



# Sir Thomas Rich's Newsletter

*Issue 1*

*November 2013*



STRS  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
RUGBY TOUR



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</b>
<b>Y9 News</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Technology Club</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Y7 Skillzone</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Budding Master Chef</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Young Chefs</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Jaguar Challenge</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>G Tem</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Festomane</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Chelsea Choice</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Rhineland 2013</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>French Exchange</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>New Zealand Tour</b>	<b>16 - 24</b>
<b>Every Mothers Son</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>China 2013</b>	<b>26-27</b>
<b>Spanish Exchange 2013</b>	<b>28-29</b>
<b>St Ives 2013</b>	<b>30-31</b>
<b>House Art</b>	<b>32-33</b>
<b>Duke of Edinburgh News</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT NEWS</b>	
<b>Library News</b>	<b>4 - 7</b>
<b>D&amp;T News</b>	<b>10-12</b>
<b>PHSE News</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Language News</b>	<b>14-29</b>
<b>SPORTS NEWS</b>	<b>36-38</b>
<b>CALENDAR</b>	<b>40</b>



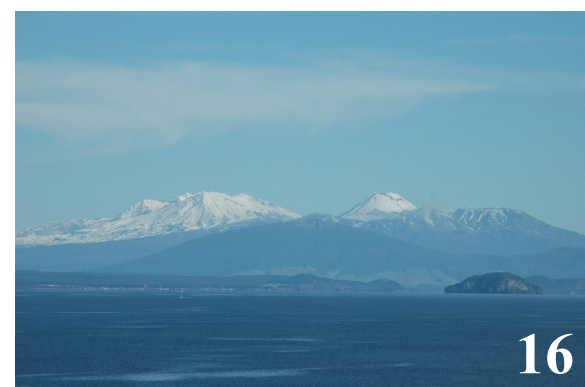
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From the Headmaster....

It is remarkable that we have had over half a term already; it seems only yesterday that we were welcoming new boys (and girls in the sixth form) as well as celebrating the achievements of pupils from the previous year at our Annual Speech Evening.

I have been very pleased with the overall attitude and approach of pupils to learning so far. It is great to see the number of detentions decrease and more and more merits being awarded for excellence. Indeed, the introduction of the new merit system just over a year ago has given an opportunity for teachers to reward good work at all levels more consistently. This has contributed to a greater work ethic, on a day-to-day basis, as many boys find it easier to respond to a short-term incentive and benefit from the tangible praise given as a result. I also completely underestimated how long it would take me to sign commendations for consistent hard work – it is fantastic to see so many pupils do so well in their first orders. Please do encourage your sons and daughters to put in the requisite effort, and well done to all who have received Merits and Commendations aplenty!



I must mention how proud I was of all our pupils who helped during our Open Days and Open Evening in early September. It was most gratifying to receive so many positive comments from prospective parents – even if some of the tours did take in the Changing Rooms and the Lost Property cupboard! On the subject of Lost Property, I would make a plea to parents to ensure pupils' school uniform, PE and Games kit, shoes, and coats are labelled. Despite our best efforts, there is so much kit left in the changing rooms every day. We endeavour to return labelled items, but it appears almost impossible for unlabelled kit and their owners to be reunited.

An aspect of our current drive to focus on academic standards has been to strengthen our support for Oxbridge candidates and prospective Lawyers and Medics. I am particularly grateful to colleagues who are now offering tutorials to students during the school day. I wish all Year 13 every success with their University applications. We are also working hard to strengthen our Careers guidance. I am sure that year 11 will find work experience worthwhile, helping them formulate plans for future direction.

We hope work on the long awaited new Sixth Form centre will soon start. I hope you have had a chance to see plans in the school reception. Speaking about the reception area, I am grateful to Year 12 and 13 students from the Art Department for providing such a dramatic display based on their successful visit to St Ives – it certainly got people talking. We intend to display more pupils' work in reception and around the school over the coming months.

We have already seen two of the major house events of the term: House Art won by Eastgate and House Public Speaking, where Northgate were victorious. There were over 275 entries for House Art and some outstanding pieces of work. This competition is so highly contested that new rules will be introduced next year. It is superb to see so many pupils involved.

I hope that the rest of this newsletter continues to give you a strong sense of what we are trying to offer and achieve at Sir Thomas Rich's: balance between the pursuit of results and the sheer enjoyment of learning; balance between the classroom and all else we seek to do. Above all, recognition that education is about more than mere achievement: it is about development. I know that we are rather lagging behind on using e-communication. I hope this Newsletter reaches you by email. We are currently reviewing how we keep in contact with parents and will inform you as we continue to make progress in this area.

M Morgan



## BLUECOAT BEST BOOK AWARD

Agreeing a shortlist from the twenty five books on this year's Bluecoat Best Book long list proved a mammoth task for the nine members of the Year 9 award panel. With so many amazing books around and panel members with drastically different opinions, it was always going to be a tall order to come to an agreement. But they are determined to do it and will announce the shortlist in the New Year. Here are some of the titles up for consideration and what the panel thought of them.



*Eve and Adam* by Michael Grant. The author also wrote the *Gone* series so there were high expectations. It lived up to every one. Unique, with a story-line like no other. It delves into the world of genetic modification. Eve gets the chance to create the perfect boy, Adam. But she uncovers a whole lot of secrets she shouldn't know. This is a book about conspiracy, doubt and trust. Accessible, engaging and funny. Fast-paced and full of action and deceit.



*The Disappeared* by C.J. Harper is an action-packed thriller about a corrupted education system. A boy is dumped in a mysterious academy where the teachers are caged, there are no rules and his identity is wiped. The book records his efforts to find the truth and keeps you on the edge of your seat. It made me feel like I was there and the suspense was brilliant.

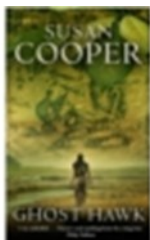


*The Humans* by Matt Haig is a creative book about an alien who visits Earth on a mission. Funny and yet thought-provoking, the book provides an insight into what it really is to be human and makes you contemplate how special we are. I recommend this one-of-a-kind book.



*Noble Conflict* by Malorie Blackman is a gripping, action-packed and inventive read which explores themes of terrorism, government corruption and rebellion. Though at first it may seem to stick a little too closely to the path of previous young adult dystopian titles, it quickly establishes itself as an exciting book in its own right.





*Ghost Hawk* by Susan Cooper was far and away my favourite. It is an emotional tale following the life of a Native American boy named Little Hawk. You will grow attached to him and his immigrant friend John. It will awaken emotion you did not even know you had. It is a book you will always remember.



*Nowhere* by Jon Robinson. Set in a juvenile prison like no other, dozens of teenagers are locked up with no idea what crime they committed and where the guards carry air-blasting guns. Four teenagers attempt to escape. An enticing book which keeps its secrets throughout. It lets your imagination fly as your brain tries to figure out the background story. The ending provides a beautiful twist/cliff-hanger. It seems to be the first within a series.



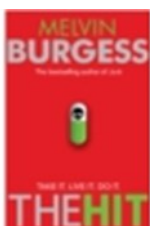
*The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman is a truly fantastic book. It is dark and thought-provoking, reflecting on childhood and memory through the eyes of first a child and then an adult. Along the way, you will be scared, amused and enchanted. Just under 250 pages of story-telling magic.



Alex Shearer's *Cloud Hunters* is an adventure story thankfully free from clichés that have become overused of late. It will transport you to another world for the short time it takes to read it.



*Butter* by Erin Lange is about obesity and online bullying told from the victim's perspective. It is the sort of book that only appears rarely. In short, an utter gem to read.

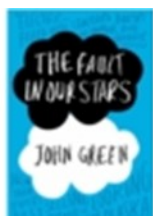


*The Hit* by Melvyn Burgess is about a new drug on the street that gives you the ultimate high but only a week to live. Is it worth it for so high a price? Utterly shocking in the best possible way.





*After Tomorrow* by Gillian Cross is about an apocalypse. The world is ending and people will do anything to survive.



*Fault in Our Stars* is a very emotional book that has been highly praised and I loved it. The writing style is beautiful and I like how author John Green isn't afraid to put profanity and sex in the book. He writes it very realistically. Ten out of ten.



*Boy Nobody* by Allen Zadoff is quite similar to Joe Craig's Jimmy Coates series but *Boy Nobody* is the hunter not the hunted. A very good thriller that made me want more every time I sat down to read it. Nine out of ten.



*Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* is an autobiography by David Sedaris. It is a hilarious timeline of stories from dentists and dads in pants to colonoscopies. It's fun to read and just keeps on giving laughs



*A Tear in the Curtain* by John Symons is an atmospheric novel about a period of history that has been well-documented, but rarely as convincingly and skilfully written as this

Bluecoat Best Book panel members, standing: Craig Jones, Harith Kriel, Tom Fisher, Anujan Ganeshalingam, Praseed Grover, and Faizaan Pervaiz ; seated: Tomas Lappy, Sepehr Amini Raouf and Oliver Fewell .





## REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR

As part of our volunteer work for our Duke of Edinburgh Award, we decided to undertake a history-based project. The project involves us researching the seventy-seven former pupils of our school, who fought and died in the First World War. This will take around nine months to complete with the aim of holding an exhibition next autumn. Besides us, there are also four other boys from years 10 and 11 working in pairs on the project. Each pair has twenty-five or twenty-six names from the school's war memorial to investigate. We are both taking GCSE history and saw it as a good opportunity to find out more about the Great War. So far we have gone through the school's archives to look at the first admissions registers, starting from 1882, and we have visited the Commonwealth War Graves website. We would be pleased to hear from any relatives of these men who could supply us with more information or even photographs.

Some of the names are proving difficult to find and are listed below. If you know anything about one of these or one of the other names on the WW1 memorial, please get in contact with the school to tell us more about them. Our email address for this project is [library@strs.org.uk](mailto:library@strs.org.uk)

C. Browning, L.J. Colbrook, E. Davies, H. Evans, W.H. Evans, C. King, D.A.E. Lane, M. Lewis, R.W. Lewis, T. Lewis, T. Ponting, A. Rheam, S. Robertson, P. Simmons, S. Smith, L. Stanley, V. Stubbs, W. Walker, A.S. Wells

Elliott Richards-Good and Louis Earle-Davis 10T.







## 9B HIGH TEA

To say a big thank you to their KS3 Form Tutors and Heads of Year, the boys of D&T group 9B organised a High Tea on the day before we broke up for the summer holidays.

Home baked items were augmented with further delicious offerings and the table was set ready for the arrival of Mr M Morgan, Mrs J Spilsbury, Mrs M Brown, Mr P Daniell, Miss J Wells, Mr N Stewart, Mr C Powell & Mrs E Phillips.

Several of the group remained after school acting as very good hosts ensuring teacups were kept topped up and plates never allowed to get empty. The table groaned under the weight of such tea-time delights as scones (with cream and jam), flapjack, freshly baked bread rolls with cream cheese and smoked salmon, chocolate and ginger tartlets, soda bread, gingerbread man biscuits, chocolate brownies, Welsh cakes, Victoria sponge, lemon drizzle cake, meringues with cream and strawberries, chocolate truffles ... a banquet fit for a Queen! (Unfortunately Her Majesty could not attend as she was at the opening day of the Lords Ashes Test Match ... but she sent her best regards.)

All the teachers were amazed at the quality (and quantity!) – Mr Morgan even going as far to state that "... these are the best scones I have ever tasted, great texture, ... and the Welsh cakes were just how I liked them ..."

The boys themselves are to be congratulated on their brilliant cooking and mouth watering presented fare. Well done!

J Spilsbury





## TECHNOLOGY CLUB

The Technology Club is now under way with seven teams in Year 7 taking on the Toyota Challenge to design and build either a Solar Powered car to win on speed and direction.

Regrettably Toyota have temporarily suspended their competition this year whilst they update it. However, with 7 teams of keen students we are holding an internal competition with a view to the successful team taking on the National competition next year.

Our successful team from last year, now in Year 8, are working towards a building on their knowledge acquired in Year 7. They will face steep competition from Ben Tapp in Year 10, assisted by Mark Thiselton in Year 11 who, "really likes to have a go again at Technology".

The teams meet Wednesday lunchtime and after school Monday and Wednesday until 4.45pm. Students attend as many sessions as they are able.

We plan to film each car in trials and have a short interview with each team before opening the competition to betting. All correct bets will be placed in a draw and the successful entry will receive half the takings with the other half going to PMM school.



S James

## YEAR 7 SKILLZONE VISIT

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 7R visited skillzone, in Gloucester. There we were taught how to deal with various scenarios, such as a level crossing and a dark alley. We had lots of fun there and learnt some basic and significant ways to stay safe, and did a quiz about those important life skills.

One of the scenarios that we took part in was a burning abode. In this scenario, we imagined what we should do. In one of the rooms, there were real samples of burnt furniture, such as a bed and a wardrobe. We discovered that all the wreckage was burnt in minutes. In addition, we learnt that if we have pets, we should leave them because they have better senses of danger than us, so they would get out before us (unless it's a fish).

Another example was the railway. We were taught how to cross a railway safely, as many people go through a railway line when the lights are flashing. These kinds of immature and impatient behaviour has caused deaths in the past few decades, not only the person who crossed, but also the people in the train that has crashed. We also learnt how dangerous it could be to fly a kite near a railway line, as it could get stuck and if you try to retrieve it, you will get an electric shock.

Our class' favourite part was the dark alley. This was because of the realistic effects of the people walking around and the graffiti on the walls. It was really scary, but was fun to look at, especially the person who was smoking in the corner. We also looked at all the trip hazards that could be there, and there were quite a lot. This was our experience of our year seven trip to skillzone and we learnt large amounts there, and it made learning fun.

Abhinav Pandey & Henry Mercer

## BUDDING MASTER CHEFS INSPIRE IN NATIONAL COOKING COMPETITION

Once again the Food Technology kitchens were adrift with gorgeous aromas as competition time got underway in the annual Future Chef awards. Future Chef forms part of Springboard's high-profile national schools' programme. The cooking competition is a four-staged nationwide culinary competition helping young people aged 12-16 to learn to cook. It inspires them to explore food and cooking as a life skill, helps develop their culinary talent and informs them about entry routes into the hospitality industry. It culminates in a national final at Westminster Kingsway College where winners of the 12 regions go head to head and one talented student becomes the Future Chef winner!

During October we held the first stage - the school heats – from which two winners will now go through to the Local Finals, to be held at the catering school training kitchens of the Cheltenham campus of the Gloucestershire College.

For the School Heats, boys had to devise and cook a hot main course meal for 2 persons for ingredients cost of under £5.

Due to the number of entrants this year we had to stage 3 separate heats. Boys were judged not only on the flavours and appearance of their dishes but also on their creativity and their culinary craft and organisation of their kitchen spaces while cooking. There were some great ideas, ably executed, and some very good-looking plates were set before the judges. But this year it was the flavour combinations that stood out, indicating that here at Tommies we have some great young chefs with a lot of potential.

So close were the judges' scores that only 3 points separated the top three boys.

Winners - Sam Singha 7S and Ed Gayler 9T  
Runners-up - Michael Gibbs 9T and Harry Gennard 8R

Well done and thank you to all who took part and cooked some marvellously tasty dishes!

My thanks also to fellow judges Mrs Phillips and Mrs Brown.

P Brown







## YOUNG CHEFS TO COOK WINNING RECIPES FOR TV CHEF

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, Leon Huebner & Dhilan Patel – both of form 9R – cooked their own recipes for TV chef James Martin in the “Make It With Mince” national cooking challenge.

The challenge required them to turn 200 grams of British “Farm Assured” lamb or beef mince into an original and flavourful dish for 2 persons for just under £10 total ingredients cost.

Leon’s recipe was ‘Mini Gourmet Burgers’ - comprising of little gourmet bite size treats, which were fiddly to make but well worth the effort for the flavours and aromas; they packed in a world tour of tastes!

Dhilan’s recipe was ‘Fried Ravioli Parcels with Spicy Tomato Dipping Sauce’ – which drew on American mid-western influences in an unusual fried pasta dish.

They invented and cooked their dishes during their September Food Tech lessons with Mr Brown. The recipes with photographs, detail cooking plans and costings were submitted online together with those of their classmates as part of the school’s competition entry. From the hundreds of entries from all over the southwest, Leon’s & Dhilan’s were selected for the regional final.

Leon & Dhilan will now travel to Bristol on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November to cook their recipes and present their dishes to a panel of judges, which included TV Celebrity Chef and host of the BBC’s popular Saturday Kitchen programme James Martin.

They had an enjoyable and exciting afternoon.

P Brown

## JAGUAR CHALLENGE

Massive congratulations to Peter Methley (10B) who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the National Autumn Fun Race, in the Maths in Motion, Jaguar Challenge.

Peter won a tight competition in school just a few days before the national race, and as a result qualified on 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the pit lane. Despite a few moves up and down the leaderboard during the race, he couldn’t quite catch the leader, finishing a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We now look forward to the Christmas Race where we hope our entrant can do as well as Peter did in the Autumn race.



N Stewart



## G-TEM

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October, my A2 DT class travelled to Brockworth to visit the G-TEM manufacturing plant. We started the visit by being told about how the company manufactured car parts for large car manufacturers such as Honda and Toyota. After talking about their recent investment in new technology and premises we then discussed the business side of the DT course; discussing about how they have adapted their strategy to the current economic climate by taking on more customers such as BMW and JLR.



After this initial talk we were then led onto the shop floor where we witnessed the manufacture of an array of different car parts. Whilst dodging forklift trucks and wearing some fetching yellow caps we watched the presses and robotic welders shape and join pieces of steel at an impressive speed.

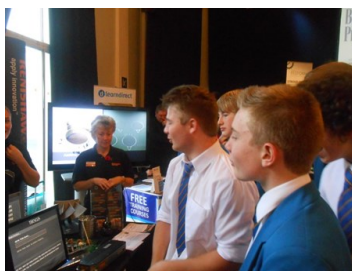
We were shown from the shop floor into a small room where the quality control was taking place; this involved the use of complex measuring equipment [CMM] to ensure that every measurement was within its tolerance. To complete the tour we were taken to the holding bay where thousands of pressed sheets of steel were stacked on shelves, ready to be dispatched to the next stage of the manufacturing process: Assembly.

