

Sir Thomas Rich's Newsletter



ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2010



Spanish Exchange 2010

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"Another busy term comes to an end with, for Sir Thomas Rich's, the most significant event being our conversion to Academy status from 1st October. With funding cuts heading schools' way this was a prudent move which we hope will enable us to continue to provide the breadth of curriculum choice, without increasing class sizes.

We wish all our students, staff and parents an enjoyable holiday and a Happy Christmas."

I Kellie

UNIVERSITY ENTRY FEES

Parents will be aware that university tuition fees are set to rise. The subsequent press coverage has been negative and many parents and students may be concerned at the implications. The majority of our students progress to university so I thought it may reassure if I summarise the changes:

- Students considering university entry for 2011 will not be affected.
- No-one will be required to pay tuition fees while at university, whatever fee is set by the university.
- The maintenance support element of grants and loans will be increased for many and simplified for all.
- Students from households with an income below £25,000 will receive a non-repayable maintenance grant of £3,250. This will reduce with increasing income up to £60,000. All students will be eligible for a maintenance loan of £3,750. So a student from a low income family would receive £7,000 p.a. to live on.
- After graduation, contribution to the cost of the degree will start when a graduate earns more than £21,000 p.a. (up from the current £15,000 p.a.). The contribution will be 9% of income above £21,000 p.a., so someone earning £25,000 p.a. would contribute £7 per week.
- A graduate earning less than £21,000 will not have to make any contribution, their loan balance will increase in line with inflation.

Higher education transforms lives – graduates are happier, healthier and wealthier than their non-graduate peers. On all indicators graduates benefit e.g. they are less obese, less likely to suffer from depression, less involved in crime, feel more fulfilled and derive greater job satisfaction. I remain firmly of the belief that, for most of our students, higher education will be a very positive investment, economically and personally

PARENT GOVERNORS

We currently have sixteen School Governors of whom six are Parent Governors. Each Governor serves a term of office of four years, which resulted in two vacancies. We were pleased to receive five nominations, our thanks to those parents who were willing to support the School in this way. In the subsequent elections the results were: Ann Barradell-Black (63 votes), Lyn Walter (53), David Perry (45), Eamon Moran (32), Robert Garratt (12). So Ann Barradell-Black is elected and Lyn Walter is re-elected to our Board of Governors.

BABIES

Mrs. Waterson (Biology Teacher) and Mrs. Brown (Geography Teacher and Head of Year 8) started their maternity leaves either side of October half-term. I am pleased to announce that each has delivered: Mrs. Waterson had a boy, and Mrs. Brown a girl. All are doing well. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Waterson and Mrs. Brown back to school after May half-term.

APPEAL PANEL

Now that we are an academy, responsibility for administering admission tests, and any subsequent appeals, transfers to us from the Local Authority at the end of March 2011. When offers of secondary school places are issued on March 1st (National Allocation Day), parents who wish their son to attend Sir Thomas Rich's, but who have been offered a place elsewhere, can appeal. We shall need to establish an Appeals Panel, which will comprise three members. This is an invitation to anyone who knows of someone who may be interested in serving on our Appeal Panel. Full training can be provided. Expenses and loss of earnings can be claimed. Panel members must be independent of the School, so parents are not eligible – however, if you know of a friend who may be interested, please ask them to contact the Headmaster or the Bursar. There are typically around 15 appeals, each of 30-45 minutes duration, over the course of two consecutive days, in June.

STUDENTS' SUCCESS

Kristof Willerton (13S) was selected as Senior British Champion to take part in the World Championships for tumbling, held at Metz in France last month. At 17 he was the second youngest in the competition so he fared exceptionally well to finish 14th. Even so he was disappointed, he landed poorly after a triple summersault in his first round, otherwise he would have finished in the top eight.

Joshua Wiltshire (13R) took part in the Open European Championships for martial arts, held in Telford in May. He won double gold in the Under 18 heavyweight division, becoming champion in both the continuous sparring and in the points-stop sparring competitions. Joshua has been British Taekwondo champion five times and is ranked sixth in the world in the men's middleweight division.

Connor Matthews (13H) is British Taekwondo Champion in the adult heavyweight division. He won the sparring title for the fourth time in March, in the championships held at Stratford, where he also won the 'destruction' (breaking wooden boards) title for the first time, the latter only being open to 17+ year olds. Connor won the Welsh and Scottish invitational championships this year too. He is training with the England men's squad even though he is not old enough to represent England at international events.

Facebook

In recent years we are finding that what may have previously been an isolated issue between a couple of students has escalated and been distorted far beyond the original incident by the use of social networking sites, in particular Facebook. Information and photographs are passed across Year groups and across schools often involving total strangers to the original incidents. Sadly it is not unusual for us to have to deal with unpleasant and even threatening communication from these sites. Even the most mild mannered student occasionally seems willing to post insulting and abusive messages to people they hardly know. Another concern is that students can be extremely unwise in the personal details and photographs that they are prepared to post on their profiles.

Whilst such communications remain banned within school, we recognise that they play an important part in our students' lives. However, I would urge parents to monitor and supervise their children's use of these sites.



Christmas Wishes from the PA

The Parents' Association has had a busy and fruitful 2010 and there's still work to do if we are to achieve our pledge of raising £30,000 towards the extension of the dining room.

Our wishes:

We have a final push for the 'Wall of Richians' and hope that even more people will buy a brick and be included in the permanent display in the Dining Room. It would be a great Christmas present for old boys/girls and for current students. The display will be constructed at the end of the Year so don't miss your chance, buy a brick now.

Ticket sales for the Valentine Ball have started; don't leave it until the last minute to buy yours. We also need auction lots, and we're hoping that we'll get more offers to add to the fantastic lots we've already been promised. Please contact Mr Carter if you can help.

We are already planning a number of fundraising events for 2012, there will be some new events plus some popular oldies and we hope that you will be as supportive as you have been in 2010.

Our final wish is for you – best wishes from the PA for a happy Christmas and a fun filled New Year.

Proposed Uniform Shop - VOLUNTEER(S) REQUIRED

Plans are in place to open a **Uniform Shop** on the school premises, thus making new, and used, uniform items more readily available weekly throughout the school year. The success of this is dependent on volunteers to man the shop on a rota basis, under the management of a **Uniform Co-ordinator(s)**.

As Co-ordinator, you would be responsible for the management of the shop - agreeing opening hours, organising sales volunteers, liaising with suppliers for the purchase of STRS blazers and other uniform items; stock control; revising/setting prices; liaising with the School for specific dates, e.g. new Year 7 measuring evening and subsequent collection day, and organising a team of volunteers to assist where necessary.

The majority of the work is done during the school day and term time, with the occasional evening/ weekend event. Support within the school is through the School Secretary Mrs. Sue Bain.

The role is very rewarding and the new venture of a shop will hopefully increase contributions to the PA funds, whilst providing improved service to parents and pupils.

Our current Uniform Co-ordinators, Denise and Linda, are standing down and it would be beneficial for their replacement(s) to work alongside them as soon as possible, with a view to taking full responsibility by July 2011.

For further information, please contact the current Uniform Co-ordinators as soon as possible:

Denise Sheldon (sheldons@gloucester39.freeserve.co.uk) or

Linda Lee (01684 773106/0788 440 2412)

GIFTING SCHEME



The Gifting Scheme is the primary fundraiser for the Parents' Association and many parents donate on a monthly / yearly basis by standing order.

If like a lot of people, the amount that you donate has remained the same since your son or daughter started at the school, maybe you could consider increasing it by a few pounds in 2011? Or if like others it's something you've been meaning to do but haven't got around to yet, then maybe 2011 could be an ideal time to join the scheme?

Either way, the PA is exceedingly grateful for any support you can give us, it can be a small monthly sum but it all adds up and of course all money raised goes to the school and is used to enhance your son / daughter's education at STRS.

You'll find a **Gifting Scheme form** in your end of term envelope, please do whatever you can to help, your support is much appreciated.



