

The term just completed is the most important for laying the foundations for achievement through the year. During the two seven-week half-terms, a significant amount of the year's work is already completed and students have established their standards. Typically staff and students are now rather weary, spirits not raised by the shortage of daylight, they will benefit from the break. I wish all an enjoyable holiday and a Happy Christmas.



Visit of the touring Victoria State Schools U16 Rugby Squad

On Tuesday 1st December the 48-strong [42 boys and 6 staff] Victoria Schools' Rugby Squad arrived at Rich's to be met and greeted in the salubrious surroundings of the Dutch Barn by the 31 families who had very kindly offered to host their players for 3 nights. They were certainly a well-fed group of young men; the youngest member of the party, Fereti Sa'ala, at 14 years 9 months was just 188cm tall and weighed in at 112kg!

It was great for the School to have the opportunity to host such a prestigious touring party for they looked after us so well when our Senior Rugby Squad toured Australia in the summer.

On Wednesday morning they visited the Cathedral and Docks, and then in the afternoon returned to Rich's to play 2 matches against combined Y12/11 sides. In 2 well-contested games, the School played some excellent rugby to win the 1st team match 18-13 and the tourists won the 2nd XV match 34-0. After the matches there was a very pleasant 'get together' in the Dining Room where we formally welcomed our visitors to the School, feasted on Teresa's wonderful hot dogs and exchanged gifts and pleasantries.

On Thursday, during the day, it was back to sight-seeing with a full-day excursion to Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, and on their last night in Gloucester, most of the boys and 6 staff were entertained in different ways in the local area!

Finally, on Friday morning it was time to say our goodbyes as they set off for the next leg of their 27-day marathon Tour of England, Wales, Eire, N.Ireland, Scotland and the UAE. It was very clear, as the last hugs and hand shakes were being made at the front of School, that a number of close friendships had been forged with these fine young men from 'Down-Under' - there is, of course, far more to a rugby tour than just playing the matches.

C Carter

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Because of the change to dates for the school play, *Teechers*, the date for our Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening has had to be brought forward. It was due to be held on Wednesday 10 February, it will now be on **Monday 8 February**, 5.00 to 8.00 p.m..

Congratulations

Well done to Charlie Wood (8S) on his selection for the Great Britain Intermediate Sailing Squad. This involved six week-ends of training in an Optimist. The purpose of the squad is to feed talented sailors into the Youth and Olympic Programmes.



NewsReel

'Teachers'

Due to artistic difficulties, including illness amongst the cast during rehearsals, the performance of *Teechers* scheduled for earlier this month had to be postponed. We now look forward to seeing the play in the final week before half-term: Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 and Friday 12 February, in the School Hall, 7.30 p.m. start. Tickets will be available from School Reception, £4 for adults, £2 concessions.

I Kellie



Cheltenham Cobalt Unit Fund-Raising Design a Christmas Card for 2010 Competition

The School has developed a close link with the fund-raising arm of the Cancer Unit in Cheltenham. So far we have donated £600 to the charity organisation from the money our senior rugby raised to support our two Tours to Australia.

Along with other schools in the County, we have agreed to take part in a competition which will involve designing a Christmas Card for December 2010; the competition was, in fact, launched here at Rich's in November. The Unit's charity organisation will select the winning designs for the different age groups and these will be printed and then sold to raise valuable funds next year.

C Carter

Homework

Homework forms an important part of our students' education. Homework helps to raise standards, it can extend coverage of the curriculum, improve study skills, pupils' organisation and self-discipline and improve attitudes towards learning. Homework can cover a variety of tasks such as revision, reinforcement or further practice on ideas covered in the lesson, extension work involving wider reading, routine tasks which can be done at home (enabling better use of lesson time), background reading, preparation for a new topic or independent research.

Most of our students are conscientious and well organised and complete homework to a good standard and on time. Where this is not the case we have **Supervised Homework** after school every day, from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. in the library. It is available to any student, but a student who fails to complete a homework on time will be required to attend by their subject teacher. 24 hours' notice will be given, in writing. It will be no excuse for a student to say they have completed a homework, they just haven't handed it in yet!

We are grateful for parents' support in helping children to complete homework as part of their evening routines. We also appreciate parents' support when children are required to attend Supervised Homework, to emphasise the importance of homework.

I Kellie

Prospectus

We are starting to plan our School Prospectus for next year. We have printed this in-house until now but we shall probably use professional printers next year to improve appearance and quality. If any parent works in the printing/publishing business or has useful contacts we would be grateful for advice, please let the Headmaster know.



PA News REEL



The Parents' Association would like to wish the staff, pupils, parents and friends of Sir Thomas Rich's School a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PA meeting dates for the beginning of 2010:

Tuesday 12th January 2010 – PA meeting, staff room, 7pm – all welcome
Contact – Debbie Ireland; debbie.ireland@oakmeade.co.uk

Tuesday 16th March 2010 – PA meeting, staff room, 7pm – all welcome
Contact – Debbie Ireland; debbie.ireland@oakmeade.co.uk

Tuesday 18th May 2010 – PA meeting, staff room, 7pm – all welcome
Contact – Debbie Ireland; debbie.ireland@oakmeade.co.uk

Please come along, or if you'd like to find out more about the PA please visit the Parents' Association pages on the STRS website.

Parents Association Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 5th December. Thank you for all of your support in making the event a big success. This is a major fundraiser in the PA calendar and the money will be used to directly benefit pupils at STRS.

Thank you to all those who attended, bought raffle tickets, helped on the day, and donated gifts and prizes. Without your support none of the above would have been possible.

Some Requests Are Too Important To Ignore . . . Our Boys Need YOU!

'Christmas By Candlelight', Speech Day, School Productions and Parents' Evenings (perhaps less so the latter!) build a sense of community at Tommies. Offering refreshment to hungry visiting sportsmen is also something so many parents generously give their time to do, which is very much appreciated by our visitors and staff alike.

Our sons will be going into the Sixth Form in September and, not knowing what the future holds, we'll be standing aside at the end of the academic year to allow someone else the chance to make a difference.

We'd like to invite you to step forward and manage the rotas which make all of the above possible. What better way to say 'thank you' to the School than by offering your support in this way? You'll be in good company as we're blessed with a host of friendly, willing parents who happily help.

So, if you're thinking, "Maybe I should", please do! Just give us a call to chat through what's involved. Why not team up with a friend and work together? We'll be there to show you the ropes and, remember, help is only ever a telephone call away.

Please ring us, we're waiting for your call! Go on, you know you want to . . .

Janet Swift
(01452 371954)

Vivian Austin
(01452 547588)

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM - SALE DATES

We have a number of items of nearly new uniform available to buy at the school.

The next sale is on Wednesday January 27th from 7.00pm onwards at the Sixth Form Open Evening.

If you can't make the sale or require an item in a hurry, please contact Julie Goble on 01452 612043 who will try to help you.

If you have any items you wish to donate they can be left with Mrs Brown, the School Secretary, labelled 'for school fund'. If you wish to sell your items please fill out the official sales slip, attach it to the item/s and give it to the School Secretary. We take 25% commission which goes to school funds.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION—OFFICERS

President	Mr I Kellie Headmaster, STRS
Staff Member	Mr CDA Carter Deputy Head, STRS
Chair	Katie Panton
Vice Chair	Mark Goble
Treasurer	Alan Day
Minutes Secretary	Debbie Ireland

DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL



Progress in Wildlife Area

We had a very successful morning working on this area in October. Several families came and worked very hard to help clear some of the overgrowth around the pond as well as clearing a lot of the weed that was choking the pond. It is filling up nicely now and should be full of many varieties of creatures next Spring. We have made some compost bins to allow the weeds to rot down and hope our log piles will soon become home to other interesting species.

We have a small group of Year 12 pupils who are working on this area when weather permits and carrying out research on suitable plants and habitats that we can add to the area.

We are extremely grateful to all those who have helped so far especially Mr Sands, one of the Site Staff, who has done a fantastic job with the clearing. The Parents' Association has also been very generous with their money and time which has made all this possible and we thank them very much. We are looking forward to seeing this area in use by the school next year and hope to have another work session in March/April. We will let you know in plenty of time so you can volunteer!

