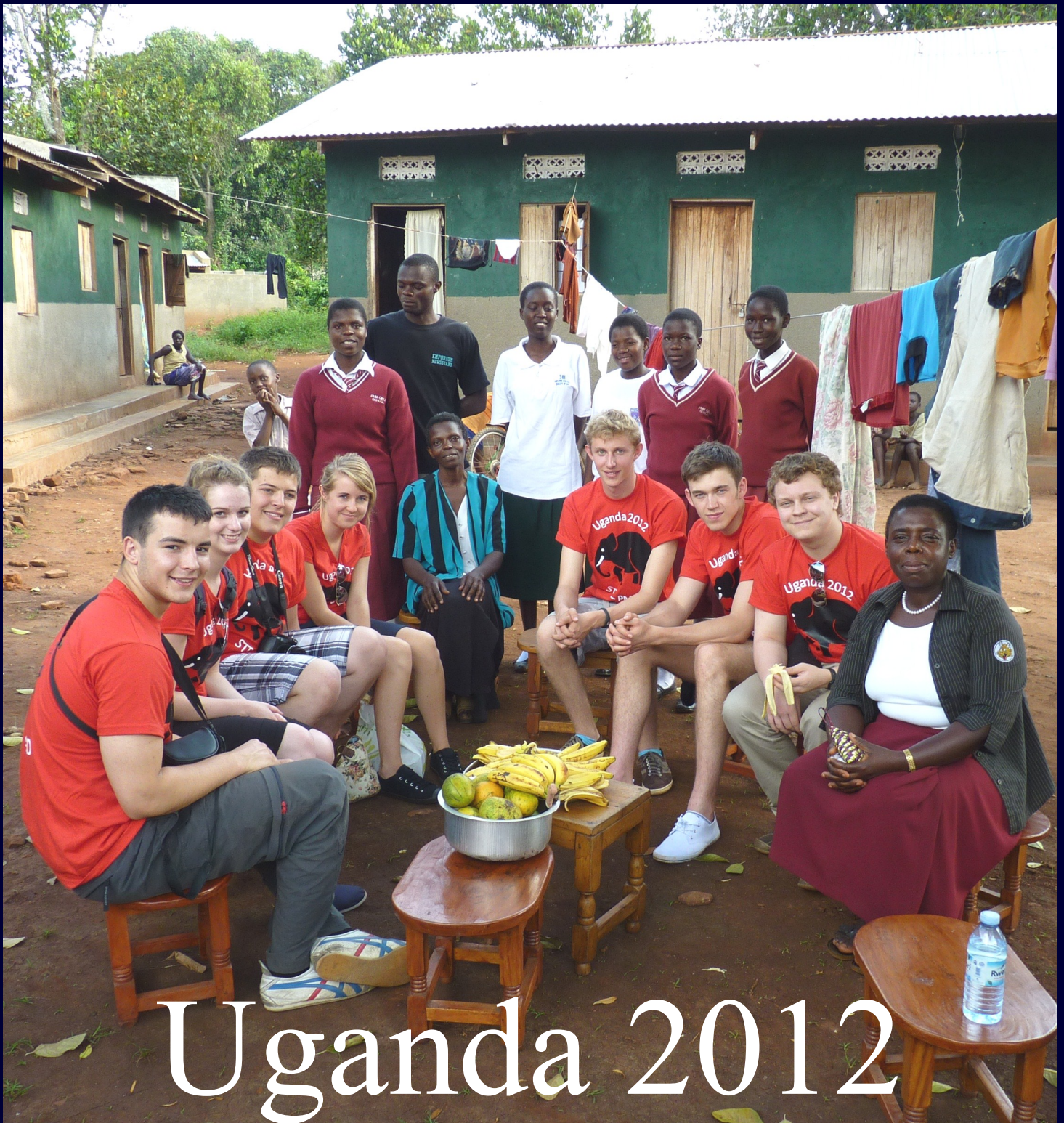


Sir Thomas Rich's Newsletter

Issue 2

October 2012



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SPEECH DAY

We were honoured to welcome Professor Peter the Lord Hennessy as our Guest of Honour at Speech Day. Peter Hennessy is a leading historian, specialising in recent British politics. He awarded prizes to over a hundred students in recognition of their achievements during 2011/12. Prizes ranged from Form Prizes to subject prizes to awards for sport, drama, music, service to the school and leadership. It is a highlight of the school year, when we celebrate some of the successes of our students. Thank you to those parents who joined us for the evening.



OPEN DAYS

Parents of children in Year 6 have embarked upon negotiating the process of transfer to secondary school. We held two Open Days and an Open Evening last month, when we welcomed a total of 568 families. 247 boys sat their Admission Tests here earlier this month, they have now received the results and parents must submit their lists of preferred secondary schools to the County Council by the end of this month.

BUILDING WORK

Details have not been finalised at the time of writing but we are expecting a major building project to commence immediately after half-term. All the windows and cladding of the original school building will be replaced. The builders will set up a base which will take up the front car park but a walkway will be retained allowing students access as normal.

Groups of classrooms/laboratories will be taken out of action, as the work is undertaken around the school. Designs will be displayed in school as soon as we have them.

The outcomes will be improved insulation (all the windows will be double glazed) and a vast improvement in appearance. We shall suffer considerable disruption until Easter, it is anticipated that the work will be completed in April, but the long-term benefits will be significant. Indeed we anticipate that there will be a transformation from a rather worn and dated 1964 building to a modern, attractive and comfortable school of which we can all be proud.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Matthew Munden (9R), who achieved National Qualifying times in six swimming events and hence took part in the National Swimming Championships at Sheffield in the holidays. He won silver in the 200m and bronze in the 100m backstroke. As a result he has been invited to the England Talent Development programme.

Dan Ladd, Charlie Webster (Year 12), Jamie Harper, Will Byrd (Year 11) and Richard Bray (Year 10) have been training at the third tier of the English Hockey talent identification system. This is equivalent to being selected for regional squads, well done to all five boys. And Richard is now through to the High Performance Assessment Camp, which is an extended Under 15 England squad. A magnificent achievement indeed given he is a goalkeeper. He can proudly claim to currently being one of the top goalkeepers at his age group in the country.



I Kellie



News from the Parents' Association



Can't wait to learn to drive? We are holding 30 minute taster lessons on Saturday 3rd November in the school tennis courts. At this time, due to insurance restrictions, this offer is only open to 16 year olds. Each session will cost £10 and will be supervised by a fully qualified Driving Standards Agency Instructor in dual controlled car.



