



The range of activities in this NewREEL - sporting, musical, academic - provides the platform upon which the highest individual achievement and the overall success of the school (reported on this page) are built. Thank you to the staff who have provided the opportunities and well done to the pupils who have benefitted

## RAISING ACHIEVEMENT TRANSFORMING LEARNING

### Third Specialism

We have been a Language College since 2000 and a Science College since 2004. As from April this year we shall have a third specialism: **Mentor School**.

The Government awarded us High Performing Specialist School status last year and invited us to bid for a further area of specialisation. The list from which we could choose was limited, the Government now wants specialist schools to drive forward its selected areas for development in secondary education, such as vocational, SEN, training. One area of concern is under-performance, in some schools and of some students. They have a "Raising Achievement Transforming Learning" programme in which Mentor Schools provide expertise which they use to work with other schools to raise performance.

We shall be one of these Mentor Schools (there are 36 in England), our areas of expertise offered to other schools will centre around provision for Gifted & Talented children.



### Oxbridge

Congratulations to the following five students who have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities:

#### Michael Clapton

(to read Geography at Jesus College, Oxford);

#### Paul Gladwell

(Politics, Philosophy, Economics at Brasenose College, Oxford);

#### James Darall

(Theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford);

#### Robert Murtagh

(Physics at Wadham College, Oxford);

#### Adam McNally

(English at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge).

# NewsREEL

## Language Enterprise Day, 10th January 2008

This annual event aims to draw attention to the important role which languages occupy in today's global world, giving insights into other countries, their languages and cultures and promoting a better understanding of the people.

Whilst one half of the pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's, Barnwood Park and Brockworth were enjoying taster foreign language lessons in the Veale Block, the others were engaged in activities in the Hall designed to raise awareness of the importance of learning languages in terms of their cultural and economic significance.

Heather Lee and her team from the Educational Business partnership presented groups of the pupils with a variety of activities and challenges. These ranged from naming the countries of the European Union, matching countries and their culinary specialties, deciding which side of the road to drive on in different countries, displaying knowledge of the police call signs to guessing which language the television presenter Jonathan Ross is fluent in (Russian apparently!) This was followed by an "Any Questions" style session chaired by Mr Hearn, in which pupils from the three schools were given the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of visitors from the local business community. All the panellists spoke with conviction and enthusiasm about the potential benefits both to business and to the individual employee of the ability to speak foreign languages. Several questions focussed on the particular relevance of

certain languages in today's world. Different views were aired but the one thing that the panel was unanimous about was the fact that a positive experience of language learning in school provides the foundation for the acquisition of further languages when the need or opportunity arises. The pupils who had participated in these activities then made their way to the Veale Block for taster sessions in two of the following languages: Arabic, Russian, Swahili, Dutch, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese.

*J Hewett*



## Year 7 Rugby

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November the year seven team entered the Churchdown School 10 a-side tournament. To qualify for the semi-final the school needed to win their league. In a series of tough matches the school battled through to win all matches.

Beaufort  
won 14 - 0

Rednock,  
won 14 - 0

Bishops College,  
won 28 - 0

Newent  
won 10-7

Tewkesbury  
won 7 - 0

In the semi-final v Churchdown School neither team could break the other's defence and after four minutes of extra time the score was 0-0. Rather than the toss of a coin the outcome was decided by a penalty shoot out which the school won by 2 - 0.

This put the school into the final against a strong St Peter's team who dominated position and possession from the outset. Unable to break the stranglehold the school lost by 19 - 0.



# NewsREEL

## 2007 End of Autumn Term

Some news which missed the December NewsREEL deadline:

We were delighted to welcome Rory Lawson and Willie Walker from Gloucester RFC to our final assembly in December. They presented colours, cups, certificates and county ties to students for achievements in rugby, badminton, athletics and cross-country.



Our Carol Services were held at St. John's Northgate and at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens in the final week of term. Thank you to parents and students who attended. The collections raised (£191 and £255) went to St. John's restoration fund and Crisis at Christmas respectively.

## Lateness

The law on pupil registration requires schools to determine a time when 'lateness' becomes 'absence'. The guidance is that this should be around thirty minutes after the school day starts. We now state that a pupil who arrives in school after 9:05 am is officially registered as absent for the morning session. (The school has some discretion e.g. if a bus is late.) This means that if a pupil arrives after the close of morning registration, 9:05 am, we shall require a written explanation of why he or she was absent. The same applies for afternoon registration which will close at 2:30 pm.