Quiz & Pudding Night

Thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz & Pudding Night in October. We had 180 people making up 32 teams and **we raised £1,495.**

Thanks have to go to the quiz master - Simon Lewis and his team of markers, who gave us a very professionally run and highly enjoyable evening. Thanks also to everyone who donated puddings and raffle prizes and helped on the night.

The winners of the quiz were 'The Shams' who according to the quiz master scored the highest ever for that particular quiz!

It was a late night and we will remedy that in the future. However, the feedback was so fantastic that we will definitely be doing it again.



SIR THOMAS RICH'S PA

Be a brick. Buy a brick.

THIS IS MY BRICK
Robert Dark 2010

RACHEL WAS HERE
STRS ALUMNI 1998

Sir Thomas Rich's Parents Association is aiming to raise £30,000 this year to help towards the school remodelling programme, including extending the student dining room.

This will make the room a much nicer place to meet and eat, improving natural light and increasing the overall size, as well as incorporating a brand new food technology block.

To help meet our goal, we are developing a 'Wall of Richians'.

This will be a wall placed in a prominent position at the school, made up of sponsored bricks. You will have a chance to add a personal message, and form part of the future history of our wonderful school.

Bricks are available with blue or gold text and two or four line options. Prices are:

Blue x 2 lines = £45 • Gold x 2 lines = £55 • Blue x 4 lines = £85 • Gold x 4 lines = £95

Please show your support by buying a brick today!

To buy a brick or two, please fill in the application form overleaf and post it to Victoria Short, The Studios, Beechurst House, the Reddings, Cheltenham, Glos, GL51 6RT or alternatively, drop it into the box located in reception. We'll then post you a message confirmation which you have two weeks to amend if necessary.

Wall of Richians. Be a brick, buy a brick.

ORDER FORM

YES! I would like to have a permanent place in the Wall of Richians. Please order the following for me (please tick):

Details	Text colour	Cost	Qty	Total
Single brick (two lines of copy)	<input type="checkbox"/> blue <input type="checkbox"/> gold			
Double brick (four lines of copy)	<input type="checkbox"/> blue <input type="checkbox"/> gold			
Blue x 2 lines = £45 • Gold x 2 lines = £55 • Blue x 4 lines = £85 • Gold x 4 lines = £95				
Total £				

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Write your inscription as you wish it to appear on the brick, e.g: UPPER and lower case

Please write your message clearly and neatly to make sure we get it just right!

You have a maximum of 15 characters per line (including punctuation and spaces).

Please complete your name and address details clearly below, and enclose your cheque for the total amount made payable to STRS PA.

Your confirmation and certificate will be dispatched to the address provided below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

email: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Send your order to: Victoria Short, The Studios, Beechurst House, the Reddings, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 6RT or alternatively, drop it into the box located in reception. Please make sure your order form is returned by 25th September 2010.

Wall of Richians. Be a brick, Buy a brick.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre. Your generous donations, raffle ticket purchases and support on the day helped us to raise £2,700. This is a fantastic amount given the weather we were experiencing at the time of the event.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped on the day and to Mr Morgan and members of the Brass Ensemble who entertained us all and helped get us in the Christmas spirit.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next event.

Joint STRS & HSGF

Auction of
Promises

Black Tie

Live Band

Valentine's Ball

At STRS Hall

12th February 2011

7.30 pm for 8 pm til 1 am

Tickets £40 per person

Includes 3 course meal



Extensive Bar



All profits to school funds

Just a reminder to get tickets for the Valentines Ball and if you can't make your mind up hopefully this will:

Starter

Curried Parsnip Soup with heart-shaped croutons
Roll and butter

Main

Supreme of chicken with a red wine, bacon and mushroom sauce

Veg option: Vegetable wellington

Roast potatoes and medley of 4 vegetables

Dessert

Heart-shaped meringue with red berries and whipped cream
Coffee and mints

*Liveband Deepwater will be performing

*Auction of Promises

*Late Bar

£40 per ticket

A number of tables of 10 have been sold already so book early to avoid disappointment!

Time

It was a normal night. The rain drubbed furiously down. Nobody in their right mind would go on such a miserable evening. Yet on this rainy night, in 24 minutes time, a terrible murder would occur. This murder would happen in a normal neighbourhood. A completely ordinary house. A seemingly ordinary family. 15 minutes. The lights in the house went out. The inhabitants must have gone to bed. 4 minutes. A dark figure splashed up the street. Looking around surreptitiously, he approached the house. He rang the doorbell. 2 minutes. The door opened. He went in. 1 minute left. Suddenly gunfire echoed throughout the neighbourhood. Four bangs followed by a terrifying, eerie silence. The front door banged open and the person fled down the street.

About ten minutes later police cars screeched to a halt outside the house. Sleepy neighbours came out to see what had happened. Four body bags were carried out of the house and loaded onto an ambulance. The police cordoned off the area. Only one living person was found in the house: a young girl, in hysterics. She was taken away by the police for questioning. The police cars roared away, leaving a once-again peaceful road. And yet four people from that area now lay dead, their lives prematurely cut short.

Nobody seemed to care. Nobody seemed interested. Only one little old lady took action. After first finding her slippers, teeth and reading glasses she shuffled off to the telephone. Peering at a newspaper she dialled a number advertised there. Detective Barker's number.

In a small house at the other end of town, a telephone began to ring. It rang incessantly in a high-pitched tone, and made itself very clear that it would not stop until it was answered. Telephones are like that sometimes.

Upstairs Detective Barker muttered irritably. He wished his phone would shut up, but he knew he had bought that phone precisely because it didn't. And so he dragged himself out of bed and stumbled down the stairs. "Yes." His curt voice clearly showed his frustration at being disturbed.

"Ah, Mrs. Tiddlelars. Do you need me to find your cat again?"

"WHAT? A murder?"

"Right."

"I see."

"No, of course I can't come now. It's raining. It's night. I'll see you in the morning. Okay? Good. Goodbye, now."

Daniel Kane 9R

MYMATHS - BRINGING MATHS ALIVE!

All students at STRS now have access to an excellent online learning environment for mathematics called MyMaths. The site is accessible from any computer with internet access and is an excellent way for students to consolidate their learning, revise for examinations and track progress. It also gives parents a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the learning process!

Each student can login using the username 'sirthomas' and password 'million'; pupils in Years 7 to 11 also have further individual login details to enable them to track their task scores whilst reporting them to STRS staff. Staff have already experiment with setting homework using the system - it seems to be working very well!

Take a look at www.mymaths.co.uk to see how it could help.

Performing Arts News

We have had a busy schedule of concerts, workshops and plays this autumn.

Well done to all everybody who got involved this term.

Several performing arts events are in the calendar this spring:

We start the term with one of the highlights of year, House Music on 31 January. Standards were incredibly high last year. Guidance for House Music is on Share point. This event is very early into next term, so start planning now.

The Junior Drama Group will present a performance on 17 March.

Rehearsals will be taking place for the School Spring Concert on 31 March. Mr. Thompson and I will be looking for soloists and bands for this concert.

The spring term will end with House Drama on 5 April. Guidance for House Drama will be on Share point at the start of next term. This event will come round very quickly, so be prepared.

Mrs. P Jones



TAKAO

Earlier this term, Y13 D+T students visited Takao Manufacturing in Brockworth. 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 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. We were also allowed into the CMM room [Co-ordinate Measuring Machine] where samples are tested for accuracy to one thousandth of a millimetre [one micron]



Technology Club

The Toyota Challenge: The successful Year 9 team is making steady progress with their entry into the Toyota Challenge Solar Powered Car. After a some uncertainty as to how to go forward they are now making headway with their design ideas, recycling a computer mouse. Part of the Design Brief is to incorporate recycled materials and this idea lends itself well to a stylish and innovative recycling of a whole product.

The team has also been successful in attracting several sponsors and have over £100.00 promised in sponsorship. They will be able to use some of this money towards their team presentation with T-shirts and caps with their logo on.

Rockets: After investigation into safety and rules regarding the purchase and launching of rockets from our school grounds the Year 10 students placed an order for a starting kit of two rockets, a launch pad and several motors. To date we are still waiting confirmation and delivery. Possibly GCHQ is still checking our past history of handling explosives and whether we have placed similar small scale orders around the country. We hope to be in a position to launch a few trials in the new year.



