



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

# News REEL

October 2005



Only seven weeks into the new school year and already our students have experienced an impressive range of educational enrichment. Quite apart from day trips, visiting speakers and sports fixtures, there have been residential visits for biology (5 days in Pembroke, A-level ecology), art (4 days in St. Ives, Cornwall), French (6th Form work experience in Brittany), Year 7 (each Form separately to Stratford), to Taiwan (for two U6th boys) - and Rich's pupils are currently in Spain (Years 10-12 exchange) and Germany (Years 8/9 in The Rhineland). Our thanks to teachers who give so generously of their time in planning and accompanying these valuable activities.

## Speech Day

Many thanks to all who supported our Prize Giving and Speech Day, ensuring that it was a successful and enjoyable evening. We are indebted to James Methven, our Guest of Honour - James was a pupil at Rich's from 1980 to 1987 and is now Dean of Oriel College, Oxford. Well done to the hundred students who stepped up onto the stage to receive their prizes.

## Parents' Evening

In response to the Parents' Survey we conducted last term, when some parents commented about the waiting times at Parents' Evenings, we are to trial an appointments system. The first Parents' Evening is for Year 10 pupils next month, each appointment will be for five minutes. We shall seek parents' views on whether the new system is an improvement.

### EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS!

Under the Government's Workforce Reform measures, teachers are no longer expected to undertake non-teaching tasks, such as the invigilation of public examinations.

We propose to move carefully in this direction, initially using a mix of teachers and outside personnel. If any parents are interested in becoming invigilators, please let the Headmaster know, indicating your availability. The rate of pay will be £7 per hour. **The first examinations will be in January (AS exams).**



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

## *St Ives 4 day Residential Art Department Trip*

After a long journey down to the southern most tip of Cornwall we finally reached our destination of Land's End YHA nestled within the beautiful Cot Valley. The Art Department has now made many trips to St Ives over the years; despite the frequency of our trips the beauty of the rugged landscape never fails to inspire and astonish us.

On the first evening we walked along the Cot Valley over the hill and onto Cape Cornwall. The wind was blowing and the light was failing however this did not daunt our intrepid artists who sat as close to the sea as they would dare and took out paint, water pots, oil pastels and pencils and started to record the landscape. With waves crashing and a light drizzle starting to descend they produced some amazing pieces which really captured the power and raw energy of the sea, weather conditions and landscape.

Over the following three days our artists visited the Penlee House Gallery and the Newlyn Gallery where pupils experienced the contrasting styles of artists who have been inspired by the surrounding landscape; visited St Michael's Mount, explored the many small galleries around St Ives and visited and sketched within Barbara Hepworth's Sculpture Garden; sketched within the cobbled streets of St Ives as well as on the beach in Penzance; trawled the St Ives beach for flotsam and jetsam which they then turned into a still life and sketched in the entrance of The Tate. We also sketched in the Treigwainton National Trust Gardens just outside St Just. Not forgetting walks taken in the morning and the evening to take photographs of the rising and setting sun as well as group activities every evening which ensured the paints, pencils, oil pastels etc came out again.



My thanks go to Mr Lockey, Mr Crewe and Mrs Lloyd who ensured the trip went very smoothly and drove a very long way to our destination. The Sixth Form artists as usual were a real credit to the school. Their engagement and enthusiasm always makes these trips very valuable experiences.

Mrs Cormack-Hicks



### DRAGON BOAT PRINCES (and PRINCESSES!)

A misty morn greeted our arrival at South Cerney for the annual Junior Dragon Boat Races. Once again we were the major contributors to the District Explorer Scout Boat, along with Beaufort and Churchdown units. The sun soon broke making the water shimmer like diamonds and the South Cerney lakes provided a beautiful venue for a day messing about in boats.

Old rivals Young Minch and Marling Marins proved just a tad stronger for our young District crew and we were eased into overall third place after four strenuous heats of ferocious paddling.

The 44th provided the following mix of youth and experience to the District Boat:



**Rich Young, Stephen Duxbury, George Rawlins, Sam Melvin, Hayden Sansum, Iain Murphy, Liam Newborough, Zak Hinds, Daniel Venn, Rich Ellison, Matt Barnes & Adam Lewis.**

### FIVE VALLEYS WALK Sunday 25 September 2005

Apart from being somewhat sore and weary it is pleasing to report that 15 of us completed the 21 mile route. Initial estimates indicate that around £200-plus will be raised from direct sponsorship of the walkers in aid of the National Meningitis Trust.

