

Sir Thomas Rich's Newsletter

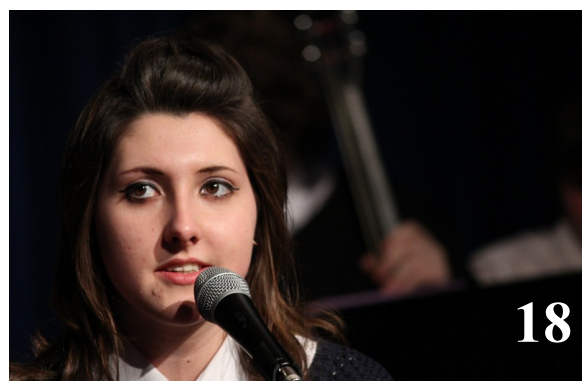
Issue 5

March 2013



Fancy Dress 2013

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This has been a somewhat strange half-term for me, with various people in school last month attending interviews in pursuance of my job. The outcome is now known, I can only reiterate my pleasure at knowing that Sir Thomas Rich's will be in good hands, Mr Morgan is absolutely the right man to take the School to new heights. He has plenty of ideas for ways to develop the School, reminding me why I knew it was time for me to step aside.

We have also had to try to continue working normally whilst builders have made parts of the school uninhabitable. Indeed, at the tail end of winter, we have had to contend with freezing temperatures with holes in walls where windows used to be. I am grateful to staff and students for putting up with the considerable disruption without complaint (well, almost). We are assured that we shall have the school almost back to normal when we return after Easter – except that the old windows and cladding will have all been replaced, rooms will be warmer and the school will look smarter. We shall miss the builders, they have almost become part of our community.

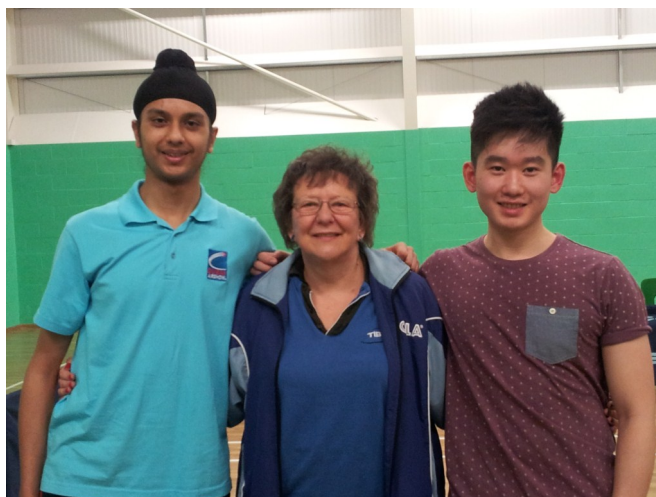


TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis season has just finished. In my last season I am delighted that the players have done the School proud with by far our most successful season. We had four teams in the Gloucester Table Tennis Association league: one team struggled and will be relegated but, remarkably, the other three teams all gained promotion. Not only this but our B team won the prestigious Gloucester Handicap Cup with a wonderful victory over a strong team of adults by the closest possible margin: after nine matches and 36 sets, they won by one point.

The School's A team finished second in Division 2 and hence earned promotion to the top Division in Gloucester, an astonishing achievement for a School team. They finished with a flourish, defeating the Division champions 10-0. Star player was Dominic James (12G) who helped the team win 13 of their 18 matches. Our B team came second in Division 4 and so they will return to Division 3 next season. Bohan Du (13G) and Harkeerit Kalsi (11S) were the backbone of this team in the league and their skill ensured victory in the Handicap Cup, a great triumph. The C team found life tough in Division 4, not helped by failing to put out full teams for some matches, so they will descend to Division 5. They will swap places with the D team who were runners-up in that Division. They were well led by Steve Tatlow (12B) but all the players contributed to an excellent season: Rory Murfitt (10B), Filip Ilic (10R) and Andrew Howell (9S).

Well done to all who represented the school, and good luck next season



Harkeerit Kalsi and Bohan Du
(with Mrs Kirby) after winning
the Gloucester Handicap Cup

I Kellie

BLUECOAT BEST BOOK

Nine boys from Year 8 are developing our new Bluecoat Best Book award. The purpose of the award is to highlight good teenage fiction and to encourage boys to keep on reading. The group meets weekly to read and discuss a selection of novels provided by Waterstones. Later in the year, the whole school will have the chance to vote for their favourite from a shortlist.



WORLD BOOK DAY

The library celebrated World Book Day on 7 March with Risk It for a Biscuit. Fifty-six boys helped themselves to a well-earned biscuit after they took on the challenge of reading something new. Here are extracts from some of their reviews:

"It...takes the reader to the heart of Wallace and Gromit." (The Wrong Trousers: Storyboard Collection)

"It contains everything a boy wants in a book – blood, gore and more!" (The Hunger Games)

"...gripping...tension...excitement...It makes you want to keep reading." (Skulduggery Pleasant: The Faceless Ones)

"...thrilling...unexpected twists...gripping from the start to the finish." (Spook's Blood)

"Tolkien conjures an epic fantasy...One can connect with the madness of Boromir." (The Fellowship of the Ring)

"When I saw the latest edition I knew I had to read it." (Henderson's Boys: One Shot Kill)



R Sargeant



ENGLISH TRIP TO DUBLIN

As well as having a fantastic time in Dublin, the trip was also extremely useful to the understanding of the book we are studying, 'Dubliners' by James Joyce. It was a fast-paced tour; we left school on Thursday evening, and were back by lunchtime on Saturday. On the Friday, we visited the James Joyce Centre where we all sat and discussed the short stories of 'Dubliners' with a member of the centre. He opened up the stories and their meanings in ways that I would not have thought of or considered myself and made James Joyce's intentions and motives clear when he was writing the short stories.

After this, we were taken on a tour around Dublin to see the parts of the city where Joyce was writing about and also places that had a close relationship with him, such as the college where he studied and some of the houses in which he lived. To see some of the places that are mentioned in the stories created a much clearer picture of the stories and also helped to understand why Joyce wrote about the things that he did.