S Chapman

Christmas by Candlelight

On Monday evening, an eager audience once again gathered in the beautifully decorated surroundings of the school hall for the annual 'Christmas by Candlelight'. Warmed by mulled wine and hot mince pies, staff, pupils, parents and friends took their seats amidst seasonal greenery, holly-berries and mistletoe and the glow of candlelight to enjoy a programme of carols, readings and instrumental music.

The Chamber Choir contrasted soothing sets of lullabies, rousing mediaeval songs and well-known contemporary carols whilst the two sequences of readings, humorously portraying various Christmas traditions, were entertainingly delivered by three junior school boys and our head girl. The audience was also treated to a selection of yuletide mediaeval instrumental music played by three senior pupils on fiddle, rebec, cornamuse and harp.

Thanks for a wonderful evening, heralding Christmas festivities, go to Miss Palk for organising the readings, Mr Pickard for preparing, and playing in, the instrumental interlude, Mr Thompson for directing the Chamber Choir, to the Admin staff for advertising and printing tickets, programmes and posters, to the Parents' Association for preparing the superb refreshments before and during the evening and to a large number of people who helped with preparing and decorating the hall so beautifully. J Thompson

SIR THOMAS RICH'S SPORTS CENTRE

☎ 01452 338439

OAKLEAZE, LONGLEVENS, GLOUCESTER GL2 0LF

☎ 01452 338439

NEW YEAR COURSES—2010

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Yoga & Relaxation	All levels	Fri 8 Jan –24 March exc 19 & 26 Feb	6-7pm	£4 per session 01452 338439
Samurai Martial Arts <small>www.samurai-martialarts.co.uk</small>	All ages	Saturdays Wednesdays	9-2pm 7.30-9pm	01452 610070 07971 584901
Learn to Skate (skate hire available)	Families Welcome	Every Saturday	11.30-1pm	Call 01452 883688
Drama, Dance & Singing <small>www.thehampsteadfactory.co.uk</small>	4-17yrs	Every Saturday	2-5.30pm	For more info 01242 234664
Gloucester Martial Arts School of Excellence	All ages	Every Sunday	10.30-11.30am	07990 703607 01452 551857
Checkers Acro Gym Club	All ages	Every Sunday	9.30-3.30pm	01452 546594
Gracie Barra Brazilian Ju-Jitsu	All ages	Every Sunday	9.30-10.30am	01452 623808 07773 643026
Tae Kwon-Do Tigers <small>www.gloucestertigers.com</small>	4-12yrs	Every Monday	4.30-5.30pm	07715 953775 07970 886165
Gloucester Cheerleading Academy	4yrs-adult	Every Monday	7.30-9pm	07834 923134
Midland Soccer Coaching	4-13yrs	Every Tuesday (term-time only)	Between 4.15 & 7.15pm	01527 540425 07962 382460
FitTech Total Circuit Training	All levels	Tuesdays Thursdays	7.30-8.30pm 7-8pm	01452 531257
Sarah's Gymnastics	5-12yrs	Wednesdays Fridays	3.45-6pm 4-6.15pm	01452 521132 07940 539688
Circuit Training	Adults	Every Wednesday	6.30-7.30pm	07504 064817

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Arsenal Soccer Coaching	5-12yrs	Mon 21—Wed 23 Dec	9-4pm	07966 402228
Dance 4 Fun (Coached Taster Sessions)	5-12yrs	Tuesdays 22 & 29 Dec	10-3pm	£10 per day 01452 338439
Fencing Coaching Clinic (Beginners welcome)	All ages	Wednesday 30 Dec	10-12noon	£6 for the session 01452 338439

BIRTHDAY COMING UP?

WHY NOT HAVE A SPORTS OR POOL PARTY
CALL TONY OR KAREN ON 01452 338439 FOR MORE INFO

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Cricket Coaching Clinics	6-13yrs	Mon 15 & Tues 16 Feb	10-3pm	£14 per day 01452 338439
Arsenal Soccer Coaching	5-12yrs	Weds 17—Fri 19 Feb	9-4pm	07966 402228
Dance 4 Fun (Coached Session)	5-12yrs	Wednesday 17 Feb	10-3pm	£10 for the day 01452 338439



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Pembroke

On October 13th a group of upper Year 13 Biologists went to Oriulton Field Centre in Pembrokeshire. It was a rather enjoyable trip– the weather stayed clear albeit a bit windy which is a real achievement for Britain. The food, the most important part of any trip, was fantastic.

On the first day we studied the of Ecology of a nearby stream, where we caught some elusive larvae. The next day we measured the frequency of vegetation on sand dunes. We also measured biotic and abiotic factors which contributed to this., with marram grass being found on the sandunes and then the vegetation develops as we move back due to succession.

On the third day we went to a rocky shore to study the Zonation. We had to note different types of seaweed and snails as we moved further up the shore noting that they changed and were adapted better to living in that specific condition.

On the last day we looked at woodland management techniques and carried out three pieces of coursework.

The trip also had its fun with a 'Crabbing Competition' on the rocky shore.

M Creese
and J
Wynn



Future Chef Competition 2010

Friday 16th October and Friday 13th November This is the first time the school has entered this competition. Entries were taken from Year 10 pupils. To accommodate the 8 entrants the heat was to be staged over two sessions, with four boys scheduled to cook in each session. A nasty and virulent virus within the school community unfortunately reduced the competitors to 4 boys.

All four displayed good all round kitchen skills and maintained tidy and well-ordered kitchen spaces throughout – the biggest issue if anything was timing. The judges were presented with wholesome and hearty plates of food – remember Sir Thomas Rich's is boys grammar school, full of fast-growing and hungry lads! All presented their dishes with a degree of finesse and the flavour combinations ranged from good to excellent. Overall the judging panel of Mr M Morgan, Mrs C Brown and Mr P Brown were impressed with the levels of skill and competence shown in the competition kitchens, and were bowled over with some of the flavour combinations delivered. Big and hearty congratulations to all four boys who took part.

When all the judging points were totted up, it was Akshay Patel who emerged as winner of the school heats. And so on to the Local Finals. Not perturbed by the date (!), nor the fact that he was the only male representative in the local final, Akshay presented a well prepared and thoughtful vegetarian meal of roasted vegetable frittata with fried baby potatoes and wild rocket, followed by tiramisu.

The judges commended all six finalists on their dishes, saying they would gladly have paid to eat them. Akshay's flavours were especially noted. However the deciding factor came down to the chef who demonstrated the most processes in the preparation and cooking of their dishes.

Well done to Akshay for representing the school and reaching the Local Finals!



DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

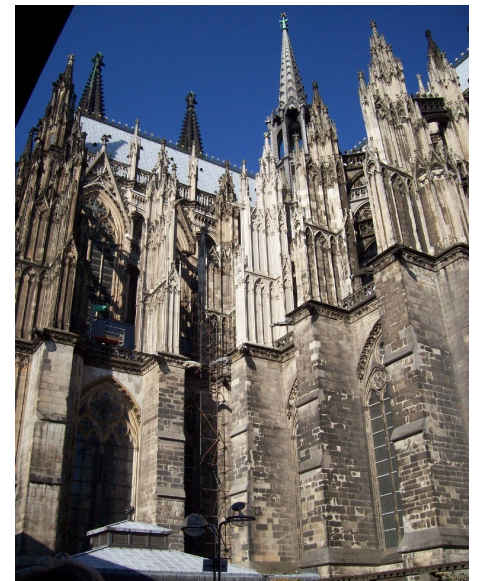
Rhineland Trip 2009

For forty of our Year 8 and 9 pupils plus accompanying teachers (Mrs Testoni-Ranken, Mr Gregory, Mr Thompson and Mr Powell) it was an early start to the Monday before the half-term holiday, as they boarded the coach at 1.00 a.m. on the first leg of their journey to Germany. The STRS party was again booked into the friendly and comfortable Hotel Zur Alten Post in Bad Salzig, twenty kilometres south of Koblenz.

