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SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

NewsREEL

December 2005

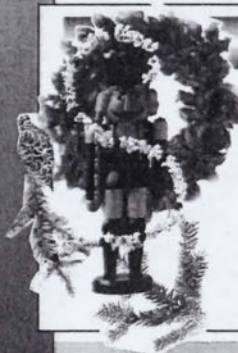


We come to the end of a long and busy term, stretching from examination results and Speech Day to the P.A. Christmas Fayre, Pantosea Island, Christmas by Candlelight, and our Carol Services. Since July there has been a wealth of educational visits unlike any Rich's has ever experienced, to China, Taiwan, Bulgaria, Spain (twice), Germany and France as well as many parts of the U.K. I take this opportunity to thank our staff for their efforts in making Rich's such an exciting centre of learning. To all involved with the School I offer my best wishes for Christmas and for a very happy New Year.

Assemblies

We have been pleased to welcome a number of outside speakers into our school assemblies. In the Charities section of this NewsREEL we mention the Meningitis Trust and The Milestone School whose representatives told us something of their work. We also heard about the U.K. Youth Parliament from Mrs. Arnold and our three candidates. In earlier assemblies we enjoyed listening to some of our pupils' musical talents - Jon Roskilly (U6S) performed his own arrangements on the trombone and an Upper Sixth group (Scott Yearsley, Peter Blencowe, Marcus Mayo, Daniel Busbridge) performed 'I'm So Excited' by the Pointer Sisters. At the time of writing we are hoping that a Gloucester Rugby Club player will join our final assembly to present colours, cups and awards.

Parents' Evening



We tried an appointments system for our first Parents' Consultation Evening this year, for Year 10. The evaluation was very positive: 51 of the 55 parents who responded after the Evening preferred the new system and only two thought it was not an improvement; 21 of the 24 staff responses expressed a preference for the appointments and none thought it was worse. So we shall continue to trial appointments, for Years 7 to 11. We do not plan to introduce the new system for Sixth Form Parents' Evenings - no dissatisfaction has been expressed with these, parents have fewer teachers to see and discussions of longer than five minutes may sometimes be useful.

Sir Thomas Rich's, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF.
01452 338400

Charities

To support aid for the Pakistan earthquake victims we purchased two Shelter Boxes through a donation of £960 to the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard. This Rotary Club arranges their purchase and shipment. Each Shelter Box contains emergency supplies and survival equipment for 10 people (large tent, sleeping bags, cooker, fuel, etc.). The Boxes are being sent to Islamabad.

DONATIONS:

This has been a busy and productive term for fund raising within the school. This term, donations have been contributed towards the Meningitis Trust and The Milestone School, Gloucester.

A total of £1,216 was donated to the Meningitis Trust, with the STR's 44th Explorer Scout Unit raising over £216 in sponsorship money from their participation in the 'Five Valleys Walk', held in September. In addition to this, a lower school disco was organised by the 44th ESU in conjunction with Denmark Road and £500 was raised for charity. The final £500 came from the weekly loose change collection. We are thankful to George Hart and Ian Murphy, who give up their time each week to sort out the loose change.

In the second half of the term, additional funds were raised for the multi-sensory interactive light and sound project for The Milestone School. Again, the generosity of the school was fantastic and we were able to donate a cheque for £1,000.



Public Speaking Competition

Eccentricity is a quality to be valued - such was the proposition that was very ably promoted by Tom Chapple (Y11) in the current local round of the ESU Public Speaking Competition, held at STRS on 22 November. Tom's performance, together with Adam McNally (questioner) and Jonathan Maxted (chairperson) sees this team once more go forward to the Gloucestershire round, to be held at the Council Chamber in Cheltenham on 7 February 2006.

On this occasion Jonathan Maxted came away with the award for best chairperson too. This was chiefly because he had taken careful note of the various tasks which fall to the chair, and carried out all of these tasks, whereas others in this role forgot one or other of the finer points of what may be a smaller role than that of the speaker, but is still a role which can be made significant.

S Pickard

Y10 & 11 Citizenship/ Careers

On two separate mornings, Y10 and 11 were involved in various activities geared to raise their awareness in relation to Career and Citizenship Issues.