The PA will be holding a **Christmas Quiz and Festive Food** evening combined with the Grand Raffle Draw on **Friday 30th November at 7.00pm**. Tickets for the Quiz are £5.00 each. Books of Raffle Tickets have been sent home – there are some great prizes this year including £200, rounds of golf, panto tickets, gym membership, hampers and many more



We are having a Bag2School fundraising collection on Tuesday 7th November. Please bring your old clothing, sheets, blankets, curtains, soft toys, shoes, belts and handbags to the Dutch Barn on Monday 6th, or before 9.00am on Tues 7th. You do not need to use an official Bag2School collection bag - bin bags will do! Bag2School will pay Sir Thomas Rich's Parents Association **50p/kilo** of recyclable donations. Thank You.



The 100 Club is a great way to help the PA raise funds and is open to all parents and friends of the school, with the added possibility of winning £50, £30 or £20 each month!


If you'd like to join, we currently have spare numbers. Just £3 a month, payable by standing order, will buy your own personal number in the draw. Every month three numbers are drawn from a hat and the lucky winners receive a cheque by post.


Application forms are available on the PA website – just follow the links

If you would like to help with any PA events or have an idea for an event you would like held then please email mlgoble@btinternet.com or come along to the next PA meeting in the school staff room. New faces are always welcome! Let us have your ideas.... It's your school your childyour PA.

Productions 2012 – 2013

Autumn Term 2012


 **Brass Night** Friday 19th October - 7:30pm


 **The Little Shop of Horrors** Wednesday 12th Thursday 13th & Friday 14th December - 7:30pm

 **Carol Concerts** Wednesday 19th December at St John's & Thursday 20th December at St Catharine's


Spring Term 2013

 **House Music** Monday 28th January


 **Jazz Night** Thursday 7th February - 7:30pm

 **House Drama** Wednesday 27th February

 **Two One Act Plays** Thursday 14th & Friday 15th March

 **Spring Concert** Thursday 21st March - 7:30pm

Summer Term 2013

 **Chamber Concert** Friday 3rd May - 7:30pm

 **Summer Concert** Friday 12th July - 7:30pm

LIBRARY NEWS: LET'S CELEBRATE THE SHORT STORY

This year's National Short Story Week will be from Monday 12th to Sunday 18th November. There will be events up and down the country to get more people reading and writing short stories.

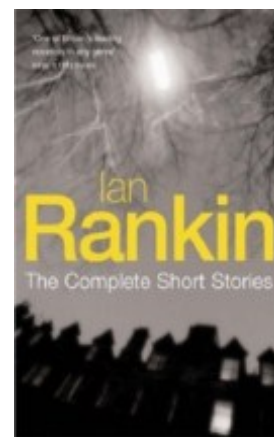
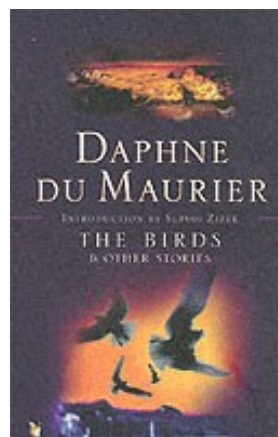
The School Library is featuring its short story collection and offering something for all tastes. As well as sport, humour and science fiction, there'll be supernatural tales ranging from gentle ghost stories to dark thrillers by Edgar Allan Poe and Daphne du Maurier. (Film-maker Alfred Hitchcock used Du Maurier's short story *The Birds* for his masterpiece of the same name.)

Not only will literary greats like Dylan Thomas, Thomas Hardy and DH Lawrence be available but also crime favourites like Raymond Chandler and Agatha Christie, and modern writers like Margaret Atwood and Ian Rankin.

In an age when we are all pushed for time, the Short Story genre gives us the chance to immerse ourselves in an exciting, emotional or entertaining read that we can complete in minutes.

Pop into the School Library for more information.

R Sargeant



MY VISIT TO BELGIUM WITH THE ENGLAND CHESS TEAM

From the 28th to the 30th of September, I visited Antwerp, Belgium to play in an important tournament for the England Chess Team. The team travelled by Eurostar and arrived at around 9.00 on the evening of the 28th. The ten members of the team (including me), in groups of two, met up with the Belgian family that we had kept in touch with by e-mail before the trip. They accommodated my friend Jamie and I for the entire duration of our visit.

Games commenced each day at 11am, with the team playing four on the first day of chess and two on the second. I played on board 6 for the team, playing opponents rated around my level, therefore there were some closely fought matches for me individually.

There were four countries that took part in the tournament: England, Germany, Holland and the host country, Belgium entered their national team.

Every game was a hard fought one and England achieved a well deserved second place to Belgium-who looked like they had a very

strong team from the start. I recorded a performance which consisted of two wins, two draws and two losses - scoring 3 out of 6 points overall.

After a long two days of focus and concentration the journey back home seemed tiresome and was somewhat delayed, but it was certainly worth it! I thoroughly enjoyed this trip and it was very beneficial too because I have gained a lot of experience, which I hope will help me in my chess career in the future.

M Ashworth 9B



JUNIOR COOK AND FUTURE CHEF

Mmmm There's been a lot of delectable aromas drifting out from the new Food Tech room of late as boys have been preparing a wide range of dishes for two prestigious cooking competitions.

As part of their Food Technology course, my Year 9 groups have been preparing a two course menu showcasing local Gloucestershire and Cotswold ingredients for the 'Junior Cook of The Year' competition run by the Taste of Gloucestershire Food and Farming Awards. Menus, recipes and photographs were submitted and two boys – Will Hopes and Louis Horrell both of 9S – have been asked to attend the finals on 16th October at the Renaissance Restaurant on the Gloucestershire College's Cheltenham Campus. Louis will be presenting a risotto of English peas, stinging nettles, broad beans, mint and blue cheese followed by roasted apples and pears with cinnamon and butterscotch sauce; while William will be cooking pork chops on oven roast potatoes with a courgette and tomato ratatouille in a honey mustard glaze, followed by blackberry fool. Both delicious – take my word for it! We wish them both every success – the winner will be announced at the annual Gloucestershire Food & Farming Awards Presentation Dinner at the end of the month.