In the evening we had a pub dinner in a traditional Irish pub, no Guinness, but nevertheless, great food and company. This pub was the starting point of the Dublin Literary Pub crawl which we embarked on through the evening, hosted by two actors who told tales of the literature, art, and the authors, that were associated with the Pubs. We were also taken to colleges where we were told stories of authors such as Oscar Wilde and streets to learn more about the History of Dublin.

Everyone had a great time on the trip and would like to thank both Mr Parker and Mrs Brookes for taking us, but also for organising the trip and the teachers that covered lessons for Mr Parker and Mrs Brookes.

Harry Thomas 12G



MFL SPEAKING COMPETITION



The Routes into Languages SW team from UWE university has recently hosted MFL Speaking Competitions throughout the region and this year, for the first time, STRS decided to enter pupils in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. It was a step into the unknown for both staff and pupils. What would be the calibre of the students from other schools? How much preparation and practice would pupils have put in? How much help would they have received from their teachers?



The venue, The Royal High School, Bath, was very impressive. As we approached the majestic building and entered nervously through the imposing door, I was reminded of the young Harry Potter arriving for the first time at Hogwarts. Here, however, the comparison must end. The welcome

by the school could not have been more friendly and the adjudicating panel more understanding.

Nevertheless it was a daunting task to stand in front of a large audience and speak for two to three minutes in a foreign language. Even eminent and experienced politicians have been known to buckle and muddle their words under pressure.

This was not the case for our students who rose to the challenge. First to perform at Key Stage 3 were Joshua Grew and Michael Ashworth. They enchanted the audience with their confidence, fluency and lively presentations in Spanish on their families. Key Stage 4 competitors were Aaron Lloyd and George Moran who spoke very competently in French about a film they had seen. This group was singled out by the judges for their exceptionally high standard of language. At Key Stage 5 Theo Tolman-Michail and Matthew Sheldon faced a difficult challenge. The German Work Exchange and AS examinations had left them with a minimum time in which to prepare. Whilst pupils from other schools withdrew from this section on account of the pressures of A Level studies, they allowed themselves no excuses and gave full and interesting presentations of their dreams. Last to perform was Katrina Manning in the near native category, a daunting task as the expectations from the judges in this category were so high. She had, however, prepared well and delivered a presentation which was a credit to her.

The icing on the cake was the awarding of First Prize to Michael Ashworth (Key Stage 3) and Theo Tolman-Michail (Key Stage 5). They will now go to the Regional Final at Exeter University in June. However, we hope that all the contestants will have enjoyed and learnt from the experience, have grown in confidence and started to hone that very useful skill of public speaking.

J Hewett





GERMAN WORK EXPERIENCE IN DORTMUND

Work experience in Germany is offered to Year 12 students and represents an exciting and challenging opportunity for them. They have to become young adults entering the world of work, observing all the pleasantries of social interaction and fulfilling the requirements of the job. Furthermore, they have to achieve this in German, no small undertaking for students in the early stages of their "A" level course.

The work experience is organized by "Halsbury Travel" who have considerable experience in arranging placements and ensure that someone is always on hand should any difficulties arise. This year pupils travelled to Dortmund, a large city of nearly 600,000 inhabitants, situated in the Bundesland of North Rhine Westphalia. It is sometimes known as Westphalia's green metropolis on account of its numerous waterways, woodland and spacious parks. However, for many of the boys its appeal lay with its football club – Borussia Dortmund, one of the giants of Germany's football. A visit to the stadium was one of the unexpected highlights of the trip.

A further bonus for the group was to witness "Karneval" in the Rhineland. On "Rosenmontag", the Monday before Ash Wednesday, parties, parades and celebrations abound.

For Catholics this was the festive season of food and fun before fasting; in pre-Christian times the festivities symbolised the driving out of winter and evil spirits. Certainly many masks were on view to scare away the evil spirits. Many of the traditions have their origin in historical events. After the French revolution the French took over the Rhineland. Out of protest against the French, Germans from the area would mock politicians and leaders safely behind masks. This tradition of protest through mockery and parody can still be seen today.

A teacher's view of the success of a trip is not always mirrored by comments from the pupils themselves, so it is important to give pupils a voice.

J Hewett

My work placement was in a swimming pool just outside Dortmund. It was difficult at times because there weren't many people that spoke good English which meant that you had to work hard to make sure you understood the instructions and could get the tasks done. Outside of work everything was easy and enjoyable as well as still speaking plenty of German. So overall a great experience and something I would definitely do again.

Alex Kelsall



The work experience trip was brilliant! Having freedom in a foreign country allowed us to go and practise the language on a regular basis, gaining better experience with the language than could ever be achieved in a classroom. The work placement itself was good. We could communicate with co-workers as well as customers, often with them not speaking much English, which really put our language skills to the test. Although this was very challenging, they were very friendly and patient and helped us where they could. Away from work, we had both group organised and self-organised activities which allowed us to have some fun and relax!

Matt Jones 12T

I spent the week in a party shop in Dortmund. My colleagues were all very friendly and allowed me to practise my German in a practical environment. Listening and understanding has improved greatly for me after going on this trip. The evenings were very enjoyable and we were able to visit many restaurants and sites such as the Signal Iduna football stadium. The independence that the trip gave me has improved my confidence greatly and I would definitely recommend it to others.

Matt Sargent

The trip to Dortmund was an unforgettable experience amidst friendly German locals who were happy to welcome us into their city. Working in a restaurant allowed me to meet and speak to so many different people while naturally developing my German.

But without a doubt, the best part of the trip was the independence that we all had: we had to make our own way to work, ask people for directions when lost, organise our own afternoon activities, and organise our own dinner. The hostel was right in the middle of the city which meant it was easy to find something to do, and activities included visiting the carnival, going ice skating and swimming.