Lunchtime Club We now have a number of students in Years 7 & 8 working in small groups and individually on their chosen projects. Students meet on Monday and Friday lunchtimes. So far we have airplanes, gliders, trains, aqua cars and a hedgehog hibernating house in various stages of planning and making.

As the group settles down into a routine we hope to be able to extend the club to an after school session.

Stop Press!



Chris Perkins has been awarded a scholarship by the Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers. The scholarship provides the student with £350 for each year of their sixth form studies and £1500 for each year at university [if they attend an approved course at an approved university]. The scholarship application originated as a result of our visit to Birmingham University in November.



Materials Trip to the University Of Birmingham

Despite road works and bad traffic, the AS Design and Technology group arrived at Birmingham University on 17th November, to partake in a unique lecture and workshop session with PhD students and lecturers.

Firstly we sat down to listen to a brief presentation with one of the students. He talked to us about magnets and explained how useful they are. He also explained many of the different uses that magnets have in our daily lives. We were all surprised by how many of our gadgets contain magnets, for example, iPods and laptops.

We were then set the task of constructing a speaker using only a coil of wire, a magnet, a piece of card, a wooden structure, and a couple of elastic bands. Again we were shocked how simple it was to make. After copying some of Mrs James' ideas, we created a fully functional speaker and were able to listen to a bit of Tinie Tempah's 'Written in the Stars'. Although the music was not perfectly clear, it demonstrated how over priced speakers are in electronic shops.

On completion of the task we then had a brief discussion about hydrogen fuel cells. We gathered in the corner for a demonstration showing how the fuel cells work and how they can be useful. We discovered how they are good for the environment, and how Birmingham University had the first public electric recharging points.

After the demonstration we went into a different room where we were taught about different materials and their properties. We used a machine to check the ultimate tensile strength of Perspex and mild steel. We observed how the steel stretched before breaking and how the Perspex snapped to give a clear cut. We then used a Charpy Pendulum Impact Tester to see how steel at different temperatures would cope with a sudden blow from a swinging pendulum. We found that below a certain temperature the strength of the steel was highly compromised.

The seven of us enjoyed our visit and found it highly informative and beneficial.

Ryan Farmer 12L



Exclusive!

As many of you will be aware, the new food room is making good progress. You will have seen the development from the outside but our cameras have been able to get an exclusive look at progress on the inside. We are told that the project is on schedule and we hope to be moving into the new building in January 2011.

BIODIVERSITY AND THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Work on this project has continued throughout the summer holidays and into this term. The grounds have been surveyed and documented.

Earlier repairs to the two bridges and work to the pond edges have enable sthe pond to be once more used as a valuable teaching aid through pond dipping.



GARDENING

We would like to establish a gardening club to grow vegetables for internal sale.

Unfortunately work done at the end of the summer holidays to mark out Vouchers collected by the school from Morrisons Supermarket have been used to purchase a mixture of flower and vegetable seeds.

We need tools, seeds and manure as well as helpers to get this part of the project underway early next Spring.

WILDLIFE

Committed staff and students are establishing some good wildlife habitats.

30 whips of indigenous trees were delivered in the first week of November courtesy of Sainsbury's vouchers.

Members of the Green team brought along spades and wellies and spent a cold lunchtime planting and marking out the trees.

With care we hope to have some healthy insect and bird attracting saplings developing over the next few years



DONATIONS WANTED

Please contact joymee@strs.org.uk or sarahjames@strs.org.uk if you are able to contribute any of the following:

WE NEED GARDENING EQUIPMENT: SPADES, FORKS, WHEELBARROWS, WATER BUTTS, HOSE PIPES, SEEDS, MANURE, GARDENING GLOVES, BOOTS.



ECO SCHOOLS BRONZE AWARD

Eco-Schools We are already well on the way to achieving this award and hope to apply in early 2011. This will provide us with support and resources to move onto greater green activities and help us, attract funding. With the Green Teams work on energy Saving underway we may well meet the Silver standard by July 2011.

RECYCLING

We have been trialling a new scheme in F corridor to collect the refuse in bins at the ends of the corridor.

So far it is clear that we need both a more robust system and better education for users. Much more needs to be done to make our blue bins work and to investigate how our new Academy status provides problems and opportunities.

We are also keen to find a reliable local firm to recycle our many empty ink cartridges.



CARBON ADVISORY GROUP

Our school web page now provides a link to this advisory group and our own STRS page.

This charity exists to provide advice to individuals and businesses on their carbon footprint.

By linking to them we provide our own web page with details of our green team projects and the funding we need. Users can then use the carbon calculator with no obligation and can then decide if they want to offset their carbon footprint by sponsoring any of our green projects.

THE GREEN TEAM

This team has been gradually evolving from a group of Year 7 students two years ago who were runners up in the International Climate Change competition.

Since then some of them and a few extras organised a Green Initiative Week in October 2009. After trying to get the team and ideas off the ground they were given new impetus by the core group being joined by a few more students to take part in the GCHQ's Green Week. This year we are actually constituting a formal group with regular meetings and clear objectives.

The aims of the group are wide, varied and ambitious but already we are making serious headway. Our assemblies to KS3 and 4 have attracted a few more students and the group is now embarking on an energy audit.

Energy Audit sponsored by the Severn Wye Energy Agency.

Following the Green Team attendance at a workshop on 15th October organised by the Severn Wye Energy Agency, they are now embarking on a whole school energy audit. Students are formally interviewed and positions and responsibilities allocated. The school caretaker and bursar are also involved and provide base line data to work from. The students will spend a half day in training and a further whole day carrying out the survey and preparing a report for governors. We hope to be able to make recommendations for significant energy saving measures that will help reduce our carbon footprint and save money. We hope also to be able to use the agency's thermal imaging camera during the survey which has got the Physics teachers very excited.



A big thank-you to everyone who took part in the school election for a candidate in the local Youth Parliament Elections.

In particular to the candidates and the chair of the debate. Unfortunately we have all had a taste of Real Politics when we learnt that the elections had been cancelled as one of the first casualties of the cut backs that local governments are having to make.





PGL Trip to France

Friday 22nd – Monday 25th October 2010

A group of our Year 8 and 9 pupils, accompanied by Mr Gregory, Mr Morgan, Miss Brake, Mr Thompson and Mrs Thomas, spent the first weekend of the half-term holiday in France. After the obligatory early start and a calm crossing from Portsmouth to Caen, we arrived at our destination of Chateau du Tertre in Southern Normandy in time for a very welcome evening meal.

On Saturday morning we crossed the border from Normandy into Brittany and headed for Fougères which boasts one of the oldest castles in Europe. Our main focus was, however, the lively market in the centre of town. Transactional phrases learnt in the classroom were soon put into good effect. In the afternoon we went to a traditional goat's cheese farm where we first met the goats and then had the chance to interview the farmer's wife, as well as enjoy the inevitable tasting of the cheese. Many of the boys tried some and a few even bought some to bring home. I hope it arrived in an edible state!

The bright sunshine of Sunday morning (and the lack of available diesel at the pumps) encouraged us to leave the coach back at the Centre and walk into the nearby town of Ambrières-les-Vallées. At the bakery Joel gave us a presentation on the skills of his trade.

The boys were not only given the opportunity to sample his wares but also to try their hand at making croissants themselves. The boys were then put into groups and set off on the challenge of the town trail. After controversy over the number of steps leading down from the town hall to the river, Joshua Melville's 8B team was declared the winner. All were rewarded for their efforts with a drink in a café.

Sunday afternoon was devoted to the more physical activities that PGL study visits offer such as climbing, high ropes and doing apparently inexplicable things in the woods! Our boys established a positive relationship with all of the staff, especially our group leader. Indeed they entered wholeheartedly into every activity suggested (including snail eating and a night-time challenge course) and deserve praise for their politeness and cooperation.

