

The Richian

Magazine December 2014



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome to the first edition of the new school magazine, which combines the Newsletter and the Richian. Every term, we will be updating parents, governors, Old Richians and friends of the School on the wide range of events and activities which enrich the experience of our pupils beyond the classroom. One of which is the production of this magazine, written and edited by our budding journalists in Year 11 and the Sixth Form who are keen to develop their talents. I am particularly grateful to Mike Seales who, before his retirement last term, revived 'The Richian', several years ago, as a method of, not only recording the busy life of the School, but also inspiring pupils to use their reporting skills for an authentic purpose. This year, Ms Herron and Mrs Sargeant have taken over the reins and I thank them for the many hours they have spent guiding and supporting the editorial team. I hope that you will enjoy reading current news items as well as news items from years gone by that have been found in the School's archives.

The next edition of 'The Richian' will feature the exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the First World War and will report on the school production, A Christmas Carol. Best wishes for a restorative festive break.

Matthew Morgan

Matthew Morgan



SPEECH NIGHT

Yet again Speech Day this year was a great success at Sir Thomas Rich's, retaining its status as the most prestigious event in the School's calendar. Prizes were awarded for outstanding academic achievement and extra-curricular activities were also recognised, such as services to sport and contribution to the choir.

The speaker this year was Mr Simon Calver, a former pupil who previously worked as CEO of LOVEFiLM, Mothercare and is now chairman of a number of start-up companies in London. In his address, he spoke of how Rich's gave him the opportunity to enjoy responsibility of being an Observer and House Captain of Eastgate; and subsequently pointed out that they won the Cock House cup when he was Captain, which he said to be the fondest memory of his life at Rich's. He told us: "Rich's gave me a great balance and foundation for life as well as providing me with emotional intelligence and the ability to work with people."

The School provided him with many happy memories such as performing on the stage and playing rugby. He even saw his brother's name on the honours' boards as one of the old captains. Lessons also provided fond memories of the School for Mr Calver. When asked what his favourite subject was, he replied, "Physics with Mr Jeffreys."

Despite being such a high achiever, we asked Mr Calver whether he had any detentions during his time at Tommy's, to which he responded, "Yes, loads, I had the cane too! The old headmaster was a squash player so he would hit the top of the cabinet behind him and hit you so hard you looked like you had tram lines on your back. I definitely had a mischievous side!" However, he is more than happy with how his school life panned out and when asked if he would do the same, given another chance, he responded, "Yes, I would not change anything." Overall, Mr Calver told us that the proudest achievement of his life was "taking LOVEFiLM from the initial start-up to the final sale on a business front, but on a personal front, it was definitely the birth of my children."

Mr Morgan's speech gave us an insight into the previous academic year as well as a few jokes along the way. He spoke of how school days are meant to be the happiest days of your lives, going on to ask "how does it feel that you will never be any happier than you are right now?" - A question that received rapturous laughter. Finally, the National Anthem was sung with passion to round off Speech Day in the 50th anniversary year of the first in Longlevens.

Poppy Watson





MISS JANFERIE WILTON MBE: FRIEND OF THE FAMILY



Recently our longstanding Chairman of Governors was awarded an MBE for her services to the School and education. To congratulate her on receiving her honours, we asked her for an interview. We found that her account of a career helping to steer Sir Thomas Rich's through to the present day revealed much about its recent past, and that an insight into her character can tell us much about the underlying philosophy of the School.

Miss J. Wilton MBE sits across from me in the old headmaster's office, relaxed, comfortably secure in a room she is no doubt happily familiar with. A bright yellow Marie Curie Cancer Care daffodil badge emblazons her dark blue coat and, despite her generally reserved manner, a clear spark of enthusiasm is detectable in her face. Her place within this institution is well defined as Chairman of Governors after a period of 26 years but, rather than cutting a more daunting figure for me to interview, it is precisely this quality that puts me at ease and allows the dialogue to begin.

I ask her first about her own views as to what she thinks the role of the governor is, as much for my own benefit as for a possible point to include here. I have been a pupil at Sir Thomas Rich's for over six years and this is my first opportunity to find out about the quasi-managerial body of governors that conducts its essential business behind the scenes, unnoticed by the vast majority of those who benefit directly from their work. She answers in a considered way, "Well, to be a governor is to be a critical friend of the school," and directs me to a code for governors that she and Mr Morgan have created available on the school website.

Naturally Miss Wilton's particular task within the Governors' organisation, in addition to co-ordinating the various constituent committees over the year, means that she often liaises directly with the Headmaster. Or headmasters I should say, for she has known more than one. The headmaster who has served the longest time under her

partial supervision is Mr Ian Kellie, with whom she got on "extremely well," because they could "bounce ideas off each other" and cooperate to solve some difficult problems together effectively. Mr Morgan relates that, as one relatively new to being a headmaster, Miss Wilton often tells him about how she mentored Mr Kellie when he was a new headmaster in 1994. I suspect Miss Wilton would probably baulk in embarrassment at the kind of effusive complimentary language Mr Morgan uses to describe her, so I shall limit it to just a few key adjectives like "wise," "principled" and "committed."

Do these qualities explain why she has remained such a stalwart at this School as a governor? I asked how she first became involved in running affairs at Sir Thomas Rich's, and it was connections within the School as well as a primary interest in education (at the time she was teaching and training people for the electricity supply industry) that prompted her to join the

School governors' board. However, a deeper and more interesting family connection perhaps also spurred her to take a role here. While she went to the High School for Girls, her brother and cousins attended Sir Thomas Rich's as did her grandfathers before them. However, the truly astonishing historic connection to the School is that the Gloucester City clerk who signed the documents to set up Sir Thomas Rich's Bluecoat Hospital was himself a Wilton ancestor! Miss Wilton enjoys the sense of heritage of the School as it hurtles through the twenty-first century, for example how it recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the School's move to our present site.

It is testament to her determination that she has stuck with us ever since over a period of 38 years, rising to become Chairman of Governors. Conversing with her you get a real sense that her affection for the School has only grown with time. Besides calling it a "lovely school," she is wont to compare it to a "family" with a good-natured atmosphere. She believes boys perform better academically when educated separately, and that the strict enforcement of rules and need for role models in the upper years contributes to the friendly and polite attitude in general. It was her tenacious desire to preserve this that may be the main reason she continued to work as a governor.

After all, from before the time she started as a governor to well over a decade afterwards, the County Council was trying to "re-organise education" in Gloucester such that Sir Thomas Rich's was threatened. The governors as much as the headmasters at the time had to fight off plans to compromise the School's fundamental structure, meeting every year to work out new "tactics of resistance," as Miss Wilton calls them. At various times the School was under pressure to become non-selective, a sixth form college, or outright close. At one point the maximum intake was reduced by the council so much that there were only two forms inducted one year into Year 7! I am surprised by how prepared Miss Wilton is to recount this episode of the School's history, which no one really likes to talk about. But in a way isn't it as important as any other recent period of change? The persecution of grammar

schools and of Sir Thomas Rich's is a historical fact that should make us feel grateful that we do go to such an excellent school, and particularly to those like Miss Wilton who ensured that that was possible.

Underfunding was another problem. Miss Wilton remembers one time when Mr Kellie invited parents to repaint all the rooms on the first floor because the School could only afford the paint pots. Under Mr Kellie with the aid of others including Miss Wilton, the School overcame these "sticky issues" through a kind of virtuous cycle encouraged by academic success. For instance, the School's status as a 'Beacon' school for languages secured the extra funding needed for the Veale block in 2002. From this time the School has gone from strength to strength, with the Governors obviously playing a large supporting part in obtaining 'outstanding' Ofsted reports, a new façade for the school, the Food Tech room, and the Learning Resource Centre and Sixth Form Centre. Just as impressive was the successful bid a few years ago to become an academy practically in control of its own budget. The Governors have always had a great deal to do with money matters: when she first attended governors' meetings, Miss Wilton found it was just saying "yea" or "nay" to proposed plans, however since 1989 the governing body has had a lot more input and guidance to this process.

It is no wonder then that Jan Wilton was awarded an MBE this year. She says that at first when she received a letter asking her whether she would accept such an honour were it to be offered, her instinct was to refuse since she didn't want "all the fuss," but was encouraged by her sister to accept. By all accounts the reception at Windsor Castle was sensational. From the privileged parking spot right next to the stately home and "wonderfully" helpful attitude of the staff there, to the "patriotic but intimate" setting of the room where the Duke of Cambridge gave out the honours, it sounds extraordinary. She herself says that she was "absolutely terrified" so of course it was a "very enjoyable day." The then School Captains and the Headmaster were there to see the ceremony from the "third row" (Mr Morgan is very excited to point out), where Miss J

Wilton MBE could direct the attention of the Duke "to your left" so that our own delegates were some of the very few to be identified in the crowd of faces in that grand parlour. On the Duke's asking her why she had given so much time and effort to the School, she replied that it was like a "small but happy family."

Mr Morgan is a bit more willing than herself to elaborate on what Miss Wilton means to the School as a governor, describing her as "safeguard, in the truest sense of the word ... someone who guides the School according to the core values that we want to protect." He goes so far as to compare her to the Queen in that, as education can be a political football inflated with trends and agendas that come to nought when the government changes, so individual headmasters (of which Wilton has seen five during her time here) can push for changes according to a personal vision that turns out to be ephemeral; the Chairman of Governors provides a core of stability and definite values that refuses to allow the management of the school to forget its history and direction. So, as I end the interview with her sitting regally in this quiet office and thank her for her time, it occurs to me that in fact, constitutionally at least, her role might be more significant than the Queen's. She is accountable, has to work to retain her job and provide real political direction in the long term – far from a figurehead, she is a producer, in the wings helping to make sure things run smoothly.

By Freddie Coombes, 13H



STAFF LEAVERS

CHRISTINE BROOKES

Christine was Head of English at Tommy’s for four years. During that time she introduced Language and Literature A Level and steered the department towards IGCSE language and literature. Both decisions led to increased pupil numbers at A Level and a proliferation in the A and A* grades achieved at GCSE.

In addition to contributing to the academic development of the department, Christine introduced the Year 9 Newspaper Day, which resulted in some staff wearing costumes and fictional reports of Sir Thomas Rich’s opening a farm!