Meehad Shahriyar

My placement was in a Kindergarten (children's nursery) situated around 15 minutes from the hostel. Despite having to work long hours (8am – 4pm) and using up a lot of energy, the job was very rewarding and worthwhile. The trip gave us the experience of using German in real life, which is vital when learning a language. As we were living and working in Germany, it was impossible to avoid speaking German. The social side of the trip was also great, with visits to the main sites of attraction around Dortmund and the freedom to act as responsible adults.

Nadia Hofmann



FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLAYS BY THE ONATTI THEATRE COMPANY

It was a pleasure to once again receive a visit from the Onatti Theatre Company and to enjoy two performances in one week. We have high expectations of the company and the German play "Nichts zum Anziehen" did not disappoint. It was engaging, funny and conducted completely in the foreign language. Which teenager boy has not had anxious moments when plucking up courage to ask a girl out? Which teenager girl or boy has not panicked when trying to decide what to wear for this all important first date. It was a scenario with which teenagers could identify.

Pupils' comments:

On Monday the 25th of February, we watched the German play "Nichts Zum Anziehen" which translated means nothing to wear. I particularly liked its interactive aspects. These included us choosing how much shaving cream one of the actors could use, this was quite funny because he used a bit too much which ended in a mess. It was also good because although it was in a different language you could understand it. This was because what they were using was related to class work we had done and also if you didn't understand certain words to start with you did after because of how it was acted out.

I really enjoyed the play "Nichts Zum Anziehen" because I thought it was very interesting and funny. I found it good to learn different words, like 'Pickel', meaning spot. Another thing that I found useful was the story, as it was simple and I understood it well – helped by their actions. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Ich habe es toll gefunden

I thought the play was good, the set was clever and I was surprised by how much German I could understand. I thought the balance between new vocabulary and words and phrases that we already knew was good, and it was clever how they used a limited range of language to tell a relatively complex story.

The French Beginners play "Ecris-moi" was a bilingual play and it is the first time that we have offered this to our beginner groups. However, any doubts we might have had about the success of this unusual approach quickly vanished with such a clever scenario which made the use of English totally natural.

The scenario

Tony's French teacher has linked up with a school in France and has asked her class to choose a name, from a list of French children, to e-mail - in French. Tony chooses Renée, whom he thinks is a French boy.

Over in France, Renée eagerly awaits an e-mail from an English pupil and when she receives a message from someone called Tony she's excited and replies to "her" immediately.

Tony and Renée exchange a few e-mails and neither of them realise their mistake - Tony thinks Renée is a boy and Renée thinks Tony is a girl.

Renée invites Tony to come to France and stay with her family for a weekend. Tony's parents agree and he is soon packing for the trip. Whilst over in France Renée is getting excited about meeting her new friend - an English girl called Tony.

What is going to happen when they eventually meet face to face?

It is an awkward, uncomfortable and embarrassing weekend for both of them.

Pupils' Comments:

I liked the play a lot because they included the audience and it was very funny. Renée spoke fluent French which was very educational!

It was funny and inclusive and widened my knowledge of French.

It was great because it had the audience involved and you could learn some French as well.

It was a great play. It was a great way to understand how the language goes together. It utilised the knowledge we obtained in class very well. Très bien.

The play was great. It included some of the important buildings in Paris e.g. the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower but it was very clever because it incorporated English and French and safety on the internet.

The school was very pleased to welcome pupils from Longlevens Junior School and Dinglewell Junior School who thoroughly enjoyed the play and indeed their visit to the school.

J. Hewett





Y13 RIVER CHURN

We went to four different sites along the River Churn to investigate how channel characteristics change as stream order increases.

At each site we measured various characteristics of the river such as depth, width, wetted perimeter and velocity. We also made observations and measurements of the river's load. All of our observations and measurements will be collaborated to determine how channel characteristics change as stream order increases. This will form an important part of our WJEC A2 Geography course. We will sit an examination paper worth 10% of our final mark based on the fieldwork enquiry we will have completed.