Luke Ridal 13H

## FESTOMANE

The 2013 Stroud Festival of Manufacturing and Engineering (Festomane) is a festival celebrating Stroud's rich engineering and manufacturing heritage, promoting opportunities for local young people, and inspiring the next generation of engineers and manufacturers. Created by Neil Carmichael MP, the Member of Parliament for Stroud, organised by his office, and held at the Stroud Subscription Rooms, the Festival is one of the key aspects of improving Stroud's skills and economy.

The STRS students were able to visit a range of exhibitors stalls, many of which were interactive, to learn about and experience some of the many opportunities open to them in the field of manufacturing and engineering. The visit was completed with a seminar on the use of pneumatic systems in the world of manufacturing and engineering. The students were then set a number of challenges to build a range of pneumatic "circuits" from a set of components, which they completed with enthusiasm and skill.



S Hancock

## YEAR 8 PSHE CHELSEA' CHOICE



On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 8 pupils watched a play called "Chelsea's Choice". It was about a teenage girl who got herself into a tough situation. As well as the story the actors, at the end, taught us a lot about internet safety and how to avoid being in Chelsea's position in our own lives. My feelings about the play were that it was quite loud and slightly violent at times but it was an interesting story. I particularly liked the parts in between when the "teacher" in the play was talking to the "students" about Chelsea's story because they made you wonder what was going to happen next. I also liked the question and answer session at the end as it helped answer some of the questions I was thinking about in my head.

Robert Ashworth 8B

Child sexual exploitation can affect anyone, primarily aged between 11 – 15 years but sometimes as young as 8 and older teenagers can be affected too. People might think that you would have to be quite stupid to be affected but smart people often think it will never happen to them and this makes them more vulnerable in a way....You can prevent yourself from falling into their traps by only meeting people you know in person online. Never trust anyone you have only met online and make sure your privacy settings are on high. Report buttons on social networking sites and organisations such as the NSPCC, CEOP and Childline are always there to help.

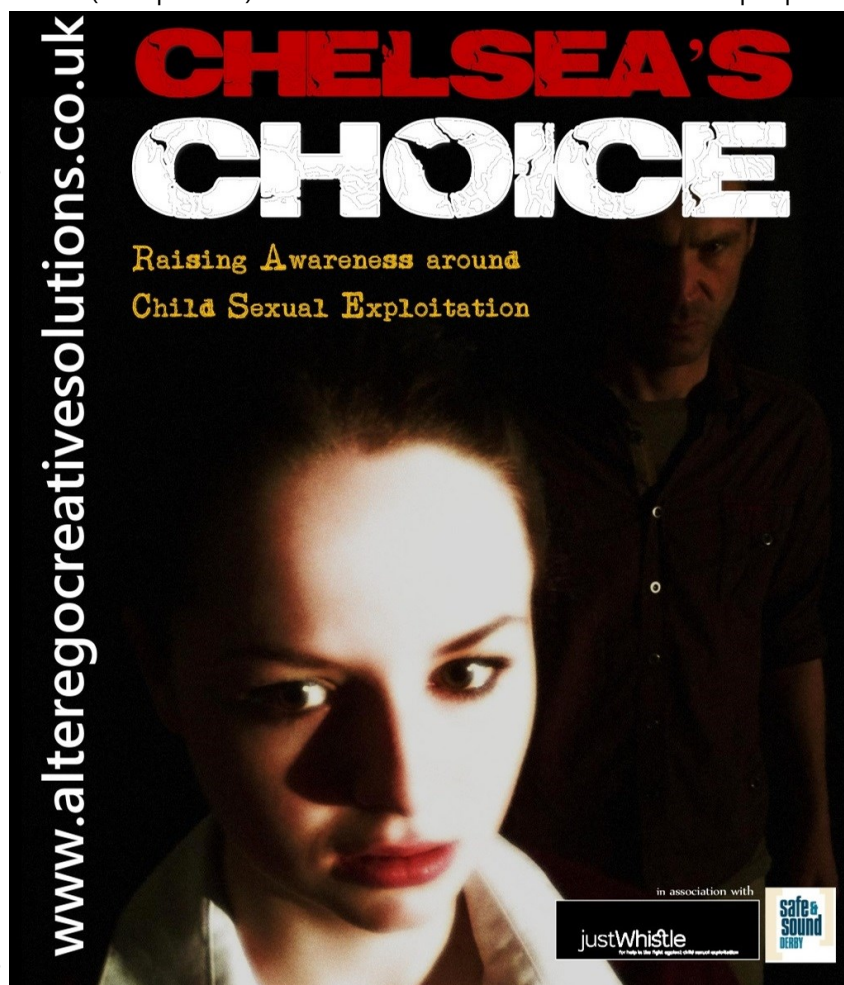
Jake Butler 8B

Child exploitation is a huge problem in the UK and it can happen to anyone. It is when a man or woman uses boys and girls for sexual reasons. These kids are groomed (manipulated) and kids trust the man or woman. These people are called paedophiles and predators. There are many ways in which children can be groomed.

Caspar Lindgren 8S

...This can happen to anyone. It could be you. These people target you by grooming you. In Chelsea's case he made her think everyone hated her except him and he made her feel special. Eventually he made her dependent on him and the drugs so she needed him more. Then he began selling her for sex. This is only one of the ways you can be groomed. It could be via the internet when people aren't who they say they are. It could be they find out where you hang out and target you there. Never assume it couldn't be you because these people are very clever and can manipulate you. You must always be aware of who you are talking to online. Don't think you know someone on the internet unless you have met them in real life. Always make your profile privacy high. Don't be paranoid just be prepared.

Jonathan Powell 8S







## RHINELAND TRIP 2013

In the early hours of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October forty of our Year 8 and 9 pupils set off on a long coach journey heading for the Rhineland area of Germany. They were accompanied by Mrs Testoni-Ranken, Mr Morgan, Mr Gregory and Mr Thompson (coming out of retirement for a second time!). Despite a lengthy delay on a motorway in Belgium, we arrived at our hotel in Linz am Rhein with sufficient time to take the boys on a quick walk around the town before the evening meal.

On the first full day in Germany we travelled to Cologne for a guided walking tour of the city, followed by a visit to the Lindt chocolate factory and museum. The boys proved to be good customers for the shop! On the second day we went on a boat trip down the Rhine. We passed the legendary Lorelei rock and admired the gorgeous river scenery which, fortunately, was bathed in warm autumnal sunshine. Our destination was the historic town of Rudesheim. There we visited the Siegfrieds Musikkabinett museum and admired its impressive collection of automated musical instruments.

A cable-car ride took us up to the Niederwald recreational area close to the imposing statue of Germania (built to commemorate the re-establishment of the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871). The panoramic views of the Rhine were impressive and we continued to enjoy them as we made our way down through the vineyards on foot and returned to the town centre. Our final excursion was to the Phantasialand theme park near Bonn. Rides such as the Talocan, Black Mamba and the Tower ensured that all those in need of an adrenalin rush were fully satisfied.

This was another thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip. The boys responded with enthusiasm to all the cultural and linguistic opportunities on offer, recording many of them in their study visit diaries. Their standard of behaviour and politeness was excellent. Their gratitude towards Mrs Testoni-Ranken for her hard work in organising the trip was genuine, as will be their heightened level of interest in and awareness of German language and culture.

A.J. Gregory







## FRENCH EXCHANGE 2013-2014

In the early hours of the 9th of November, a group of Year 10 and 12 students left Sir Thomas Rich's school for Stansted airport for the French exchange. The exchange was to Oloron in the South West of France and it was the 3rd visit to school had made there. The town of Oloron is very pretty with a fantastic view of the Pyrenees.

We were met with blue skies and sunshine when we arrived early on Saturday morning, but unfortunately this didn't continue for the rest of the week. However, the weather didn't affect the great experience. The students had an extended weekend with their families because of Remembrance Day. The host families were very generous in their hospitality, for example, I was taken bowling and took part in laser quest which I enjoyed very much and gave me a chance to meet up with other English students. I was also taken to Spain for an afternoon and had lunch with the grandparents of my host. The food in France was exceptional and I can see why France is so famous for it! I was given various cheeses every night after my meal, and they even offered to make me an English cup of tea every morning!

When we were not with our host families, the school had arranged a number of trips including one to the Jurançon winery where we were given a chance to taste the local wines! We also visited the Lindt factory shop, which we all enjoyed, and spent a lot of money in! My personal favourite was visiting the town of Pau where we visited the 'Musée national du château de Pau' and spent the afternoon shopping. It was also my birthday, and I loved spending it with my friends in such a lovely place.

At first we were all nervous to speak to our host families, let alone in another language! But they really made us feel at home. My partner knew how much I wanted to improve my French so only spoke English when she really had to, and I realised I knew more French than I thought but my dictionary became my best friend for the week! I'd like to thank Mrs Thomas and Mr Gregory on behalf of all the students for the organisation and effort they put into making the exchange as successful as it was. Also thanks to the host families for their hospitality. I hope the French students enjoy the experience as much as we did when they come to England in March

Emma Coleman







STRS  
NEW Z



A scenic photograph of a rocky coastline with a forested hill in the background. Three people are standing on the rocks in the water. The image has a blue color grade and a diagonal white graphic element.

