



The first seven weeks of term have flown by. Already pupils have enjoyed residential visits to Stratford (Y7 induction), Cambridge (Classics), Brittany (French work experience), Cornwall (Art), Painswick (Duke of Edinburgh), Spain (exchange), Pembroke (Biology); our students departed for the Rhineland today and groups set off tomorrow to Spain (Comenius link) and France (Geology). Little wonder that our Open Days and Open Evening this week were so popular. We are indebted to our staff for their commitment, of time and energy, which ensures such a wide range of educational experiences.

EXTRA INSET DAY

Parents should have received a letter explaining that we shall have an additional In-Service Day, on Thursday 6th December, so there will be no school for pupils on that day. The Government has recommended secondary schools use this extra day to prepare for significant changes to the curriculum which will commence next September. There are no changes to the subject provision but considerable changes to syllabuses and schemes of work. Apologies for the inconvenience which this will cause.

SPEECH DAY

We were delighted to welcome Jonathan Shephard as our Guest of Honour at last month's Speech Day and Prize Giving. Jonathan was a pupil at Rich's from 1960 to 1968, read English then Law at Oxford University, became a barrister, editor of 'Which?' at the Consumer Association and is now Chief Executive of the Independent Schools Council. He presented cups and books to a hundred pupils in front of a hall full of guests, Governors, staff, pupils and parents. This event is a highlight of the school year, well done to all prize winners.

INVIGILATORS NEEDED

Teachers are no longer expected to undertake invigilation for external examinations. We retain some teacher involvement to ensure that we retain the highest standards of conduct but the majority of invigilation is now done by 'outside' personnel, most of whom are parents. We would like to recruit more people to help. The examinations involved are January 'AS' examinations and the GCSE/AS/A2 examinations in May and June. We provide training, the rate of pay is £7 per hour. If you are interested please let the Bursar, Mr. Burns, know and indicate your availability.



We have a number of Collins Easy Learning French, German and Spanish Dictionaries for sale. These are the latest (2007) edition and retail at £8.99.

Copies can be bought from the School Library for only £7.50. A small number of earlier editions are available at £4.

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ISA AWARD

Mrs Hewett attended a prestigious award ceremony at the Brewery Centre in London on 10th October to collect our International Schools Award. This is accredited to schools which have demonstrated outstanding development of the international dimension in the curriculum. The award was presented by George Alagiah, who currently fronts BBC's Six O'clock News. George has been one of the BBC's leading foreign correspondents and won numerous awards including Amnesty International's Best TV Journalist award in 1994. As the son of an immigrant family

who came to England in 1967, he is committed to the linking of schools across the world and the promotion of improved understanding of other cultures. Delegates were also privileged to hear George speak about his book "A Home from Home" which explores his own immigrant identity and views on multiculturalism.

It was an excellent occasion which recognized the hard work of pupils and staff in establishing an international dimension in the school.

Well done to everybody!

J Hewett

department for
children, schools and families

International School Award 2007

Sir Thomas Rich's School

has been accredited
for outstanding development of the
international dimension in the curriculum

1 September 2007

Jim Knight MP

Minister of State, Schools and Learners

GOVERNMENT
SCHOOLS
COUNCIL



NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

NEXT SALE:
MONDAY 29th OCTOBER 2007

We are in need of Junior Ties/Northgate Rugby Shirts/ Rugby Socks. Don't forget there are Sixth Form Wraps and Junior Scarves.

Have you any items you wish to sell or donate? If so these items can be left at the School Secretary's Office.

Please ensure you use an official Sales Slip, available from the Secretary's Office, and attach one to each item.

A BIG thank you to Mrs O'Leary whose Year Seven English group, from last year, achieved a number of commendations for their mini saga competition entries.

And another BIG thank you to Mrs Ryder, the school Librarian who has now completed the orders for free books for all current Year Seven pupils. Texts should arrive in school after half-term.

J L Spilsbury

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EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 26th September 2007

The European Day of Languages, an initiative of the Council of Europe, celebrates the linguistic and cultural diversity throughout the world. Held annually throughout Europe on 26th September, it encourages an appreciation of all languages and cultures. At STRS, pupils and staff tried their hand at identifying some European languages and took part in quizzes on languages of the world.