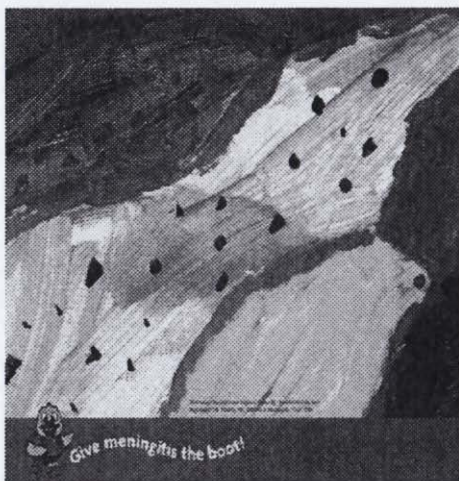
The intrepid band were **Gareth Evans, Josh Powell, Jon Springer, Sam Melvin, Stephen Duxbury, Paul Edwards, Hayden Sansum, George Rawlins, Rich Young, Phil Brown, Adam Lewis, Mat Barnes, Rich Ellison, Joe Gallagher & Ralph.** Thanks to everyone who sponsored them!

### 44th VSU - Y7 & 8 DISCO IN AID OF THE MENINGITIS APPEAL

On Friday 7th October the unit staged a very successful disco for the Y7 & Y8 boys and girls of Sir Thomas Rich's and High School for Girls Denmark Road. Great fun and dancing were the order of the evening as the school hall resounded to disco and dance music from modern to not-so-modern times: "Y-M-C-A" proving the audience participation hit of the evening!!

The superb disco was staged by Phil Jay's **SOUND SURVEY ROADSHOW** who kindly provided their services at a very generous rate so that the Meningitis Trust would benefit from most of the evening's ticket sales. As a result well over £500 has been raised. Well done to all the organisers and unit members who helped on the evening - supervising the dance floor, lugging equipment about, cleaning up, resetting the hall chairs, manning the tuck shop, admission and exit attendants, etc., etc.

Also thanks to the Denmark Road Staff who helped with the adult supervision on the evening and ticket sales at HSG. At STRS we would especially like to thank Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Kellaway for looking after ticket sales, Mrs Poole for handling the finance, Mrs Young and Mrs Austin for ticket design and posters and Mr Watts for helping to clear and ready the hall earlier in the day.



# PRESS RELEASE

## Notes to Editors

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Its purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.

The Taiwan National Science Council and the National Taiwan University established the Taiwanese National Centre for Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE) in 1990. NCREE works to upgrade seismic resistant design standards for all constructions and provides feedback to the engineering community through research and development. <http://www.ncree.gov.tw>

Research in earthquake engineering at Bristol University started in 1958 when Professor Roy Severn was engaged by the Arch Dams Research Committee of the Institute of Civil Engineers to develop analytical techniques to predict the seismic response of arch dams. Since then, the Bristol Earthquake Engineering Research Group has grown to be the largest of its kind in the UK. In 1988 it formally became the Earthquake Engineering Research Centre (EERC), a University Research Centre.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES QUIZ

**Congratulations to Lawrence  
Newton and Elliott D'Lonra  
of 7B who were the  
overall winners of the  
competition and to runners  
up Christopher Passey and  
Callum Ireland of 8R.**

## LOCAL STUDENTS TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONAL EARTHQUAKE COMPETITION

Two 6th formers, Blake Kendrick and Peter Cheng, from Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School travelled to Taiwan to compete and represent their country in an international earthquake challenge.

The two seventeen-year-old pupils made up a 6th form team along with two pupils from Stroud High School and competed in conjunction with a team made up of four second-year undergraduates from Bristol University.

The two teams took part in the International IDEERS Earthquake Engineering Challenge on September 24 and 25. The event was organised by the British Council and the Taiwanese National Centre for Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE).

For the challenge, the team had to design an earthquake-resistant building, which they had to construct a model of on the first day using only wood, string, paper and glue. On the second day, their model was among a total of 80, which were tested on the large earthquake simulator in the NCREE laboratory in the Taiwanese capital Taipei.

They were joined by teams of university and high school students from all over Taiwan, the USA, Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia.

The IDEERS Challenge - developed by Dr Wendy Daniell and Adam Crewe from the University of Bristol's Earthquake Engineering Research Centre - was introduced to Taiwan through the British Council in 2001. It has been an annual event in Taiwan since then, attracting up to 300 participants each year.

The IDEERS project was originally developed for British schools and runs annually with state schools in Bristol.