On the first full day in Germany we travelled to Cologne for a guided walking tour of the city, followed by a visit to the Imhoff Stollwerk chocolate factory and museum. The following day we crossed the river Rhine and headed for Rudesheim. There a cable car ride took us up to the Niederwald recreational area close to the imposing statue of Germania (built to commemorate the reestablishment of the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871). A leisurely walk back down the hills and through the vineyards gave us wonderful panoramic views of the Rhine Valley and of the old town centre of Rudesheim. At Siegfrieds Musikkabinett we admired the impressive collection of automated musical instruments and some of the world's earliest recording equipment. Our final excursion was to the Phantasialand theme park near Bonn on the Thursday. Rides such as the Black Mamba, Talocan and the Tower ensured that all those pupils and members of staff in need of an adrenalin rush were fully satisfied.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip. The mostly bright and sunny conditions gave an added beauty to the autumnal colours of the Rhineland scenery. The behaviour of the boys was excellent. They responded positively to all the cultural and linguistic experiences on offer, recording many of them with enthusiasm and diligence in their study visit diaries. Their gratitude towards Mrs Testoni-Ranken for her hard work in organising the trip was genuine, as will be the pupils' heightened level of interest from now on in all things German!

A.J. Gregory

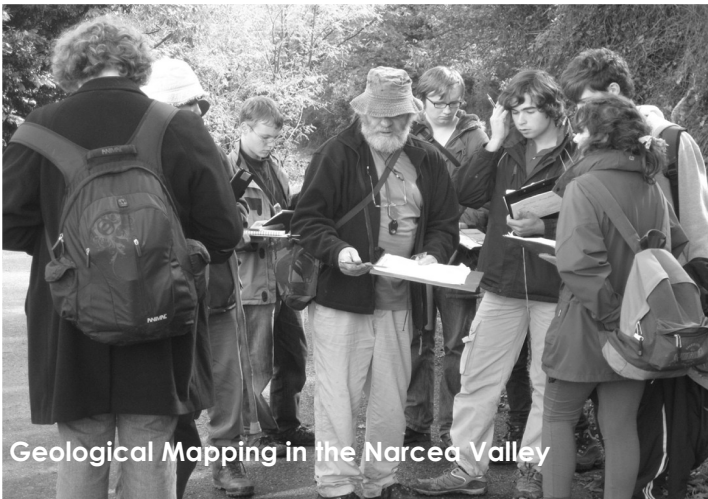


DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

SPAIN—Upper 13 Geology/Spanish Trip to NW Spain October 18th – 27th

An intrepid party of 15 Geologists, 8 Spanish linguists, and Rich Long, set off for what they hoped would be sunny Spain, on Sunday 18th October, in the two school minibuses. Many, including one or two of their leaders, had feared for weeks the notoriously rough crossing of the Bay of Biscay during the 18 hour sailing from Plymouth to Santander; so suitably armed with sea sickness pills the group arrived well in time at the port (a surprise to some!) to board the Pont Aven. In the event both the crossings turned out to be flat calm, and highly enjoyable: anticipation dominating the outward journey (along with some possibly unwanted attention towards our innocent 6th form lads from older, pensionable? female fellow passengers during the course of on-board Bingo!), and much-needed sleep on the return to Portsmouth. The Geologists were studying a transect through a 300 million year old fold mountain belt, formed by the collision of two supercontinents to form the even bigger supercontinent of Pangea. The beautiful, and often spectacular, coast and inland Cantabrian Cordilleran fold mountain belt, of Asturias and Galicia show a complete cross section through this ancient belt, from unmetamorphosed but severely deformed sedimentary rocks in the east, to rocks in the west which had been so severely put under heat and pressure at great depth that they had started to melt to form granite. The other major purpose of the trip was to carry out their fieldwork exercise: the mapping of the geology of a small area in the Cantabrian mountains near Oviedo (should we utter that name?) as part of their coursework requirement for A2 Geology. Some students appeared to have additional priorities, such as collecting the prettiest minerals, outdoing one another at "Olympian" pursuits on the beach, producing the thickest possible baguette for the mouth to encompass at our daily picnic lunches, erecting gigantic impressionistic sand sculptures, and in one case, removing as much clothing as decently possible at all times, presumably to match his expectation of the Spanish climate.



Geological Mapping in the Narcea Valley



Folded quartzite, Cantabrian Mountains

The Spanish linguists, ably driven by Rich, gravitated towards an urban existence in the towns of Gijon, Navia, Ribadeo and Ferrol; pestering the natives with incessant questions and surveys, the local libraries for information on history, economy, tradition, language, food etc; a study of the region of Galicia forms an important part of their A2 course. They also performed the vital role of interpreters for the non-Spanish speaking geology students. Rich, on the other hand, had mastered the art of conversation with, and interrogation of, the locals, few of whom speak English, by means of a subtle blend of French, Spanish and Gloucester!

The trip went extremely smoothly, the weather was favourable, if not hot until the last two days, the food was good, especially at our hotel near Navia; the only problems occurring at the same place; Cabo Ortegal: the most north-westerly point in Spain, where in the late afternoon of the only wet day the geology bus performed an hour-long attempted escape, in thick low cloud, from the maze of roads serving a large wind farm. In the end, only Rich's linguistic skills with two local hunters (for he was driving us that day), ably supported by the only student studying both subjects (Jim), and unsupported by the two map-readers, managed to extricate us from the prospect of a night spent watching large white towers slowly loom up one after the other, time after time in the headlights. Two days later, after revisiting the area in good weather, the other driver somehow managed to become stuck, between a garage door and the wall of a house, in the narrow streets of Carino on the way home.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile trip that was over far too soon.

D Green

DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

YEAR 13 WORK EXPERIENCE IN BRITTANY

One of the most valuable but challenging experiences offered by the Year 13 advanced level French course is the opportunity to take on a work placement in France. Despite the considerable ordeal of an extremely turbulent overnight ferry crossing to St. Malo, this year's group of 8 undaunted students soon settled into their excellent accommodation, a restored nineteenth century mill at Kergoual, near the village of St. Nicolas des Eaux. From there, at dawn each morning, they dispersed to a variety of jobs around the nearby important centre of Pontivy (Morbihan).

Amy Brown, Jamie Franklin, Oliver Johnson and Chris Mace quickly impressed the young students they taught in local primary schools. In the retail sector, Jon Turier conducted elaborate inventories of very expensive whiskies in **Le Comptoir Irlandais**, a shop specialising in luxury goods from Ireland and Scotland, while Joe Russell fed most of the town from **La Mie Caline**, the French answer to Greggs. Chelsea Baker became the first Richian to work in a French riding centre and stables. Within 2 days, the immaculately **coutured** David Pewton was running the town of Noyal Pontivy from his own office in the **Mairie**. All their employers commended their diligent and cheerful industry, and rapidly improving command of the French language.

As well as the usual leisure pursuits of pool, table tennis and football back at the mill, to say nothing of the customary Wednesday **Instituteurs'** white knuckle visit to Vannes, the group this year also enjoyed a special Breton music workshop, in which the ear splitting power of the **bombard** was fully demonstrated. They were also able to join in the rehearsals of one of the most celebrated **bagadou** Celtic bands in Brittany. It must be admitted, however, that the main recreational activity was gastronomy, the consumption each evening of 4-course **cordon bleu** meals cooked by Helene and Alan Line, the directors of the centre, who also arranged the work placements.

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

J Reid



NewsREEL

Summer Shirts

We are seeking parents' views on a possible change to our school uniform in the summer term. The current position is that, when it becomes 'officially hot', pupils may attend school without their blazer or tie. Typically this means that for the final couple of weeks of term in July pupils are allowed to dress more comfortably. We tend not to allow this earlier in the term, even if the temperature rises, because it might fall again, then it would be difficult to get the school back to wearing ties and blazers. We also feel that without blazers and ties the standard of dress and appearance does not always reflect well upon Sir Thomas Rich's.

