



The English education system is heavily reliant upon examinations. I am delighted that the School passed its Ofsted examination with flying colours, well done to everyone connected with Rich's. Public examinations are now well under way and end-of-Year exams are just 2½ weeks after half-term. We do everything we can to ensure our students are well prepared and can enter the exam Hall with confidence.

We wish them all well.

FOUNDER'S WEEK

The extent of our Founder's Week fund-raising is now complete. I thought parents might be interested to know the actual figures, shown in brackets on the right:

A marvellous effort.

Each £1 pays for a day's schooling for a girl at PMM School. The 20 girls we sponsor are indebted to our boys for their efforts and help. PMM keeps us posted on their academic progress e.g. **Annet Nandala**, one of the first girls we supported, is now working to pay her way through a Business Administration course at Makerere University in Kampala.

Free Dress Day	(£720.00)
No Homework Day	(£279.00)
Drag Football	(£ 39.00)
9T Treasure Island	(£ 50.00)
Darts competition	(£ 23.00)
MP3 Day	(£ 64.00)
8T's skateboarding week	(£ 49.00)
9S Guess the Sweets in the Jar	(£ 11.00)
Ping Pong Bounce	(£ 5.00)
Film Club	(£ 1.60)
Gladiator Contest	(£178.00)
Teachers' Rap Contest	(£207.00)
James White's sponsored haircut	(£ 75.00)
Mrs. Banks' Bath half-marathon	(£320.00)
Y7's Easter Egg sale	(£158.00)
George Schreuder's sponsored swim	(£ 52.80)
Junior Drama	(£ 33.61)
Fergus Pickles' Geography lesson	(£ 4.36)
Peter Stanley's sponsored silence	(£108.00)

GCSEs: WHAT CAN A PARENT DO?

We held an evening for parents of Y9 and Y10, led by Julie Casey, to provide ideas on how parents can help and support children in their GCSE studies. This was the first time we have held such an evening, it was also the first time Julie Casey had led a parents' evening. She is the author of a successful book which gives parents tips on possible strategies.

I am pleased that the evening was well supported and received much positive feedback. The aim is to repeat the event, probably in two years.

NewsREEL

Inspection report: Sir Thomas Rich's School, 21-22 March 2007

12 of 12

Annex B

24 March 2007



Dear Students

Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 0LF

Thank you for your positive contributions during our visit to your school recently. We learnt a great deal from talking with you and the staff, hearing from your parents and joining your lessons and other activities. We valued your judgements and took them into account when reaching our conclusions.

We found that Sir Thomas Rich's School is an outstanding school and you are right to be proud of it. There are several reasons for this. It is led and managed excellently by the headmaster and senior staff. They know the school very well because they are constantly checking how well you are learning and making the right decisions about how to help you make still more progress. There is much good teaching with a significant amount of it being outstanding and this helps you to succeed in your studies.

The relationships between teachers and students are exemplary. Teachers support and guide you very well and provide you with a safe environment in which to learn. The curriculum that the school offers you is excellent and enriched in lots of ways. For instance, the range of languages you can learn, options in the sixth form, activity days and after-school clubs all contribute to making school life varied and interesting.

You are a major part of what makes the school outstanding. Your behaviour is very good, as is the way you get on with one another and show respect for your teachers and visitors to the school. You are enthusiastic in lessons and interested in your studies. You take pride in your work and your test and examination results are impressive. All of this happens because the headmaster, staff, governors, students and parents share a determination that the school will meet its aims of promoting the highest academic standards, high standards of behaviour and appearance and extensive extra-curricular provision.

Because your school is so good, our only advice for future development is to ensure that high quality teaching is provided consistently throughout the school.

Thank you once again for helping us and the inspectors would like to wish you all every success for the future.

Yours sincerely

Gloria Dolan
HMI

NewsREEL

ASSEMBLIES

We were delighted to welcome Damian Spencer, professional footballer with Cheltenham Town FC, to our final assembly to help to present sports cups and colours. We are grateful to Cheltenham Town FC for their support and to Damian for again giving freely of his time to help us.