# NEW ZEALAND

RUGBY TOUR





The 2013 Tour Party of 53 players and 5 staff assembled at the front of School at 5.30am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July and touched down in Auckland at 11pm on Sunday evening courtesy of Singapore Airlines. Having left a heat wave in Britain, it was pleasantly cooler on leaving the airport 12000 miles away under clear New Zealand winter skies. We were greeted by the Tour Time Coach Company staff who would be our minders for the next 14 days. After the customary handshakes and pleasantries, they informed us that there had been two "6.4" earthquakes in the Wellington region where we were due to play our 4<sup>th</sup> match in the second week! It was like being hit by Ma Nonu and Ritchie Macaw at the same time! Welcome to New Zealand!! Not only were we about to face considerable human forces but also natural ones too!!

We were based in the centre of Auckland for the first 3 nights at the Best western Hotel opposite the Auckland Sky Tower, the 7<sup>th</sup> highest building in the world. The boys were also in billets for 2 nights with the families of boys from Long Bay College.

On Monday morning we trained hard at Silverdale Rugby Club to prepare for our first set of matches the following day against Wesley and Long Bay Colleges, and in the afternoon we met the boys' billets in the North Auckland coastal suburb of Long Bay.

Less than 36 hours after stepping off the Jumbo Jet at Auckland International Airport, the day we had been preparing for for months had arrived, 'Match Day'. The 2nds and 3rds played the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XVs respectively of Long Bay College whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> travelled to the south of Auckland to play Wesley College 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Wesley is a highly fertile breeding ground for International rugby players and their most famous alumnus is All Black legend, Jonah Lomu. Wesley were a formidable side who played a fairly limited but highly direct style of play. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV's defence though was outstanding and Wesley's big ball carriers didn't appear to have a plan B! After conceding two soft converted tries the 1<sup>st</sup> XV came back strongly in the last quarter to get with just 2 points of our mighty hosts. However, in spite of being camped in Wesley's 22 for the last 5 mins and creating 3 good try-scoring opportunities, Wesley's defence held firm and the game was lost. It was a great performance though which did wonders for the side's confidence. In the matches against Long Bay the 2nds lost a tight game 18-11 and the 3rds made a most impressive start to the Tour with a comfortable 22-0 win.



On Wednesday we drove south to Hamilton, the home of Super 15 team the Waikato Chiefs, a place we were to revisit more than once later on in the Tour! With a total Tour party number of 58, we had to use a minibus along with a coach to ferry the group around the country. The minibus, skilfully piloted by Messrs Davies and Powell, became a Tour legend and for those who rode in her. It exceeded the best that Alton Towers has to offer by some distance. Before arriving in Hamilton, we stopped off for a quick look at Eden Park, one of NZRU's International grounds.

On Thursday morning, after cleaning out the motel's kitchen stores of cereals, fruit, bread, bacon, sausages, eggs etc we moved on to Rotorua where we would spend the next 4 nights at the 3\* Copthorne Hotel. Under glorious clear blue skies, we had a good training session in the afternoon in preparation for our second set of matches against The Bay of Plenty U18 and U16 Representative sides, formidable opponents made up of a number of Schools from the region. We expected 3 tough games but after the first set of matches there was a strong belief running through the whole squad that we could provide a stiff contest.

The matches against The Bay of Plenty on Friday morning and lunchtime were held at the home of Whakarewarewa RFC. The changing facilities were rather basic but the hospitality as warm as ever.

The 2nds and 3rds played The Bay of Plenty U16 A and B teams respectively before the 1<sup>st</sup> XV match. The 2nds put in an outstanding performance to win 15-7 but the 3rds were well beaten 150-0 by a far superior side, indeed there was very little difference between the two Bay of Plenty U16 XV's.

The 1st XV then took on the representative's U18 side and, after a thrilling, well-fought encounter, in front of a large crowd, won the game 19-16.





It was a magnificent team performance and yet another indicator of the growing stature of STRS Rugby. How many English teams travel to the 'Land of the long White Cloud' and beat any sides let alone representative sides?! This impressive victory along with the 2nd XV's superb display once again boosted the confidence and belief of the whole squad.

After the customary speeches and exchange of gifts, in the afternoon we went to the Polynesian Spa where the boys eased their tired aching limbs in the natural warm waters of the 7 different pools. A number of the pools were outside with fantastic views overlooking Lake Rotorua – Touring can be hard work on occasion!!!

Friday was a busy day because in the evening we went to the Mitai Maori Village where we were given an enthralling insight into Maori culture and had a traditionally cooked Hangi meal. During the evening we watched Maori warriors in traditional dress paddle an ancient canoe [waka] down the Wao-O-Whiro stream, saw the famous glow worms and were treated to a performance of the Poi dance and displays of Maori weaponry and combat. It was a fascinating and memorable evening.



There was even more Maori culture in the hotel on Saturday morning when two famous Maori rugby players, Tiki Edwards, the NZRU Maori Liaison Officer and Hika Reed, a legendary All Black hooker in the mid 80s, taught the Party the famous Haka. They dressed the boys [and some of the more extrovert staff] up in tradition gear [not a lot!!], painted their faces and taught them the words, the meaning behind the words and the moves of the ancient Maori War Dance. It was another highly memorable occasion and both Tiki and Hika conveyed to the boys that the spirit you have and take into the game is just as important as the tactics and skills. It was a very uplifting experience.

On Saturday afternoon we travelled back to Hamilton to watch the Super 15 Semi-Final between The Waikato Chiefs and the star-studded Crusaders, including Dan Carter. The Chiefs have a number of sponsors, one of which was our Coach Company, Tour Time, who organised some great seats for us in the Main Stand. The Chiefs now had 58 new fans and our section of the stand was more like the 'Shed'! It was a great match and to the delight of the home and 'adopted' fans, the Chiefs won the match to get to the Final!

On the following Sunday morning the Party visited one of Rotorua's main tourists' attractions, the Skyline Gondola and Luge, a leisurely uphill gondola ride followed by a rather less sedate gravity ride on a 3-wheeled cart! Mr Barnes had a little bit more than the force of gravity affecting one of his descents in the form of Mr Powell's cart which led to it being his last descent!

Training in the afternoon was followed by a very nice evening meal in the hotel's restaurant, where we were joined by recent Old Richian Jack Griffiths who was a member of the 2009 Tour Party to Australia. Jack is studying Agriculture at Reading University and as part of his course he is managing a large dairy farm near Hamilton. It was great to see him.

We were now half way through the Tour and on Monday set out for Palmerston North to the south west of Rotorua along the famous Desert Road. The road is famous for its fantastic views of snow-capped active volcanoes such as Mt Rapaerhoa. On the way we stopped off at the Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland, a fascinating landscape of volcanoes, boiling mud pools, geothermal lakes and geysers with a very strong smell of sulphur in the air.

Further down the Desert Road we stopped at the Huka Falls for a thrilling Jet Boat Ride on the R. Taupo and later had lunch on the shore of Lake Taupo.

In Palmerston North we were based at the impressive N.Z Sport and Rugby Institute.

On Tuesday morning we played our final set of matches against Palmerston North HS, one of the top state rugby-playing schools in New Zealand. The 2nds and 3rds played their games first, with the 2nds losing narrowly 17-13 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> recording their second win of the tour, 22-10, playing some excellent '15 man' rugby, it was exciting to watch.



The Palmerston 1<sup>st</sup> XV have a very good reputation in NZ rugby circles and compete in the NZ Schools Super 8 competition, it was going to be another tough encounter. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> and final game of the Tour and the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rose to the challenge superbly in true Maori style to fashion a great victory, winning impressively by 22-10.

On Tuesday evening our driver asked if we would be interested in some tickets for the Super 15 Final between the Chiefs and the Brumbies on Saturday night back in Hamilton, a town and particularly its



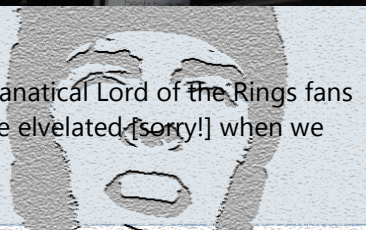
rugby stadium, we were getting to know quite well! We didn't need much time to think about it and the tickets were sorted!

The following day we should have been heading south to the capital, Wellington, for our 4th set of matches but mother nature had seen to that, so it was back up the Desert Road to Rotorua where unlike Wellington, it may not have been shaking but it was certainly smoking. Before leaving Hamilton though, we paid a visit to the NZRU Museum, its eclectic mix of memorabilia, films and hands on activities kept both the boys and staff amused for a good hour or so. Watching Jonah Lomu steam roller and swat away England players at Twickenham for fun was, however, not so amusing for most of us. Why though did Mr Davies have a grin on his face?

After a very pleasant overnight stop at the Copthorne Hotel in Rotorua, on Thursday morning we headed North West to Auckland where we would spend the last 3 nights of the Tour.



There were a number of fanatical Lord of the Rings fans in the party and they were elvelated [sorry!] when we





made an excursion to Hobbiton, the movie set for the Hobbit/Lord of the Rings film. For a number of the boys it was a highlight of the Tour.

