

# Sir Thomas Rich's Newsletter

Issue 6

May 2013

## Lakeside 2013





The Newsletter has been emailed to all parents whose email address we have. If you have not received this email please let us know. We intend to improve our communication with parents through use of emails so it is important that we have as many addresses as possible.

<b>HEAD'S News</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Cooking Challenge</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Duke of Edinburgh</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Technoloby Club</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Green Team Update</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Y 8 Parent's Information Evening</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Lakeside</b>	<b>16 - 17</b>
<b>Young Enterprise</b>	<b>18 - 19</b>
<b>Y11 Alton Towers</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Chess</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>FAREWELL Y13</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>RACE NIGHT &amp; AUCTION</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>New Zealand Rugby Tour Sponsorship</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Minibus Appeal</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>CAR BOOT SALE</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>The PA Needs You</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT NEWS</b>	
<b>Library News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Junior Maths Challenge</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Music News</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>English News</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>D&amp;T News</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>MFL News</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SPORTS NEWS</b>	<b>23-27</b>
<b>CALENDAR</b>	<b>32</b>



## CHARITY

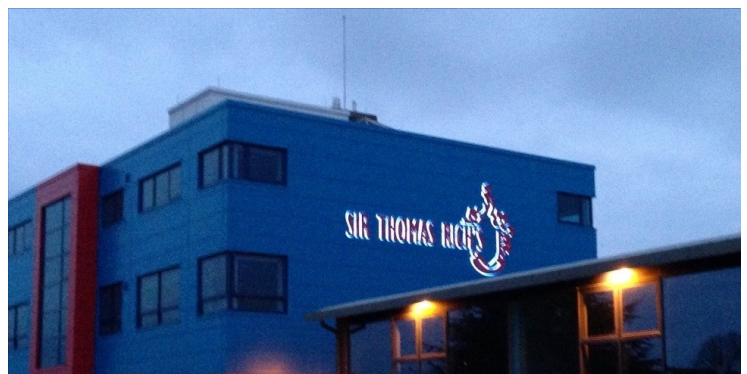
We were delighted to welcome Dr Jennifer Holman from the Scoo-B-Doo neonatal unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to a school assembly on 22 April. Scoo-B-Doo was our school charity last term. Angelo Thavaratnarajah (7R) presented a cheque for £1,000 to Dr Holman who then described the work of the neonatal unit in supporting babies who need additional care. Dr Holman explained that around 10% of babies require help in the unit and she described some of the ways in which the Scoo-B-Doo charity helps them to ensure they have the best possible equipment.



## BUILDINGS

Despite an extremely tight deadline and delays in asbestos removal and the supply of windows, our builders managed to complete the replacement of our single-glazed windows and cladding by Easter. They will soon return to replace our skylights to ensure we are warm and watertight.

But our development will not stop there. We were delighted to learn last month that we have been awarded £2,320,887 for a new Sixth Form Centre. The grant will come from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund (which is administered by the Education Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education). We have secured over £4million from this fund since converting to Academy status in October 2010.



The money must be spent by the end of March 2014. Because of this constraint our bid was for a modular two-storey construction. The Sixth Form Centre will have a large library/learning resource centre at its heart plus common rooms for Years 12 and 13, offices, toilets, a Drama Studio and a café. Construction will be completed from October half-term 2013 to end-March 2014.

The current library will be converted to a large Private Study room with computer access and the current Sixth Form Private Study room will be converted to a third Computer Room.

The Sixth Form Centre will ensure appropriate accommodation for our Sixth Form which has grown to just under 170 students in each Year. We have been trying to secure funding for a new Sixth Form Centre for some years, meanwhile we have coped as well as we can with internal adaptations but it is great news that, at last, our Sixth Formers will have plenty of space in which to pursue independent study and, when tired from all their hard work, to relax in comfort.

## CANTEEN

We shall be changing our canteen arrangements this summer. After six years of using Alliance in Partnership to run our provision, we shall provide in-house catering from September. We shall retain our present staff but our Catering Manager, Mrs Stone, will be in charge of ordering food, deciding what to offer and pricing. We feel that we shall be able to respond much better to pupil demand: we shall continue to provide healthy food only but the aim is to get more children buying meals in school, hence we should be able to provide greater choice and better value. We'll never be able to compete with supermarkets on price but we are confident that we can achieve greater pupil and parent satisfaction.

I Kellie



## PARENTS' SURVEY

Thank you to parents who completed our recent survey. There was a 56% response rate. Overall parents judged the School's performance to be excellent (92%). 20% thought the School has improved over the last year while 2% thought it had got worse. 4% of parents of new pupils felt the school had not lived up to their expectations while 41% said it is better than they had expected.

All academic subjects are rated as Good (10 subjects) or Excellent (14). Parents are most happy with Economics, Psychology and Science, least happy with Drama, Design and Food Technology. Scores are significantly higher than in the last survey, three years ago, in R.S., Music and English; the score has fallen in Geography.

All non-academic areas are rated as Good (2) or Excellent (18). Parents are most happy with Levels of Homework, Control of Bullying and School Discipline. Parents are least happy with School Facilities, Computer Access and PSHE. Parents' top priority for improvement is Careers Advice. There were significantly higher scores than in the last report in 2010 for Control of Bullying, Truancy Control and Extra-Curricular Activities; a significantly lower score was given to School Facilities.

I am grateful to all parents who took the trouble to complete the survey. It is extremely useful to us, we shall continue to strive to address all areas which parents would like to see improved.

## RUGBY AWARDS

Amongst presentations in a recent assembly were two of rare significance. Oliver Young, our First XV Captain, was presented with a cap to recognise 50 appearances for the School Firsts. In fact Oliver has played 55 times for the School First Team (18 this season, 21 last season and 16 when he was in Year 11 in 2010/11). Oliver is also the School's highest points scorer (238 points) and has scored most tries (30). Oliver led the School team through one of their best ever seasons in which they only lost one game and achieved victories against many of the top rugby schools.

