



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

News REEL

September 2005

New Pupils

We have 117 boys in Year 7 who join us from 50 primary schools. The new L6th has 133 students of whom 46 join us from other secondary schools. 40 of the L6th are girls, giving a total of 74 girls in our Sixth Form of 263 students. Total pupil numbers are 829 (compared with 806 in September 2004).



We start our new school year with morale high. The summer's examination results were excellent, staff are heartened by the successes, students were able to gain places on their desired courses and have laid strong foundations for further progress. The School remains popular, our numbers are high. Improvements to the buildings ensure we work in pleasant and well maintained surroundings. It is important to start with such impetus because this term is the longest and, in terms of coverage of work and setting standards, it is the most important for our students. We embark in high spirits, looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year.

Speech Day

Our Annual Speech Day and Prize giving will be held in the School Hall on Friday 23rd September at 7:30 pm. We are looking forward to welcoming back to Rich's Dr. James Methven as our Guest of Honour. James was a pupil here from 1980 to 1987 and is now Dean of Oriol College and a Tutor in English at Oxford University.

Attendance for all Y7 boys is obligatory. All parents are warmly invited to attend; Speech Day is one of the School's most important occasions on which we celebrate the achievements of the School and our pupils over the last year.

In order to help with seating arrangements please complete and return the slip on the back page of this NewsREEL. I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy the evening.

Examinations

We were delighted that our students recorded excellent results at all levels in the summer's public examinations.

GCSE

The 108 boys in Year 11 achieved a pass rate of 97.2%, all pupils gained at least six passes at grade C and above. The average number of passes at grade C+ per pupil was 9.97. 54% of all entries gained grades A and A*. Sixty two pupils each gained five or more passes at grades A and A*; ten pupils each gained eleven passes all at grades A/A*. The average points score (based on the new Government tariff of A*=58, A=52, B=46, etc.) was 498, which is equivalent to almost ten grade As per pupil.

The twenty four boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early, at the end of Year 10, all passed at grades A/A*.

AS

Our 129 Lower Sixth students achieved a pass rate of 99% in their AS examinations, 62% at grades A and B. Eighty four students each gained at least one grade A pass, thirty three students each gained three or more grade A passes.

A-LEVEL

The pass rate at A-level for our 99 students was 99.3%, the average number of A-levels gained per candidate was 3.9. 69% of all entries were passed at grades A and B. The average UCAS points score per candidate was 419.8 (based on grade A=120 points, B=100, C=80, etc.). Fifty seven students each gained at least one grade A pass, thirty six students each gained two or more grade A passes including thirteen who each gained four A grades and one who gained six grade As.

The school was again well placed in national newspaper 'league tables'. The Guardian ranked our A-level results as 35th in the country and we were 37th in The Independent. These positions are well above many more selective schools.

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



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

for the Academic Year September 2004 to August 2005
Published September 2005

Parents are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 4th October 2005, 6.00 p.m.
(subject to sufficient numbers indicating that they wish to attend,
please see bottom of page)

AGENDA

1. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 5th October 2004.
2. The 18th Annual Report of the Governors for 2004/2005.

Résumé of the 19th Annual Report of the Governors

All schools are required to produce an Annual Governors' Report and to make this available to all parents. If you would like a full copy of the Report these are available in school – please telephone or ask your son/daughter to collect a copy from the School Office – or it is on the school website (www.strs.org.uk, click on STRS Web Site, then From the Headmaster then the link, in red, to the 2004/5 Annual Report).

The Governing Body consists of eighteen Governors: four Local Education Authority appointees, four Community Governors, six Parent Governors, three Staff Governors and the Headmaster; Miss J. J. Wilton is Chairman of the Governors. Seven meetings of the full Governing Body were held during the year.

The Governing Body has established committees to review and advise on varying aspects of the school's management: these committees cover Finance, Personnel, Contracts, Buildings, Sports Hall Management and Curriculum. They work closely with the Headmaster and report back to the full Governing Body.