# NewsREEL



## 1st XV Rugby.

Played 13. Won 10. Lost 3.  
Points for: 376. Against: 84.

A fantastic season for the Firsts. The process began on the immensely enjoyable and successful tour of Australia. This allowed the team to bond on and off the field, and gave massive impetus to the whole season. Indeed the tour gave such a head start that in the first four fixtures the team scored almost 200 points, while conceding only twelve. Team spirit was excellent throughout and all squad members made a full and valued contribution.

As ever, the platform was provided up front. The forwards excelled at providing high quality first phase possession, with all five players adept at winning their own and opposition ball. The back row were a revelation, securing turnover after turnover and providing a cutting edge in attack.

We were privileged to have experience, balance and control in the inside backs. Decision making and execution were first class, with classy distribution and a fast flat game. This gave the ammunition to the back three who scored most of the team's many tries. Pace, power and superb footwork meant that the team scored an average of just under thirty points a game, whilst conceding only six. A commendable effort.

Although all squad members are to be congratulated, special mention must go to full back Chris Surman who was selected for the County XV and narrowly missed out on Divisional recognition.

Finally my thanks and appreciation go to Captain Matt Lodge for his dynamic play and inspiring leadership throughout the season.

R Sims



## Nikolaus Play

In the last week before the Christmas holidays some German teaching groups had a taster of a German Christmas tradition called "Nikolaus". The U6 German group wrote and performed a play about the "Nikolaus" tradition which is celebrated on 6th December. On the night of the 5th December children put a clean shoe by the door in the hope that "Nikolaus" will fill it over night with little presents and sweets. My thanks go to the U6 for their hard work and never ending enthusiasm in performing the play.



## Year Ten and Eleven Go-Karting

Fourteen budding Lewis Hamiltons spent a solid hour manoeuvring their karts with great skill around the indoor track at JDR Karting on the Bristol Road in Gloucester. The boys involved seemed to enjoy the experience immensely and I'm sure it won't be long before Murray Walker is singing the praises of one of them!

C Carter



# NewsREEL

## The English Schools' Swimming Association 50th Annual Team Championships.

Junior Team: Medley 14th. Freestyle 11th  
Senior Team: Medley 12th. Freestyle 13th

On Saturday 2 February two swimming teams made the long journey to the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. This fantastic facility is the home of English Swimming and it was a superb experience for the boys to compete in the same pool as the National team.

Just qualifying for the Finals is extremely difficult. It means that you are one of the top twenty teams nationwide. This is an incredible achievement and all the students involved can be very proud of their involvement.

The Junior Squad included **Tom Grime**, **Dan Fatima** and **Scott Howarth** from Year Nine, and **Dan Graaf** from Year Eight. The Seniors consisted of **U6 Kit Turner** and **Rob Payne**, with L6 **Mike Fatima** and **James Broady**.

The boys all swam well to finish mid-placed in their heats. Although they missed out on Finals races the big screen in the arena indicated that several achieved personal bests in recording some impressive times. An excellent day, and again congratulations to the teams for putting Rich's swimming on the National map. Well done to all!



**NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS**  
We would respectfully request that parents and guardians dropping pupils at school or collecting them in the afternoon refrain from 'waiting' on the zig-zag no parking area of the road. This is causing congestion and putting other children at risk when attempting to cross.

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# NewsREEL

## 'Global Issues' competition

On Wednesday 6 February a group of Year Ten Geographers took part in a 'Global Issues' competition at Shire Hall in Gloucester. Other schools taking part during the afternoon session were Archway, Dene Magna and Balcarras.

The topic researched by the five boys was 'Food Miles versus Fair Trade'. **Leo Kirby, Alex Mainwaring** and **Dale Lewis** talked confidently about Food Miles. They also undertook some primary data collection by visiting the farmers' market and Tesco's in Stroud to compare the distances food had travelled before being sold to the customers.

**Ben Caswell-Midwinter** and **Matthew Wright** researched the topic of Fair Trade and were able to tell their audience lots of facts and figures about this organisation.

After a fantastic performance we came a close second to a presentation by four boys from Dene Magna School on 'The environmental impact of the 2012 Olympics'. This event is run every year and is open to teams from Years Ten and Eleven so there is always next year.....! Well done to the boys who took part and put a lot of time into their presentation.

