



Our term started with snow on the ground and February brought back wintry conditions. Last week we managed to open on Thursday, my thanks to staff who braved the elements to allow school to operate, we were the only secondary school in the county to open. But Friday brought worse weather and we had to close - it was the first time since 16th February 1982 that Sir Thomas Rich's had closed.



## LAST TERM

Some news from the end of last term, after the December NewsREEL had gone to print:

Thank you to families who supported our two Carol Services and to those who read lessons, well done to Mr. Thompson and the choir which sang the carols beautifully. The Collection at St. John's Northgate amounted to £115 which was donated to their church appeal fund; the collection at St. Catharine's was £155 which went to our fund which pays for the education of twenty poor girls at PMM School in Uganda.

We presented a large number of sports colours, cups and certificates at our end of term assembly. We were hoping to be joined by James Forrester from Gloucester Rugby, unfortunately he arrived too late. He was very apologetic, we intend to invite him back to make amends!

## CAR PARKING

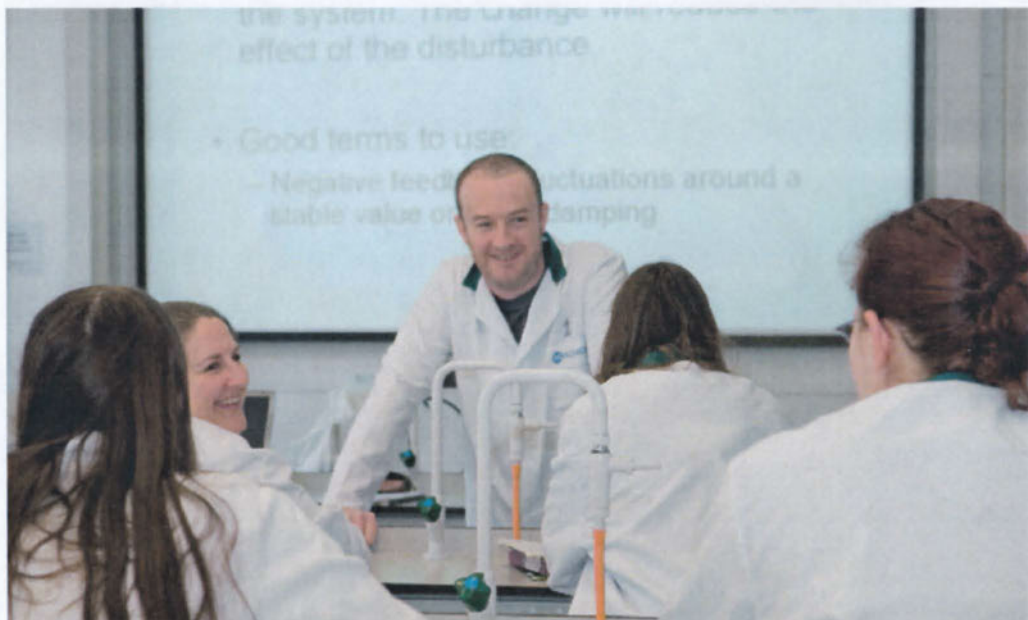
I would ask parents who collect their children from school to be considerate when parking in Oakleaze. The area outside school is very congested but a few parents insist on parking as close to the school as possible, even if this obstructs a neighbour's entrance or a footpath. We enjoy good relations with our neighbours, I would not want these jeopardised through inconsiderate parking at 3:30pm.

Thank you in anticipation.



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

We held a hugely popular Open Evening last month for prospective students considering joining our Sixth Form. In addition to our Y11 boys we welcomed over two hundred and fifty families with children at other schools. The Hall was packed for the presentation. My thanks to the many students who helped at the Evening and to our Parents' Association who measured up for uniforms, ran the Nearly New uniform and provided refreshments.



# Train to be a teacher in Gloucestershire. I did!

Do you have a degree in maths or science?

Considering a career change?

Want to earn while you learn?

"Teaching got me back to the subjects I love. It's great seeing students realise that science isn't about dusty formulas but changing lives and the world we live in."

