



Parents will appreciate that there is a feeling of relief amongst all staff here that our long-awaited Ofsted inspection has been completed. Thank you to parents who completed their questionnaire. We were told on the Friday afternoon that they would be arriving on Wednesday morning. We hosted a team of four inspectors, led by an HMI (a member of her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools), for two days. This new short-notice, lighter-touch inspection is the norm nowadays. Our Ofsted Report will be published towards the end of this month. Copies will be sent to all parents and it will appear on the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports).

## FOUNDER'S WEEK

I am very grateful to those students who organised and ran fund-raising events in order to celebrate the foundation of our school in 1666 by collecting money to enable us to sponsor 20 girls' education at PMM School in Uganda. As ever there was initiative and enthusiasm in abundance. Events included drag football, penalty shoot-out, darts competition, treasure island, skate boarding, sweets in a jar, No Homework Day, MP3 Day and, of course, Free Dress Day. There are some events still to come but the total raised to date is £1,315. This is a magnificent effort.



PMM girls are required to pay the equivalent of about £1 each day for their schooling which prevents many girls from attending regularly. We are kept informed of our sponsored girls' progress by post and by e-mail. Seven of the girls took their GCSE exams at the end of their Year 11 in December. All achieved results which enable them to progress to A-level.

The message from their Senior Teacher ended: "We thank the Sir Thomas Rich's community for making this possible for them. God bless you all."

# NewsREEL

## IMPROVING FACILITIES

We are in the process of organising two major improvements which will take place during the summer holidays. All our toilets will be completely refurbished and in addition a new, larger store will be built abutting the Sports Hall.

For our next project we have embarked upon plans to build an all-weather surface, to enhance our training and playing areas. This will be expensive and there are major obstacles yet to be overcome. We are submitting a bid to The Football Foundation (the funding arm of the Football Association) and we have made our initial presentation – but they require us to have a 'funding partner'. If any parent is able to suggest a person or group who may be able to support this project I would be very pleased to receive any suggestions. The partner could be asked to contribute up to £100,000. In return they could benefit from advertising and use of the facility.

Richard Cooper, our School Sports Co-ordinator, has been successful in applications to The Lord's Taverners, who have provided a cricket bag containing 3 complete sets of cricketing gear, and to The Football Foundation, which has provided a grant for the purchase of senior and junior soccer kit.

## NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

**Finding it difficult to keep up with the washing?**

We have a few short-sleeved white shirts for sale (useful next term and often in the autumn term).

Please let us have any unwanted uniform to sell especially CRICKET items at this time of year.

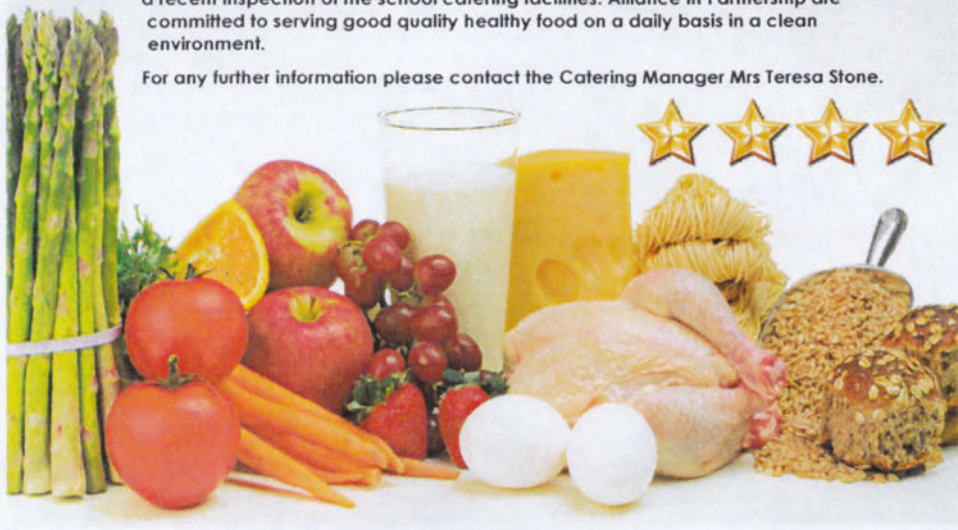
**ALL SALE ITEMS NEED A SALE SLIP – OBTAINABLE FROM THE SCHOOL SECRETARY. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN SALE SLIP WITH ITEM FOR SALE TO SCHOOL SECRETARY**