The Year 10's were able to experience the activities delivered by the R.A.F Motivational Team, with the emphasis of the practical activities being directed towards team building, communication and motivational strategies. Meanwhile, Dan Wright, one of Rich's former students, who runs ABC Survival, further developed the Year 10's through his own brand of unique practical tasks, again with the emphasis being on enhancing the students' need to problem-solve, display initiative and work together under various challenging circumstances. Finally, the various groups experienced further challenges, with the directions again towards problem solving, working under time constraints and meeting obligations. Tasks involved constructing paper towers with limited resources, communication challenges and exercises designed to develop group dynamics. The morning was very successful and hopefully made the students aware that academic qualifications are essential, but they must be supported and enhanced by the application of strong social skills.

In a similar vein, Y11's also experienced a range of activities. The Connexions service delivered sessions with the focus being on the essential issues and skills revolving around the enhancement of Employability. During the morning, once again Dan Wright delivered various practical team-building challenges, straight out of big corporate training management manuals - highly successful and worthwhile! We must also thank the Education & Business in Partnership team, lead by Nathaniel Cooke, who set our Y11's enterprise challenges. Again, highly successful and worthwhile for our students, who must realise that the wider world demands additional skills and those students who will be successful in the labour markets of tomorrow, are those who have the necessary qualities and attributes demanded by the global economy.

Y11 Mock Interviews

Once again, the Education & Business in Partnership came to the school for the morning to implement Mock Interviews for all our Y11 students. The format for each student, was to undertake a formal job interview, based upon an application form filled out prior to the event, followed by a debriefing of their performance. As we all know, job interviews can be formidable, daunting and even distressing, if they go wrong! The emphasis of the morning was to raise awareness to all our students of the necessity or preparing, training and developing their interviewing skills in readiness for the future. Hopefully, the students found the experience enlightening, worthwhile and importantly, it may have raised some crucial issues about how they are perceived by prospective employers.

P D Lloyd

Y11 Work Experience

A reminder to all those parents, whose sons have secured their Work Placements for January 2006, that it is important that contact is made with respective employers to check their placements. The Y11 students should double check arrangements, address any possible problems and obtain details of the activities and duties to be undertaken during the week.

It should be noted, that any student not undertaking work experience, will attend school during the week and they should get their parents to confirm in writing why they are not able to undertake a placement. If any student or parent has a problem regarding work experience, they should contact Mr Lloyd at school.

44th ESU

QUIZ NIGHT

A very successful Quiz Night raised £400 for the BBC's Children in Need Appeal. Well done to all those from the unit who collected the entry fees, ran the raffle, donated prizes, acted as runners collecting the answer papers, marked the answer papers, shifted tables and chairs before and after the event, and generally helped out on the night. A special well done to Andrew Faulkner and Richard Young who organised the whole event and between them conjured up the questions and kept the teams informed of their round by round progress with their computerised scoring system. We also thank Adam Griffiths who stepped into the role of Quizmaster at the last minute, keeping the teams well in order!

We look forward to staging the next Quiz Night in April.

P Brown

Sixth Form Entry

We are in the process of changing the requirements for entry to our Sixth Form. The new requirements will apply to students from other schools for September 2006 entry, although the present criteria (the first two bullet points below) will continue to apply for our current Year 11 students. The new requirements will apply to all students (from Rich's and other schools) the following year.

We admit students for the two-year A-level course where academic demands are significantly higher than for GCSE. It is our experience that students who do not meet the criteria below will find A-level courses difficult and they are likely to struggle to make satisfactory progress. In order to be eligible for entry to Sir Thomas Rich's Sixth Form students should have the following qualifications:

- five or more GCSE subjects passed at grade B or above. (A short-course GCSE at grade A or above would count as one of these passes.)
- Mathematics and English Language GCSE each at grade C or above.
- GCSE at grade A or better in at least two of the subjects to be studied in the Sixth Form and at grade B or better in the others. (Where A-level courses have no GCSE equivalent, we expect this standard to have been met in the most closely related GCSE subject. For example, to study Geology at A-level, a student should have a suitable GCSE pass in a Science or Geography; for Psychology, in a Science subject and in English Language; for Economics, in Mathematics; for Classical Civilisation, in History or English Language.)