Arron Pearce 13B



YR11 HUMANITIES DAY AT LADY MARGARET HALL

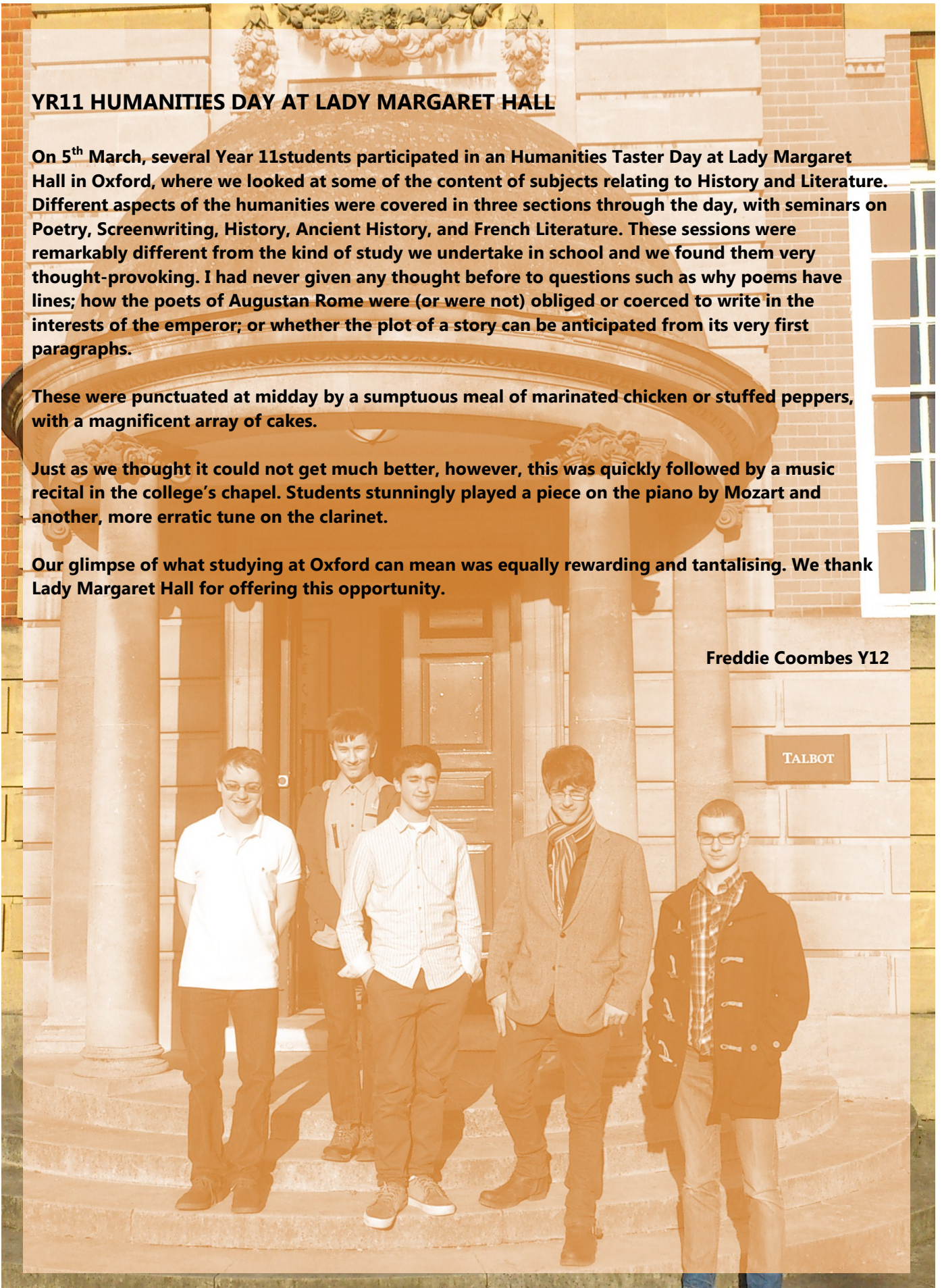
On 5th March, several Year 11 students participated in an Humanities Taster Day at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, where we looked at some of the content of subjects relating to History and Literature. Different aspects of the humanities were covered in three sections through the day, with seminars on Poetry, Screenwriting, History, Ancient History, and French Literature. These sessions were remarkably different from the kind of study we undertake in school and we found them very thought-provoking. I had never given any thought before to questions such as why poems have lines; how the poets of Augustan Rome were (or were not) obliged or coerced to write in the interests of the emperor; or whether the plot of a story can be anticipated from its very first paragraphs.

These were punctuated at midday by a sumptuous meal of marinated chicken or stuffed peppers, with a magnificent array of cakes.

Just as we thought it could not get much better, however, this was quickly followed by a music recital in the college's chapel. Students stunningly played a piece on the piano by Mozart and another, more erratic tune on the clarinet.

Our glimpse of what studying at Oxford can mean was equally rewarding and tantalising. We thank Lady Margaret Hall for offering this opportunity.

Freddie Coombes Y12









LE CORBIER SKI TRIP

The coach arrived on the Saturday morning of half term early in the morning and 30 pupils started their journey to Gatwick airport. There was a buzzing atmosphere. I was feeling a little bit nervous about being away from home but also very excited about going on my first ski trip. To pass the time on the three-hour journey to Gatwick I had downloaded some films onto my phone, which I watched.

Having got to the airport we all stocked up on games and food and got on board the British Airways flight and I'm pleased to say there was only a little bit of turbulence on takeoff. It was really good to fly to the ski resort because it saved a 16 hour coach journey - this meant that we got more time skiing and less time cooped up in a tin can on wheels. On arrival at Turin, we then had a winding 2 hour transfer to our resort of Le Corbier and arrived at seven o'clock in the evening.

Le Mont Corbier Hotel is a large chalet style building that was well-suited to school parties like us. It had the essential pool table, table football, bar (for grown-ups only) and a large restaurant. We were split into rooms for between two and five pupils and I shared with Jake Graham in a room that had a fantastic view of the hills and mountains in the resort. Needless to say, the hotel was surrounded by a blanket of snow, perfect for a ski trip.

Each day we all had lessons according to our abilities. Some of us were beginners, some were lower intermediate, higher intermediate or advanced. I'm pleased to say that the first thing they taught us to do was how to stop on a pair of skis. Some others had practised this on lessons before the trip at Gloucester dry ski slope.

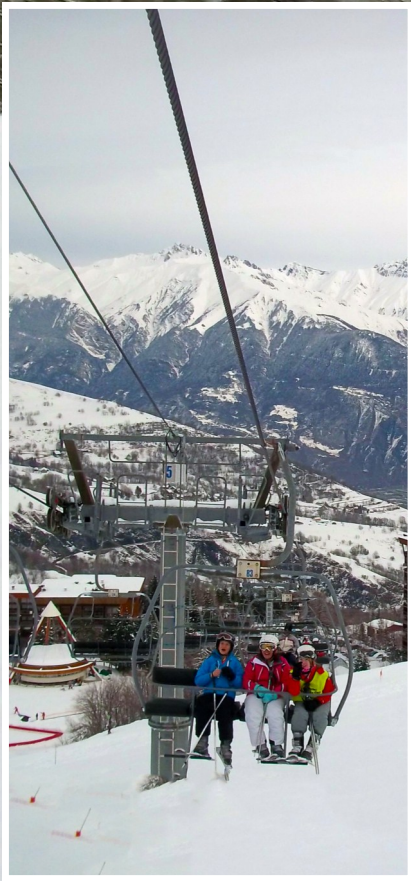
As the lessons progressed, our abilities got better and we started to learn how to turn and speed up; over the week, we were allowed to go on better ski slopes and this ended up with us being taken to the top of the mountain to ski down at the end of the trip and use all the skills we have learnt. The ski instructors were really funny and really skilful. The best thing about skiing to me was the adrenaline rush that I got when picking up speed and turning as I descended down a ski slope.

