



1666

SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

NewsREEL

FEBRUARY 2006



The Government's annual "School Attainment Tables" were published last month. It is, of course, heartening to see that our students achieve good results and that the School is 'adding value'. We were pleased to receive a letter of congratulation from the Schools Minister, Jacqui Smith MP. However the figure which gives me as much satisfaction as the examination results is the absence rate, at 3.3% it is significantly the lowest of all the county's schools. It suggests that pupils want to be at school, that they find being in school, learning, as relevant, enjoyable and interesting which is a credit to the quality of the teaching and the environment of Sir Thomas Rich's.

Honours

The traditional award of Honours is made each year to students who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the School. At the final assembly of last term we were delighted to present Honours to the following members of our U6th:

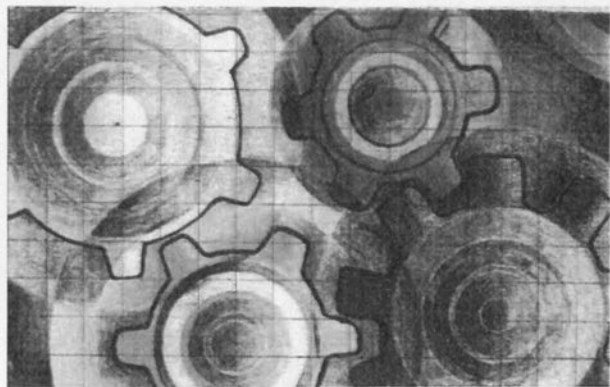
Jon Roskilly and **Scott Yearsley** (for contributions to drama and across a wide range of music), **James Hyett-Hudman** and **Seb Parlett** (for untold hours helping to keep our computer system functioning), **Aled Jones** (for coaching junior rugby teams) and **Ciaran Conway** (for coaching junior cricket teams).

Oxbridge

Congratulations to the following members of our U6th who have received offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities: **Peter Butler** (to read Economics at Queens' College, Cambridge); **Tom Shearer** (Maths, Emmanuel, Cambridge); **Tim Gossage** (Engineering, Fitzwilliam, Cambridge); **Mark Page** (Geography, Worcester, Oxford); **Stuart Mason** (Law, Wadham, Oxford).



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



Mural

Visitors will have noticed the mural which now adorns a wall in the entranceway to the school. This was the winning design, compiled by **Jack Vickery (11B)**, which resulted from a competition held in school. The mural brightens what was a featureless area of the school.

Performance Tables

Last month the Government's GCSE and A-level school performance tables were published, based on the 2005 results. The main figures for Rich's were:

- ✓ % gaining 5 or more GCSE passes at grades A*-C = 100%
- ✓ KS2 to KS4 value added = 1020.5
(in top 25% of schools nationally)
- ✓ KS3 to KS4 value added = 1007.5
(in top 40% of schools nationally)
- ✓ Absence = 3.3%
- ✓ A-level average point score per student = 421.0
(based on A=120, B=100, C=80, etc.)
- ✓ A-level average point score per entry = 93.7

Parents' Evenings

The new appointment system continues to meet with parents' approval. After the Y11 evening over 90% of responses were favourable, a few parents had no preferences and only one preferred the old system.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Sainsbury's has started its 'Active Kids' voucher scheme again. If parents collect these vouchers we would be pleased to receive them - there is a collection box in our entrance foyer. Many thanks to parents who donated their vouchers last year, which enabled us to order P.E. mats and two table tennis tables.



Carol Service

Thank you to all parents and pupils who supported our Carol Services at the end of last term. The collections raised £151 at St. John's Northgate and £213 at Holy Trinity Church. These were donated to church restoration and the Pakistan Earthquake Appeal respectively.

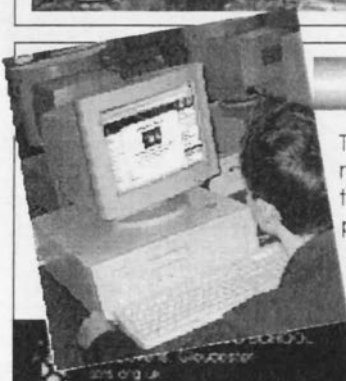
Y9 GCSE Geology Fieldwork

On the Monday afternoon before the half term break 15 Y9 geologists, accompanied by Mr Green and Mr Carter, had their first taste of working in the field when they visited 2 local sites at Bromsberrow and Wiford. They made sketches of the exposures, identified the rocks and structures and collected samples of the different sandstones in order to carry out some further analysis in the laboratory. GCSE Geology is taught on three lunchtimes per week and the course is completed in one year.

