



According to the news media KS3 SATs exams have been abolished. No tears will be shed at Sir Thomas Rich's, we have never had confidence in them or indeed seen the point of them. We have end-of-Year examinations for Y9, so SATs were merely an interference to our year's work, typically three weeks of teaching lost in preparing for and sitting the exams. We have yet to receive official notification, so we do not know if anything will replace them. An empire of statisticians has grown, to analyse SATs data from every possible angle, as if the resultant charts and graphs tell schools anything they didn't already know. It is hard to believe that this micromanagement will be surrendered quite so easily but we wait in hope.

National Healthy School Status Application

In our efforts to become a recognised healthy school, several new policies needed to be written regarding healthy eating and physical activity. These policies have now been drafted and copies, in their draft form, can be found on the school website <http://www.strschool.co.uk>.

We would welcome any feedback for amending these policies, therefore any comments or suggestions can be emailed to imm@strs.org.uk for the attention of Mrs McRitchie.

In addition to healthy eating and physical activity policies, we are also in the process of writing a school travel policy, with the help of Gloucestershire Highways. If travel is an area of interest or if you have any suggestions please feel free to contact the above address.

The Balance of Good Health



AIP Catering

We have introduced a 'Buy-Lunch-Ticket' scheme. Each day pupils will be able to purchase a ticket either from the dining room between 8:00-8:30 am or from the Assembly Hall between 10:55 - 11-15 am. This service is only available for the 2-course set meal priced at £2.10 for which menus are displayed everyday.

INVIGILATORS NEEDED

We are always looking to recruit examination invigilators to help to supervise our external examinations i.e. GCSE, AS and A-levels in January and May/June. We provide training, the rate of pay is £7 per hour. If you are interested please let our Bursar, Miss Bloodworth, know.

NewsREEL



Left to right: Alex Dryden, Will Edwards, Alex Warner and Tom Chapple

Bank of England Target 2.0 Challenge – Economists of the Year

Well done to **Tom Chapple, Alex Dryden, Will Edwards, Craig Little** and **Alex Warner** for representing STRS in the challenging Bank of England competition. Tom Chapple proved to be a very competent Captain and organised his team with diligence. The competition requires students to decide on whether to change monthly interest rates and to justify their decisions. This requires tremendous research that was considerably more detailed than past years due to the "credit crunch". Students were well prepared for their weekly meetings and used up-to-date statistics to justify their opinions. All students specialised in a particular area and reported regularly to the

group. This led to some interesting debates as to whether to change interest rates and then, as now, the decision was not an easy one! On the day of the competition the students gave a very impressive presentation lasting fifteen minutes and they answered tough questions from the Bank of England panel. Unfortunately they were pipped to the post by Pates' Grammar School that put in a fine performance. However our students were congratulated on their very high standards and thorough research. I would like to pass on my thanks to these students for putting in so much time and effort in representing their school.

F J Banks

NewsREEL



Sixth Form Art Residential Visit to Liverpool

The Art Department took the prize for the first residential trip of the new academic year when twenty-eight Sixth Form students spent four days in Liverpool in the second week of term.

This biennial event had a new twist to it this year, as it was the first time that we stayed in the Youth Hostel in Liverpool, rather than Chester. This proved to be a real bonus, as the hostel was situated right next to the Albert Dock, meaning that we could easily walk to most of the main attractions within the city. We took advantage of this opportunity in the first two days, with visits to the docks, the Tate Gallery, the Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals, the Walker Gallery and the shops! In each of these locations the students, and staff, produced a number of sketches and studies, which were then developed further in evening workshop sessions back at the hostel. The bonus of Liverpool being 'European Capital of Culture' this year added to the range of sights on offer, including a hundred versions of a sculpture called 'Superlambanana'.

On Thursday, the final full day of the trip, we travelled a short distance up the coast to Crosby beach, where we braved the strong winds to look at and record a spectacular piece of installation art by Anthony Gormley, called 'Another Place'. This piece is made up of two hundred apparently identical cast iron figure sculptures, based on Gormley himself. In fact, on close inspection, all the figures are different, as the weather and tidal waters have altered their appearance dramatically. It was a very worthwhile addition to our itinerary.

On Friday, we packed our bags and returned to school, but not before we visited Port Sunlight and the Lady Lever Gallery.

The whole trip proved very successful, with the students gaining invaluable visual information that will act as an important starting point for their A Level coursework.

A big thank you must go to Mr. Gallagher who accompanied us on the trip and who yet again proved to be a terrific asset, both in his organizational abilities and in his impressive sketching ability!

R J Lockey & M Cormack-Hicks

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Y13 Work Experience in Brittany

A highlight of the Y13 'A' level course in French is always the opportunity to participate in a challenging period of work experience in France. Despite the ordeal of an extremely turbulent and long overnight channel crossing to St. Malo, this year's group of eight intrepid students soon settled into their excellent accommodation, a restored nineteenth century former flour mill at Kergoual, near the village of St. Nicolas des Eaux. From there at dawn each morning, they dispersed to a variety of work placements around the important centre of Locminé (Morbihan).

Nicky Brookbanks, Alex Gray, Dan Jackson and Niall Spencer

became instant role models to the young students they taught in local primary schools, while **James Bullock** single-handedly tried to reverse the credit crunch in a new Sports and Fashion shop. **Briony Smith** charmed all her clients in a residential centre catering for disabled adults, and **James White** played a crucial pastoral-cum-medical role among the elderly patients of a nearby **foyer de logement**, a retirement nursing home. **Ollly Bayliss** became the first and successful **stagiaire** in the Departmental Architects and Planning Office.