Sixth Form Lectures

(Association of Language Learning)

We were pleased to be able to host this year the Gloucestershire Sixth Form Language Lectures. Topics for the lectures related closely to "A" level topics and were delivered by native speakers from local universities. Whilst Michaela Giger from Bristol University chose religion as her topic, Marianne Aussaure from Oxford followed the attitudes towards childhood and adolescence as reflected in French films and Carmen Garcia looked at the role of the media in Spain. It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to listen to native speakers and enhance their knowledge of the culture. The event was attended by pupils from a number of local schools including Ribston Hall, Pates Grammar School, St. Peter's High School, Wycliffe, Wydean and Cleeve.

Onatti Theatre Company

This term the language department invited the Onatti Theatre Company to school to perform plays in French, German and Spanish to Y9, 10 and 11.

The plays were especially written by the company to enhance and enrich pupils' experience in learning languages. The performances were lively, humorous with carefully selected vocabulary and visual keys to ensure pupils were able to follow the story without recourse to English. We were pleased to welcome pupils from Barnwood Park and Brockworth Enterprise School to watch the plays.

The Plays

'La Chambre de Jean-Paul' is a visual comedy set in a teenager's bedroom.

To Jean-Paul anyone female, his age or older, is a potential girlfriend, but there is one girl at school who is on his mind more than most - Angélique. But the problem with Jean-Paul is he's Jean-Paul, and to win the heart of the lovely Angélique he'll need help. One by one the make-up girls arrive - through his bedroom window - all with their own style and unique advice. Their job is to change Jean-Paul into their ideal, perfect teenager, but is Jean-Paul ready to change this much? And what if his parents find out he's had strange girls in his room?

'Primera Cita' takes a hilarious look at two love-struck Spanish teenagers, María and Carlos, as they both get ready for their all important first date! After the initial, anxious phone call between them they both have less than an hour to get ready, dress and prepare for the evening.

This could be a perfect night or an embarrassing disaster. What to say? Where to go? What to wear?

The audience follows both María and Carlos simultaneously getting ready as they both experience a roller-coaster of emotions - stress, apprehension, fear, excitement and teenage hysteria!

'Aut dem Campingplatz': The quiet, peaceful German campsite gets a rude awakening when two teenage friends, Jürgen and Sonja, arrive for a weekend camping trip. Jürgen has all the equipment and knowledge for camping, Sonja, however, takes a while to accept she can't plug her hairdryer in, the toilets are shared and her high heels aren't practical.

Jürgen and Sonja's camping trip soon turns unpleasant. As night rolls in the friends have one packet of crisps and no mobile reception and face a long hungry night in a field! Tempers become short and soon hunger and frustration turn the situation nasty.

J Hewett





Y13 Work Experience

IN FRANCE

Twelve Y13 Modern Languages students recently returned in triumph from a demanding period of work experience in Southern Brittany.

Departing at dawn each morning to travel to their various placements, the group won unanimous acclaim from their employers for their cheerful willingness to master both the skills required for their respective work places, as well as the essential specialist vocabulary their work involved.

Nafisa Sayani, Thomas Shorney, Thomas Shearer, Chris Cooper and Andrew Hopkins won many fans among the children they taught in local primary schools. Adam Broadhead, Martin Coe and Chris Palmer galvanized the retail sector in downtown Pontivy where nearby, Theresa Turner slaved in a boulangeries and Sarah Paterson ran a café. By the end of the week, Scott Yearsley was well on the way to taking over the administration of the regional Sous-Prefecture, while Carly Tang charmed all her patients at the Maison de Retraiteln Locmine.



Each evening the group reassembled at its accommodation, a beautiful converted C19th mill at Kergoval, near St. Nicholas des Eaux, to share experiences and new vocabulary, hone skills in table tennis and baby-foot and force down lashings of haute cuisine superbly cooked by our hosts, Helene and Alan Line, who also arranged our work placements.

This was a demanding but vastly enjoyable experience, which certainly enhanced the linguistic skills and confidence of all its participants.

J Reid



Y7's CHURCHDOWN SCHOOL 10 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

On Friday 25th November, the Y7's began their school rugby careers at the Churchdown School 10's Tournament. Along with sixteen other schools, playing in three leagues, the team had a tough schedule ahead. The winners of each league plus the best runner up went forward to the semi-finals.

League Results

v Beaufort	won 12-0
v Oxstalls	won 24-0
v Newent	won 22-0
V Tewkesbury	won 12-0

All 15 players in the squad played their part and it was particularly pleasing not to concede a try in the league matches.

