



1666



SCHOOL COUNCILS

Our School Councils continue to come up with interesting suggestions. Amongst those raised at meetings this term were the possibility of dispensing with bells between lessons. We had some experience of this last year when power cuts forced us to survive without bells – the school seemed to continue to operate smoothly. Last week we had a trial period with bells only at the start of morning and afternoon sessions. The staff were then surveyed, opinion was divided but a majority favoured retaining bells. The outcome is the Great British Compromise of ONE ring of the bell between lessons (instead of the three we used to have). Parents, such matters are important in school!

FEBRUARY 2007

NewsREEL



I am grateful for the support of parents in ensuring that children attended school over the two days of winter last week. I recognise that conditions were hazardous beyond Gloucester. The ethos of Sir Thomas Rich's is that "education matters": staff, parents and pupils managed to ensure that disruption was minimal. It is heartening when the school community pulls together in this way. Well done and thank you.



OXBRIDGE OFFERS

Congratulations to the following members of our Upper Sixth who have received offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge Universities:



Luke Harris

(to read mathematics at St. Catherine's College, Oxford),

Robert Jeffs

(to read engineering, at Homerton College, Cambridge),

Matthew Locke

(to read mathematics, at New College, Oxford),

Christopher Pigott

(to read physics, at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford)

Thomas Towers

(to read veterinary science, at Robinson College, Cambridge).

END OF AUTUMN TERM

After the last NewsREEL went to print, at the very end of last term, we welcomed Andy Deacon to our final assembly. Andy was a stalwart of Gloucester Rugby Club, playing over 300 times in their fearsome front row from 1988 to 2004. Andy also represented England A and the Barbarians – we were delighted to welcome him to present our cross-country and rugby colours, merit awards and cups.

Also at the end of term we held our two Carol Services. Thank you to all who attended. The collections raised £185 (at St. John's Northgate which goes to their restoration fund) and £146 (at Holy Trinity, Longlevens which goes to their charity, the Hope Flowers School in Bethlehem).



NewsREEL

CONGRATULATIONS

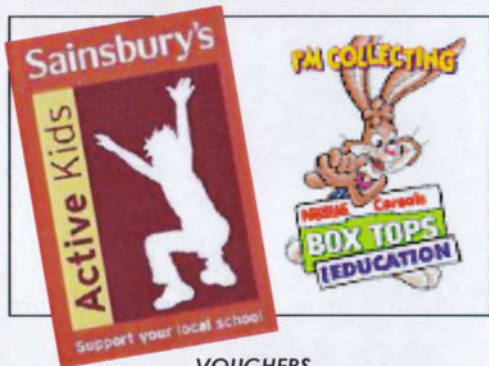
There have been many notable achievements by pupils this term, including the following:-

Andrew Clegg (11S) has progressed from selection by Gloucestershire at U16 rugby, to representing the South West, to selection for the England Development Squad from which the England and England 'A' teams will be chosen.

George Webb (8T) was a prize winner in a national competition run by the University of Bristol to design a new crossing for the Avon Gorge.

The Association of Language Learning ran a regional creative writing competition:

Matthew Broadhead (L6H) won first prize in the Key Stage 4 category and at Key Stage 5 **Anita Coombes (U6R)** won first prize and **Raymond Rees (U6H)** second prize.



VOUCHERS

We have collection boxes in our entrance foyer for Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and for Nestlé Box Tops for Books vouchers.

All contributions are gratefully received.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY AWARDS

Ben Rees and **Jack Vickery** of the L6th have received prestigious awards from the Royal Geographical Association for outstanding results in their GCSE Geography Examinations last summer. They along with seven others obtained top marks for the OCR 'C' Course which was sat by 22,500 pupils.



Spanish Holiday Course at Sir Thomas Rich's School

8 week course starting on
Tuesday, 6th March

Suitable for beginners

*Venue: The Language Centre,
Sir Thomas Rich's School
Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester.*

7:00 - 8:30pm

Cost: £30 per person
with reductions for families.

For further details contact Mrs J Hewett on

01452 338405

or e-mail

jackyhewett@strs.org.uk

PARENTS OF Y9 and 10 BOYS PLEASE NOTE

We have had to postpone the date of
GCSEs, What can a parent do?

**From 2 May to 3 May
7:00 to 8:30pm**



NewsREEL

Who will be the next Great Briton?