The previous day we welcomed **Jody Ballard**, ex-Rich's, now Regional Education Manager with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The RNLI was our School charity last term. Jody talked to the School about the work of the RNLI and was presented with a cheque for £1,000 for their "Train One, Save Many" appeal.



SWIMMING

The Gloucester Secondary Schools Swimming Gala was held at GL1 towards the end of last term. We entered swimmers from every Year and, for the first time, a squad of four senior girls. There were many excellent performances and thus Rich's retained the trophy as the top school overall.

HOUSE EVENTS

Thanks to the staff who organise and run the many House competitions through the year. The main event this term was the **House Public Speaking**, organised by Mr Pickard. In the Junior event North and West tied, followed by South and East. The Senior event was won by Westgate from Northgate, Eastgate and Southgate. Overall Westgate won by one point bringing Northgate in second with a tie for Southgate and Eastgate in third place.

Some results from the end of last term:

House Chess (thanks to Mr. Fowler for running this) was won by Eastgate from Northgate, Westgate and Southgate. **Junior House Cross Country** was won by Southgate from Westgate, Northgate and Eastgate. Well done to individual race winners: Y7 – **Adam Thrall** (morning race) and **Oliver Young** (afternoon); Y8 – **Lewis Norfield-Jones**; Y9 – **Matthew Adair**. **Senior House Cross Country** was won by Eastgate from Westgate, Southgate and Northgate. Individual winners were **Rowan Tibbs** (Y10) and **Richard De-Camps** (seniors).



HONOURS

Each year we present Honours to students who have made significant contributions to the life of the School over a sustained period of years or in several areas of School activity. We are fortunate to have hugely supportive, helpful and committed students. Honours are our way of saying "Thank You" to those who stand out even amongst so much goodwill. We were delighted to present Honours to four members of our U6th:

Tom Hards for his contributions to choir, drama, sound & lighting;

Will Middleton – leadership of House activities and help in P.E.;

Tom Towers and Rob Jeffs – help in drama over many years.

QUIZ NIGHT

On 27th April the School 44thESU Scouts held the second Quiz night of the year. This time we were raising funds for the PMM School in Uganda. As always we would like to thank all the huge number of contestants for entering the Quiz. But we would especially like to thank Mr Lewis and Mr Hearn for agreeing to perform, without any regard for their own safety, as our Quiz Masters. They achieved new heights in spontaneous joviality supported by stunning comic timing not seen before in the world of Quiz night entertainment. Mr Passey provided the amplification such that no one could miss a single tantalising tormenting question. The quiz was superbly arranged by **Richard Young** and his Scout team and finished off with an excellent Raffle featuring an eight foot giant Jenga as first prize. In total we raised £210 and we hope to see you all again in November.

44thESU

NewsREEL

SUMMER TIME IN D&T

All the examination students have now completed their Design and Technology coursework. The folders and practical work have been marked and the necessary details sent to the relevant examination boards. The GCSE moderator has moderated the students work. We wish the students well with their revision and preparation for the final written exams and we look forward to the students receiving the grades their efforts deserve this summer.

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Mike Parry and **Alex Ford** attended interviews in April. They had to take with them a portfolio of their work and while at the university underwent several problem-solving exercises as part of the selection process. The final decisions and offers of scholarships will be made in June. Watch this space!



TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS 2007

The vouchers for the 16th year of the Tesco computers for schools scheme for 2007 are no longer being issued. We have already collected over 5500 vouchers and I would be most grateful if you would donate any outstanding vouchers as soon as possible. A collection box is placed in reception or you can pass your vouchers directly to Mr Hancock or Mrs James where they will be gratefully received. My thanks also to the "volunteers" who continue to count and parcel the vouchers.