David always wanted to be a scientist and went straight into research after university. After being promoted to management he realised this wasn't where he wanted to be.

WHETHER YOU ARE A RECENT GRADUATE OR ARE LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE, IF YOU HAVE A DEGREE IN MATHS OR SCIENCE YOUR SKILLS ARE IN DEMAND. FOR INFORMATION ON HOW YOU TOO CAN TRAIN FOR THIS FULFILLING AND CHALLENGING CAREER PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.gltcp.co.uk](http://www.gltcp.co.uk)

 **UNIVERSITY OF  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
at Cheltenham and Gloucester





# NewsREEL

## D&T News FORMULA ONE CHALLENGE

This year the Technology Club has taken on the Formula One schools challenge for entry to the regional competition in October 2009. With so many keen students in Y7 and 8 we have had to hold an internal competition to select the maximum three teams entry we are allowed under the rules.

All teams have worked hard since September to put together a team image and investigate and develop ideas. Last week was crunch time with the two Y7 teams presenting their team's bid to Mr Daniell and Mr Hancock on Tuesday evening and the Y8 teams presenting their bids on Wednesday to Mr M Morgan and Mr Hancock.

All the teams acquitted themselves well in their verbal presentation and responded very creditably to some tough questioning by the judges. It can honestly be said that all of these teams had the necessary qualifications to go forward to the regional challenge but, as there has to be a winner so, sadly, there has to be a loser.

Well done to Gearheads for their hard work and good quality presentation in the teeth of some last minute hitches but the winners are Fireball in Y8 and STRstormers and The Blues in Y7. Their dedication, professional approach and sound team work won through. Thank you to all the students who took part and thank-you to Mr Daniell, Mr Hancock and Mr M Morgan for their valued and careful judging of the entries.

*S Hancock/S L James*



**The Gearheads**

*Ryan Birr, Harry Prudden, Sam Paling, Greg Stait and David Brierley*



**The Blues**

*Peter Dorey, Christopher Rawlings, Ryan Wall, Matthew Peters and Adam Selley*



**Fireball**

*William Andrews, Edward Andrews (I think!), George Hopes and Joshua Isaac (Daniel De Gruchy was unable to attend)*



**The STRstormers**

*Luke Jackson, Jovaughn Stewart, Joshua Serle, Alexander Raven and Matthew Taylor*

## NewsREEL

## ARKWRIGHT SPONSORSHIP

Following our success of one scholarship in 2006, two in 2007 and three in 2008, six of our Y11 Design and Technology students have applied to the Arkwright foundation for sponsorship to help support their A level studies in Design and Technology and ultimately to a future career in engineering. The Arkwright foundation was set up to promote engineering as a career and encourage students to study subjects, which would lead them into such a career. The Arkwright foundation and the sponsorship scheme is supported by many companies such as BAE Systems, The Ford Motor Company, Rolls Royce and more locally, Ultra Electronics. The application process is extremely thorough, as students first have to complete an application form, sit an examination and attend interview at one of four colleges around the country. If successful the students will receive a sum of money to help support their AS and A level studies in school and will be linked for advice to one of the support companies. The examination was held in school on the 4th February and short listed candidates will be interviewed in March and April. We wish all the students the best of luck!

## NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALES

## SALE

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2009

6.15 - 8.15 pm

(Sixth Form Open Evening)

Thank you Mums and Dads for all your support. Our sales in 2007-8 raised £520 for school funds. Thank you to everyone, especially to all our helpers.

J Bond

## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We had four nominations for the two Parent Governor vacancies, so an election was held. The outcome was:  
 Bob Bell 100 votes,  
 Sue Trevaskis 65,  
 Julie Goble 42,  
 Sue Craig (Pitman) 23.  
 So Bob Bell and Sue Trevaskis will serve second terms as Parent Governors.