Our return journey on the Monday was delayed slightly when our path through an apparently innocuous-looking town was blocked by French workers protesting over proposed pension reform. Fortunately, thanks to Miss Brake's diplomatic skills and charm, an alternative route was suggested to us by some of the trade unionists involved and we reached the safe haven of Brittany Ferries with no further problems. It is to be hoped that this trip will further cement in the minds of our pupils the connection between those two 'F' words, fun and French!

A J GREGORY

YEAR 13 WORK EXPERIENCE IN FRANCE



Brittany

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

Harriet Evans and Nick Thompson won many fans among the children they taught in two neighbouring primary schools. The local retail sector was boosted by the efforts of Isabelle Chamberlayne who ran a busy boulangerie/pâtisserie, and George Eden who sold luxury Breton products in the Coop Breizh. Josh Nugent improved both his putting and his use of the subjunctive in the local golf club, while Claire Hawkesworth charmed the customers in a local café, amassing an impressive total in tips in the process.

Emma Ranstedt spent the week assisting, with admirable English *sang froid*, in a series of grisly operations in the veterinary surgery.

Apart from plenty of ping-pong, pool and baby-foot back at our base-a restored 19th century former flour mill at Kergoual, the main recreational activity, quite rightly, was gastronomy- the consumption of 4-course, cordon bleu meals prepared by the directors of the centre, Alan and Helene Line.

This was certainly a daunting, but vastly enjoyable experience, which dramatically enhanced the linguistic skills and confidence of all its participants. Sadly, owing to adverse economic conditions in Sarkoczy's France, this group of *stagiaires* may well be the last Richians to benefit from this opportunity, which over the past decade has been so significant in convincing so many of its graduates to choose language courses at university.

J REID



In October Spanish students from STRS and HSFG of Years 10 and 12 took part in a foreign exchange with Infanta Elena, a school from Galapagar, near Madrid. It was a wonderful trip and we all gained some fantastic experiences from it.

After breaking the ice with our partners we spent the first couple of days visiting some of the famous landmarks of Madrid, such as the enormous park, El Retiro. We also went to the Museo del Prado (an art museum), the Faunía zoo and even experienced the musical *Mamma Mia* in Spanish.

In my opinion the best trip of the exchange was to the breathtaking stadium of Real Madrid C.F, the Santiago Bernabeu. We saw the trophies, the press room and were even allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench. It was a day when even the girls couldn't ruin the football!

However it wasn't just the trips that made the exchange great. The time we spent with our exchange partners and the atmosphere with them was extremely enjoyable. For example the most memorable moment of the exchange had to be the final day's football match, where England took on Spain on the school's playground. It was a hard-fought game with plenty of goals, skills and even a few controversial moments; however despite our best efforts and an inspirational half-time speech from Mr Hearn, we simply couldn't cope with their passing ability.

We had a lot to live up to on the return leg in England; but we still managed to have just as much fun. They spent days visiting cities such as Bath, Oxford and London and the evenings and weekends with us. I'm not sure how a night out to Ten Pin bowling can be compared with *Mamma Mia*, but they seemed to have a good time! The week in England proved to be just as successful as the one in Spain; again because of the enjoyable atmosphere and the fact that we got on so well with our exchange partners. On the exchange we gained a real insight into Spanish culture and their social lives. It's a trip that I would recommend to anyone taking GCSE or A-level Spanish.

Tom Goodman 12T



Comenius Project

Comenius Partners: IES Reyes Católicos, Ejea de los Caballeros, Spain and Institut Cardijn Lorraine, Arlon, Belgium



The Comenius Project on "The responsible use of the new technologies" is now in its second and final year. Pupils across the school have contributed to research into the addition to the new technologies and the findings will be published in a book to be published by Mariano Chóliz, Professor of Psychology at the University of Valencia, Spain.

We were pleased to host the first project meeting of the year in November. There was the possibility alongside the planning and evaluation sessions to take our Comenius partners to Oxford. With its beautiful college buildings, its traditions and the insight it afforded into a very different and unique education, Oxford did not fail to leave a lasting impression on our visitors. It was a very convivial and successful meeting. Even the weather did not disappoint on this occasion. We look forward now to the next meeting in Belgium in March. In the meantime there is project work to be done!

J HEWETT & S CRUMBLEHULME

Foreign Language Assistants

For a number of years pupils at the school have been privileged to work either individually or in small groups with foreign language assistants. We extend a rather belated welcome to Franziska Rex from Germany, Flora Gervais from France and from Spain, Yolanda Moreno who is spending a second year with us. Our language assistants remain with us until the end of May and work mostly with Sixth Form pupils, engaging them in discussion and debate in the foreign language. The benefits of this direct contact with a native speaker, often on a one to one basis, are immeasurable. We wish them an enjoyable and rewarding stay.

J HEWETT



Franziska Rex



Yolanda Moreno



Flora Gervais

Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park



In celebration of the successes achieved by the pupils of the Bengali Saturday School a trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park was organised at half-term. It proved a relaxing day for pupils who normally spend Saturdays in school learning Bengali under the instruction of their teacher Mrs Sakhina Choudhury. The school was established as part of the outreach community work of Sir Thomas Rich's and has developed into a flourishing school offering both GCSE and "A" level courses.

J HEWETT



Christmas by Candlelight

This year's annual celebration of Christmas by candlelight took place last Monday in the school hall. As usual the hall was beautifully decorated with seasonal flowers, foliage and berries in addition to the two Christmas trees, bottle candles and tealights.

Relaxing with mulled wine and mince pies, the audience were treated to some intimate carols in the first half such as Bethlehem Down by Peter Warlock and Away in a Manger set to a Basque melody plus more exotic and lively carols such as the Zither carol and Tomorrow shall be my Dancing day. Separating the carols was the chilling Edgar Allan Poe poem, The Raven, read most effectively by Will Geeson.

After a sumptuous buffet and more wine, the brass ensemble, ably directed by Mr Matthew Morgan presented a most enjoyable selection of well-known carols in colourful arrangements. Then, for something completely different came John Cleese's twist on 'A Night before Christmas', humourously read by George Alsworth. The last set of carols roused the audience somewhat with Deck the Hall and We wish you a Merry Christmas.

Once again, a memorable evening was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the P.A ladies for the buffet and refreshments, to Liz for the superb flower displays and table decorations, to Pauline Jones for her help with decorating the hall and to Alan Passey and the site staff for preparing the lighting and furniture.

J THOMPSON

Remote Learning

The ICT team here at STRS has been hard at work developing the new version of the Remote Learning Environment (RLE) for several weeks, and we are now pleased to announce it is ready! The RLE allows students and staff access into the school Network as if they were sat in a classroom - all the software and resources we have at STRS are available to you for free.

To update, simply visit the school website (www.strschool.co.uk) and click on 'Remote Learning' on the top bar. This release is fully compatible with Intel-Mac and Linux users, as well as all versions of Windows from XP upwards.

M HOPTON

4th Explorer Scouts

The activity levels of the unit have calmed down somewhat during the last four weeks due to the adverse weather and mock GCSE examinations (also reported as adverse!). We did however have a very interesting and instructive evening with Dr Chapple, who took everyone through the ABC of basic first aid and resuscitation, showed everyone how to 'get down and personal' with "Resusci-Anne" - skills that might one day save someone's life.

Another evening was cosily spent popping (and smouldering!) corn at our very own 'Movie Night', which screened some Warner Brother cartoon Classics before the main feature "Blazing Saddles."

J P BROWN

TRIPS Consent Forms

Just a reminder to all parents could you please ensure that all Medical Consent Forms are returned by the date required as this will help with the processing of paperwork prior to an offsite visit. This is to ensure that the school has plenty of time to notify any providers of any special or dietary needs. We will be putting letters of any up and coming trips on our website along with the consent form for parents to download.

Finally could all Year 12 and Year 13 consent forms be signed by a parent.