Winners: Elliot Wilson, Joe Moss, Joe Locke, Jamie Leeming and John Trevaskis

Morgan Stanley's Great Britons 06 Learning Challenge inspired a creative group of Y10 to make a video about what it means to be British and they came out on top winning a national competition. Morgan Stanley in conjunction with the Daily Telegraph launched the competition last year and announced the winners on the 18th January.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown who launched the Learning Programme for Citizenship classes said: "Learning about the great figures of British history and the values they represent is an essential part of understanding what unites us and integrates us as a country. That is why it is so important that young people have the opportunity to engage in this debate." Their DVD was filmed in and around the area and called 'fish 'n' chips'. Mrs O'Leary said "These boys spent weekends filming and editing their work, it's their interpretation of what being British is all about. Judging by the film, which includes film verity around Gloucestershire, it's positively creative, multi-cultural and fun. Perhaps they're right? Morgan Stanley obviously thought so."

B O'Leary



NewsREEL



At 5:40am on Saturday 6th January a bunch of 10 hardy German students from STRS boarded the school mini bus and headed off to Heathrow. Our flight arrived at the Köln/Bonn airport. As usual the German trains lived up to their reputation and arrived on time and everyone was glad to get to their new homes in order to have some well earned sleep. However, this relaxing was soon over; after all it wasn't meant to be a relaxing holiday, despite our best efforts to make it one. The purpose of our stay in Aachen was to improve our German by doing a work experience. These varied widely from working in a doctor's surgery to teaching primary school children and working with a computer engineering company. By the end of each day everyone was somewhat tired. However, this didn't stop us from having fun and we took part in many different activities such as ice skating, a day trip to Köln and not to mention a guided trip by the Mayor around the amazing town hall in Aachen. It was agreed on the way home that we should take the following week off school, as a holiday, following the tiring week we had had in Aachen. But alas, no such luck!

Jon Carter/Chris Blake (L6S)



NewsREEL

HOUSE MUSIC

The result of an eagerly contested House Music competition was:

1st	Southgate	211 points
2nd	Westgate	203 points
3rd	Eastgate	200 points
4th	Northgate	196 points

Congratulations to all who took part and to the House Music sixth form co-ordinators.

CONCERTS

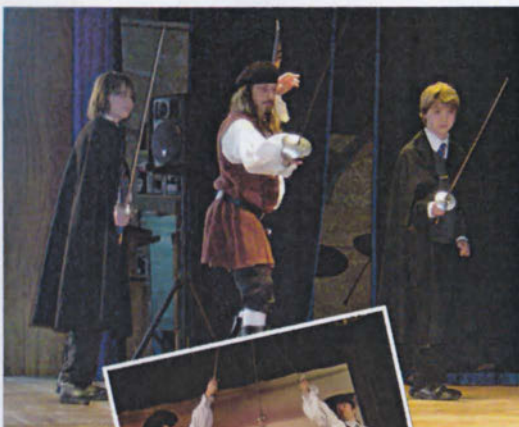
Your attention is drawn to the forthcoming concerts:

March 29th 7:30pm

Spring Concert – featuring all the School's instrumental groups plus soloists and smaller items. Music will range from rock to jazz to classical.

May 2nd 7:30pm

Fauré Requiem and the Cantique de Jean Racine will be performed by the School Choir at Holy Trinity, Church Road, Longlevens.



STRS AUSTRALIA RUGBY TOUR RACE NIGHT AND AUCTION

On Saturday March 10th between 7:30 – 11:30pm we are holding a Race Night and Auction in the School Hall to raise further funds for our Rugby Tour to Australia in July.

We have already been donated three very good auction prizes; a Laptop, a Golfing Weekend for two at Tewkesbury Park Hotel & Country Club and a one hour Shooting Lesson for four including one hundred clays and one hundred cartridges at the Chatcombe Estate Shooting School. However, we do need some more lots for the auction and any donations for this important part of the evening would be much appreciated.

We are also looking for Sponsors for seven of the eight races; this will cost £25 per race and each Sponsor will receive two free tickets for the event and have their business/name printed in the programme.

Tickets will go on sale soon at a cost of £5 which will include a buffet supper.

C D A Carter

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Pupils involved in swashbuckling duel.

On 9th February pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's drew their swords, raised their muskets and filled their tankards in hot pursuit of the dashing D'Artagnan and the swashbuckling Three Musketeers.

The Three Musketeers is the new interactive French Show for French learners by the European Theatre Company. Pupils were enlisted as guards and allies of the crafty Cardinal Richelieu to thwart the efforts of D'Artagnan and the Musketeers.