**Thank you  
to all our supporters**

## "Scores on the Door"

Alliance In Partnership are pleased to inform you that Mrs Teresa Stone and her catering team have achieved a "4 Star" rating out of a possible "5 Stars" from the Environmental Health Officer following a recent inspection of the school catering facilities. Alliance in Partnership are committed to serving good quality healthy food on a daily basis in a clean environment.

For any further information please contact the Catering Manager Mrs Teresa Stone.





# NewsREEL



 **Pitt Rivers**  
MUSEUM



## Year 10 ART TRIP to Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, forty-one Year 10 pupils visited the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The visit was organised to coincide with the start of their second GCSE Art coursework unit, which is based on the study of artefacts and objects from a chosen culture, country or continent.

There was a setback at the start of the day, as we arrived to discover that the upper two stories of the museum had been closed for renovation. This was a disappointment to many of the pupils, as they had already done a virtual tour of the museum on its website, but were now unable to see displays such as the Samurai armour and weapons in real life.

However, this did not stop the boys from being able to study thousands of other items on the large ground floor area and they were soon drawing and photographing the objects which most caught their attention. With nearly two hours of study time in both the morning and afternoon sessions, they had plenty of time to collect a lot of visual information and used the time very well indeed.

Once again, the pupils did themselves proud with their attitude and behaviour and so came away from the day having made a very promising start to their next GCSE Art unit.

R J Lockey/M Cormack-Hicks.



# NewsREEL



## D & T - UNDER PRESSURE!

As Easter approaches, the examination students find themselves under increasing pressure to complete coursework. Many of the projects are well under way but require careful finishing if they are to achieve the marks their efforts deserve. We would like to thank all those students (and parents) who have shown great commitment and determination to produce the quality work for which the school has a justly proud reputation. We look forward to these students receiving the grades their efforts deserve this summer. Good Luck to the students!

## Toyota Challenge Success

The two teams from the Year 7 Technology Club have successfully won their way into the regional finals of their respective challenges. The regional final will be held in Exeter on 25th April 2007. We wish both teams the best of luck!

## Arkwright Sponsorship

Congratulations also to **Mike Parry** and **Alex Ford** who have both successfully passed the first 'Exam' stage of their applications for Arkwright Scholarships. They have now been invited for interview. Alex went to Bath University on the 28th March and Mike goes to Lancaster University on the 12th April 2007.

Good Luck to them both!

S Hancock/S L James



**Programmable Buggy**



**Solar Powered Car**





# NewsREEL

## 'Connexions' Careers Interviews

Peter Alexander, from the Connexions organisation, visits the school most Fridays during term time to provide careers advice and guidance to our students. He is currently starting to see Year 10 students, but any students in the Year 11 or the Sixth Form, who feel they still need some help, should simply see Mr Lloyd to book an appointment. This opportunity has been available since the start of the school academic year and parents should realise that their son or daughter is entitled to a careers interview if they wish!

## Work Experience 2008 the current Year 10 Students'

During March, 'Impact', a touring educational theatre group came into school to present a production on the importance of work experience to our Year 10 students. In a light-hearted and amusing way, the group highlighted the key issues relating to work experience. In conjunction with this, all Year 10 students should have passed on a letter to parents, plus a Trident Edexcel Form. It cannot be stressed how important it is for all Year 10 students to start looking for and organizing their work experience placements now, in preparation for next January. The official date for Work Experience is 21st January to the 25th January, 2008 inclusive. It is important to note that all students need to obtain written confirmation from their prospective employers, confirming their placement and also the Trident Edexcel Form must be completed. Both these documents need to be completed and returned to Mr Lloyd by Friday, 19th October, 2007. If students or parents need any help or advice, then they should contact Mr Lloyd.