Semi-Final

v St. Peters	won 12-7
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A close, hard fought game with both teams playing with commitment and skill.

Final

v Dene Magna	won 14-7
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The school dominated the final and with all 15 players contributing it was a fitting end to an enjoyable tournament.

UNDER 15's

P15	W14	L1	F66	A18
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The U15's excellent season has continued this term with victories over Marling, Churchdown, Kings, Crypt and Dean Close. They have also beaten Farmors and Rednock School in the Daily Mail Vase and are currently in the third round of the National Competition. Their record so far this season is shown above.

Congratulations to Andrew Clegg and Chris Surman who have both been selected for Gloucestershire Schools U15's and Ben Fabbro and Will Laffer who have been selected for the Gloucester District Squad.

R Williams

UNDER 14's

P10	W3	D1	L6
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This has been a very difficult and frustrating season for the Y9's. A number of key long-term injuries resulted in an unsettled team, but this allowed an opportunity for new players to be drafted into the side. However, despite these problems, the Y9's always displayed a positive and committed attitude towards their matches and training. A number of the defeats were narrow and were often a result of inconsistency or lapses in concentration. All the players need to focus on the basics, including tackling, fitness and support play. They have the potential to be a solid outfit next season, but they must address their weaknesses if progress is to be made.

UNDER 13's 'A' XV 2005

P8	W5	L3	F158	A81
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The U13 'A' XV have had a good season and can be proud of the progress they have made over the course of the term.

They have performed very well and played an expansive brand of rugby against sides of a comparable size, including some outstanding performances against Bournside (42-0) and a useful Churchdown side (43-0). On the other hand, against sides with significantly larger packs the team has struggled, particularly in the second halves of games, to secure enough possession to give our creative backs the opportunity to attack.

This problem was clearly illustrated in the final match away against St Peters. In the first half we played some of our best rugby of the season and were unlucky to be losing 14-10 at half-time, having scored 2 well worked tries. However, in the second half the more physical St Peters forwards took control and we lost our composure and competitive edge leading to a disappointing 38-10 defeat.

At an individual level Oliver Fitt deserves a special mention for being the team's top point scorer with 73, including an impressive 11 tries. Oliver together with the captain, Ben Conway, Jack Hollocks, Andy Daughtry and Paul Andersson received Merit Awards for their excellent contributions this season in our final assembly.

UNDER 13's 'B' XV 2005

P3	W1	D2	F60	A45
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The 'B's have played with skill and a great attitude in all three games and enjoyed an undefeated season. They performed particularly well away in the drawn game against a powerful Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat side, scoring 2 excellent converted tries. It is pleasing to report that a number of the squad have made very encouraging progress this season and made useful contributions to the 'A' XV including Jack Griffiths, Saul Hathaway, James Brown, Charles Hiram and Lloyd Moore.

Finally, many thanks to all the parents who have supported the sides this season; it has been very much appreciated.



1st XV 2005

P11 W6 D1 L4

A mostly successful and hugely enjoyable season from the seniors. The team played a very positive 15 man style of rugby, underpinned by well-organised and determined defence.

As ever, it was necessary to establish control up front. Scrumming proved to be an area of strength and the lineout improved on a weekly basis. The back row worked tirelessly in defence and were creative in attack. Effective leadership came from the experienced half backs, and the centres provided a solid foundation for the back three to show their paces. As the season progressed the squad gelled and began to perform for each other. The upper sixth students were inspirational and key in creating this team ethic. Particular mention must go to the Captain, prop Lee Warren. He provided a sterling example on and off the pitch and must also be congratulated for being selected for the County XV. Well done! We now look forward to the 7's.....

R Sims

2nd XV 2005

P10 W6 L4

A successful second half gives the seconds a record of played 10 won 6 lost 4, adding victories over Marling, King's and Crypt to the first half term and defeats to Rendcomb 1st XV and a very strong Hartpur College side. The side have clearly enjoyed their rugby and are to be congratulated on the high standard achieved.

6th Form Girls Netball

P12 W8 L4

This term has seen the start of a sixth form girls Netball team. We have played a total of 12 games; winning 8 and losing 4.