In the same assembly, Sam Underhill was presented with his England shirt. Sam played for England U16s last year against Italy and Wales, and this year Sam was given the honour of being chosen as Captain of the England U17 team in their match against France in Lyon.



## DEFIBRILLATOR

Following a number of tragic cases nationally and locally, where apparently fit youngsters have suffered cardiac arrests while playing sport, we have purchased a defibrillator. This will be sited in our sports area. Twelve of our staff have had training in its use.

## EX-STUDENT

Congratulations to Abigail Ackerman (STRS 2008-2010) who has won through to the final of the Rolls-Royce Female Undergraduate of the Year Award. Out of hundreds of applications, 10 students have been selected by the firm as the best female engineering talent to go forward to the final.

Abigail Ackerman is studying Physics with Planetary Science at the University of Leicester. She will attend a gala dinner and awards ceremony in London where the winner will be announced by Sir Trevor McDonald. The prize is a 10-week paid summer internship including time at a European facility, an opportunity to shadow a senior female manager and an iPad.

I Kellie



## BLUECOAT BEST BOOK

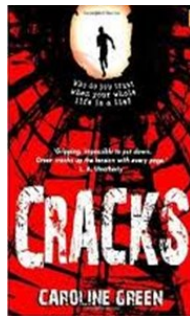
### Who Are We?

Every week we read new release books aimed at teens and we discuss them. Ultimately, we aim to select a book to win the Bluecoat Best Book Award.

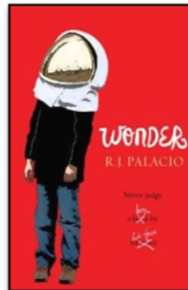
But we now need your help to promote these books to another level...

### THE BOOKS

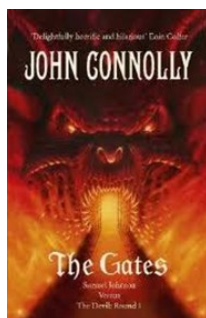
**Cracks** is a gripping sci-fi thriller with an original plot about a child named Callum Conway who finds his world is not as it seems. It is filled with clever plot twists and exciting action scenes. One thing the author does well is handling the emotional elements of the story without falling into the trap of becoming soppy, clichéd or sentimental. In summary, this book is a must-read!



**Wonder** is a very emotional and yet, like *Cracks*, not sentimental book delving into the life of a 10 year old who has a deformed face. This fascinating story is about his first year in school and how he faces common obstacles such as bullying and school work, which are obviously made far worse by his condition. *Wonder* is a thought-provoking and inspirational read telling you that no matter what, anything is possible.

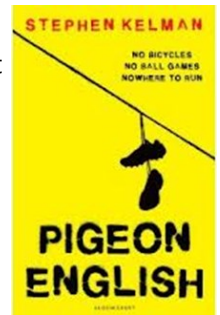


**The Gates** is a fantasy novel set in a village called Biddlecombe. The main character, Samuel, is a strange child so when he tells his mother that their neighbours have been replaced by demons from hell, she doesn't believe him. I found that the book mixes humour, horror and action successfully, and is a quick read as you won't want to put it down.



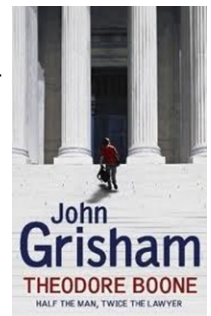
**Pigeon English** is a novel about a child called Harri Opoku. The main plot is that of a murder mystery story – however, I think the real appeal of the book is the window it gives into Harri's world when someone he knows is stabbed to death. This book explores the impact of that death in his community.

Not everyone who read this book liked it as much as I did, calling it confusing and inappropriate. However, I thought it was moving and cleverly told, with an ending that, once you reach it, is very powerful in its own way.



**Theodore Boone** is a thrilling story about a young boy wanting to become a lawyer. Like *Pigeon English*, it is a murder mystery, and yet it is told in a completely different way – by an author who, in contrast to the former's first-time writer, is very famous for writing this type of story.

The mystery itself is focused upon in this novel – and rightly so, for it is very cleverly constructed. Will you be able to guess 'whodunnit'?



**The Lunatic's Curse** is a fantasy set in mediaeval times. A teen has a normal life with his father and evil step-mother. All that changes, though, when his father appears to go insane. The boy suspects his step-mother, and begins to investigate the mystery of the town. This leads to a story full of secrets which gradually reveal themselves to create an unpredictable plot.



We hope we have encouraged you to read these new books. We now request you to borrow them from the library and vote for your favourite. This will help us decide the winner of the Bluecoat Best Book Award. Sepehr Amini Raouf, Oliver Fewell, Tom Fisher, Anujan Ganeshalingam, Craig Jones, Harith Kriel, Tomas Lappy, Louis Meesmaecker, and Faizaan Pervaiz (Year 8)







## FRENCH EXCHANGE 2013

During the last week of the Spring term we played host to the students and teachers from our partner school in France, the Lycée Jules Supervielle in Oloron Sainte Marie, near Pau. The programme for their visit included a reception with the mayor of Gloucester followed by a town trail and guided tour of the cathedral, day trips to Oxford and Stratford upon Avon and a skittles evening where exchange students and host families were able to socialise in a more relaxed and convivial manner. The French students were also given a taste of life at Tommies as they attended lessons with their English partners. This first experience of the English school system and in particular of the traditions and customs of STRS made a strong impression on our visitors and is one that will remain with them for a long time.

In total, twenty five of our Year 10, 12 and 13 students were involved in hosting our visitors from Oloron. My thanks go to them and their families for the hospitality and support which ensured another successful and rewarding French exchange. The emotional farewells that took place as the French students boarded their coach (in something resembling a blizzard!) for the return journey certainly seemed to suggest that the aims of the exchange had been achieved in terms of communication and of bringing young people from different countries closer together.