Dr Daniell, who organised the trip, said: "This project has been a huge success in Taiwan because it is such a highly seismic region. The organisers see it as a useful tool for educating young people and the general public about the risk to structures from earthquakes and the research that is being undertaken to find means of improving their earthquake resistance."

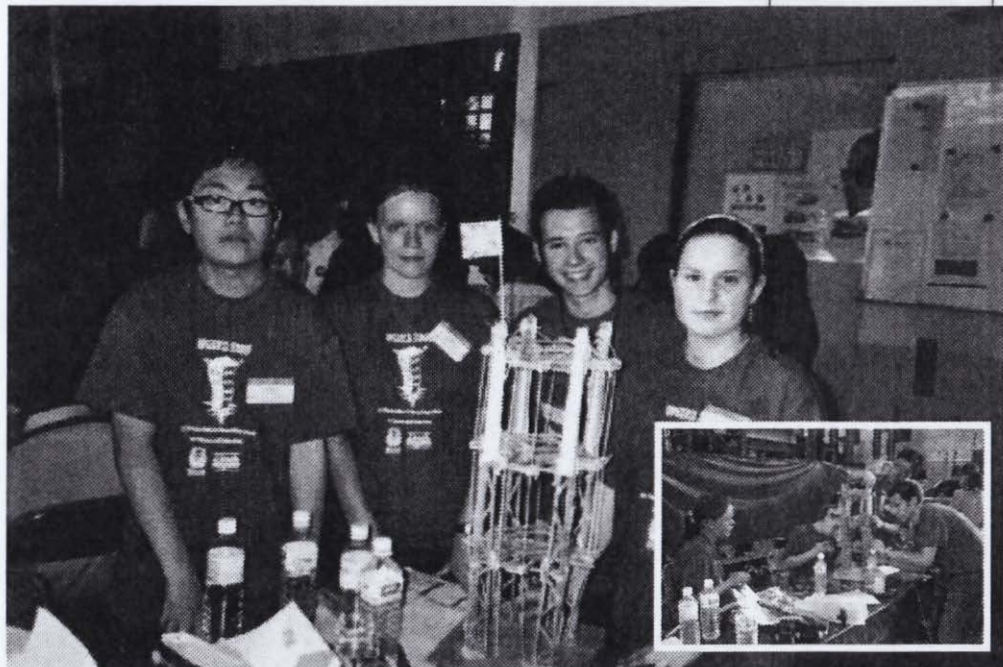
In Taiwan, the challenge is always held on the anniversary of the devastating 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake, which caused over 2,400 deaths and left 100,000 people homeless.

The Institution of Structural Engineers Educational Trust and Lloyd's Register sponsor the UK teams. Both teams have been spending their summer holidays building trial models and having them tested on the earthquake simulator at Bristol University.

Blake Kendrick, who is a member of the sixth-form team, said: "This trip is an opportunity of a lifetime. Not only will it allow us to put our physics, mathematics and woodwork skills into practice under pressure, it will also allow us to experience a culture that is unique and totally different to that of our own. This has truly inspired us to build real structures to withstand earthquakes in the future."



## International Engineering Competition



*Peter and Blake with their other team members (from Stroud High School) and their completed model.*

### TAIWAN

Two members of our U6th, Blake Kendrick and Peter Cheng, took part in an international engineering competition in Taipei, Taiwan. Their challenge was to design and make a model building which could withstand earthquakes. Blake describes the tests, conducted on an earthquake simulator:

"After working hard throughout the six-hour construction day, in extremely hot and humid conditions, we managed to complete our model on time. The following day of testing the models was very tense, although the securing of the model to the shaking table went smoothly (despite having five of our allotted fifteen minutes preparation time taken up by an interview for Taiwanese TV). During the testing our model performed very well and the unique principle of sliding floors worked perfectly. Being the sixth last standing model (out of thirty-six) was fantastic and the fact that we won the best design prize just completed the experience for us. On a cultural side the trip was very insightful and I will never forget the idiosyncrasies of this truly unique society that I but briefly visited."

### Language College

This term has seen the start of a new language club. Japanese lessons run after school on a Tuesday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm. The course is open to all pupils in Y9 and above.

The school is pleased to be extending its links with the community. We are now delivering French lessons to Barnwood Primary School, increasing the provision at Elmbridge and developing links with Brockworth Enterprise College and the Milestone School.

### SPANISH FAMILY LEARNING COURSE

Following the success of the Spanish Family Learning Course last year, we are once again considering running a 10-week course.