Christine also organised public speaking groups and wrote two very entertaining, school-based plays for Junior Drama. She has yet to put them on general release.

Above all, Christine was an approachable, friendly colleague who was prepared to listen to her department and put into practice their ideas.

J Spilsbury

ROGER BROOKIN

Roger Brookin joined Sir Thomas Rich’s from a prestigious and academic background. Having read Classics and then Chinese at Pembroke College Cambridge, he rose to become Headmaster at a Comprehensive School in Oxfordshire. His quiet and unassuming manner belies his adventurous spirit, for during this time he also led tour groups to China, then undeveloped and just emerging from the Cultural Revolution. He left rural Oxfordshire for Hong Kong to take up the position of Principal at an International School. Roger came out of retirement to teach Classical Civilisation and Mandarin Chinese to Sixth Form students at Sir Thomas Rich’s. He also taught Latin in the lunchtime to any student who showed an interest. He considered it a huge privilege and real pleasure to spend time with such well-motivated and friendly students and soon gained their respect through his immense intellect, kindly and scholarly manner and dry sense of humour.

We are very grateful for his many contributions to the School and wish him a very happy retirement.

J Hewett

KEVIN BOONE

Kevin Boone retires after 8 years’ service at STRS. For the last 4 years Kevin was Senior Technician, in charge of running the support staff for the Science Department. Throughout his time at STRS Kevin brought efficiency and vigour to his role. His skills enabled him to find a solution to a problem quickly, especially when it came to adapting apparatus to make it fit for purpose. I shall miss the 07:15 meetings we had, where we put the world to rights or laughed at the latest amusing story on the radio. Like so many Rich’s staff before him, it proves difficult to leave and we are grateful that Kevin has already been back to help out.

But we know this is only temporary and before long Kevin will leave the buildings for the last time. The Science Department are immensely indebted to what Kevin has done during his tenure and we all wish him, and his wife Christine, well in their retirement.

A Passey

CATHERINE THOMAS

Catherine Thomas joined STRS in May to cover maternity leave for Helen Clune. Catherine came with plenty of experience, having worked as a Head of Music and a professional accompanist in Malaysia. Catherine is also a scholar of music, studying for her Master’s Degree. She will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her new post at The Cotswold School.

P Jones

KATE PRINSEP

Kate joined the school in 2004 from a school in Birmingham. She was involved in lots of aspects of school life including Year 7 visits to Stratford when she had a Year 7 tutor group. With a sixth form group, she went on school trips to Uganda as well as China. She helped to establish the science school outreach to local primary schools and ran the Year 6 Science summer school. On leaving STRS she aims to pursue tutoring as well as finish her postgraduate qualification as well.

R Birkett



NEW STAFF

CLARE SAUNDERS

Mrs Saunders is welcomed to Sir Thomas Rich’s from her previous post in the east end of London. So far, she has been impressed by the polite and friendly relationship between staff and pupils. She is looking forward to getting involved in the Debating Society and hopes to establish an English Society to encourage the literary excellence which is already part of Sir Thomas Rich’s.



Tyler Wells

KATRINA GASSOR

Ms Gassor is the newest member of staff to join science technicians who work ‘backstage’ in the science department. She joins us from Cheltenham Ladies College. She has previously worked in a chromatography lab which is a type of chemical analysis.



LINDA LEE

Linda Lee joins the reception desk. She has previously worked for the Royal National Lifeboat Service and with ICI. Her son attended STRS until last year and is currently taking a gap year. She is also a musician, playing the flugelhorn in the School’s brass band.



JANE MORTON

Jane Morton joins the School as the Headmaster’s PA, a crucial administrative role. Previously she worked for 9 years at John Masefield’s School in Ledbury. Amongst her hobbies are music, playing the cornet and the flugelhorn in the brass band, and running.



HELEN THACKWAY

Mrs Thackway is teaching English while Mrs Jones is on maternity leave. Before becoming a teacher she worked in industry in pharmaceuticals.



Will Nunn

TOM PRICE

Mr Price attended the University of Cardiff where he studied pharmacology. He worked in the NHS in tech support for 3 years. He teaches Chemistry and he is interested in becoming involved with badminton and cricket at the School.



Will Nunn

ANGIE JONES

After many years experience of working in different roles, supporting pupils and adults with special needs, Angie has joined our Pastoral team. She enjoys this particular field of work as it is extremely rewarding especially when pupils achieve success.



L Herron

LEIGH-ANNE BOUCHER

Leigh-Ann Boucher is a welcome addition to the School site team. She is often seen around the buildings and grounds, working hard to ensure the School looks its best. She brings excellent DIY skills and her previous experience in the cleaning team to the role. Leigh-Ann says she enjoys working at such a good school.



R Sargeant

OLIVER DEACON

With a BSc (Hons) in Sports Education and Coaching, Oliver Deacon has joined as a cover supervisor. He has previously worked in a variety of roles including bar management at some of the greatest sporting events in the UK, like Silverstone and Wentworth Golf. He helps coach at Longlevens Rugby Club and plays for the First XV in a competitive league. Oliver is still getting used to being called Mr Deacon: “Recently at an evening game at Kingsholm, with my Dad, I bumped into some STRS pupils who said ‘Hi Mr Deacon’. And this time they meant me!”



O Deacon

ANY STORY WELL TOLD WILL GET A STUDENT’S ATTENTION



After a long teaching career, 15 years of which spent at Sir Thomas Rich’s, Mr Seales has retired. We caught up with him in an interview to learn more about his own contributions to the School.

Any of Mr Seales’ pupils can tell you that of the many digressions, riffs and side-notes he employs to illustrate his points, anecdotes are his favourite. For instance, each year, when Year 12 students are looking into applying for their university course, he tells students how he made his decision. A teacher put in front of him a prospectus for a single institution, “Seales, this is the place for you.” Mr

Seales enrolled without visiting the campus. He presents it as a cautionary tale to Sixth Formers, despite his later adding he “had a great time.”

Mr Seales first arrived at the School in 1998 as the Head of Sixth Form, having been a deputy head in his previous school. What first impressed him about Rich’s, he reveals, was the way the staff were “cohesive” and “committed” under the leadership of Ian Kellie. “There was no pretension”, a paramount feature of school culture. He knew he liked it when a pupil told him, “It’s cool to achieve here.”

Mr Seales himself describes his teaching style as “old-fashioned sock-it-to-‘em,” a barrage of new concepts to learn with as much depth and debate as possible. His enviable passion explains why he would stand on chairs in order to reach the top part of the board, how he could talk for hours about developmental economics and what he means when he mentions the “edge” that a teacher should keep up.

In contrast to this, his role as Head of Sixth Form required a certain degree of “managing adults,” “very different from managing children.” Under his auspices,

Sixth Form grew from 150 to its current size of about 360, mainly augmented by increased number of girls enrolled. I ask why he went into teaching. “I remember wanting to be only two things from a very early age, and those were a teacher or a journalist.” The Richian owes much to Mr Seales. With Ms Herron, he compiled an annual volume of student-submitted work. He saw “more and more going on in the School” that required a “permanent record.”

So surely it’s quite relaxing to retire from a profession with “very little down time?” But “I am always busy,” he tells me cheerily. This is the last possible opportunity to interview him because in the last few weeks he has been otherwise disposed. He helps train guide dogs, looks after his own dog and has plans to travel.

At the end of the interview, we firmly shake hands. I remember one Richian editorial meeting a year ago when Sir described the prospect of writing a piece in the magazine that celebrated Headmaster Mr Kellie’s character and career at the School as “daunting.” I now know what he meant by saying that.

Freddie Coombes

PHIL BROWN

As an ‘Old Boy’ of the School, Phil returned to Tommy’s to experience life on the other side of the desk in 1998. Having spent time in Industry, Phil was tasked with setting up the School’s ICT System which he did with the help of the ‘A Team’, which included a much younger Matt Hopton, who is now our Network Manager! Phil taught ICT and more recently Food Technology and did so in a very professional way, always setting high expectations of the pupils under his charge. As a member of the D&T department, he played a key role in the internal design of the Food Technology Centre and, indeed, the vegetable garden!.

It was out of the classroom where Phil really made his mark. For many years he ran the School’s well known and revered Venture Scout Unit, taking over the reins from his mentor and good friend, the great Frank Henderson. Numerous Richians will have lifelong memories of the various activities organised and supervised by Phil and his team including expeditions to Scotland, Ireland and Norway.

Phil was also a very good rugby coach and ran the U12As for a while before helping me with the U13s for many years. He also ran the very popular Badminton Club for many years. It provided a great opportunity for a number of senior pupils to get involved in an extra-curricular activity and much of what went on after school on a Wednesday was more ‘Social

Badminton’ than highly competitive matches. However, some more serious badminton did go on and both the U14 and 16 teams, organised by Phil, represented the County in the Regional Championships at Exeter University on a number of occasions. In addition, he was an outstanding Junior Cricket coach who, for a long time, ran the U12 and 13As very successfully. Phil set up the very popular Y8/9 Jersey Cricket Tour back in 2006 which is still going strong, and made a highly significant contribution towards raising the profile and standard of School Cricket in recent years. On behalf of the School, I’d like to thank Phil for all of his work here at Tommy’s but particularly for his outstanding contribution in so many ways to the extra-curricular life of the School, and wish him, and his wife Celia, a long and very happy retirement.

C Carter

DEBATING TOPIC: EDUCATION

There has been, ever since its advent, debate about the education system; specifically, how it should really be done. We are in a world accelerating towards the days when machines will run the world - with them already being able to drive cars for hundreds of miles much more safely than humans and lift weights far more considerable than anything a human has ever been able to. So then, we should appropriately adjust the education system to focus on the small part of humanity that makes it superior to machine – creativity – surely?

There has, for quite some time, been some debate about whether or not schools, in their current state, kill creativity in the young. Sir Ken Robinson, public speaker and notorious advocate of total education reform, joked that “I worked out recently that I was given a guitar as a kid at about the same time that Eric Clapton got his first guitar. You know, it worked out for Eric, that’s all I’m saying.” The point being that creativity in humans is diverse. It can never really be explored in school because you can’t compartmentalise it, as you can with the sciences and languages. Creative talent needs to be treated holistically. Legendary singer song-writer Daniel Johnston isn’t considered a genius because of his ability with the guitar, or his ability with a piano or his ability to sing or write songs. He’s considered to be great because of his ability at all of them. Education can’t cater to something that exceeds the confines of a subject.