A J Gregory





### YEAR 8 COOKING CHALLENGE - EASTER 2013

Tom Rees (8B) winner of the Year 8 cooking challenge in which boys, working in pairs, had to prepare and cook a 2 course meal for 2 persons, all ingredients costing less than £4. With his partner incapacitated on their allotted cooking day, Tom set to by himself and put before the judges a sumptuously flavoured mackerel pate with horseradish cream, followed by a delicious pizza. Well done Tom!

There were delightful and tasty offerings from all the other boys involved, showing that the art of creative and skilful cooking is flourishing at Tommies!

P Brown



## JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE RESULTS

Back at the end of April the whole of Year 7 and Year 8 sat the Junior Maths Challenge. It sees them tackle 25 questions which increase in difficulty. There are not the usual types of questions the boys face in lessons, but quite often some abstract thinking is required to help get the correct solution. Here are some examples from this year's challenge:

*Gill went for a five-hour walk. Her average speed was between 3 km/h and 4 km/h. Which of the following could be the distance she walked?*

A 12km B 14km C 19km D 24km E 35km

*Ulysses, Kim, Mei and Tanika have their 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> birthdays today. In what year will their ages first total 100?*

We were delighted to receive the results back to see how well the boys completed the paper, with approximately 70% of them gaining a gold, silver or bronze certificate. This is a great achievement and the school is pleased to see a big increase in the amount of certificates awarded from last year.

Special mention must go to Adam Schonbeck (8T) and Fergus Jackson (7S) who finished top in their year groups. Not only did they do well enough for this accolade, but they scored so highly that they now go through to the Junior Maths Olympiad, which sees them take on the top 1200 pupils across the British Isles. A fantastic achievement.

N Stewart





## STRING GROUP VICTORIOUS AT THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

On the 9th of May, Samuel Hau (violin I), Benoit Andre (violin II), Santos Hau (viola) and Samuel King (cello) competed in the Cheltenham Festival. After arriving early in the morning they took to the stage in the Bethesda Church, Cheltenham. They impressed Ian Smith, the adjudicator, with their interpretation of the Dvorak 'American' quartet, 1st Movement. He congratulated the quartet on their balance, intonation, contrasts of tempo and sense of ensemble. The boys were frustrated to have no opposition. However, they received well-deserved outstanding 90/100 marks. They returned to school with the trophy for the third year in a row.



## CHAMBER CHOIR DEBUT AT THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The Chamber Choir competed in the School Choir- Girls, Boys of Mixed 19 years and under class at the Cheltenham Festival for the first time this year.

Toby Churchley and Ellie Todd work hard to prepare the Chamber Choir and Samuel King displayed mature musicianship with his conducting. The Chamber Choir performed Locus Iste- Bruckner and the traditional 'Shenandoh'.

The adjudicator, Val Whitlock was impressed with the SATB sound from such a small group. She acknowledged the lovely voices in all four sections. She awarded the Chamber Choir a well-deserved Honours and concluded by saying 'you have great potential, I applaud your performance'.



## JAZZ BAND PERFORM AT THE CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL

The school jazz band performed in the Cheltenham Jazz Festival on May 5 on the free stage. Spurred on by the wonderful weather and support from families, friends and teachers, the band gave a variety of excellent performance pieces: 'Can't buy me love', 'The girl from Ipanema', 'Aint Misbehavin', 'It don't mean a thing', 'Take the A Train' and 'Hit the Road Jack'. Louis Horrell, Charlie Powell, Dominic Trott, Charlie Ros, Edmund Jones, George Schreuder and Rishi Mouland all performed excellent solos.

P Jones





On a rainy Friday morning on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, Years 8 and 9 were visited by award-winning American writer Michael Grant, in an event organised by the Cheltenham Literature Festival. The author of over 150 books, Grant is most famous for *Animorphs*, a long-running line of books that he co-created with his wife Katherine Applegate, and the popular *Gone* series. Set in a small Californian town that is suddenly isolated from everyone over the age of 15 by a colossal dome, the six instalments of *Gone* have sold millions of copies worldwide and adorn the bookshelves of teenagers everywhere. Although Michael is these days best known for *Gone*, he has an impressive library of published works, including a new trilogy called *BZRK* that follows a secret war between two organisations that is fought in an entirely unique way; by nanobots.

The first thing that immediately came across from Michael's talk was that he doesn't take himself too seriously. Against A list celebrities, Michael says he doesn't come close, placing himself in the D list with Wallace from Wallace and Gromit (apparently, the lesser star of the two). And as he made very clear, he's no role model either (he spent years when he was younger working dead-end jobs, waiting and wiping tables in restaurants). Growing up, he had a pretty fast-paced childhood, moving from school to school all over the US, and even travelling further afield to places like France and the Azores. After a couple of years drifting around in his 20s, Michael met his wife Katherine and really kick-started his career as a writer. Together, the two of them wrote a number of books before eventually starting on *Animorphs*, a sci-fi series about average teenagers who have the power to transform into animals. The books were hugely successful, developing into a saga of over 50 books and even a TV series. *Gone* and sequels *Hunger*, *Lies*, *Plague*, *Fear* and the recently published *Light* have also been massively successful; Stephen King, an author that Michael told us he greatly admires, is proudly displayed on the back of each instalment with the simple quote "I love these books."