In addition to the 'Junior Cook of the Year' competition, we have also run school heats for the national 'Future Chef' competition. 13 boys took part, each producing a main course dish for two people for under £5. The boys had an hour to present two identical plates of food, being judged on their workmanship and creativity, as well as the presentation, composition, taste, balance and flavour of their dish. We welcomed Rob Rees (The Cotswold Chef) – who opened the new Food technology room in March 2011 – to judge one of the heats and encourage the boys in their efforts. Thanks also to Mrs Phillips, Mr Lloyd and my wife for assisting on the judging panels. There were some fine tasting dishes offered and most of the competitors impressed with their ideas and kitchen craft. Jake Butler and Matthew Lampitt (both of 7B) set a high standard in the first heat but were just piped by Will Hopes and the overall winner Ed Gayler (8T) who cooked a most flavoursome North African squash and chick pea stew with home made pita breads. Ed will go to represent the school at the local finals in November (following in the footsteps of his cousin Andrew).

So if anyone asks what's cooking over in Food Tech, then you now know – plenty of fine food! And who knows – maybe one of those cooking it will be a star chef himself one day!!



P Brown





Year 7 Stratford 2012

Year 7 Crickley Hill



ALL IN THE NAME OF CAMPING

The school bell signalled the end of an eventful first few days back at STRS, but also signalled the start of a brand new adventure for Year 8.

All thoughts of school had been put to bed by the time I had reached the Dutch Barn, (the barn that is next to the uniform shop), and there was a general sense of excitement. As more people flooded in, many were marvelling at how good the weather was. Unlike the weather we had last year when it thwarted our plans. For the whole time Mr Daniell had been sat down on a chair watching us pile in.

There was a sudden shout for silence from the rear of the barn, then Mr Morgan appeared, with a suddenly more energetic Mr Daniell standing beside him. Together they gave us instructions on how the evening was to work, to gather our bags and get a tent (1 per group of 4). It was not long before the group was on the field, and after an entertaining lecture by Mr Morgan on how to put up a tent, it was our turn.

For some groups you could say that this was not their finest hour! However, after a lot of fuss and help from the teachers we finally managed it! You could say though that there was a big difference in the quality of some of the tents!

There were many things to do throughout the evening, from games like Football and Cricket to just sitting around and chatting. The games were very competitive, with everybody trying to score the most runs, or the first goal for their team. However no one was left out. The constant laughter from all areas of the field lifted everybody's spirits even higher. Then came 'the rush'. The shout that food was ready brought the whole group running to be first in the queue. There was a choice of tasty Beef burgers or Hotdogs, with slices of cheese, Salt and Vinegar or Cheese and Onion crisps if you wanted them. You could also have some sauce if you fancied it, Tomato and something called Burger Sauce. Many people went for seconds as we watched the Sun slowly disappear. I would like to thank Mrs Brown's husband for coming in to cook all of that food!

Next up were the evening films, there were a choice of Night at The Museum, Big Daddy and one other film. Not many people chose Night at The Museum, I was one of the few. As a group we then decided to change the film to Indiana Jones, setting us behind everyone else.

However, the film would not play. Luckily, as we were in the F block, (the classrooms below the science labs), we could change rooms. It played! Everyone else had been watching their films quietly whilst this had been happening.

After the film, it was finally time to go to bed, Mr Daniell had stressed to us all before we went to our films that we should get ready for bed as soon as we had got in to the tents. Lights out was 5 minutes after the last film had finished. So now we were all trying to get to sleep. Whilst listening to massive Freight Trains going by!

"Boys, you can get up now". Mr Daniell was up bright and early to make sure that we were up in time for our parents to pick us up from the school field. But before we could even think about that, our tents needed packing away. However, our spell of good weather had been cut short. We opened the tent door, only to be confronted by fog! From my tent no other tent could be seen, they were hidden in this blanket of fog, and so were we.

Many groups needed help again putting their tent away. We all grabbed our bags and walked to the edge of the field. Apart from the slight disappointment of the morning, the whole of Year 8 had enjoyed themselves. I would class the camp as a Success!

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Daniel, Mr Morgan, Mrs Brown, Mrs Nash and Miss Stroud for organising this event. I would also like to say a big thank you to the teachers and Sixth Formers that made this event possible by helping out.

Ryan Birch 8T



DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD 2013

With applications now in we have fifty-seven Year 10 boys enrolling on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award this year. This is somewhat down from previous years but still represents a significant proportion of boys getting involved. It will take the local Duke of Edinburgh office a few weeks to enrol all these students but in the meantime they can be sorting out their various activities and should bear in mind that they can back-date one activity by up to three months. This year we are stipulating that at least two activities must be complete before the practice expedition in late April and the rest complete before the assessed expeditions in June and July. Students are therefore advised to get these underway as soon as possible.

It looks as though for the first time, we will also welcome a team of girls in Year 12 to do their bronze award this year. Interest has also been expressed by several members of Year 13, in taking on the Silver award this year. Plans for staff training and recruitment mean that we should be in a position to offer the Gold Award by next year, if not earlier.

Apart from chasing up a few presentation and training details, almost all of the eighty-one students from the 2012 cohort have completed all sections of their Assessed expedition successfully. They should now make sure all details of the expedition and activity sections are updated and sent to me for approval.

Any students with queries about any of the above should see Mrs James in F1 or G8.



S James

Survived, in spite of being in possession of a Ukele.



The unique Tommy Rich's sport of "Hunt the Maybug" which sadly did not make it into the 2012 Olympics – it's a very seasonal sport.

AUTUMN TIME IN D+T

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

The students this year have again chosen a broad range of projects. At GCSE we have students designing projects such as bedside tables and snooker cue storage and AS /A2 level we have students designing can crushers, bicycle repair racks and educational toys. The students are working well and aiming to improve on the very successful results we achieved last year.



The Year 10 students have started their first mini project where they have focused in these first few weeks on "Wood". Here they learn the knowledge, techniques and processes needed to help with their examinations and GCSE coursework project next year.

YEAR 13 VISIT TO G-TEM

On Monday 17th September 2012, the Year 13 D+T students visited G-TEM in Brockworth [just opposite Tesco]. G-TEM make "body in white" parts for Honda, Toyota and BMW. Phil Akerman [an ex Tommies pupil] explained the background to the company and then took the group on a tour of the factory. The group saw panels being "pressed" into shape, components being assembled and welded together by robots and the quality of the finished parts being checked and assured before being dispatched to the car makers "JIT", just in time for the cars to be manufactured.



ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

On Friday 26th October 2012, Michael Dorman, George Hopes and Matthew Jones will be at The IET, Savoy Place, London to receive their Arkwright Scholarships awards. They have been selected to receive these prestigious awards after successfully negotiating a rigorous selection procedure. Michael will receive his sponsorship from the British Fluid Power Association, George from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and Matthew from the Kobler Trust. This is a magnificent achievement, well done to all three students.

TECHNOLOGY CLUB

The Technology Club is now under way with three teams taking on the Toyota Challenge to design and build either a Solar Powered car to win on speed and direction or a Programmable car that can find its way around obstacles.

The teams will be meeting on Mondays at lunchtime and after school until 4.45pm in G8. More students are welcome to join in these early weeks if they are interested.



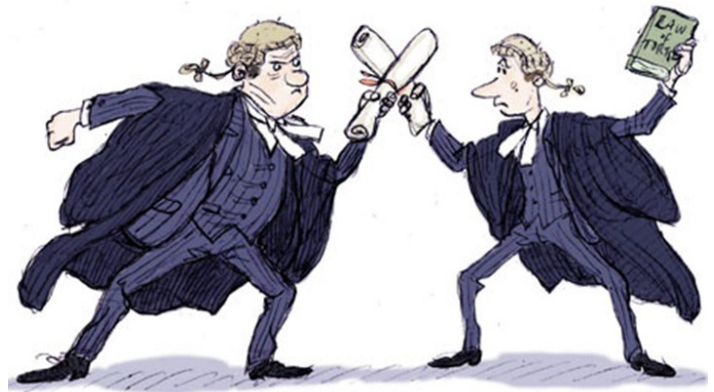
At present, we have one team for the Programmable Car and two for the Solar Car.

There will need to be a play off in early January for the two solar teams as we can only enter one team per class as a school. However, irrespective of whom we put forward to the regional challenge, all students will be able to build, test and race their cars in school. We hope to have an engineer expert joining us from STEM who will be able to add their expertise and professional advice. This offers a great opportunity for budding engineers to develop, test and broaden their skills. All enquiries to Mrs James in G8 or e-mail sarahjames@strs.org.uk

S Hancock & S James

BAR NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Fifteen students from Years 10 through to 13 will be taking part in the regional heats of the Bar National Mock Trial competition on Saturday 10th November at Birmingham County Courts. They are taking roles of juror through to court officials, witnesses and barristers. They will compete against other schools with two given cases. Our prosecution team will be set against another school's defence team and vice versa. If successful at regional level they will go on to compete at national level at the Royal Courts of Justice in March 2013.



Some of our barristers have already given commanding performances to Head of Drama, Mrs Jones, and two experienced lawyers, Mrs Morrissey and Mr Gledhill. In one instance the performance was described as "At least as good as any young first time barrister I have seen."

This is a valuable education and experience for all students and especially for those completing their UCAS applications and/or considering a career in Law and associated careers.

If anyone has access to and can lend wigs and gown, we need four wigs and six gowns, could they please contact Mrs James on sarahjames@strs.org.uk.

S James

EARTH HOUR

Many thanks to everyone for their contribution to Earth Hour.

On Wednesday 3rd October during this same period we consumed a total of 157 units. During Earth Hour this dropped to 86 units. Realistically we cannot hope to maintain this saving of nearly 50% at all times but we can still make a significant difference where there is a will.

The Green Team's Audit and report 18 months ago suggested a three year drive to reduce electrical consumption by 10%. These figures suggest it would not be beyond us to reduce our consumption by 20% in one year. Rounding up our current usage to 160kW hrs this would mean an hourly reduction of 32kWhrs. Assuming 1kW hr emits approximately 550g of carbon, in one year just during school hours we could reduce our carbon emissions by over 27 metric tons.

If none of this grabs you then consider the cost savings, based on 2011 unit rates. This could be as much as £4500.00 per year. I am sure the school could find better use for this money given the opportunity.



S James





UGANDA 2012

Our journey started with a long flight to Entebbe before we arrived at our accommodation in Jinja the following evening. Passing through the capital city was the first eye-opener of the trip. Kampala is home to an astonishing eleven million people and driving through the city showed us the differences from what we have here. We saw people jumping onto the back of bikes as their method of public transport and children selling commodities to vehicles in the main street. We got our first look at the school on the Saturday morning where we briefly met the deputy head, Sister Patricia, and got a chance to spend some time integrating with some of the students. During our stay in Jinja we got chances to explore Jinja and some of its local attractions such as the fishing village, the market and the sugar works. However this was not our reason for traveling this far! One of my favourite activities was being shown into 6 of the students' houses. It is shocking to see most of the families being single parented, with in most cases the father either being at work or dead. Ugandan people however deal with fatalities well and everyone helps to fill the gaps but it is staggering to experience their lack of basic and everyday resources. Many houses had just two rooms; the kitchen/living room and a bedroom with toilets being shared by the entire village. Nobody had meat, just vegetables and I was honoured that the mother of every home offered bananas, sugar cane and jack-fruit without hesitating. The teachers at PMM were most welcoming. I particularly enjoyed talking with John, their math's and ICT teacher, and I soon learnt that Uganda was not as undeveloped as it is typically perceived. Their sixth form equivalent were studying the same modules as we do in math's, core, statistics and mechanics and they took similar exams to us. My favourite experience was making bracelets with some of the fine-art students. They take a piece of string and a fine piece of paper and roll it up into curved ovals. Five to ten of these are required to make a bracelet and they are often used as a piece of coursework. Travelling to Uganda has been the best experience of my life. Spending time with the unfortunate students was very moving but I certainly would like to go back in the future and continue with this amazing link the school provides.

O Goldsmith 12H

SIXTH FORM ART TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

In September, the Sixth Form Art students went on the biennial pilgrimage to Liverpool. This was the seventh manifestation of this trip, which began initially in 2000, based in Chester. The agenda has altered gradually over the years, but the aims remain constant, that is to give the students the opportunity to gather a wealth of information, which they can use subsequently as the springboard for their AS and A2 coursework portfolios. As ever, the students made the most of the visits, sketching sessions and evening workshops to produce an impressive array of work. The trips to the Tate, Walker and Lady Lever Galleries provided them with a striking contrast and range of styles, from early Renaissance icons to the most contemporary art work in the John Moores' Painting Competition, held in conjunction with the Liverpool Biennial. They all studied examples they felt were engaging, challenging or attractive and certainly discovered artists they had not encountered before.

Further visits to the Albert Dock, both Liverpool Cathedrals and the city centre generated more sketches, whilst the trip to Crosby Beach combined a bracing, wind-swept walk with the chance to view some of the hundred cast-iron statues created by Anthony Gormley in his installation entitled "Another Place".