Congratulations to **Sandeep Patel** and **Raphael Morgan** who were runners up in the Gloucestershire European Day of Languages Quiz.

COMENIUS PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

Thank you to all pupils who submitted entries for the photographic competition. The winner of the competition is **Arun Uthannan** for his photograph 'Emporia Brava'. A second and third prize has also been awarded. All will receive cash prizes and their photographs will be displayed in Spain at the next Comenius meeting at half-term.

J Hewett

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Y13 WORK EXPERIENCE IN FRANCE

Twelve intrepid Y13 modern languages students recently returned from a challenging period of work experience in Central Brittany. Departing at dawn each morning, the group worked in a variety of enterprises in and around the important regional centre of Pontivy (Morbihan).

Sephron Mansell, **Rhys Turner** and **Alex Guilford** won many fans among the children they taught in local primary schools. The local retail sector was boosted by the efforts of **Gina Sterling** in a fashion boutique, **Matthew Wright** in a gift-cum-gun shop, and **Tristan Clapham**, who even caught a shop-lifter (une pickpocketteuse), while selling toys. **James Greenwood** was placed in Bricomarche, the French equivalent of B&Q, while **Charles Neveu** joined a Franco-British team of stagiaires in a sports super-market. **Chris Mandella** spent his week in the local golf club, and **Emily Lomax** charmed the customers at a local café.

Perhaps the most demanding assignment linguistically was **James Fooks'** sejour at the Sous-Prefecture, Pontivy's answer to Shire Hall, where the Chief Executive of the entire region wanted to keep him. Finally, perhaps the visit has launched the stellar, multi-lingual, multi-media career of **Tom Williams**, who with great aplomb and brio, read the news, forecasted the weather and conducted interviews on Radio Bro Gwened, the local radio station.

A packed programme of social activities included a Sunday afternoon of Breton dancing, an international Badminton encounter, as well as plenty of ping-pong, pool and baby-foot back at our base - a restored 19th century former flour mill at Kergoual. It must be admitted, however, that the main recreational activity, quite rightly, was gastronomy - the consumption of four course, cordon bleu meals prepared by the directors of the centre, Alan and Helene Line.

This was certainly a daunting, but vastly enjoyable experience, which dramatically enhanced the linguistic skills and confidence of all its participants.

J Reid



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ST IVES REIDENTIAL ART TRIP 2007

On Tuesday 11th September after nearly six hours with two stops, we finally reached our destination of Penzance Youth Hostel. Never ones to rest on our laurels within half an hour we made the trip to Newlyn Gallery. There we were greeted by some fascinating contemporary artwork which invited the viewer to take part in the making of it. A very brave **Greg Chamberlain** volunteered his services and attempted to stitch a section of a prosthetic limb (you had to be there!) This was followed by sketching on the water's edge along the Newlyn coastline. In the evening pupils looked at the work of Kurt Jackson and experimented with mixed media techniques producing sketchbook pages in glorious technicolour.

On Wednesday morning we drove to Zennor to take a walk along the Tinnars Way. Armed with the experiences gained in the previous night's work, pupils studied the landscape confidently applying their new found techniques to their artwork. We then made our way into St. Ives and pupils set off to gather critical studies information from the range of backstreet galleries that litter the maze of St. Ives streets. After a well earned ice cream and walk along the beach we made our way back to the Youth Hostel. The weather was fantastic and made the day's work both relaxing and enjoyable. Although some paid the price and returned that evening with pink faces and necks after their 'plein air' sketching. I don't know which was more colourful that evening the artwork produced or the fuchsia skin tones!

Thursday was devoted to gathering critical studies information. For this we visited the Tate Gallery in St. Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Garden. Both were excellent exhibitions. The Hepworth gardens never fail to impress. I think it is the combination of the environment for which they were created and the simple pleasure of being able to wander around and touch the tactile sculptures. After a third busy day we returned to the hostel to another good meal and to pack. To their credit despite three busy days our artists continued to work into the evening well past nine o'clock without complaint.