Michael's talk lasted two hours, and was full of really interesting background on his books and some great stories about how he eventually found his calling as a writer. As well as some of his already-published projects, we also heard about some of his upcoming ones, from the next instalments in the *BZRK* trilogy to a new horror thriller series. Afterwards, we got the chance to fire some questions at him (fact: brains are actually pink, not grey, and the Mercedes-Benz S Class is the official car of evil Hollywood producers), as well as a chance to get copies of his books signed. Michael's brilliant sense of humour and often hilariously funny insight into what it's like to be a writer really cheered up an otherwise damp Friday morning, and gave us an idea of what makes a story really gripping. As he put it himself:

"There is no method to writing fiction. You're telling a story. Did the people who read your story understand it? Did they keep reading it all the way to the end? Were they interested by the characters and the plot? If the answer is "yes," then you did it right."

Finlay Field 9B





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPERIENCES OF BRAM TING BRAM

At the end of April this year around 60 Year 10 boys and four Year 12 girls embarked on a 20 mile walk from Stow-on-the-Wold to Folly Farm and back, carrying heavy packs and camping overnight, as their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition. In lieu of a lost compass our group, Bram ting Bram (no I didn't come up with the name) now presents to you a variety of brief chronicles of our experience:

The expedition was a strange experience for me. We walked a short distance but it seemed to take a lot out of me. On the first day we arrived in the Stow on the Wold car park all feeling groggy from the early awakening. We soon set off and it was clear map reading wasn't that easy; before the end of the day each person got us lost but I was the first to do so, when I led the group down an alleyway onto private property. We continued on our way out of the town and onto what I hoped was the right way. I had the shortest leg and soon handed over the map and precious compass (which we lost at the end of the day). The day went on with us continually walking then stopping and walking again. We had a few minor problems such as the time we had a stare off with a bull or marched through mud for no apparent reason. We had lunch in the sun next to some huge manor and a stream. We had a lengthy discussion on houses and whether they, much like a fine wine, bettered themselves with age and continued on our walk. Irritatingly we ended the first day getting very lost at one point at the end just four hundred metres from the camp. We made it though and set up shop at the top of the field. We put up the tent with ease (cheers Mrs Jones) and I started cooking. I, being incredibly stubborn, refused to eat pasta and had brought hot dogs for myself. I soon cooked them and even gave some to my group who had suddenly turned to my idea after they failed to cook their pasta and sausages and spilled their sauce right outside the tent. After a while we went to bed and soon to sleep. The night was the coldest experience of my life. I was like a camel in a fridge in Antarctica. After a sleepless night we woke, had some breakfast and left the campsite. The next day was slower and less planned now we were without Mr Holmes, our chaperone, and our compass. We marched on through the warm, the dry, the cold and damp weather walking at a brisk but not very manly pace. This day was less eventful but we did manage to get lost around Burton on the Water and Dan accidentally showed us around a church but we soon made it to Stow-on-the-Wold again. We were safe, tired, alive and happy it was over. This only lasted until we realised we had school tomorrow and life was awful again. Overall though it was 'alright' to sum it up in a word.





Duke of Edinburgh enclosed a mixture of emotions, we went from feeling like we were able to do anything to feeling like we weren't going to go anywhere. On the first day, we made steady progress, stopping regularly to have a sandwich and a drink. However when our teacher, Mr Holmes, left us things turned for the worst, in short: we got lost... repeatedly. However, with some good team work and a little bit of luck we managed to reach camp without too much trouble. Food was the main problem at the camp, we all conceded that Hamish's idea of hot dogs was the best, however only after we had tried to cook our sausage and pasta. On the second day we started off slowly; however, as the day progressed we built up speed and started to really enjoy ourselves. We had a little blip for 30 minutes, however we managed to make up time, even with a lunch break near a stream, we managed to come home 4th out of all the groups, not that it was in anyway a competition. We all then went home for a well deserved break, after all this was a practice, we have the real thing soon!

My Duke of Edinburgh experience taught me to be independent and to cope for myself over the weekend. The main thing I had to do that was new for me was to cook. I cooked two meals over the weekend: at these were dinner and breakfast. Dinner consisted of pasta, sausages and sauce but it did not all go to plan. This has taught me what I need to adapt and improve for the proper weekend. I learnt to use a compass and a map to navigate myself, and my group, across fields, footpaths and roads. This was a rewarding experience especially when we finally arrived at our destination: Folly Farm campsite. After we had arrived the first task was to put up the tents, this was an interesting experience that I had not done much before but I was satisfied with a good night's sleep despite the cold conditions outside.

I must admit I rather underestimated the expedition. In my mind it would be a short walk, easy for someone who kept themselves at a reasonable level of fitness, and an easy way to win some UCAS points. How wrong was I. At times we found ourselves miles from where we had thought we were, our sausage failed to cook on the weedy flames and we spilt our sauce right outside the tent. Despite this, an awkward stare down with a bull and pointless trails through mud I found I quite enjoyed the experience. No, it wasn't easy, but I feel we really grew together as a team and overcame most of what we came up against. Let's hope it goes a little smoother next time.

Bram ting Bram: Samuel Brown, Samuel James, Daniel Major, Joseph Okeke, Hamish Proudlock & Robert Webster





## SUMMER TERM IN D+T

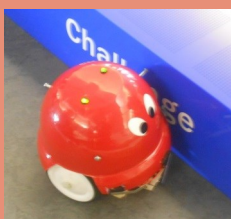
All the examination students have now completed their Design and Technology coursework. The folders and practical work have been marked and the necessary assessment details sent to the relevant examination boards, where the work will now be moderated. We wish the students well with their revision and preparation for the final written exams and we look forward to the students receiving the grades their efforts deserve this summer.



## TECHNOLOGY CLUB

### PICAXE CAR REGIONAL FINALS

On the Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at breaktime we left for Bristol hoping we'd get our car working. When we arrived we went upstairs into the room where the competition was being held. The solar car competition was just coming to an end. Once they'd finished and packed away we were shown to our table where we could leave all our stuff when we were doing our presentation. After we'd dropped all our stuff off we were given a timetable telling us where we had to be at different times.