In fact, the education system is much segmented. It is, and I speak for all education systems in the first world, a hierarchy. The sciences and languages usually take up most of the timetable, the humanities are usually next on the list and the artistic subjects come last.

Sir Ken Robinson points out that the artistic subjects are their own hierarchy, with art and music at the top, and dance and drama at the bottom. To quote Sir Ken Robinson, “There isn’t an education system on the planet that teaches dance every day to children the way we teach them mathematics. Why? I think math is very important, but so is dance.”

A music teacher at STRS described a current scheme in schools that asks teachers and students to focus on “musical futures”. A stimulus is provided and students are given a vague notion of an end product, the rest is up to them. Interestingly, this approach usually produces better results from the students. If this shows anything, it shows that students will explore their art. They will create something that they’re proud of, because they’re creating it more for themselves than a faceless exam board. The same teacher, when asked where the system is most faulty in squandering creativity, said “The responsibility for inspiring students lies with exam boards and teachers. The mark scheme is far more flexible than it used to be, though still favours the classically trained musician. A DJ cannot score marks for complicated technical ability.”

In a short interview, a STRS English teacher said “David Almond’s Skellig, obviously a very successful book, would not have achieved a level 6 at Key Stage 3 English, owing to its frequent use of simple sentences.” The same teacher informed me of a beautiful Oscar Wilde quote, “Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.”

Now I can’t tell you what ‘Assessment Objectives’ Mr Wilde would have achieved with that line, but it is apt.

Perhaps creativity is a quality caught and not taught. It is very possible that schools don’t inspire originality and flair in students. It is equally possible that it is not the school’s responsibility, either. A Physics teacher said, “Creativity is probably more at home in clubs and societies.” Lessons provide a fundamental base of knowledge for all students – it would be ridiculous to tell students to be creative and hope they derive calculus of their own accord. Exams may be rigid, but they are generally pretty efficient at testing a candidate’s ability to recall facts. You can’t get a job in theoretical maths because you’re “free-thinking.” Yes, you need a creative talent. But you also need a strong ability at mathematics.

As Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.” There is, indisputably, a necessity for the nurturing of creative talent in the young. It is an ability that helps musicians and physicists alike. And schools, specifically the teachers, do a tremendous job of encouraging free thinking. If there were blame to be placed, it is on the exam board and league tables. Exam results encourage formulaic thinking, by telling us that being wrong is bad and being right is good. Failure is a part of all creative risk, and the current model of education teaches the young to not be confident in taking these risks.

“All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” - Pablo Picasso

Oliver Power



UGANDA 2014

July last summer, fourteen students from Years Eleven to Thirteen, and three teachers from Sir Thomas Rich's School embarked on a two and a half week trip to Uganda.

I'll begin with our experiences at PMM and at other schools as these were by far the most memorable. The most overwhelming factor for us when visiting PMM was the positivity and welcome that was displayed by all of the students whilst we were there. We spent a week at PMM, partaking in different activities with the students both in and out of the school. Although we are very different from them coming from different cultures, we did not feel it. The class sizes are much bigger, around fifty pupils per class, but the classrooms are smaller. Their school days are longer and many of the girls board in accommodation towards the back of the school. The children also worked just as hard if not harder than we do at school, knowing how vital an education is for them and that an opportunity for an education cannot be wasted in their society, and despite the hardships they go through in day to day life, the children are always smiling. We had the opportunity to teach a variety of lessons whilst at PMM, such as maths, English, geography and biology, and we found that their curriculum and the way they are taught is not so different from our own. We also found that the students were keen to know about our country and school and how they differ from their own. Like the group that visited before us, we were able to redecorate one of the classrooms at PMM. We enjoyed this as we felt as though we were contributing and giving back to the school, rather than collecting and donating money for someone else to do the work.

We visited the local Jinja market, fishing village, Mabira rainforest to track monkeys, attended an evening campfire and, most eye-opening, went to some of the houses of the girls we sponsor. We also had the opportunity to play some sports matches against the girls. When you raise money for PMM and the twenty sponsored girls, you don't realise what it really goes towards and how essential it is until you see it in practice. Despite their contrasting lifestyles, they are infinitely happier and more positive than expected and their outlook on life is so commendable. We finished our week at PMM with an evening dinner party at the headmistress's house in the grounds of the school. As we left the school for the last time, we were somewhat mobbed by the girls that board at the school in a frenzy of picture taking, hugs and saying goodbye. It was a great way to round off our time with PMM school.

Whilst in Jinja we visited two other schools. St Mary's Namanguana Girls School is one of the richest in Uganda with some of the highest education costs and best facilities. The president sends his own daughter there. It was a great privilege to tour their school and meet some of the students. This school was very different from PMM - it was much larger with more pupils - but they still had the same positive attitudes as PMM students and were all interested in England.

The other school we visited was St Gonzaga, a very deprived school. The classrooms had no lights and there was one computer in the whole school, which was broken, so we felt good in donating a couple of laptops and a variety of books we had brought with us.

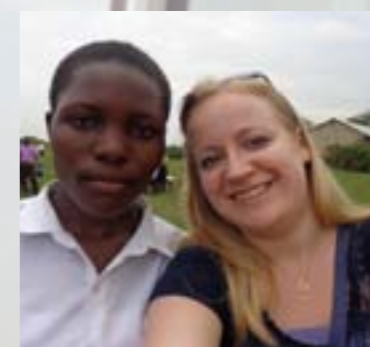
The students here were also positive and eager to ask us questions, in particular after a song and dance performance that was put on for us in a whole school assembly. We were in very capable hands throughout the entire trip with our driver Adam and tour guide Hassan accompanying us the whole way. These two superb characters became very much part of the group as the trip went on. The sights to see when driving down a Ugandan road are very different from your average English A-road so there were few complaints from us.

Speaking of sights, we visited three national parks whilst in Uganda; Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls and QENP (Queen Elizabeth National Park). These offered a variety of wildlife to see such as lions, zebras, giraffes, buffalos and rhinos. We were able to go on several game drives, some very early in the morning to catch the best views, a boat trip around Lake Mburo and a walking safari lead, tracking various animals. We also had the chance to track chimpanzees in a forest, trekking for a couple of hours in search of the apes with the aid of a guide.

The places where we stayed in Uganda varied considerably, from relatively posh hotels to a mud hut with little or no running water. The food also varied but was all very good. By far the best places to eat were the Kingfisher Hotels, offering five star food and service and, at one of them, a five star view, overlooking a great plain. Unfortunately, we could not spend a night at these hotels due to cost.

When raising money for PMM at school, we do not really consider what the money goes towards or how it affects people. We only know that it is used for the education of twenty sponsored girls. However, having seen what it really goes towards, the contribution is valued more highly. Also seeing beautiful wild animals in their natural habitat was also quite something. I would definitely recommend the trip to anyone. In my opinion, the experiences gained - seeing different and new cultures, people, animals and environments - make this the best trip the school can offer.

Henry Clay-Davies



STRATFORD 2014

In September and October, the new Year 7s enjoyed a trip to Stratford upon Avon for 3 days. The trip is often a highlight of their year and is something they will always remember for many years to come. Four years on from our visit, we still look back on fond memories of the trip.

This year the boys set off from school in the minibuses to Stratford at 9:15am for a journey with a strong mixture of boredom and excitement, with an arrival time of 10:15am. Upon arrival, the boys went to their rooms to unpack, have some witty banter and gather their swimming kit, lunch and raincoat which would be needed for the day ahead. They then travelled to the park to play crazy golf followed by a visit to the butterfly farm. One member of 7B stated that 'the colours of the butterflies were wonderful, we learned a lot about butterflies and creepy crawlies and caterpillars'.



After the trip to the butterfly farm, the boys enjoyed a swimming session at Stratford Leisure Centre, which was 'a good chance to cool off' and for them to practise their 'diving techniques' according to a member of Year 7. In the evenings, the boys were given free time to play games such as football and 'hide and seek'. The boys also had to complete a diary every night, keeping track of what they did over the course of the day and what they enjoyed.

The second day was highly action-packed, starting with breakfast shortly followed by a treasure trail around Stratford at 9am. After that, they had some more playground time followed by lunch. The afternoon saw a trip to the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) to attend a workshop all about Shakespeare's works. There was also an open top bus journey through Stratford to Mary Arden's house, with a lecture on sword fighting techniques and scenes from 'Romeo and Juliet'.



On the third and final day of the trip the boys went to the Gaydon Motor Museum for a talk, tour, classic car ride and the 4x4 experience. One boy said that "the technology was amazing" and that "the vehicle went on slopes you could never tackle in an ordinary car". They spent four hours completing various activities at the museum and at 2pm they headed back to STRS, back in time for the end of the school day.

Joe Nicholas and Leo Ashby



ORIELTON 2014



The Biology department's annual trip to Pembrokeshire is a staple part of the A2 Biology course. This year a group of approximately 50 Year 13 students travelled to Orierton in order to complete a large segment of the ecology topic.

The trip spanned four days, the last of which involving the completion of course work. The first day mainly consisted of travelling with some time for a focus on freshwater ecology, examining invertebrate life in one of Orierton's Field Study Council's many water sources. The students measured and discussed numerous factors which could affect the life of organisms in certain environments, and how each invertebrate species contributes to the life of the whole ecosystem.

The second day included a visit to local sand dunes to observe the physical evidence of succession. Succession refers to the changing of diversity in a section of land over time due to numerous physical changes. Numerous sampling methods were used and evaluated by the students, taking into account how human error may invalidate results.

The third day began with an early awakening in order to catch the coastal wildlife before the tides turned against us. A short coach ride and work could quickly begin counting snail populations to study competition between species and how different organisms find different habitats. The day of field work was then finished by competing a sampling exercise up the beach, recording percentage cover of different vegetation species.

The final day consisted of the qualitative and quantitative field course tasks which will contribute to the final grade of A2 Biology students.