As well as the usual leisure pursuits of ping-pong, pool and babyfoot back at our base, this year also featured two musical treats. In a special Breton music workshop, a virtuoso **talabarder** demonstrated the art of playing the double-reeded and very loud **bombard**, the staple instrument of **bagadou** Celtic bands. The group was also able to sit in on rehearsals of one of the most celebrated such ensembles in Brittany. The main recreational activity was, as always, **haute cuisine**, eating with gusto, sumptuous four-course **cordon bleu** meals cooked each evening by Helene and Alan Line, the directors of the centre, who also arrange the work placements.

Work placement in France proved again to be a demanding but vastly enjoyable experience which certainly enhanced the linguistic skills and confidence of everyone who took part.



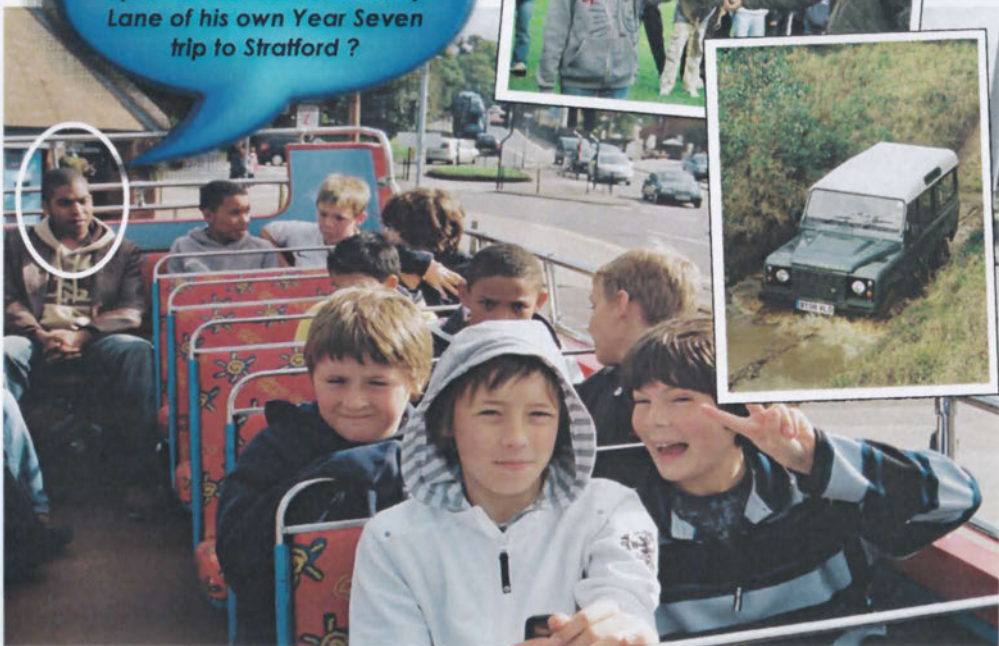
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Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon

As part of our Y7 induction we participated in a three day residential trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. It was a chance to make some new friends and get to know everyone in the class. Some of the exhilarating activities we got to experience included; a 4X4 off-road experience, playing mini golf and one of the most popular outings was to the motor museum, where we all got to see many famous cars, such as the original Aston Martin used in the James Bond film. Every student completed their own diary of the trip to remind them of the brilliant time they had over the three days. A few students diary entries appear on the following pages.

F Lala, A Raven, J Lee, O Horrell 75

Could it be that
Mr Woolf was taking the
open air bus down Memory
Lane of his own Year Seven
trip to Stratford ?



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Day One:

I woke up, not certain if I wanted to go to Stratford upon Avon or not. Puzzled, I got ready with my mixed emotions and soon found myself dropped off at school. The class went to the Dutch barn and loaded our bulging bags into the trailer. When everyone was ready we got on the minibuses. We had a problem when Toby found out he had forgotten his swimming trunks and we had to wait for a while until his mum came and dropped them off. We then set off, the trip was long and we played a few games. It became even longer when the driver (Mr. Gowler) forgot to take the turning off at Tewksbury and we had to go to Worcestershire to turn off, and he said he knew the route well! When we arrived at the youth hostel we dropped all our bags off in one room and then we walked all the way to Stratford where we then played in the park. After that we set off for a game of mini-golf, which I lost by at least ten points with Fazel coming second and Jack coming first. We then had lunch which became hilarious 'buff' funny when Ollie found he had a rip in his trousers so he had to change into his swimming trunks in an exposed area!

We set off to the Butterfly Farm where we filtered into the main butterfly room and the guide introduced us to a wood butterfly.

We then emerged in the caterpillar room where we saw the pupa nest, then fluttered back into the butterfly room where we explored more fully. One very friendly butterfly landed on me and wouldn't come off until I shook it off after sensing its tactics to use me as an escape vehicle. In the room was a pond with some really huge fish which brought the water alive with splashes of vibrant colour. We went on deeper into insect city where there were numerous insects and even a snake and chameleon. Some brave people held the chameleon and some of the reptiles. Later, we crept into scary Arachnoland which was full of spiders and even had a famed black widow. I was asking people to lead me to a spider's cage with my eyes closed so I could open them and then be freaked out all the more.