On Friday knowing we had a long journey ahead we devoted our day to travel with a brief stop at Lanhydrock House, a national trust property with gardens. There pupils squeezed in their last sketch and staff squeezed in some cake!

My thanks go to Mr Gallagher who is now honorary member of the Art Department. Having joined us now on two residential trips we feel he has earned this honour through his hard work and enthusiasm. Thank you also to Mr Lockett whose tireless energy is part of what makes our residential trips such a success. Lastly but by no means least, thank you to our intrepid artists who were a pleasure throughout the trip. They worked hard every day and night and were engaged in and enthusiastic about every task they undertook. Thank you one and all.

Mrs Cormack-Hicks



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RUGBY HONOURS

Congratulations to the following boys who have gained selection for Gloucestershire at rugby:

Under 18s:

Christopher Surman (full back)

Under 16s:

"A" team - **Harry Young** (scrum half);

"B" team - **George Cusworth** (back row)
and **Spencer Pugh** (prop).

2nd XV RUGBY

The seconds have enjoyed a successful start to their season, winning all of their matches so far, against Beaufort (17-7), Chosen Hill (34-5), Cheltenham College (17-11) and Bournside (22-7). There has been a pleasing attitude to training and plenty of competition for places in the side which augurs well for the future.

U15's RUGBY

The U15's have made excellent progress so far this year. They started the season with defeats to QEJ, Bristol and Chosen Hill (the latter in the Daily Mail Cup). However, since then, they have recorded excellent victories against Churchdown, Newent and an amazingly brave performance to beat The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School away. The quality of their attack is improving with their defence proving to be a valuable weapon. They lost a closely fought game to Wycliffe College last week but defeated Central Technology College to reach the preliminary round of the Daily Mail Vase Competition.

QEJ, Bristol	(Lost 36-5)
Chosen Hill	(Lost 24-10)
BHBS	(Won 27-22)
Newent	(Won 36-17)
Churchdown	(Won 17-10)
Central	(Won 39-10)

On Wednesday 10th October the U16 footballers entered the army 5-a-side tournament. Unfortunately four of the Year Eleven squad were playing for the 1st XI and were therefore unavailable for the tournament.

However, the team that represented the school competed well in a high level competition and despite only winning one match they showed great spirit and determination to challenge all their opposition.

Results:	Kingsmead, Chelt.	(Lost 2-1)
	Cleeve School	(Lost 1-0)
	St Benedicts School	(Lost 2-0)
	Chosen Hill School	(Won 4-2)
	Hanham high School	(Lost 1-0)
	The Castle School	(Lost 2-1)
	Marling School	(Lost 2-1)

U13 RUGBY

The 'A' team has made a very promising start to the season having won four of their five matches so far this term. As a team they have defended extremely well, clearly illustrated by the fact that they have not conceded a point in their last four matches. The forwards have started to compete far better in the rucks and mauls and the backs have used the ball well on the whole, scoring some excellent tries.

The highlight of the season so far was the outstanding 32-0 win against a far bigger Bournside XV, which included six well worked tries.

The 'B' team has also played with much skill and enthusiasm in their two matches against Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School and Bournside.

Results	'A' XV	'B' XV
BHBS [a]	(L - 22-19)	(L - 27-7)
Newent [h]	(W - 27-0)	
Churchdown [a]	(W - 22-0)	
Bournside [a]	(W - 32-0)	(W - 14-7)
Marling [h]	(W - 17-0)	

C D A Carter

NewsREEL



STRATFORD EXPERIENCES of Year 7's

Day 1:

Dear diary,

Today was the first day at Stratford Upon Avon and it was a lot more energetic than I thought it would be. As soon as we arrived at the youth hostel, we literally dumped our bags and set off to take part in the activities planned for the day. We walked a long way and passed time by looking at all the new views. We finally arrived at the crazy golf course and after a quick lunch, we set up teams who we had to play with or against. We finished the eighteen holes and walked to the butterfly farm which was only five minutes away. When we thought we'd finished, we still had a swimming session in the leisure centre. We returned to the hostel with the mini buses, had dinner, and then were allowed free time until 9:30pm although most of us stayed up a lot longer than that!