Tyler Wells





ART TRIP 2014

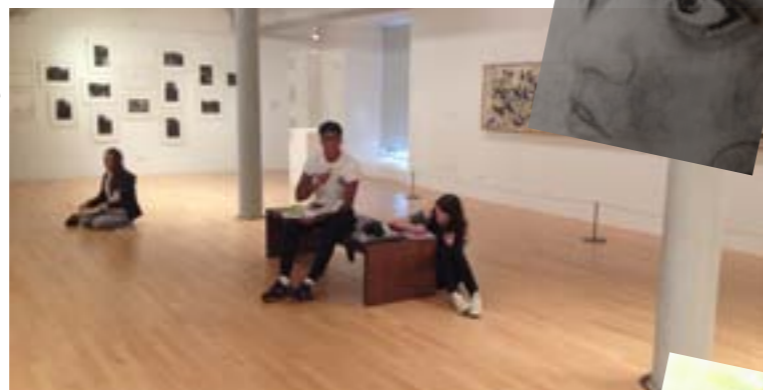
This September, Year 12 and 13 Art students embarked on a trip to Liverpool to begin experimenting with their work, but also to build a springboard for the rest of their coursework.



The Art trip is always a great chance for the Year 12 to get to know their classmates, but also to explore their own artistic style as they may not have had the chance to do so during their GCSE Art course.

Our first visit was to the historic Liverpool Cathedral, the oldest still functioning Catholic Cathedral in the country. Next, we went to the Liverpool Protestant Church which had the most amazing stained glass ceiling. As a surprise to all of the students, when we were visiting the Church's crypt, we were featured on the Antiques Roadshow! We visited the Walker Gallery, along with The Tate Liverpool and the Liverpool Art Gallery. Finally, we rounded off the trip with a visit to the famous Cosby Beach and a few hours free time to explore the city on our own. The trip was a roaring success as it helped Year 12 students become more self-assured about their art projects, and gave the Year 13s a good head start on the rest of their work. Special thanks to Mrs Cormack Hicks, Mr Gallagher and Mr O'Neill for their guidance and support throughout the entire trip. Let's hope the next one is even better!

Philomena Wilkinson



LULWORTH COVE

On Tuesday 23rd September Year 11 Geography students visited Lulworth Cove in Dorset to look at and learn about the geomorphic processes that formed Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. This trip has been going on for a number of years and is part of the coursework that Year 11 complete for their GCSE. The students spent five hours at the site, learning about the areas and doing various geographical activities that helped further their understanding of the landscape.

At the cove, the students completed a field sketch from afar, labelling the rock types they could see as well as using it to show how the cove was formed. On top of this, a wave count was carried out on the beach, which showed that the waves were quite weak and had very little energy, as there were few of them. Finally, they measured the angle of the beach every metre and described the pebbles they found there so they could tell where each of the features of the beach were.

PEAK DISTRICT

The trip, led by Mr Gowler, explored areas of both physical and human Geography. The trip visited Padley Gorge, a very deep and narrow valley created through long term river erosion. A nearby summit, Dark Peak, has, in the past, been a site of quarrying. Millstone grit, unsurprisingly used for millstones, is the main resource at this site.

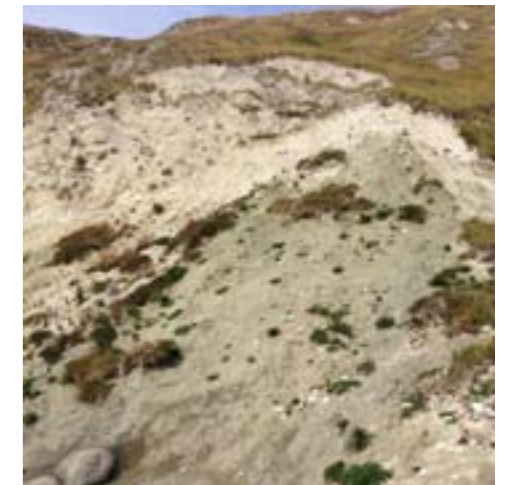
Padley Woodlands, near Derbyshire, were visited. The public woodlands, populated by ancient sessile oaks, are grazed common land - meaning sheep have eaten most of the young saplings, so the only trees are fully grown. Another area, sectioned off by Sheffield University in the 1950s, is ungrazed. This gives rise to two different woodland ecosystems.

The students compared pH levels in the ground, soil depth, types and amount of vegetation and tree measurements.

Durdle Door proved to be very interesting. The students first performed a sketch of a geographical formation called an arch, which would have formed from a cave, formed by the process of hydraulic action. They also made detailed notes of the processes which caused this arch to exist. The beach was measured, the same way as at the cove, and the students found that the shingle was far smaller than at the cove.

The students are now going to use this information in their coursework to prove their theories and act as hard evidence for their points, while using the knowledge they have gained from the visit to help further their understanding of the subject.

Joe Nicholas



Aside from the numerous people slipping on the wet mud, the day out was a solid example of Geography fieldwork.



On the way home, the group visited landslips at Mam Tor that have created one of the biggest examples of mass movement in the country. The landslip is a result of sandstone slipping against older, weaker, more lubricious, black shale. At the top of the Tor, an Iron Age fort has been partially destroyed by the rotational landslip.

The primary route through the Peak District was also destroyed by the debris fall. Castleton sits near the site of the destruction.

It is a town that survived purely through thriving tourism, where it would have otherwise withered with the destruction of infrastructure by the landslip. Caves are one of the attractions in this area. Peak cave, locally known as 'Devil's Arse,' is famous for creating flatulent noises as rocks inside of it grow and contract as they grow wet and dry in the rain. Blue John is another attraction, a form of stained fluorite created through the precipitation of crystals through evaporation 2 miles beneath the surface of the Earth. This process took place over millions of years, leading to the deposition of beautiful semi-precious fluorite.

Oliver Power



ITALIA 2014



Italy offers visitors a wealth of experiences with its artistic and cultural heritage, its stunning scenery and sonorous language. Whether one is interested in art or architecture, history or geography, language or religion, in Italy all these interests can be satisfied.

It seemed a perfect destination for a school trip with its host of learning experiences and I am indebted to Mr Powell for organising the trip for geographers and linguists and arranging such an exciting itinerary. Our first stop was Rome with visits to the Pantheon, the Colosseum and Vatican. From here we travelled to the magnificent Roman ruins at Pompeii and thence to Sorrento on the coast. A drive along the stunning Amalfi coast took us to the enchanting village of Positano and Amalfi, the largest town on the Amalfi coast. It is no wonder that film stars and other celebrities flock to this area! Of particular interest to geographers was the opportunity to climb Mount Vesuvius and Miss Bale, in particular, could scarcely contain her excitement. The trip finished with a visit to the ruins and excavations at Herculaneum, a town which like Pompeii, had been buried by the eruption of Vesuvius.

It was a brilliant trip, made all the more special by the positive attitude and appreciation of the pupils.

J Hewett



TOMMY’S KITCHEN

This term saw the launch of Tommy’s Kitchen, a club open to all ages that aims to teach students a range of cooking skills. The club is run by Mrs Harris who invites different members of staff to cook their favourite meals or family recipes to create a greater range of cooking experiences for the students. The week I attended had nine students cooking, including several Year 7s, Year 8s, Year 9s and one sixth former. Every week all of the students cook the same meal, with a different meal recipe being chosen for the next week to help them develop a range of different and interesting skills. An example of one meal they have cooked is chicken in a homemade barbeque sauce. In the upcoming weeks they plan to cook more challenging and varied meals.

The various cookery competitions and clubs that the School has previously run have been amalgamated into Tommy’s Kitchen. This means that this year, members of the club can participate in three competitions.

Sainsbury’s Superstar Cooks is a national competition which aims to enrich the existing curriculum. Pupils must design the ultimate healthy meal in the hope of winning £10,000 for their own schools kitchen. Future Chef is a regional and national competition that runs alongside the National Curriculum for Food Technology. Students must create a meal to a budget and set of criteria before competing against fellow pupils and advancing through the stages, up to a national level. The School also runs an international food competition that will take place in the summer term.

Simeon Bystrzanowski



THE DEBATING SOCIETY

This term has seen the establishment of a new student-run debating society, launched with the aim of tackling pressing and controversial public questions. The present form of the school debating society (the likes of which have been run at Tommy’s for decades now) was conceived and set up by two Year 13s applying to read History at university.

The first ‘pilot’ round of arguing considered the statement “This House believes that the UK would benefit if

Scotland were to leave the Union,” and took place on 17th September, the day before polling for the referendum. It pitted two main speakers, Jack Abbey and George Alsworth, against each other to win over the packed politics classroom. Having chaired that debate and to witness such a titanic clash of wits, I can report that it was an exciting back-and-forth in a format similar to Question Time. It turned out to be a crushing win for the Unionists.

We are also holding another debate this term, wrestling with the problem of Margaret Thatcher’s legacy.

I believe the development of this debating society can be a real forum for pupils to participate in an earnest exchange of views. All are welcome to come along and be as enthusiastic or pragmatic as you wish.

Freddie Coombes

ECF RAPIDPLAY CHESS TOURNAMENT

The STRS Chess team took part in the ECF Rapidplay Chess Tournament at Eton on Sunday 14th September. Overall the event was a great success for the team, finishing in 13th place, which was a fantastic achievement. Winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 1 match against what were very challenging opponents, we couldn’t have asked for a better performance from the team, who scored 16.5 points out of a possible 30. Mr Robson stated that he was ‘really proud of the performance, with all boys contributing. All boys won matches and all the boys lost matches, so it was a great team effort’.

The tournament began with a very tough battle against Haberdashers’ Aske’s School, Hertfordshire. Having the strongest junior chess player in the country, this made a very difficult and mentally challenging duel. However, Tommy’s is proud to have the British U-15 champion in our team: Michael Ashworth. Michael did very well and the game was level for a long period of time, however his near Grandmaster opponent fought hard and eventually prevailed. Haberdashers’ ended up winning against our team 6-0, going on to win the whole competition. I asked Mr Robson, leader of the team, why he felt Haberdashers’ were so successful, to which he responded ‘I suppose the fact that they have a chess grandmaster is a subtle advantage, along with possibly having boys in their school with chess scholarships’.