In a drama of royalty, riches, disguise and surprise, pupils were invited into the prestigious court of Louis XIII, not only to dance and duel, but also to dance the night away at his celebrated masked ball.

We were pleased to invite to the performance pupils from Barnwood Park Arts College and Brockworth Enterprise School.

J Hewett

NewsREEL

CHINESE MORNING FOR YEAR SEVEN



As China becomes an increasingly dominant and powerful country in today's economic world, interest in its language and diverse culture has grown. It was felt to be appropriate as we approach the Chinese New Year on 18th February (Year of the Pig) to offer pupils an insight into China's rich heritage. A number of pupils are already learning Mandarin Chinese with Mr Brookin after school and for three consecutive years we have taken 6th Form pupils to China to attend an immersion course in Mandarin Chinese. We are lucky to have links with the Mandarin Chinese School in Gloucester and also the University of Gloucester. We were thus able to invite Chinese students to the school to lead the day. Our many thanks to Lili Zheng, Kaihong Lin, Xiaohui Zhang and Yichen Zhao for their hard work and enthusiasm.

An introduction to China, which included information on geography, dance and the New Year celebrations, concluded with a performance on the zither, a traditional Chinese instrument. Pupils attended four workshops and all were able to sample a lesson in Mandarin Chinese, calligraphy, Tai Chi and geography. My many thanks to Mr Gowler for leading the geography workshop and his support for the day.

It was a rich experience for the pupils which I hope will have stimulated an interest in this increasingly important country.

J Hewell



NewsREEL

D&T News

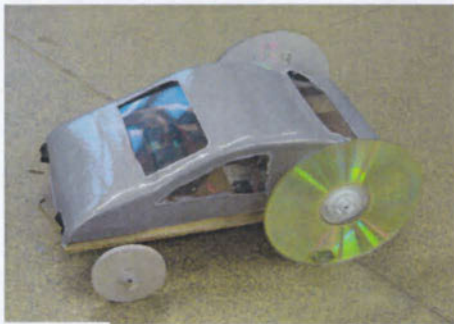
CRAFTSMANSHIP!

This time of year is extremely important, with examination students manufacturing projects and finalising project folder work. The workshops are a hive of activity as the students try to ensure that their projects are completed to a high standard and ready for marking by the 'Easter' deadline. Many of the projects are beginning to take shape but will require careful finishing if they are to achieve the results their efforts deserve. Good Luck to the students!



TOYOTA CHALLENGE

Two teams from the Y7 Technology Club successfully submitted their design folders for the Toyota Challenge deadline last week. One team designed and built a programmable buggy (below) that can manoeuvre around obstacles. The other has built a solar powered car (top left) to enter into an eight metre long race. They expect to hear by 5th March whether they have been successful in going forward to the regional championships in early May. This will place them and their cars in competition against other students up to sixteen years old but they are not daunted. In the meantime both teams are working on refining and improving their cars' performance in readiness. We wish them well.



Michael Parry and Alex Ford

Two of our Y11 Design and Technology students have applied to the Arkwright Foundation for sponsorship to help support their 'A' level studies 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, a students first have to complete an application form, sit an examination and attend an 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 7th February 2007 and if successful the interviews will take place in March and April. We wish the students the best of luck!

S Hancock/S L James



NewsREEL



The sixteenth year of the Tesco computers for schools scheme for 2007 begins in March. Last year we 'banked' our collection of vouchers, so

that when added to this year's vouchers, we aim to buy another new computer with a flat screen monitor, for use with the 'Laser Cutters'. 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.

FRENCH TUITION



Are you interested in extra French language tuition?

Are your parents keen to help you master your language skills?

I am available out of school hours for private tuition and would be available to any Year 9 and above contenders.

Please contact me by telephone at STRS on

01452 338400

or e-mail me at

thomas.lauer@hotmail.fr

anytime.

SCHOOLS BADMINTON LEAGUE 2007 Round-Up

This new league covers all of Gloucestershire.

We were put into Gloucester Division 1 with Denmark Road High School, Bishop's College, Brockworth and Chosen Hill. Fixtures were played on a 'home and away' basis, giving us eight matches.

The league is aimed at Y10 & 11 pupils, although opportunities arose for the inclusion of some Y9 players.

The STRS Squad consisted:

Gareth Evans, Joe Alderman, Ben Griffiths, Adrian Fu, Alex Williamson, James Walter, Callum Bird, Jon Taylor & 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 High School put us in pole position in the division. However a close defeat to Denmark Road - a very exciting match which went to 18-21 in the last game of the fixture - and a 1-8 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 Y8, 9 and 6th form Leagues.