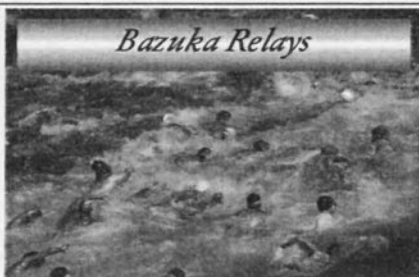
The highlight of the term was entering the U19's county tournament in September. We drew a difficult group, but won all but one of our games to take us through to the semi-final, runners-up in our group behind Cheltenham Ladies College. Our semi-final was against Dean Close School who won by a single goal and then went on to become the county champions.

The sixth form girls should be really pleased with their achievements, as they have only been playing together as a team since the start of the term. We hope to continue with our success by honoring fixtures next term and taking a strong team into next year, as 8 out of the 10 girls are currently in Year 12.

Well done to: Katie Lyons, Lauren Gamlin, Emma Hopkins, Dani Burgess, Chloe Smart, Suzy Champion, Laura Rawson, Helen Wrangham, Frankie Abbs and April Ramsey.



Bazuka Relays



MILLFIELD SCHOOL

Once again the school entered three teams in the Bazuka Relays South West heats, held at Millfield School.

The winning times are compared to the other regions to provide the twelve fastest teams for the national finals which are to be held in Macclesfield on 11th February.

Jnr. Medley

I Hinds	41.04 secs		
L Moore	45.33		
A Gouha	35.46		
R Paterson	33.24	TIME	2.35.47

Jnr. Freestyle

A Gouha	30.12 secs		
J Goga	35.44		
R Paterson	34.14		
I Hinds	36.32	TIME	2.16.02

Inter. Medley

C Turner	31.74 secs		
R Payne	32.15		
J Broady	28.72		
T Burlinson	27.27	TIME	1.59.88

Inter. Freestyle

T Burlinson	28.24 secs		
M Fatica	28.33		
C Turner	27.02		
J Broady	25.56	TIME	1.49.55

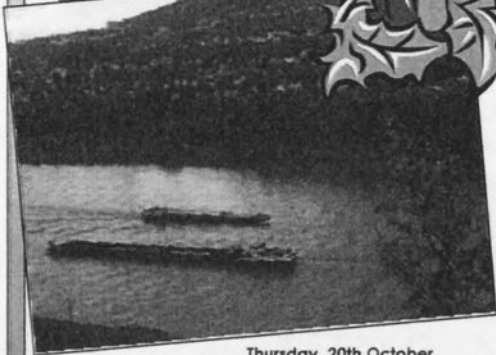
Snr. Medley

W Middleton	30.83 secs		
J Denley	36.83		
J Mullins	28.34		
T White	24.66	TIME	2.00.54

Snr. Freestyle

W Middleton	26.58 secs		
J Denley	31.30		
J Mullins	25.72		
T White	24.51	TIME	1.48.11

The intermediate team are to be congratulated as they qualified to reach the final of the medley relay as they finished 5th overall. They also qualified as 2nd reserve for the freestyle relay.



Bulgaria

This year we have been pleased to embark on a Comenius project with Bulgaria and Italy. The aim of the initiative is to develop a better understanding of these countries and their culture through joint projects. On November 4 pupils accompanied by Mr Crewe and myself travelled to Bulgaria to meet our project partners. We were perhaps prepared for the majestic beauty of the Balkans but had given little thought to the economic reality of life in Bulgaria in the post Soviet period. We were overwhelmed, however, by the friendliness and hospitality of the Bulgarians and their genuine joy in having links with an English school. We hope that the project will go from strength to strength and that we live up to their expectations.

The language of communication for the project is Esperanto. For a full report on the trip consult the Esperanto section on the school website.

J Hewett

Rhineland 2005

drizzle of the early morning descended into a heavy downpour. We congregated in front of the Cathedral bearing a greater resemblance to drowned rats than respectable pupils and teachers of Sir Thomas Rich's. But on board a KD cruiser we were able to dry off and enjoy refreshments as we cruised up and down the river.

A visit to the Sport and Olympic museum and a fun evening bowling in Cologne completed the first day.

Saturday, 22nd October

A visit to a German City is all very well but the beautiful scenery of the Rhineland valley is a treasure not to be missed, particularly in its autumn glory. We travelled in the coach alongside the Rhine south of Cologne, passing the former capital city of Bonn. Just outside Koblenz overlooking the Rhine proudly stands the castle of Stolzenfels. On then to Boppard where we enjoyed a chairlift ride up the hillside. At the top we were greeted with splendid views over the Rhine. After a short stay in the pretty town of Boppard we returned to Cologne and in the evening pupils were able to burn off lots of energy in Aqualand - a swimming complex on the outskirts of Cologne.