We were first out of four groups to do our practice run. For the practice run we had ten minutes to do whatever we wanted to do on the course but our aim was to get the car working. Unfortunately after the ten minutes we didn't manage to get the car working. Next we had our presentation. It went well and one of the judges found out what was wrong with the car. They found out we were using the wrong kind of batteries and refitted the old ones with new, more powerful batteries.

When we came to have our go at the competition, we were told we had three attempts and ten minutes to either finish in the quickest possible time or get the furthest. When we started our attempt we realised there was one problem with the new batteries. If our car hit something, we programmed it to move back and then turn for a certain amount of seconds. The new batteries sped this all up so if we told it to turn for three seconds, then instead of turning 90° it would turn 360° a couple of times so unfortunately we only got 80cm and came fourth but we were glad to get our car working. We also got a certificate and a £10 gift voucher so it was definitely worth going.

Oliver Perkins

These three Year 7 students were competing against Year 10 GCSE Systems and Control students. They were supported and helped to get their car to work not only by the judges but also by the other teams. This was not because they were not serious competition but because they were all so impressed by these three articulate and competent young men and their car.

Next year we plan to allow the two Year 8 teams for Picaxe and Solar team to be our two entries and the two current Year 7 teams are working on their entries. Meanwhile Tech Club will invite Year 7 students next year to form groups that will practise and hold in house competitions to select a winning team to take forward into Year 8.

Our success so far should also enable the students to be more successful in seeking sponsorship. Teachers and parents beware!



S Hancock & S James



## GREEN TEAM UPDATE

The STRS Green Team has been working hard to make the school a more eco-friendly place, with the introduction of a new pen recycling scheme that should make sure all of our empty pens are not wasted. When recycled, the pens are broken down into their raw materials and then recycled. We currently have 2kg of pens, but we need a further 3kg of pens to enable us to reach our target and get some money for the school and PMM Uganda school.



After the half term, we are also proposing to have an empty car park day where we would like as many students and staff to either walk or take a lift share to school. Anybody who does park on this day would be asked to pay £1 to park their car. The charge would be per car so car sharing would reduce individual costs. Money raised would be split between PMM school and the Green team budget.



The intention is to raise awareness of the numbers of us that use single car transport but also to encourage alternative, more Eco-friendly, travel to school.

Perhaps next year we could have an Empty Car Park week!

Ryan Birch

## YEAR EIGHT PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

We held the first Parents Information evening at the end of April aiming to provide information and support to Year 8 parents regarding subject areas covered in the students' PSHE topics.

We were particularly concerned to address the subject of alcohol because this was an area that data from Gloucestershire on-line pupil survey indicated was of some concern. This must be seen in context: the vast majority of 13 year olds do not drink alcohol but a significant minority do.

We are also aware that students in the 13-15 year range are particularly vulnerable to internet and other forms of grooming. Year 8 students attended a workshop and play, Chelsea's Choice, earlier this year to highlight and discuss issues around grooming. Parents may have learnt that Oxford County Council is using this workshop in their schools as part of their action to prevent grooming and abuse in response to the latest prosecution of a gang of abusers.

The Parents Information evening also addressed concerns about teenage on-line activity and grooming. David Wasley is not only a member of the Gloucestershire Safe Guarding Children but has experience in this field as a policeman and is also able to draw on and apply his experience as a parent.

The evening was well attended and the interval, supported by the PTA with refreshments, provided a good opportunity for parents to exchange experiences and to discuss this with the experts present.

We hope to hold further "Parent Information Evenings" and have a number of areas that our data suggests would be beneficial. However, we would welcome suggestions from parents on any areas they believe would be useful and address any concerns.

Please contact me on [sarahjames@strs.org.uk](mailto:sarahjames@strs.org.uk)

S James



"No, it isn't a 'buy one get one free offer'.  
You're just seeing double!"



## THE LAKESIDE MOUNTAINS

The mountains like a swan.  
Many sightseers' hearts she has won.  
And if you see her, you will become a believer.  
When you see her elegance and charm.  
She will grip you in suspense and alarm.  
Her white veiled top.  
Her lovely secrets under lock.  
How amazing she is.  
However it is all his.  
Because she belongs to old man Coniston

James Bishop 7S









## YOUNG ENTERPRISE REFLECTION OVERVIEW



Our Young Enterprise experience began at the start of Year 13. Our very first meeting began with the discussion of what we wanted to achieve from the experience as both individuals and a company. From here we built the foundations of our business during one hour sessions, once a week, as an alternative to Games.

Therefore, every meeting saw us working quickly, as a team, to get our business into a position in which we had a product which could be sold to the public.

Within the first few weeks we had established a product, Windowsill Herb Gardens and a company name, Windowsill Dressing. Therefore, the next challenge we faced was to generate start up capital through numerous fund raising events such as cake sales and school discos to enable us to order materials and manufacture our first product. After doing so we could begin sales, promoting to teachers and parents in particular to target the Christmas market and generate our first sales.

Over Christmas and the beginning of 2013 we took part in numerous selling opportunities including a pitch at Regents Arcade Cheltenham. Furthermore, we attended several business meetings with associates from the Young Enterprise board over the course of the New Year in which we not only learnt about the key aspects to running a business but how to do it successfully too. As a result, all members of our team found this unique insight into the Business world, whilst we continued to study for A levels, a once in a life time opportunity.





young  
enterprise  
start something



Overall, our team has found the experience to be of great use, especially to those of us who are looking to study Business at University and found the level of experience Young Enterprise provided useful in the development of our personal statements.

We faced many obstacles along the way, yet we learnt from them nonetheless, and our experiences as a team have no doubt developed our skills in effective communication, team work and business ethics. We definitely found Young Enterprise both enjoyable and eye-opening.