P Brown



NewsREEL



YEAR 7 ACTIVITIES

Y7 are now approaching the half way mark for their first year at Tommies. I feel the boys have settled well into school life and are achieving good things.

In December the whole year group took part in a visit to Explore @ Bristol. The purpose of this trip was part of the Y7 induction programme, to allow them to continue to develop friendships and settle into their form groups. Also the trip was very beneficial towards developing pupils' science understanding, in particular with Biology through the wildwalk experience, Physics through the studying of forces and light in the Explore section and Geography in the rainforest experience workshop.

During the day the boys had time in each section of the complex. In particular they seemed to enjoy the Imax cinema and the real life bush-tucker trial was particularly popular with delicacies such as crickets, mealworms and ants all on the menu!

I was particularly impressed with the boys' behaviour during the day where they represented themselves and the school well. During the rainforest workshop the boys participated well in the activities and were very good when questioned by the teacher.

This term twenty-eight boys visited Clearwell caves where they had the opportunity to go deep underground and travel through narrow passages (cracks!) such as the rabbit run and mouse hole!

Thank you to colleagues for helping with the running of these activities. Without their time and enthusiasm these activities could not take place.

D A Gowler
Head of Y7

NewsREEL



YEAR 7 RUGBY 2007

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 throughout 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 with the final score bringing us a win of 29-0.

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 around 5-5 at half time before losing 12-5.

V Pate's

In an excellent game of rugby, both teams were wholly 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 Pate's responded, to go into the break 12-5 up. Pate's came back strongly into the second half and only some determined defence kept them out, for the school to run out winners by 17-5.

The Y7 team has shown great potential in their opening games despite losing continuity with the match v Marling School and the Hartpurty 10-a-side tournament both being lost to the weather.

I J Gallagher



44 ESU COTSWOLD MARATHON Bronze Award

We arrived in Matson with our bags packed and our food stocked for the '4 o'clock Kit Check' and our admission numbers were all that stood between us and the twelve mile walk which lay ahead. By five o'clock we were ready and at 5:12 pm we set off into the fading light of day. The weather posed no obstacle as one team-mate walked the entire 12 miles in a short sleeved t-shirt (!!), but as we neared the finish line, light was becoming a dim and distant privilege no longer afforded us and 'shortcuts' became a must. However, we arrived in good time (4.5 hours), all happy and well. Next year, we take it up a notch.

I Murphy

*Richard Young,
Ben Sargeant
and Iain Murphy*



SPRING TERM 2007

Tuesday 6 March	Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00pm
Monday 12 March	Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00pm
Tuesday 13 March	L6th Parents' Higher Education Evening, 7.00pm
12 - 16 March	Founder's Week
19 - 23 March	Trial AS examinations (L6th)
Monday 26 March	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
Thursday 29 March	Spring Concert, 7:30pm
Monday 2 April	L6th Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00pm
Wednesday 4 April	End of term, 12:45 pm

5 - 18 April

Easter Holidays

SUMMER TERM 2007

Thursday 19 April	Term starts, 8:40 am
19 - 25 April	Trial A2 examinations (U6th)
Tuesday 24 April	Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00pm
Thursday 26 April	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
Wednesday 2 May	Choral Concert, Holy Trinity, 7:30pm
Thursday 3 May	GCSEs, <i>what can a parent do?</i> , Y9&10 parents, 7:00pm
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)
20 - 26 June	School Examinations (Wed-Tues)
Wednesday 27 June	In-Service Day (no school for pupils)
2 - 6 July	6th Form Induction Week
Thursday 5 July	Sports Evening, 6:30pm
Friday 20 July	End of term, 12:45 pm

Wednesday 5 September 2007/08

school year starts for pupils, 8:40am

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

Future Sales:

THURSDAY

8th MARCH 2007

6:30 - 7:30 pm.

MONDAY

30th APRIL 2007

6:30 - 7:30 pm.

SATURDAY

30th JUNE 2007

10:00 - 12:00 noon

IMPORTANT NOTICE PLEASE!!

Are there any mums willing to help once or twice a year at the sales - for one hour?
Should you wish to know what is involved, please just come to a sale or phone Bev on 01242 524344.

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

We are very short of 'Green' Rugby shirts - have you one in your cupboard?

Has anyone an industrial clothes rail we can have or a contact where we may obtain this item?