Friday morning we visited 'Sylvia Park', New Zealand's largest Shopping Mall, and in the evening attended a fundraising event, a Quiz Night, organised by Long Bay College, who so kindly billeted at the start of the Tour. One of the great benefits of touring, of course, is forging friendships with people in a country on the other side of the world and we certainly developed a strong bond with the pupils and staff at Long Bay.

Saturday was a super day when we packed in three excursions. The day started with a visit to the Auckland Sky Tower, the world's 7th tallest building, where we also had lunch in its revolving restaurant.

In the afternoon we went to King's School Auckland, one of New Zealand's finest Independent Schools where their 1st XV were entertaining another of Auckland's schools, the mighty St Kentigerns. St Kentigerns have invested a lot of money into their Rugby programme in recent years. Their Rugby budget is in excess of £500,000 per year, slightly more than what Rhys has to play with, and last year they won a World U18 Competition in Japan, beating Hartpury College comfortably in the final. They were both big sides with particularly large 'front fives' averaging well over 120kgs. In front of a large crowd of largely highly partisan supporters, King's made a great start and swept into an early lead with a couple of well worked tries. However, the power of the St Kentigerns pack and powerful running of their Lomuesque left wing was eventually too much for King's and they went on to win the game and maintain their long unbeaten record. Having witnessed the power and quality of this U18 Schools match, it helped explain why all other countries including the Lions struggle when they visit this rugby-mad country.





After the match it was straight back onto the coach for a 2hr ride down south to our second home, Hamilton, to watch the Super 15 Final. Once again, we had some excellent seats in the new stand thanks to Tour Time and there was a great atmosphere in the ground. As in the semi-final, the Chiefs, to the delight of their adopted Gloucester fans, turned round a daunting 18-3 deficit, to win a thrilling game 28-23.

It was a memorable way to spend the last night of the Tour, the only downside being that we had to postpone the traditional End-of –Tour Awards' Dinner.

Joe Carolan, the 1st XV Vice Captain was Top Points Scorer on Tour with 11 points, having kicked 3 penalties and a conversion, Johnny Randall was the 3rd XV Players' Player of the Tour, Euan Whitbourne the 2nd XV Players' Player, Ross Preedy the 1st XV's Players' Player and Max Price was voted Man of the Tour by the whole squad.

On Sunday, under glorious blue skies, some of the party went Whale Watching off Auckland, whilst the rest of the group spent their last day in New Zealand at Mission Bay one of Auckland's main beach resorts. Before we knew it we had taken off for Singapore facing a diet of film watching, eating, sleeping and stretching. After changing planes in Singapore the first group landed back in dear old Blighty on Monday afternoon and the second group in the early evening.

The Tour had been a great success both on and off the field. To win 5 of the 9 matches was a fantastic effort and due reward for the 3 teams who had prepared hard before we set off and in the training sessions on Tour. The boys have made friends with opponents and their families 12,000 miles away and through the 16 excursions that we fitted in around the 3 sets of matches experienced the wonderful landscape and culture of New Zealand's North Island. These Tours, of course, don't just happen, there's an awful lot of hard work put in by different groups of people for almost 2 years before the Jumbo Jet takes off from Heathrow.





I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the fantastic group of parents who attended fundraising meetings on cold, wet, dark winter nights and helped organise and run events, our generous sponsors and, of course, the players who, for example, spent hours packing bags so expertly [ not one egg was cracked!] at supermarkets across the north of the County prior to leaving for New Zealand. They also played some magnificent rugby and were great ambassadors for this School. Finally, a massive thank you to Rhys Williams for organising the Tour, his organisation and support with fundraising and his outstanding preparation of the squad before we left these shores, and my four fellow coaches on Tour, Rhys Davies, Chris Powell, Nick O'Neil and Luke Barnes, who worked tirelessly and with great humour, skill and professionalism throughout the 17 days. They too of course gave many hours helping with pre-tour training and fundraising activities. We are so fortunate here at Rich's to have such a dedicated group of Games' Staff, without whom such tours would not run.

So, another Tour is over and very shortly we'll be announcing the destination of Southern Hemisphere Tour No 5! Oh no, more bag packing!!!!!!!

C D A Carter





## EVERY MOTHERS SON

The Year 11 Drama class visited Cheltenham's 'Everyman Theatre' on Thursday 14th November to watch 'Every Mother's Son.' The Studio Theatre at the 'Everyman' provided an intimate and informal performance space. You genuinely couldn't get more informal than actually sitting on stage between the two performers whilst eating the cake prepared by the character of Chrissy.

'Every Mother's Son' was presented by Barnstaple's Multi Story Theatre Company and the power of the show lies in its connection with the audience. I expected tales of war and 'fighting for your country' but the piece was about more than this.

Chrissie (Gill Nathanson) and Doug (Bill Buffery) live separate lives together. Their younger son is about to leave for a second tour of duty in Afghanistan and while Chrissie bakes cakes for him and his army mates Doug holes himself up in his cellar connecting with the outside world and happier times via the internet. Although only separated by a flight of stairs the couple communicate via webcams on their laptops.

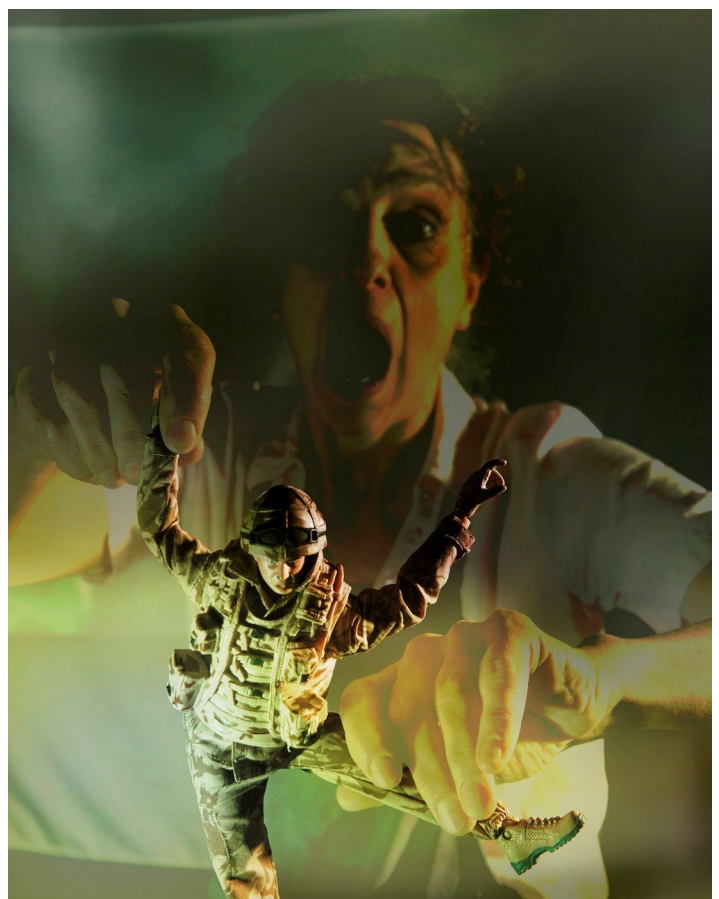
We share experiences of difficult times overcome and the debate over war and peace which now divides the couple. Is it OK to smash a man's nose in a boxing match, to kill entire civilisations in a video game, to disagree with war because that is what your father taught you? Do you support your son's choices because you love him or cut him off for the very same reason?

The use of live webcam video projection mixed with images of war, the North Devon countryside and family life brought past and present together. The use of technology was an integral part of the story and not just a gimmicky afterthought.

I hope that the Year 11 Class will be able to consider the performance as they continue devising their own pieces ahead of their performances in January.

S Jones

*Photos by Gut Harrop*







## CHINA 2013

The trip to China in July 2013 is one of the most memorable trips I have ever been on. The intense 8 day trip, travelling from Beijing to Yangsho and then to Shanghai, allowed us to visit some of the most famous sights China has to offer. Landing in Beijing in the morning of our first day, we visited Tiananmen Square. This historic place was extremely busy with tourists and many of the local Chinese people were keen to have photographs with us. It was so interesting to see a place that I had heard so much about in history lessons and in the news. We also visited famous temples and the Olympic Park. One of my favourite parts of the trip however was climbing up the hundreds of steps of the Great Wall and then tobogganing down the side. Not everyone can say that they have tobogganed down the Great Wall of China!

Yangsho was a great contrast to Beijing as it was so rural and traditional. The landscape was amazing, with picturesque hills between huge buildings. We cycled around the countryside for two days and saw some of the most brilliant views! The climb up Moon Hill was exhausting but the photos we captured at the top were remarkable. In the evening, we watched a magical light show that took place on the river we had been cycling along all day. Words cannot describe how amazing it was but it was definitely one of my favourite memories of the trip.

Shanghai was such an amazing city to experience. Its skyline at night time was so beautiful and the contrast between the Western side of the river to the traditional Chinese side was really interesting. With McDonalds, Tesco and even Costa Coffee shops lining the streets, everyone seemed much more at home. When we visited the second level of the world's tallest building, we could see places and buildings where the latest James Bond film was filmed.







The acrobat show in the evening was so much fun and so unbelievable, and that night we all said an emotional goodbye to the cutest tour guide of the trip.