In round 2, the team were drawn against Vandyke Upper School from Bedfordshire. The performance from our boys was impressive, winning by the margin of 5-1. Round 3 was a tricky encounter with the hosts, Eton College. The outcome was a 3-3 draw, but as a tightly fought match it was potentially ‘the highlight of the day’, according to Mr Robson, for the team. In round 4, Sir Thomas Rich’s were drawn against St Paul’s Girls’ School from London. They are one of the strongest girls’ schools in the country but were easily beaten by our team. The final score was a 5 ½ - ½ victory to Sir Thomas Rich’s School. The final round was a hard battle against RGS Guildford B team, where we drew 3-3.

The final results were: 1st: Haberdashers’ Askes; 2nd Guildford RGS; 3rd Reading; 4th Hampton; 5th Wilson’s School. Millfield were the best school from the West of England, with other schools being King Edward VI Birmingham (9th), Sir Thomas Rich’s (13th) and Bristol Grammar School (33rd).

A final congratulations to the team of Michael Ashworth, Robert Ashworth, Anthony Ifeacho, William Sullivan and Scott Grint. ‘The tournament went very well and was run well. We played well in all our games making the day thoroughly enjoyable’, said Robert Ashworth.

‘It was well organised and there were lots of entries this year making the tournament quite a challenge’ according to Anthony Ifeacho ‘It was a good experience for all of us to play. There were some teams stronger than us, but it was a good day out. We were seeded 20th but finished 13th, showing that we put on a great performance’.

Leo Ashby

MICHAEL ASHWORTH CHESS CHAMPION

One of this issue’s featured pupils is Michael Ashworth, Year 11, who is highly talented at chess. At the end of July, Michael and a team of pupils entered the British Chess Championship at Aberystwyth University. Overall Michael was crowned U15 champion for the country and he came equal second in the U16 category.



His starting position was calculated using the national standard. Over 6 months a player is graded against other players to create a national standing to work from. Grading is calculated by points for wins (+50), losses (-50) and draws (0) divided by number of games. This grade is then used to decide who should play against whom within national tournaments. More recently Michael was part of the School team at the ECF Secondary Schools Rapidplay Chess Tournament held at Eton College on Sunday 14th September, the School coming in an impressive 13th place.

He commented that his daily chess practice, which, depending on school work, was around one hour a day, greatly aided his mathematical skills. To practise, he often completes online friendly matches, using a chess website that matches people around the world to players of a similar skill level. He also reads a large amount of work published by notable chess players, teaching him new skills to aid his concentration and provide new strategies which he aims to put into practice against future opponents.

In the future Michael aims to become chess grand master, a difficult goal. However, in the meantime he aims to compete in the UK adult championship. He would also like to become part of the England World Youth Championship team. This tournament consists of one week in Greece. To achieve this goal his rating must meet the tournament criteria by January. We wish him the best of luck!

Simeon Bystrzanowski

EPISODE 0: RAIN - CREATIVE WRITING



The rain was relentless, hammering on the run-down clutter of shacks and derelict market stands. It was quiet; nothing could be heard but the incessant hum of the suppression fields and the distant creaking of the larger buildings being walked upon. Plumes of smoke rose on the horizon. It was a stagnant silence, hanging low. As the raindrops sluiced down Apartment A7's windowpane, slowly collecting at the windowsill, it was evident that this was no ordinary night.

It was something in the air; a tension. Everyone felt it, even the Protection teams and what little humanity they had left. Neglected jars and discarded cans rattled down the street, rushing on, not stopping to see what would unfold.

Suitcases were left abandoned on doorsteps; doors strewn wide open after the occupants had fled; checkpoints had been unmanned.

The rain poured on, harder and harder as the clouds shifted across the sky. It was biting cold, and even in the apartment room, the temperature had dropped by 10 degrees at least. A pair of glasses had been left on the table, on top of an assortment of papers, all seemingly old and useless. Under a large title, WILLARD INDUSTRIES, a couple of pictures were filed together with an old paperclip. The report was dated, outdated by nearly 5 months. A few unused jars were strewn across the floor at the doorway to the kitchen and there was the smell of rotting food coming from the fridge.

Even the bedroom had been stripped of its use, only the bedframe had been left behind; whoever had raided this place had no intention of being weighted down. With only cracked coffee mugs and old books abandoned on the floor, all the items of any use had been taken; even the windows had been stripped bare of their curtains.

At first, it was just a clatter, a single noise resonating through the apartment block hallway. It was the sound of metal, hitting the floor and rattling some way down the long hall. It could have been a rat, or just the wind blowing over some neglected assortment of cutlery. But then there was a muffled thud from one of the doors beyond the stairway access. Another thud, and then another; the door kept banging, getting louder. With a crunch as the lock gave way, the door burst open, making the dust rise into the stagnant air.

The man lurched forward, stumbling in with the girl held in his arms. Her body was limp, her eyes struggling to stay open as the man made his way across the hall. With each door he tried, his expression grew angrier; none of the doors would open. After trying six doors, he pushed open the door of Apartment A7. The smell was horrible, yet he did not care. His mind was set on caring for the girl.

With a swipe of his arm, he cleared the table, letting the reports float to the floor and the glasses slide away. Gently, he set the girl on the table. He straightened up, staring at her with a broken expression on his face.

The girl's breathing was noisy. With a whimper, she inspected her right hand after lifting it from her chest

He knelt at her side. He could feel the thick substance paint his own hand as he clasped hers. His eyes became transfixed on the wound on her chest, blood seeping out from underneath her fingers.

He tore off his jacket. He was no lion; his hands and lips were shaking. Clueless, he got hold of both sleeves, and tied them around her back, in a fruitless attempt to stop the bleeding. She whimpered as the jacket tightened around her.

"S-Stop..." she stuttered, now looking directly into his eyes, her free hand raised in protest at his efforts.

"Jane, just hold on! We can fix this -"

She managed a weak smile and clutched his hand, holding it with such conviction, with such trust. Without doubt, she knew what was going to happen. He knew it too.

The rain hammered against the window, getting louder with each droplet. The storm was at its prime. She groaned, her smile fading. "Mason... I-I'm scared...."

He lent forward and rested her head on his shoulders. His eyes were closed, tears rolling out onto his cheeks. He stroked the back of her head, feeling the smooth touch of her hair.

"D-Don't let me go... Keep talking to me...." she cried, grasping his arm. Her tears soaked into his shirt.

He opened his eyes, looking up at the ceiling. "It's all... It's all going to be OK..." he lied, continuing to stroke her hair.

She whimpered, attempting another weak smile. "Mason..." she took in a deep breath despite the hole in her lung and continued, "I-I... Don't let any... anyone... tell you..." Her breathing rate slowed. The thunder struck with a roar.

Her grip around him loosened and her right arm slumped back to her side. The lightning lit up the room for a split second, illuminating all the blood across the table and floorboards. He let her fall.

The storm raged on, striking down once again with a violent jab of lightning, before subsiding, and starting up again. The rain continued to slam on the windows.

It was never truly quiet in City 17.

Harvey Youngsmith 10R

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPORTING ACHIEVING PUPILS

WILL REES



When 11 year old Will Rees made his first ever rugby tackle in his first P.E. lesson at STRS one thought went through his mind: "This is better than football." A bold statement for any beginner but all the more so for Will who was an elite primary school footballer, having had trials for Cheltenham Town. Over the weeks his passion for the new sport grew and he gave up football to play for the School U12 rugby team. It's a decision he has never regretted: "Mr Williams has changed it in the last 8 years. When you think of Tommy's now, you think of rugby and I'm part of that."



Having captained teams in Year 8 and Year 10 and been a regular in U18 team last year, Will was an obvious front runner for captain again. Sure enough after interviews with Mr Carter and Mr Williams, Will was appointed to the coveted role of 1st XV Captain. His first test came quickly, right at the start of Upper Sixth, when he led the team to a 32-17 victory over Bridgend College, a team that included Welsh schoolboy internationals and academy boys.

Will sees the role of captain as not only a "massive privilege" - none of his three elder brothers, who all attended STRS and excelled at sport, were made 1st XV captain - but it also gives him great enjoyment: "I love leading out my mates, the mates I've had since Year 7, for a game." His proudest rugby moment came as U15 captain when STRS reached the national final. The match was lost, but nothing can take away from Will's memory of playing at the National Stadium in Twickenham in front of his whole family.

Will's advice to younger players is: "Make the most of your rugby. Give yourself time to develop. Don't put pressure on yourself before you have to. We all have bad games. There have been times when I haven't handled the occasion of a big match well, but I still love playing rugby." For the future, a Sports and Exercise Science course beckons and a career in a sports-related field. Oh and by the way, he intends to keep playing rugby.

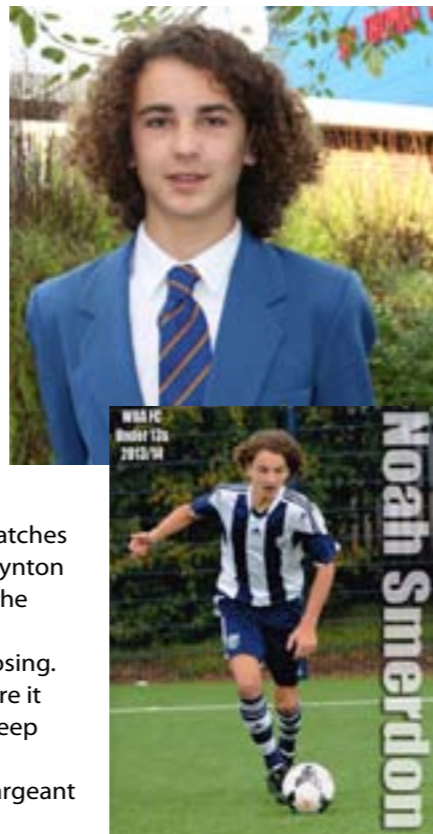
NOAH SMERDON

Training sessions three times a week, an hour's drive to the training ground and matches on Sundays might sound like hard grind to most but Noah Smerdon loves his football. A player since the age of 6, he's had stints with FC Highnam, Bristol City and West Bromwich Albion Development Centre. He now plays with West Bromwich Albion Academy following successful trials last year. Formerly a midfielder but now at centre back, he plays in the U14 squad where most matches are friendlies and everyone is guaranteed a game. However, there are also tournaments where players have to compete for a place in the team. As a U13 player, Noah enjoyed a victorious tour of Denmark when his team won the Nørhøne Cup against top Scandinavian clubs. The same team, with Noah on board, also managed an impressive third place in last season's U13 Premier League Tournament.