Sunday, 23rd October

Our last day! The dry weather we had enjoyed on our trip to Boppard gave way to heavy rain. But this did not prevent us from looking around the excellent zoo in Cologne. Fortunately it brightened up to enable us to spend a fun afternoon and evening at the theme park "Phantasialand".

The perfect trip - perhaps not. However, the pupils' good humour and behaviour, their enjoyment and appreciation of the activities and the hard work and support I received from Mr Riley, Mr Peffers and the Headmaster ensured that the trip was a great success.

J Hewett

Thursday, 20th October

7:00 am. It was an early morning start. Despite the darkness the weather seemed promising. All pupils arrived on time. The bus driver was friendly. There was even time for the "official" photographer, Iain Murphy, to record our departure. Could this presage the perfect trip?

10:00 pm: We arrived at the Youth Hostel and staff looked forward to a well-deserved night's sleep. More fool us! The boys were too excited to sleep and on the following morning staff appeared for breakfast looking very bleary-eyed.

Friday, 21st October

A rainy start to the day! Nevertheless full of optimism we set off into Cologne to view the magnificent Gothic cathedral. The amazing structure, which took over 500 years to complete, soars above the town and cannot fail to impress. After a strenuous climb to the top of the South Tower we were rewarded with an excellent view over Cologne. It is a modern German city now, having been almost totally destroyed in 262 air raids during World War Two.

The attraction of shopping beckoned. There was now a chance for pupils to try out their German. The

NEED SOME SPARE CASH?

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

All sale items need a sales slip - obtainable from the School Secretary. Please complete and return sales slip with item for sale to the School Secretary.

If you need any particular item/s or cannot get to the sale please telephone Bev Hughes on 01242 524344.

FUTURE SALE DATES

Times - 6:30 - 7:30 pm

(unless stated)

MONDAY 9/01/06

THURSDAY 26/01/06

(7:00 pm onwards—6th Form Open Evening)

WEDNESDAY 8/03/06

MONDAY 24/04/06

SATURDAY 1/07/06 (provisional)

between 10 - 12 am

We currently need more help with the evening sales even for just one hour.

Can you help?

*A big thank you
to all the parents who support us
especially in
supplying and buying!*

Immunisation



BCG VACCINATIONS were introduced in the 1950s for secondary school pupils. At that time around 50,000 cases of tuberculosis (TB) were reported annually in the U.K. Traditionally our

Year 8 pupils have been given the BCG vaccination. However rates of TB in Britain have fallen to very low levels and we have now been told by the Health Protection Agency that this national schools programme is to cease. Instead the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has decided to run a selective programme for those groups considered to be at high risk, e.g. infants in areas where the incidence of TB is 40 or more per 100,000.



School Uniform

Jumpers

We appreciate that it is not always easy to purchase plain grey V-necked jumpers, as required for school wear. We have extended the Uniform Rules to include plain black or dark blue V-necked jumpers as well as grey.

Patterned, round-neck
or zippered jumpers are not permitted.

Y9 Parents' Evening

A comment was made in the parents' survey that our Year 9 Parents' Evening tries to fit too much into one evening - GCSE and options information as well as the normal discussions with teachers. So we shall separate the two events. We shall organise an additional information evening for Y9 parents on Wednesday 8th February at 7:00 pm. This will involve a 30-minute presentation, describing the options system and some background to GCSE courses, followed by time for questions. Then the normal Parents' Consultation Evening will be as originally scheduled, Tuesday 28th February, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

164 Bus

We have been advised by the Transport Section of the County Council that the Stagecoach Company will no longer operate the 164 bus service as from the end of next term i.e. from Easter. Stagecoach is replacing its older high-entry buses with new low-floor double-deckers and so all school-only services are being terminated. The company wants pupils to use their normal service routes.

If you have any questions please telephone either the County Council Transport Department (Derek Lucas, 01452 425343) or the Stagecoach Bus Company (01452 523928).