So much happened in the 8 days we were there. We had 1 visit to one of the manmade wonders of the world, 3 different tour guides, 3 hotels, 2 internal flights, 6 long waits in airports, 15 sickness instances, 2 birthdays, 1 trip to A&E and 16 traditional Chinese meals each. We experienced humidity that neither hair straighteners nor air conditioning could defer and consumed over 100 bottles of water. On the 2 days of cycling, over 20 plasters were given out and, by the end of the trip, almost everyone had a Chinese hat. Countless celebrations occurred when Wi-Fi was found and breakdowns when it was lost occurred every day. Too much rice to even think about was eaten and thousands and thousands of photographs were taken. I had so much fun on such a unique trip and visited so many amazing places. It really is so unforgettable and I strongly recommend that, if given the chance, everyone should visit.

Lousia Davies



# SPANISH EXCHANGE 2013





A group of 16 students from years 10, 12 and 13 have just returned from a very successful first leg of the Spanish exchange. We were extremely lucky with the weather, not a cloud in the sky and it rarely dipped below 23 degrees. The exchange is conducted in collaboration with the High School for Girls, Denmark Road and we exchange with two schools in Spain; IES Infanta Elena, Galapagar and IES Colmenarejo. The schools are situated about 30 kilometres from Madrid. Both students and staff received a very warm welcome from our Spanish hosts who went out of their way to make us feel at home. In addition to this we were invited to a civic reception where we were introduced to the mayors of Galapagar and Colmenarejo. Throughout the trip we were very impressed with the level and the accuracy of the Spanish spoken by STRS students in the museums of Madrid and around. Highlights of the trip included the visit to the Bernabéu Stadium, home of Real Madrid, the world famous Prado Museum and the El Escorial monastery. Our students impressed their guides with their knowledge of Spanish and the interest and respect they demonstrated whilst on guided tours.

T Reece



The Spanish exchange was one of my favourite trips this year, I made a great friend who I will never forget. We went out every night with all the exchanges. My favourite moment was the last meal with all the exchanges in Frankie's and Bennies. My exchange also enjoyed it, he visited many places in England, he went to Bristol, Gloucester and London, he especially enjoyed London where he got to visit Big Ben and the London Eye, he wants to come back next summer. I enjoyed the trip and will always remember it, I am so glad I had this opportunity and would recommended this to everyone.

Ben Cornish 10S







## ST. IVES 2013

On our trip to St.Ives I was unsure at first about how much inspiration I would find or be able to take from a town that follows traditional lifestyles. Despite this I had an excellent time and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. It was very relaxing and an eye opener to what is expected of us for A level. Most days were spent visiting galleries in which we hoped to find inspiration from and recorded studies in our sketchbooks. It was great as it can be seen how it has influenced our work now but also how we have developed as artists since our trip. My favourite place we visited was the Barbara Hepworth gardens in which we were able to take plenty of photos to support our work.

Arun Mistry

Our trip to St Ives at the start of the year was a fantastic experience. After the busy first day of travelling and visiting the Leach pottery, I was already starting to become enthused with art in a way I had never been during lower school or GCSE. I found I constantly wanted to find more, create more and just generally make more art. On the second day we drove into St Ives and got our first look at the town itself. Quite a rugged and sea battered town, St Ives surprised me with its rich artistic culture, from the Tate and the Barbara Hepworth gardens to the smaller galleries that dotted the cobbled streets. After a drive home and a well needed sleep in our dorm rooms (well some sleep), we woke up the next morning to what can only be described as torrential downpours. Not to be halted in our artistic journey we ventured out into the rain and back into the town of St Ives. When given our free time I made a beeline for the Barbara Hepworth gardens, as I had found them extremely inspiring the previous day and wished to further my work on her sculptures. After a final night in the youth hostel we said our goodbyes to St Ives and returned to school, full of inspiration for our future work and new found friendships with our fellow art students that have continued to benefit me throughout my work, whether it be through peer assessment, generating ideas or simply solving technical issues or sticking points in our work.

Overall, I feel I am much improved from our trip to St Ives and I will remember our time there for the rest of my life.

Sean Moss





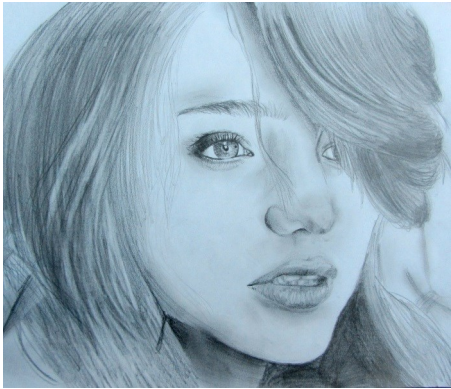


I absolutely loved our time in St. Ives, not only for inspiration in terms of artwork but also in bonding with our classmates. It was an invaluable experience that enabled us to make friends and seek inspiration. It proved to be really enjoyable, spending the days in beautiful St. Ives. Over all it was a brilliant trip!

Emily Gordon:











## HOUSE ART 2013

Before embarking on House Art I was rather anxious as to how it would run and what to expect. Nevertheless, I was extremely excited about the potential outcomes as I had seen the winning entries from the previous year. Although there were a few initial teething problems, I have to say there was a wealth of striking submissions from across all year groups. In total, there were 279 entries.

Collectively there was a strong indication that students felt confident in exploring a wide range of materials and techniques. The exploration and manipulation of media not only highlighted and reinforced classwork

sessions, it also indicated that our students are ambitious individuals and independent learners.

The adjudication process was enjoyable and I am thoroughly looking forward to next year's competition. I do intend to make a few changes to the structure of House Art and in doing so I hope to encourage even more students to explore, make, respond and create. Congratulations to all entrants for their effort, creative thinking and risk taking.

B O'Neill

My piece was inspired by the work of Romy Campe and Glyn Macey, who I came across whilst completing my AS art coursework. Within Romy Campe's work, she depicts portraits that show true human emotion, and this is something that I was keen to explore. I wanted the meaning of my work to be left open for interpretation, I did not want there to be a clear story behind the portrait's expression. For me, it portrays the feeling of pressure, how some thoughts can dominate over others and how they can start to take over. The red part of the face places emphasis on the feeling of worry, contrasting strongly with the blue tones of the rest of the piece. These vivid colours were also a reflection of Glyn Macey's work. Although I had the message strongly established in my head, I wanted my work to convey a different emotion for different people as I feel this is what is most engaging about art.

G Williams





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

We have now become a Direct Licenced Centre, which means some extra cost and management but also gives us access to direct advice and support from the Duke of Edinburgh regional and national staff and we are able to develop the award scheme within the school.

### Silver Award

Nine students successfully completed their Silver Award expedition over the first weekend of September and the external assessor Mrs Julia Griffiths, was extremely impressed by their capabilities,, team work and general professionalism.

### Bronze Award

So far 23 students from last years' Bronze Award cohort have completed their award and received their badge and certificate. At least eight more just need to upload their assessor's report to achieve this completion and many more are but a few steps away from completion.

This year we have 77 year 10 students enrolled for the next round of the Bronze award

### Gold Award

For the first time this year we are offering the Gold Award to students in Years 12 and 13. We plan to have 15+ students undertaking the Gold Award and possibly 5 girls in Year 12, who are new to the award scheme, taking the Silver Award. The expedition practice will take place at the start of the summer holidays in 2014 and the Assessed expedition in the summer of 2015.

This is an important stride forward for our school but none of this would be possible without the wide and willing contribution of so many staff. This higher level of award also requires some strenuous and challenging training and certification for staff to meet the increasingly stringent but necessary Health & Safety. One member of staff has volunteered to undertake the Coastal and Countryside training in the last weekend of November, involving a cold night camping. Others will be undertaking training and then assessment weekends in February and March next year in the Brecon Beacons. The sheer numbers of staff and their willing contribution in so many ways is a real tribute to the school and the students.

S James







Sir Thomas Rich's School Drama  
Department Proudly Presents

# Oliver!

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>,  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> & Friday  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

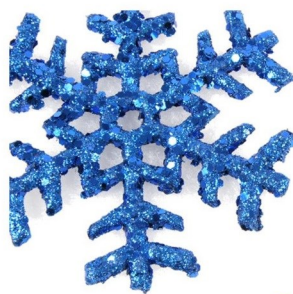
In the School Hall  
Doors Open at 7:00pm  
Show Starts at 7:30pm

Tickets: (available from Reception)

£3.00 students/concessions

£5.00 Adults

Oliver! Book, Music and lyrics by Lionel Bart. Licenced by MusicScope, London, England



SIR THOMAS RICH'S  
requests the pleasure of  
your company at our

## FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

On

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 7.30pm

St. John's Church, Northgate

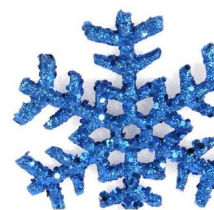
or

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 7.30pm

St. Catharine's Church, London Road

For tickets, please contact

The School Reception on 01452 338400



# Christmas

with the STRS  
BRASS BAND

A festive  
collection  
of music,  
readings and  
carols

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December  
5:00pm



Following last year's success the  
STRS Music Department proudly  
present their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual



# Jazz Night



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
7:30pm  
in the School Hall  
Doors open at 7:00pm



An evening of sophisticated  
live music from the Jazz  
Band with solo performers  
and special guest  
singers.