Our suggestion is that we make available a short sleeve shirt with the school crest embroidered on the pocket. This could be worn all year, as any other shirt, but during the summer term pupils would be allowed to wear this shirt without a tie and blazer. The intention is that it would allow pupils to dress appropriately for the weather throughout the summer term, whilst remaining smart and identifiable as Sir Thomas Rich's students. Our Parents' Association has undertaken some research into costs, which would be in the range £5.25 to £7.50 per shirt, including crest. The shirts would be for the whole school, Years 7 to 13, with similar blouses available for girls.

We intend to use this year to consult. If we proceed, we envisage the change would be optional in summer 2011 then compulsory in 2012. If you have any views or questions on this proposal please do let us know – either in writing to the Headmaster or Mr. Carter or via the school website (www.strs.org.uk).



I Kellie

Railway Society

The Railway Society is one of the oldest-established clubs in the school, with records of trips dating back until at least the 1920s. Unfortunately, it has not run a visit for the last two or three years, and a number of pupils have asked me recently whether we could revive it. The good news is that we can, and we are currently planning a trip by rail for Saturday 27 February 2010. This will be a full-day trip to Bridgnorth in Shropshire, travelling both by modern diesel trains on the main line and by steam on the Severn Valley Railway. There will be some free time at Bridgnorth, and we will also visit the Severn Valley's cafe and museum at Highley.

I am still working on the final details such as the costings and detailed timings, but there will be a meeting shortly for anyone interested. This will be a reasonably affordable day out (probably costing about £20 per pupil), which should be enjoyable for anyone interested in railways. In the past, we usually had about one trip per term, with a residential visit in the summer. If there is sufficient interest, we might even be able to revive the summer tour!

A notice will be sent round the classes shortly with further details of a meeting, and anyone who would like to join should let me know. We will probably need some additional staff supervision for legal reasons, so we would also be pleased to receive any offers of help from members of staff.

Mr S W Pack



NewsREEL

Comenius Project Meeting in Spain, 23rd – 27th November

Sir Thomas Rich's has embarked on its second Comenius project. These projects are funded by the EU to promote international links and friendships between schools through curriculum-based work, increase mobility between countries and support the learning of modern languages. We were very pleased to be invited by the IES Rey Católicos school in Spain to take part, having worked with the school on a previous project. The theme on this occasion is "The responsible use of the new technologies" and is being led by Professor Mariano Chóliz of Valencia university who is carrying out research into this area. We expect to involve both pupils and parents in the project. Also participating in the project is the Belgian school "Institut Cardijn Lorraine" in Arion.

I was very pleased to be supported on the trip by Mr Crumblehulme who took on a major role in translating and Isabelle Chamberlayne and Joshua Nugent. Both students were excellent ambassadors for the school, contributing ideas and translating. It was an excellent opportunity for them to be immersed in French, the language of communication for the project, and Spanish and to become acquainted with some of the Spanish culture, countryside and towns.

The visit was not all work. Leaving wind-swept and rain-driven England we emerged from Barcelona airport into glorious sunshine and blue skies. A luxurious journey on the Spanish AVE train to Zaragoza followed by a speedy bus ride saw us at our destination – Ejea de los Caballeros, a small town in northern Spain. At the school we were warmly received by the Headmaster and staff and the first day was spent learning about the school, town and area. A trip to the Pyrennees to see a monastery built into the rocks and the beautiful town of Jaca and a later visit to the walled fortress village of Sos del Rey Católico gave us an insight into Spanish history and culture and an appreciation of the beauty of the area. We were to end our visit with a project meeting in a splendid palace in Zaragoza where we were greeted by a representative from the region of Aragon and the Comenius national agency. There was only time for a quick visit to the cathedral in Zaragoza before once again boarding the train for Barcelona. An evening stroll along la Rambla, tapas consumed on a restaurant terrace, the anticipation of a morning's sightseeing- it all seemed so remote from dreary England in November. Although a sleepless night in the Barcelona hotel put a dampener on our spirits they were soon lifted by the beauty of Barcelona in the sunshine.

A fuller report and photographs are available on the STRS website.

J. Hewett



DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

ALL Sixth Form lectures

Sir Thomas Rich's was very pleased to organize the ALL (Association of Language Learning) Sixth Form lectures in French and Spanish this term. Due to increasing numbers the event took place in the prestigious Guildhall in Gloucester. The lectures attracted interest among a large number of local schools: Crypt, Pate's Grammar School, Chosen Hill, St Peter's High School, Cleeve School, Wycliffe College, Balcarras, Ribston Hall and King's Worcester.

The lectures were delivered by native speakers and gave pupils the opportunity to listen to university style lectures in the foreign language on topics of relevance to the "A" level courses. The very scholarly French lecture on immigration in France challenged our pupils, particularly Year 12 and will have benefitted considerably their language development. The Spanish lecture on the environment was a more familiar topic for the students who appreciated the in depth treatment of Spanish issues.

Our thanks to Annie Lewis and Begoña Charlton from Bristol for travelling to Gloucester to deliver their lectures.

J Hewett



Begoña Charlton, the Spanish lecturer, in discussion with Mrs Toon, Head of Languages at Cleeve School



Mrs Earl discuss with French lecturer Annie Lewis

Sushi making

Sushi making proved popular with the Japanese club and their friends. The main element is sticky rice and this was combined with other foods and rolled in a sheet of seaweed using a sushi rolling mat. After a demonstration by Masayo Long pupils were able to make their own and afterwards sit down and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

J Hewett



DECEMBER 2009

Battlefields Trip 2009



DECEMBER 2009

Battlefields Trip 2009

2009 Battlefields Trip

In November 44 Richians, accompanied by four staff stayed in Belgium on a residential trip, visiting the First World War battlefields. The first full day was spent on the Ypres Salient visiting two museums, three cemeteries and a preserved trench system. Two wreaths were laid, one at Tyne Cott and one at the German Cemetery. The names of various Richians and relatives were found on memorials where we held private moments of remembrance and reflection. The second day was spent on the Somme. Tristan Murfitt found the name of his Great Grandfather on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. His was one of 77,000 names of soldiers with no known grave remembered there. This is what Tristan wrote:

The Year 9 Battlefields trip is the most moving trip you will ever go on. On our first day we set off to Normandy on the ferry, however it was cancelled due to extremely bad weather, so we took the Euro star instead. The coach journey wasn't too long but we watched films along the way to keep entertained. When we arrived at the Hostel a lovely dinner was waiting for us. The food was delicious and continued to be for the rest of the trip.

Over the next two days we visited many memorials which was very moving. Two of the biggest were the Thiepval memorial on the Somme and the Tyne Cot memorial. We laid three wreaths at some of the more important memorials. We were all shocked when we went to the German cemetery to find that they had all been buried about 10 people to each grave. We also visited many museums which contained lots of interactive things to do. Listening to the Last Post in Ypres at the Menin Gate was one of the best parts of the trip....The evenings were also fantastic. My favourite was when we went bowling. Most of the time we stayed in the games room at the hostel playing table tennis and cards all evening. Overall the trip was fantastic and probably the best trip you will ever go on with school.

N Pitel & Tristan Murfitt



DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

D&T NEWS

by S James & S Hancock



Y12 students recently visited the Materials and Metallurgy Department at Birmingham University. The first task they undertook was to build a speaker, this was followed by a demonstration of the "MAGLEV" theory. After a tour of one of the research laboratories where they were researching into "Hydrogen Capture" they then did some experiments to determine the effect of extreme cold on the properties of steel used in the manufacture of pipelines.



Y13 students travelled to sunny Brockworth, to visit Takao Manufacturing Europe. Here we were met by Phil Akerman, an ex student of the school who explained the various processes that were carried out at Takao. [They make structural car body parts for Honda and Toyota.] This was followed by a fascinating tour of the factory where we were able to see the 2,500 Ton press in operation and the robotic welding machines assembling the parts.