## Daily Mail



## U18 DAILY MAIL VASE CUP

Our 1st XV has reached the quarter finals of the Daily Mail Vase Cup for the first time. They will have played Hampton School [an all boys' independent school] from Richmond in London, weather-permitting, on Wednesday 11 February. They beat a very strong Windsor Boys' school away 15-12 away in the fifth

round and in the sixth round they secured their quarter final place with a resounding win against Poole Grammar School at home 35 - 17. The Final will be held at Twickenham on Wednesday 1st April!

C D A Carter





## NewsREEL

## U15s RUGBY

What a Season. In the end I had a squad of forty players who were able to slot into any team. Both teams have been exceptional, not only on the field but the level of commitment shown off the field by the vast majority of players has been outstanding only losing two out of fourteen games and scoring nearly five hundred points. Big thanks go to Mr Wainwright for work with the B team and not forgetting Mr Williams for all the organization and quality of fixtures. It has been a pleasure to work with the U15s this term and I hope many of the players will progress onto bigger and better things, because there is no shortage of talent.

So thanks to the U15s for a great season.

R M Davies.

## 成人國語班

# Mandarin Chinese for Adults

## Spring Term 2009

## 春季課程

Tuesday 10 March 09 - 19:00 - 20:30pm

FREE TASTER  
SESSION

### Language Centre

### Sir Thomas Rich's School

*This taster does not require previous knowledge of the language and will be taught by a native Chinese speaker.*

*A follow on beginner course is available if there are enough enrolments.*

*This course is run jointly by*

Sir Thomas Rich's School  
Enquiries: Jacky Hewett:  
[jackyhewett@strs.org.uk](mailto:jackyhewett@strs.org.uk)  
Tel: 01452-338405

Gloucestershire Mandarin School  
Enquiries: Hing Yee Pobjoy:  
[mandarin\\_school@hotmail.com](mailto:mandarin_school@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 07720-637976  
[www.glos-mandarinschool.org.uk](http://www.glos-mandarinschool.org.uk)



## BASKETBALL

## STRS v Cleeve School

Rich's were keen to even the score against an impressive Cleeve Side from last year and they began their campaign well. The first quarter was frenetic and ended with Rich's gaining a narrow lead 10-9. Following a round of substitutions Rich's found it harder to keep up the pace of scoring and Cleeve maintained a steady onslaught to bring the end of the first half Rich's 15- Cleeve- 24.

The second half continued with a high-energy battle between the two sides, although Cleeve had increased their score margin, Rich's were in hot pursuit and not ready to give up. Excellent offensive efforts by **Oliver Ellis** and **Phil Drewett** working in combination, allowed Rich's to maintain momentum and reduce the points deficit.

The third quarter ended with Rich's fighting hard to close a once twenty point gap down to twelve to leave the teams at Richs-28, Cleeve-40.

The fourth saw a valiant campaign launched to bring Cleeve to a draw but to no avail. The game finished Rich's 37, Cleeve-48, despite tremendous physical efforts by all members of the squad. Many thanks to all who participated, spectated and helped officiate an enjoyable and well-contested match.

D J Woolf



# 'CINDERELLA'

## "It's behind you..."

With nothing but fun and laughter the first ever student run production at Rich's finished with an unforgettable bang. Almost all Upper Sixth students were involved in some way or another and all put endless effort and hard work into making Cinderella "one of the best performances at Rich's yet." The entire cast acted superbly as did the band and all who contributed backstage to what was a fantastic show! Although pulled off by amateurs there seemed to be nothing amateurish about this panto. We have to remember that amateurs made the ark... professionals made the Titanic!

With over six hundred people attending the production the audience helped set alight the fun and exciting atmosphere which made the cast enjoy the experience even more. They all gave excellent performances across

the three nights and the laughs just kept on coming.

Now that it's all over, when looking back, the hard work has definitely paid off. Enormous thanks, above all, have to go to Ellis Thompson and Sophia Wing; Ellis arranged, wrote and put together a powerful, yet sympathetic, band that performed to a high standard with all singers. Sophia also worked tremendously hard to design and create the set, with helping hands along the way of course.

Cinderella is inevitably going to be one of the highlights of this year; it was thoroughly enjoyable and worth every second!