Although strict about diet and fitness, West Bromwich encourages the boys to play for their school teams. Noah is a regular in the U14 team at STRS and enjoys playing matches with his school friends. Away from football, Noah is a good tennis player, playing for Taynton and Tibberton Men's team. He is also a member of the School running club and holds the School record for Year 7 triple jump.

His advice to younger players is simple: "Play it for fun. Don't worry about winning or losing. Just play football." When asked about his ambitions for the future, he says: "I'll see where it goes. I'd love to play professionally or semi-professionally. Whatever happens, I'll just keep playing."

R Sargeant



INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SUCCESS

As George Hopes goes off to Cambridge University, following his outstanding A Level results, to begin his studies in engineering, I am pleased to report that he has also been successful in gaining an 'IMechE Undergraduate Scholarship'. He received the scholarship at the Vision Awards in London on Wednesday 24th September.

The undergraduate scholarships and awards offer assistance to students who are about to start or have already started mechanical engineering degrees accredited by the Institution.

The Institution enjoys excellent associations with some of the biggest names in the engineering industry. The current Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme includes awards sponsored by AMEC, Eaton and Land Rover to assist students with their accredited degree-level programmes.



S Hancock

ALUMNI NEWS

On Sunday 7th September Sir Thomas Rich's held its first Rugby Reunion tournament. Organised by Chris Carter, the event was aimed at the four touring sides that have represented STRS across the world. However, when the word got out of the reunion another invitational team had to be added. This team was known as the 'Kev Ellis', a name devised by the event organiser, who some felt had a soft spot for this side. The tournament format was a ten per side competition, with 10 minute halves, working on a round robin basis. The niceties of Alumni catching up soon wore off once the boots were on and the matches began. Memorable moments on the pitch included that of the infamous Young brothers facing off; former England A U16 player Andy Clegg overpowering body builder Jack Hollocks; and the constant referee abuse coming from the Kev Ellis Invitational team, the ring leaders being Lee Warren and captain Kev Ellis. The 2013 New Zealand touring side were victors, with youth prevailing on the day. Rumours were however circulating that most of the returning Alumni from 2007 and the Kev Ellis side were spotted in Cheltenham town centre in the early hours before the reunion, which could have affected performance.

Off the field there was a constant bombardment of stories that took place on the 1st XV pitch at Oakleaze. Never has the phrase "Remember that time when I..." been used so much in an afternoon. According to most of these stories STRS has been churning out International level rugby players who merely chose to go in a different direction in life. A big thanks must go to the Staff of STRS who came to referee on a Sunday, the sixth formers who manned the bar, and to Chris Carter who put in a lot of work into the event. After the rugby it was into the new sixth form centre, a facility which all alumni were gutted never to have had the pleasure of using, where there were speeches, hog roast, drinking, and some more drinking. A great day was had by all, especially those who took part in the boat race.

The next Alumni rugby event is the 70 years of Rugby Celebration in March 2016, organised by Mr Rhys Williams (Director of Sport) which will consist of rugby tournament and family fun day followed by a black tie dinner in the evening. For more info on this event contact: rgw@strs.org.uk.



G Angell

Tommy’s RUGBY 2014-15

So far this season, Sir Thomas Rich’s School RFC have played a total of 111 games.

The 1st XV are in Round 4 of the Natwest Cup, they have won 2 of their 5 Daily Mail Trophy games and have only lost three games all season. The u15s are in Round 4 of the Natwest Cup with a game against St Peter’s Gloucester to play. The u14s have struggled a little this season but are into Round 2 of the EDF Energy Gloucestershire Cup, with a game against Marling School to play. The u13s have also been a little bit up and down but are into Round 2 of the Schools Sports Magazine National Cup v Bloxham School, Oxfordshire. The u12s have started their Tommy’s rugby careers with some fantastic performances, with hopefully lots more to come.

The results so far ...

1ST XV
P 11 W 8 L3 PTS FOR 372
AGAINST 175

The 2014-15 season began with the disappointing news that 1st XV squad members from the previous season Josh Cannon and Max Price had left the school. The very talented Callum Dean was still out injured, recovering from his knee operation sustained in last season’s Natwest Cup defeat to Bicton College. It was already a tough transition due to losing so many important starting players from the previous season, such as England u18 Captain Sam Underhill, record points scorer Ross Preedy and record try scorer, Lee Hathaway. However, the boys re-grouped, particularly under the influence of 1st XV captain Will Rees and started pre-season in August with lots of optimism. Their first game was against Seaford College, Sussex who were on tour. The 1st XV dominated the contact area from the first whistle, Jack Tharme, Joe Kiely and Henry Peach on his debut scored the tries but Tommies were guilty of not finishing lots of other chances to score. The game finished with a 23-7 victory and the season had begun.

The pre-season in August continued two days later with a trip to Salisbury to play Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School. Tommy’s again dominated the contact area with Harvey Ryder scoring a try from a Jack Tharme break. Wordsworth came back into the game in the second period after Tommy’s had made lots of replacements and with 20 minutes to go Wordsworth led 14-5. Dan Scholey then scored a well worked try and Rory Payne converted. Tommy’s continued to attack but trailed 14-12. Then in the last play of the game after wave after wave of pressure James Foylan spun around and dropped a goal to win the game 15-14.

The 1st XV’s next opponents were Bridgend College from Wales who travelled up to Gloucester. Against an aggressive, powerful side with a current Wales u18 international and 8 Osprey Academy players, Harvey Ryder, Joe Taylor, Joe Kiely and Dan Scholey all scored tries and Tommy’s held on to record a 32-17 victory.

The 1st XV travelled to Shrewsbury School three days later to record a comfortable 36-0 victory. It was an opportunity for a few 2nd XV players to stake their claim for a starting spot, which quite a few of them did. The try scorers against Shrewsbury were Foylan (2), Harry Schofield (2), Peter Carter and Jacob Hughes.

In the 1st XV’s next fixture they completely steamrolled QEH Bristol again. In a superb performance, Tommy’s ripped through QEH’s defence at ease and recorded a 53-0 victory. Harvey Ryder scored three tries, Sam Brown scored two, Joe Taylor, Dan Scholey and Matt Peters scored the rest. The following Saturday saw Tommy’s travel to RGS High Wycombe for a block fixture for the first time. They started superbly well and another outstanding break from Tharme in the first few minutes led to another try for Harvey Ryder. Rory Payne kicked two penalties and Tommy’s led 11-6 at half time. However in the second half RGS gradually took control of the game they crept back to 11-9, then Peter Carter was sin-binned for an offence at the ruck and two minutes later so was Joe Kiely for a deliberate knock on. Tommy’s

down to 13 men held out for a while but eventually RGS scored two tries. When Tommy’s were restored to 15 men they attacked again, resulting in a Sam Paling try from a Will Rees charge down, however RGS had the last word to record a 29-18 victory.

The next game saw Tommy’s travel to Flagge Meadow to play RGS Worcester on the following Wednesday afternoon. After this first defeat of the season to RGS High Wycombe, RGS Worcester was a difficult banana skin. However, Tommy’s started well with a try from Harvey Ryder, he then scored another but a mistake from Payne let Worcester in for a try. Dan Scholey scored two tries, Paling, Morrish and Foylan all scored as well and Payne kicked 5 conversions to make the final result 49-8 to Tommy’s.

Tommy’s next test came against a very good Kingswood Bath side that Tommy’s had defeated 12-5 the previous year. Kingswood had been unbeaten so far this season but Tommy’s started well with an interception try from Peter Carter. Kingswood clawed their way back into the game and took the lead at half time after a well worked try by their backs and a fortuitous try from a lineout. Kingswood led 17-10. In the second half Tommy’s dominated the first ten minutes and Payne kicked two penalties to make the score 17-16. However Tommy’s began to tire and Kingswood pulled ahead to make the score 30-16. Peter Carter finished off an excellent backs move to bring the game to within 7 points at 30-23. Tommy’s attacked bravely in the last five minutes, desperate to at least get a draw but the game ended with no further scores and the 1st XV’s second defeat of the season.

The first round of the Natwest Cup saw Tommy’s take on Chosen Hill School. Chosen Hill had two England internationals in their team along with former Richian Max Price. They fancied their chances of an upset but Tommy’s blew them away from the first whistle. In a superb performance the 1st XV scored nine tries to make the final score was 61-7 in what proved to be a very one-sided game.

The try scorers were Tharme with a first half hat-trick, Matt Peters, Will Rees, Fabian Lyn, Dan Scholey, Peter Carter and Joe Taylor.

The next game of the season was perhaps the toughest so far as Tommy’s travelled to Monmouth School. Tommy’s still without Callum Dean were also without Fabian Lyn for this tough test. The 1st XV were desperate to record an historic win over Monmouth. Two seasons ago only a spectacular performance from Ollie Young rescued a 33-33 draw in Wales, with a Ross Preedy penalty in the final minute. Last year Monmouth scored in the final play to steal a game that Tommy’s had led throughout. However, this year’s game could not have had a better start for Tommy’s as from the outset the 1st XV dominated the contact area and three Payne penalties gave Tommy’s a 9-0 lead. The tough week of playing Kingswood and Chosen had taken its toll in the second half and Tommy’s were having to do more and more defending. Monmouth scored a couple of second half tries, so that the score finished with a 20-9 victory to Monmouth. Tommy’s has still not recorded a 1st XV win against the prestigious Welsh school!

To bounce back from this defeat was always going to be difficult but the following week Tommy’s hosted the 2012 u18 Daily Mail Cup Finalists Old Swinford Hospital. Seven changes to the starting line-up that faced Monmouth due to a Year 13 Biology trip, took the field against OSH, which shows decent strength in depth. A very different Tommy’s 1st XV had little trouble recording a seven try 53-3 victory against OSH with tries from stand-in captain Harvey Ryder (3), Carter, Taylor, Morrish and Kiely. Rory Payne kicked 6 conversions and 2 penalties.

