newts and frogs.

The surrounding areas are attracting plenty of butterflies including speckled woods, common blue, orange tips, peacocks and many others which don't stay still long enough to be identified. There are at least three types of dragonflies and several types of damsel flies. We have not seen the kingfisher this year but we live in hope. Any pupils who see and identify any organisms please let Mrs. Arnold or Mrs. Zurick know. We would like to create a full Biodiversity list for our school grounds to send to our link school in Uganda.

(JMA)

ENGLISH

On 3rd July sixteen members of the AS English groups went to the Blist Hill museum at Ironbridge. Their task was to explore characters and historical setting for their work on the comparative texts 'Hard Times' and 'North and South'.

The day allowed the students to experience the atmosphere of a Victorian town and to ask questions of the staff who were very well versed in their respective roles. After a morning of questions and research we experienced a lunchtime pub sing-a-long using authentic music hall songs. The day concluded with a photo session which enabled the students to dress in Victorian costumes.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and the students behaved impeccably.

(AB)



SIX TERM YEAR

The County Council decided to implement the new Six Term Year proposals, starting in September 2004. The effect in the first year is simply an earlier start to the year, by two days, with two days added to the October half-term. The term dates for 2004/2005 are:

Term 1: 31st August to 20th October 2004

(Pupils return on 1st September)

Term 2: 1st November to 21st December 2004 Term 3: 5th January to 11th February 2005

Term 4: 21st February to 24th March 2005

Term 5: 11th April to 27th May 2005

Term 6: 6th June to 22nd July 2005

Staff training days will be on 31st August and four other days as determined by schools.

ATTENDANCE

Well done to all pupils who have received Attendance Certificates today. A remarkable 229 pupils, almost a third of the school, have attended throughout the eleven weeks of this term without any absence and an impressive 67 pupils have completed the whole year without a single absence.

We realise that pupils who are ill cannot attend school but we are pleased to recognise the achievements of those who have managed to avoid all absence.

Sir Thomas Rich's, Oakleaze, Gloucester GL2 OLF

Telephone (01452) 338400

SPORT

Throughout the year there has been a tremendous amount of commitment shown from staff, students and parents. It is pleasing to have this support and it can only help to strengthen future performance. As Head of P.E. and co-ordinator of the programme I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this a challenging and successful year. I hope that we can move forward next year in all areas and reach new levels of performance.

To support the above and help raise standards can I urge all pupils to push for standards in presentation and wear the kit acceptable to the P.E. Department and for parents to ensure that all pupils have the correct kit. This has been one area of concern and we hope to put this right next year and really look and play to the highest level possible. (IJG)

Athletics

There have been four main events for the athletics this summer: the City Trial Championships for Juniors and Intermediates and again for Minors; the School Sports Evening and a three School Match hosted by Crypt School. In all matches there has been some very good competition at all age groups and the boys have performed very creditably producing too many good performances to list. However I am pleased to highlight the following outstanding performances where school records have been broken:

Peter Moore (Year 8)	Shot	11.05m
Chris Surman (Year 7)	Javelin	28.54m
Richard Farrow (Year 7)	1500m	4m 51.10sec
Year 7 Relay team	4 x 100m	56.22sec
(Ben Ruxton, Chris Surman,	Andy Clegg and	Richard Farrow)

Richard Farrow also won the Minors 800m title in a time of 2.27 (unofficial) which equalled the school record.

The School Year 7-10 team beat Crypt and Churchdown with excellent performances from the following who won their events:

R Payne (Year 8)

R. Farrow (Year 7)	1500m & Long Jump	P. Moore (Year 8)	Shot	
C. Stevens (Year 7)	Shot & Discus	M. Lodge (Year 8)	Discus	
C. Surman (Year 7)	Javelin	M. Patching (Year 9)	Shot	
B. Ruxton (Year 7)	Triple Jump	J. Denley (Year 9)	Discus	
O. Gilbert (Year 8)	1500m	J. Stafford (Year 10)	800m	
(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			(IJG	3)

400m & Long Jump

Cricket - Year 8: P6. W1. D2. L3

S Horder (Year 7) 400m

An inconsistent and frustrating season. I have witnessed play of a high standard, such as from William Alder, 8R, but often this has been undermined by loose fielding. The group has been very positive, but needs to be more clinical during matches, as well as eliminate individual weaknesses. Many thanks to all those players who have displayed commitment to the team. (PDL)

Cricket - Year 7: P10, W10

This has been a very rewarding season - played 10, won 10; winners of the Rotary City Challenge Trophy and the Calypso Cup County Competition.

Especially rewarding have been the way many individuals have progressed in their own skill areas, responding well whenever the team's needs required. The squad has shown incredible resilience and team spirit, choosing to battle through set-backs rather than succumb to pressure, and this has been the (PB) key to their success.

The dual successes in the City Challenge Trophy and Calypso Cup have been the icing on the cake - full reports of both finals can be read on the school website at: www.strs.org.uk under 'STRS in the News'.

NEW YEAR 7

The boys who will be our new Year 7 in September joined us for our customary Saturday morning in June and our 'taster day' in July. The LEA allocated 108 places i.e. four Forms each of 27 boys. However there was an unusually large number of appeals to the independent panel, of which eleven were approved. Eventually the process settled down so we shall welcome 117 boys into Year 7 in September.

HOUSE EVENTS

Our Sports Evening completed the **House Athletics** competition. Many thanks to the parents who watched and supported the events, staff who acted as officials, the Parents' Association for providing the barbeque and refreshments, and the athletes who provided a high standard of competition. Southgate retained their trophy, ahead of W, N, E. Congratulations to Robert Tucker, winner of the Year 9 100m and 200m, who was awarded the coveted Walter Rangeley Cup for Best Sprinter.