Lucy Watson  
Director



## Sir Thomas Rich's School presents *Cinderella*

Lyndee: Cinderella,  
Gemma: Aschenputtel.

Is a popular fairy-tale embodying a classic folk tale myth-element of unjust oppression triumphant reward. Thousands of variations are known throughout the world.

The title character is a young woman living in unfortunate circumstances which suddenly change to remarkably fortune. The word "cinderella" has, by analogy, come to mean one who is neglected, achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect. The still-popular story of Cinderella continues to influence popular culture internationally, leading plot elements, allusions, and tropes to a wide variety of media.

3rd, 4th & 5th  
December 2008  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
at 7:30pm  
in the main Assembly Hall

Tickets on sale at  
STRS & HSFG

Refreshments available  
during interval

Adults £4  
Concessions £2.50





## NewsREEL

## LANGUAGES MORNING FOR Y9

Tuesday, 13th January 2009

**Why learn a language?  
Doesn't everyone speak English?  
Who needs languages anyway?**

As pupils subject themselves to the rigours of learning vocabulary and the grammatical structures of a language they might well ponder these questions. The Languages Morning for Y9 set out to provide answers to these questions. Incidentally ninety-four percent of the world's population does not speak English as a first language and seventy-five percent of the world's population does not speak English at all.

The event was introduced by Penny Krucker, the International Education Officer for Gloucestershire. Her talk highlighted reasons for the necessity of improving our linguistic competence as a nation - we lag seriously behind our European partners in this respect. UK businesses are losing millions of pounds each year because their employees do not have language skills. Penny also focussed on languages as a key to furthering intercultural understanding and outlined some of the career choices available to people with languages.

For the second part of the morning Penny was joined by representatives from business, Stephen Suddell, Accounts Manager at Assystem UK Ltd, Richard Partos, International Trade Adviser for UK Trade & Investment and Chris Hughes MBE, Head of Language Services and Engagement at G.C.H.Q. Pupils had the opportunity to address their questions directly to this panel of experts and we all felt privileged to hear such excellent speakers. They left pupils in no doubt as to the value of learning languages and we hope some will have felt inspired to start learning a new language.

To conclude the morning taster sessions in Arabic, Greek, Mandarin Chinese, Polish and Japanese were all on offer.

*"I think events like these are essential to help young people appreciate the changing importance of learning a language other than English."*

*Stephen Suddell, Assystem UK Ltd*



# NewsREEL



## LEADERSHIP COURSES

Continuing recent tradition, earlier in the year sixth formers were again given the opportunity to attend a leadership course based in Wales. Two groups of sixteen made the journey down to Pwll Du, near Brecon, with the intention of learning more of how to work in, and lead, a group - and of course have a lot of fun along the way!

With no teachers in sight for either course, the 'responsible adults' came in the form of the leaders from The Wilderness Centre, who all inducted Tommies' sixth form students will have met before: Mike, Steve and Michael (along with the latter's dirty shirt! [Sorry inside joke, just had to be there!]) Over the four days it was these guys who watched over us, making sure we were safe but endeavouring to remain in the background as much as possible, so that we could take the lead in activities. These activities differed slightly between the two groups; group one took on canoeing, climbing, caving, orienteering and abseiling; whereas group two had the pleasures of canoeing,

building a shelter out of said canoes for a cold and very wet night, climbing, gorge-walking, orienteering and abseiling. Both groups also had to do all their cooking and cleaning, understandably quite a challenge for a group of teenagers but, that said, I have no cases of food poisoning to report.

On the second course four of us made the unwelcome trip from comfortably sitting inside our canoes, to very uncomfortably floating in a rather cold river. The only consolation concerning my own impression of a man-over-board was that it was not my fault - my fellow boater for the day, John Williams, decided it would be a clever idea to stand up in the rather unstable craft and try to throw a ball to another canoe.