So far this season Harvey Ryder has scored 11 tries in 11 games and Rory Payne has scored 109 points to become only the sixth person to score more than 100 points for the 1st XV in one season.

The 1st XV play KES Bath and Pate’s Grammar in the week after half term before they take on the might of Stowe School, Buckinghamshire in Round 4 of the Natwest Cup at Oakleaze, who will be looking to avenge last year’s 23-17 Tommy’s victory.

Other results below – report for each team to come ...

- 2nd XV- P9 W14 L5
- 3rd XV – P1 W1 L1
- U16 A – P7 W3 L4
- U16 B – P3 W1 L2
- U15 A – P10 W7 L3
- U15 B - P8 W4 L4
- U14 A – P7 W2 L5
- U14 B – P7 W3 L4
- U13 A – P13 W5 L8
- U13 B – P11 W8 L3
- U13 C – P6 W5 L1
- U12 A – P6 W4 D1 L1
- U12 B – P7 W5 L2
- U12 C – P4 W3 L1

R G Williams

AEGON TENNIS

The school travelled to Bath to play Beechen Cliff School in the second round of the knockout stages of the Aegon Cup.

The sides were evenly matched but the school players looked tense, and took a while to settle into their tennis, having not played as a team since the summer. Only Connor Holland looked comfortable from the start. This was disappointing, as the team could play very much better than this and they never really pushed an able Beechen Cliff team.

S.Price	lost 1 – 6
C.Holland	won 6 – 1
T.Gordon	lost 5 – 7
N.Smerdon	lost 2 – 6
Price & Holland	won 6 – 2
Gordon & Smerdon	lost 6 – 0

The final score was 4 – 2 to Beechen Cliff in games.

I J Gallagher



JOE ALDERMAN



I am currently in my 5th and penultimate year of a medical degree at the University of Birmingham. Currently I am taking a year out of my core studies to undertake an intercalated research degree in clinical science and virology (Measles and related viruses), though I am due to rejoin the medical curriculum in July 2014. I spent a month last year working in a hospital in Karapitiya, Galle in southern Sri Lanka - an eye opening experience in a developing country's healthcare system.

I'm keen on my research, having presented several pieces of research at two international conferences and several more within the UK. When I qualify I hope to work in London, ideally aiming for a long-term career in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care medicine.

In my spare time, I teach first aid and life support to the first year healthcare students at the University of Birmingham. Additionally we recently negotiated funding to take this life support tuition out to local schools - I've taught over 1,500 schoolkids in the West Midlands these important skills so far this year.

I spend the rest of my free time volunteering with the University RAG Society (Carnival RAG). I've held committee positions for the last 4 years, and am currently the president.

During my involvement we have raised over £250,000 for local and national charities, including the Royal British Legion, Breast Cancer Campaign and Help For Heroes. In September 2013 I led a group of students in running a 4 day RAG conference, welcoming 300 delegates from around the UK and abroad to the University campus for seminars and networking sessions about charity and maximising fundraising income. During this conference we worked with a charity to break the world record for the most number of people in a pair of underpants - they recorded the event: <http://www.youtube.com/>.

Joe Alderman

JACK BELL



I went on to study Fine Art at the University of Leeds, where I was captain of the University rugby club in my final year. This was the perfect preparation for my current job; I am now the Youth Development Officer for Bridlington Rugby Club, in East Yorkshire.

Jack Bell

RICHARD FARROW



I left Tommy's in the Summer of 2009 with a scholarship to read International Politics and Military History at the University of Wales Aberystwyth (This prestigious department at Aberystwyth is recognised as the first and oldest of its kind in the world which makes it even more surprising to find it in a sleepy Welsh coastal town!).

Since graduating with First Class Honours in 2012 I have been living and working in London in the Houses of Parliament. Firstly, as a Junior Secretary for a Government Treasury Minister and now in my current role as Parliamentary Assistant to Sir Alan Duncan MP the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Yemen & Oman and the former Minister for International Development.

I am also continuing the active lifestyle encouraged and nurtured during my time at Tommy's being a Commando in the Royal Marines Reserve.

I look back at my time in Tommy's with a great source of pride. I know that I am not alone among the old boys (and girls!) in following with interest the sporting and academic achievements of the School as it goes from strength to strength-long may it continue!

The lessons learnt, covering both academia and life in general have stood me in great stead in these following years and the older I get the more I appreciate the environment and

ethos ingrained within the school I grew up in. The staff at Tommy's will forever have my sincere gratitude.

Richard Farrow

HANNAH SILCOCK & TOM HUGHES



After leaving Tommy's Tom enrolled at Hartpury College to study "Animal Behaviour & Welfare" and graduated in 2012. He currently works at Over Farm, managing and cooking in their kitchen for the farm's festivals and events ranging from weddings to "food clubs", using the farm's produce and other local ingredients. He's also made a BBQ sauce (called Tubby Tom's) which he is currently selling at the shop and online and is looking to expand!

I am now finishing a degree in Conductive Education (an educational framework that teaches intention, coordination and application of movement to groups of people with motor dysfunctions such as Cerebral Palsy, Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Head Injury and other similar conditions).

Tom and I have been together since meeting at Tommy's in 2009 and are getting married in August!

Hannah & Tom Hughes

LEAH JONES



I am currently in my final year at Leicester Medical School, and due to sit my finals exams in March. I will then be going to Australia for a month for my medical elective, working with the Sydney HEMS team (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service).

I hope to be working as a junior doctor a bit nearer home from August if all goes to plan

Leah Jones

DAVID STOCKWELL



After leaving Rich's I attended Oxford Brookes University to study International Business Management. During my time there I was keenly involved in the Officer Training Corps and this convinced me to commission into the Army after uni. Unfortunately a couple of months before I planned to start at Sandhurst I broke my wrist and the injury took a long time to heal. During this time I went along to an Assessment Centre for BAE Systems and the

resulting job offer has proved too good an opportunity to turn down. I now look forward to beginning the BAE Systems Project Management Graduate Scheme in September, initially based in Glasgow in their Naval Ships subsidiary.

I remain hugely fond of my time at Rich's, in contact with virtually all of the friends I made there and extremely grateful for the experiences and opportunities the school gave me.

David Stockwell

CHARLITTA STRINATI



I studied Psychology with Professional Placement for four years at Cardiff University. I found myself an unpaid placement as an assistant psychologist for an NHS community mental health team in Cheltenham for my placement year. Once this had finished they offered me a job throughout the summer as a support worker, I continued part time throughout my degree until October, and also got a job as a Health Care Assistant in Wotton Lawn, the local psychiatric hospital. In October I began working as a Support Worker for Gloucestershire's Eating Disorder Service, and once I'd finished my degree I became an Eating Disorders Clinician, I left my job in February to travel and am currently in Thailand and soon I will leave for Australia for a year.

Charlitta Strinati

LUCY WATSON



Lucy graduated from Cardiff University with a 1st Class Honours degree in Psychology with Professional Placement in July 2013. Since then she has worked as an Assistant Psychologist for the Feeding and Eating Disorders Team and currently for the Social Communication Disorders Clinic at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, as well as working as the Editorial Assistant for the journal *Advances in Eating Disorders: Theory, Research & Practice* in her "spare" time. As well as being actively involved in both Clinical and Research work, Lucy has co-authored a children's book entitled: "Can I Tell You About Eating Disorders?" with Professor Bryan Lask which is due to be published late July 2014.

Lucy is also running the London Marathon in April 2015 in aid of the children seen at Great Ormond Street Hospital. If you wish to support Lucy by donating, please visit her JustGiving page on the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/LWatson>

Lucy continues to sing and play the piano regularly but has her heart set on becoming Dr. Watson, Clinical Psychologist, within the next 4 years.

Lucy Watson

LEAVERS

A

JOANNE ACKERS
Swansea University
Material Engineering

BEN ADAMS
Worcester
Biology

OBAI AFIFI
LSE
Government and Economics

MADELEINE ALLEN
Exeter
Psychology

EDWARD ANDREWS
Imperial College London
Geophysics

WILLIAM ANDREWS
Imperial College London
Geophysics

GEORGE AVERY
Gap year - travel

B

JACOB BAILEY
Loughborough
Architectural Engineering
and Design Management

ANDREW BALL
University of Southampton
Marine Biology

SOPHIE BALLINGER
Swansea
Law and Criminology

JAMES BARKER
Gap Year

ZAK BARLOW
University of Birmingham
Physics

MATTHEW BENNION
South Carolina University
Chemistry

ALEXANDRA BIDMEAD
Manchester
Neuroscience / Psychology

RYAN BIRR
Plymouth
Criminology

DAVID BRIERLEY
Manchester
English Lit with Creative Writing

GEORGIA BRINLEY
Nottingham
BA Geography with Business

MOLLIE BURROWS
Oxford
Law

THOMAS BUTT
Amsterdam
Economics

C

DOMINIC CAIN
Travel - Australia for 7 months

JOSEPH CAIRNS
Lancaster
Physics, Astrophysics
and Cosmology

ISABELLE CAM
Cardiff
Law

JOE CAROLAN
Loughborough
Accountancy and
Financial Management

EILIDH CARVER
Gap year - Voluntary teaching
assistant and work

STUART CARVER
Cirencester College
Repeat A2 courses

BETHAN CLEMENTS-HUNT
Leeds Beckett
Law

SAMUEL COLBERT-SMITH
Gap year - work and travel.
Plymouth 2015 to study
Geography and International
Relations