## Charity 'Loose Change' Collections

A cheque for £1,000 was presented in assembly to Gloucestershire Air Ambulance from monies collected during the Autumn term. This Spring term, the weekly loose change collections have allowed a further cheque for £1,000 to be presented to the Royal National Life Boat Institute. Ex-Richian, Jody Ballard, who works as an Education Field Officer for the organisation, presented an assembly on the work of the Institute and highlight some of the many rescues that have to be made each year. Many thanks to all those students who contribute their loose change each week!

P D Lloyd



## Göttingen Exchange 2007

At the beginning of March we once again welcomed some German pupils and their twenty Year 10 boys and their families did a fantastic job of organising, entertaining and feeding their German partners for eleven days, ensuring that everything ran smoothly and that their stay was a memorable one. The annual event, which we do in cooperation with the Denmark Road HSG, ended on a high note on Friday 9th March with our traditional Barn Dance in STRS school hall. Families, exchange partners and friends celebrated the successful completion of the first part of the exchange, dancing to the music of the 'Downfielders'.

Everybody is now looking forward with excitement to the return visit in July, when the German families will return the hospitality and there will be the opportunity for exciting excursions (including a trip to Berlin), hopefully with some hot and sunny weather thrown in.

B Testoni-Ranken

## QUIZ NIGHT IS HERE!

27th April 2007

7:30 - 10:30pm

'Raising money for PMM School, Uganda.'  
Assembly Hall

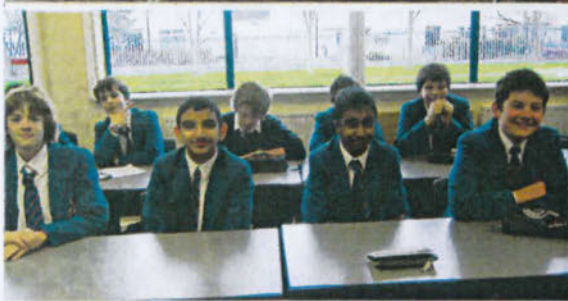
Make up a team of six from your friends & family.

You are sure to have a fun-filled  
but fast and furious evening.

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE FORM  
ENCLOSED WITH THIS NewsREEL



# NewsREEL



## Languages Promotional Day, 2007

STRS organizes this annual event in recognition of the need to highlight to our pupils the importance of languages in today's multi-cultural society and global world and to encourage pupils to consider the study of more than one language at GCSE. Many of our European neighbours can speak two or three foreign languages and with world-wide communications the need to improve language skills and our understanding of different cultures has never been more important. We were pleased to welcome to the morning pupils from Brockworth Enterprise School and Barnwood High School.

Penny Krucker, (top right) the International Education Officer in Gloucestershire, gave an excellent introduction to the morning. Her illustrated talk on Languages - Your passport to the world - left pupils in no doubt about the opportunities for people with language skills and a comparative look at



European countries showed England poorly placed in the international League.

Pupils were then able to pose questions to the panel of businessmen regarding the importance of languages in the world of work. It is particularly gratifying that these busy people were prepared to give up their valuable time to support the day.

Taster sessions in Dutch, Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Russian completed the morning.

My thanks to all who contributed to the day, in particular Penny Krucker, the 'Business' Panel and Language Tutors but also to the pupils for their attention and interest.



## European Morning at the Milestone

The link between Sir Thomas Rich's and The Milestone School continues to strengthen. On 16th February pupils from STRS worked together with Milestone pupils and other members of the community to provide a European morning. The aim of the event was to open pupils' eyes to some of the different cultures and languages within Europe. The countries chosen were Bulgaria, Turkey and Estonia.

An introduction was given to the languages in all three countries and this was complemented by activities highlighting some of the cultural aspects of the country.