NewsREEL

Eclips Team Toyota Challenge 2007



CHALLENGE 2007

Two teams from the Y7 Technology club at Sir Thomas Rich's were successful in going forward to the South West regional finals of the Toyota Challenge 2007 earlier this term. The Eclips Team built a Solar Powered car to race along an eight metre track.

In the main picture with their car are, from left to right, **Christopher Sullivan, Douglas Bruce, Samuel Clissold, Oliver James and Lewis Allen-Jones.**

The other team, Live to Ride, built a programmable car capable of negotiating obstacles with its micro-switch sensors on the front.

In the above picture are **Akshay Patel** on the left with **Jack Lyes** holding the car. The three other team members were, **James Parker-Mowbray, Joshua Clegg** and **Jack Taylor.**

The two teams were selected to compete against seven other teams in their category from over seventy entries. They were the youngest group competing against GCSE students and other older groups.

They received generous sponsorship from Mr Simon Kettle at Set Point Gloucester for additional electronic equipment and from British Energy for their T-shirts to help create their team image.

Although not succeeding to the finals this year, they learned a great deal about the competition and came away with some stimulating ideas. They will be back.

S Hancock/S James

NewsREEL

Y8 BRIDGNORTH TRIP

Thursday 10th May.

We set off on the seemingly never ending bus journey to Shropshire, even though it was only an hour and a half away. We eventually arrived at Kidderminster or "Kiddie" as the locals called it, in order to get the Severn Valley Railway up to Bridgnorth.

We chugged along the railway with some gasps of amazement as we passed the West Midland Safari Park. We reached Bridgnorth at around 11:40am and were greeted by an uphill walk from the river to the town itself. We were straight into work with our first task of marking almost every building in the town, under the code of RICEPOTS: Residential, Commercial, Public Buildings, and Industrial were among the different buildings. After the long task, we had some lunch, for many fish and chips as the local chippy had a great reputation for boys who had already been to Bridgnorth!

Bearing in mind all the freedom we were having, we were here for a purpose as part of our urban geography programme. We asked ourselves simple questions such as: 'Why is the town where it is, and what influenced the decision to set up the town there? As you can see from the lower picture, the main reason from the above picture was the River Severn, the driving power and force in the Industrial Revolution. The town is almost separated in two as more residential and industrial areas have grown onto the other side of the river valley, compared to the more commercial area, where the town first originated. But could all this be about to change? Could Bridgnorth decline, like so many small towns before it?