Jemma Louise



## YEAR 11 ALTON TOWERS TRIP 2013

After two years of hard work, the first day of study leave found many of our Y11 students enjoying a School trip to Alton Towers. This annual trip organised by Mr Gallagher provides a welcome opportunity for the boys to relax a bit and catch their breath before plunging back into the serious business of revising for the GCSE examinations.

We were lucky to have excellent weather and short queues, with many of our lads enjoying each ride more than once. The most talked about ride was Air although the older rides were clearly still favourite for some! As a Year 11 form tutor, it was good to be able to relax with the boys, and to wish them a final "good luck" for their studies.

P Johnson







## CHESS

### NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The school team was successful in rounds 1 and 2 of this year's competition, where we thrashed a couple of the local private schools. We then came up against Magdalen College School, Oxford and lost a close match. Results were:

v Hereford Cathedral School	won	6 – 0
v Monmouth School	won	6 – 0
v Magdalen College School	lost	3½ – 2½

### NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE (ADULT) CHESS LEAGUE, DIVISION 3

Some excellent chess was played by both the more experienced players and by those playing their first competitive games. Results were generally encouraging, with many closely fought matches. The school team were always amongst the leaders in the league, and concluded the season in 3rd place. The divisional winners were Wotton Hall.

League results:                      Played 12      Won 6                      Drew 2                      Lost 4

Michael Ashworth (9B) played on board 1 for the school, winning 9 games and only losing once all season. Ed Burgess (13H) also scored 9 wins on board 2. Robert Ashworth (7B) played in all the school matches on board 3, and won 6 games. William Sullivan (10B) made great progress this year, and won 7 of his 11 games. George Dickinson (11R), Sam King (11R) and Adam Schonbeck (8T) all managed to win at least once. Thanks to Mr Swann for playing in a number of matches.

### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Michael Ashworth is part of the England U14 squad, following his successes with England U13s last summer. He has also played in the Gloucestershire County adult team.

Robert Ashworth (7B) has been selected in the England U12 squad.

Congratulations go to Mr J Stewart (Science Lab Technician) who plays on board 1 for Gloucester Chess Club, winners of the NGCL Division 1. Thanks for his help in coaching the team this season.

My thanks go to Ed Burgess for captaining the school team this year. He will, no doubt, find the chess more challenging at Cambridge University next year.

I Robson



## FAREWELL YEAR 13

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the current Year 13 students celebrated their last day in school before study leave. As in recent years, the day was marked by a series of events designed to allow the students to enjoy some communal activities, as well as keeping them away from the rest of the pupils who were having a normal school day!

The morning began with a 'Form Breakfast', including a wealth of croissants, pains au chocolat, fruit and cakes, as well as eliciting the smell of fresh coffee and cooking bacon from a number of the form rooms. This was followed by a Rounders competition on the school field that proved to be extremely competitive, despite the cumbersome fancy dress outfits worn by many and the self-imposed handcuffs adorning the wrists of the 'penitentiary inmates'. We were all grateful that the weather stayed dry despite some threatening grey clouds.

After break, everyone congregated in the Sports Hall, where some informal certificates were awarded by Mr. Seales and Mr. Lockey, to commemorate specific events or memorable qualities displayed by individuals over the previous two years. This was followed by a series of musical performances from a number of groups, displaying a breadth of styles, including some thrash metal accompanied by impromptu moshing, witnessed by the Head from a safe distance! This session ended with a surprise presentation for Mr. Lockey, as Mrs. Cormack-Hicks had put together a Powerpoint of old photographs and video clips from past students to commemorate his imminent retirement. This was followed by a short film, put together by Polly Newcombe and Ines Green from 13S, with further messages of farewell from current staff and students. It was a touching tribute and much appreciated by the target of the show, even the embarrassing photographs!

The students then convened in the Common Room and Sixth Form garden for the traditional shirt-signing ceremony, which seemed to take even longer than usual. It proved rather emotional for some, who were quite overcome with the poignant atmosphere, but I am sure they recovered quickly and will soon be able to look back on their time at Rich's with fondness and pride.

I wish each member of the Year group every success in the forthcoming A Level examinations, with a timely reminder to work hard in the next few weeks, so we can meet in August on results day and celebrate another fantastic year of high achievement.

Bon Voyage.

R J Lockey





## STRS CRICKET 2013 REPORT

### SENIOR CRICKET

The 1st XI have struggled so far this year, with a lack of patience with the bat leading to too many soft dismissals.

V Crypt – lost

V Pate's – lost

V Wycliffe – lost

V QEH – lost

V Beaufort – match abandoned.

### JUNIOR CRICKET

#### U15

The u15 A's have made a good start in the County Cup by defeating Wyedean away and winning two other friendlies. Rain stopped an excellent performance against Cheltenham College.

#### A TEAM

V Wycliffe College – won

V QEH – cancelled

V Wyedean - won

V Cheltenham College – abandoned

#### B TEAM

V Churchdown A – won

A Beaufort A - lost

#### U14

The u14s also started their County Cup run with a win against Tewkesbury, although it was a poor performance. The B team has also recorded two wins out of their three games so far.

#### A TEAM

V Newent - won

V KES Stratford – won

V Wycliffe – lost

V Tewkesbury - won

V QEH – lost

V Cheltenham College – match abandoned

V Crypt – match abandoned

#### B TEAM

V Churchdown 'A' – lost

KES Stratford - won

V Beaufort School 'A' - won

#### U13

The u13s have been a little inconsistent with the bat so far this year but their bowling and fielding has been a real strength.

#### A TEAM

V St Edward's School Cheltenham - Won

V Newent - won

V Dean Close – lost

V The King's School, Gloucester – lost

V QEH – won

V St John's on the Hill – match abandoned

#### B TEAM

V Churchdown A – won

V Dean Close – lost

V Beaufort – won

V QEH - tied

#### U12

The u12s have made an excellent start to the year. They have lost a couple of games but with over 40 boys regularly training, they will only improve.