M F Brown

## House Music

Last Wednesday saw another closely contested House Music competition with Eastgate narrowly winning from Westgate, Southgate and Northgate. Thanks go to the individual Sixth Form House organisers who encouraged, cajoled and auditioned a large number of prospective, eager musicians. It is always pleasing to see enthusiasm from the younger members of the school as well as from the 'hardy', experienced campaigners from years ten to twelve.

The music ranged widely from 'The British Grenadiers' played on the cornet by **Henry Fidler** of 8S to a Vivaldi Violin Concerto movement played by **Nicholas Thompson** of 10T to a vivid imitation of Ozzy Osbourne with 'Crazy Train' performed by the Year Thirteen Northgate Senior Ensemble. Perhaps, most memorable was the Eastgate Open entry which featured **Matthew Broadhead's** band plus the whole of 7R singing Bon Jovi's 'Living on a Prayer'.

Congratulations to all who took part!

## Spring Concert

Your attention is drawn to this year's Spring Concert to be held on Wednesday 26 March in the School Hall at 7:30 pm. There will be the usual broad mix of classical, jazz, rock, instrumental and vocal. Hopefully you will also be able to hear one or two of the House Music items. All the soloists and group performers look forward to your support.



## Chess Club

The STRS Chess team is beginning to put together some better results in recent weeks, with two wins and a draw in our last three matches. This has improved our league position and we now lie fourth in division three of the North Gloucestershire (Adult) Chess League.

Our most significant recent result, however, was in the semi-final of the North Gloucestershire Handicap Knockout Cup. This competition gives teams a handicap based on last season's results, and hence successful teams are generally those that have improved the most over the last twelve months. Rich's were drawn against Edwardians (St Edwards School, Cheltenham), last year's winners of this cup. In a hard fought match played on a flooded Thursday evening Rich's team performed superbly to win by 4½ points to 1½, including splendid individual wins from **Ed Burgess**, **Tom Richards** (both in year eight) and **Sam Loveridge** (L6).

The team looks forward with confidence to the final with the real possibility that we might win a trophy!

**Chess club runs every lunchtime in Q7, all playing standards are welcome.**

I A Robson

## Associated Board Exams

**Nathaniel Hitchings** Gd 5 Oboe,  
**Joseph Coxson** Gd 1 Singing and Gd 1 Guitar, **Heather Kingston** Gd 6 Singing,  
**Iain Murphy** Gd 7 Cello, **Matthew Sheldon** Gd 3 Violin and **George Davies** Gd 3 Flute are all taking their exams in March.

*We wish them all the best of luck!*



# Calendar

Please note that the "Easter Holidays" do not coincide with Easter. 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'.

## Darfur charity event

Darfur has over four million people without enough food or water. Imagining the deprivation and poverty of all those affected, I felt it obligatory upon myself to raise money for this appeal. On the 1st February, we set up a stall: rather than the conventional cake stall, we decided to sell Oreos, milk and hot chocolate! With the help of several Lower volunteers, and a spectacular advertising campaign, the event was a great success! We raised £103, which has been donated to the 'Oxfam Darfur appeal.' Thank you for all those who helped bring this charity event to life.

*Ibby Ahmed*

## SPRING TERM 2008

Mon 25 – Fri 29 February  
Mon 10 March  
Mon 10 – Fri 14 March  
Thu 13 March  
Fri 14 – Thu 20 March  
**Fri 21 & Mon 24 March**  
Tue 25 March  
Wed 26 March  
Wed 2 April  
**Fri 4 April**

Y10 exams  
Y7 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.  
Founder's Week  
Nearly New uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm.  
Trial AS exams (L6)  
**Good Friday/Easter Monday holidays**  
PA Meeting, Staff Room, 7:00pm  
Spring Concert, 7:30 pm.  
L6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.  
**Term ends, 12:45 pm.**

## SUMMER TERM 2008

**Mon 21 April**  
Mon 21 – Fri 25 April  
Wed 26 April  
Mon 28 April  
**Mon 5 May**  
Tue 6 – Fri 9 May  
Mon 12 May – Fri 6 June  
Wed 14 May – Tue 24 June  
Sat 17 May  
Tue 20 May  
**Mon 26 – Fri 30 May**  
Mon 9 – Wed 25 June  
Tue 17 June  
Sat 21 June  
Mon 23 – Thu 26 June  
**Fri 27 June**  
Sat 28 June  
Mon 30 June – Fri 4 July  
Thu 3 July  
Sat 12 July  
**Fri 18 July**  
**Sat 18 October**