Other excursions ended in a similar state of wetness. Gorge walking remains a particularly freezing cold and wet ordeal of a memory. The day consisted of walking up-river through a freezing cold gorge, traversing rocky banks and clinging onto overhanging tree roots to avoid falling too deep into the rushing waters of the river, with its varying depths. Along the way we also completed jumps into the river from eight feet and ten feet heights. Unfortunately we ran out of time before we reached the dizzying height of fifteen feet. Any fears of heights, however, would have been conquered by the high ropes course at the climbing centre we attended and by the abseiling task on the final day.

To use a cliché that seems somewhat unavoidable, both groups had a thoroughly enjoyable time! Personally I thought it was an absolutely awesome time and I haven't heard any complaints about the experience, except perhaps the temperature of the showers at the accommodation - unbelievably hot. Everyone learnt more about themselves and how they like to operate, along with how best to work in a group. Comfort boundaries were pushed in all directions and in true Richian spirit everyone pulled together to get the tasks done and help anyone struggling. Despite the dips in cold rivers, scalding showers, early mornings, daunting heights (both of climbing walls and high rope courses), we all had such a good time. I know we'd all love to do it all again. It was a laugh-a-minute and we all got a lot out of the experience. Rightly so, both groups said a huge thank you to Mike, Steve and Michael who were such great guys and really made the long weekend all that it promised to be.

*D Stockwell*

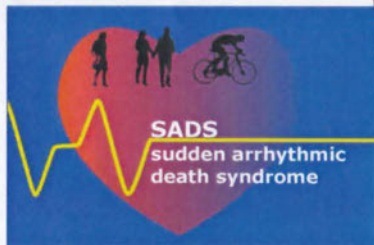


# NewsREEL

## VOUCHERS

Our thanks to parents and children who bring in the various retailers' vouchers for school projects. The Sainsbury's vouchers enabled us to purchase a gymnastics springboard, basketball, two sprinting harnesses, speed/agility ladders, table tennis bats, balls and nets.

The Nestlé Box Tops for Books tokens will run until the end of March, we have accrued £39 so far.



## SCHOOL CHARITY

Our nominated School Charity this term is SADS, a national charity which offers support and information to families who have suffered bereavement through Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (or Sudden Adult Death Syndrome). We lost Jack Vickery, an Upper Sixth student, to this syndrome just over a year ago. Our Free Dress Day payments and Thursday morning loose change collections this term will all go to SADS.



## ONATTI THEATRE PLAY – NICHTS ZUM ANZIEHEN

This term Y8, 9 and 10 German classes had the pleasure of watching a fantastic performance by the Onatti Theatre. Although the play was entirely in German everybody understood and related to the comical situation of two teenagers getting ready for their first date.

### The play

The story takes an hilarious look at two love-stuck German teenagers, Jessica and Stefan, as they both get ready for that all important first date. What should they say? Where should they go? What should they wear!

Their first proper date could be a perfect night or an embarrassing disaster. They both have less than one hour to get ready and prepare for their nerve racking evening.

During their preparation both Jessica and Stefan experience stress, apprehension, fear, excitement, hysteria and panic!



### The staging

The stage is split in two. One half is Jessica's bedroom and the other half is Stefan's room. The audience watched them both getting ready together. This makes the play very entertaining to watch and very visual.

The lively performance included a lot of audience participation and helped our pupils realise that learning a language means a lot more than just studying a textbook and we were pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to pupils from Brockworth school who thoroughly enjoyed the event.



# PA News REEL

Please  
make a note  
of these dates in  
your diary!

## NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

**Do you need  
new items of uniform?**

New uniform may be purchased from the "uniform shop" (the cubby hole under the stairs!) on the following dates:

**Wednesday 25 February 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Wednesday 22 April 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Thursday 23 April 3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Wednesday 3 June 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

Price lists are available on the STRS website – follow the links to Parents Association – New Uniforms. Payment is by cash or cheque made payable to STRS PA. If we do not have an item in stock we can order it for you. (Blazer manufacturer imposes 10% surcharge on orders under twelve garments so urgent orders may incur this additional charge).