L HERRON

House Chess 2010/11

16th November

Northgate	1.5 – 4.5	Eastgate
Nick Mandella (Y13)	0 – 1	George Dickinson (Y9)
Hiran Kannan (Y8)	0 – 1	Josiah Kane (Y12)
Ned Clarke-Coast (Y7)	0.5 – 0.5	Dan Kane (Y9)
Will Doherty (Y13)	0 – 1	Matt Munden (Y7)
Sam Penman (Y8)	0 – 1	Tobu Churchley (Y11)
Ed Watson (Y13)	1 – 0	James Henderson (Y8)
Southgate	2.5 – 3.5	Westgate
Tom Pitman (Y8)	0 – 1	Michael Ashworth (Y7)
Will Todd (Y7)	1 – 0	Brett Abram (Y13)
Matt Lee (Y10)	0 – 1	Chris Lodge (Y13)
Mark Thistleton (Y8)	0 – 1	Will Sullivan (Y8)
Will McKemey (Y13)	0.5 – 0.5	Dan Taylor (Y8)
Ollie Chapple (Y13)	1 – 0	Jamie McClemont (Y7)

18th November

Northgate	3 – 3	Westgate
Will Doherty (Y13)	0 – 1	Michael Ashworth (Y7)
Hiran Kannan (Y8)	1 – 0	Matt Wood (Y13)
Ed Watson (Y13)	0 – 1	Chris Lodge (Y13)
Sam Penman (Y8)	0 – 1	Abdu Afifi (Y12)
Ned Clarke Coast (Y7)	1 – 0	Will Sullivan (Y8)
Nick Mandella (Y13)	1 – 0	Dan Taylor (Y8)
Southgate	1 – 5	Eastgate
Chris Burns (Y8)	0 – 1	Ed Burgess (Y11)
Will Todd (Y7)	0 – 1	George Dickinson (Y9)
Mark Thistleton (Y8)	0 – 1	Sam King (Y9)
Ollie Chapple (Y13)	0 – 1	Josiah Kane (Y12)
Will McKemey (Y13)	1 – 0	Christy Rutland (Y7)
Matt Lee (Y10)	0 – 1	Toby Hogg (Y8)

19th November

Northgate	1 – 5	Southgate
Nick Mandella (Y13)	0 – 1	Will McKemey (Y13)
Will Doherty (Y13)	0 – 1	Ollie Chapple (Y13)
Ned Clarke-Coast (Y7)	0 – 1	Will Todd (Y7)
Ed Watson (Y13)	0 – 1	Matt Lee (Y10)
Jack Lock (Y8)	0 – 1	Mark Thistleton (Y8)
Hiran Kannan (Y8)	1 – 0	Josh Summerfield (Y9)
Eastgate	3.5 – 2.5	Westgate
Ed Burgess (Y11)	1 – 0	Michael Ashworth (Y7)
George Dickinson (Y9)	1 – 0	Chris Lodge (Y13)
Sam King (Y9)	0 – 1	Abdu Afifi (Y12)
Josiah Kane (Y12)	1 – 0	Nathan Kyne (Y13)
Matt Munden (Y7)	0.5 – 0.5	Will Sullivan (Y8)
Will Pack (Y8)	0 – 1	Dan Taylor (Y8)

House Chess 2010/11 - Final Table

	Match Points	Game Points
1st - Eastgate	3	13
2nd - Westgate	1.5	9
3rd - Southgate	1	8.5
4th - Northgate	0.5	5.5

House Chess was won this year by Eastgate, with Westgate second followed by Southgate third and Northgate fourth.

All houses should be congratulated on fielding teams that played some entertaining and hard fought chess. A number of the matches were very close with 2 matches being decided by the narrowest margin possible of 3 games to 2 with the remaining game drawn, and the match between Northgate and Westgate resulting in a 3-3 draw. Eastgate won the event with an exciting 3.5-2.5 victory over Westgate in the final round of matches.

35 boys took part this year (there were no girls!) with participants coming from all Years 7 to 13. I would like to thank the team captains: Ed Burgess, Chris Lodge, Ollie Chapple and Ed Watson for their efficient organisation of their respective teams.

Notable individual performances were:

Ed Burgess (Y11) – 2 wins from 2 games on board 1 for Eastgate

George Dickinson (Y9) – 3 wins on board 2 for Eastgate

Josiah Kane (Y12) – 3 wins for Eastgate

Michael Ashworth (Y7) – 2 wins from 3 games on board 1 for Westgate

Abdu Afifi (Y12) – 2 wins from 2 games for Westgate

Will McKemey (Y13) – 2 wins and 1 draw for Southgate

William Todd (Y7) – 2 wins from 3 games for Southgate

Hiran Kannan (Y8) – 2 wins from 3 games for Northgate

I A ROBSON

The school chess team has made an excellent start to the season, with 3 wins from 4 matches placing us 2nd in the North Gloucestershire (adult) Chess League Division 3.

The team is young this year: Michael Ashworth (7B), Ed Burgess (11R), George Dickinson (9R) and Sam King (9R) all play regularly and William Sullivan (8B) won on his only outing so far.

The results have been:

Won 3.5 – 1.5 v Wotton Hall B

Won 3 – 2 v Gloucester C

Lost 2 – 3 v Musketeers B

Won 4 – 1 v Cirencester B

All the players are playing some fine chess, with the Ed Burgess recording the best individual results so far with 3 wins and 1 draw. The season has a long way to go but promotion to Division 2 is in our sights.

I A ROBSON

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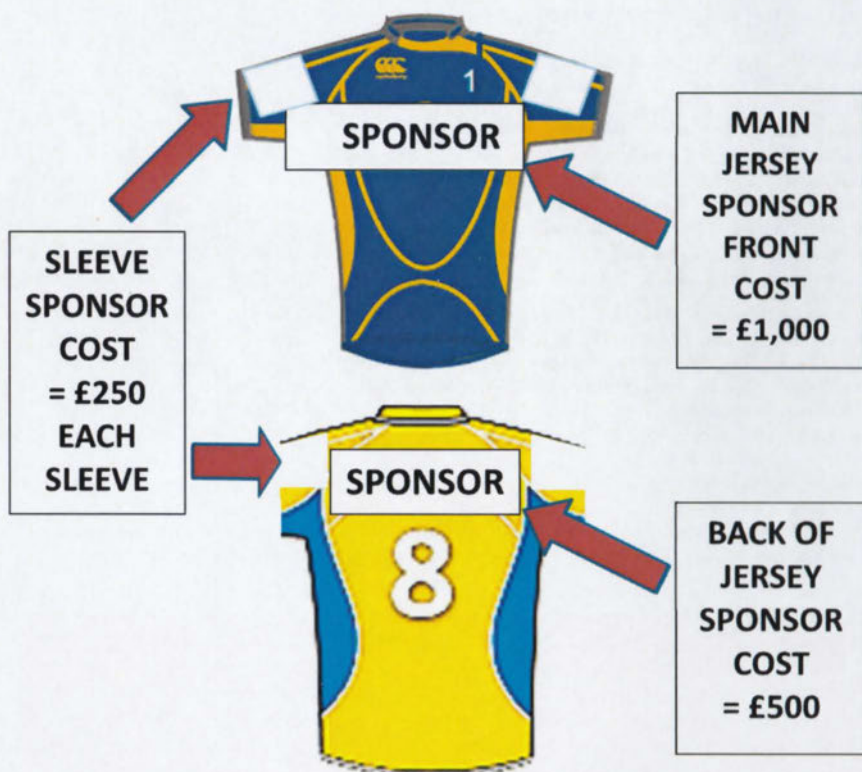
Linda Herron
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SIR THOMAS RICH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

AUSTRALIA RUGBY TOUR 2011

PLAYING JERSEY SPONSORSHIP

In order to help subsidise the cost of our tour to Australia, Sir Thomas Rich's would be extremely grateful for any contribution in the form of sponsorship your company could make towards our fundraising efforts. There are two playing jerseys that can be sponsored; a home and away jersey. It is possible to sponsor the front, back and sleeves of the jerseys and the costs are listed below. As a sponsor, you would receive advertising printed on the playing jerseys that would be worn in Australia and in England next season. Our fixture list is very strong, therefore the jerseys would be worn in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Somerset, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and the West Midlands against some of the most prestigious rugby playing schools in the country. You would also receive a substantial amount of advertising in the School newsletters, on the school website and in the Tour brochure.