Tickets:

Adults - £3.00

Students - £2.00

Available from Reception





**1<sup>st</sup> XV**

The 2013-14 season began in July with the Tour to New Zealand. A narrow 14-12 defeat to Jonah Lomu's old school, Wesley College with tries from Josh Cannon and Dan Scholey, was followed by a stunning victory against the Bay of Plenty Regional side 19-16. A hard fought win against 'Super 8' School, Palmerston North Boys High 22-10 rounded off the tour with tries from Dan Scholey, Liam Jenkins and Harry Johnson.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> XV's first game back in the UK they played Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School, Salisbury at home before school started in August. They again recorded an excellent 31-5 victory with tries from Dan Scholey, Harry Johnson, Tom Evans, Lee Hathaway and Sam Colbert-Smith. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV's next opponents were Bridgend College from Wales who travelled up to Gloucester. Against an aggressive, powerful side, Lee Hathaway's two tries brought Tommies back into the game after Bridgend had built up an early lead. Other tries from Harry Johnson, Sam Underhill and Ross Preedy helped to secure a 41-22 win. Ross Preedy scored 19 points in this game and controlled territory superbly well. Preedy kicked six conversions and scored another try in Tommies' next game against Chosen Hill. At half time the 1<sup>st</sup> XV were only leading 5-0 but a powerful second half display from Underhill and Zach Robb ensured a comfortable 47-3 win. The other try scorers were Underhill (2), Scholey, Hathaway, Callum Dean and Matt Peters.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> XV's first home Saturday fixture of the year they completely steamrolled QEH Bristol. In a superb performance, Tommies ripped through QEH's defence at ease and recorded a 53-7 victory. Max Price scored two powerful tries, Preedy, Dean, Hathaway, T Evans and Harry Schofield scored the rest.

The following Saturday saw Tommies

travel to Stowe School for the first time in the school's history. In Tommies' toughest fixture of the season so far, the 1<sup>st</sup> XV ran out in front of the magnificent architecture of Stowe School onto their immaculate 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch. It was like playing rugby in front of Buckingham Palace and whether that had an effect or not Stowe took an early lead. A mix up between Underhill and Dom Cain saw one of the Stowe centres kick the ball ahead to score. Then poor tackling from a lineout inside the Tommies' 22 saw Stowe score again. At half time two Ross Preedy penalties was all Tommies had to show as they were behind 17-6. In the second half, some powerful play from the forwards and kick ahead from Joe Carolan resulted in Preedy scoring in the corner to make it 17-11. Then from a scrum, on the half way line, Preedy gave an inside ball to blindside winger Dan Scholey who cut through the Stowe defence. Scholey managed to find centre Josh Vallender in space who managed to shrug off the Stowe full back to score, making the game 18-17 to Tommies. Tommies dominated the next ten minutes; the Tommies forwards started to assert themselves and some powerful running from Underhill, Robb and Price led to Zhen Hussain scoring, 23-17. With time running out Stowe threw everything at the Tommies line; some great defence from all the boys, saw Rich's come away with a very hard fought victory. The only negative from the day was the news that hardworking second row Duncan Lynch would be side-lined for three months with a broken collar bone.

The next game saw Tommies welcome RGS Worcester to Oakleaze on a Wednesday afternoon. Tommies held off some early pressure from RGS and when Underhill bulldozed his way to line, Tommies really started to cut loose. Ross Preedy scored another superb solo try and the

forwards started to dominate the breakdown enough for Kit Kirby and Zhen Hussain to crash over for tries. Josh Vallender and the ever present Lee Hathaway rounded off proceedings with a try each to make the final score 38-12.

The first round of the re-named Natwest Cup saw Tommies take on Cleeve School at Oakleaze. The final score was 81-0 in what proved to be a very one-sided game with Tommies scoring 13 tries. The try scorers were Colbert-Smith (2), Lee Hathaway (2), Harry Johnson (2), Tom Evans (2), Zach Robb, Jack Tharm, Josh Vallender, Dom Cain and James Foylan. Again, the only negative from the game was an injury, two minutes after scoring a superb solo try, Dom Cain made yet another fantastic break but as he was tackled, he fell heavily and joined Duncan Lynch with a broken collar bone.

Tommies then took on seven time winners of the Daily Mail Cup, Colston's at Oakleaze. With Lynch and Cain out through injury, Captain Underhill also withdrew with a shoulder problem after playing for Gloucester A team against Sale Sharks and Leicester Tigers. Tommies dominated most of the game but were only one try up at half time, as the Colston's defence worked tirelessly to keep Tommies at bay. A couple of breaks and an interception saw centre Callum Dean crash over for a hat-trick of tries and Lee Hathaway added to his ever growing list of tries with two himself. Tommies defence was excellent as they prevented Colston's from scoring and recorded a 32-0 victory.

The next game of the season was the toughest so far as Tommies welcomed Monmouth 1<sup>st</sup> XV to Oakleaze for the first time. Tommies still without Underhill and the other longer term injuries were desperate to record an historic win over Monmouth. Last season only a spectacular performance from Ollie



Young rescued a 33-33 draw in Wales. However this year's game could not have had a worse start for Tommies as from the kick off Preedy could not gather the ball and Vallenders' eventual clearance ended up in the Monmouth full back hands who raced in to score within the first two minutes. Tommies got back on the score sheet with two superbly struck Preedy penalties. Then from a midfield scrum, some lovely decoy running from the backs left Scholey in space who fed Hathaway, who evaded two Monmouth defenders to score an exceptional try. Tommies were put in an even stronger position when from the re-start Monmouth kicked towards the backs, Scholey gathered the ball beat a defender, offloaded to Dean who raced 40 metres before finding Vallender who dived over the line to score. Tommies now led 18-7 but this lead was cut to 18-12 just before half time as Monmouth's superiority in the scrum began to take its toll. Simon Cooley, Will Rees and Obai Afifi were doing everything they could to at least get parity in the scrum but the extra weight of the Monmouth pack started to dominate. In the second half, Tommies were under enormous pressure for the first 25 minutes but their defence held strong. Eventually the Monmouth scrum half sneaked over to make the score 18-17 to Tommies. Tommies attacked Monmouth ferociously from the kick off and they were rewarded with a penalty which Preedy kicked with ease to make the score 21-17. With five minutes to go all Tommies had to do was take the kick off and run down the clock, however Monmouth re-gathered the kick off and after a few penalties, they managed to score a try with the last play of the game. They converted the try to win the game 24-21 and take Tommies 1<sup>st</sup> XV's home unbeaten record which had lasted for 20 months since 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 when

the 2011-12 1<sup>st</sup> XV lost 18-17 to St Joseph's Ipswich in the Daily Mail cup quarter final.

To bounce back from a late defeat in the last play of the game was always going to be difficult but with only a few days rest Tommies travelled to Wycliffe College to play the next round of the Natwest Cup. There was quite a few changes to the side that played Monmouth which shows the strength in depth of the Senior sides. In fact 42 boys have played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV so far this season which goes to show the competition for places is high. Tommies had little trouble recording a ten try 68-3 victory at Wycliffe with tries from Jack Tharm (2), Harry Schofield (2), Rory Gunning (2), Euan Whitbourne, Colbert-Smith, Harry Johnson and Ed Nelms. Joe Carolan kicked nine conversions as the game was stopped early. After half term the 1<sup>st</sup> XV got straight back to winning ways with a very confident, powerful performance in the Grammar School derby match with Pate's. The forwards were very abrasive, Liam Jenkins and Afifi scrummaged superbly well, Will Rees, Robb, Underhill and Johnson were superb in the loose and Kit Kirby had one of his best games for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. This laid an outstanding platform for Carolan and Preedy to control the game; Preedy scored a try along with Tom Evans (2), Colbert-Smith and Hathaway. The only negative was with ten minutes to go Tommies were leading 33-0, but they took their foot off the gas and allowed Pate's back into the game. Pate's scored two late tries to make the final score 33-12. Tommies now face Hereford Cathedral before a tough test away at Dean Close in the next round of the Natwest Cup, before Loughborough Grammar School and King's Parramatta Sydney in December.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XV

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV have had an excellent

season so far with 42 boys having played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV it shows the strength in depth of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV. They lost narrowly to Long Bay College and Palmerston North but defeated the Bay of Plenty in New Zealand. At home they defeated Bridgend College, Beaufort 1<sup>st</sup> XV, QEH Bristol, Stowe School, RGS Worcester, Colston's, King Edward's Bath, Old Swinford Hospital. They drew 15-15 against Cokethorpe School 1<sup>st</sup> XV in a game they should have won when they were awarded a penalty in front of the posts with the last play of the game but chose to tap and go! Disappointing results were a 22-20 defeat to Monmouth in similar fashion to the 1sts with Monmouth scoring a try with the last play of the game and Pate's Grammar in a dire 5-0 performance.

The 2nds have been captained superbly by Zak Underwood and in his absence due to injury, Euan Whitbourn.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> XV

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XV defeated Long Bay College 2<sup>nd</sup> XV in the first game of the New Zealand tour which set the tone for the rest of the games. They defeated Palmerston North but lost heavily to the Bay of Plenty u16B team. They defeated Beaufort School 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and drew 10-10 with Stowe School. They defeated Cokethorpe School 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 21-19 and defeated Pate's Grammar 22-8.