Day 2:

Dear diary,

When we awoke,

we quickly ate breakfast and then sped on a five mile treasure trail around Stratford. We were kind of hoping to rest and relax after getting soaked for two hours but that would be just a dream, since it was only eleven o'clock. We found ourselves outside Mary Arden's house (Shakespeare's mother) after a twenty minute bus ride. Another bus ride back into Stratford led us to a brass rubbing centre where we made some brilliantly colourful pictures. I think that after all the straining exercise, we deserved the delicious dinner of vegetable lasagne and strawberry cheesecake.

Day 3:

Dear diary,

In the morning we were forced to clean our rooms, but it was worth it. We visited a boy's heaven seeing a range of super cars at the motor museum in Gaydon. Besides that, the best part was the extremely bumpy ride on the muddy track. After being returned to the museum in a bomb and bullet proof police car, we returned to Gloucester extremely happy and content.

O Afifi, 7S

NewsREEL

Day 1

At 6:30am in the morning, I woke up and got dressed in what seemed like record time. Then I bombed down stairs and wolfed down my breakfast. All of a sudden I was out the door and being driven to the bus stop. After I had kissed my Dad goodbye, I hopped on the bus and set off for school! When I arrived I had to wait under the Dutch Barn before we were finally being allowed onto the minibus (behind the minibus was a trailer) I picked a seat next to George Peach, my friend, and the bus set off for Stratford! On the way to our destination, George let us all watch the 'Simpsons' on his portable DVD player, and a few people shared some of their sweets with other people on the bus. When we got to the hostel, we unloaded our bags, went to the toilet and set off for mini golf. Mini golf was really good, as I enjoy that sort of thing, and I managed to win by just half a point! Next up was the Butterfly farm! It was really humid in the butterfly room and a few butterflies landed on my head! There were also other sections like Arachno Land and Insect World.

Day 2

When I and my dormitory companions had managed to drag ourselves out of bed and outside we started on the treasure hunt! We got lost many times and had to retrace our steps a few times. At the end we moved from the playground to the open top bus that took us to Mary Arden's house, visited the falconry and got to hold an American Hawk for a short time. The hawk's beauty was astounding, even though it was a serial killer, and we also got to look at some of the other birds on display. After a hard day George Peach kept us awake most of the night but we finally got to sleep.

Day 3

The last day of our trip was definitely the best by far. After another 7:00am start we headed off to the Heritage Motor Museum in Gaydon where we left our bags and travelled to the 4x4 circuit. Throughout the whole ride I was being thrown around like peas in a can, even though I had my seatbelt on! I and four other people had the best ride as we were in the back and by the end of the ride I was feeling very dazed and confused! After



having watched the other team complete their circuit we headed off to the main part of the museum. We all had a talk and a guided tour around the museum, looking at the very first car to the latest sports cars! My favourite car was the Aston Martin V12 or the Aston Martin Vantage. Finally, we travelled home, all of us worn out and exhausted, to be reunited with our parents!

J Thomas, 7R

Crazy golf: The first of the activities was crazy golf, most of the children present enjoyed it and did well. The teachers enjoyed it also and only one child managed to beat them.

Butterfly farm: The second activity was a tour around the butterfly farm. There were many different types of butterfly and many types of insects, fish and spiders. Most of the children took pictures of butterflies, landing on different objects, including peoples heads. There were fascinating fish and strange spiders, but the bit that people enjoyed the most was touching the insects. Nearly all of the children touched at least one of the insects each.

Treasure trail: The treasure trail lasted an hour and had an estimated walking distance of two to three miles. Although most of the children enjoyed the trail they finally knew what "bring comfortable walking shoes" (as said on kit list) meant.

Mary Arden's house: This activity was full of factual information on Stratford. When we reached the house we had a tour, we visited the falconry which was very informative about birds of prey.

Motor museum: With many vehicles to look at there simply wasn't enough time to look all of them individually, although they had movie cars, record breaking cars, classical cars and even racing cars.

4x4 experience: Afterwards there was the 4x4 experience which I'm sure most of us would agree was absolutely terrifying but at the same time fun. As one of the riders said "You get used to it after the first fifty bumps!" Dips, bumpy bits and large puddles were just a few obstacles on the whole track, all of which proved no problem for the 4x4.