CDAC

www.strs.org.uk

The school website has achieved the milestone of receiving 1 million hits since its launch in March 2004. Many thanks to all who have contributed to its success. It has proved to be a fantastic source of reliable information for everything from term dates to photo diaries of trips. If you've never seen it, it's well worth a look!



Home School Info Subjects Language Options Library News Links External Links

Welcome to Sir Thomas Rich's School...

... and welcome to our website. We hope that you will find all you need on its pages. First, please **contact us**.

To create more space on the screen and improve presentation, we have changed the way you log on to the website. You will see a new LOGON button in the top-left corner of your screen. Feedback about this change would be much appreciated. info@strs.org.uk

By having a password system this website enables us to share resources, discuss issues and communicate internally because teachers can use a calendar system, discussion boards, news headlines and more to communicate directly with members of their classes if they so wish. Pupils are asked to share their usernames and passwords with their parents so that they have access to information not possible to the general public.

[Click here to go to the headteacher's welcome page](#)

Request to Pupils...

We need your e-mail address(es) if you like us to make

part of the 'Communication from Parliament' use available to all members of the school. Members of staff will help you with a Request Status (RTPS) on joining the Member for Gloucester and the Essex. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Recent updates

Several of our pages have all together for section on the Blandford trip. What it took in roofing and paint, we hope it makes up for it. [Click here](#)

We have had a new Commission career guidance on week 6 June 2005. [Click here](#) or visit the [Careers](#) homepage.

The main menu

- Home
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IOM3

This term we have been privileged to welcome Dr Diane Talbot to the Design & Technology department to talk to the students about "Modern/Smart Materials". Diane is an extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic materials engineer who works for the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining [IOM3], promoting the importance of materials engineering and engineering careers in general. She gave a lecture to our Y11 and 6th form Design & Technology students about a fascinating array of modern materials ranging from "Silly Putty" to "Nitinol" a shape memory alloy. She brought with her many examples of weird and wonderful materials and objects for us to look at, and more importantly to handle and hold. Few of us will forget the SMA wire which when placed in hot water turned into a spring, the evil Titanium Alloy mouth brace or the thermo-chromatic kettle which changed colour when it boiled. We look forward to welcoming Diane again in the future!

Arkwright Sponsorship

Five of our Y11 Design & Technology students have applied to the Arkwright foundation for sponsorship to help

support their A-level studies in Design & Technology and ultimately to a future career in engineering. The Arkwright foundation was set up to promote engineering as a career and encourage students to study subjects which would lead them into such a career. The Arkwright foundation and the sponsorship scheme is supported by many companies such as BAe Systems, The Ford Motor Company and Rolls Royce. The application process is extremely thorough, as students first have to complete an application form, sit an examination and attend interview at one of four colleges around the country. If successful the students will receive a sum of money to help support their AS and A level studies in school and will be linked for advice to one of the support companies. The examination was held in school on the 8th February and if successful the interviews will take place in March and April. We wish all the students the best of luck!

Tesco Computers for Schools 2006

The 15th year of the Tesco computers for schools scheme for 2006 begins in March. Last year we were able to use our vouchers to buy another new computer with a flat screen monitor, which is now installed into the system in G7. We really appreciate the support we have received, as the numerous pieces of equipment we have purchased over the years using this scheme have been of tremendous benefit to the students and staff at the school. I look forward to your continued support again this year. A collection box will be placed in reception or you can pass your vouchers directly to Mr Hancock or Mrs James where they will be gratefully received.

Youth Parliament, Gloucestershire



Gloucester and the Forest Constituency

Results as announced on 1st February
2006

Kingston Myles was elected as
Member of the Youth Parliament
for the above constituency.

Congratulations Kingston!

Congratulations also go to **David Anderton** and **Jon Springer**, the other candidates, for their hard work.



**WE ARE COMMITTED
TO RECYCLING**

Careers Fayre

In conjunction with the High School for Girls, Denmark Road, a successful Careers Fayre was delivered. Exhibitions from a wide range of fields were involved and thanks must go to Chris Simons of the High School for organising the event.

P D Lloyd

Recycled Christmas Cards

Thank you for your old cards. We had three sacks of them. They have been divided between The Woodland Trust and the Cobalt Unit at Cheltenham Hospital.