2010 -2011 STRS Rugby Results so far....

Even with the inclement conditions affecting many games, so far this season Sir Thomas Rich's School Rugby Club has played a total of 118 fixtures, winning 70, drawing 3 and losing 45.

SENIOR RUGBY

STRS 1ST XV – PLAYED 15

WON 9

LOST 6

POINTS FOR 245

PTS AGAINST 183

This season the 1ST XV have recorded excellent victories against **Warwickshire County u18's 14 -5**, **Bishops Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield 20 -19**, **Chosen Hill School 36 -5**, **King Edward VI School Stratford 24 -7**, **Marling Grammar School 8 -5**, **RGS Worcester 19 -10** and **Crypt Grammar School 12 -3**.

They lost in warm up games to **Nottingham High School 10 -5**, **Warwick School 14 -5**. They also lost in regular season games to **Hereford Cathedral School 34 -0**, **King Edward's School Bath 12 -10**, **Cokethorpe School Witney 29 -12**. Against Nottingham and Warwick, STRS played magnificently in defeat. Cathedral and Cokethorpe were dire performances where a number of players underperformed. In the KES Bath game, STRS threw away a 10 - 0 lead and then had a drop goal attempt in the dying minutes to win the game charged down.

In the National Daily Mail Competitions, in front of a big crowd at home Tommies 1ST XV were knocked out of the Cup competition in a very tense game 12 - 0 to **St Peter's**. The 1ST XV's defence was outstanding; the only way Peters were able to score was to use their considerably bigger forwards in order to score two tries from driving lineouts five metres out. STRS missed a penalty in front of the post, they were held up over the line and Jack Hollocks' second half try was disallowed because of an infringement.

As a result, STRS entered the Vase competition, where they have quickly reached the 5th Round defeating **Rednock School 43 -23** and **The Castle School Thornbury 37 -0**. As we go to print the 1ST XV's 5th Round opponents are **Marling Grammar School** away.

Statistics so far

1st XV Top try scorer

Ben Conway 10

Saul Hathaway 6

Jack Hollocks 5

1st XV Top points scorer

Ben Conway 50

Scott Anderson 46

1st XV Top Appearances

15 – Saul Hathaway, Oliver Booth, Karl Turner

2nd XV

PLAYED 11

WON 4

LOST 7

POINTS FOR 148

PTS AGAINST 274

3rd XV

PLAYED 10

WON 5

LOSTS

With a smaller than usual cohort of Sixth form Rugby players this has been a difficult term for the seconds and thirds, who have mainly been Year 11 and have hence lacked the physical presence to dominate the opposition, particularly in the forwards. Additionally there has been a strong fixture list to cope with and this has meant more defeats than victories. The Seconds were well beaten by Hartpury College and Cheltenham College 2nds but ran in 8 tries in an easy win over Rendcomb 1st XV. All other matches have been well contested with a commendable commitment from all players which will serve them and the school well in future years. George Downs-Wheeler has captained the side, leading by example in every match and at every training session but I would like to thank all those who have trained regularly, and especially those who have willingly played out of position to help out.

M SWANN

R G WILLIAMS



JUNIOR RUGBY

U15 A TEAM

PLAYED 13
WON 11
LOST 2
POINTS FOR 376
PTS AGAINST 125

U15 B TEAM

PLAYED 9
WON 5
LOST 4
POINTS FOR 295
PTS AGAINST 135

Statistics speak for themselves. With only two losses this year so far it has been an excellent start to what we hope will be a fantastic season. The boys have shown tremendous commitment to a challenging fixture list and training which has paid off on the field. The U15s have beaten some top schools including: RGS Worcester (48-0), King Edward's School Bath (48-5) & Bishop of Hereford (11-10). The most memorable win of the year has come in the 5th round of the Daily Mail Cup against a strong nationally renowned school, Marlborough College (the previous school of the future Queen of England). The boys were heroic from start to finish and showed courage from the off to win 12-7. The next round is against Wellington College at home, and I am sure we can upset their apple cart too!

If there is one game that I think we should have won – it would have been against Colston's. We narrowly lost 22-18, but learned valuable lessons about playing from the start instead of chasing a game. A strong B team has certainly helped this year with Mr Powell working very hard on improving many players, this has paid off for us with a staggering 32 players representing the A team this year. Keep up the hard work as there are places up for grabs! The best win of the B team's season has come against RGS Worcester with a 62-0 win. With their continued commitment, I am sure this team can have a strong finish to an excellent season. My final thanks are to the parents who continue to show superb support for the teams week in week out.

Well done boys, it's in your hands.....

R M DAVIES

U14 A TEAM

PLAYED 12
WON 8
LOST 4
POINTS FOR 331
PTS AGAINST 106

The U14 A team started the season superbly well, playing some excellent rugby. They recorded victories over:

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 31 – 5,
Newent School 44 – 0,
Old Swinford Hospital School Stourbridge 29 – 17,
RGS Worcester 54 – 12,
Marling Grammar School 50 – 0,
Tewkesbury School 20 – 0,
King Edward's School Bath 47 – 7 and,
Churchdown School 32 – 0.

However in recent weeks they have not lived up to the high standards they should be setting themselves. Poor forward play and silly mistakes in the tough games have resulted in defeats to Colston's 17 – 7, Chosen Hill 27 – 0, Crypt Grammar School 7 – 5. In their last game a 14 – 12 defeat away at Monmouth School indicated a return to form and it is hoped that this will continue into their remaining games. There is a great deal of potential in the U14 squads but they must now work harder on their fitness, skills, strength and conditioning to fulfil this promise.

U14 B TEAM

PLAYED 10
WON 5
DRAWN 1
LOST 4

The Under 14 B-team has progressed well over the season so far. A mixture of hard-fought and convincing victories have really solidified their team spirit and motivation. In fact, they have been very unlucky not to have had more success. Some outstanding performances away at Colston's, Bristol and at home to Chosen Hill were unfortunate not to earn the team more victories. Several players have earned call-ups to the A-team, which is a fitting tribute to the way the team has played this season. The passion and desire the team shows in matches and training is a great credit to them, and bodes well for the rest of the season.

H WINDSOR

**U13 A TEAM**

PLAYED 10
WON 7
LOST 3
POINTS FOR 167
PTS AGAINST 124

Have won 4 of their last 5 games, the only defeat coming away against King Edward's School Bath 14 – 7. In the 4 victories against Colston's Collegiate, Tewkesbury School, Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge and Kingswood School, Bath the side has scored 84 points and conceded just 12 points.

U13 B TEAM

PLAYED 11
WON 10
POINTS FOR 353
PTS AGAINST 59

'C' XV - Have played 2 games against Tewkesbury and Crypt 'B' winning both games comfortably by 55-0 and 28-5 respectively, clearly illustrating the depth that we have in the U13 Squad. Training will now take place on Thursday lunchtimes until further notice.

C D A CARTER

The U13 Bs have moulded into a very tight and committed unit, full of determination to overcome all opposition. Apart from a single defeat early on in the season, they have swept most opponents before them and against the few tougher sides they have played with great spirit and togetherness to emerge successful at the final whistle.

Although several players have made the progression to the "A" squad, there have always been others ready and able to take their places. The development of the players individually and as a team unit has been the most rewarding feature for their coaches.

Although all the players deserve praise, special mention should go to captain Dylan Parry, whose leadership by example and tireless commitment to the team's cause epitomises the whole squad's approach.

Well done to all the players – let's keep the victory train rolling into the New Year's programme of games.

C D A CARTER

U13 C TEAM

PLAYED 5
WON 4
LOST 1
POINTS FOR 159 **PTS AGAINST 27**

The U13 C team has worked extremely hard clearly illustrating the depth that we have in the Squad. Training will now take place on Thursday lunchtimes until further notice. There have been over 50 boys regularly training at lunchtimes and after schools and as a result the standards across the Year group have been extremely high. They have recorded excellent wins against **The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School 12 – 5**, **RGS Worcester 50 – 0**, **Tewkesbury School 57 – 0** and **Crypt Grammar School 'B' team 25 - 5!**

Their only defeat came in a very closely contested match against one of the strongest rugby playing schools in the country, **Bromsgrove School 17 – 15**. Some of the boys in this squad have already had call ups to the 'B' team but it is hoped that all of them will continue to work hard and perform well in their remaining fixtures.