Estonia focussed on making friendship bracelets in the national colours and cooking Kama, an Estonian dessert made with oats, cream and cherries. Whilst they were thus engaged they were told about the life and culture of Estonia. The workshop was led by John Beevor, founder member and committee member of the Estonian Association and his colleague Katri Link. The Turkish workshops included making darbuka drums, sampling Turkish bread from a local Turkish restaurant and enjoying genuine Turkish delight. Powerpoint presentations gave an insight into life in Turkey and its traditions. Year 10 pupils had, in preparation for the event, acquired some knowledge of Turkish and were able to present this to the Milestone pupils. Pupils also made a traditional Turkish dip and salad, Çacik and Çoban Salatası. Bulgaria looked at some of the customs, attempted some Bulgarian folk dancing with various degrees of success and enjoyed cooking a Bulgarian dessert. Pupils from the Lower Sixth who had spent a few days in Bulgaria with a Comenius Project presented images of Bulgaria and shared their experiences with the group.

We hope that the morning provided a stimulating experience for the Milestone pupils and will have whetted their appetite to learn more about other countries.

My many thanks to John Beevor and Katri Link for leading the Estonian workshop and Jane Keovil for the Turkish workshop, also to Zdravki Nentcheva Davies for her input into the Bulgarian workshop and of course the whole STRS team.

J Hewett



# NewsREEL



## House Events

**The House Quiz**, organised by Mr Dempsey, was held over two lunchtimes at the end of February. Eastgate beat N, W and S in the Junior event, Westgate beat E, S and N in the Senior event. Overall winners Eastgate were followed by W, N and S.

**House Drama** is one of the major events of the year, performed in front of a Year 8 audience. It was run by Mrs Briscoe and involved large numbers of pupils in directing, writing, rehearsing, helping with costumes, props, make-up and lighting and, of course, acting. The finale saw a narrow victory by Southgate, the adjudicator could not separate the other three Houses.

Once again Westgate's strength in depth enabled them to dominate the **Senior House Swimming** gala, despite some strong individual performances from other Houses. The competition for second place wasn't decided until the final race. The overall quality of swimming in the School is exceptionally high. The final result was victory for Westgate from E, N and S.

## Mi padre no me entiende

After a successful visit last year to STRS, we were pleased to host once again the Onatti Theatre Company for their Spanish Play, 'Mi padre no me Entiende'. The performance was attended by pupils from both STRS and Barnwood Park School.

This was a funny and fantastical play exploring the wishes of one fifteen year old girl, Pilar. Pilar doesn't want much, just a brand new dad! Frustrated and fed up, she longs for a dad who will understand her, treat her like a grown up and, what's more important, spend lots and lots of money on presents, gifts and clothes!

Most teenagers would love to change their parents sometimes - make them cooler, trendier, or just less embarrassing! Pilar has had enough of being treated like a nine year old. She wishes she could replace her dad, but nobody told her to be careful of what she wished for - it just might come true!

The play provided excellent revision for our Spanish students as it was especially written to tie in with vocabulary and topics covered in KS3 and GCSE.

# NewsREEL

## Y7 RUGBY 2007

With two matches to play the school can reflect on a mixed season which has shown glimpses of promise but disrupted with a lack of direction on the pitch. All the matches have been competitive and several players have progressed well. They must look to improve their basics as a team if they are to move forward.

P	W	D	L	F	A
8	4	1	3	119	70

### V Bournside

The school played very well in atrocious conditions against a determined Bournside team. From the outset the school put Bournside under pressure and scored regularly through the first half to go into the break 22-0 up. The second half was much closer and more evenly balanced with only a converted score from the school separating the two teams. The final score was STRS 29 Bournside 0.

### V Bristol Grammar

Against an experienced and well drilled Bristol team the school struggled from the outset to maintain possession and as a result were always on the back foot. Despite this some excellent defensive work from the whole team kept the school in the game, turning round 5-5 at half-time, before losing 12-5.



### V Pates

In an excellent game of rugby, both teams were committed to an expansive game and to uncompromising defence. The school had the better of the possession and position in the first half and scored two good tries before Pates responded, to go into the break 12-5 up. Pates came back strongly in the second half and only some determined defence kept them out, for the school to run out winners by 17-5.