Mr. Stone organised an exciting **House Tennis** competition which was closely contested, with plenty of skill, determination and good sportsmanship. Northgate just pipped Southgate, followed by Eastgate and Westgate.

A new addition to the House competition this year has been **Junior Indoor Cricket**, organised and umpired by Mr. Pitel at lunchtimes in the Gym. Separate competitions were held for Years 7, 8 and 9 – overall Southgate won from E, W, N.

The final House competition of the year was completed earlier this week, when Southgate defeated Eastgate in the **House Cricket** final, N beat W in the 3rd/4th place play-off.

The final points totals in the Cock House Competition are: Eastgate $(64^{1}/_{2})$, Westgate $(60^{1}/_{2})$, Northgate $(58^{1}/_{2})$, Southgate $(55^{1}/_{2})$. Congratulations to Eastgate upon regaining the Cock House Trophy. The competition was closely contested, each House recording at least 4 victories in the 20 events.

Our thanks to all the staff who organised and ran House competitions, which provided our pupils with further opportunities to take part in wide range of extra-curricular events.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Mr. Bowie, our Head of Science, who was nominated for a Teaching Award, a so-called Plato, in the Secondary Science Teacher category. Two members of the assessment panel spent a morning in school, observing Mr. Bowie and talking to colleagues and pupils, as a result of which he was short-listed. At the awards ceremony in Bristol Mr. Bowie was given a Certificate of Special Commendation (and £250 for the school), a thoroughly deserved honour;

James Broady (7B) who swam at Millfield School and Bath University, where he achieved national qualifying times for the 100m and 200m breaststroke - he will swim in the national age group championships at Sheffield later this month:

Robert Payne (8T) emulated James' feat, in the same two events. Robert also won 2 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the Gloucestershire Championships;

Thomas White (9B) who finished 2nd in the 50m freestyle competition in the Welsh National Championships and completes our trio of swimmers who will compete in the national championships in Sheffield;

Matthew Hopton (7B) who swam for Tewkesbury at the Western Counties Youth Games at Millfield School and helped them achieve third prize;

Richard Farrow (7B), City athletics champion at 800 metres:

Kun Hu (10S) on being awarded a place on the prestigious Salter's Chemistry Camp at Bristol University;

Robert Litchfield (10R) who represented Gloucestershire Army Cadets in the Cadet 100 competition at the Inter-Services 'Skill at Arms' meeting at Bisley earlier this month.

SUMMER CONCERT

Our thanks to all parents who supported our Summer Concert last week. The varied programme included everything from soloists to the full orchestra, from Mozart to McCartney. Well done to Mr. Thompson for organising another highly enjoyable concert.

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2003

Tues.Wed 2nd/3rd September Thursday 4th September Monday 15th September 24th – 26th September Friday 26th September 1st - 3rd October Tuesday 7th October Tues 7th & Wed 8th October Wednesday, 8th October 8th - 10th October 15th - 17th October Wednesday, 22nd October 27th - 31st October 3rd - 7th November Monday, 10th November Wednesday 12th November Friday 21st November 26th - 28th November Saturday 6th December Monday 8th December Monday 15th December Tuesday 16th December Wednesday 17th December Thursday 18th December Friday 19th December

STAFF TRAINING DAYS (non-attendance for pupils) Term starts, 8.40 a.m. Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. Form 7S Residential Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon Speech Day & Prize Giving, 7.30 p.m. Form 7T Residential Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon Governors' AGM, 6.00 p.m. Open Days Open Evening Form 7R Residential Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon Form 7B Residential Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon Year 7 Informal Parents' Evening 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. HALF TERM Lower Sixth examinations Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. Y10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 p.m. Quiz Night 7.30 p.m. Pirates of Penzance, 7.30 p.m. Parents' Association Christmas Fayre 1.00 - 4.00 p.m. Christmas by Candlelight, 7.30 p.m. U6 Parents' Consultation Evening Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7.30 p.m. Carol Service, Holy Trinity, 7.30 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2004

STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils)

END OF TERM 12.45 p.m.

Monday 5th January 5th - 16th January Monday 12th January Monday 19th January Thursday 29th January Wednesday 4th February Thursday 12th February 16th – 20th February 23rd February - 5th March Monday 1st March Monday 8th March Monday 15th March 29th March - 2nd April Wednesday 31st March Friday 2nd April 5th – 16th April Monday 19th April 19th - 23rd April Tuesday 20th April Monday 26th April Monday 3rd May 4th - 7th May 17th May - 12th June 24th May - 28th June 31st May - 4th June Monday 14th June 14th June - 2nd July Wednesday 16th June 24th - 30th June Thursday 1st July 5th - 9th July Friday 9th July 12th - 16th July Wednesday 21st July

Term starts, 8.40 a.m. Trial GCSE examinations (Year 11) Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils) Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 p.m. Sixth Form Open Evening, 7.00 p.m. Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 6.00 p.m. HALF TERM Trial A2 examinations (Upper 6th) Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. STAFF TRAINING DAY (non-attendance for pupils) Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 p.m. Founder's Week L6 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 p.m. END OF TERM 12.45 p.m. Easter holidays Term starts, 8.40 a.m. Trial AS examinations (Lower 6th) Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 p.m. Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. May Day Bank Holiday (no school) SATs examinations (Year 9) AS examinations (L6) GCSE examinations (Y11) Half-term Nearly New Uniform 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. A2 examinations (U6) Sports Evening 6.30 p.m. School examinations (Y7-10) 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.