**Boys requiring replacement blazers for September 09 need to ensure they attend one of the following measuring sessions:**

**Wednesday 22 April 09 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Thursday 23 April 09 3:30 - 4:30 pm**

We need to place orders by the end of April to ensure blazers are ready for collection by the end of the Summer Term.

**Enquiries regarding new uniform should be sent to the PA Uniform Co-ordinator, Denise Sheldon.**

**E-mail**

[sheldons@gloucester39.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sheldons@gloucester39.freemove.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Australia Rugby Tour Fund-Raising Events

### PROFESSIONAL FASHION SHOW

On Tuesday 24 February 2009 we are holding a Fashion Show in the School Hall starting at 7:00pm. A professional company from Leicester will be organising the event, which involves the modelling and selling of good quality, end-of-line, High Street, retailers' clothing. Tickets for the event are £5, to include a glass of wine, and can be obtained from Reception, myself (Mr Carter) or Mr. Williams. Refreshments will also be available.

### RACE NIGHT AND AUCTION

On Saturday 9 May 2009 starting at 7:30pm we are going to organise another Race Night and Auction which proved to be both a very successful and enjoyable event in 2007. Tickets for the evening are £6 which will include a hot buffet supper and can be obtained from Reception. If you would like to own one or more of the sixty-four horses or sponsor one of the eight races please complete a form which has been sent home via your sons and daughters [spare forms are available from Reception].

C D A Carter

## INNSWORTH JUDO

*Club*

*Looking to get fit  
and learn a 'fun'  
martial art at the same time?*

*Teaches discipline,  
self confidence, respect  
for self and others.*



*It costs nothing to find out - Interested?  
Then please come along and give judo a try?  
A loose fitting top and jogging bottoms are all you'll need.*

**CHOSEN HILL SCHOLL on Tuesday 2nd September  
between 6:30 and 7:30 pm**

**For further details contact:  
Keith Robinson 01452 531419  
BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION QUALIFIED COACH**

**OPEN TO ALL AGES 5-95**

\* The advertisements contained in this NewsREEL are not endorsed by the Staff of Sir Thomas Rich's School



# Calendar

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S ACADEMIC YEAR

### SPRING TERM 2009

23 – 27 February	Y10 examinations
11, 12, 13 March (revised)	<i>The Haunted Cabin on Shantler's Peak</i> , senior drama performance, 7:30pm
Monday 9 March	Y7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
9 – 13 March	Founder's Week
16 – 20 March	Trial AS exams (L6)
Wednesday 25 March	L6 Parents' H.E. evening, 7:00 pm
Friday 27 March	Free Dress Day
Friday 27 March	Y9 Disco, Hall, 7:00-9:00 pm
Wednesday 1 April	L6 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5:00 pm
Thursday 2 April	Spring Concert, Hall, 7:30 pm
<b>Friday 3 April</b>	<b>End of term, 12:45 pm</b>
<b>6 – 17 April</b>	<b>Easter holidays</b>

### SUMMER TERM 2009

20 – 24 April	Trial A2 exams (U6)
<b>Monday 4 May</b>	<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>
5 May to 12 June	L6 Study Leave and AS exams
Thursday 7 May	Choral Concert, School Hall, 7:30 pm
Friday 8 May	Y11 to Alton Towers
	<b>(then Y11 Study Leave commences)</b>
Saturday 9 May	Race Night & Auction, Hall, 7:30 pm
	(Australia tour fund raising)
Monday 11 May	AS examinations start (L6)
Wednesday 13 May	GCSE examinations start
<b>25 – 29 May</b>	<b>Half-term holidays</b>
Monday 8 June	A2 examinations start (U6)
22 – 25 June	School examinations (Y7-9)
<b>Friday 26 June</b>	<b>INSET Day (no school for pupils)</b>
29 June – 3 July	6th Form Induction Week (Y11)
Thursday 2 July	New Y7 Induction Day
Thursday 2 July	Sports Evening, 6.30 pm
<b>Friday 17 July</b>	<b>End of term, 12:45 pm</b>