NewsREEL

Technology Club: F1 Challenge

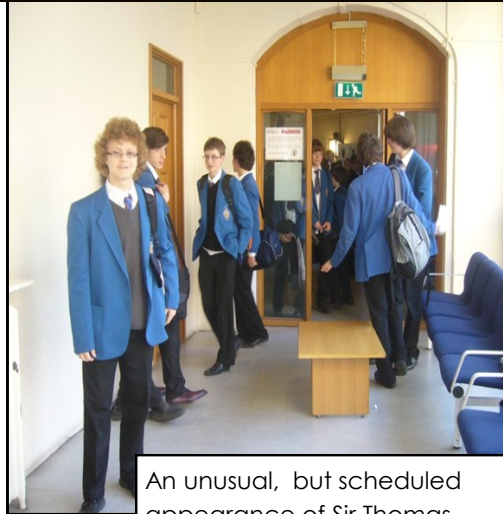
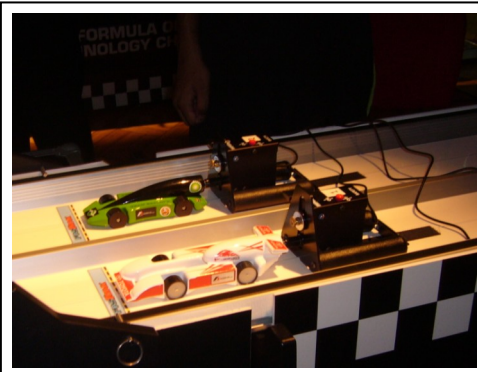
Following a series of frustrations in locating and communicating with designated manufacturing centres, we were finally forced to accept that we could not complete a portfolio in time for the deadline for the regional trials.

We have therefore agreed to call a moratorium on the Technology Club with the intention of starting afresh in the new year with renewed vigour and direction.

We have some excellent students with serious engineering capabilities amongst our members. These are the students that we need to build a prosperous future and we want to nurture and encourage them.

We plan to start the new year either with a positive way forward with the current F1 in Schools Challenge or finding new challenges to pursue.

We hope to open the club to new members in Year 7 once we have a focus. In the meantime if any parent has contact or access to CAM milling machining we would appreciate the support!



An unusual, but scheduled appearance of Sir Thomas Rich's students at the Crown Courts

Some celebrities find the attention of the paparazzi a bit intimidating on their first Court appearance



Our Court Trip

The Trip to Gloucester Crown Court, undertaken by many Y10 boys on Wednesday 25th November, was a well attended and informative for all involved, including, I am sure, Mrs James. We sat in the courtroom, where the jury normally do in an ordinary trial. However, when we went it was only sentencing and arranging the dates for trials, although this was still very exciting, as you got to see many criminals and a more in depth view of the court system. Our thanks go to the Court itself for this wonderful opportunity!

Thanks, George Davis 10B

The Y10 Crown Courts Trip

On the 25th November, a small group of Year 10s made the short trip to the Crown Courts in Gloucester. We were welcomed warmly by the security guard as we strolled through the metal detector (the foyer was not a quiet place that morning, thanks to us). A court official took us into court two, where we sat down with a few other groups and watched a short DVD shown to jurors when they first do jury duty. This was most informative, and prepared us for what court is really like - unfortunately the lawyers are not Tom Cruise and Matt Damon, as Hollywood had led us to believe. We were then delivered to the near identical court one, and were allowed to sit in the juror's box, right up close to the action.

With the call of "All rise.", the Honourable Judge Picton entered. He got straight down to business, calling in the first offender. Unfortunately most of the cases were only preliminary hearings, so we heard very few sentences passed.

There were some rather less pleasant moments, such as when they read out the charges for grievous bodily harm, rape, etcetera, but these were countered by happier times such as when a woman who had been in jail for some time was let out on parole having turned her life around. We returned to school just in time for lunch, having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and armed with fresh knowledge about what goes on in court.

James Stokes 10R

DECEMBER 2009

SPORTSREEL

STRS RUGBY CLUB AUTUMN TERM 2009

So far this term, since September, the School rugby teams, from the 1st XV down the under 12 D's have played over 150 competitive fixtures in total and there are still more to play. The vast majority of these fixtures have occurred on Saturdays to ensure that the boys' education is not affected. As a result however, a small number of staff give up a great deal of their own time during lunchtimes, after school and on Saturdays to ensure that as many pupils as possible have an opportunity to play and that they are well prepared when they do play. I would like to thank these staff for all their time and efforts, without which we would be unable to field as many teams as we do. I'm sure it is appreciated by the boys; it is certainly greatly appreciated by me.

Many thanks,

R Williams



The Sir Thomas Rich's School 1st XV

After a very successful tour of Australia in the summer, where the 1st XV defeated two prestigious rugby schools; The Southport School, Brisbane and Melbourne Grammar School (and put up two very brave performances against the State of Victoria and St Edmunds' College, Canberra) they returned home in good form. Their first few games against reasonably weak opposition resulted in convincing wins for Rich's. However they were unfortunate to pick up a few injuries to key players. As a result in their next game, against probably their toughest opposition of the season, Colston's proved too tough for a depleted Tommies 1st XV, they unfortunately lost heavily.

However, they soon dusted themselves off and returned to winning ways against King Edward's School, Bath, RGS Worcester and Katharine Lady Berkeley, to propel them into the Fourth Round of the Daily Mail Cup against old rivals, St Peters. In this hugely anticipated fixture, St Peters scored a try from a kick at goal hitting the post and rebounding straight to one of their players. Tommies fought back and scored a well worked try of their own from flanker Jack Hollocks. Unfortunately, St Peter's went on to kick five penalties to Rich's one, to win the game 22 – 10.

Due to losing in the fourth Round of the Daily Mail Cup, they were then ineligible to compete in the Daily Mail Vase competition. (as they did last year, reaching the Quarter Finals). However the season wasn't over they defeated Crypt in the Gloucester Grammar School battle but unfortunately lost to penalty kicks again against King Edward VI School, Stratford. They still have three fixtures to play against Tewkesbury School, Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge and Worcester Warriors Academy 2nds. I'm sure captain George Cusworth will be urging his team to finish the season on a high, with three victories.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
15	10	1	5	358	236

1st XV Results 2009 -10

1. TSS Brisbane (away) Won 17 -12
2. Victoria State u18's (away) Lost 45 – 13
3. Melbourne Grammar School (away) Won 27 – 7
4. St Edmunds College, Canberra (away) Lost 30 -3
5. Beaufort Community School (Home) Won 53 – 0
6. Chosen Hill School (Home) Won 62 – 8
7. Newent Community School (Home) Won 30 – 5
8. Hereford Cathedral School (Away) Drew 7 – 7
9. Colston's School (Home) Lost 50 -0
10. King Edward's School, Bath (Home) Won 20 – 5
11. Katherine Lady Berkeley (Home) Won 60 – 5
12. RGS Worcester (Home) Won 29 -13
13. King Edwards VI School Stratford (Away) Lost 22 – 8
14. St Peters School, Gloucester (Away) Lost 22 – 10
15. The Crypt Grammar School (Home) Won 19 – 0

Sir Thomas Rich's School 1st XV is currently ranked 36th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

1st XV Top Statistics

Top Appearances

H. Young, S. Hathaway, J. Hollocks -15
J. Kerr, R. Ford, B. Conway -14

Top Points Scorer

H. Young – 84 points

Top Try Scorer

J. Hollocks, R. Ford – 7
G. Cusworth – 6
J. Kerr, B. Morris, B. Conway – 5.

DECEMBER 2009

SPORTSREEL

The 2nd XV

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
15	7	0	8	212	309

2nd XV Results

1. TSS, Brisbane Lost 39 - 0
2. Victoria State u17's Lost 65 - 5
3. Haileybury Grammar School, Melbourne Lost 25 - 26
4. St Edmund's College, Canberra Lost 15 - 7
5. Beaufort Community School Won 21 - 7
6. Chosen Hill School Lost 10 - 7
7. Hereford Cathedral School Lost 24 - 12
8. Central Tech College 1st XV Won 40 - 5
9. Colston's School Lost 47 - 0
10. King Edwards School, Bath Won 15 - 14
11. RGS Worcester Won 17 - 0
12. King Edward VI School Stratford Won 19 - 15
13. Rendcomb College 1st XV Won 13 - 10
14. Crypt Grammar School Won 17 - 12
15. St Peters Lost 20 - 14.