We visited the shop still brushing off the cobwebs!



After the Butterfly Farm we walked to the leisure centre and went swimming. I swam past 30 meters for the first time. I hadn't been past 20 before and so it was exciting diving at the deep end. Strangely after the swim I found my underpants had walked off! I had to walk back to the youth hostel feeling more than a bit vulnerable.

We then had dinner at the youth hostel followed by a football game and then we had diary/free time where everyone was so well-behaved! But, lights out put an end to the antics and all that was left to do was whisper to each other in bed.

So to conclude, today was very tiring! This was mainly due to the long, long, long walk into Stratford. Can you hear my moans drowning into sleepy yawns?

Day Two:

We stirred at 6:00 in the morning and then sleepily began chatting to each other. We got dressed ready for breakfast. Did I mention washing or showers? No, well I had to explain that one when I got home too! A little later we left the Youth hostel to do a trail/quiz where we had to answer questions along a certain route; the group who started in front of us got lost! I told them not to take directions from Mr Gowler! Everybody played a part in answering questions, even though sometimes people lagged behind or stayed

back to watch what happened to something they threw in the road (they wanted it to get run over, it was generally conkers and crab-apples thrown). Some scientific study I presumed? Anyhow, there were seven groups of four people; in our group was Ollie, Jack, Fazel and I.

After that we then played a big game of football and then I was hungry for lunch. When we finished that we went on an open-top bus ride with a guide and saw all the Tudor houses like Shakespeare's parents' house. The host was very funny and even though he warned us not to grab at the leaves of trees which overhung the bus, lots of people did! However, no one was left dangling and we didn't appear to lose anyone.

We got dropped off at the "Tudor lifestyle" experience where the staff played parts in a Tudor family.

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We entered and someone talked to us about the house in Tudor times. We soon moved on to the balcony where a type of wood owl called Bottom played tricks and landed on everyone's hand that had a question (they had a gauntlet on to protect their hand). We then explored again and looked in the park at the birds, owls, pigs and other animals.

We strolled on to the brass rubbing centre where we were taught how to take a brass rubbing. I chose a Celtic symbol but I did different colours to the original one. Most people did a dragon or skeleton. I was really pleased with mine. After brass rubbing we went back down to the minibus (which had been riding around watching us when we were on the trail and parked in town) and then one group was supposed to walk back and the good ones go in the minibus, but that was one of Mr. Gowler's jokes; they were actually taking one group and then coming back for the other one.

In conclusion today turned out to be interesting but demanding. My favourite parts was seeing Bottom in flight, the enjoyable time touring in the bus, the great team work for the quiz trail and of course bed!

Day Three:

We started today by getting up and packing our bags as we were going to the Heritage motor museum. We loaded up the trailer with our bags and then had breakfast. After that we set off to the museum at Gaydon.

We arrived at the museum and the first thing I recognised inside was the Aston Martin Vanquish; to be more precise I spotted it because it was the same one James Bond drove in Die Another Day. We were split into two groups, one to tour the museum and one to go into the 4x4 and police car. First I went in the group that toured the museum.

We moved gear and looked at some of the first motor-powered cars ever; most of them were related with the tricycle or bike and a few even with boats. Two of the cars he told us about star in Sci-Fi movies, one was FAB 1 from Thunderbirds. He then showed us some cars on Time Road which was a timeline of cars and bikes. We had a bit of time to explore after he showed us the Aston Martin Vanquish.

Everyone was looking forward to the 4x4 experience. As my group were the last group to take their turn we had to walk up the nature trail.



But it was worth the wait because when we finally got our turn it was thrilling! Bump, bump, splash, forty-five degree slope. It was amazing! We also got to take a spin in a police car. I had always wondered what it would be like in one, obviously not being arrested though. It seems it was convincing enough for someone to swear at Luka because she thought he really was being arrested!

We then set off (after a bit more exploring and a goodbye to our guide) on the boring journey back to school. It was, frankly, very boring so moving swiftly on we wearily arrived back in Gloucester. We unloaded the trailer and sat down where they announced the prize of the trail/quiz that we completed on Thursday. In seventh place not us, sixth not us, fifth not us, fourth not us, third not us; we had either come first or second but which was it? Well, I'm happy to say we won! We were rewarded with a big chocolate coin and a pack of coloured pencils. Everyone was given a free pencil and a postcard. It was good to end the time on a winning note! Mmmm..., Chocolate!

LukeAshby 75



NewsREEL

Wednesday 17th September

We put our bags in the trailer and then got on one of the two minibuses for the trip to Stratford. The journey took roughly an hour and on the journey we played music, swapped phone numbers and talked.

We arrived at the Youth Hostel and put our bags in the spare room. The Youth Hostel was big with large grounds and three stories high. Then we walked to Stratford which was about two miles away, where we went to the park. There was a zip wire, some swings which swung inwards in a circle and we played there for a while. Then we went to a mini golf course, and we got to choose teams of four. I lost in our group!

Once we had finished the course we had lunch on the grass, and afterwards walked to the Butterfly Farm which was nearby. We went into a room and had a talk about what was inside the Butterfly Farm. We saw loads of butterflies feeding on oranges and pears and then saw where all the caterpillars were hatching. We had another talk about moths coming out of cocoons and butterflies coming from pupae (or the other way round?). We also saw some iguanas and large fish. After that we went into the Insect Section and saw insects, lizards, cockroaches, crickets and other things. This was followed by Arachnaland where we saw tarantulas, deadly spiders and scorpions (one type glowed in the dark).