A selection of the main topics which have been addressed by the Governing Body are:-

Local Management of the School

The total income to the school for the financial year to 31st March 2005 was £3,221,294, expenditure was £3,034,235. Careful financial management and close control of expenditure enabled the school to remain within its budget whilst ensuring optimum provision of educational opportunities to all students.

Buildings

The Sports Hall and the swimming pool continued as very successful school and community sports facilities.

The Governors remain keen to ensure that the school provides the best possible learning environment. To this end the following improvements were effected: School Hall – new ceiling, lighting and redecoration; laboratory refurbishment; Dining Room refurbishment; external security cameras; installation of interactive whiteboards; new floor coverings; redecoration of classrooms, kitchen and corridors.

The Governors are indebted to the Parents' Association (which also pays for all running costs of the school minibuses) and to Gloucester United Charity for their financial support which enabled the completion of the above projects.

Curriculum

The Governors' Curriculum Committee, as well as overseeing developments in the curriculum provided, also reviews school policies on a rolling programme. Copies of all school policies are on the school website www.strs.org.uk and are held by the Clerk to the Governing Body.

The full Report contains a number of appendices which give further detail of the school year:

1. Academic Programme
2. Dates for 2005/6
3. Academic Policy
4. Pupils with Disabilities
5. Professional Development
6. Target Setting
7. 2005 Examination Results

AGM for Parents

Attendance by parents at the Governors' AGM has been very low for several years – typically only 3 or 4 parents have attended and no concerns have been raised. The Governing Body is required to hold an annual parents' meeting only if 15 or more parents request it. This year Governors ask any parents who wish to attend to inform the Bursar and Clerk to the Governors at School within 7 days of the issue of this letter. All parents who submit a request will be advised whether the meeting will be called.

Parent Survey

In April we issued questionnaires to all parents, seeking their views on a range of academic and whole-school issues. I am grateful to all parents who took the time to complete and return their questionnaire. We used a specialist company to analyse the results and their report has now been received. The report runs to 65 pages, with many graphs and tables. I am therefore only able to attempt a summary of the main points.

353 completed questionnaires were returned, a 44% response. Overwhelmingly the responses were extremely positive, 41% of parents thought the school had improved over the last year while only 2% thought that the school's performance was worse. Of the parents of new pupils, 18% said the school was better than they had expected it to be while only 1% felt that the school had not lived up to their expectations.

Parents were asked to rate their opinion of the delivery of academic subjects. 17 subjects received sufficient responses to be valid. A score of over 80% is considered exceptional, this was achieved by four subjects. A score of over 70% is considered successful, all 17 scored over 70%.

In the category of wider school issues, a score of over 75% is exceptional, this was achieved in the responses to 28 of the 30 criteria. Parents were most happy with the school's control of bullying, exam results and developing potential. A score of over 65% is successful, all criteria scored over 70%.

Parents gave an exceptionally high overall performance score (91%).

In the 'Additional Comments' section of the questionnaire many parents commented upon how happy and confident their children have been since starting at Rich's. However we are not complacent and we continually strive to improve. We shall address these issues which about half a dozen parents mentioned:

- Parents' Evenings involve much queuing;
- school meals offer limited choice;
- there is some inconsistency in homework (setting and marking).

The exercise was therefore reassuring, it is heartening to know that parents are generally pleased with their children's schooling at Rich's. Several parents commented that they appreciated the opportunity to give their views on the school. We intend to repeat the exercise every three or four years, alternating with a survey of students' views.

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).



Staff Changes

We welcomed the following teachers to our staff this term: Mrs. Banks (Head of Business Studies & Economics), Mr. Davies (Psychology, part-time), Mr. Haynes (Chemistry), Mrs. Horton (English), Mrs. James (Design & Technology), Mrs. Mee (Biology, part-time), Miss Preen (Geography), Mr. Williams (P.E./Games).

In addition Mr. Daniell is Head of Northgate and Mr. Sims is Head of Eastgate. We also have new pastoral positions: Mr. Gowler is Assistant Head of Key Stage 3, Mr. Gallagher is Assistant Head of Key Stage 4, Miss Brake is Head of L6th and Mr. Lockey is Head of U6th.