R G WILLIAMS

U12 A TEAM

PLAYED 5
WON 0
DRAWN 1
LOST 4

The U12's have worked extremely hard this year; it has been a pleasure to see so over 50 boys regularly training at lunchtimes and after school. They have had a 'baptism of fire' thrown in against prestigious rugby playing schools who have been playing rugby together for many years in their own Preparatory Schools. It has been a steep learning curve but one they have coped with well. Rucking and tackling were as usual the main concerns at the start of the season but slowly improvements have been made. The A team's first game was against the **Royal Grammar School, Worcester:** in a very competitive game, some poor tackling resulted in a 24 – 5 defeat. Their next game was the daunting prospect of **Bromsgrove School** away, but at half time in this game the score was 7 – 0. Again some weak tackling second half resulted in a 31 – 5 defeat. **Colston's School** u12 A team were strong and won 41 – 5, however it was again a much improved performance from STRS. Their fourth game against **King Edward's School Bath** was disappointing; in a game they should have won, silly errors and missed tackles resulted in a 29 – 5 defeat. Their last game to date (three games having been cancelled due to the weather) against **Kingswood School Bath**, the U12 A team really started to look organised, aggressive and determined. They played some superb rugby and found themselves 10 – 0 ahead at half time, when in fact Tommies should have been further in front. Some silly penalties second half, allowed Kingswood back into the game and they scored in the last few minutes to draw the game 10 – 10.

P J BROWN

R G WILLIAMS

U12 B TEAM

PLAYED 5
WON 0
DRAWN 1
LOST 4

The start of the Rugby season has been quite tough for the Year 7B team as many of the boys in the squad have not played Rugby before coming to STRS. The situation was not helped by the fact that the Year 7 team's first four opponents have been against much more experienced sides who had already played Rugby for a number of years in prep schools. Although the STRS boys got a couple of "drummings" in their first two games against Bromsgrove School and RGS Worcester the boys were not at all deterred. After some consistent training and working on developing their tackling and rucking the Year 7 team started to contest more in every game, this was reflected in a hard fought draw against King Edwards Bath. The boys still have a lot of their season left and I am sure they will improve with every game. They have some tough teams to play but as the saying goes "you only get better by playing better opponents".

C G J POWELL

U12 C TEAM

PLAYED 1
WON 1
LOST 0

Due to the way the fixtures have fallen this season, nearly all of the U12 C and D team games have been arranged for the Spring term. Nevertheless **67 boys** have already represented the School as the B team squad has been constantly rotated in order to try to give everyone an opportunity to play. In the C team's one and only fixture so far, they put in a magnificent performance to defeat RGS Worcester 45 - 5!

R G WILLIAMS

Basketball

The Under 15s Basketball Squad came fourth in the District Championship.

Well done boys!

Congratulations



Luka Renna has been awarded his junior umpire award for table tennis.

Aegon Team Tennis National Knockout Tournament

Following their success in winning the U13 & U15 Gloucestershire Tennis Leagues the teams progressed to the knockout stages.

1st Round of Regional Knockout**U13 Tennis v The Chase School**

Won by 6 - 0

S.Tullett	won	6 - 1
C.Bell	won	6 - 1
P.Carter	won	6 - 0
J.Singhera	won	6 - 3
Tullett & Bell	won	6 - 2
Carter & Singhera	won	6 - 1

U15 Tennis v The Chase School

Lost in shoot out 10 - 3 after drawing matches 3 - 3

M.Bennion	won	7 - 5
Z.Hussain	lost	1 - 6
E.King	lost	2 - 6
D.James	won	6 - 3
Bennion & Hussain	lost	6 - 4
King & James	won	7 - 6
Bennion & King	lost	3 - 10

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ESSA Division 5 Relays Millfield School

On Wednesday 10th November, the School entered the Regional Trials for the English Schools Swimming Association National Relay competition. The Regional competition is open to schools from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

The School competed well with differing degrees of success and all swimmers are to be congratulated upon their performances.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Position</u>
Juniors	Medley Relay	(3/36)	Freestyle Relay	(8/36)
J.Lee (Ba)	35.25 secs.	C.Munden	29.70 secs.	
A.Hamilton-Foyne(Br)	39.06	J.Harper	30.64	
C.Munden (Bu)	31.96	A.Hamilton-Foyne	32.12	
J.Harper(Fr)	31.06	J.Lee	31.98	
Total	2 mins.17.33 secs		2 mins.04.46 secs	
Intermediates	Medley Relay	(14/23)	Freestyle Relay	(15/26)
S.Gaskins	35.02	S.Gaskins	29.55	
A.Pates-Cook	38.64	S.Colbert-Smith	29.65	
S.Colbert-Smith	32.44	G.Schreuder	30.47	
G.Schreuder	30.09	A.Pates-Cook	30.99	
Total	2 mins. 16.19 secs.		2 mins. 01.66 secs.	
Senior Boys	Medley Relay	(12/23)	Freestyle Relay	(14/21)
T.Grime	32.43	T.Grime	27.74	
W.McKemeay	41.67	R.Clark	29.90	
S.Howarth	28.71	W.McKemeay	31.31	
R.Clark	30.11	S.Howarth	26.54	
Total	2 mins. 12.92 secs.		1 min. 55.49 secs.	
Senior Girls	Medley Relay	(21/24)	Freestyle Relay	(15/19)
E.Ramstedt	35.53 secs.	E.Ramstedt	30.61 secs.	
H.Evans	48.30	H.Evans	36.85	
N.Westlake	31.75	E.Kemp	41.63	
E.Kemp	41.64	N.Westlake	28.75	
Total	2 mins. 37.22 secs.		2 mins. 17.84 secs.	

The fastest 16 teams in the country are invited to attend the National Finals, which are to be held in Stockport on Saturday 5th February. The Junior team swam very well but did not make either of the finals.

I J GALLAGHER



STRS Cross Country



The first term of the year is where the main bulk of the Cross Country season takes place at Sir Thomas Rich's School. This year yet again boys from the school have been prolific in their involvement in both training and competing. More pupils than ever are giving up their Monday and Thursday lunchtimes to run the many routes up and around Chosen Hill. During October a number of sixth form boys ran in the Army Fitness 10km run held near the town of Usk in Wales. Some impressive finishes were had by Josh Wiltshire and Oli Hall coming 6th and 9th place respectively in a tough muddy race

with obstacles and lots of hills. October also saw the beginning of the West Mercia League with senior runners competing in a number of races across Hereford and Worcester. This year STRS hosted one of the races with the schools meeting on a very wet and windy afternoon on Chosen Hill. STRS did particularly well on the day, Adam Thrall one of the school's best athletes finished in second place. Other good performances were had by George Schreuder and Chris Passey finishing 11th and 12th against some very tough competition. STRS finished 2nd overall in the competition just being beaten by Marling school who are proving to be our main rivals in Cross Country. This year again STRS competed in the ESAA Cross Country Cup, entering a junior and Intermediate team consisting of boys from Year 7 to Year 10. The school sailed through the first round held at Bromsgrove school, performances were had by Chris Tillot and Will Staddon finishing 3rd and 5th place in the junior race. The intermediate team also did well with the best performance had by Alec Fullerton who finished 7th place. Alec who only just started at STRS this year is proving to be an excellent sportsman; I am sure more success will be had by him in the years to come. STRS didn't make it to the national final this year but as the boys keep improving and competing I am sure they will secure a place in the near future.