Please remember that you can still recycle stamps, mobile phones and printer cartridges!

We would welcome any ideas on how best to recycle the large amounts of cardboard that we accumulate.

J M Arnold

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

There are 37 participants starting the Bronze Award this year and 11 starting the Silver Award (of whom 4 are new entrants). We are also grateful to five members of staff who are helping out with the award for the first time this year - Mr. Haynes, Mrs. James, Mr. Pack, Miss Preen and Mrs Prinsep. Training sessions are now under way on Tuesday evenings and we will be holding our annual Sponsored Orienteering event on the first Saturday in March. The money raised from this will be split equally between the unit's equipment funds and the Uganda link and we are grateful for your support in sponsoring participants.

Congratulations go to the following boys who have received their certificates and badges in assembly since September:

Silver: **Simon St. John Green, James Wilson, Mark Page, Stuart Mason, Jonathan Morley**

Bronze: **James Hewlett, Richard Young, Thomas Towers, Adam Ford, Ellis Thompson, Hilary Wise, Michael Brook, Matthew Broadhead**

D A Dempsey

Rugby



Sports' Tour to Australia July 2007

There has been a magnificent response to the Tour so far with over 30 of our Y10 and Y11 rugby players signed up for the trip. The plan is to take both a U17 Rugby and Senior Netball squad on the 17-day, 4-match tour, which will be centred in Brisbane, the Hunter Valley and Sydney. We are hoping to help fund the trip through sponsorship and by organising a number of fund-raising events in the next 18 months; in connection with this I would welcome the support of any parents who may have any ideas or contacts in either of these areas.

C D A Carter

U15 Rugby

This term the U15's recorded two excellent victories in the *Daily Mail* Vase. They beat Beaufort School 48-5 and Watford Grammar School 18-0. However, they were finally beaten in the competition by the Royal Latin School 13-8 in the fifth round. Well done to all boys involved.

Y7 Rugby

P	W	L	D	F	A
4	4	-	-	138	22

The Y7 team have made a very pleasing start to their season with a string of good victories. In all matches the squad has committed themselves well and their defence has been tenacious. However, it has been the ability of the backs to score from anywhere on the pitch that has made them a handful for the opposition.

V BOURNSIDE

The team began their season very well with a convincing 49-0 victory. A combination of good driving forward play and good handling from the backs proved too much for Bournside. Excellent defensive work also made things difficult for Bournside and the school were able to pressure them into mistakes.

V MARLING

This was a close hard fought match despite the 31-0 score line to school. The Marling forwards had the better of the early exchanges and the school were forced to defend for long periods. However, when the school had possession there was too much place in the back line and they were able to score at regular intervals.

V BRISTOL GRAMMAR

Bristol put the school under pressure from the outset and it was only two long range breakaway tries that kept the school in the game. Turning around leading by 14-10 was very much against the run of play. The second half was much improved as the forwards began to dominate and so created more space for the backs. Two further tries for the school and a late score for Bristol completed what was a very high quality game with the school winning by 24-17.

V PATE'S SCHOOL

In an excellent game of rugby in which both teams played their parts to the full, it was the extra pace and striking ability of the schools backs that made the difference. The final score of 34-5 did not reflect the run of play but showed the good defensive work of the school combined with a potent attack.

I J Gallagher

House Rugby

The House Rugby competition was held at the end of last term. The Senior event was won by Southgate, who managed a 100% record, the other Houses were level with one win each. It was a clean sweep for Southgate who also won the Junior Rugby competition, topping the table in all three Year groups.

We were pleased to welcome Pete Glanville to our final assembly to present the House rugby cups together with rugby colours and other awards. Pete was a Gloucester RFC player for many years, he rose to be Captain and was selected for England "A", he is now Director of Rugby at Cinderford RFC and has taken them into the National League.

Pete also presented the Mervyn Moody Trophy for First XV Player of the Season to Oliver Priest.

STR SPORTS CENTRE

WANT TO KEEP FIT?

The following activities are run weekly at the school and are open to anyone who wishes to take part. For more information either contact the organiser on the telephone number shown or our

**Sports Centre Manager,
Tony Barton on 01452 338439.**



Fitness Suite

Monday - Friday	1530-2200
Saturday / Sunday	1000-1500

Gymnasium

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	AGE	TELEPHONE
Monday	1630-1730	Tae Kwon Do	4-12	07715 953775
	1830-1930	Aerobics	16+	07766 947085
	2000-2100	Circuit Training	16+	07766 947085
Tuesday	1615-1915	Soccer Training	5-11	07980 699491
	1930-2030	Circuit Training	16+	01452 531257
Wednesday	1545-1800	Gymnastics	5-12	01452 521132
	1830-1930	Circuit Training	16+	07766 947085
	1930-2100	Samurai Karate	4+	07971 584901
Thursday	1830-1930	Circuit Training	16+	01452 531257
Friday	1600-1830	Gymnastics	5-12	01452 521132
Saturday	1000-1430	Samurai Karate	4+	07971 584901
Sunday	1000-1300	Table Tennis	5+	01452 338439
	1400-1800	Archery	5+	01453 758982

If there are other activities that you may be interested in or if you are not sure of what would best suit you, please contact Tony Barton on 01452 338439.

English Speaking Union Public Speaking Contest

Gloucestershire Round

On Tuesday 7 February the STRS public speaking team went into action in the council chamber in Cheltenham, having won through from the local area rounds. Facing very strong competition from four other local schools, our team - **Tom Chapple, Jon Maxted** and **Adam McNally** - gave an excellent presentation on the topic 'Eccentricity is a quality to be valued'.

Adam McNally was presented with the award for 'best questioner', and a number of those present commented on the very high quality of the team's overall performance. Over the course of a number of these competitions each member of this team has now been awarded the 'best' speaker / chair / questioner award.

Our current team had the best chance of going further than any team I've worked with in the past few years - but it was their misfortune to come up against one of the strongest teams the Cheltenham Ladies' College has recently produced, and it will be the Ladies' College who go through to the regional round.

Adam and Tom will also be supporting **Peter Butler** (U6) in the forthcoming Cheltenham Rotary Club competition, and then this latter team will be defending their 'winner's' title at the Cheltenham Arts Festival later in the year.

S Pickard

Nearly New Uniform—Important Notice

NEXT SALE WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2006

Time of opening 6:30 - 7:30 pm

PLEASE! Are there any Mums out there who would like to help with the nearly new sales? You need not come to every sale and there are only seven sales per year.

It would be such a shame to find NNU closing so if you would like to know what is involved with the sales, please telephone Bev on 01242 524344.

In 2005 we were able to give £400 straight back into school funds so our time is well rewarded.

FUTURE SALE DATES

Monday 24 April 2006 6:30 - 7:30 pm Saturday 1 July
2006 10:00 am - 12 midday

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

If you need any particular items any time or cannot get to the sale, please telephone Bev Hughes on 01242 524344.

Thank you to all parents who support us especially in supplying and buying!



Aachen Work Experience Exchange



Europäische Berufspraktika in Gloucester

9 bis 13 Januar 2006

This week ten Aachen students from the Pius Gymnasium school visited and took up various work experience positions in and around Gloucester. Some found themselves working as teacher assistants in several junior and primary schools, a couple worked at local hotels getting a broad experience of hotel operations; architectural design offices provided worthwhile placements for two others and one gained a thorough and interesting insight into the graphics design and commercial printing industry at Severn Print.

The work experience providers were well impressed with their charges, especially their extensive command of the spoken English language. The school wishes to thank those schools and businesses which undertook the German students' work experience provision and especially those people directly involved in their supervision.

B Testoni-Ranken

Languages Promotional Day




Compared with our European neighbours Britain has a poor record for learning languages. In an increasingly international work environment it would be erroneous to assume that in the future we can compete effectively without language skills.

The Languages Promotional Day aimed to demonstrate to our pupils the importance of languages today in the world of work. After a plenary session by Penny Krucker, International Education Officer for Gloucestershire, on Languages "a passport to the world", pupils had the opportunity to ask a panel of businessmen and a careers advisor their views. This was followed by the opportunity to sample a lesson in a less commonly taught language. Dutch, Greek, Swahili, Italian, Mandarin Chinese and Russian were all on offer.

We were pleased to welcome on this occasion pupils from Barnwood Park and Brockworth Enterprise School.

J Hewett



Diary Dates.

The Parents' Association met on January 31st and set a Calendar of dates for the year. We hope to upload this to the website soon, but in the meantime, you will see them incorporated into the Diary Dates in this Newsletter. **Please take a few minutes to transfer these dates to your calendar/diary.**

Autumn Ball - Saturday 14th October.

Car Boot Sales - 11th March, 13th May and 8th July.