### V Churchdown

Due to illness and injury Churchdown turned up two players short and so their team was completed with school players. Without this the game would have been meaningless and the school thanks those players for making the game a success. From the outset Churchdown dominated position and possession and only some desperate defence kept

the school in the game. After weathering the early storm the school got back into the match despite some unforced errors. A half time lead of 7-0 was hardly deserved. In the second half the school were much more direct and pressured Churchdown throughout the half and with some good linking between forwards and backs created several scoring opportunities. The final score was STRS 31 Churchdown 5.

### V Newent

In atrocious conditions the school managed to play some attractive rugby and to combine well to create regular scoring opportunities. The final score was STRS 22 Newent 0.

### V Crypt School

Despite having most of the possession and territory the school had to chase this game after some poor defence allowed Crypt in for an early try. Some poor handling and decision making combined with some desperate defence from Crypt meant that scoring opportunities were not taken and the school became increasingly desperate in their attempts. Eventually the try came from close range with only minutes left on the clock and the game was drawn 5-5.

### V Monmouth

From the outset Monmouth put the school under pressure in all areas and forced the school into giving away possession and position. Monmouth took advantage of this and stormed into an early 19-0 lead. To their credit the school regrouped and took the game to Monmouth and the second half was much more even. Despite this the school could not break the Monmouth defence and finally lost 31-0.

### V Beaufort

In a very evenly matched contest the school weathered an early storm from Beaufort to work a good unconverted score. However, Beaufort put the school under pressure and forced an interception try to get back in the game. The game followed this pattern with both teams making opportunities but also making lots of errors. The final score of STRS 10 Beaufort 14 showed that there was little between the two teams.



# NewsREEL



## Gloucester Schools Swimming Gala

On Thursday 15th March, the school entered the Gloucester Schools Swimming Gala.

With competitors from Year 7 to 13 and for the first time, a squad of four senior girls, the school was well represented.

In what turned out to be a long day, the swimmers kept their focus and supported each other well in their efforts to regain the trophy which we won in the first year of the competition.

In a day filled with good competition the team showed the strength in depth in swimming and with the following winning their events the school took the Boys Competition once again.

### Year

7	8/9	10/11	Seniors	Girls
O Goldsmith	S Howarth	J Bullock	C Turner	N Williams
O Young	T Grime	J Broaday	W Middleton	M Mason

There were also victories in the following relay events:

### Year

7	8/9	10/11	
Freestyle	Medley	Freestyle	I J Gallagher

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT ARE COLLECTING THE SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

The 1st XI experienced an indifferent season with a limited number of games primarily due to poor weather, a fragmented player availability pattern and the consequential team performances lacking any form of consistency. A few games were lost by the odd goal which could easily have been reserved had greater continuity been available. However, with a number of lower school boys' coming through I am more optimistic for the coming season.

P	W	L
6	3	3
		A J Barton

## Schools Badminton League: 2007 Round-Up

We were put into Gloucester Division One with Denmark Road HSG, Bishop's College, Brockworth & Chosen Hill. Fixtures were played on a Home & Away basis, giving us eight matches.

The league is aimed at Year 10 and 11 pupils, although opportunities arose for the inclusion of some Year 9 players.

The STRS Squad consisted: Gareth Evans, Joe Alderman, Ben Griffiths, Adrian Fu, Alex Williamson, James Walter, Callum Bird, Jon Taylor and Freddie Speed. Overall we enjoyed success, winning six of our eight matches.

Convincing victories over Brockworth (twice), Bishop's College (twice), Chosen Hill, Denmark Road HSG put us in pole position in the division. However a close defeat to Denmark Road HSG - a very exciting match which went to 18-21 in the last game of the fixture - and a one to eight drubbing in the last game against Chosen Hill - who drew on all their available county players - means that we probably have only managed a second place, thereby missing out on the County Play-Offs. All the results are not yet in though, so we still have an outside chance of equal first place, in which our more favourable games won/lost ratio should see us through.

Thanks must go to (ex-pupil) Samantha Kloos, the Badminton Development Officer for Active Gloucestershire, who has promoted and administered this welcome development of schools badminton. We look forward to continued development of the league next season, with hopefully the introduction of Years 8 and 9 and Sixth Form Leagues.