**Term starts, 8:40 am.**  
Trial A2 exams (U6)  
Car Boot Sale 1:00 – 3:00 pm.  
Nearly New uniform, 6:30-7:30 pm.  
**May Day bank holiday**  
SATs (Y9)  
AS exams (L6)  
GCSE exams  
Car Boot Sale 1:00 – 3:00 pm.  
PA Meeting, Staff Room, 7:00pm  
**Half Term holidays**  
A2 exams (U6)  
PA Meeting, Staff Room, 7:00pm  
Car Boot Sale 1:00 – 3:00 pm.  
End of Year exams (Y7, 8, 9)  
**INSET Day (no school for pupils)**  
Nearly New uniform, 10:00-12:00 am.  
6th Form Induction Week  
Sports Evening, 6:30 pm.  
Car Boot Sale 1:00 – 3:00 pm.  
**Term ends, 12:45 pm.**  
**Bi-Annual Autumn Ball.**

## NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

**PLEASE** have you an hour to spare **just once a year** to help us with our sales at school?

**Future sale dates:**— Thursday 13 March 2008 – 6:30-7:30 pm.  
Monday 28 April 2008 – 6:30-7:30 pm.  
Saturday 28 June 2008 – 10:00-12:00 midday

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

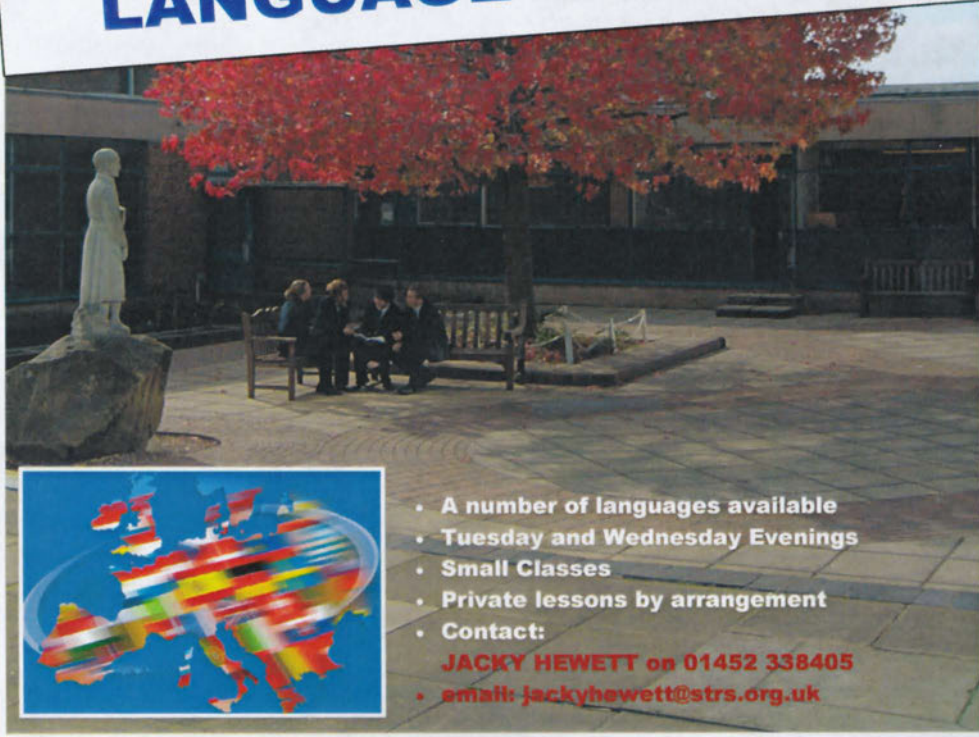
We are short of GREEN rugby shirts. We have a good selection of football boots.

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.

**For further information please contact Bev Hughes on 01242 524344.**

# SIR THOMAS RICH'S LANGUAGE CENTRE

## EVENING LANGUAGE COURSES



- A number of languages available
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- Contact:  
**JACKY HEWETT on 01452 338405**  
• email: [jackyhewett@strs.org.uk](mailto:jackyhewett@strs.org.uk)