The weather proved to be a deterrent to lengthy sketching activities, but the hardy ones in the group did manage to record the sights in a number of ways, including drawings, photography and film.

The Youth Hostel base in Liverpool once again provided a convenient base and decent accommodation and everyone was glad to tuck into the cooked breakfasts and evening meals, although some were a little less positive about the packed lunches!

The trip was not exactly uneventful, but the aims were met fully and the students can now look forward with confidence to producing individual and interesting portfolios. My thanks as ever go to Mrs Cormack-Hicks and Mr Gallagher for their unfailing support and consummate professionalism throughout the trip. With their invaluable help, the trip was an enjoyable and successful venture.

R Lockey





Iceland 2012



GLOBE THEATRE



On Wednesday the 12th of September a group of fourteen Y13 went to watch Shakespeare's "As You like it" at the Globe Theatre in London. We travelled up in the minibus; with the Mall closed to all traffic, we had a tour of London conducted by Mr Parker. A stroll took us past the Tower of London, over Tower Bridge and along the South Bank past HMS Belfast. We paused and ate lunch by the River Thames, all before going into the theatre itself! The show was hilarious and brilliant. We stood in the Yard with a great view of the stage and the goings-on - luckily it didn't rain, as the theatre is open to the air!

For me, the play was great because it was easy-going and got all the audience on board. The actors were also musically gifted, either singing, playing the accordion, and a range of percussion instruments to break up the acts. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who would like a gentle introduction to Shakespeare's work.

Lastly, thank you to Mr Parker and Mrs Jones for organising the trip.

O Yates & A Stewart

GERMAN EXCHANGE

One of the highlights for students of German is the German Exchange in Year 10. Links with the Otto Hahn Gymnasium were forged over thirty years ago and each year approximately 20 boys, together with girls from the High School, take part in the exchange. It represents a marvellous opportunity to put into practice their language skills, experience life within a German family and become familiar with the German culture. During lessons teachers will have tried to communicate their passion for the German language but the value of the visit cannot be overestimated and the enthusiasm which students subsequently bring to lessons makes the organization worthwhile.

Comments from pupils who participated in the exchange last July reflect its success.

"The week in Göttingen was the best week of my life. Germany is a beautiful country and I would prefer to live in Germany than in England."

"During my exchange visit to Germany I did lots of activities, ate different foods and had lots of fun".

"German culture and everyday life are very interesting".

"I made new friends and have memories which will last a lifetime".

"The exchange was unforgettable".

Our Year 10 pupils have already hosted their German partners. It was very encouraging to see the friendships develop. During the week a variety of trips and activities was organized for our guests. Visits to Oxford, Gloucester, London, a fun day at the Cotswold Water Park for English and German and a barn dance for pupils and parents ensured an action packed visit. The only criticism was that the week was "too short" and they would "have liked to have stayed longer". Our pupils now look forward to the second leg of the exchange in June, when they have the chance to stay with a German family, try out their German, sample a day in a German school and visit interesting towns, including, of course, the fascinating capital Berlin.

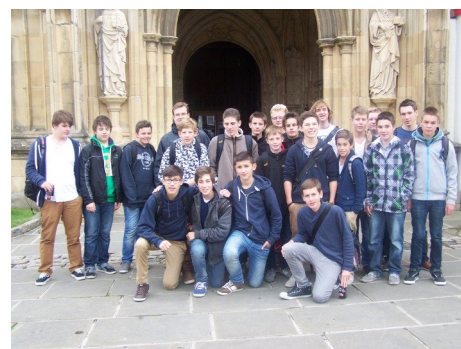
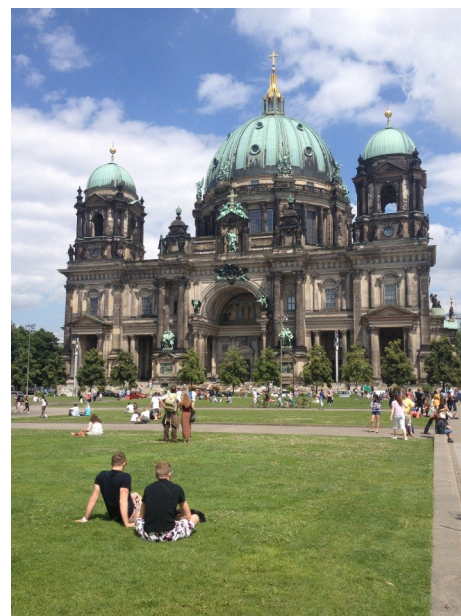
The school is very fortunate to have "Otto Hahn" as a partner school. It is committed to maintaining strong links with us and the history of successful exchanges is very much due to their dedication and enthusiasm.

J Hewett

MY GÖTTINGEN EXCHANGE 2012

My exchange partner was Robin Kurze. He was a very friendly person who is very interested in English culture. Over the weekend when he arrived, we showed Robin the delights of Gloucestershire. We both took many pictures together and we both enjoyed ourselves. Over the week he went off on trips with the school to Oxford, Gloucester and London. He said he had enjoyed his visits massively. On the Thursday, we all went out to South Cerney water park to develop our friendships further and to meet other exchange students - it was a brilliant day out. I really enjoyed his stay with us and it was a good experience. I cannot wait to meet his family in 2013.

Gregory George



YEAR 8 & YEAR 9 TRIP TO CHATEAU DE LA BAUDONNIÈRE

Early on a rainy Wednesday morning, 16 Year 8 and 9 pupils left for a French language immersion activity trip to Chateau de la Baudonnière in Normandy. After an unsettled ferry crossing, we were glad to arrive in Caen, where we were greeted by the Chateau's coach that took us to our destination. On arrival, pupils enjoyed a three-course meal, which was presented to them in French. Throughout our stay, every meal began with 'la présentation en français' and pupils quickly became skilled at asking the staff for more food and drink; 'Je voudrais encore du pain s'il vous plaît' became a very familiar phrase at mealtimes!

During the days spent at the Chateau, each group participated in three activities. These were led by lively and friendly 'animateurs', French group leaders who communicated with pupils entirely in the target language and taught them the necessary vocabulary to complete each activity. These ranged from 'Tir à l'Arc' (Archery), where pupils aimed their 'fleches' at the 'cible', to 'La Fabrication du Pain', during which pupils followed a French recipe to make their own bread whilst singing French songs. Their creations were later produced at dinner time for them to enjoy with their meal. Other activities included 'L'Escalade' (Climbing), and the extremely muddy 'Parcours de Santé' (Assault Course), where pupils climbed under army nets, through tunnels and dipped their heads in a tyre filled with mud whilst shouting 'Je me lave les cheveux!'.