P Brown

# PA-REEL

*Desperately Seeking Parents  
with Website Creation Skills...*

*... and some 'free time'!*



Car Boot News

## THE NEXT CAR BOOT SALE

**Saturday 28th April**

**1:30pm- 3:30pm**

and another will follow on

**Saturday 16th June**

**1:30pm- 3:30pm**

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

**COULD YOU HELP?**

**ANY ASSISTANCE AFFORDED  
WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECIEVED**

For bookings  
contact Julie on 01452 713177  
or e-mail  
mob@melvins.e7even.com

We urgently need to get the PA Website underway and we are looking for someone with the skills to help us. Could it be you?

The PA Committee has (after much discussion) decided that the way forward is to create a PA Website independent of the school's website, but linked in. This is what the Old Richians do with their site.

We have photos of events, a calendar, PA roles (as a Who's Who), contact details etc. We want the site to be informative but not boring. It would be great if parents could use it to download Gift Aid Forms, Order Forms for Clothing Labels, Ball Tickets, etc. All ideas are welcome.

Unfortunately, as with all PA positions, this one is unpaid in monetary terms. However, benefits include making new friends, having fun at meetings, finding out more about the school and the staff, and it would be something else to add to a portfolio of work.

If you are the person we are seeking, please contact Sali Gray at [sali@business-advancement.co.uk](mailto:sali@business-advancement.co.uk) or ring her on 01452 618899, as soon as possible.

Thank you.

SIR THOMAS RICH'S



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

01452 338400



## Netball Season

This was the second netball season for STRS as we have been able to continue with our fixtures due to the growing numbers of girls in the sixth form and the continued commitment from the Upper Sixth girls who started the team last year.

We have had a mixed season, but have won more games than we lost. This is excellent when we consider most of our games are against the big comprehensives in the area, with many more girls on role and teams that have been playing together since Year 7. Thank you to Emma Hopkins in the Upper Sixth, who will be leaving in the summer, for being captain this season. I look forward to lots more fixtures next academic year, as there is already a lot of talented players in the current Lower Sixth.

M Preen

## Results:

Rednock School 19 - 2 (L)  
U19s tournament - first round only  
(Balcarras won the group)  
Chosen Hill 14 - 7 (L)  
Denmark Road 15 - 9 (W)  
Ribston Hall 16 - 11 (W)  
Cleeve School 19 - 13 (W)  
Beaufort School 22 - 1 (W)  
St Peters 23 - 9 (W)  
Cleeve School 20 - 10 (L)  
Pates 14 - 12 (L)  
Ribston Hall 9 - 4 (W)  
Beaufort School 7 - 2 (W)

## SUMMER TERM 2007

### Thursday 19 April

19 - 25 April

Tuesday 24 April

Thursday 26 April

Friday 27 April

Saturday 28 April

Wednesday 2 May

Thursday 3 May

### Monday 7 May

8 - 11 May

Monday 14 May

Thursday 17 May

28 May - 1 June

Monday 11 June

Saturday 16 June

Weds 20 - Tues 26 June

Wednesday 27 June

2 - 6 July

Thursday 5 July

Saturday 14 July

Friday 20 July

Thursday 16th August

Thursday 23rd August

### Term starts, 8:40 am.

Trial A2 examinations (U6th)

Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm

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

Quiz Night, 7:30 - 10:30 pm

PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm

Choral Concert, **Holy Trinity Church, 8:00 pm**

GCSEs, *what can a parent do?*

Y9&10 parents, 7:00 pm

### Bank Holiday

SATs (Y9)

AS examinations start (L6th)

GCSE examinations start (Y11)

### Half-term Holidays

A2 examinations start (U6th)

PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm

### School Examinations

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

6th Form Induction Week

Sports Evening, 6:30 pm

PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm

**End of term, 12:45 pm**

'A' & 'AS' results issued

'GCSE' results issued

### Wednesday 5 September

2007/08 school year starts for pupils, 8:40 am



## TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS

The 16th year of the Tesco computers for schools scheme for 2007 is now well under way. We have started off very well with nearly 400 vouchers collected in the first two weeks. There is a collection box in reception or pass your vouchers directly to Mr Hancock or Mrs James where they will be gratefully received.