#### A TEAM

V St Edward's Cheltenham – cancelled

V Newent – won

V KES Stratford - lost

V Tewkesbury School – won

V Beaufort - won

V QEH – lost

V Severn Vale - won

#### B TEAM

V QEH – won

V KES Stratford - postponed

In total, so far this term the School has played a total of 40 games of cricket

I would like to thank all the staff that have helped with School cricket so far this year. I am enormously grateful for all your hard work with nets, fielding sessions and umpiring games on Saturdays. I am sure all the boys appreciate the time and effort you spend for their benefit. I would also like to thank the parents from the School PA for all their help with some fantastic cricket teas.

Thank you all very much!

R G Williams





## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BASKETBALL COUNTY CUP

### STRS vs Wycliffe- 40 -56 L

#### FIRST QUARTER

Rich's were slow to start the offensive but managed to keep track with baskets being scored by Wycliffe. Unfortunately, the sluggish approach to the opening minutes allowed Wycliffe to develop a lead to leave the quarter **20- 11 to Wycliffe**.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Rich's work rate slowed in the second quarter and Wycliffe were able to capitalise and extend their lead. Baskets scored by Ollie Goldsmith managed to lessen the gap but Wycliffe were up **33-17 at half time**

#### THIRD QUARTER

Rich's started the second half very well and were scoring points regularly to keep up with the strong Wycliffe squad. No two baskets were scored by the same player and Rich's scored 11 points to bring the score to **50-28 to Wycliffe** at the end of the third

#### FOURTH QUARTER

The team ploughed on until the end and fought valiantly to try to get close to the now extensive Wycliffe score line. The team defended better only allowing three baskets to be scored to our six. However it was too little, too late and Rich's finished the game **56-40 to Wycliffe** and end the game.

**MVP AWARD- Oliver Goldsmith, Highest Score**

### STRS vs Cirencester College- 30 -70 L

#### FIRST QUARTER

Excellent start to the game, with Tommies making a good dent on the scoreboard. Rich's did well to keep track with the opposition. Skill in from the three-point line was all that separated the teams, leaving the quarter **- 15-10 to Cirencester**.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Rich's did not function effectively in the second quarter and were on the back foot within the first minutes of play. The quarter was dominated by Cirencester, who were essentially scoring at will. With the Rich's defence being constantly pressed, Cirencester cranked up the score. The half-finished **29-10 to Cirencester**

#### THIRD QUARTER

Rich's best quarter of play saw five scores and an admirable fight against a stronger Cirencester squad. Had Rich's been able to contain the Cirencester guard, momentum may have shifted. We battled hard, but Cirencester continued their relentless assault on the key. Quarter finished **45-20 to Cirencester**

#### FOURTH QUARTER

By now, the Rich's defence was starting to flag, and it was clear we were facing a better-conditioned team. Cirencester continued to score regularly, but we did not give up. The game ended **70-30 to Cirencester**, with Tommie's working hard to save some dignity.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BASKETBALL COUNTY CUP

### STRS vs Marling- 20-25-L

#### FIRST QUARTER

Excellent start to the game, with the first basket coming inside of the first few seconds of play. Rich's lost momentum and scored in the ninth minute of the quarter to bring the score to **8-4 to Marling**.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Rich's exploded into the second quarter with three quick scores including a 3pt effort from Ollie Goldsmith, all within the first 3 minutes of play. The second half of the quarter was dominated by Marling who scored regularly to end the quarter **17-11 to Marling**.

#### THIRD QUARTER

Rich's best quarter of play saw 5 scores within the first 6 minutes of the second half. Had Rich's been able to contain the Marling offence, as momentum shifted we may have taken the lead. Strong and consistent scoring early on left us trailing by 1 point at the end of the third, **21-20 to Marling**.

#### FOURTH QUARTER

Hotly contested quarter of play, with superb defensive efforts from both squads. Marling went up 23-20 in the first minute. Excellent defensive play allowed us to shut Marling out for over 5 minutes of the quarter. The price, however, was a lack of offence opportunities being created, as up court players had to rally back constantly. Marling scored a final basket in the 7th minute of play to bring the score to **25-20 to Marling** and end the game.

**MVP AWARD- Oliver Goldsmith**, Highest Score, with Least Fouls

### STRS vs GlosCol- 32-31 W

#### FIRST QUARTER

Rich's made a fair start and managed to set the pace for GlosCol. Unfortunately, the sluggish approach to the opening minutes allowed GlosCol to take the lead to leave the quarter **7-6 to GlosCol**.

#### SECOND QUARTER

Rich's work rate picked up in the second quarter and we were able to capitalise on great team performance. Six baskets all scored by a different player helped to come to extend our lead. The half-finished **18-15 to Rich's** at half time.

#### THIRD QUARTER

Rich's started the second half very well and managed to maintain the pressure on GlosCol. Offensively we dominated and in doing so restricted the opportunity for GlosCol to score. By the end of the quarter, the score was **24-17 to Rich's**.

#### FOURTH QUARTER

The team ploughed on until the end and GlosCol played hard to try to catch us up. The team was forced to defend against a determined squad and let several baskets in to give GlosCol 14 points for the quarter. However it was too little, too late and Rich's finished the game **32-31**, our first victory in the County Cup Campaign.

**MVP award- SamThompson**

## FRIENDLY FIXTURES 2012/13

<b>Churchdown School</b>	<b>Win 59-22</b>
<b>Crypt Grammar School</b>	<b>Win 51-35</b>
<b>Chosen Hill School</b>	<b>Win 46-44</b>
<b>Pate's Grammar School</b>	<b>Win 61-25</b>

The 2012-13 Season was the best yet for Rich's with an unbeaten record in friendly competition. The Titans won all four friendly fixtures this year, with a special credit to win against Chosen Hill, which proved the better team last time we met. The season has been focused towards the County Cup and consequently, fewer onuses have been put on friendly fixtures. That said the Senior Squad has done extremely well to enhance our reputation as a formidable basketball squad in the Gloucestershire Area. The team achieved a record 217 points for, conceded only 126 points, and has been given positive feedback from the opposition we have faced.