During the evenings, pupils had to have their wits about them to complete the 'Exercices d'initiative' and 'La Grande Trouvaille', which sent groups off around the Chateau grounds in search of various items in French.

Many chose to sample the local 'escargots' during the 'Soirée Française' (some were later seen with more than 10 snail shells on their plate!). On the last evening, Mr Morgan and Mrs Thomas were very proud to see the boys from STRS showcase their talents in the 'Spectacle Final', a Talent Show that was shared with another school; David Ion and Oliver Wheat's version of 'Someone like You' was very well received, whilst Joe Jollans' skill with the diablo and magic tricks did not fail to impress!

One of the highlights of the trip was on Friday, when we spent a morning at the local market in Vire, followed by an unforgettable visit to Monsieur Martin's 'Chevrerie'. After eating our 'pique-nique', Monsieur Martin explained to pupils 'la vie d'un fermier' and we watched a video about his goat's cheese production, before visiting the farm itself. A huge male goat (thankfully separated from us by his pen) was brought out and was at least twice the size of some of the boys! Al Hannam and Joe Jollans became the 'Docteur' and 'Fermier' and Joe had a go at milking one of the goats – "le lait, c'était délicieux!".

Despite the packed schedule, there was still time for pupils to enjoy the facilities on site, including a volley ball court and the 'salle des jeux', complete with 'table de tennis' and 'baby-foot'. During the smooth (phew!) crossing home, pupils completed their diaries, now well-practised at using the perfect tense to explain their activities from each day. We were sad to leave but look forward to our next visit. A Bientôt!

L Thomas







LES FILLES

Earlier this term Key Stage 3 and 4 students were treated to a performance of "Les Filles" by the Onatti Productions Theatre group. The play was entirely in French and this was excellent as it was based at a suitable level which we could all follow, enabling us to pick up new vocabulary along the way.

The story itself was of Nicholas, a teenage boy with unsatisfactory school grades and a very discontented mother. Nicholas had planned to spend the evening in town with friends but his mum was having nothing of it. *Pas de problème!* Or so Nicholas thought.

Nicholas was quickly in touch with Emily (his girlfriend); he was ready to finish with her. Shortly after he was in touch with Mélanie and Céline too! Nicholas was building up courage to tell Emily "C'est fini" when Mélanie arrived. He had been telling each of his various friends different reasons as to why they could not see him but when they all arrived, he was forced to hide each of his friends around the house.

At this point Nicholas' other "friend" arrived. This friend turned out to be 10T's Oli Jelley, only Oli was being used as a friend and little brother by Nicholas simultaneously.

The delicate web of lies told by Nicholas was beginning to untangle. Whenever Mélanie was present, Oli was Nicholas' friend; whenever Céline was in the room Oli was a seven- year old little brother. The only problem being, Oli is over 6 foot!

After a few more high tension concealments and a knockout punch, Nicholas finally rids the house of the girls just in time for the return of his mother. His mother is still unhappy with Nicholas but he doesn't care. As far as he is concerned: *"bon travail"*. Gradually messages filter through from each of the girls: *"Tu es stupide"* and *"Je déteste les garçons"*. It seems his lies were costly.

I loved this play because it was brilliantly performed and very funny, made even more so by Oli Jelley's cameo role! I would recommend this to anybody studying French as I genuinely believe it has helped me pick up new phrases and words. "Les Filles" était magnifique!!

G Moran 10T

CELEBRATION OF EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On the initiative of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26 September. It is a European celebration of the wealth of world languages. There are between 6000 and 7000 languages in the world - spoken by six billion people divided into 189 independent states. In Europe alone there are about 225 indigenous languages - roughly 3% of the world's total. In our daily lives we increasingly come across foreign languages. There is a need to generate a greater interest in languages among European citizens. This is what we set out to do at Sir Thomas Rich's drawing on the wealth of languages spoken by pupils and staff.

Pupils from Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to learn some basic phrases in a number of languages. On the lines of speed dating they moved around the Hall from language to language, a respite being offered by some language quizzes. Arabic was pronounced the most difficult of the languages, whilst I struggled with the pronunciation of Polish, much to the amusement of year 10 pupil, Hubert Wysoglad. The ability to distinguish and reproduce sounds diminishes with age.

All the more reason to start to learn languages at an early age.

The European Day of Languages at STRS was a celebration of the languages spoken in our community and a tribute to the linguistic abilities of our pupils and staff.

Languages offered: Indonesian, Bengali, Hindi, Slovakian, Russian, Farsi, Italian, Polish, Welsh, Arabic, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Croatian and Urdu.

Teachers and pupils: Mr J. Buttle, Meehad Shahriyar, Mr R. Birkett, Tomas Lappy, Maxim Gaidakov, Sepehr Amini Raouf, Enzo di Vita, Hubert Wysoglad, Mr R. Williams, Obai Affifi, Daniel Kane, Bohan Du, Luka Renna, Filip Ilic, Mr S. Pack, Usman Asghar

Quiz masters: Alvie Haque, Anmol Jani, Euan Reeves, Josh Chadwick

J Hewett



TOMMIES RUGBY CLUB

1st XV

PLAYED 9, WON 9, LOST 0 FOR 315 AGAINST 66

The 1st XV have made a tremendous start to the season. They trained hard during the summer holidays and played Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School, Salisbury, which they won 29-10. After that, they started the regular season with a hard fought 34-10 victory over Bridgend College, Wales. After comfortably defeating Chosen Hill (45-7), QEH Bristol (38-0) and Newent (61-0) in Round Two of the Daily Mail Cup, they then travelled down to play the former Daily Mail Cup winners Colston's. Tommies 1st XV have never defeated Colston's in 66 years of playing the game, so when they recorded a 23-14 victory in Bristol, this was a historic win!

The 1st XV then faced St Peter's School, Cambridge, New Zealand on Sunday 30th September. After facing a very intimidating 'haka' and a first half onslaught, particularly at the breakdown, Tommies 1st XV controlled possession and territory to win the game 25-15. Ollie Young scored a try and Joe Carolan kicked six penalties and a conversion. After that superb performance Tommies then went on the record less impressive victories against King Edward's School, Bath (24-10) and Chosen Hill (36-0) in the Daily Mail Round Three. They have made an excellent start but will need to play better than their last two performances if they are going to finish undefeated this half-term. With Monmouth School and Cokethorpe, Witney around the corner their performances must improve. Their next Daily Mail match is the eagerly anticipated match with St Peter's after half term. Captain Ollie Young has broken the School 1st XV try scoring record with 5 this year, which brings his current total for the 1st XV to 22!