Sir Thomas Rich's School 2nd XV is currently ranked 42nd in England on the Schools Rugby website.

The 3rd/U16's XV

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
6	2	0	4	82	149

The 3rd XV is an excellent development for some of the Year 11's, that haven't quite made the 1sts or 2nds squads. It's taken a little time for some of the Year 11's to adjust to Senior Schools rugby but the experiences they've had this year will hopefully benefit them next year. The 3rd XV has also provided opportunities for some of the Sixth Form, that maybe haven't played for a year or two, to play in competitive fixtures for the school again. In that respect it is invaluable. It would have been nice to see a greater commitment from some to training regularly, however their last few fixtures were a success

3rd XV Results

1. Chosen Hill Lost 17 - 10
2. BHBS (u16s) Lost 44 - 0
3. Cheltenham College Lost 58 - 0
4. RGS Worcester Lost 12 - 5
5. Rendcomb College 2nd XV Won 49 - 5
6. Victoria Schools u16's Won 18 - 13.

Sir Thomas Rich's School 3rd XV is currently ranked 73rd in England on the Schools Rugby website.

The Under 15 A's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
16	9	0	7	438	305

We have had a very successful year so far. We have enjoyed many wins throughout the season—Bishop of Hereford Blue Coat School, St Edward's Cheltenham, Chosen Hill – and perhaps the most memorable—Crypt in the Daily Mail Vase. I would like to thank Mr Williams for putting together such a high quality fixture list, and all the boys involved in making it such an enjoyable season. Their attitude and commitment is fantastic but, most of all, the team cohesion is second to none. We hope to continue our winning ways into the latter stages of the Daily Mail Vase.

Final congratulations must go to the 6 players chosen for the under 15 district. Tom Miles, Charlie Scott, Oliver Young, Gareth Davies, Matthew Hughes and team rookie Tom Costello!

Well done lads—now the hard work starts!

R M Davies

Under 15 A's Results

1. QEH Bristol Lost 24 - 7
2. The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School Won 20 - 15
3. Monmouth School Lost 46 - 10
4. St Edward's School, Cheltenham Won 58 - 0
5. Chosen Hill Won 41 - 5
6. RGS Worcester Won 47 - 5
7. Marling Grammar School Won 51 - 7
8. St Peters Lost 30 - 27
9. Colston's Lost 31 - 10
10. King Edward's Bath Won 52 - 5
11. Dene Magna Won 19 - 5
12. Old Swinford Hospital Lost 50 - 0
13. Crypt Grammar School Won 15 - 14
14. Marlborough College Lost 35 - 10
15. Beaufort Lost 26 - 19
16. Dean Close Won 52 - 7

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 15 A team is currently ranked 41st in England on the Schools Rugby website.

SPORTSREEL

The Under 15 B's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
12	5	0	7	285	303

Under 15B Team End of Term 2009 Xmas Report

The STRS boys representing the Under 15 B team squad have worked very hard this season and accomplished a lot. The boys have transformed into an organised, physical and competitive unit of players who have built a really strong team spirit with a desire to win games. The boys have not only had a fixture list that has included some of the strongest Rugby teams in the South West but a number of their fixtures have been against other schools' A team squads. So far this season they have played twelve games with victories against some prestigious schools. Some of their most memorable performances have been seen in a narrow 27-33 loss against the mighty Colston's School and a fifty point thumping of Dean Close and King Edward's Bath. Other hard fought battles have seen them victorious over RGS Worcester, Hereford Cathedral School and Old Swinford Hospital. Christy Coulson has done well as Captain with every player in the squad playing with passion and commitment. Impressive performances have been seen in Jack Minns, Adam Thrall, James Parker Mowbray and Henry Stanimerios as well as huge improvements in performance to a number of players such as George Latter, Hugo Chappell and Saul Creed.

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 15 B team is currently ranked 15th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

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Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
15	11	0	4	242	131

Under 14 A team Results

1. QEH Bristol Lost 20 -17
2. The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School Won 17 - 7
3. Monmouth School Lost 10 - 0
4. Chosen Hill Won 29 - 5
5. Tewkesbury School Won 20 - 0
6. RGS Worcester Lost 15 - 7
7. Churchdown School Won 17 - 10
8. Marling Grammar School Won 8 - 0
9. Colston's School Won 20 - 0
10. King Edwards School Bath Won 26 - 5
11. Crypt Grammar School Won 27 - 5
12. Marlborough College Won 37 - 7
13. Beaufort Community School Won 19 - 5
14. Dean Close Won 18 - 12
15. St Peters School, Gloucester Won 10 - 0.

Good luck to the under 14's in the HSBC County Cup after Christmas!

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 14 A team is currently ranked 7th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

The Under 14 B's defeated Tewkesbury School, Marling Grammar School and RGS Worcester. However they then went on to lose to QEH Bristol, Colston's, Marlborough College, Monmouth School, Hereford Cathedral A's and KES Bath. However they did manage to resurrect their season with two excellent wins over Dean Close B team and St Edward's School, Cheltenham A team. However, a lack of commitment by some players to training and matches has hindered their development and progress. I know the majority of the squad that have worked hard this year would like to thank Mr Wainwright for all his help taking training sessions, refereeing matches and accompanying the team to numerous away fixtures. Without his help, it would have been difficult for the team to have played as many matches. There is a great deal of strength in depth in this year group. If they can put more effort in to improving their fitness, strength and skill levels in preparation for next year I am sure a number of these will be pushing hard for places in the A team squad. The u14 B's have two fixtures left against tough opposition in the form of The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School and King Edward VI School, Stratford. Good luck in your remaining games!

R G Williams

DECEMBER 2009

SPORTSREEL

The Under 14 C's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
3	1	0	2	62	108

The under 14 C's have played three fixtures this year. They suffered two defeats to The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and Monmouth School. However they defeated Tewkesbury School 37 – 12. A number of these boys have gone on to represent to B team this year and will hopefully do the same next year. A big thank you to Jack Green as captain for getting the teams organised this year.

R G Williams

The Under 13 A's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
14	7	1	6	238	150

U13 Rugby Report 2009

The U13s have made an excellent start to the season having won 10 and drawn 1 of their 14 matches this term.

The season started with a great win away against QEH Bristol. In a very exciting, high scoring game, the lead changed hand several times and, through excellent defence and team spirit in the dying moments, the School held on to secure a well-deserved victory 33-27. This result was followed by another impressive performance against Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School who always prove to be very strong opponents at this level; the School scored some well worked tries to win 24-0.

Our fixture list has grown significantly in recent years and we now play a number of the country's top rugby-playing independent schools including King Edward's Bath, Warwick, Colstons, RGS Worcester and Kingswood, Bath.

The team experienced contrasting fortunes down in Bath, achieving their biggest win against St Edward's [69-0] but also suffering their largest defeat [46-0] at the hands of a very powerful Kingswood side, who have remained undefeated for 2 seasons. However, in both of the team's heavy defeats against Kingswood and Warwick [39-0] they were 30 points down at half time, having played into a very strong wind in both matches in the first half. Had this not been the case, I'm sure the scores in both matches would have been much closer.

The match at the Grange in Worcester against RGS was a very tough contest and ended in a draw [12-12]. With 5 minutes to go we were 12-7 down, having taken an early lead in the game, but an excellent handling move involving backs and forwards ended with a try in the corner to level the scores.

One of the best matches of the season so far was against a powerful Colston's side who come up to Gloucester from Bristol undefeated. In a closely fought game the team scored 2 very well worked tries from set moves to ease home 20-17.

Apart from the narrow defeat to Chosen Hill when our influential No8 was unavailable through injury, the team has won all of its local fixtures, including very impressive performances against Crypt away [12-0], Marling away [19-12] and most recently in the final match of the term against St Peter's at home [19-5].