Senior Prefects

We were pleased to make the following appointments from amongst our Upper Sixth for this academic year. The students were presented with their gowns of office during a whole-school assembly.

School Captains:

Ciaran Conway and Hannah Healy.

Observers:

Nicholas Davies, Blake Kendrick, Aled Jones, Katherine Lyons, Rebecca Townsend, Harry Windsor.

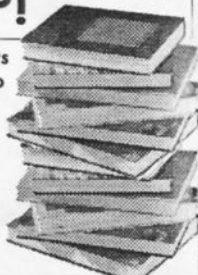
Buildings

Much work has been completed during the summer holidays on improving our educational environment. The Dining Area was completely refurbished, a new servery and eating area (for Sixth Form) have been created by the Sports Hall, a new ceiling, lighting and upper curtains have been installed in the Hall, a chemistry laboratory has been refurbished (thanks to a £40,000 grant from The Wolfson Foundation) as well as repainting of some classrooms, the installation of more display cabinets (replacing noticeboards along corridors) and the Ken Stephens temporary classroom has been removed. Our thanks to the Bursar and his support team for all their efforts.

HELP!

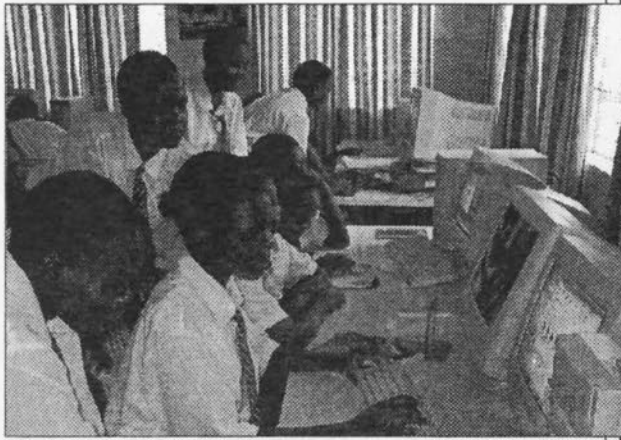
We are appealing to parents who work for publishers who can offer generous discounts on book orders from schools.

If you are able to help us in this quest, please kindly write to the School and tell us.



E-Mail from Uganda

We have received the following e-mail from one of the girls we sponsored at PMM School in Uganda. Annet completed her A-levels last year (they are taken in November/December in Uganda) and is now hoping to go to university.



Dear Sir,

I am appreciative and glad for having benefited from your school, as I was one of the 20 students who got the benefit through PMM girls' school where I completed my A-level in 2004 and I left the school for further studies.

My A-level results were as follows: -

B-in Economics, C-in History, C-in Divinity,

E-in Geography, C5-in General paper = Total 16 points.

Having missed by two points to be admitted on government sponsorship I decided to apply on private at MAKERERE BUSINESS SCHOOL for a Degree course in business administration but being an orphan who has no one to pay my fees I decided to get a job to enable me to raise my fees - only the money from the salary is too little to meet my school dues. In a year we have two semesters and each semester is one million shilling (£322) including all the school requirements and three hundred thousand (£98) for the hostel.

Through you sir I am requesting either you, the school or any other kind generous and merciful person to help me towards my struggle for a better future with all part of the fees.

MAY GOD BLESS AND REWARD YOU SIR PLUS THAT PERSON WHO IS WILLING TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Nandala

Annet Namukunye

Annet has to pay a total of £742 per year (£1=3100Ush). As a school we find we are just about able to meet the 20 girls' school fees. It would be fantastic if any parents could assist Annet in completing her education. If you feel able to help please contact us.

Uganda Update



During the first two weeks of the summer holidays, I had the privilege of visiting our link school, PMM Girls School in Jinja, Uganda.

The head teacher, Petronella Lujwala, Christine Musubika and Caroline Nambi did an excellent job as hosts and Christine organised a fascinating and varied programme for my visit which included outings to Kampala and Entebbe, Bujagali Falls and the source of the River Nile. I was also able to spend time in two primary schools and a boarding school and I soon discovered that the warm welcome I received from staff and pupils alike was typical of Ugandan hospitality.