2nd XV

Tommies 2nd XV lost to Bridgend College in their first game 19-36, they then defeated Beaufort 1st XV 45-19. After that, they played a training match against Katherine Lady Berkeley but then went on a run of three very narrow defeats. They lost 24-12 to QEH, 7-15 to Colston's and 11-7 to KES Bath. The 2nd XV then defeated RGS Worcester 9-5 but will need to play better to record further victories against Monmouth and Cokethorpe.

When the u16's joined in with the Sixth Form, the 3rd XV defeated Chosen Hill 2nds (25-0) and the 4th XV defeated Beaufort 2nds (45-5). The 3rds are due to play Bredon School in their next game.

U16's

After last year's exploits at Twickenham, the u16's started the season with a victory against BHBS (The u16 B team won also).

They then lost to QEH 26-21 after leading 21-5 at half time. In a very brave performance against some older boys, the u16s lost 14-7 to St Peter's School, Cambridge, New Zealand. In their last performance, they defeated RGS Worcester 17-10 but they will need to play better against Monmouth School.

U15's

The u15's played a practice game against BHBS to start the season. They then lost to Colston's in a very poor performance. However, they have picked themselves up and defeated QEH, Churchdown, Crypt, RGS Worcester and Marling. They have booked themselves a Daily Mail Round Four clash with St Peter's at home after half term but must continue to work hard in order to defeat Monmouth and King's Worcester before half term. It has been a mixed season for the u15 B's they had their match against BHBS cancelled, they defeated RGS Worcester, they drew with Colston's but lost to QEH. They will have to work hard against Monmouth and King's Worcester.

U14's

The u14's lost the first game of the season to BHBS 24-19 but since then they have gone on to record excellent victories against Colston's, QEH, Old Swinford, Crypt and RGS Worcester. Against Chosen Hill and Monmouth they must work hard to record more victories.

The B team were defeated by BHBS and Colston's but defeated QEH, Old Swinford, Crypt, Dean Close and RGS Worcester.

U13's

The u13's started where they left off last year defeating, BGS, Clifton College and Bromsgrove in Colston's u13 tournament. They then defeated BHBS, Colston's, QEH, Crypt, Marling and RGS Worcester. Unfortunately, in a dreadful performance they lost heavily to a very good Churchdown side. They will need to improve against Monmouth and King's Worcester in the upcoming games. The B team are unbeaten this year. They have defeated BHBS, RGS, QEH, Crypt, Marling and the drew with Colston's.

The C team lost to BHBS but defeated RGS and QEH.

U12's

Considering many of the boys in Year 7 have never played rugby before, they are progressing nicely. They play well in attack and considering rucking is usually a problem, they are rucking very well. Their defence stills requires work but it is improving. They have lost to Bromsgrove, RGS and Colston's but after Christmas I'm sure their results will improve. The B team lost to Bromsgrove and Colston's but defeated RGS. The C team defeated RGS but lost to Bromsgrove.

R Williams



BRITISH TRIATHLON INTER REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The British Triathlon Inter Regional Championships was held, for the second year running, at Hetton Lyons Park, which is situated between Durham and Sunderland. Teams from each of the 9 English regions, plus Scotland and Wales compete for the championship title. An Irish team also competed.

Each team has 14 athletes, 2 girls and two boys in the 11-12 years age group, 2 girls and 2 boys in the 13-14 years age group, 3 girls and 3 boys in the 15-16 years age group. The distances they compete over, increases by age group.

Two GCSC swimmers, Alex and James Chantler were selected for the South West Team, having taken first places at various triathlon events during the season. Training across the summer holidays has been hard, particularly as this is usually their rest period. The training paid off as they both picked up silver medals in their respective events.

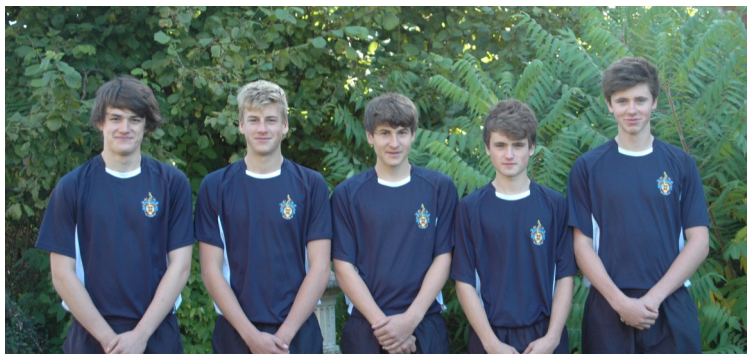
James held a very strong swim and emerged from the lake in second position. He stayed with the front pack of 3 cyclists and went into the run in the 3rd position. After a superb run he came through the finishing line just 3 seconds behind the winner, and taking the silver medal.

Alex swam very well to emerge from the water first, closely followed by his South West Team mate. They went into the cycle phase together and worked well as a team to establish an early 30 second lead. Alex's team mate pulled ahead at the end of the cycle and maintained this lead during the run phase. They finished with a considerable lead over the other athletes, with Alex taking the silver medal a few seconds behind his team mate.

J Chantler 8R

HOCKEY

Five Sir Thomas Rich's boys have made it through to the third tier of talent identification in England, reaching the Junior Regional Performance Centre in Bristol. Richard Bray, Jamie Harper, Will Byrd, Dan Ladd and Charlie Webster are in the top 20 players for their age in Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset, Herefordshire and Wiltshire. Following weeks of training, the boys now await news as to whether they have made it to the England training camp (HIPAC).



Mr Parker, head of hockey at Sir Thomas Rich's commented, "It is of course fantastic news for all the boys to make it this far in the talent identification process, and we can't wait for our school season to set underway, so the boys can transfer the advanced skills they've developed to our team."

Dan Ladd, Charlie Webster (Year 12 - U17), Jamie Harper, Will Byrd (Year 11 - U16) and Richard Bray (Year 10 - U15) have been training at the 3rd tier of the English Hockey talent identification system. This is effectively the same as being selected for regional squads, and is a good achievement by itself.