As always, we need help with the planning and running of these events. Perhaps you could donate a few hours on one of the Saturdays to help direct traffic? Or perhaps you could deliver some leaflets, in the area local to the school, promoting the events?

The other thing which helps ENORMOUSLY, is putting a flyer in the back window of your car, or in your local Shops, Library, Community Centre, Place of Worship etc. If you're happy to do this, please e-mail me:-

Sali@business-advancement.co.uk
or ring 01452 621775.

Thank you. Sali Gray. (Chair)

Suttons Seeds

Please find enclosed a copy of this year's Seed catalogue, together with an order form. You can plan your summer garden from the comfort of your armchair - what could be easier, or more pleasant? Simply complete the enclosed order form and return it to school, in a sealed envelope, with a cheque made payable to STRS PA, **by Friday 24th February**. Please address the envelope to Sali Gray STRS PA. If you're posting it, the address is Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF. The seeds will be delivered directly to you, from Suttons. Thank you for your support.

Swimming

All Parents and pupils are invited to join our Friday evening swimming sessions between **6:30 pm—8:30 pm** at STRS. Lifetime family membership is only £10 and each session thereafter costing a token £1 per adult and 50p for school-age children.

It's an ideal time as it's not too busy and you can swim 'seriously' or splash about having a chat in the shallows.

Car Boot Banner

It would be fantastic to have a Banner to promote our Car Boot Sales and we wondered whether any parent could help with this, please. Do you have a company which produces them, a contact who could do you a favour, a generous employer, or perhaps you were the £500,000 Gloucester Lottery

Winner recently, in which case perhaps you would like to donate one? Please contact Sali 01452 621775

with any offers. Thank you.

PA NEWS



JANUARY WINNER: Mrs R Kittle

"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

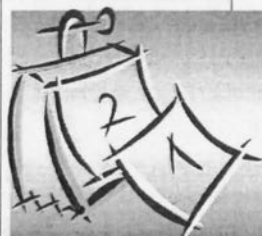
School Secretary's Office.

Silent Auction.

The Silent Auction, which takes place at the Christmas Fayre, has grown from strength to strength and this year raised an amazing £2700. Many thanks to Liz Young who has grown this event for us, but Liz now needs to pass it on to someone else. Could you take it on? It does need around four people, working together and supporting each other, to make it successful. Perhaps you have some 'new ideas' on how to take it forward? Perhaps you would prefer to organise a 'stand alone' Promise Auction? This event has always been well supported by parents, with around 50% of the bids arriving in advance of the day.

Does this inspire you?

If you think you may be interested, and would like to find out more, please contact Liz Young on lizyoung@strs.org.uk or Sali Gray on sali@business-advancement.co.uk This is a lot of money for the school to lose, if nobody takes on the role, so please do consider it.



Dates for the Diary

NEARLY NEW

UNIFORM SALES

8 MARCH

6:30-7:30 pm

24 APRIL

6:30-7:30 pm

1 JULY

10:00-12:00 noon

CAR BOOT SALES

11 MARCH

2:00-4:00 pm

13 MAY

2:00-4:00 pm

8 JULY

2:00-4:00 pm

SPRING TERM 2006

13-17 February

20-24 February

Monday 27 February

Tuesday 28 February

Monday 6 March

Weds 8 March

Monday 13 March

20-24 March

Wednesday 29 March

Friday 31 March

Half-term holidays

Trial A2 exams (U6)

In-Service Day

(no school for pupils)

Y9 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

Y7 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

Nearly New uniform sale,

6:30-7:30 pm.

L6 & Parents, Higher Education

Evening, 7:30 pm.

Founder's Week

L6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

Term ends, 12:45 pm.

SUMMER TERM 2006

Tuesday 18 April

18-24 April

Wednesday 19 April

Monday 24 April

Monday 1 May

2-5 May

15 May - 9 June

Monday 22 May

12 - 30 June

22 - 28 June

Thursday 29 June

Saturday 1 July

3 - 7 July

Thursday 6 July

Friday 21 July

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.

Trial AS exams (L6)

Y8 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.

Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm.

May Day Bank Holiday

SATs exams (Y9)

AS exams (L6)

GCSE exams start (Y11)

A2 exams (U6)

School Exams (Y7-10)

In-Service Day

(no school for pupils)

Nearly New Uniform,

10:00-12:00 am.

Sixth Form Induction Week

Sports Evening, 6:30 pm.

Term ends, 12:45 pm.