Without doubt, one of the most memorable and enjoyable parts of my stay was the afternoon I spent with the twenty pupils we sponsor. It was heart-warming to see first hand what our fund raising efforts during Founder's Week mean to these girls, also known as the 'scholars' and what a difference it makes to their lives. I was able to speak to each one individually and they told me of their hobbies, favourite subjects and their hopes for the future which did not differ greatly from those of our pupils here at Rich's. The girls also explained the numerous House events they were involved in and I was pleased to see that the two schools also share the same healthy spirit of competition.

When the day came to leave Jinja, I said a sad goodbye to everyone at PMM. I had been welcomed into their community and I was truly humbled by their warmth and generosity. Our contribution means a great deal to the school, the computer lab is up and running and pupils make good use of books and equipment, nothing is taken for granted and it is touching to see the pride that the staff and pupils have in their link with us. Long may it continue.



Visit to Kunming, Yunnan Province, China
20th July - 8th August, 2005

Following the success of last year's trip to Beijing, five pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's (David Anderston, Michael Curllis, Huzaila Pandor, Martin Coe and Jennifer Bucknell) were able to take part this year in a Chinese Summer School Language Immersion programme in Kunming which is situated in the province of Yunnan (Beautiful clouds in the South). With 26 ethnic minority groups Yunnan is the most culturally diverse province in China.

The course represented a marvellous opportunity for the students to learn some Chinese, experience Chinese culture and form friendships. Staying in a hostel for international students at the University of Yunnan, we were well looked after by British Council staff, University staff and students and Middle School pupils.

The Opening ceremony, which took place in the grounds of a hotel overlooking the Dianchi Lake, gave us a taste of the enormous hospitality and friendliness we encountered throughout our stay. Welcoming speeches from important local dignitaries, tables bedecked with delicious food, displays of traditional dancing and music ensured for us a memorable evening.

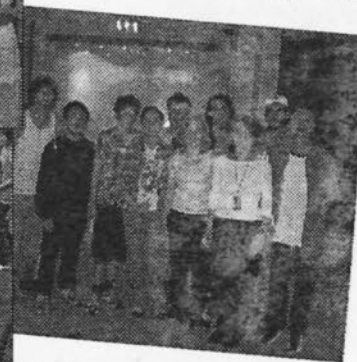
There were very memorable trips e.g. to Western Hill, a wooded park outside Kunming with some ancient temples, to the World Horti-Expo garden, a first class garden with typical Chinese and Yunnan characteristics, to the Juxiang Caves famous for the variety of their shapes and styles. Amongst the trips, however, the visit to the Stone Forest stood out. High grey rocks and pillars rise abruptly out of the ground pointing to the sky like a dense forest. It is a unique landform which began to take its shape about 170 million years ago and is breathtakingly beautiful.

Visits to local schools formed part of the programme and once again we encountered Chinese hospitality and enjoyed activities with the pupils such as sport, dancing and crafts. It was an excellent opportunity to engage in conversation with the Chinese pupils although our Chinese was frequently not up to the task.

On our return to England we were able to convert a long wait at Shanghai airport into an opportunity to travel on the modernistic maglev train and to get a glimpse of a very different city with its impressive modern buildings towering against the skyline.

It was in every way an unforgettable experience and memories of Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring, will always remain with us.

J. Hewett



Message from Head of Sports Department

Once again we are at the beginning of what should be a busy and enjoyable year for those involved in Physical Education and Sport. To help things run smoothly I would ask for your support in the following matters:

Would you please ensure that your son/daughter has the correct school kit for lessons and all matches in our quest to maintain the high standards we always aspire to.

Once again we need to have consent forms returned to school for participation in extra-curricular activities and these should be arriving home soon. A prompt reply will help us with our organising of such events.

This year we will be collecting Tesco Sport Vouchers (see letter on next page) and a collection box will be placed in the entrance foyer for these.