After the Butterfly Farm we went to a Leisure Centre and went swimming for an hour which was good fun because we played water tag and could do lots of diving.

We had our meal in the dining room, but I can't remember what we ate! After the meal I went up to my room and read again. We got ready for bed and lights out was at 9.30pm.

Sam Russell 7B



NewsREEL

Thursday 2nd October

Today started with a rude awakening from Peter's mobile which was enforced by Mr Daniels. We were told to get dressed and have a shower followed by nice cooked breakfast. Then in no time at all we were walking down the streets of Stratford on a treasure trail. After our packed lunch we set off on our trip on the Stratford tour bus.



We got off the bus at Mary Arden's house which was built in the Elizabethan Age. We saw the kitchen, dining room and a bedroom which had a lot of ponging cheese (it really did whiff!) We then went to a falconry centre where we met Angus the Bengal Eagle Owl from India. We each in turn had him land on a gloved hand and for his finale he flew over all of us. It was fantastic!

We stopped off at the Brass Rubbing centre where we did our own. We ended our day with what felt like a never-ending hike. We finally arrived back at the hostel to a glorious meal of Chicken and chips. . . Yum! So that was our day!

Dominic Troft 7R



Our Final Day

Today was Friday, our final day at Stratford. Almost as soon as we woke up, my room was packing our bags, getting changed and (in my case) making the room slightly messier.

When we were ready, we set off for our first activity of the day. Because it was our last day we used the mini-buses to travel to our first activity; The Motor Museum. Mr. Parker (our English teacher) came to help with transport.

When we reached the museum we were all buzzing with excitement to see some of their fancy cars! Our guide showed us a slideshow about how cars have "evolved" through the years since they have been on our roads. I learned that some early cars were steered by a tiller, like one from a boat. My group had a small tour of part of the museum to learn more about how cars work and the differences between motoring today and in the past.

Later, we were allowed to walk freely around the museum to view some of their many cars (they have the biggest collection of cars, old and new, in the UK). Some of the cars they had included; Ford's "FAB 1" used in the Thunderbirds film, James Bond's Aston Martin Vanquish from the film "Die Another Day", a JCB which is the fastest diesel car in the world, a Rolls Royce Phantom and many more exciting varieties of cars.

After lunch, it was my group's turn for the 4 x 4 experience. We had been looking forward to this all week! We all clambered into Land Rover (I got the front seat!), and listened to the driver about safety then we set off around the track. It was an off road terrain full of sharp turns, ditches potholes, bumps, steep hills and mini rivers. At certain points of the track you can look one way and see the ground, look the other way and see the sky!

When everybody had had their go, we all had a ride in a Land Rover Police vehicle. The driver turned on the siren and drove around the circular track at high speed. After this we went to the gift shop. I bought a highly detailed VW Camper die-cast model. We then disappointingly left for home. We'd all had a GREAT trip; I'd go again any day!

William Nunn 7T

NewsREEL

1st XV Rugby

The 1st XV has had a mixed start to the year. On occasions they have played superbly well, however, lapses in concentration have spoiled some good performances. The squad worked hard through the summer and as a result they started the season really well. They defeated Beaufort 64-10, Newent 65-0, Marling 48-7, Bournside 12-5 and Churchdown 53-0 in the Daily Mail 1st Round. However, the fixture list has been improved this season and for the first time Rich's have played Colston's School and King Edward's School, Bath. These two fixtures were a step up in standard and the boys took time to adjust. The intensity of the Colston's game was a shock to the system at first and at half time Rich's was behind 36-6. When they adjusted to the level of physicality required to take on a school of the calibre of Colston's they looked a completely different team; Rich's lost the second half 10-7 and the overall result was a Colston's victory by 46-13. Rich's then put in their worst performance of the year against another very prestigious rugby school, KES, Bath, losing 38-12. They will need to find their early season form and produce it against quality opposition in the next round of the Daily Mail Cup against St Peter's.

R G Williams

U12 Rugby

The U12's played their first fixtures this term and have put in some excellent performances. The 'A' team were defeated 22-12 by Colston's. However, Rich's were behind 17-12 and were camped on Colston's line for around ten minutes. Unfortunately they were unable to score, Colston's cleared their lines and went down and scored a very late try. In the 'A' team's second game they defended bravely against a well organised RGS Worcester team. The score was 5-5 with a minute to go, unfortunately RGS scored another very late try to win the game 10-5. The 'B' team also played Colston's and RGS with no fewer than thirty-three boys representing the team in their first two games. They lost both games but Mr Powell has been very impressed with their development.

Well done boys, keep it going after half term!

R G Williams

**U13 Rugby**

The 'A' team has made a very promising start to the season having won five of their six matches. The highlights so far being the two excellent away wins against Chosen Hill and the previously unbeaten Royal Grammar School Worcester. The only defeat was in the first match of the season away against the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School by 17-12, a match we should have won. The forwards have secured plenty of quality possession and the backs have been creative and scored a number of well worked tries. The team has also showed excellent defensive qualities. If the squad continues to improve its levels of physicality, patterns of play and support play, more success should follow after half term.

The 'B' team has also made a good start, winning four of their five games including impressive victories over Bournside, RGS Worcester and Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School.

Well done both sides, keep it up!