Of Mice and Men

Joey Russell (9B)

I thought 'Of Mice and Men' was a very good performance. When I first read the programme I didn't know what to expect. I didn't think it would be very good because five people were playing ten characters and four of them were disabled in some way. In the first scene I did notice each person's disability but it didn't bother me. I thought Lennie was hard to understand but because I had read the book I knew what he was saying most of the time anyway. However, I did think that if I hadn't read the book or watched the film, the play would have been hard to follow because of the way some characters spoke.

I thought that George talking to Susie, a prostitute, worked well. George refers to going to a brothel many times in the book so I thought that that could have actually happened. It was also good because now Lennie is dead, George doesn't have his dream anymore so he would've been spending his money in a brothel.

Because George is telling a story to Susie, these two characters, played by Jez Colborne and Dona Lavin, had a lot of work to do. They were on stage for the whole show and a majority of the dialogue was between them. This made me respect the characters even more.

It was a good idea to use the same set through the entire play and it worked well but I did think the play would've benefited by a bit more scenery.

Crook's room was under the gallows. They were pushed to the side of the stage to give Crooks less space, which made it more realistic and gave us an insight into how black people were treated. Also, it gave us an idea of what Curley's wife could do to him if she said that he'd touched her.

In the second scene I liked the way the boss was talking to George. He kept his face in the dark so they could use that actor again more effectively and a light gave him a shadow that made everyone know he was boss.

The final scene was good and bad. I thought it was weird that Lennie got up and walked off after he'd been shot but they couldn't have left the body there because it was actually just George telling a story. Once he'd stood up he looked back at George and his facial expressions were perfect. It's exactly how Steinbeck makes me feel in the book.

'Mind the Gap' put on a really good show and I would give it 9 out of 10.

Connexions Careers

All parents and students should remember about the new 'E-malling' service, whereby enquiries about a wide ranging list of issues can be made direct to a Connexions adviser.

Access for your enquiries can be made via the school's website.

It should be noted that Connexions advisers are visiting the school each week to see students who wish to obtain careers advice. Any student in Y11 or 6th Form, who would like to see a member of the Connexions team, simply arranges an appointment through Mr Lloyd.

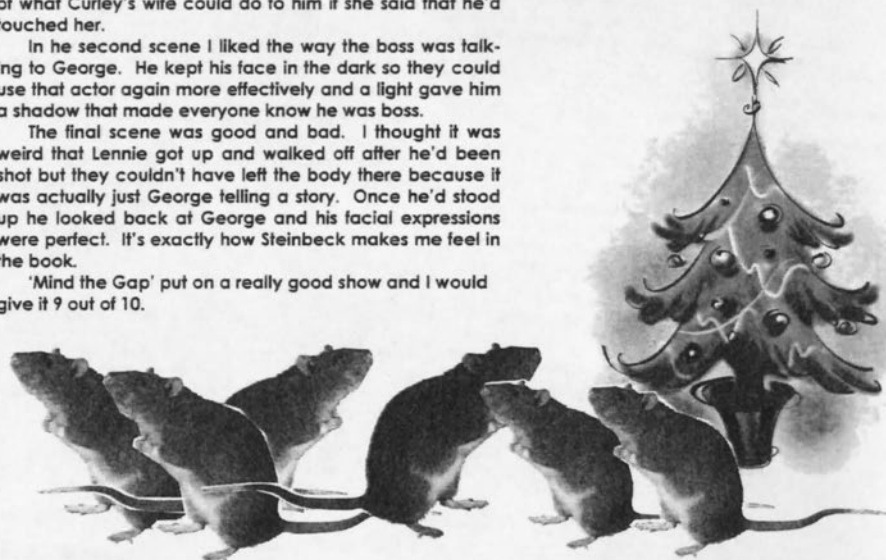
In conjunction with the High School, on the 1st February 2006, a joint Careers Fayre is being held at Denmark Road. Numerous local employers will be present, as well as representatives from the about possible future careers paths. Further details will be provided early in New Year.

P D Lloyd

Sound System

It could be that, in the not too distant future, the School will be improving the sound system in the School Hall. If any parent has experience or knowledge that might be appropriate could they please contact Mr Passey at the School?

A C Passey



PA NEWS

What a fantastic success!

Thank you to everyone who helped – your support has enabled us to raise £5347.50 towards the Redevelopment of the Changing Rooms. The Silent Auction raised over £2712.50 and the Raffle raised £1848. We do hope you will continue to support the work of the PA – we couldn't exist without you!