JOE COLONNA
The Leiden University,
Netherlands
BA in International Studies

REBECCA COLSON
Nottingham Trent University
Business Management In
Company

ELLIOT CORRAN
Army

D

JAMES DALE
Southampton
Electrical Engineering

LIAM DAVIES
Cardiff
Law

LOUISA DAVIES
Cardiff
English Language & Literature

TOBY DAVIES
Southampton
Chemistry

MICHAEL DORMAN
Exeter
Mechanical Engineering

LEWIS DOWNWARD
Bath
Mathematics

KERRY DYER
UWE (Bristol)
Law

E

JAMES ELLIS
St Andrews
MA Geography

BENJAMIN EVANS
Birmingham
Medical Science

STEVEN EVANS
Liverpool
Law

THOMAS EVANS
Gap Year

F

JOHN FISH
Swansea University
Classical Civilisations

ALEXANDER FULLERTON
Oxford
French

G

OLIVER GANNICLIFFT
Birmingham
Economics

SAMUEL GASKINS
Cardiff University
Economics and Finance

ANDREW GAYLER
Gap year - travelling

DAVID GRAINGER
Birmingham
Medical Sciences

THOMAS GRAINGER
Cardiff University
Biochemistry (Biochemical)

ABIGAIL GREAVES
Durham
History

HARRIET GREEN
Plymouth
Biomedical Science

JACK GREEN
Birmingham
Law and French Law

RORY GUNNING
Cardiff
Economics

H

EDWARD HAMBREY
Swansea
Chemical Engineering

RACHEL HAMILTON
Warwick
Philosophy

SIMON HANDY
Stroud College
Foundation Art

ALEXANDER HARRIS
Gap Year

TAHMID HASNAT
University of Surrey
Electronic Engineering

LEE HATHAWAY
Gap year - travel and
part time employment

JOSHUA HAYWARD
Plymouth
Psychology with criminology

BETHANY HEWITT
Exeter
Biological Sciences

REBECCA HEWLETT
Reading
Animal Science

SOPHIE HILL
Manchester
Law

NICHOLAS HODSON
Imperial College
Geophysics

NADIA HOFMANN
Bristol
German & Spanish

GEORGE HOPES
Cambridge
Engineering

HARRY HOWES
Gap year - travelling

REBECCA HUDSON
Plymouth
Primary Education (Maths)

PETER HUMPHREYS
Reading
Investment & Finance in
Property 2015.
Travel - Gap year USA,
ski season in Switzerland

CAMERON HUNTER
Swansea
Sports Science

MEGAN HURLEY
Warwick
English and French

ZHEN HUSSAIN
Cardiff
Psychology

FRANCESCA HUTIN
Swansea
Aerospace Engineering

I

JOSHUA ISAAC
Aston University
Mechanical Engineering

J

DOMINIC JAMES
Gloucester College
Repeat 2 A2 levels

LIAM JENKINS
Birmingham
Law with Business

HARRY JOHNSON
Cardiff
Mechanical Engineering

ROBERT JOHNSON
York
Maths & Computer Science

DANIEL JONES
Swansea
Economics

ELLIE JOSEPH
Birmingham
Physiotherapy

K

VASHTI KASHIAN-SMITH
Cambridge
Philosophy

ALEXANDER KELSALL
Lancaster
Management Mathematics

DESTINATIONS

NATALIE KERSHAW
Employment

KIT KIRBY
Leeds
Business Economics

L

DANIEL LADD
Exeter
Business and Management

MEGAN LANE
Bristol
Maths

REBEKAH LANE
Exeter
Medicine

ZOE LANE
Southampton
Biology

DAVID LANIGAN
Southampton
Geophysics

CHARLOTTE LEATHERBY
Exeter
Psychology

MATTHEW LEE
Gap year - ski instructor course
and teaching in Austria

NEIL LEWIS
Exeter
Mathematics

CARA LIPPITT
Nottingham Trent
Fashion Communication
and Promotion

RHYS LLOYD
Part time study - STRS

ELLEN LOCKSTONE
Durham
Chemistry

DUNCAN LYNCH
Bath Spa
Business Management

M

REBECCA MADDERN
Leicester
Biological Sciences

BENJAMIN MAINPRIZE
Gap year - travel

JESSICA MARSHALL
University of Liverpool
Mathematics

HARRY MCDOWELL
Sheffield
Biochemistry

ALEXANDER MILLER
Keele University
Medicine

SHABBIR AHMED MOOLLA
Cardiff
Pharmacy

DANIEL MORRISSEY
Surrey
Mathematics

TRISTAN MURFITT
Loughborough University
Computer Science

N

EDWARD NELMS
Plymouth University
Geology

GEORGE NICHOLS
Bath
Chemistry

P

SAMUEL PALING
Part time study - STRS

JACK PANTON
Cardiff
Biotechnology

ROBERT PATERSON
Cardiff
Business Management

ALEXANDER PAVLIMBEY
Gap year - employment
then travel

ASHLEY POCOCK
Gap Year

JORDAN POTTER
UWE (Bristol)
Environmental Science

CAMERON POWELL
Swansea
Criminology & Psychology

ROSS PREEDY
Cardiff
Business Management

BETHANY PRICE-BISH
Exeter
Psychology

JOSEPH PROSSER
Plymouth
Economics

HARRY PRUDDEN
Cambridge
Engineering

R

ROMY RICE
Bath
Biology

LUKE RIDAL
Exeter
Geography

ZACH ROBB
Manchester
Modern History with Economics

BENEDICT ROBYNS-LANDRICOMBE
Lancaster
Accountancy & Finance

JACK ROGERS
Cardiff
Law

S

MATTHEW SARGENT
Cardiff
Pharmacy

HANNAH SAUNDERS
University of Bath
Business Administration

SHREYA SAXENA
Bristol
Medicine

MEEHAD SHAHRIYAR
University of Sheffield
Mechanical Engineering

CALLUM SHEEN
Cardiff
Social Sciences

MATTHEW SHELTON
Nottingham
Law

ABBEY SMITH
Swansea
Mechanical Engineering Sept 15
Gap Year - show jumping

BENJAMIN SMITH
Cambridge
Natural Sciences

GEORGINA SMITH-WOODS
University of Gloucestershire
Criminology

GREGORY STAIT
Gap year then
Swansea University

SAMANTHA STAITE
Cardiff University
Psychology

JACOB STEPHENSON
Winchester
English Literature

GEMMA STILES
Southampton
Medicine

ZANNAH STOWER
Gap Year

HOLLY SWANN
University of Exeter
Mathematics

T

STEVEN TATLOW
Durham
Physics

ADAM TAYLOR
Bath
Integrated Mechanical and
Electrical Engineering

RACHAEL TAYLOR
Swansea
Business Management

HARRY THOMAS
Gap year then University
to study Primary Education

JOSHUA THOMAS
Leicester
Mchem Chemistry
with Forensic Science

ANDREW TILLOTT
Bath
Business Administration

THEODOROS TOLMAN-MICHAEL
Birmingham
BA Modern Languages

CRAIG TURNER
Southampton
Msc Marine Biology

U

ZAKEE ULHAQ
Teaching Assistant
British International School,
Saudi Arabia

SAMUEL UNDERHILL
Cardiff
Economics

ZAK UNDERWOOD
Swansea
Economics 2015.
Gap year working

V

JOSHUA VALLENDER
Bath
Mathematics and Physics

CHLOE VENN
Exeter
Biological Sciences

W

OWEN WADE
Exeter
Geography

BETH WALSH
Plymouth
Physiotherapy

CHARLES WEBSTER
Nottingham
Veterinary Medicine

MADELAINE WHEATSTONE
Cardiff
Biology

EUAN WHITBOURN
University of Reading
Geography Bsc
(Physical and Human)

ELLEN WIGHTMAN
Plymouth
Bsc Child Health Nursing

GEMMA WILLIAMS
Durham
Medicine

MORGAN WINSTANLEY
Surrey
Criminology

2014



50TH CELEBRATION

As this is an historic year for the School when we celebrate fifty years since the move to the current site, we have decided to explore the School's recent past. On 14th May 1964, Sir Thomas Rich's said goodbye to the old premises in Barton Street and made a fresh start, moving into a purpose built school building.

The move from Barton Street was marked by several notable events, including the famous last assembly. The Tommy Psalm was sung with notable vigour that would be matched by the performance of the schoolboys and girls at the 50th anniversary service some fifty years later. A farewell fete was held at the old school in May 1963 with the aim of raising £1000 towards funding for new facilities in the new building. In addition, the fete was a final goodbye to the old building and all the memories made there, but also to look forward to a strong future for the School.

Since the move to Longlevens, many events have taken place. The first speech day in the new school was held on 12th November 1964. Yet again, the Tommy Psalm was sung strongly and passionately, with over 50 awards being given that evening. In 1970, *Gloucestershire Life* magazine ran a feature article about the School. It said that, although many schools have a false sense of character created by governors, the character of Rich's was genuine.

As a successful school, it has seen many changes and additions. One such example was the introduction of a mixed sixth form in 1987. Furthermore, several additions to the school building have been constructed: the swimming pool and quadrangle, opened by Princess Anne (1995), the Sports Hall (1999), the Veale block (2002), the DT workshops (2003), the Food Tech room (2011) and finally the new Sixth Form Centre (2014).

On 14th May 2014 Sir Thomas Rich's celebrated its 50th anniversary in Longlevens at Gloucester Cathedral. The service paid tribute to 50 years in the building, with all five surviving headmasters of the Longlevens era attending. Whilst looking back on 50 years, we were also looking forward to many more years to come of Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Current Headmaster, Mr Morgan, commented that it was a "splendid occasion" and that he was "exceptionally pleased with the pupils' conduct and demeanour, but more importantly the enthusiasm for the traditions of the School and the pride they had taken in being part of this Bluecoat School."

Simeon Bystrzanowski & Leo Ashby



Former Headmasters of Sir Thomas Rich's School Mr Jarvis, Mr Holdaway, Mr Stocks, Mr Kellie pose with the Mayor Chris Chatterton, Sheriff of Gloucester Said Hansdot, Dr Giddings and the current Headmaster Mr Morgan.

Former school site on Barton Street, Gloucester.

Upcoming Events

A Christmas Carol School Musical

WEDNESDAY 10 TO FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

Carol Service at Holy Trinity

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

Sixth Form Open Evening

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY AT 6.30PM

Carol Service at St Catharine's

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

Christmas Brass Night in the School Hall

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER AT 7.00PM

4th Annual Jazz Night

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY
DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM, STARTS AT 7.30PM



Oakleaze
Longlevens
Gloucester
GL2 0LF
01452 338400
www.strschool.co.uk