E Brooking, 7R

PANewsREEL

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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BOOKS GAMES CAKE STALL
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CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sir Thomas Rich's School
Saturday, 1st December 2007
1:00pm - 3:00pm

We have received slips from parents who would like to discuss car sharing with other parents in their area. If you live between Newent and Ross, or in the Cirencester or Stonehouse/Standish/Hardwicke areas and you are interested in talking to other parents about 'Car Sharing' options, please complete the enclosed 'Lift Sharing Slip' and return it to Sali Gray, via the school.

Alternatively, you are welcome to email Sali@business-advancement.co.uk; It may just be that you would like to make some new contacts for those days when everything starts to unravel . . . I'm sure I'm not the only person who has days like that. What a relief it would be to be able to pick up the phone and ask someone for help! If your son/daughter regularly takes the bus home, they may be happy to show a younger pupil where to catch the bus etc. and help build their confidence. All offers gratefully received. Thank you.

For those living in the Abbeymead/Abbeylea areas, a minibus taxi has been organised by a parent at the school. **For more details, please ring Faith on 01452 557240 (day) or 07747 033294 (eve).**

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2007/8 CALENDAR

Please note that the "Easter Holidays" do not coincide with Easter next year. Good Friday (21 March) and Easter Monday (24 March) will be holidays but then we are back to school for a fortnight. The end-of-term holiday runs from Monday 7 to Friday 18 April. These holidays are common to all Gloucestershire schools under the 'six term year' arrangements.

AUTUMN TERM 2007

Mon 22 – Friday 26 Oct

Mon 29 Oct – Fri 2 Nov

Mon 19 Nov

Mon 26 Nov – Weds 5 Dec

Thu 6 Dec

Tue 11 Dec

Wed 12 – Fri 14 Dec

Mon 17 Dec

Tues 18 Dec

Wed 19 Dec

Thursday 20 Dec

Half Term holidays

L6 exams

Y10 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Trial GCSEs (Y11)

INSET Day (no school for pupils)

U6 group photograph

School Drama Performance, *The Murder of Arthur Bennington*, 7:30 pm

U6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7:30 pm

Carol Service, Holy Trinity, Longlevens, 7:30 pm

Term ends, 12:45 pm

SPRING TERM 2008

Thu 3 Jan

Wed 9 Jan

Thu 17 Jan

Mon 21 – Fri 25 Jan

Wed 23 Jan

Tue 29 Jan

Wed 6 Feb

Tue 12 Feb

Mon 18 – Fri 22 Feb

Mon 25 – Fri 29 Feb

Mon 10 Mar

Mon 10 – Fri 14 Mar

Fri 14 – Thurs 20 Mar

Fri 21 & Mon 24 Mar

Wed 2 Apr

Fri 4 Apr

Term starts, 8:40 am

6th Form Open Evening, 7:00 pm

Y11 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Y11 Work Experience

Y9 'Options' Evening, 7:00 pm

Y11 photographs

Y8 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Y9 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Half Term holidays

Y10 exams

Y7 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Founder's Week

Trial 'AS' exams (L6th)

Good Friday/Easter Monday holidays

L6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm

Term ends, 12:45 pm

SUMMER TERM 2008

Mon 21 Apr

Mon 21 – Fri 25 Apr

Mon 5 May

Tues 6 – Fri 9 May

Mon 12 May – Fri 6 Jun

Weds 14 May – Tues 24 Jun

Mon 26 – Fri 30 May

Mon 9 – Weds 25 Jun

Mon 23 – Thurs 26 Jun

Fri 27 Jun

Mon 30 Jun – Fri 4 Jul

Thu 3 Jul

Fri 18 Jul

Term starts, 8:40 am

Trial 'A2' exams (U6th)

May Day bank holiday

SATs (Y9)

'AS' exams (L6th)

GCSE exams

Half Term holidays

'A2' exams (U6th)

End of Year exams (Y7, 8 & 9)

INSET Day (no school for pupils)

6th Form Induction Week

Sports Evening, 6:30 pm

Term ends, 12:45 pm