When we weren't on the ski slopes, there was lots of things for us to do; we got to go shopping and we went swimming, bowling, we had lots of snowball fights, and the best activity was the display put on by the ski instructors where they were able to show off their skills which included a variety of flips. They were amazing. Besides that, we had plenty of time to chill in our rooms and hang out in the lounge at the hotel plus there was a mocktail competition where you made your own mocktail and whoever's sold the most got a free drink.

Mr. Lockey, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Birchall - the three teachers who had volunteered to look after us on this trip - were kept on their toes by the 30 pupils. Needless to say, a couple of first aid situations arose and I am pleased to report that there was nothing more serious than a twisted knee. It was great to have a laugh with teachers out of the classroom particularly when they fell over by the ski lifts!

The test of any ski trip is asking the question would I go again? Definitely. I'm already planning my family skiing trip next year.

Gabriel Fryer Eccles 8R.



Jazz Night

Presented by
Mr M Morgan and Mr M Lynch

Musical Direction
Mr P Storer

Produced
Mr M Lynch

Sound, Lighting and Follow-Spot
Mr A Passey
The Performers

Brass
Ben Sherborne, 8B
Chris Sullivan, 13L

Clarinet
Cameron Elliott, 9T
Louis Meesmacher, 8S
Vicki Smith, 13H

Drums
Ieuan Lavender, 11B
Rishi Moulard, 13L

Guitar
Arran Bennett, 8B
Iain Grieg, 13L
George Schreuder, 13B

Flute
Olivia Yates, 13H

Piano
Sam Hau, 13L
Charlie Powell, 11T
Charlie Ros, 11R

Tuba
Chris Dempster, 13L

Violin
Sam Hau, 13L
Ellie Todd, 13L

Vocals
Rachel Hamilton, 12H
Becca Maddern, 12S
Oliver Peel, 13R
James Selley, 13L
Ellie Todd, 13L

Lighting
Josh Isaac, 12B
Steve Tatlow, 12B

Sound
Katie Willis, 13T

Saxophone
Erin Brookes, 13L
Matthew Day, 7T
Joe Fautley, 11T
Anthony Gaylard (Guest)
Louis Horrell, 9S
Edmund Jones, 12S
Eleanor Young, 13H

Trombone
Tom Thiselton, 8S

Trumpet
Ben Connole, 8T
James Dale, 12L
Henry Fidler, 13R
Jasper Jackson, 8S
Harry Jenkins, 8T
Charlie Powell, 11T
Dominic Trott, 11R



Following the success of last year's Jazz Night, the Jazz Band, along with other solo performers, were keen to display their talents once again. With an entirely new set list and an audience on the night that was even bigger than last year, the Jazz Band excelled yet again at creating a relaxing evening of sophisticated music.

The Jazz Night took place on Thursday 7th February 2013. The evening also featured guest appearances from some of our staff members; with Mr M. Morgan on the trumpet, Mr M. Lynch on the piano, Mrs P. Jones on the double bass and Mrs M. Ferguson singing the Etta James number "At Last".

M Lynch



YEAR 12 GEOLOGY TRIP TO PEMBROKESHIRE

We set off on Friday 22nd February. After leaving Tommies in the morning with Mr Pack in the driving seat, and allowing for a quick pit stop, we reached our first location en route to the hostel that we would be staying in. It was a fairly deserted, and admittedly, cold, beach but it gave us our first experience of trying to spot geological structures outside of the classroom. After playing an elaborate guessing game in which we seemed to name every structure ever discovered, we finally decided that the twisted strata that we were seeing was slump bedding. We moved on after that to another beach where we took samples and sketches from another set of folds.

We drove on, finally reaching the youth hostel at Poppit Sands (Cardigan Bay) fairly late at night. After quite a mammoth team effort which included Andy Gayler showing off his culinary skills to all, we cooked a full meal for all eighteen people on the trip, which tasted, to the amazement of all, surprisingly good.

The next day began with fantastic, though cold, weather, and a full English cooked breakfast, once again cooked by the students. Our first two sites of the day were near Strumble Head, to see some igneous geology and to practice taking samples and dip readings. We moved on to have a lunch stop and another site visit at a beach in Abereddy Bay, and to the surprise of all, came across hundreds of graptolites fossilized in the slate lying around the car park. With our bags significantly weighed down with rock, we travelled on further into the Welsh countryside (with some impressive driving from Mr Pack) to do some investigative geology at small outcroppings, whereupon James Dale decided that he had a vendetta against the rocks and produced quite a large pile of small shards of rocks, more than enough for everyone, and half of Wales besides.

The day ended with another team effort to produce the evening's meal; a selection of about six different curries, which once again, tasted really great.

The final day, Sunday, saw us leave the hostel, in more or less the same shape that it was before we arrived. Our first stop was not, bizarrely, in the middle of nowhere, but on a back road in the middle of Haverfordwest, where we were told 'go find some fossils' in the mudstone exposure. And surprisingly, we did, with a large number of well preserved corals, brachiopods, bivalves and an assortment of other small marine fossils being found. Driving on, we uncovered some more igneous geology, and some more folding of rocks at Broadhaven, after having an impromptu game of cricket using a hammer as a bat. Needless to say, we weren't very good at it. After visiting one or two more sites, we arrived at our final site, St Ann's Head.

There we saw the best feature of the entire trip, a textbook example of a double fold, and by the admission of all, Mr Green's expression when he saw it was priceless. After that, we headed back, pausing only to stop at a fish and chip shop on the way.

On behalf of the entire group, I would like to say thanks to Mr Green for running the trip, which, without exception, every one of us enjoyed, and I believe that we all actually learnt something as well. Also a well done to him for managing to go almost everywhere on crutches, with a broken hip. Mr Pack's driving should not go without comment, managing to drive the minibus to places that it frankly wasn't built for, and returning it, and us, in more or less one piece, so thanks also to him, for putting up with us. A really good trip all round, and we look forward to the next one.