Could you help the PA, occasionally?

I have a list of 'willing volunteers', who I e-mail every so often, with requests for help. Those who can offer help, e-mail back and those who can't, don't. It really is as simple as that! No hassle, no pressure, just an occasional e-mail. If you think you might be able to help out with PA activities, 'now and then', please e-mail me and I will add your details to the list. (If you didn't have an e-mail asking for help with the Christmas Fayre, you're not on the list!). Please note, that your details will NEVER be passed or sold on to a third party, however, your e-mail address may be visible to other volunteers on the list.

Please e-mail sali@business-advancement.co.uk

Thank you.

PA Website

One of the PA Projects for the New Year is to create a 'web presence' on the STRS website. One of the ideas, which will be discussed at our next meeting, is to forward book all of the dates for the year, for everything, e.g. PA Meetings, Car Boot Sales, The Ball, The Christmas Fayre etc., and put a Calendar of Dates on the PA area of the site. It would be fun to include photos of the Ball and other events, but we would love to hear what YOU would like to see/find useful on the site. If you have any ideas, please e-mail them to me (sali@business-advancement.co.uk), or ring me on 01452 621775 to discuss.



Winner for November: Mrs E Young
Winner for December: Mrs V Cooper

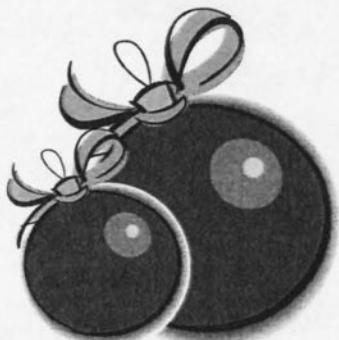
"There are still a few places available in the 100 Club. Membership of the 100 Club would make a lovely Christmas present to someone (just imagine how great you would feel if they won £50 during the year).

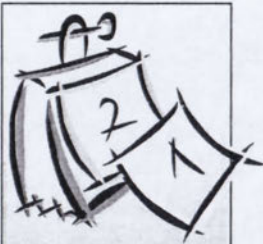
For an application form,
please contact:

JULIE POWER,

100 Club Organiser Schools
Administration Office.

STRS Parent's Association
would like to wish everyone
a VERY peaceful holiday and
a healthy and happy New
Year.





SPRING TERM 2006

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

9 JANUARY

7:00 pm onwards

26 JANUARY

6:30-7:30 pm

8 MARCH

6:30-7:30 pm



SUMMER TERM 2006

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

24 APRIL

6:30-7:30 pm

1 JULY

10:00 - 12:00 noon

Dates for the Diary



SPRING TERM 2006

Tuesday 3 January

Term starts, 8:40 am

3-13 January

Monday 16 January

16-20 January

Thursday 26 January

Thursday 2 February

Wednesday 8 February

13-17 February

20-24 February

Monday 27 February

Tuesday 28 February

Monday 6 March

Monday 13 March

20-24 March

Wednesday 29 March

Trial GCSE exams (Y11)

Inset Day (No pupils)

Y11 Work Experience week

6th Form Open Eve, 7:00 pm

Y11 Parents' Eve, 5:00 pm

'Options eve, Y9 parents, 7:00 pm

Half-term holidays

Trial A2 exams (U6)

Inset Day (No pupils)

Y9 Parents' Eve, 5:00 pm

Y7 Parents' Eve, 5:00 pm

L6th & Parents, H. Ed. Eve, 7:30 pm

Founder's Week

L6th Parents' Eve, 5:00 pm

Friday 31 March

Term ends, 12:45 pm

SUMMER TERM 2006

Tuesday 18 April

Term starts, 8:40 am

18-24 April

Wednesday 19 April

Monday 1 May

2-5 May

15 May - 9 June

Monday 22 May

29 May - 2 June

12 - 30 June

22 - 28 June

Thursday 29 June

3 - 7 July

Thursday 6 July

Trial AS exams (L6)

Y8 Parents' Eve, 5:00 pm

May Day Bank Holiday

SATs exams (Y9)

AS exams (L6)

GCSE exams start (Y11)

Half term holidays

A2 exams (U6)

School Exams (Y7-10)

Inset Day (No pupils)

6th Form Induction Week

Sports Evening, 6:30 pm

Friday 21 July

Term ends, 12:45 pm.