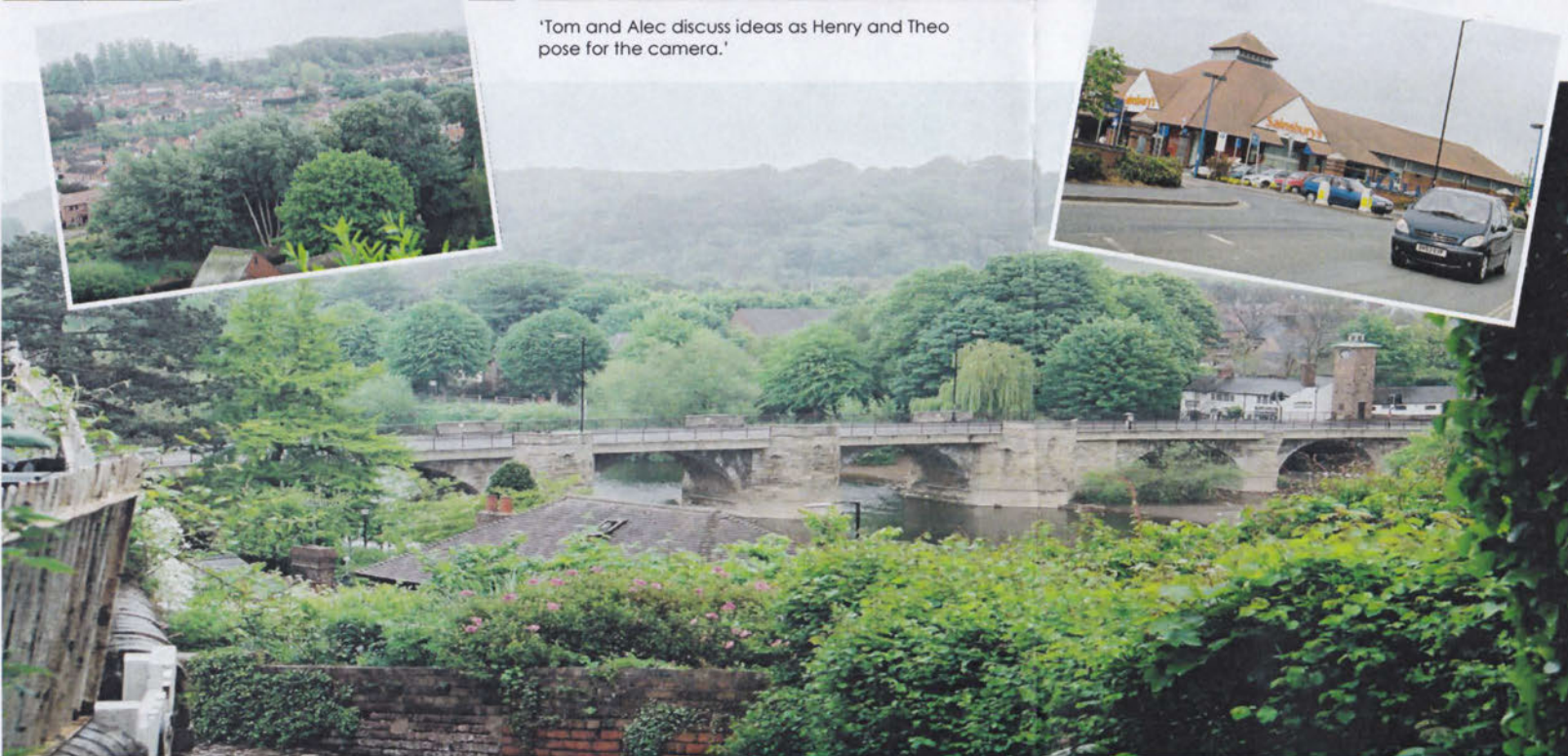
Yes, the main reason is a simple supermarket like Sainsbury's. This takes away business from the greengrocers and little convenience stores that keep the town centre alive. Little town streets could be forgotten about altogether.

Eventually after building marking or traffic counting, we made our way back to the station, to go back to a thoroughly wet Gloucestershire. It would be fair to say an enjoyable day was had by all.

Tom Walsh 85



'Tom and Alec discuss ideas as Henry and Theo pose for the camera.'



NewsREEL

Right: English and Lithuanian contingent

COMENIUS PROJECT

Visit to Polski Trambesh
15th - 18th April 2007

We embarked on our journey to Bulgaria with a certain lack of enthusiasm, due only in part to the unbearably early start: 3.00am! We remembered the cold, the basic accommodation and food and the hard pillows from our previous visit. But we had forgotten the glorious scenery, the wonderful hospitality and friendliness of the Bulgarians and the pleasure which arises from renewing friendships.

Mariana Genscheva, the Project Co-ordinator, and the Headteacher of the Tsanko Tserkovski School Polski met us at Sofia airport and stepping outside we were immediately impressed by the sight of the snow-capped Vitosha Mountain. We were the first group to arrive and enjoyed a memorable evening exploring Sofia in the sunshine and indulging in a very good Chinese meal.

The following day was also spent in Sofia. The highlight of the day was a visit to the Boyana church which was adorned with astonishing frescoes, the work of anonymous 13th century artists. They represent Bulgaria's most important contribution to medieval art. Also impressive were the Russian Church of St. Nicholas with its onion domes and the Alexander Nevski Memorial Church, (right) built to commemorate Russia's costly contribution to Bulgaria's liberation (1877).