George Hopes





As the end of the spring term approaches, the examination students are working hard to ensure that they get their course work projects completed. Most of the projects are nearing completion, but will require careful finishing if they are to achieve all the marks their efforts deserve. We would like to thank all those students [and parents] who have shown great commitment and determination to produce the quality work for which the school has a justly proud reputation. We look forward to these students receiving the grades their efforts deserve this summer. Good Luck!

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Alexander Raven and Alexander Hamilton-Foyn, who have successfully passed the first "Examination" stage of their applications for Arkwright Scholarships 2013. They have now been invited for interview at Bath University in April. Good Luck to them both!



TECHNOLOGY CLUB

As we go to press we have learnt that whilst sadly the Solar car teams have not been successful in going forward to the regional finals, our Picaxe team: Technodroids, have been successful and will now go forward to the South-West regional finals in Bristol on Tuesday 30th April. This is an impressive success for our Year 7 students. They compete against a challenging environment that includes ages from 11-16 and some GCSE groups.



We will be attending the regional finals and hope to take all of our Technology Club students. They can support our successful team and learn from the other entries to enable them to regroup and take on the challenge again next year.

In the meantime all teams are continuing with their cars; developing and testing their ideas ready to enter the challenge again in 2013-14.



Good luck to Oliver Perkins, Angelo Thavaratnarajah and Ryan Benney

Steve Hancock/Sarah James

UK MATHEMATICS TRUST - TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE 2013

The Junior Team Maths Challenge was a very tricky, yet fun maths event for teams of two Year 8 and two Year 9 pupils. There were 4 separate rounds taking most of the school day, each with their own difficulties and rules. This year it took place again at Wycliffe School (near Stroud) on Friday 15th March 2013. The STRS team was Luke Young (8T), Dan Parrott (8T), Matt Cox (9R) and myself.

We arrived early and immediately started the practise questions to get ourselves warmed up. Before the competition even started, we devised a sheet of helpful facts, including square numbers up to the 20th, cube numbers up to the 10th, all primes up to 100, the Fibonacci numbers up to 1000 (which we never ended up using) and triangle numbers up to the 20th. We also wrote down a few rules such as Pythagoras' theorem, area of a triangle and multiplication/division of fractions. This sheet gave us quick answers for many questions in the events to come.

Once all 29 schools had arrived and settled down, Mr Robson and all the other teachers found a different school to supervise. Our supervising teacher gave us our first question paper with 10 demanding questions for us to answer as a team. We had 45 minutes to complete all 10 but we flew through it and even had about 15 minutes of relaxation at the end. It felt satisfying knowing that we could do the questions so efficiently. One example question was "If I write down all the numbers from 1 to 150 how many times will the number 3 appear?" Matt and I found different ways to solve this, and we both ended up with the answer of 35. At the end of this round, we were delighted to see that we scored 60/60. There wasn't much time to celebrate though, because the crossnumber was up next.

The crossnumber was set up like a crossword, but with numbers and digits instead of words and letters. Luke and I had the down clues and Matt and Dan had the across clues. We quickly solved some questions that we could do straight away and once we had an answer, it would be shown to the other pair. Many questions would require answers to other questions, so 12 across might be "The mean of 9 down, 3 across and 5 down". Sometimes, solving one question could help solve many other questions.

We made 1 mistake in thinking that 91 was prime, so we lost one mark for that and a minor slip in calculation led to losing another two marks, but we were pleased with our fantastic score of 57/60 in that round.

After lunch, the leading school's names were read out. We were pleased to be in the top 5.

The next round consisted of 4 mini relays with 4 questions in each. Working in pairs did alternate questions, but you need the answer to the previous question to solve the one you were doing. Hence, if you couldn't get the answer to the first question, all of the answers would be wrong. This happened to us in one mini relay when one pair accidentally added 9, 4 and 1 to equal 15, but we accepted that everybody makes mistakes and kept focused. There were 3 marks for a correct answer and also an additional 3 bonus marks if you finish a mini-relay in 6 minutes, so this round was all about speed. We were quite disappointed to find out that in this round we scored only 29/60. This was the only round that we had a poor result.

The final round was a larger relay with 30 questions, again working in pairs. We got quite frustrated when we got stuck on the last question. The question was something like " $5 \times 2\# = 2 \times 6@$ what is the value of $\# + @$ ". We thought that it meant that $10\# = 12@$, but instead $\#$ and $@$ were both digits, so the result would be " $5 \times 26 = 2 \times 65$ ". We only got 2 questions wrong in this final round so we ended up with a score of 56/60, which we were also pleased with.

After adding up the scores the results were announced: Dean Close came 3rd, Cheltenham College came 2nd and Marling came out on top. We came 8th out of 29 schools and we were very pleased with this result, as it is still a very good position in our opinion. If we hadn't made a couple of mistakes in round 3 we would have been up with the leading teams. It was difficult and challenging day, yet fun all through.

Oliver Wheat (9R).

TOMMIES RUGBY SEVENS 2013

1st VII

The 1st VII went into the 7's season with real optimism after a tremendous regular season. An injury to the influential back rower Sam Underhill (which ruled him out of the 7's season and England u17 v Georgia u18 game in Coventry) did not help preparations. This was further emphasised when unavailability of certain players threatened to disrupt the team. Players must realise that School rugby must come before Club rugby and this will not be tolerated in the future! This did affect the School's performance this season and although the 1st VII reached three Cup semi-finals and a Cup final, the season must be described as inconsistent and results were ultimately below expectation as a result. In the Rugby World magazine, Tommies were regarded as favourites to win their group at the **Marches Invitational 7's** in which 32 teams enter. They lived up to expectation and defeated Barnard Castle, Christ College Brecon and Shrewsbury School. In the quarterfinals of the cup competition, they defeated Worth College (who had knocked Coleg Sir Gar, last year's winners, into the plate) and booked their place in the semi-final. However in a disappointing performance that seemed to occur in the later stages of competitions this season they lost out to RGS Worcester 17-14.

In the **Wycliffe 7's**, Tommies defeated Poznan from Poland (39-0), Wellington School, Taunton (22-19) and QEH Bristol (29-5) to reach another semi-final. This time they played Millfield School but unfortunately lost 19-0.