C D A Carter

U13 'C' Team vs. Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School (BHBS) 13 Sept 08

The squad had a mixed game overall which highlighted some areas for future focus. Initially taking the lead, Rich's lost the momentum towards the end of the half and a lack of commitment to crucial tackles was costly, leaving the score 7-10 to BHBS.

Rich's responded well with a string of good performances from Zach Robb, George Peach and Owen Wade, which culminated with a converted try to bring the score to 12-10. BHBS replied with a flurry of tries which disheartened Rich's somewhat and with a combination of good pressure and a lack of support from Rich's forwards, were able to score heavily in the last twenty minutes of the game. Final score Richs-12, BHBS-60. My thanks to all members of the squad for their attendance and for representing the school well in true Tommies' tradition.

D J Woolf

NewsREEL

U14 Rugby

The U14's 'B' team has played really well this year. They narrowly lost their first game of the season with the final score being 12-7 to a well organised QEH Bristol team but followed that with a tremendous performance to defeat The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School. A brave performance in their next game against Hereford Cathedral 'A' team did not stop them narrowly losing by 27-12.

The match with Chosen Hill proved a difficult game but with their Captain Harry Morris leading his team by example a victory ensued to the tune of 34-21.

In their fifth game of the year, a glorious defeat of Cheltenham College gave the team a boost winning an easy 60-0. All players have played superbly and should be praised. Congratulations in particular go to Hector Palmer and Edwan Shibli for selection to the 'A' team squad.

R G Williams.

U15 Rugby

This season has got off to a fantastic start by winning all our games apart from drawing against Bishop of Hereford's and losing one to Chosen Hill. Particular games that stand out for me are the draw against Bishop's where the squad pushed them right to the end, and the fantastic win down at Wycliffe independent school. Unfortunately the Wycliffe game took its toll on the side, resulting in the loss to Chosen Hill thirty-six hours later!

The squad has developed over the past six weeks, but still has work to do in order to reach their full potential. Particular thanks must go to Mr Wainwright who works with the 'squad', the work he has put in has resulted in five players being 'promoted' and pushing for places as well as another three or four players on the fringes of the 'A' team call up.

The squad selection has given me some 'nice' headaches over the first half term in both backs and forwards, with many players able to slot into three or four positions which is good to try for different combinations.

We face St Peter's in the next round of the Daily Mail cup, which will be a huge test of character for our team, but if they use intelligent play and clear up the set piece area, I have full belief that we are able to come away with a victory.

Keep up the hard work.

R M Davies.



Primary Cross Country Championships

Richard Farrow and Mohammad Hansrod from L6 both attended this year's Primary Cross Country Championships at Pluck Court on Friday 10th October and led three hundred and fifty primary school pupils around the course. Their attendance at this event was very much appreciated and their efforts were praised by parents and staff alike.

R Cooper

INNSWORTH JUDO

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CHOSEN HILL SCHOLL on Tuesday 2nd September
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For further details contact:
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Foreign words and phrases in the English language

Can you work out where they come from?

1. baklava
2. faux pas
3. pretzel
4. origami
5. nota bene
6. hamburger
7. déjà vu
8. mosquito
9. yoghurt
10. carte blanche
11. glasnost
12. mea culpa
13. siesta
14. Zeitgeist
15. dolce vita
16. vodka
17. kebab
18. tycoon

French German Italian Japanese
 Korean Spanish Swedish

Test your skills

Number Time!

Can you join up the numbers (1-20) in the correct order to form a picture?

nove	doze	dezoito
dez	zero	oito
catorze	seis	dois
dezassete	um	quarto
sete	onze	dezanove
quinze	vinte	cinco
dezassets	treze	

European Day of Languages, 2008

The European Day of Languages, a Council of Europe initiative, is held annually on the 26th September to celebrate language and cultural diversity.

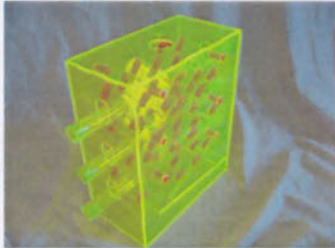
At Sir Thomas Rich's a number of events celebrated the day. Y7 pupils undertook a quiz on worldwide languages and cultures. The winner was **Enzo Devita** from 7T. A Japanese film was shown to members of the Lower School and activities in the Language Centre included recognizing foreign words in the English language, guessing the languages celebrities speak and getting to grips with the numbers in Portuguese.

The importance of learning languages is summed up by Terry Davis, General Secretary of the Council of Europe, on the occasion of the 8th annual European Day of Languages:

'Learn, speak, listen—and understand each other.... Learning another language is a good way to make sure that tolerance, respect and understanding among people are not lost in translation. Language learning helps to avoid stereotyping individuals and helps to develop curiosity and openness towards other people and other cultures.'



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Autumn Time in D&T

This term sees the examination students working hard on their coursework projects. Most of the essential research, development, modelling and planning is completed during this term. This design work is vital, as it will ensure that the manufacturing [which the students start at Christmas] progresses smoothly, and hence the students hopefully gain maximum marks.

The students this year have chosen a broad range of projects, at GCSE we have students designing projects such as jewellery storage and clocks and AS /A2 level we have students designing tables, waste bins and engine stands. The students are working well and aiming to improve on the very successful results we achieved last year. Examples of past projects above!

The Y10 students have started their first mini project where they learn the knowledge, techniques and processes needed to help with their examinations and coursework projects next year.