Our second day was based at the Tsanko Tserkovski School. We were warmly greeted by the Bulgarian pupils and enjoyed working alongside them, although communication was at times rather difficult. The focus of the meeting, however, was the exchange of information on our customs and traditions. These were presented in Esperanto by **Jack Vickery**, **Adam McNally** and **Tom Bosworth** and encompassed traditions in Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales. The other partner countries, Italy, Bulgaria, Spain and Lithuania, likewise gave a presentation of their traditions and national costumes. A concert in which the Bulgarians performed their vibrant and colourful traditional dances rounded off a very successful day.

The final day was soon upon us and we were able to see a little more of Bulgaria as we travelled first to Pleven to see a military museum (Pleven had been the greatest Turkish stronghold in Northern Bulgaria) and then to Trojan where we visited a monastery.

It was in every way an excellent trip. We are fortunate in having such conscientious partners who work hard to achieve collaboration and friendships between the schools, thus ensuring the success of the project.

J Hewett

*Traditional Bulgarian greeting with bread,
spices and wild geranium leaf*



NewsREEL



STRS ECONOMISTS - BANK OF ENGLAND INTEREST RATE CHALLENGE

Avid readers of the NewsREEL will recall that in the Christmas issue it was reported that a team of the best economists from STRS (**Paul Gladwell, David Anderton, Sam Brewer, James Hewlett and Tom Hards**) had progressed to the penultimate round of the Bank of England Target 2.0 Interest Rate Challenge. Once again they eagerly anticipated the chance to advise the Bank of England as to whether to raise, lower or retain the current interest rate through a 17 minute presentation. They didn't eagerly anticipate a gruelling 18 minutes of questions from senior officials of the Bank of England!

The team were again the first to give their presentation, and then retired to eat their way through the refreshments provided for the schools. They returned to watch Cheltenham Ladies College provide a very slick performance, Concord College a very professional performance and Bablake School a very winning performance, sadly meaning the STRS team came second (7= out of 265 in the country). So whilst Bablake School have since been preparing for the finals in London, researching every factor that affects inflation, evaluating every comment and writing lengthy speeches on the importance of the US housing market, the Tommies team have had to make do with £650 prize money to play with. Good luck to next year's team!

Tom Hards

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AUSTRALIA RUGBY TOUR Update

Fund-raising for the Tour continues to go very well with over £2500 raised at the recent, highly successful and enjoyable Race Night and Auction held in the School Hall.

RACE NIGHT & AUCTION
STRS AUSTRALIA RUGBY TOUR 2007

Many thanks to all those parents who attended or contributed to running the evening in so many different ways. Our final event will be a Bag-Packing session at Sainsbury's in Barnwood on Saturday 30th June.

C D A Carter

Our Tour Party of 36 boys and 4 Staff will leave for Australia on Saturday 14th July.



PGL TRIP FOR Y8, 2007

Between the 11th and 14th May, forty-one Y8 boys travelled to PGL's Marchant's Hill Centre in Hindhead, Surrey. This ICT Trip, accompanied by Mr Lewis, Mr Dempsey, Mr Birchall and Miss Adamson, was an opportunity to combine ICT skills and outdoor pursuits. Students enjoyed such diverse activities as; high wire trapeze; Aeroball; survival skills and making a digital video of a new PGL activity. Apart from the rain, this was a fantastic trip! More details and photos can be found on the www.strs.org.uk website, look for the link of the front page.

D A Lewis

PARKING ARRANGEMENTS ON PARENTS EVENINGS & LARGE EVENTS

The arrangements for parking on parent's evenings and other large events have never been actively publicised.

Over time parents have become aware of them by trial & error. The main points to note are that on large events where cars are arriving in a short space of time, such as Open Evenings, the school uses 6th Formers to direct traffic to and from the tennis courts where there is parking for around 130 cars.