In the inaugural **Colston's 7's**, a slightly weakened Tommies VII drew with Bishop Wordsworth (12-12), they defeated Downside School and Kingswood Bath but unfortunately lost to a very powerful Truro School side. In the plate semi-final a very tired Tommies VII lost to Prior Park (22-17).

As reigning **Gloucestershire 7's** Champions Tommies travelled to QEH with real optimism and hope of retaining their title. They sailed through their group with ease defeating St Edward's, Mangotsfield and Cleeve comfortably. Dean Close had been having a good 7's season and it looked likely that it would be a Tommies – Dean Close final. However, in the semi-final against QEH, after starting well and going two tries up, handling errors and missed tackles allowed QEH back into the game and Tommies lost 24-12.

In the last tournament of the season, Tommies played in **the King's School Worcester 7's**. In the group stages Tommies defeated Old Swinford Hospital, Warwick, Bablake and Adam's Grammar but lost to King's

Worcester. As runners up in their group, they played Colston's in the Cup semi-final. They defeated Colston's 22-12 to reach the final and a re-match with King's under floodlights. In a superb performance Tommies were 12-7 down at half time but King's scored two more tries in the second half to make the game safe. Tommies scored an outstanding late solo try from Ollie Young in his last appearance for the School. Ollie, 7's captain Callum Wyman and all the Year 13 boys will be sadly missed next season.

THE U16 VII

The u16's defeated Wycliffe College, QEH and Marling but lost to Millfield in the group stages of the **Wycliffe College 7's**. They then defeated Prior Park in the 3rd/4th place play off to take 3rd place in the competition.

In the **Gloucestershire 7's**, they defeated Marling, Hanham Hill, Clifton College and QEH Bristol to become Gloucestershire 7's u16 Champions Dan Scholey and Callum Dean were outstanding but well done to the entire u16 squad.

THE U15 VII

The u15 VII have had a great 7's season. In the **King's Worcester 7's**, they defeated Colston's, Old Swinford Hospital, Adams Grammar in the group stages but finished as runners up because they lost to King's Worcester. In the semi-final they defeated Hereford Cathedral School to reach the final where they faced King's again. In an outstanding all round performance they defeated the home team to become King's Worcester 7's champions.

In the Solihull School 7's, they defeated Bablake Coventry, Aylesbury Grammar School, King's Macclesfield and King's Worcester. However, they lost to RGS High Wycombe, which meant they were runners up and had to play Bromsgrove School in the semi-final. The boys put in a great performance but lost narrowly. Their last tournament in Cokethorpe was cancelled due to the weather.

THE U14 VII

Due to the u14's exploits in the Gloucestershire County Cup, Mr Powell sent a weakened team to the **Dean Close 7's**. The u14's lost to Kingswood Bath and Marlborough College, they drew with RGS Worcester but lost to King's Worcester in the Plate quarter final. The Old Swinford Hospital 7's was cancelled due to the weather.

THE U13 VII

In the Bromsgrove 7's, the u13's defeated Bishop Vesey Grammar School, but lost to Cheltenham College. They defeated Adams Grammar School and Arden Solihull to reach the final where they lost again to Cheltenham

College 41-14. Dan Akiat was outstanding and earned a call up to the u14 Gloucestershire County Cup final where he was Tommies' best player.

THE U12 VII

At the Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 7's, Tommies defeated RGS Worcester and Warwick in the group stages. They then defeated Vesey's in the quarter final to reach the semi-final against King's Worcester. In a heroic performance, the game finished 21-21. Then in sudden death extra time Tommies kicked off, tackled well but never got the ball back and King's scored a try and finished victorious. Well done to the entire u12's squad. In the QEH House 7's, Southgate won the bowl, Eastgate won the Plate and Westgate and Northgate lost in the semi-final of the cup.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL RESULTS 2013

U15

V RGS Worcester L 4-1

V Crypt Grammar L 2-1

U14

V Newent L 2-1

V Crypt Grammar L 6-1

V Pate's Grammar L 5-3

U13

V Beaufort W 5-0

V RGS Worcester D 4-4

V Crypt Grammar W 5-4

R Williams

HOCKEY NEWS

The 2013 Hockey season has drawn to a close, and the Senior boys can be proud of their development, as well as their results.

In the regular season, STRS had 10 fixtures scheduled; however, the snow early in the term meant two had to be cancelled, with the record being 6 victories and 2 defeats. The defeats were against two bigger, more powerful teams in the shape of Hereford Cathedral and RGS Worcester. Something to work on next year.

What was pleasing for the coaches was the style in which the team played with, and some of the victories were reward for this. Narrow wins against Hereford Cathedral and a Dean Close team proved the team had the battling qualities required, which emphatic victories over Cokethorpe, twice, as well as Newent and Wycliffe showed the attacking quality of the team.

The squad also entered the County tournament, which was hosted by Cheltenham College. Finishing 4th from seven, was an excellent result given it was the first time the school has ever entered the annual competition. With only one player in Year 13, the season is certainly encouraging for what happens next year.

Overall a very positive and encouraging season of hockey at STRS.

N J Stewart

GLOUCESTER SCHOOLS' SWIMMING GALA

The Gala was held on Thursday 7th March at GL1. The School entered a team in each of the Yr 7 – 10 age groups.

Once again the School competed well and the boys won 30 of the 44 races and so hold on to the trophy for another year.

The successful individual swimmers were:

Event	Name	Yr Group
25 m Frontcrawl	R.Elsey	7
	S. Amini Raouf	8
	D.Lakenbrink	9
	T.Youngsmith	10
25m Backstroke	T.Lappy	8
	D.Ion	9
	A.Jones	10
	J.Hadden	10
25m Butterfly	G.Floyd	7
	J.Jollans	9
	G.Moran	10
	B.Nichols	8
50m Frontcrawl	D.Lakenbrink	9
	G.Moran	10
	J.Grey	9
	A.Jones	10
50m Breaststroke	J.Chantler	8
	J.Jollans	9
	J.Hadden	10
	M.Munden	9
50m Butterfly	W.Park	10
	A.Jones	8
	M.Munden	9
	J.Smith	10
Individual Medley	A.Jones	8
	M.Munden	9
	J.Smith	10

Thank you to all the teams for their efforts on the day.