S Hancock/S James

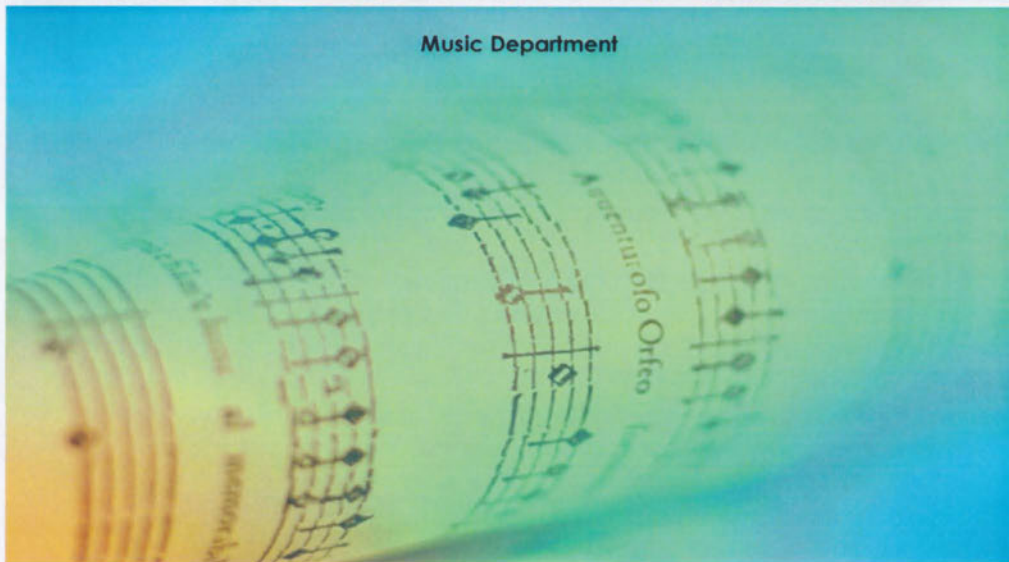
Royal Navy Challenge

On the 1st October a group of Y12 students went to Cheltenham Ladies College to take part in the "Royal Navy Challenge". The students were put into groups with students from other schools and were then set a series of three tasks to complete in their new teams. The tasks all used A3 paper as their raw material [which was all recycled at the end of the day]. The teams had to design and construct a shelter for four people that would support a load of 2kg at its centre, a bridge to span a gap of one metre capable of carrying a load of 4kg at the centre of the span and a communications tower at least 1.5 metres tall also capable of carrying a load of 4kg at the top. At the end of the allotted time, each successful structure was then weighed and the team who had used the least paper won. **Diten Vadhver** of L6R was a member of the winning team and he was awarded his prize by one of the Royal Navy officers present at the event.



NewsREEL

Music Department



Another year has passed, another series of musical events has been planned, rehearsed and performed. For some, it is the sixth or seventh time they have been part of this series, whether as a member of Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Group, String Group, Chamber Choir, Close Harmony group, a rock group or guitar ensemble, as soloist or accompanist, or, indeed, as many are, involved in a combination of these. However, I expect that, if you were to ask any of these pupils whether they were bored doing the same concerts, assemblies, house music competitions, charity gigs, carol services etc each year, they would say not. The reason why they would say this is because, first and foremost, they enjoy making music and secondly, the concerts may be the same but there is always some new music to be performed. In addition, although the groups keep their name from year to year, the membership is constantly changing, as departing Y13 students make room for Y7 incumbents. It is also satisfying to see pupils from Year groups in between deciding to join one or more of the extra-curricular groups for the first time. It has been especially gratifying this year to welcome a larger number of girls than usual into the musical ranks – particularly Choir.

Apart from the usual 'round' of 'Christmas by Candlelight', Carol services, Spring and Summer

concerts, House Music, assembly music and the Founder's Week Charity rock concert, the two big items in the musical calendar were the production – this year, 'The Murder of Arthur Bennington' – a play written by Mr Lynch and produced jointly by himself and Mr Crumblehulme with musical accompaniment conceived, arranged and performed by school pupils, and the May Choral concert. This concert was performed by the School Choir in the acoustically rewarding surroundings of St John's Church, Northgate St, Gloucester. The first half of this concert was a programme of music performed superbly by soloists and duettists who currently receive singing lessons in school. Items ranged from 'Amazing Grace' to Purcell's 'Dido's Lament'. The second half featured the main work, Vivaldi's ever-popular 'Gloria' with soloists Lucy Watson and Heather Kingston and accompanied on the organ by Mr Pickard.

Already, as this goes to press, we are preparing 2008-9's series of musical events. A new-look Choir, new members of the instrumental groups and a Brass group taken by Mr M Morgan have swung into action. The music must go on...

J W Thompson

NewsREEL



YOUTH

XXS	22"	L	32"
XS	24"	XL	34"
S	28"	XXL	36"
M	30"		

ADULT

S	38"	XL	47"
M	41"	XXL	50"
L	44"	XXXL	53"

STRS SCHOOL JACKET

Reversible Grey Fleece/ Royal Blue Weatherproof Jacket

At the end of last term an order form was sent out with the July Newsletter. Completed order forms should be returned to Mr Carter and payments [cheques made payable to STRS] to reception please. Jackets up to 36" chest are £32.50 and those above are £37.50. New order forms can be collected from Mr Carter.