The use of mouth guards has been made voluntary and is therefore down to individual choice. We do however strongly recommend the wearing of mouth guards for Rugby and Hockey. For those who have ordered OPRO mouth guards there will be a fitting by the OPRO Technician on Thursday 15th September at 1:15 pm. Boys should be at the back of the hall by 1:10 pm.

Shin pads are compulsory for both football and hockey.

Thank you for your support last year. We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead for the staff and pupils alike.



End of Term

After our July NewsREEL went to press, we held our final assembly on the last day of term. As well as Miss Wilton, the Chairman of Governors, we were pleased to welcome Grant Hodnett from Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. Grant is a South African opening batsman. He presented cups, colours and certificates. Grant also presented the Cock House Trophy to **Joe Taunton** on behalf of Eastgate. After twenty inter-House competitions through the school year, the final positions were: Eastgate (68½ points), Southgate (63), Westgate (58), Northgate (47).

P BROWN

Swimming Nationals

Year 9 pupil **James Broady** qualified last year for the GB age group swimming championships in Sheffield, where he finished 6th in the 100m breast stroke and 8th in the 200m breast stroke.

This year, after increased training, he has improved his entry times dramatically in both events. **Tom White** (Y11) participated in a higher age group achieving the 12th fastest time.



James Broady

44th Explorer Scout Unit

The school's Explorer Scout Unit - the 44th - spent a week in southwest Ireland during the summer break where they climbed Ireland's highest peak Carrangouhills (3411ft), part of MacGillycuddy's Reeks. They also did some rock climbing by the Gap of Dunloe, made a big splash at the Aqua Dome in Tralee, cycled up over the Healy Pass, fished - successfully! - for their own supper (but you should've seen the one that got away!), celebrated with a local Hurling team their mighty Cup victory and just enjoyed the 'craic' wherever they rested their billet.

TESCO SPORT

FOR SCHOOLS & CLUBS



2005

Dear Parent,

We would like to let you know that we are taking part in the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs scheme.

Just like Computers for Schools, you can collect vouchers at Tesco to pass onto us. We can then exchange them for a broad range of sports equipment, from beanbags and footballs to cricket sets and trampolines - or professional coaching sessions. All of which will help us help your children to enjoy sport.

By taking part in the scheme we could even win a coaching session with one of the three star athletes supporting the scheme, Frank Lampard, Paula Radcliffe and Jason Robinson.

The scheme is running from the 12th September until 6th November 2005. You can help us by collecting Sport for Schools and Clubs vouchers whenever you shop at Tesco. You can collect one voucher for every £10 you spend when shopping in any Tesco store or Tesco petrol station, and when buying your groceries online. Ask your nearest Tesco store if you would like more details.

As ever, we really appreciate your help.

Yours faithfully,

www.tesco.com/sport

AUTUMN TERM 2005

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

19 SEPTEMBER 6:30-7:30 pm
7 NOVEMBER 6:30-7:30 pm

SPRING TERM 2006

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

9 JANUARY 6:30-7:30 pm
8 MARCH 6:30-7:30 pm
** PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE OF DATES**

SUMMER TERM 2006

ACCOMMODATION WANTED for Foreign Language Assistants

3 Foreign Language Assistants will be arriving at the end of this month and I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who might be able to offer them temporary accommodation.

J Hewett

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 6 September
Friday 23 September
Tues/Weds 11/12 October
Wednesday 12 October
Monday 17 October
24-28 October
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
29 May - 2 June
Monday 22 May
12 - 30 June
22 - 28 June
Thursday 29 June
3 - 7 July
Thursday 6 July
Friday 21 July

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
Speech Day, 7:30 pm
Open Days
Open Evening, 6:00 pm
Informal Y7 Parents' Evening, 7:00 pm
Half-term holidays
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 am
Trial AS exams (L6)
Y8 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm
May Day Bank Holiday
SATs exams (Y9)
AS exams (L6)
Half-term holidays
GCSE exams start (Y11)
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

You can find the 2005/6 calendar on the schools website:

www.stfs.org.uk

Annual Speech Day

23rd September 2005

Would you kindly send me



tickets for the Annual
Speech Day.



Pupils' Name:

Pupils' Form:

Parents' signature: