



FREE DRESS DAY 6th OCTOBER

This year's charities are:

AUTUMN TERM

The Camphill Family
(Creates communities for vulnerable children and adults with learning difficulties)

SPRING TERM

Royal National Lifeboat Institute
(Saving lives on our waterways and at sea)

SUMMER TERM

The Ugandan PMM School
(STR sponsors the education of 20 Ugandan Girls)
Plus a small contribution to WATERAID

We start the new school year with optimism and in good morale. The summer's examination results were excellent, our students have built firm foundations for the next stage of their education and careers. The school continues to be popular, over-subscribed for entry in both Y7 and the 6th Form. Further developments and improvements to the buildings ensure we have good facilities and work in a pleasant environment. And so we embark upon the longest, and hence most important, term in high spirits.

STAFF CHANGES

We bade farewell to the following teachers at the end of last term:

- **Mr Hanney**, who retired in 2001 from full-time teaching after 34 years at Rich's, but then continued on a part-time basis, decided to enjoy full retirement. Mr Hanney will be greatly missed, he was a tremendous character whose teaching record and achievements are outstanding.
- **Mr Bowie** has followed Mr Hanney's path: having joined Rich's in 1981 Mr. Bowie became our Head of Science, he is another teacher with a superb record. He has ceased full-time teaching but we are pleased that he is continuing on a part-time basis.
- **Mr Crewe** joined Rich's in 1999 as Head of Business Studies & Economics then became our Head of ICT. He has moved to Salzburg in Austria.
- **Mrs Horton** only joined Rich's last year, teaching English, but has left to take up a Deputy Headship in Bristol.

We remain indebted to all four teachers for their dedication and hard work.

We welcomed the following new teachers this term: **Miss Hake** (Biology), **Mr Lynch** (Business Studies/Economics), **Mr Parker** (English) and **Mr Robson** (Mathematics).

Other staff changes:

- **Mr Piercy** joins our Art Department part-time, following Mrs Cormack-Hicks' decision to go to part-time teaching;
- **Mr Lewis** and **Mr Dempsey** jointly take responsibility for ICT at Rich's;
- **Mr Haynes** takes over from Mr Lewis as Head of Southgate;
- **Mr Morgan** is Acting Head of Biology during Mrs Zurick's maternity leave;
- **Mr Butcher** returns to teach Chemistry and **Ms Prinsep** is Acting Head of Chemistry while Mr Birkett recovers from illness;

Mr Boon joins our team of technicians, with joint responsibilities in Science and in ICT.

NEW PUPILS

We have 115 boys in Y7 who join us from 64 different primary schools. The new L6th has 133 students of whom 46 join us from other secondary schools. 36 of the L6th are girls, giving a total of 72 girls in our 6th Form of 254 students. Total pupil numbers are 820 (compared with 829 in September 2005).

SENIOR PREFECTS

We were pleased to make the following appointments from amongst our U6th for this academic year. The students were presented with their gowns of office during a whole-school assembly on the first morning of term:

School Captain: **Jonathon Lowe**
Vice Captain: **William Middleton**
Observers: **Paul Edwards**, **Amy Johnson**,
Agnieszka Nohawica.

NewsREEL



EXAMINATIONS

We were delighted that our students recorded excellent results in this summer's public examinations.

GCSE

The 111 boys in Y11 achieved a pass rate of 97.1%, all pupils gained at least five passes at grade C and above. The average number of passes at grade C+ per pupil was 9.82. 58.9% of all entries gained grades A and A*. 21 boys each gained 10 or more passes at A and A*; three boys passed all their eleven or twelve GCSEs at grade A*. The overall points score (based on A*=58, A=52, B=46, etc.) was 506 (compared with 498 last year), which is equivalent to almost ten grade A's per pupil.

The 30 Y10 boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early, at the end of Y10, all passed at grades A/A*. Well done to Michael Parry who was amongst the top ten students for the examination board Edexcel in GCSE mathematics. The R.S. GCSE short-course examination, also taken at the end of Y10, had a 97% pass rate at grade C+ with 51.5% achieving grades A and A*.

The fifteen Y9 boys who took their GCSE Geology examination after studying at lunch-times through the year all passed at grade C and above with ten gaining grades A/A*.

'AS' LEVEL

Our 130 L6th students achieved a pass rate of 95.7% in their 'AS' examinations, 47.7% at grades A and B. 59 students each gained at least one grade A pass, 37 students each gained two or more grade A passes.

'A' LEVEL

The 128 U6th students achieved a pass rate of 99.5% with 64.7% at grades A and B. The average number of 'A' levels passed per student was 4.1. The average UCAS points score per candidate was 435.6 (based on grade A=120 points, B=100, C=80, etc.). 78 students each gained at least one grade A pass, 44 students each gained two or more grade A passes including 12 who each gained four grade A's and 2 who each gained five A's. Well done to Alexander Curtis who was amongst the top ten students for the examination board Edexcel in 'A' level Design.

These were our best ever A-level results. We were ranked 23rd of all state schools in The Guardian and in The Independent, well above many more selective schools.

BUILDINGS

As usual there has been much activity during the summer holidays to ensure the best possible learning environment for our students. The 4-classroom extension to the W J Veale Language Centre is progressing and continues to be on course for completion by half-term next month. The Preparation Room serving the Chemistry and Physics laboratories has been completely redeveloped, making a large, airy space much better suited to the demands on our Science Technicians. Improvements to the changing rooms have just been completed. Decoration has improved several areas, including the corridor past the Staff Room, outside the Sports Hall a number classrooms. We also had an improved electricity supply installed, following several power cuts last winter.

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, Chairman of Governors, we were delighted to welcome back Grant Hodnett from Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. Grant presented colours, certificates and cups. It was an excellent season for school cricket teams with almost unprecedented success: the U13, U14 and U15 teams all won their Gloucester City Cup competitions; the U15s enjoyed an outstanding season, they were undefeated and also won the County Cup. Mr Pitel and Mr Daniell ran a junior indoor cricket competition, won by Westgate. In the outdoor House Cricket events Northgate won the junior cup and Southgate the senior cup. The House Tennis event was also completed at the end of term, resulting in victory for Southgate.

At the end of 22 inter-House events the final scores were Eastgate 55.5 points; Westgate 57.5 points; Northgate 66 points, Southgate 81 points. Southgate's House Captain Richard Duxbury was presented with the Cock House Trophy.

**Sir Thomas Rich's,
Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF.
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SpanishREEL

Y9 Trip To Ribadesella – July 2006

Arriving at school we waited eagerly for the bell to ring, so we could get on the coach. Once we were on board, we made a prompt start on our journey to Ribadesella. With the coach full of singing and excited pupils we approached Stansted Airport at two in the afternoon and we waited patiently to board the plane. We took off on time and arrived at Santander at 5:55pm. We then got on another coach, which took us for the third part of our journey. We arrived at the hotel at 8:30 pm. All hungry, we ate dinner at nine. We then spent some time getting to know our way around the town. Some of us had a friendly game of football against the locals and got back to the hotel for 10:30 pm. We were all in bed by 11:00pm, so the teachers thought...moving on!

The next day we were woken up early and promptly had breakfast at 8:00 am. The coach picked us up at nine and we made our way to the lovely "Picos de Europa" National Park to do the walk along the famous Cares Gorge (Garganta Divina). There was lots of fascinating wildlife. The views were phenomenal and most of us, if not all, fully appreciated the wonderful sightings. We saw a crazy mountain goat which nearly attacked us. The walk was exhausting, but enjoyable. Half way along, the men were separated from the boys, as the "men" went a further 2 miles. The "boys" went back to the coach. We all gathered back at the coach and made our way to 'Arenas de Cables' where we visited the smelly but interesting Cheese Cave. We were all told how this strange cheese was made and matured and we also got a taste of the Cables cheese. After dinner tonight and every other night we had to have our diaries and written tasks checked before we were allowed out. There was a long queue and some people got sent back to write more.

On Wednesday we stayed in Ribadesella, to fully get to know the place, meet new local people and practise our Spanish. With an early start we went to the beach, to make our sand-castles. There were many different sculptures made, including a sand car, a fort, a turtle and a hole which was miraculously transformed into a stadium! All finished ready for the judging. The hole won. Later in the day we relaxed in the beach, playing a few games such as; rugby, football, cricket and tennis/volleyball.

On Thursday we visited Oviedo, the capital city of Asturias, for a town-trail during which we practised our Spanish on local people. For lunch, most of us went to MacDonald's, but others went into other restaurants to try Spanish food. After lunch, we shopped in the city and relaxed in the park.

Canoeing was the main activity on Friday. The coach picked us up at 10:00 am and dropped us off 10 miles upstream from Ribadesella. We all paired off and jumped into a canoe. At first it was calm and it wasn't too bad, but then suddenly the rapids came, many of us nearly capsizing. We were given watertight



containers to put our spare clothes in. After 6 hours of canoeing a race took place. After we all finished we went back to Ribadesella where we were free to do whatever we wanted. Some went to the beach, some went to play football but a small number went indoors to play on video games because they got sunburnt!

The Saturday was our final full day in Ribadesella. We visited the Cuevas (caves) de Tito Bustillo where we saw prehistoric cave paintings which were really interesting and had deep meanings! We learnt how they made the colours, how the cave was formed. After we visited the caves we had spare time, again most went to the beach and played games or went shopping. At dinner the teachers told us who won the competitions. This included tidiest room (I got dirtiest room), best sand-castle, winners of the town trail and the person who made the most effort to communicate with the locals. When night came, we met up with our Spanish friends ...(cough)...girls...(cough) and took last-minute photos of them.

Dilen Vadher 9T



Overall the trip was immense, the weather was great, and the people were very friendly. I would love to go again! With a big thank you to Señor Hearn, and Señorita Brake, Mr Williams and Mr Crumblehulme.

Dilen Vadher 9T

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UgandaREEL

2006 Visit By Miss Preen To PMM Girl's School, Jinja, Uganda

July 17th - depart from the UK with Miss Nambi to fly to Entebbe, Uganda via Dubai and Nairobi, an epic journey!

July 18th - arrived in Uganda and was fortunate enough to have my own guide in Miss Nambi. PMM Girls' had arranged for us to be collected for the 2 hour journey East to Jinja.

July 19th - the first day at school, a 15 minute walk from the hotel and a lot of "hello's" on the way. I had been taught the Ugandan for hello which surprised a lot of the local children! The morning was spent meeting the headmistress, Mrs Lujwala, and her deputies. This was a chance to learn more about the history of the school and the education system in Uganda. I also met Mr Arubu, Director of Studies, who was to be my principal guide during my time in Jinja. I was then able to tour the school, meeting many of the staff along the way, before sitting down to lunch and my first taste of matoke (boiled and mashed green banana) and posho (ground maize cooked in water). In the afternoon I was taken on a tour of Jinja town. The market was the highlight of the tour with so many different colours and smells, along with fruits and vegetables which I had never seen in the UK. I then hailed a Ugandan taxi to get back to the hotel...known locally as a boda-boda; this is a moped that you get on the back of and hold tight! In the evening I was a guest at the Jinja Rotary Club where I learnt about the development work undertaken in some of the more rural areas of Uganda, before being treated to a meal of the local fish, Tilapia, with Mrs Lujwala and Ms Kalema.

July 20th - the morning began by meeting the Geography department at PMM Girls' School. It was an opportunity to discuss differences and similarities between our curriculum. We talked about ways to strengthen the link further from a Geography perspective, by exchanging weather data for comparison and the possibility of introducing Uganda as a country case study at GCSE level. One of the most memorable features of my visit was meeting the girls who are sponsored by Sir Thomas Rich's School. It was fantastic to hear the difference our school had directly made to the girls' lives, not just to their education but their future aspirations. In the afternoon I was taken to visit the school forest and surrounding area by Mr Mutalya who teaches Environmental Studies and History. The school forest is located approximately 30 minutes from Jinja and has the dual purpose of preventing soil erosion and acting as a case study for girls' learning about the environment. As part of this visit I was also taken to Mr Mutalya's house, where he cultivates plants from around the world for use in his environmental teaching. Also in this area, overlooking Jinja and Lake Victoria, is the regional King's palace which is currently being renovated for the King's return, which I was privileged to visit and be shown around. PMM Girls' School was founded by the Madhvani family, who own many businesses in Uganda and fund many schools and projects. Mr



Mutalya managed to obtain entry to the largest sugar plantation and processing facility in the country which is owned by the Madhvani family. Due to the scale of the process and the number of workers needed it operates as a town in its own right with housing, primary and secondary schools, shops, garages and hospitals among some of the many facilities to be found within the "town". It was such an interesting place to visit but I found it hard to understand how such different ways of life can be side by side in one country. In the afternoon I returned to Jinja for lunch with Mr Mutalya at a very popular local restaurant serving traditional and locally produced Ugandan food. After an action packed day I arrived back at school just as lessons finished and extra-curricular activities were beginning so had the chance to take part in some netball. The standard was very high and I only lasted ten minutes on court!

July 21st - My last day at PMM, although fortunately not my last in Jinja, as I was having a fantastic time and being made to feel extremely welcome. I spent the morning with Ms Nasemba who is the Head of Geography and was kind enough to let me sit in with her lessons. With few resources, for example no books, Ms Nasemba draws on fantastic subject knowledge to teach classes of up to 90 students. The students were incredibly keen to learn and it was a very interactive lesson with lots of questions and answers. Before the

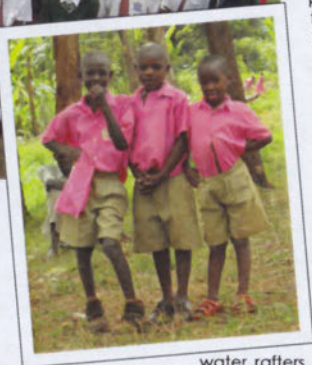


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UgandaREEL



lesson I helped to display posters made by 9R at STRS on the classroom walls about my tutor group's life in the UK. These proved to be very popular with the girls and were a bright addition to the Geography room. After break time, some Ugandan tea and a chapati, we were treated to a school concert. This was held on the school field and began with poetry, followed by a song, a recorder recital, more songs and finally a performance of the winning dance from the area schools competition. The dance had a clear message about how all species should learn to live together for each others benefit....I have a brief video of this if anyone would like to view it! I then had a lunch meeting with the school governors and school council, this consists not only of senior staff and governors, but also representatives from the parents, the Madhvani school officer and ex pupils. In the afternoon we were taken on a tour to the shores of Lake Victoria. This is an area which the girls visit as part of their Geography fieldwork studies. I discussed the geography of the area with Mr Arubu, who was again a willing guide and explained the importance of trade drawn to the landing area of the lake (the second largest freshwater lake in the world). From here we continued on through farmland to a large housing area on the outskirts of Jinja, in the middle of which is Walukuba East Primary School. Once again, the hospitality was wonderful, with the head teacher Mrs Bakaalikwira taking time to explain the workings of the school and some of the challenges they face, before showing us around. Primary education has recently become free to all in Uganda which is a fantastic development but means a period of transition while resources catch up to meet the increased demand. This stretches a small school to its limits, with class sizes commonly over 100 children. However, yet again, the enthusiasm for learning gives the impression that over time this will benefit Uganda immensely. Before leaving, I was treated to another short performance by the school choir which was terrific....I also have a short video of this if anyone would like to view it! The final stop of a very busy day was the annual agricultural show being held in



Jinja. This is very popular among schools as it shows the best of Ugandan agriculture and the latest developments in techniques and machinery. This was incredibly busy with a great atmosphere. There was live music and games, and some great smelling food and not so great smelling animals! I bought some locally produced jewellery from a stall to bring back to the UK before wrestling my way to a boda-boda for the trip back to the hotel and a rest.

July 22nd - Saturday was my final full day in Jinja with a packed schedule of interesting geography planned! We met at PMM at 10am to board the school bus for a trip to Bujagali and Itanda waterfalls and then on to the source of the river Nile which is just outside of Jinja. There was a great atmosphere on the bus with approximately 20 teachers and their families joining us on the trip. Itanda falls was the first stop and took us just over an hour to get there. The Nile splits into several channels at this point, narrowing through the falls, and then rejoins which makes for fast flowing water and dramatic scenery. This is a favourite point for white

water rafters, some of which arrived while we were there. We then headed back towards Jinja to Bujagali Falls. This was the most accessible of the two waterfalls and was much busier with school trips and tourists making it right to the edge of the fast flowing river. Some brave local men ride the river to earn a living, leaping in at the top of the falls clinging on to a plastic container, then careering down through the rapids as the crowds cheer them on. The last of the day's visits was to the source of the Nile located on the edge of Jinja. The source of the Nile was discovered as a waterfall flowing out of the lake by John Speke on an expedition in 1862. However, this point is now marked by signs on the banks as the waterfall has been submerged by the building of a hydroelectric dam one mile downstream. While there, the tropical rain started for the first time since I had been in Uganda, causing the power to go off and plunge us in to darkness. We were stuck here for over an hour in the dark but everyone was in good spirits and it made for more of an adventure. I was also able to get some more dramatic pictures of Lake Victoria as the sun went down.

July 23rd - a late breakfast at the hotel before getting a lift for the 2 hour drive back to Kampala. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and pupils of PMM for their hospitality, friendliness and welcoming approach throughout my time with them. I can honestly say it has been one of the most enjoyable times I have spent and would recommend anyone who had the opportunity to visit Uganda to go for it. After Jinja, I travelled around South West Uganda for several weeks visiting national parks and seeing as much of the wildlife as possible - the mountain gorillas were yet another highlight of the trip.

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GermanREEL



Göttingen Exchange 2006

The second phase of the Göttingen Exchange took place in July 2006. 14 Y10 boys from STRS and 20 girls from the High School travelled to Göttingen in Germany. Our pupils enjoyed the fantastic weather, making many trips to the open air pools in and around Göttingen (taking advantage of the German rule whereby pupils can go home after period 3 on hot days, the so called "Hitzefrei"). The pupils learned a lot about Germany and the German culture and were keen to try out new language they had learnt. Exciting excursions to Hannover and Berlin and the bubbling atmosphere of the World Cup Final in Germany made this Exchange an unforgettable experience.



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Here are some extracts from the pupils' diaries:

"On Monday we went to Hannover, we went to the zoo and were feeding the animals. After the zoo we went into the town centre, it was very busy with lots of people in the main shopping area."

"On Wednesday we stayed with our partners in school. They don't wear uniforms in Germany. Lessons were boring, because I didn't understand much, but Maths was very easy!"

"On Saturday we (my host family and I) drove to the Harz mountains. They were beautiful. My host family like to go there often."

"In Berlin we had a guided tour. I liked it, because it was very educational. Berlin was fantastic but very hot!"

L6 German performing "Rotkäppchen" (Little Red Riding Hood).

During the last week of term (July '06) the L6 German class performed a puppet theatre version of the Grimm brothers' fairytale "Rotkäppchen" in front of a keen audience of Y7 and Y8 German learners. They re-wrote the original version as a play, producing their own "modern version" in which the surprised audience witnessed "Rotkäppchen" having to bring her grandma her IPOD with the latest hits from "50 Cent". The L6th students took great care in writing the play and making the puppet theatre and the props were beautifully presented. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in making this a success.

B Testoni-Ranken



1666

Headmaster: I. L. Kellie, B.Sc., M.Ed

Sir Thomas Rich's

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All Parents
2006

8 September

Dear Parent

NOMINATIONS FOR PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS - September

The School Governing Body consists of 18 members who represent the Local Education Authority (4), the Staff (3), the Parents (6) and the Community (4). The Headmaster is also a member of the Governing Body. The full Governing Body meets about 6 times each year. In addition there are 6 governors' committees dealing with finance, buildings, curriculum, contracts, personnel and the community sports management. The committees meet on varying dates up to 3 times per year on average.

Parent governors are elected by a secret ballot of all parents and serve for a maximum period of 4 years. The school has vacancies for 4 parent governors from 1st September 2006.

Nominations are invited on the reverse of this letter for the 4 posts of parent governor. The only qualification required is that you must have a child currently at the school and any nomination must be proposed and seconded by the parents of children currently attending the school. A parent governor is not automatically required to stand down if his/her child leaves the school before the 4-year term of office is completed.

If you wish to be included in the election would you please complete the nomination form on the reverse of this letter and return it to me by Friday, 21st September 2006. If there are more than 4 nominations, the election will take place by pupil post to be concluded at 1200 noon on Wednesday, 4th October 2006. The new governors will be invited to their inaugural meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd October 2006, if there is no ballot, or Tuesday 5th December 2006, if there is a ballot.

If you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

R M B Burns

BURSAR and CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS



Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School, founded in 1666 as a Bluecoat Hospital, has achieved both Beacon School and Language College status as a centre of excellence



NOMINATION FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

Name: _____

Address:

POST CODE: _____ TEL NO. _____

Brief précis of your background and any specific expertise that you would bring to the Governing Body (no more than 60 words) which will circulated with the ballot paper. Please include any current involvement with school life, e.g. PA Committee/Events:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Proposed by (existing parent of current pupil)

Name: _____

Address:

POST CODE: _____ TEL NO. _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Seconded by (existing parent of current pupil)

Name: _____

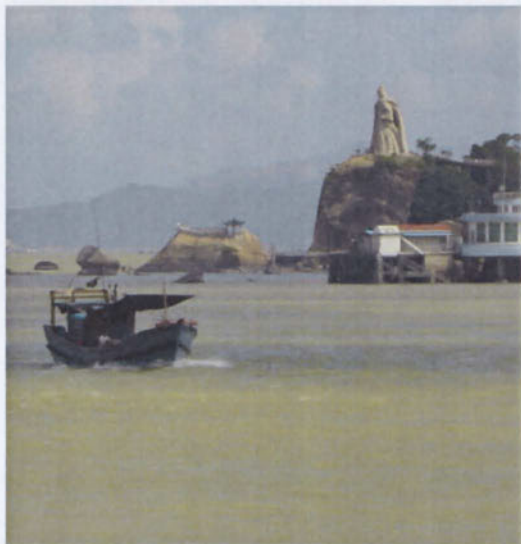
Address:

POST CODE: _____ TEL NO. _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Remove carefully from staples and return to the Bursar and Clerk to the
Governors at the school by FRIDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2006**

ChineseREEL



Last July, 6 members of the L6th accompanied by Mr Birchall and myself travelled to Xiamen in Fujian Province in Southern China for a British Council Immersion Course. This included lessons in Mandarin Chinese as well as lectures on Chinese tea culture, cuisine and calligraphy along with trips around Xiamen city and its tourist attractions. Each of the students had a Chinese host and spent a lot of time with them completing the City Hunt – a project which involved getting to know as much as possible about Xiamen and the Chinese way of life – and spending a day with them at their homes.

After 2 weeks in Xiamen (and 2 typhoons to boot!), we stopped in Beijing for 2 days of sightseeing before flying home. During 2 very busy days, we saw the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Ming Tombs, the Great Wall, a Chinese Acrobatics show and a little of Beijing by night!

Many thanks from all of us must go to Mrs Hewett for doing all the organisation and to Mr Brookin for giving us some of the basics of the language before we went, and from Mr Birchall and myself to **Will Franklin, Will Defraine, Stacie Morgan, Rosie Todman, Stefan Farahani** and **Matt McGrigor** for making it such an enjoyable experience.

For a longer description of the trip and a vast number of photos, have a look at the school website (www.strs.org.uk) and follow the links).

M Adamson



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44 ESUREEL

44th ESU SUMMER EXPEDITION Portland, Weymouth

Having successfully established the first Gloucester District Explorer Scouts climbing contingent, primarily attended by members of the 44th ESU it was decided to run a specific rock climbing trip. Ending the year on a high note and enabling the introduction of 'real rock' to the more novice Explorer Scouts who had only experienced the Gloucester Indoor Climbing Centre.

The base for our expedition was the Sea Barn Farm Campsite, located west of Weymouth on the coast. While at the campsite the Explorer Scouts made friends with other fellow campers and introduced them to sports including Cricket, Football & Frisbee.

The abseiling and rock climbing took place on Portland Bill, an isle south of Weymouth connected by a causeway. The isle is constructed of Portland Stone and Purbeck Limestone; the steep cliffs down to the sea provide over 750 sport climbing routes of varying grades satisfying all climbers from novice to professional.

The school bell sounds, I have the minibus packed with ropes, karabiners, stoves and food; now the Explorer Scouts are soon to pounce with their kit. The mayhem and fun for the weekend commences. It is not long before we are on our way, clocking up the miles on the M5 descending through the south west, fast approaching Dorset.



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44 ESUREEL

The camp is quickly made; some pointers and tricks for erecting tents are taken on board. Next on the agenda is food, so it's back on the bus and Weymouth here we come. It isn't long before we cross paths with a local Fish & Chip shop. Dialogue is exchanged, a discount for bulk agreed, bottoms perched on benches and hungry mouths eagerly awaiting their feed.

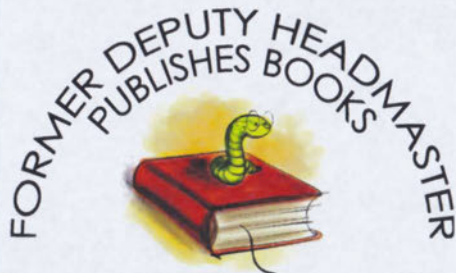
We awoke to a gloomy Saturday morning, it wasn't looking good but we weren't put off. Breakfast is on the go; bacon, sausage, coffee and tea, starting the day as we mean to go on. Managing to beat the weather for the first couple of hours, climbs in the 'Cuttings' area were pursued and completed by all. Lunch time arrived and with it came the rain. This did not stop us, we had a plan; swimming back at the campsite.

With Sunday came the good weather and a change of climbing venue on Portland, we were heading for 'Blacknor'. The approach to the area has one of the best abseils on the isle, a fantastic opportunity for the Explorer Scouts to experience. At least a dozen different climbs were completed by all. The consensus at the end of the day was that the climbs were so good, we were to return to the area again for a final morning of climbing tomorrow.

Wakening on the final day of the trip and again we were greeted with glorious sunshine. Rucksacks were packed following breakfast and stored in the tents ready for our departure after lunch. We returned to 'Blacknor' where the Explorer Scouts demonstrated what they had learned over the last couple of days with only minimal guidance from the Leaders. The highlight of the trip was introducing the Explorer Scouts to 'Lead Climbing'; which was a great success.

Many thanks to all those who took part and to the Leaders who gave up their time; ensuring the trip was a success.

Adam Griffiths
Explorers Scout Unit Leader



Mr A Pilbeam, who still teaches in our 6th Form, has recently had two books published. The first, **'The Gloucestershire Landscape'**, gives Alan's expert view on the historical and geological development of the county's countryside. In the second book, **'Viewing Gloucestershire'**, Alan looks at the area through the eyes of its authors and then adds his own commentary. The books are very different and, for the latter at least, one certainly does not need to be a geographer in order to enjoy it! They are available at all good bookshops or online.

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ScienceREEL



Science Summer School

On 1st and 4th September, just before the start of term, the first ever Science Summer School took place. **Ms Prinsep, Mr Haynes and Miss Adamson**, helped by **Joe Patel, Paul Gorman and Kun Hu**, introduced 36 students to a variety of fun and exciting science activities. Both days began early with breakfast provided by **Mrs Chapman, Mr French and Mr Boon**, our team of wonderful lab technicians who also supported the event by organising all the necessary resources for the activities.

On the first day the students made soap, had fun with fruit, designed and launched rockets and took part in a competition to build the strongest structure from spaghetti and jelly babies. It was all great fun but the rockets proved to be most popular.

On the second day the students undertook the "Island Challenge". They had to meet five challenges using only limited resources: making a generator, making a compass, lighting a fire, making a hand warmer and making a hygrometer. There was a prize for the team that worked best together and a prize for the group that developed their ideas to achieve the best solution. This was another fantastic day and it was great to see so much enthusiasm and teamwork.



Summer School was a huge success – the students told us how much they had enjoyed it. It is hoped that it will become an annual event, with even more activities and a greater number of participants. Y7 and Y8 pupils should look out for announcements in the Summer Term.

K J Prinsep

NewsREEL

1st XV OFF TO A FLYING START

Despite having very little training, the first XV were able to defeat Chosen Hill with some comfort, winning 37-5.

The team's initial effort was valiant, dominating the field and creating good ball for **Andy Green** to get out to the backs with some excellent rucking and scrummaging from the pack. The firsts held possession for the majority of the first half managing to end on 23-0.

The second half saw the team playing against the slope. However it proved a minor obstacle with a further two tries coming from the backs.

Overall the firsts have created a fantastic level to work from, with particular congratulations going to the 2 Y11's in the team, **Chris Surman** and **Andy Clegg**. This is a promising sign of a good season from the first XV.

Man of the Match: **Matt Patching**.

Jon Lowe

SPORTS' TOUR TO AUSTRALIA 2007

Next July a party of Rugby and, hopefully, Netball players are going on a 17-day tour to Australia, taking in Brisbane, Coffs Harbour, the Hunter Valley and Sydney.

We are looking for Sponsors for the Tour – if you think that you are able to help in any way please get in touch.

C D A Carter

Y11 CAREERS BRIEF TEST

All Y11 students have the opportunity of undertaking the Careers Brief Test. A letter and brochure should have arrived home explaining the full details of the test, which is designed to assist your son with AS/A2 choices, plus potential career pathways. The cost of the test is £20 and it will be held at school on the morning of Tuesday, 3rd October, 2006. Those students, who wish to subscribe to the test should return their reply slip and cheque to school by Friday, 15th September, 2006.

Y11 WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

During the course of the summer holidays, Y11 students should have attempted to secure a work experience placement. A reminder that work experience for Y11 takes place from Monday, 15th January to Friday, 19th January, 2007. All students need to obtain written confirmation of their placement from their respective employer and ensure that the Trident form is fully completed. Once this has been achieved, a copy of the confirmation letter and Trident form should be returned to Mr Lloyd. It is important to note that all placements should be secured and Trident form returned to Mr Lloyd by Friday, 3rd November, 2006. If any students have any problems with work experience, then they should see Mr Lloyd as soon as possible.

CAREERS FAYRE

Wednesday, 7th February, 2007

Early notice of the above event, which will be held at the school from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm. It is hoped that a good cross section of organisations, local universities and careers' areas will be represented at the event which is open to all students from Year 9 upwards. The Fayre will be held in conjunction with the High School. If any parents wish their organisation or field of work to be represented during the event, please could they contact Mr Lloyd at the school.

Y11 MOCK INTERVIEW MORNING

The Y11's will be receiving a 'mock' interview with representatives from local organisations on Thursday, 7th December, 2006. The morning is in collaboration with the Education and Business Partnership group, with the aim of providing interview experience to our students and importantly, feedback on their performances under the spot light.

CAREERS USING MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

On the 22nd September, 2006, during Friday lunch time, commencing at 1:30 pm and finishing at 2:00 pm. Mr Philip Cole, Deputy Head of the European Translation Unit, will be carrying out a presentation on the 'Use of Modern Foreign Languages in the Workplace'. This is an ideal opportunity for students from Y10 to U6th to discover how much more they can make of their acquired language skills in industry leading to a fulfilling and worthwhile career.

TESCO SPORTS VOUCHERS

The School has once again joined the Tesco for Sports Voucher Scheme which runs for this term. If you are able to help by collecting vouchers then please bring them along to the school reception foyer where the collection box is situated.

Last year's collection provided the Sports department with over 50 cricket balls for both junior and senior matches and practices.

All contributions will help again this year.

J J Gallagher

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

PA-REEL

**Volunteers are always welcome
in all areas of school life.**

Parents' Association

Become a Committee Member of the Parents' Association. Level of Commitment – attend as many committee meetings as possible – we hold around 5-6 per year. Please come along to the PA AGM on 3rd October and find out what we are about and even volunteer for the vacant Vice Chairman's role.

Alternatively you can simply **register as a 'helper'**. Level of Commitment – don't need to attend committee meetings but could be available to be called upon to help at school events.

Join the Fundraising Subgroup

Level of Commitment – attend meetings as they are needed – around 4 or 5 in a year but less formal than committee meetings.

SIR THOMAS RICH'S



Donations

Please consider donating raffle prizes, tombola items, unwanted gifts, etc. and/or bake cakes for the Christmas Fayre.



Do you have a business?

We're always looking for items to be donated for the Ball Auction – or you could sponsor a Sports Kit.



Coffee/Tea Making Rota

This is organised by Paulette Maxted and is run independently of the main PA. Level of Commitment – help at as many or as few events as you want.

Offers to distribute raffle prizes and auction prizes within your local area or deliver flyers promoting events to the houses and streets close to the school are always welcome.



THE NEXT CAR BOOT SALE
Saturday 16th September
1:30pm-3:30pm

held on the school's Tennis Courts
(participants can set up from 12 noon).

Nearly New Uniform

We have items of nearly new uniform available to buy at the school. Sales are usually held in school every second Monday after term begins and after half term holidays from 6:30-7:30 pm. If these times are inconvenient and you require particular items please contact **Bev Hughes on 01242 524344**.

PA Contact details:
Sall Gray 01452 621775
Sall@business-advancement.co.uk

For coffee/tea rota contact Paulette Maxted 01452 372282

Autumn Ball Saturday 14 October

Black tie event from 7:00 pm for champagne reception, dinner at 8:00pm and live band entertainment.

The last date for purchasing tickets for this event is 5th October. For those wishing to attend please, email Alison on thestrball@hotmail.com or 07740856125. We will be holding a small auction at the Ball and would be grateful for prizes to be donated. Holiday cottages always raise a lot of money as do unusual experiences/days out.

If you have any ideas or can help with this in any way please contact Sall Gray.



£35
a head

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

AUTUMN TERM 2006

Saturday 16 September	PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm
Monday 18 September	Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm
Friday 22 September	Speech Day, 7:30 pm
Tues 10 & Weds 11 October	Open Days (prospective Y6 pupils & parents)
Wednesday 11 October	Open Evening (talks at 6.00 & 7:30 pm)
Saturday 14 October	PA Autumn Ball
Monday 16 October	Informal Year 7 Parents' Evening, 7:00 pm
23 – 27 Oct.	Half-term holidays
30 October – 3 November	L6 examinations
Monday 6 November	Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday 8 November	Y10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Friday 17 November	PA Quiz Night, 7:00 for 7:30 pm
Saturday 2 December	PA Christmas Fayre, 1:00-3:00 pm
Monday 11 December	Christmas by Candlelight, 7:30 pm
Wednesday 13 December	U6th Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Monday 18 December	Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7:30 pm
Tuesday 19 December	Carol Service, Holy Trinity Longlevens, 7:30 pm
Wednesday 20 Dec.	End of term, 12:45 pm

SPRING TERM 2007

Wednesday 3 Jan	Term starts, 8:40 am
3 – 12 January	Trial GCSE examinations (Y11)
Monday 8 January	Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm
15 – 19 January	Y11 Work Experience week
Thursday 25 January	6th Form Open Evening, 7:00 pm
Thursday 1 February	Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Wednesday 7 February	Careers Fayre, 6:30 pm
Wednesday 14 February	Y9 'Options' Evening, 7:00 pm
19 – 23 Feb	Half-term holidays
Monday 5 March	Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm
Tuesday 6 March	Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Monday 12 March	Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
12 – 16 March	Founder's Week
19 – 23 March	Trial 'AS' examinations (L6th)
Monday 26 March	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
Monday 2 April	L6th Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Wednesday 4 Apr	End of term, 12:45 pm
5 – 18 Apr	Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2007

Thursday 19 Apr	Term starts, 8:40 am
19 – 25 April	Trial 'A2' examinations (U6th)
Tuesday 24 April	Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Thursday 26 April	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday
8 – 11 May	SATs (Y9)
Monday 14 May	'AS' examinations start (L6th)
Monday 21 May	GCSE examinations start (Y11)
28 May – 1 June	Half-term holidays
Monday 11 June	'A2' examinations start (U6th)
Weds 20 – Tues 26 June	School Examinations
Wednesday 27 June	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
2 – 6 July	6th Form Induction Week
Thursday 5 July	Sports Evening, 6:30 pm
Friday 20 July	End of term, 12:45 pm