Nearly New Uniform Sales

Future sale dates:-

Monday 10th November 2008 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday 28th January 2009 7:00 pm onwards

(6th Form Open Evening)

Bev and Joy will be finishing assisting with the sales in July 2009 and although we have had a couple of new helpers, one or two more would be most helpful and spread the load.

Some helpers only do once or twice a year, which is such a help. Please do consider.

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 or P.A section of the school web site. If you wish to donate any items to school no slip is necessary – please just send in to 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.

NewsREEL



Y11 Geography Fieldwork - Dorset

On Tuesday 23rd September our Y11 GCSE Geographers travelled to the South coast to collect data for their coursework. We were able to divide our 60 students from three teaching classes into five groups for the day, as we had the extra support from the Geographers that make up some of the Senior Management Team - Mr Carter and Mr Morgan. The weather was beautiful and waterproofs were left on the coach. The boys worked hard on the day collecting data at three sites along the coast; Lulworth Cove, Stair Hole and Durdle Door. Field sketches were produced, notes were made and thousands of pebbles had been measured very carefully by the end of the day! The coursework is now well underway in lessons and makes up 20% of their final grade. We look forward to seeing the final versions when they are handed in on **Friday 14th November!**

Stroud - Painswick Minibus

A parent is looking into the possibility of organising a minibus for pupils from the Stroud/Pitchcombe/Edge/Painswick areas. If any families are interested in finding out more please contact Kay Richardson on 01452 813874 or 07966 024104.

Examination Success

Congratulations to David Pewton, now in our L6th. We have been informed by the examination board Edexcel that, of their 15,756 entries in GCSE Spanish, David was among the top ten. What a marvellous achievement, well done David.

PA NEWSFLASH * PA NEWSFLASH * PA NEWSFLASH * PA NEWSFLASH * PA NEWSFLASH

The 100 Club has been so popular that we are increasing the prize money! As of September, there will be not one, not two but three prizes to pay out.

So if you are feeling lucky and would like to take advantage of the fantastic odds please contact me on 01452 619255, e-mail debbie.ireland@oakmeade.co.uk or visit the PA website to download an application form.

Remember - all funds raised are given to the school in the form of grants for items large and small that will benefit the students. Visit the website for further details.

Good luck and thank you for your support.

1st PRIZE

£50

2nd PRIZE

£30

3rd PRIZE

£20

NewsREEL

Five Valleys Walk Sunday 28 September 2008

What a glorious day for walking out through the hills and valleys of the Gloucestershire countryside! **Josh Powell, Andy Turner & George Hart** joined the ESL and his good lady Celia on the demanding but thoroughly enjoyable twenty-one mile jaunt down into and up out of the five Stroud Valleys. The weather was superb - summer had at last arrived! - and the walking and camaraderie en route extremely pleasant.

It must be said that it was rather difficult rejoining the walk after the fantastic lunchtime stop at Honey Hill, where homemade cakes and freshly brewed coffee were on offer to the limb-weary walkers. Nevertheless we tore ourselves away (pocketing several delicious samples for later consumption!) to complete the rest of the circular route.



The
Meningitis
Trust

Dragon Boat Races Sunday 5 October 2008

Grey. Wet. Cold. So began the annual Youth Dragon Boat Races at South Cerney. And - disaster! No kitchen dishing up warming hot chocolate and delicious bacon butties to the four hundred or so competitors and their supporters! Something had to be done. As the heats got underway and with the 44th contingent swelling the Gloucestershire numbers to forty and a second boat, swift plans were hatched and teamwork of the best Scouting tradition swung into action as the ESL organised the reinstatement of the vital kitchen. In conjunction with leaders from the 1st Wanborough Scout Group, a shopping expedition was dispatched, the kitchen prepared and soon the enticing aroma of sizzling bacon and sausage was drifting across the lakes, drawing in the now damp and shivering competitors to some welcome and much-needed warming soup and hot drinks and sustaining sausage and bacon rolls.

Meanwhile on the water fine competition was being forged, despite the rain and cold. And as the day progressed, the rain eased and even ceased for the final heats. By the time the presentations put a final seal on yet another year's successful and enjoyable, albeit damp, dragon boat racing, even the sun was threatening to break through the grey curtain of clouds. And in the Junior section, Gloucestershire Scouts 2 had achieved second place, pipped by the Pirates' faster average times.

P Brown



NewsREEL



French Play

We were very pleased to welcome to the school this month the Onatti Theatre company, performing their new French play Cache-cache. The Onatti company writes and produces plays in foreign languages which are specifically aimed at secondary school students. Performed by native speakers and completely in the foreign language with a carefully constructed dialogue, they not only entertain but increase students' comprehension and confidence in French. We are confident that this amusing, stimulating and entertaining piece of modern language theatre will have benefited all.

The play, plot and story.

Françoise is bullied at school. But when it gets too much she goes to her secret place - a derelict barn in the woods.

Étienne belongs to Les Verts. It's a gang from the north part of town. Les Verts have one rival gang - Les Rochers. One afternoon he is spotted on Les Rochers' patch and is chased into the woods by some of their gang. Quickly needing somewhere to hide, Étienne comes across a derelict barn - perfect!

That same afternoon Françoise has been badly tormented by some girls at school and retreats to her secret place.

These two teenagers are complete opposites but, despite their initial confrontation and immediate loathing of each other, neither of them leaves the barn. In true soap style we watch animosity change to attraction.