On the whole, the season has been very successful so far, built upon good team work and spirit. Will Byrd is a talented attacking fullback and on the right wing Joshua Cannon has scored some excellent tries with his pace and natural ability to beat defenders. On the other wing Rory Payne's place kicking has been impressive and proved to be the difference in the narrow win away at QEH, and Henry Day has shown good pace and awareness in recent games. In the centre Callum Dean's strong defence and Daniel Scholey's hard running have combined to create a very effective partnership in mid-field. The half-back partnership of Harry Schofield and James Foylan is developing with every game. James' decision making and defence at fly half has been impressive and Harry 'bosses' the forwards well and provides a good link with the backs. The front row of James Adnett, Chris Tarling and Matt Peters have performed very well indeed in the scrum, often against much bigger opponents, and all three have been prominent in open play. In the second row, Max Price and Peter Dorey, have combined well in the scrum and carried the ball powerfully in attacking situations. In the back row, open side and captain, Will Rees, has worked tirelessly in attack and defence and led the team with great enthusiasm and tactical awareness. On the blind side Alex Walker and Will Rouse have both tackled and supported well in attack. Finally, and certainly not least, No 8 Kieran Gresty, has been the team's main strike runner and try scorer and has also been a tower of strength both in the lineout and defence.

Many thanks to all of the parents who come to support each week; it is very much appreciated.

CDAC

Under 13 A team Results

1. QEH Bristol Won 33 – 27
2. The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School Won 24 – 0
3. Old Swinford Hospital Won 44 – 7
4. Chosen Hill School Lost 12 – 0
5. Tewkesbury School Won 10 – 5
6. RGS Worcester Drew 12 – 12
7. Churchdown Won 35 – 17
8. Marling Grammar School Won 19 – 12
9. Colston's School Won 20 – 17
10. King Edward's School Bath Won 69 – 0
11. Crypt Grammar School Won 12 – 0
12. Warwick School Lost 39 – 0
13. Kingswood School, Bath Lost 56 – 0
14. St Peter's School, Gloucester Won 19 - 5

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 13 A team is currently ranked 16th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

SPORTSREEL

The Under 13 B's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
14	7	1	6	238	150

Although several players well deserved run-outs with the "A" team, the strength of the "A" team in certain departments meant opportunities to move up were rare – only Alex Walker and William Rouse fortunate enough to make the transition.

This however meant a settled "B" team squad, who under the determined leadership of feisty scrumhalf Luka Renna, quickly moulded into a cohesive unit that played with great heart, determination and never-say-die attitude.

They all worked hard at improving individual and team skill levels, which brought many envious comments of approval and admiration from opposition coaches.

The season's stats do not reflect nor give justice to the playing stature and success of this team – all but one of the defeats were by margins of less than an unconverted try. Even in their biggest defeat away to a very strong Warwick side, the final score line flattered greatly to deceive, as in the second half Luka's bunch of heroes out-rucked and out-played their opponents in some of the wettest and windiest conditions, as they strived to close the points margin with a brand of attacking and quick-handling rugby that defied belief given the atrocious conditions.

So well done and thanks to all those who contributed so greatly to a fantastic season (so far) for the U13 "B" s! Thanks also to the parents for their loyal and ever-present support. It has been an immensely enjoyable treat to be involved with this great team.

P Brown

The Under 13 C's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
7	4	0	3	138	123

The Under 13 C's have recorded a number of excellent victories this year. They have defeated QEH Bristol, The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, RGS Worcester and Kingswood School, Bath. Unfortunately they have lost to Warwick School, Crypt and Tewkesbury School. However a number of these boys have represented the under 13 B team and if they continue to develop and work hard I am sure they will be pushing for places in the A and B team squads next year! Well done!

R G Williams

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 13 C team is currently ranked 4th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

The Under 13 D's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
2	1	0	1	55	83

The under 13 D's have played two games this year. They recorded an excellent victory against Tewkesbury School but unfortunately lost to Warwick. I would like to say a big thank you to these boys for representing the School this year. If they want to continue to train and work hard, I'm am sure they will be pushing hard for places in the B and C teams next year. Well done!

The Under 12 A's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
7	3	0	4	95	110

The under 12's have made an excellent start to their Tommies rugby career. They have played some very tough fixtures against some very prestigious independent rugby playing schools, many of whom have been playing together for many years in Prep Schools. They really have been 'thrown in the deep end' because many of our under 12's had not played rugby until they came to Rich's. Bearing that in mind, it is important to realise that their development has been staggering. There are regularly 50 to 60 boys training each week in lunchtime and after school sessions. Their commitment and attitude has been outstanding. The highlight of the season so far for the A team, has been the victory against Colston's 17 – 12, with excellent tries from Sam Brown, Josh Petkovic- Short and Fred Morrish However Warwick School and Monmouth School have set the standard that Rich's must strive to achieve. They have some very tough fixtures to play after Christmas as well, so they will need to continue to work on their fitness, strength and skill levels! Well done to all the boys involved! Special thanks must go to some of the 1st XV for helping with under 12 and under 13 coaching during lunchtimes, after school and on Saturdays. Thank you Ben Conway, Jack Hollocks, Saul Hathaway and Luke Jones.

DECEMBER 2009

SPORTSREEL

Under 12 A team Results

1. RGS Worcester Lost 17 – 10
2. Colston's School Won 17 – 12
3. King Edward's School, Bath Lost 12 – 10
4. Warwick School Lost 35 – 0
5. Kingswood School, Bath Won 27 – 0
6. Monmouth School Lost 27 – 5
7. John Kyrle High School Won 26 – 7

Sir Thomas Rich's School Under 12 A team is currently ranked 57th in England on the Schools Rugby website.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
6	4	1	1	147	75

The Under 12 B's

Under 12 B Team End of Term 2009 Xmas Report

The new Year seven pupils of STRS have shown a remarkable number of players possessing real raw talent in Rugby. This can be seen in the B team squad with the boys only losing one game so far against no less of an opponent than Warwick School. Every game has shown that in only in a short space of months they have developed some really effective skills to win them a number of impressive victories. This often to the delight of the many STRS parents who come to watch most matches. They comfortably beat a strong Colston's School 41-0 as well as dominating performances against RGS Worcester, King Edward's Bath and Kingswood School. Their most recent nail biter saw the boys draw 17-17 against Monmouth School with the game ending with the STRS pack having a try held up over the Monmouth line. The boys have developed a real attacking style seeing them scoring a total of 147 points in their 5 games. The B team pack has become quite formidable with strong performances by Alex Rogers, Jo Smith, Alex Roper and a hard working back row consisting of players such as the captain Will Sullivan, Will Jollans and Dillan Parry. In the backs some real flair and pace has been seen in players such as Will Brown, Alex Wiley and Rory Chappel. The depth of the squad has seen most games involving twenty or more players with just as strong players starting on the bench as well as on the pitch.

C Powell

The Under 12 C's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
3	1	0	2	41	123

The Under 12 C's have played some tough fixtures this year, they have defeated RGS Worcester in their first game for the School. However they have suffered defeats against Warwick School and Monmouth School. Many of the boys, who've played in these games, have also represented the A and B teams this year. If they continue to work hard I'm sure they will be pushing hard for places in those teams very soon. Well done to all boys who have participated. Special thanks must go to Mr Marks who has helped out with this team all year.

The Under 12 D's

By fielding a D team, it shows that over 60 pupils in Year 7 have represented the School in rugby this year! The under 12 D's have only played one fixture so far this year against Warwick School, where they lost 60 – 0. However a number of these players have represented the B and C team this year. If they continue to work hard I am sure they'll push for regular places in those teams in the coming months. Well done to all involved!

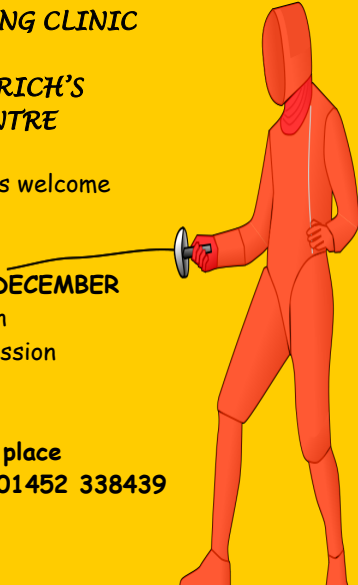
R G Williams

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DECEMBER 2009

SPORTSREEL

Junior Tennis

Following their victories in the preliminary rounds over Bassaleg School and Alcester Grammar School the team went forward to the final stages of the South West Region of the the Aegon Schools Tennis Tournament. Their opponents in the semi-final were Dauntsey's School.