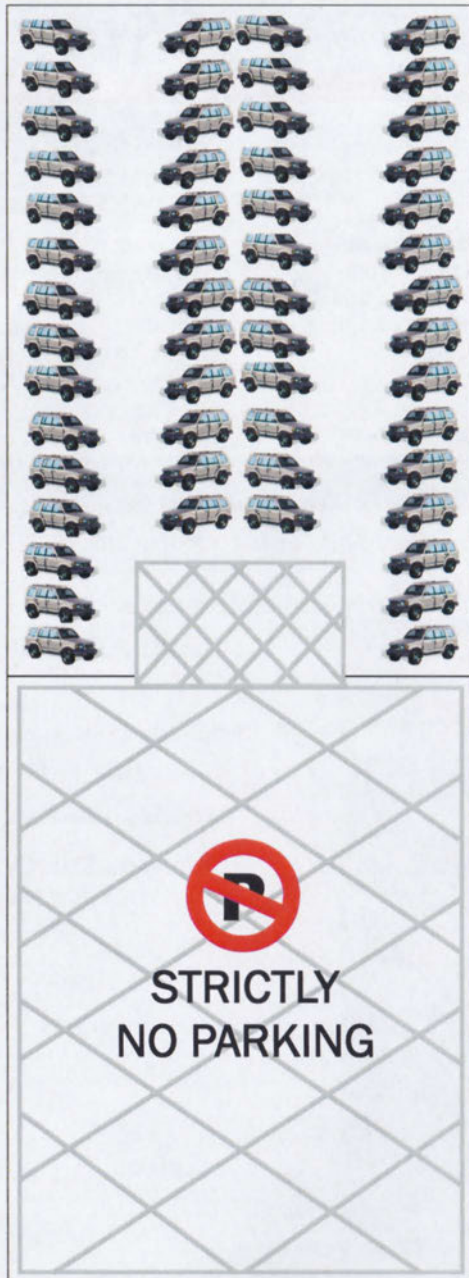
On parents evenings, when the traffic flow is more evenly spread out we adopt the following approach:

- The front car park will be available and has room for about 20 cars.
- The tennis courts are left open and should be used for parking as shown on the diagram. Please fill the right hand bays by the Bowls Pavilion first, followed by the left hand bays by the Memorial Garden. Finally, the two centre bays should be used but leaving a sufficient gap at the Dutch Barn end to allow traffic movement. The same arrangement applies both in Summer, when the nets are up and Winter.
- **NO PARKING** under the Dutch Barn please as this restricts the flow to and from the Tennis Courts. Also only park in the marked bays in the main school driveway and by the Bowling Club wall.
- Entry to the Tennis Courts should be through the first arch of the Dutch Barn and exit via the second arch.



Please do not park on the road

at the front of the school. This not only annoys our neighbours, who are by and large very tolerant, but restricts the traffic flow on a very narrow two lane road. We have had occasions when emergency vehicles have had great difficulty in using Oakleaze for access to an emergency.



TENNIS COURTS

DUTCH BARN

NewsREEL

SUMMER TERM 2007

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 11 June	A2 examinations start (U6th)
Saturday 16 June	PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm.
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.
Saturday 14 July	PA Car Boot Sale, 1:30-3:30 pm.
Thursday 19 July	Summer Concert, Hall, 7:30 pm.

Friday 20 July - End of term, 12:45 pm.

Wednesday 5 September 2007/8 school year starts for pupils, 8:40 am.

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

Future sale dates:-

Saturday 30th June 2007 – 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
(New Y7 morning)

Monday 17th September 2007 – 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday 29th October 2007 - 6:30-7:30 pm
(NB: first Monday after half term)

Do let us turn your unwanted uniform into cash for you and the school.

All sale items need a sales slip – obtainable from the School Secretary.
Please complete and return sales slip/s with item/s for sale to
the School Secretary any day.

A BIG thank you:

to all those people who have donated uniform to school funds;
to Vanessa who has now taken on other responsibilities this year;
to Wendy and Eleanor who have been a great help throughout the year;
and not forgetting Bev and Joy (the organisers of the Nearly New Sales).