The success had this term however does not stop there as the school also entered into the annual district and county cross country trial races. The district trials were held at Plock Court in November with STRS sending a large army of runners to compete. This was an incredibly successful day for the school as the runners not only won the boy's minor, junior, intermediate and senior races but were crowned over all district champions. A large number of boys ran some impressive performances on the day securing places in the County trials held in December at Pitville Park in Cheltenham. On the day of the County trials some boys had some excellent performances going on to qualify for the South West trials. These boys were Adam Thrall, George Schreuder, Domenic James and Jamie Harper all ran really well and were thrilled to make selection. Other boys showed some real STRS grit, Paul Jones ran with his arm in a cast and Dominic Tutton ran so hard he was almost sick at the finish! In fact Dominic Tutton is another pupil who is proving to be an athlete to watch in the future for his ever improving running ability. The minor boys do not go on to the South West trials but the race did provide a number of other future stars in Cross Country. Will Staddon finished 2nd place and received a medal and Jasper Greenleaf finished 8th place, these boys are sure to go on and do great things at STRS for sport.

CG J POWELL



www.strs.org.uk
01452 338447

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GIFTED & TALENTED WORKSHOPS—

NUMERACY

YES/NO

LITERACY

YES/NO

GRAMMAR SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM TUITION— re-starting on 3rd March 2011

YES/NO

To register for Numeracy, Literacy or Grammar School Entrance Exam Tuition please return this tear-off slip by Friday 14 January 2011

CHILD'S NAME.....AGE.....SCHOOL..... YEAR GROUP.....

HOME ADDRESS TEL NO

RELEVANT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

PRINT NAME

Please return to Tony Barton, Commercial Operations Manager, Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0LF
We will confirm all learning opportunities with specific dates and costs, at the earliest. Thank you for your interest.

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ON SATURDAY MORNINGS

LEARN, EXPLORE & CREATE
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YOGA CLASSES at Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre

Classes will be re-starting
Fridays 14 January—1 April 2011
(exc. 25 Feb & 4 March)
6—7pm

£4 per session—All welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 01452 338439

Come along and join in!



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SCULPTING, PAINTING, PRINTING AND COLLAGE—PLUS LOADS MORE!

STARTS SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 2010
AT SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL 10am—2pm

For 4-12 year olds

£10 per session including materials!

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Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338439



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2010

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Music Making Taster Session www.poms.acrfsp.com/musicmaking	7-11yrs	Saturday 18 DECEMBER	Between 9.30am & 12.30pm	To book your place call 07854 980444
Midland Soccer Coaching www.midlandsoccercoaching.co.uk	4-12yrs	Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 DECEMBER	10-3pm	01527 540425 07962 382460
Spy School www.sports-stra.com	4-11yrs	Mon 20—Wed 22 DECEMBER	9.30-3.30pm	To book call 07894 537304
Science Camp www.future4science.co.uk	5-11yrs	Wednesday 22 DECEMBER	9.30-4.30pm	0845 0132481
Multi Sports www.playsport4fun.co.uk	4-12yrs	Weds 22 & Thurs 23 DECEMBER	9am-2pm	Playsport4fun@googlemail.com or 07508 421297
Art Academy	4-12yrs	Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 DECEMBER	10.30-3.30pm	07505 243745 artacademyglos@yaho.co.uk

NEW YEAR COURSES—2011

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Yoga & Relaxation	All levels	FRIDAYS 14 Jan - 1 April exc 25 Feb & 4 March	6-7pm	£4 per session 01452 338439
Art Academy	4-12yrs	EVERY SATURDAY	10.30am-2pm	07505 243745 artacademyglos@yaho.co.uk
Music Academy www.poms.acrfsp.com/musicmaking	7-11yrs	SATURDAYS 15 Jan—2 April	Between 9.30am & 12.30pm	To book your place 07854 980444
Samurai Martial Arts www.samurai-martialarts.co.uk	All ages	SATURDAYS WEDNESDAYS	9am-2pm 8-9pm	01452 410070 07971 584901
Jumpin' Jazz Dance www.playsport4fun.co.uk	4-12yrs	EVERY SUNDAY	8am-12noon	Playsport4fun@googlemail.com or 07508 421297
Gymnastic www.playsport4fun.co.uk	4-12yrs	EVERY SUNDAY	8am-12noon	Playsport4fun@googlemail.com or 07508 421297
Gloucester Newstars Athletics	8-11yrs	SUNDAYS FROM 9 January	9.30-11am	call 01452 338439 for info
Egyptian Belly Dancing	Beginners	MONDAYS	7.30-8.30pm	07789 597975 for info
Brazilian Soccer www.playsport4fun.co.uk	4-12yrs	EVERY MONDAY	6.30-9.30pm	Playsport4fun@googlemail.com or 07508 421297
Learn to Dance (Modern Jive) www.jive-easy.co.uk	Adults only	EVERY MONDAY	Between 7.30 & 9.30pm	For more info call 07969 186750
Art Academy	Adults	TUESDAYS	6.30-8.30pm	07505 243745 artacademyglos@yaho.co.uk
Midland Soccer Coaching www.midlandsoccercoaching.co.uk	4-12yrs	EVERY TUESDAY (term-time only)	Between 4.15 & 7.15pm	01527 540425 07962 382460
Science Enrichment Programme www.future4science.co.uk	5-11yrs	WEDNESDAYS 12 Jan—16 Feb	4.30-5.30pm	0845 0132481
Arsenal Soccer Coaching	5-12yrs	THURSDAYS	5-6pm	07590 323342

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Spy School www.sports-stra.com	4-11yrs	Mon 21—Fri 25 FEBRUARY	9.30-3.30pm	To book call 07894 537304
Arsenal Soccer Coaching www.arsenal.co.uk	5-12yrs	Mon 21—Weds 23 FEBRUARY	9-3pm	To book call 07590 323342
Multi Sports www.playsport4fun.co.uk	4-12yrs	Thurs 24 & Fri 25 FEBRUARY	9-2pm	Playsport4fun@googlemail.com or 07508 421297
Art Academy	4-12yrs	Mon 21—Fri 25 FEBRUARY	10.30-3.30pm	07505 243745 artacademyglos@yaho.co.uk
Science Camp www.future4science.co.uk	5-11yrs	Wednesday 23 FEBRUARY	9.30-4.30pm	0845 0132481

TERM DATES FOR 2011

Tuesday 3 January
 Thursday 13 January
 Tuesday 18 January
 Thursday 27 January
 Monday 7 - Friday 11 February
 Tuesday 8 February
 Saturday 12 February
 Wednesday 16 February
 Monday 21 - Friday 25 February
 Mon 28 Feb - Friday 4 March
 Monday 7 March
 Monday 14 - Friday 18 March
 Monday 14 March
 Monday 21 - Friday 25 March
 Wednesday 6 April
 Friday 8 April

Tuesday 26 April
 Tuesday 26 April - Tuesday 3 May
 Friday 29 April, Monday 2 May
 Wednesday 11 May
 Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June
 Friday 24 - Thursday 30 June
 Friday 1 July
 Monday 4 - Friday 8 July
 Thursday 7 July
 Tuesday 12 July
 Friday 22 July
 Thursday 18 August
 Thursday 25

Thursday 1, Friday 2 September
 Monday 5 September
 Monday 24 - Friday 28 October
 Friday 2 December
 Friday 16 December
 Tuesday 3 January
 Monday 13 - Friday 17 February
 Monday 27 February
 Friday 30 March
 Monday 16 April
 Monday 7 May
 Monday 4 - Friday 8 June
 Friday 29 June
 Thursday 19 July
 Thursday 16 August
 Thursday 23 August

CALENDAR**SPRING TERM**

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 week
 Year 8 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 P.A. Valentine's Ball, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
 Year 9 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Half-term holidays
 Year 10 examinations
INSET Day
 Founder's Week
 Year 7 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Trial AS examinations
 Year 12 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.

SUMMER TERM

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Trial A2 examinations
 Bank Holidays
 Choral Concert, St. John's Church, 8.00 p.m.
 Half-term holidays
 School examinations (Years 7-9)
INSET Day
 Sixth Form induction week
 Sports Evening, 6.30 p.m.
 Year 10 Parents' Evening, 5.00 p.m.
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.
 AS & A-Level results
 August GCSE results

Term dates for 2011/12

INSET Days
 Term starts, 8.40 a.m.
 Half-term holidays
INSET Day
 Term ends, 12.45 p.m.
 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.
 AS & A-Level results
 GCSE results

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