However, just recently it was announced that Richard is now through to the HiPAC (high performance assessment camp), which is the equivalent of an extended under 15 England squad. A magnificent achievement indeed given he is a goalkeeper. He can proudly claim to currently being one of the top 8 goalkeepers at his age group, in the country.

N Stewart

NETBALL NEWS

A TEAM

v Pate's Grammar (Lost 15-9)

Pates were a tough opposition. The score does not reflect how well the team played, as they had the potential to win by more. It was thanks to the defensive players that Pate's were not able to score anymore. Player of the match was given to Polly Griffiths who had a great game, she always managed to find space to receive the ball and gave good passes into the attacking D.

v KLB (Won 36-29)

This was a great game for STRS, our play seemed to reach a new level. We all worked well together, keeping possession of the ball. This led to a successful win. Emma Nield GD was given player of the match and deservedly so, as she played very well managing to achieve many interceptions and provided back up when needed.

B TEAM

v Pate's Grammar (Lost 18-14)

To play the first match of the season against Pates was a tough ask for the girls but we fought back an 8 point deficit to lose by only 1, an impressive effort by a new team.

It gave me great hope for an improving team for the forthcoming matches and I expect that we will improve with each one.

v Katharine Lady Berkeley (Won 31-29)

Despite the fact KLB were the top team in the league, we dominated from the beginning. With a combined effort from the whole team and superb shooting from Cara Williams and newcomer Megan Lane, we got our first win of the season.

Player of the match: Cara Williams and Megan Lane

v Newent (Won 22-13)

Considering this week we played with new players in the team, everybody played fantastically, bringing home a good win. Fantastic shooting from Megan Lane again this week. Also the defence worked exceptionally hard, making it difficult for Newent to score.

V Nash

AEGON TENNIS

On Thursday 27th September, the School played Backwell School in the 1st round of the Knockout Stages of the Aegon Cup.

Against a very good team the School got off to a disappointing start in the 4 singles matches and at one point looked to be losing all 4 and would therefore lose the match before the double games. However, after losing 3 of the games Chris Bell fought from 5 – 4 match point down to win 7 – 5 and therefore going into the doubles the School needed to win both matches to tie the game and go into a shoot-out.

Through good play and determination the doubles pairings both won and took the match into a first to 10 point tie- break doubles shootout.

Once again Backwell got off to a good start and lead by 7 – 1. The School responded strongly and nearly retrieved the situation at 9 – 6 before Backwell won their 10th point and so winning the match 7 – 6.

S.Tullett	lost	6 – 2
J.Singhera	lost	6 – 0
C.Bell	won	7 – 5
B.Grew	lost	6 – 2
Tullett & Singhera	won	7 – 6
Bell & Grew	won	6 – 3
Tullett & Bell	lost	10 – 6

I J Gallagher

NEW ZEALAND TOUR FUND-RAISING

The players, staff and parents have been very busy raising money for the Tour Fund this term. The boys have completed three highly successful bag packing sessions at Sainsbury's stores in Cheltenham and the Gloucester Quays, and at Morrisons in Abbeydale. In addition, a group of parents organised a very enjoyable 'Quiz and Paella' night in the Hall. A number of other events are being planned including a Jumble Sale on Sat 19th November 10-12 noon in the Hall, a Quiz & Pudding night on Friday 11th January and a Barn Dance & Pig Roast in March.

We have also been very fortunate to receive generous sponsorship from a number of companies including Seiko UK, APP Solution Consulting, Carter Construction, BJ Kennels, Langley Wellington Solicitors and Combustion Solutions Ltd. If you would like to become a Tour Sponsor too please contact me on 01452-338435 – your support would be very much appreciated.

C D A Carter

OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2012

COURSE	LEVEL	DATE	TIME	COST/CONTACT
Art Academy	4-12yrs	22-26 October	10.30-15.30	07505 243745 artacadeyglos@yahoo.co.uk
Isporta Multi-Sports + Goalkeeping Course	4-12 yrs	22-26 October 25-26 October	08.30-16.30	07801801922 enquiries@isporta.co.uk
Midland Soccer Coaching www.midlandssoccercoaching.co.uk	4-13yr	22-24 October	10.00-15.00	07962 382460
Glos Little Ducklings Crash Course	4yrs+	22-26 July	09.30-11.00	01242 693219

2012/13 Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2012

Monday 29 Oct – Friday 2 November

Tuesday 20 November

Monday 26 Nov – Thurs 6 Dec

Friday 7 December

Monday 10 - Friday 14 December

Wednesday 12, Thursday 13, Friday 14 December

Friday 21 December

Year 12 examinations

Year 12 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Trial GCSE examinations (Year 11)

In-Service Day, no school for pupils

Year 11 Work Experience

Little Shop of Horrors, 7.30 pm

End of Term, 12.45 pm

Monday 24 December – Friday 4 January Christmas holidays

SPRING TERM 2013

Monday 7 January

Thursday 10 January

Tuesday 15 January

Thursday 24 January

Tuesday 29 January

Wednesday 6 February

Friday 8 February

Monday 11 – Friday 15 February

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.

Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Year 9 parents, options evening, 7.00 pm

Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30 pm

Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Jazz Night, 7.30 pm

Half-term holidays

Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

Monday 25 Feb – Friday 1 March

Monday 4 – Friday 8 March

Monday 4 March

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 March

Thursday 21 March

Friday 22 March

Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Year 10 examinations

Founder's Week

Trial AS examinations (Year 12)

Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Drama performances (Senior & Junior Drama Clubs)

Spring Concert, 7.30 pm

End of Term, 12.45 pm

Easter holidays

SUMMER TERM 2013

Monday 8 April

Monday 8 – Friday 12 April

Friday 3 May

Monday 27 – Friday 31 May

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.

Trial A2 examinations (Year 13)

Choral Concert, 7.30 pm

Half-term holidays

Tuesday 11 June

Friday 21 – Thursday 27 June

Friday 28 June

Monday 1 – Friday 5 July

Thursday 4 July

Friday 12 July

Friday 19 July

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening, 5.00 pm

Years 7, 8 & 9 end-of-year examinations

In-Service Day, no school for pupils

Sixth Form Induction Week (Year 11)

Sports Evening

Summer Concert, 7.30 pm

End of Term, 12.45 pm

AS & A-Level results

GCSE results

Thursday 15 August

Thursday 22 August

PUBLICATION NEWS

The latest edition of the schools magazine, *The Richian* 2010-2011, has been sent home with your son/daughter. If you would like any additional copies please contact the school.