The team comprised Matthew Bennion, Samuel Tullett, Christopher Bell and Dominic James.

Matthew and Sam were convincing winners of their singles and doubles match and put the team in a strong position. However both Dominic and Christopher were a little overcome by the occasion and were not at their best and lost their singles games. To avoid a doubles shootout they needed to win their doubles match against the players who had just defeated them. To their credit they rose to the challenge and began to play the tennis of which they are capable and went on to win their doubles match and to give the School a 4 – 2 victory.

M.Bennion	won	6 – 0
S.Tullett	won	6 – 0
C.Bell	lost	3 – 6
D.James	lost	1 – 6
Bennion and Tullett	won	6 – 1
Bell and James	won	6 – 3

This put them into the final against a strong Backwell School team. All the team rose to the challenge and all the singles matches were hard fought with a very high level of tennis being played. Despite this only Matthew Bennion managed to win and to compound matters Samuel Tullett picked up an injury which affected both his singles and his doubles match.

M.Bennion	won	6 – 1
S.Tullett	lost	2 – 6
C.Bell	lost	2 – 6
D.James	lost	3 – 6
Bennion and Tullett	lost	0 – 6
Bell and James	lost	2 – 6

Despite this 5 – 1 defeat the team can be very proud of their achievements in reaching 1 of only 4 regional finals.

I J Gallagher

SIR THOMAS RICH'S SPORTS CENTRE

TO
BOOK CALL
01452 338439



FOR GIRLS & BOYS
AGED 5–12 YEARS
(fully supervised)

TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER
TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER

Coached taster sessions—£10 per day

10–3pm

DANCE 4 FUN



DECEMBER 2009

SPORTS REEL

**STRS RUNNERS CLUB**

Christmas 2009 end of term report

Cross Country at STRS has gone from strength to strength in the new academic year. The year began with the Men's Health Survival Run in October. A 10km run through Cardiff city involving runners having to tackle ten different obstacles placed every km along the course. All boys showed true grit by completing the race, this can be seen in Adam Gouha who completed the run with a very sore knee injury and Adam Jelley who ran and completed the race despite a quite severe stomach bug.

STRS has also competed in a number of competitions this term such as the ESAA English Schools' Cup and the West Mercia Cross Country League. The ESAA cup saw two STRS teams this being a junior team and an Intermediate team. The boys did very well with Jamie Harper and Adam Thrall both winning their races seeing the boys into the regional finals in Warrington. There they competed against some excellent runners on a very muddy course in torrential rain. Again the STRS boys showed toughness and ran hard with Adam Thrall again winning his race despite falling and cutting his thigh and Douglas Bruce finishing the last lap with only one shoe! The intermediate team only missed out on a national final slot by one place, other impressive performances in this competition where seen by Patrick Sekinger, George Shrueder, Euan Whitbourne, Chris Tillot, Ryan Hearn, Jordan Lee and Dominic James.

The West Mercia League involved senior runners racing in four running events against a number of prestigious schools at four different and impressive rural locations. There was no number limit on teams and STRS took advantage of this by turning up to all the events with the largest team of sixteen runners. They all stood out and looked impressive in their blue and gold running vests. The boys' team eventually finished third in this league with some excellent performances seen by Will McKemey, Matt Adair and George Rawlings. This event also saw a number of girl runners taking part with Hannah Gornall, Emily Howes and Helena Murphy all competing and showing some real commitment.

This was not the end of the success of STRS in Cross Country, a large number of pupils from the school also competed in the district and County Cross Country trials. STRS pupils turned out in force to the Gloucester district trials with thirty one runners taking part! This again saw STRS pupils giving impressive performances with a number of pupils qualifying for the County Championships. Out of these a number of runners have gone to qualify for the county squad and compete in the South West Championships these being Will McKemey, Dominic James, Euan Whitbourne, Adam Thrall, Hannah Gornall and Emily Howes.

The boys and girls of Sir Thomas Rich's should feel proud of themselves for achieving so much in such a few months of the school year, well done!!



C Powell

**E.S.S.A. Team Relays 2009**

On Wednesday 11th November 3 teams from the School travelled to Millfield School to compete in the regional phase of the E.S.S.A. Team relays.

All three of the teams swam well against some very good opposition and they can be pleased with their efforts. The placings, in ()'s, are unofficial and as yet we do not know if they have qualified for the finals.

Junior Boys

Medley (12 th)	Freestyle (8 th)
J.Lee 37.85 secs	C.Munden 30.43 secs
S.Gaskins 41.19	S.Gaskins 31.29
C.Munden 33.98	J.Harper 34.25
S.C-Smith 30.76	S.C-Smith 31.81
2.23.78 mins	2.07.88 mins

Intermediate Boys

Medley (10 th)	Freestyle (9 th)
S.Howarth 32.21 secs	S.Howarth 27.80
C.Symes 38.76	D.Fatica 27.85
T.Grime 28.58	R.Clark 31.28
D.Fatica 27.58	T.Grime 26.74
2.07.13 mins	1.53.67 mins

Senior Girls

Medley (11 th)	Freestyle (18 th)
E.Ramstead 35.07 secs	E.Ramstead 30.63 secs
H.Robertson no time	G.Smith 36.15
A.Robertson no time	A.Robertson 33.48
G.Smith 35.63	H.Robertson 33.68
2.31.13 mins	2.13.94 mins

I Gallagher

DECEMBER 2009

NewsREEL

CALENDAR

SPRING TERM 2010

Monday 4 January
 Thursday 14 January
 Tuesday 19 January
 Wednesday 27 January
 Monday 1 – Friday 5 February
 Tuesday 2 February
 *Monday 8 February
 *Weds 10, Thurs 11, Friday 12 February
 Monday 15 – Friday 19 February
 Monday 22 – Friday 26 February
 Monday 1 March
 Monday 8 March
 Monday 8 – Friday 12 March
 Monday 15 – Friday 19 March
 Tuesday 30 March
 Thursday 1 April

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Year 11 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Year 9 'options' evening, 7.00 p.m.
 Sixth Form Open Evening, 7.15 p.m.
 Year 11 Work Experience
 Year 8 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Year 9 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Teechers, 7.30 p.m.
 Half-term holidays
 Year 10 examinations
 INSET Day (**no school for pupils**)
 Year 7 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Founder's Week
 Trial AS examinations (Year 12)
 Year 12 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 End of term, 12.45 p.m.

SUMMER TERM 2010

Monday 19 April
 Monday 19 – Friday 23 March
 Monday 3 May
 Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
 Monday 28 June – Thursday 1 July
 Friday 2 July
 Monday 5 – Friday 9 July
 Thursday 8 July
 Tuesday 13 July
 Friday 23 July

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Trial A2 examinations (Year 13)
 May Day Bank Holiday
 Half-term holidays
 School examinations (Years 7-9)
 INSET Day (**no school for pupils**)
 Sixth Form induction week
 Sports Evening, 6.30 p.m.
 Year 10 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 End of term, 12.45 p.m.

A/AS results issued
 GCSE results issued

Thursday 19 August
 Tuesday 24 August

Term & Holiday dates for 2010/11:

Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 September
 Friday 3 September
 Monday 25 – Friday 29 October
 Friday 3 December
 Friday 17 December

INSET Days
 Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Half-term holidays
 INSET Day
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.

2011

Tuesday 3 January
 Monday 21 – Friday 25 February
 Monday 7 March
 Friday 8 April
 Tuesday 26 April
 Monday 2 May
 Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
 Friday 1 July
 Friday 22 July

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Half-term holidays
 INSET Day
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.
 Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Bank Holiday
 Half-term holidays
 INSET Day
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.

*Please note amendment

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