*If your family is interested, please contact Mrs Hewett at school or e-mail [jackiehewett@sfrs.org.uk](mailto:jackiehewett@sfrs.org.uk)*

## *Autumn Ball*



I would like to thank everyone who supported the Ball. The help given was very much appreciated and the feedback from the evening itself has been fantastic. Thank you. We haven't managed to calculate the overall amount raised as yet (the bills are still coming in), but we believe we may raise as much as £2,000. (Mainly due to the brilliant Auctioneer - Joe Hiram, and the huge amount of raffle tickets sold).

There is, however, a little mystery which you may be able assist with. The fantastic Pedestal arrangement of flowers was taken at the end of the evening by someone who (we believe), thought he had successfully bid for it. Unfortunately, when the successful bidder arrived on Sunday morning to collect the flowers, they had gone! It's not a huge problem at all (the successful bidder found the situation quite amusing), it's just that we're now £60 short (the successful bidder was refunded) of the amount raised in the auction. If you went home with the flowers, in error, please can you ring me on 07974 771746, so that I can collect some money from you.

**Sali Gray.**

## *Work Experience - Y11*

A reminder to all Y11 students and parents that your Work Experience placements for the week beginning 16th January - 20th January, 2006, should have been secured and Mr Lloyd should have received the Trident Forms by the 21st October. It should be stated that all students were notified about their work experience during March of this year!

## *Careers Brief Test - Y11*

All Y11 students and parents should have received a letter and information brochure relating to the Careers Brief Test, which will take place on the morning of November 1st 2005. As the brochure indicated, this is a worthwhile test, which will help students to decide on their Post 16 AS choices, as well as providing insightful guidance about possible future career options. Unfortunately, the school cannot pay for the tests and subsequently, we will have to charge for the test at a price of £ 19 per student. If you are interested in your son undertaking the test, please return the slip found on the letter, together with a cheque to cover the cost.

## *Mock Interviews - Y11*

In conjunction with Gloucestershire Education & Business in Partnership, the school will be implementing a 'Mock Interviews' day on Thursday, 15th December. Members of the EBP and colleagues from local business organisations will be undertaking mock interviews with all of our Y11 students. Each interview will last approximately fifteen minutes, with formal interviewing, followed by 'feedback' to each student. We hope that this Y11 students.

## *Careers E-Mailing Advice*

### CONNEXIONS

All parents and students should remember about the new 'E-Mailing' Service, whereby enquires about a wide ranging list of issues can be made direct to a Connexions adviser. Access for your enquires can be made via the school's web site. It should also be noted that Connexions advisers are visiting the school each week to see students who wish to obtain careers advice. Mr Lloyd is also currently providing Y11's with a career's interview via their Tutor groups.



## Sports News Events

### Under 15 Rugby season so far...

Rich's U15's have had a tremendous start to year winning all of their first six games. This run of victories included wins against the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, Chosen Hill and Beaufort, the latter in the First Round of the Daily Mail Cup. Their only defeat came in their seventh game against St Peters in the Second Round of the Daily Mail Cup.

#### RESULTS

15/09/05	Wycliffe	5 - 40	STRS
17/09/05	Newent	3 - 38	STRS
21/09/05	Beaufort	7 - 22	STRS (Daily Mail Cup)
24/09/05	BHBS	7 - 12	STRS
01/10/05	STRS	26 - 22	Chosen Hill
08/10/05	STRS	24 - 5	Bournside
12/10/05	St Peters	25 - 0	STRS (Daily Mail Cup)

Points for: 162

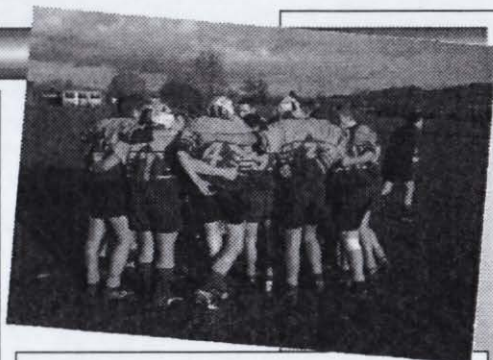
Points against: 74

Tries scored: 25

### 2nd XV

An excellent half term for the seconds who have beaten Beaufort (13-7), Cheltenham College (31-0) and Bournside (13-5), losing to Churchdown (15-14) and Dean Close (17-5). All games have been keenly contested and the standard has been very high.