I J Gallagher



STRS New Zealand Rugby Tour Sponsorship

53 senior rugby players are touring New Zealand this summer accompanied by five members of staff. Fundraising for the tour has been supported by a number of generous sponsors including: - AppSolutions Consulting, Seiko UK, Carter Construction, David Smith Consultants, BJ Kennels, Combustion Solutions, Ayotta Technologies and Langley Wellington Solicitors.

If you would like to become a Tour Sponsor, please contact me on 01452 338435 or by email: chrisccarter@strs.org.uk

The benefits of becoming a sponsor include having your company mentioned in various publications including the Tour Brochure and at fundraising events and having company logo on an item of kit.

Your support would be much appreciated.

Chris Carter, Deputy Headmaster

YEAR 8 PARENT'S INFORMATION EVENING

Sensitive and important life choices and consequences are discussed and explored in our dedicated PSHE lessons. We are keen to ensure that these discussions are taken home and explored within our students home environment, culture and values.

In order to encourage this dialogue we are starting the first of what we hope will become regular parent information evenings drawing on some of the specialist advisors to provide good quality advice to parents.

To this end we have arranged a parents information evening for parents of Year 8 on Tuesday 30th April in the Main Hall starting at 6.15pm and, with an interval of 15 minutes, finishing by 8.30pm

The topics covered are particularly relevant to Year 8 either because of the pupil on-line survey or just by reason of their age group. These are also subject areas explored in Year 8 PSHE.

The Alcohol Education Trust will present a talk and discussion at 6.30pm and Mr Walsey from the Gloucestershire County Council Safeguarding Children will talk about internet use and on-line grooming risks.

Letters will be sent out to Year 8 parents nearer the time but please make this a date in your diary. Whilst the invitation is for Year 8 parents we welcome parents of all years. The alcohol concern in particular is all too relevant to all age groups.

Any enquiries should be addressed to sarahjames@strs.org.uk

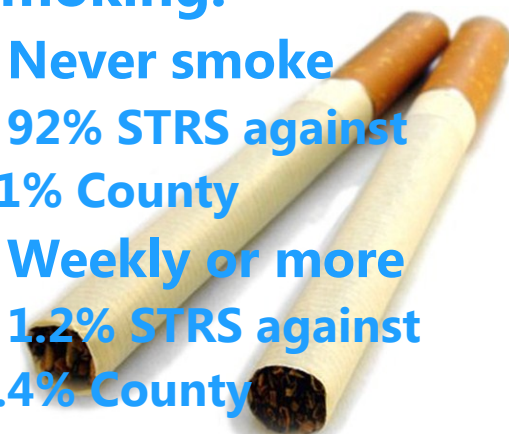
S James

Smoking:

- **Never smoke**
- **92% STRS against 81% County**
- **Weekly or more**
- **1.2% STRS against 5.4% County**

Alcohol:

- **Consumed monthly or more**
- **32% STRS against 30% County**
- **Obtained from**
- **STRS: 65% parents, 0% from shops**



MINIBUS APPEAL

Our school minibuses are nearing the end of their working lives. We are collaborating with our Parents' Association to fund the purchase of two new minibuses which cost £36,000 each. The Parents' Association has committed to funding one, I am launching an appeal to fund the other.

Our minibuses support a very wide range of students' activities, both curricular (trips for geography, biology, art, history) extra-curricular (e.g. sports teams, theatre visits, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, Year 7 residential visits). The education we offer your son or daughter would be impoverished without the use of reliable minibuses. We make no charge for the use of a minibus so the cost of trips is kept to a minimum.

I am asking you now to donate what you feel you can afford to help buy a new minibus to be used by all the young people of Sir Thomas Rich's.

If you are able to make a one-off donation to this appeal please complete a Gift Aid form and return it with your cheque to your son or daughter's Form Tutor. With Gift Aid your donation is worth 25% more from the taxman, at no extra cost to you: for every £100 donated, the school will receive £125.

Whatever your donation, however large or small, or indeed if you make a non -financial contribution, I am always thrilled to receive every gift and recognise each as a vital contribution towards your son or daughter's education.

I am very happy to talk about the appeal if you would like to know more.

Thank you for your support.



2013 DATES

SUMMER TERM

Monday 8 April

Monday 8 – Friday 12 April

Friday 3 May

Monday 27 – Friday 31 May

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

Term starts, 8.40 a.m.

Trial A2 examinations (Year 13)

Choral Concert, 7.30 pm

Half-term holidays

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 – Thursday 15 August

GCSE results – Thursday 22 August

2013/14

Mon 2 and Tues 3 September

Wednesday 4 September

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

Friday 6 December

Friday 20 December

Monday 6 January

Monday 17 – Friday 21 February

Monday 3 March

Friday 28 March

Tuesday 22 April

Monday 5 May

Monday 26 to Friday 30 May

Friday 27 June

Tuesday 22 July

In-Service Days

Start of term

Half Term Holidays

In-Service Day

Last day of term

First day of term

Half Term Holidays

In-Service Day

Last day of term

First day of term

May Day Bank Holiday

Half-term holidays

In-Service Day

Last day of term

The PA Needs You!

The Parents' Association has always been extremely well supported by the parent body here at Rich's and not only contributes a significant sum of money to School funds year on year, but also provides refreshments at an increasing number of School events. Each year, of course, the Association loses a number of parents as their sons move on to other sixth forms, university or employment, so it's important to recruit new members on a regular basis.

If you would like to join the PA and help to maintain the invaluable service that it provides, please either contact me at school on **01452 338435** or by email: **chriscarter@strs.org.uk**

Please indicate in your email which part of the PA you would like to join either:

- 1] The Fund raising section or
- 2] The Refreshments team

Chris Carter