## U16s

It has been an inconsistent season so far for the u16s, however they have performed better than expected in a number of games. The u16s lost their first game of the season to BHBS 17-5 but bounced back against QEH Bristol with a 19-14 victory. They put in a superb performance against Stowe School at home but lost narrowly 22-14. They then defeated RGS Worcester and KES Bath before



drawing 10-10 against Colston's in a game they should have won. They lost to a very good King's Worcester side 34-21 before losing to a powerful Monmouth side 21-7. In their final game before half term they defeated Old Swinford Hospital 31-5.

The B team defeated BHBS but lost heavily to QEH and Stowe.

### U15s

The u15s started the season poorly with an inaccurate display against BHBS losing 26-12. They turned this around against QEH winning 59-22, however they were ripped apart in a dreadful performance against an outstanding Stowe side where they lost by 80 points. Since then they have worked hard to improve and went on to record victories against RGS Worcester, King's Worcester and Colston's. They lost a closely fought game away at Monmouth 36-28 but then went on to defeat Old Swinford, Pate's Grammar and Marling, latterly in their first Natwest game. They now play Newent in the next round. Connor Gresty has been excellent and Gabe Chelloti outstanding as captain.

The B team defeated BHBS, QEH, RGS Worcester, Colston's and Old Swinford but lost to Stowe, King's Worcester and Monmouth.

### U14s

The u14s look really good this season they defeated BHBS, QEH, Cheltenham Bournside, RGS Worcester, Colston's, Old Swinford, Chosen Hill and Pate's Grammar. Their only defeat of the season has been against a very powerful Monmouth side, where their defensive organisation was poor. They will need to work on this but there is a lot of talent in this team.

The B team have also had a good season so far showing there is a lot of strength in depth in this yea group. The defeated BHBS, QEH, RGS Worcester, Colston's, Chosen Hill and Pate's. They drew 12-12 with Old Swinford but lost to Monmouth School.

### U13s

The u13s have had a very mixed season. They defeated BHBS, QEH, Cheltenham College, Tewkesbury, Chosen Hill and Pate's Grammar. However they lost to Dean Close, RGS Worcester, Colston's, King's Worcester, KES Bath and Monmouth.

The B team defeated BHBS, QEH, RGS Worcester, Colston's, Monmouth, Tewkesbury, Chosen Hill and Pate's but unfortunately lost to King's Worcester, Cheltenham College and KES Bath.

The C team lost to BHBS and KES Bath but defeated Cheltenham College and Tewkesbury School.

### U12s

The u12s have started their Tommies rugby career well, with over 70 boys training for the school teams. The As lost to Bromsgrove in their first game but since then they have gone undefeated, recording wins against RGS Worcester, King's Worcester, Colston's, Monmouth, New Hall Chelmsford, Old Swinford Hospital, KES Bath and Beaufort.

The B team are unbeaten with draws against Bromsgrove and Monmouth but wins against RGS Worcester, King's Worcester, Colston's, KES Bath, New Hall and Beaufort. The C team are also undefeated with wins against Bromsgrove, RGS Worcester, Beaufort and Tewkesbury.

R Williams

## SWIMMING

The School entered 3 teams in the English Schools Swimming Association Division 5 Regional Championships, held at Millfield School. The teams competed in both Medley and Freestyle relays over 200m, with each swimmer completing 50m.

This Championship was also the qualifier for the National Finals, which is to be held at Crystal Palace on November 23rd.

All teams competed well and the results are as follows:  
Junior Team: J.Chantler, A.Jones, B.Nichols, C.Dickson & S.Amini-Raouf

Freestyle Relay – 2 mins 14.01 secs and came 78th out of 146 teams nationally

Medley Relay – 2 mins 31.32 secs and came 68th out of 140 teams nationally

Intermediate team: M.Munden, W.Park, G.Moran, J.Hadden & J.Smith

Freestyle Relay -1 min 51.18 secs and came 51st out of 110 teams nationally

Medley Relay - 2 mins 06.42 secs and came 25th out of 110 teams nationally

Senior Team: C.Munden, S.Gaskins, J.Isaac 7 J.Lee  
Freestyle Relay – 1 min 43.77 secs and came 14th out of 77 teams

Medley relay – 1 min 56.76 secs and came 9th out of 80 teams nationally.

The times from the senior team have led to their qualifications at the National Finals.

Well done to all swimmers, and we wish the best of luck to the Senior Team in the forthcoming finals.

I J Gallagher



# Sir Thomas Rich's Sports Centre



Sir Thomas Rich's School has a wide range of facilities available to hire and can cater for numerous activities. The facilities include the assembly hall, sports hall, old gymnasium and swimming pool. Please contact 01452 338439 for more information.

Groups currently providing activities at the School can be found below:

HEALTH, FITNESS AND MARTIAL ARTS		SWIMMING	
Severn Tae Kwon-Do Tigers 07715 953775	Monday 16.30-17.30 07715 953775	Waterwise Swim School 01452 533230	Tuesday 16.30-19.00
Fit Tech Total Circuits 07866 487320 jondfrench@hotmail.com	Tuesday 19.30-20.30 Thursday 19.00-20.00 Sunday 10.30-11.30	Swim School 01452 549759 (after 18.30)	Sunday 19.00-20.00
Samurai Karate 01452 610070/07971 584901	Wednesday 18.30-20.30 Saturday 09.00-14.00	Glos Little Ducklings Swim School 01242 693219 01452 533230	Monday 16.00-19.45 Tuesday 16.45-20.00 Thursday 16.30-19.45
Gary Hamilton Circuits 07504 064817	Monday 18.30-19.30	Swim Away 01242 279599	Saturday 13.00-16.45
Clive Harrison Tae Kwon Do 07976 986439	Monday 19.30-20.30	Aquanauts 07826 288935	Friday 16.30-18.30 Saturday 08.30-12.00
Krav Maga with Will 07866 417618	Thursday 20.00-21.30	Puddle Ducks 01452 473073	Tuesday 10.30-12.00
Krav Maga with Anna 7523034572	Monday 20.30-21.30	Swimming by Design 01242 279599	Sunday 09.00-14.00
Weightwatchers 01684 833469	Tuesday 19.00-21.00	DANCE AND GYMNASTICS	
SPORTS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES (including holiday groups)		Zumba with Mandy 07790 545570 info@zumbawithmandy.co.uk	Wednesday 18.30-19.15
Cheltenham Town Futsal 01242 518630	Thursday 18.00-19.00	Sarah's Gymnastics 07940 539688 slgale@talk21.com	Term time only Wednesday 15.45-18.00 Friday 16.00-18.15
Isporta Multi-sports 7801801922	Holiday Camps	Hampstead Factory 01242 234664	Saturday 14.00-16.45
Cotswold Skating info@gloucesterskating.co.uk	Saturday 11.30-13.00	LEARNING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
Severn Roller Torrent severnrollertorent@googlemail.com	Tuesday 18.00-19.00	Kumon Maths and English Study 01531 890855	Monday 16.00-18.00 Tuesday 16.00-18.00 Wednesday 16.00-18.00
Glevum Archers 07899 937096	Sunday 14.00-18.00	Chinese School 01452 855022	Saturday 12.30-16.30
Super Camps 01235 832222	Summer Holidays	Art Academy 07505 243745 artacademyglos@yahoo.co.uk	TBC
		Brookfield Music Centre 01452 330300	Saturday 09.30-13.00



# 2013/14

Friday 6 December	In-Service Day
Monday 9 - Friday 13 December	Y11 Work Experience
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Musical – Oliver
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y13 Parents Evening 5pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at St. John's 7.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at St. Catharine's 7.30pm
Friday 20 December	Last day of term 12.45pm
Monday 6 January	First day of term
Thursday 9 January	Y11 Parents Evening 5pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Y9 options evening
Thursday 23 January	Sixth Form Open Evening 6.30pm
Tuesday 4 February	Y8 Parents Evening 5pm
Wednesday 12 February	Y9 Parents Evening 5pm
Friday 14 February	Jazz Night
Monday 17 – Friday 21 February	Half-term holidays
Monday 24 - Friday 28 February	Y10 Exams
Monday 3 March	In-Service Day
Monday 10 - Friday 14 March	Founders Week
Monday 17 March	Y7 Parents Evening 5pm
Monday 17 - Friday 21 March	Trials AS Exams
Thursday 3 April	Spring Concert
Friday 4 April	Last day of term 12.45pm
Monday 21 April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22 April	First day of term
Tuesday 22 - Friday 25 April	Trial A2 Exams
Monday 5 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 26 to Friday 30 May	Half-term holidays
Tuesday 10 June	Y10 Parents Evening 5pm
Friday 20 - Thursday 26 June	Y7-9 Exams
Friday 27 June	In-Service Day
Monday 30 June - Friday 4 July	Sixth Form Induction Week
Thursday 3 July	Sports Evening 6.30pm
Saturday 5 July	New Y7 & Parents
Thursday 10 July	New Y7 Induction Day
Friday 11 July	Summer Concert
Tuesday 22 July	Last day of term