*M. Swann*



### First XV

**Played 5 Won 3 Lost 2 For 182 Against 53**

A mixed start to the season for the firsts. Although two narrow defeats have hindered progress, the team is playing with width and confidence, illustrated by some excellent try scoring out wide. With continued dedication to training, this positive approach should pay dividends.

Congratulations to **Captain Lee Warren** for his selection for the County U18s.

Wing **Mark Day** and flankers **Matt Lodge** and **Rob Payne** all represented Gloucester District under 16s. From the District Festival Lodge gained selection for the County B team. Congratulations to all.

*R Sims*

We have a number of Collins Easy Learning French, German and Spanish Dictionaries for sale. These are the latest (2004) edition and retail at £7.99.

Copies can be bought from the School Library for only £6.

A small number of Collins School Thesaurus and English Dictionaries are also available at £5 (r.r.p. £5.99).



### NEED SOME SPARE CASH?

#### NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

Do let us have any items of clothing to sell for you. All sale items need a sales slip - obtainable from the School Secretary. Please complete and return sales slip with item for sale to 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 7/11/05**

**MONDAY 9/01/06**

**THURSDAY 26/01/06**

**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?**

**THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS WHO SUPPORT US ESPECIALLY IN SUPPLYING AND BUYING!**

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NOTICE - PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NOTICE

The Parents' Association has included some Raffle Tickets with this mailing. If you do not agree with Raffle Tickets, for moral or religious reasons, please return them to Mrs. Brown, the School Secretary. We do hope we haven't offended you in any way by sending them.

If you are happy to support the school by allowing your son to sell the enclosed tickets - thank you. It is simply another way of helping the PA raise money to benefit the students in the school. The Raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Fayre, in December. Please keep an eye open for Flyers promoting the event. We will also be asking for additional help, in the form of Raffle Prizes (which can be sent home with the boys/girls e.g. chocolates), cakes for the Cake Stall, books for the Book Stall, unwanted presents for our 'New Gift' Stall, and we will be offering you 'baskets to fill' for our brilliant Basket Stall.

At the end of the Christmas Fayre, we are often left with 'Bric a Brac', books, and games, which we do not have room to store. Are you connected with a church, voluntary organisation, or charity, which could make good use of these things, or could you volunteer to take them to a charity shop at the end of the Fayre?

The helpers (who will have worked from 9:00 am that morning) will be too exhausted at the end of the day, to load their cars with these items and deliver them to charity shops. Ideally, we would like volunteers to come at 3:00 pm and take the 'left over' items away. Please can you help? If so, please ring **Sall** on 01452 621775 or e.mail her at [sall@business-advancement.co.uk](mailto:sall@business-advancement.co.uk)

### AUTUMN TERM 2005

#### NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

7 NOVEMBER 6:30-7:30 pm

### SPRING TERM 2006

#### NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

9 JANUARY 6:30-7:30 pm  
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 6:30-7:30 pm

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



31 October - 4 November

Wednesday 9 November

Saturday 3 December

Wednesday 14 December

Thursday 15 December

Monday 19 December

Tuesday 20 December

**Tuesday 20 December**

**Tuesday 3 January**

3-13 January

**Monday 16 January**

16-20 January

Thursday 26 January

Thursday 2 February

**13-17 February**

20-24 February

**Monday 27 February**

Tuesday 28 February

Monday 6 March

20-24 March

Wednesday 29 March

**Friday 31 March**

**Tuesday 18 April**

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

**Friday 21 July**

**L6 exams**

**Y10 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.**

P.A. Christmas Fayre

**U6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.**

Christmas by Candlelight

Carol Service (St. John's Northgate), 7:30 pm.

Carol Service (Holy Trinity Longlevens), 7:30 pm.

**Term ends, 12:45 pm.**

**Term starts, 8:40 am.**

**Trial GCSE exams (Y11)**

**In-Service Day (no school for pupils)**

Year 11 Work Experience week

6th Form Open Evening, 7:00 pm.

Y11 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

**Half-term holidays**

Trial A2 exams (U6)

**In-Service Day (no school for pupils)**

Y9 Parents' Evening, 6:00 pm.

Y7 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

Founder's Week

L6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

**Term ends, 12:45 pm.**

**Term starts, 8.40 a.m.**

Trial AS exams (L6)

Y8 Parents' Evening, 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)

**In-Service Day (no school for pupils)**

6th Form Induction Week

Sports Evening, 6:30 pm.

**Term ends, 12:45 pm.**