My thanks to all the boys for their hard work, effort and dedication to make themselves and the Basketball team a more cohesive and effective unit this season. In particular, I would like to praise the help and support given by Oliver Goldsmith, in his role as Captain and for organizing team strategy. Sammy Lee-Baker for his help in team fitness and discipline and contribution off court. Arron Pearce for his help and dedication off court and helping to motivate the team. Sam Hau and Joe Wise for running the scoreboards and timings and helping with officiating. Meehad Shariyar, Josh Dowding and Harry Thomas for their continued development as players and their attitude and ethic at training which has been both positive and infectious. Good luck to the boys who leave us this year, all the best with your pursuits. My thanks again to you all for a fantastic season. Garde ta Foy!

D Woolf



## ATHLETICS 2013 REPORT



In the first two athletics meetings this year Tommies have performed reasonably well. We are still awaiting the results of the ESAA Round One, in order to find out if we have qualified for the Regional Round.

In the Grammar School track event at Blackbridge Julian Richardson, Fred Morrish, Will Staddon, Joe Jollans, Toby Matthews, George Hawthorne all ran particularly well but other runners also pushed themselves hard to earn Tommies points. Tommies were in the lead going into the final 4 x 100m relays but a disqualification in the Year 8 relay led to Pate's overtaking us into overall lead, with Crypt a long way behind in third.

Hopefully the boys will continue to run well and can retain the District Championship for the eighth consecutive year!

R Williams

## FOOTBALL 2<sup>nd</sup> TEAM SEASON REVIEW

This was a very promising season for what proved to be a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. At the start of the season, we could see that there was not much to separate the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team in terms of talent and this was highlighted throughout the season.

Notable performances were the 8 – 0 thumping of Tewkesbury School and the utterly dominant performance against Hereford Cathedral School.

Tewkesbury	Won 2 – 1
Tewkesbury	Won 8 – 0
Cokethorpe	Won 4 – 1
Crypt	Lost 2 – 1
Hereford Cathedral	Won 3 – 0
RGS Worcester	Lost 3 – 2

It was great to see a blend of younger players and more experience 6<sup>th</sup> formers merging to form good relationships and every game was played with great team spirit. In most games, around half the team was made up of Y11 players suggesting that next season will be a strong one.

Mr Jobson would like to thank the squad for playing in such a sporting manner and wishes all of the departing Y13 players well.

K Jobson





## 2012-2013 NETBALL REPORT

A team: Won - 10 Draw - 0 Lost - 3

B team: Won - 9 Draw - 0 Lost - 1

The results speak for themselves. The netball teams have made our job very easy this season. There has been excellent commitment from all the girls. On occasions, it has been difficult to select a team as there have been so many keen players to choose from. We have seen huge improvements from Lucy Halliday and Zoe Williams who have moved into the A team this season and played in the evening fun league at All Saints Academy. Both A and B teams have improved dramatically over the season, bringing home some fantastic results. The girls should be pleased with their successes, particularly their wins against well-established teams such as Tewkesbury School, Cleeve School and Ribston Hall School. We will be sad to say goodbye to our Year 13 players who have remained committed throughout the season. We have been lucky to have such a large number of exceptional players this year. We hope they will continue to play in the fun league or join the Netball teams at their respective universities.

Thanks to Megan Davis and Sophie Johnson for all their hard work organising teams each week and for leading by example on the court.

M Brown

## NETBALL REPORT – B TEAM

The B team has had continued success over the 2012-2013 netball season with convincing wins over the likes of Crypt and Tewkesbury. The success has stemmed from the commitment of the players, most of whom attended weekly training sessions to improve as a team. This was proven in our match against Katharine Lady Berkeley, thought to be a superior set of players, where we showed determination to come together as a team and produce our most proud victory. A factor in our success was also due to the enthusiasm of the new Year 12 players that joined STRS in September 2012. There were 29 players signed up to play Netball this year, so we were able to commit to A and B team fixtures most weeks.

Sophie Johnson 13G





# **FUNDRAISER FOR THE STRS NEW ZEALAND RUGBY TOUR 2013**



# **RACE NIGHT AND AUCTION**

**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**  
**STRS HALL, 7:30 - 11:30PM**

**TICKETS - £5.00**

(INCLUDES BUFFET SUPPER & PIG ROAST)

**LICENCED BAR**

**AUCTION**

OF VARIOUS LOTS  
INCLUDING A  
3 BED LUXURY VILLA  
IN ALICANTE, SPAIN





# 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: [chrisarter@strs.org.uk](mailto:chrisarter@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

## Sainsbury's

On Sat 25<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> July members of the New Zealand Tour Party will be bag-packing at Sainsbury's Oakley Store in Cheltenham and the new Sainsbury's at Gloucester Quays respectively.



As always, the boys will not only be raising funds for the Tour but also for local charities. We are extremely grateful to both Sainsbury's stores for supporting us once more with this fundraising activity.

We have been bag packing at Sainsbury's stores in Gloucester and Cheltenham now since 2006 and they have always been very accommodating and understanding which has been much appreciated.

So come and let our boys pack for you on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> July – they are experts now, your eggs and soft fruits are in safe hands, promise!

C D A Carter



# 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.

A copy of the Gift Aid form can be found on the school website [www.strschool.co.uk](http://www.strschool.co.uk)

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





# SIR THOMAS RICH'S

## CAR BOOT SALE

**£5 per pitch**  
Set up from  
7.30 am

Sunday 23rd June

**Free entry**  
**Everyone welcome!**  
Gates open to public  
from 8.30am  
to 1.30pm



## 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/daughter move on to 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