J Hewett



PA News REEL

All Change at the Top

The PA Committee has received the resignation of Sali Gray (Chair), whose son is approaching the end of his time at the school. Sali has held the post of Chair for five years and has been an enthusiastic ambassador for the PA and the School throughout. Her energy and contribution to the committee will be sorely missed. The committee will continue with a revolving Chair until a replacement steps forward.

Carole Walsh has also had to step down as Secretary, as she can no longer attend the Tuesday evening meetings. Carole has filled the role with an organisational flair and will also be missed. We are happy to welcome Debbie Ireland as the new PA Secretary and wish her well in the role.



The September meeting also gave the committee an opportunity to say farewell to Bob Burns, who has retired as School Bursar. He was presented with an engraved vase and paperweight (engraved internally with a Blue Coat Boy) on behalf of the PA as thanks for all he has done to aid the smooth running of the PA workings and promote a good relationship between the school and the PA. We wish him a long and happy retirement

Autumn Ball

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Autumn Ball this year though lack of support. The ball requires a minimum of one hundred to be successful (preferably more to fill the room), but by the start of the new term we had only six requests for tickets, so the decision was taken to cancel at the end of September before we attracted cancellation fees from catering etc.

Car Boot Sales

Last year we raised over £1,500 through car boot sales held at the school. Julie Melvin would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped achieve this sum. Of course, the committee would like to extend an equally heartfelt thank you to Julie herself, who has put many hours effort into organising these events.

Teas and Coffees

Despite a very successful informal evening for new Y7 parents on 13th October, we were not able to recruit very many new parents to the tea and coffee rota. This service provided by the PA ensures that refreshments are available at evening functions (e.g. parent consultation evenings). Individuals should not expect to provide cover much more than once per term, although the frequency is reduced with more people available. If anyone can spare just a little of their time to help, please contact Mrs Vivian Austin on 01452 547688 or by e-mail at austin55@blueyonder.co.uk.

Next PA meetings 18th November and 13th January 2009, 7:00pm in the staff room – all welcome

Christmas Fayre 29th November – we will need toys and books, home made cakes, items for the white elephant, bottles and new gifts stalls and not forgetting the raffle. If you have items to donate they can be left at the school in the week before the Fayre.

Friday 28th November – if you are free for a short time your help to set up the hall for the Fayre would be very much appreciated. Please contact Katie Panton pantonk@wyeth.com for further details.

VACANCIES

"The posts of PA Chairman and Vice Chairman are currently vacant. We will operate a rotating Chair until a replacement for Sali can be found so if you feel you would like to learn more about these roles, please contact Debbie Ireland (PA Secretary) by e-mail debbie.ireland@oakmeade.co.uk or via the school. The posts can be flexible according to how much time and energy you have to spare and we are a great team!"
Even if you don't fancy the "top job", new faces are always welcome as
'many hands make light work...'

SIR THOMAS RICH'S ACADEMIC YEAR

AUTUMN TERM 2008

Mon 3 - Fri 7 Nov	Lower Sixth examinations
Sat 8 Nov	Admission Tests (Y6)
Mon 10 Nov	Nearly New Uniform, 6:30-7.:30 pm.
Mon 10 Nov	GCSEs: <i>what can a parent do?</i> Y10/11 parents, 7:00 pm.
Mon 17 Nov	Y10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
Mon 24 Nov - Weds 3 Dec	Trial GCSE examinations
Sat 29 Nov	P.A. Xmas Fayre, 1.30 pm.
Wed 3, Thu 4, Fri 5 Dec	<i>Cinderella</i> , School production, 7:30 pm.
Mon 8 Dec	Christmas by Candlelight, 7:30 pm.
Tue 9 Dec	U6th group photograph
Thu 11 Dec	U6thParents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
Tue 16 Dec	Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7:30 pm.
Wed 17 Dec	St. Catharine's Church, Denmark Road, 7:30 pm.
Fri 19 Dec	End of term, 12:45 pm.
22 Dec - 2 Jan	Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2009

Mon 5 Jan	Term starts, 8:40 am.
Tue 20 Jan	Y9 Parents, Options Evening, 7:00 pm.
Thu 22 Jan	Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
Tue 27 Jan	Y11 photographs
Wed 28 Jan	6th Form Open Evening (6:00 & 7.30 pm.)
2 - 6 Feb	Y11 Work Experience
Tue 3 Feb	Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
Thu 12 Feb	Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
16 - 20 Feb	<i>Half-term holidays</i>
23 - 27 Feb	Y10 examinations
Mon 9 Mar	Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
9 - 13 Mar	Founder's Week
16 - 20 Mar	Trial AS exams (L6th)
Wed 1 Apr	L6th Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm.
Fri 3 Apr	End of term, 12:45 pm.
6 - 17 April	Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM 2009

Mon 20 - Fri 24 Apr	Trial A2 exams (U6th)
Mon 4 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Mon 11 May	AS examinations start (L6th)
Wed 13 May	GCSE examinations start
Mon 25 - Fri 29 May	<i>Half-term holidays</i>
Mon 8 Jun	A2 examinations start (U6th)
Mon 22 - Fri 25 Jun	School examinations (Y7-9)
Fri 26 Jun	INSET Day (no school for pupils)
Mon 29 Jun - Fri 3 Jul	6th Form Induction Week (Y11)
Thu 2 Jul	New Y7 Induction Day
Thu 2 Jul	Sports Evening, 6:30 pm.
Fri 17 Jul	End of term, 12:45 pm.