

The Richian

Magazine March 2015



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Many thanks for all the positive feedback we received after the publication of the first edition of this new school magazine, in December. I am pleased, in particular, that Old Richians and friends of the School found the present day items of news as well as unearthing stories from years gone by found in the School's archives interesting.

As the examination season fast approaches, it is important that students in Years 11, 12 and 13 endeavour to work hard to ensure that they stand out from the competition. This is particularly important, where in the last few years, the introduction of new content parameters means that more and more students are getting the top grades. Of course, this will be addressed to some extent with the introduction of new GCSEs and A levels from September, but I am sure that at this time of year for the foreseeable future I will be urging pupils to redouble their efforts. Nevertheless, it is important that we work hard for the right reasons and everyone should take some time off over the Easter break to be with and talk to family and friends and recharge the batteries.

With all my best wishes



Matthew Morgan



BOWLS CLUB

The bowls club that is sited on the grounds of the School has been an institution since 1968, and The Richian spoke to two prominent members to ask them about the future of the club.



Club captain" Derek Davies and "club champion" Don James head up the competitive club, which at the height of the season (lasting April till September) will play up to six games in eight days, a mix of friendly and league matches all around Gloucestershire. The club's membership stands at around forty, but with twenty players required for each game, the club sometimes struggles to face up to the task.

However, with players such as James, a member for 23 years, there cannot be any doubt they are committed to keep playing.

They explain the attraction to me, as a sport, social activity and exercise in mental agility, very much an outsider, by pointing out how there is "a lot of affinity with snooker." I understand instantly.

They go on to say, taking examples from international bowls competition, that, contrary to popular belief, bowls is a sport for all ages. Indeed, some members of the club used to run bowls as a games option for senior students a few years ago, and are keen to stress that the bowling green offers the School an opportunity to set up a School bowls team. In a school as sport-obsessed as Tommy's, I would actually not be surprised if this happened.

The club is proud of its place as part of the School's heritage. From the green's construction by Woodwork Master and bowler Mr Eddie Pritchard, with assistance from students, in 1967, to today when the club is well-established with

its own facilities, strong reputation and traditions. Our interviewees come resplendent in the club's uniform: the tie-and-blazer combination is the perfect demonstration for me that Sir Thomas Rich's School will not allow anyone to represent them unless they do it with crest and buttoned-up collar to match. The Headmaster is, under the club's constitution, ex-officio Club President.

The bowls club wishes to raise its profile in the School, making students aware they may join as student members, and looking more generally for younger members to help bolster the team's hard-pressed efforts during some weeks mid-season. Judging from its past record and present spirit, I am sure the club will carry on well into the future.

Freddie Coombes

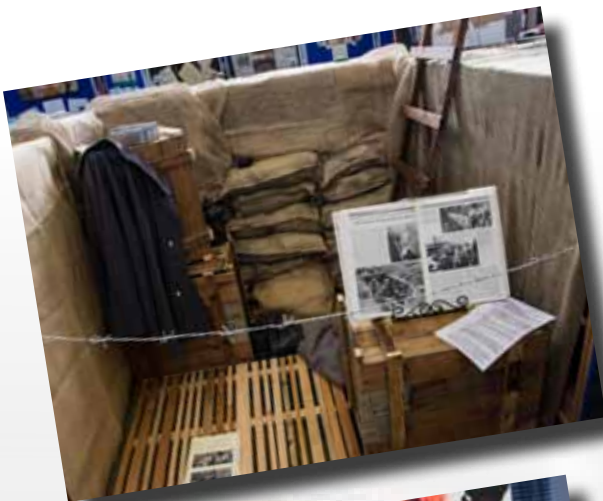
WORLD WAR 1 EXHIBITION

In line with the remembrance ceremony the School hosted an exhibition of a culmination of work by pupils and staff to research the impact of the First World War on the School. Entitled "The Seventy Seven", the display commemorated the former pupils and teachers who died in the Great War and showcased current pupils' art, poetry and articles in the memory of those that gave their lives for their country. The exhibition was held in the Learning Resource Centre in November. Pupils and staff visited the exhibition in their own free time as well as in scheduled form visits. A private viewing was also arranged for friends and families of the School who provided information and for the governors.

"There is almost too much to take in during just one visit, I am highly impressed. I myself remember World War Two as a child and this exhibition brings home what that generation before that went through", said Mrs Jennifer Tydeman. The exhibition was inspired by research pupils conducted

for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award concerning the war memorial. Six pupils painstakingly researched the history of the names on the war memorial, using the Admissions' Registers in the School Archives and websites such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to find out the history of the soldiers. This included such information as their year of enrolment, the battles they fought in, and the location of their grave. Of the 77 names on the wall 74 were documented, with further research being conducted. Sam Jones and Lawrence White, two of the researchers, said: "The exhibition means a lot to us personally since we helped to put it together as part of our Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was well worth the effort."

Of the many different displays at the exhibition, the most interesting was the realistic trench, created by Mr Greening and Mr Hancock of the Design and Technology Department.



Alongside the full size wooden trench were articles and information concerning trench warfare in the First World War.

There were six 6ft canvases created to depict the WW1 time line. The canvases were displayed on the bookcases around the Learning Resource Centre. This gave the visitor a better understanding of the events that occurred in the war. The time line was full of pictures and information collected from various sources, illustrating topics from propaganda to scenes in the trenches. Art work completed by pupils along with famous campaign posters from the era featured throughout the exhibition. A level and Lower School pupils produced vivid paintings and inventive models, all based on the theme of war. Also featuring throughout were sculptures, propaganda, and memorabilia from the time, helping to build a picture of life.

Some 40 poems by pupils were on display. Written on the theme of war, many attempted to link their stories to soldiers' lives, with small, but meaningful connections. The central theme of the exhibition was the names of those, previously attending Tommy's who gave their lives in the war effort. The research by pupils culminated in the creation of set of fact files on several of the former Richians, including that of AL Crowe. His nephew John Crowe attended both the exhibition and the Remembrance assembly as an honoured guest.

The 'Seventy Seven' was an overall success in terms of educating pupils and honouring past Richians. A huge amount of effort was put in by pupils and staff alike, with planning being started nearly 18 months ago. The exhibition was a fitting tribute and an eye opener to the impact the war had on the School.

Simeon Bystrzanowski & Joe Nicholas





ARMISTICE DAY

As always, Armistice Day proved to be a moving event, with the Sir Thomas Rich's memorial assembly taking place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This particular service, during the centenary year of the start of the First World War, commemorated a former pupil of Sir Thomas Rich's School, Alfred L Crowe. He was a pupil here from 14th January 1907 to 19th December 1908, having previously attended Wesleyan school in Wakefield.

John Crowe, Alfred's nephew, travelled to the School from Sevenoaks, Kent, to pay tribute to his uncle. My conversation with John Crowe, before the Remembrance Assembly, gave me a detailed insight into the life of Alfred Crowe and also John himself. He told me that it was "a very nice feeling" to be at the School his uncle attended. Having asked John about what he had been doing to commemorate the centenary of the war, he told me that he had been to visit the Tower of London to see the many clay poppies on display. He also went to France and took a photograph of Alfred Crowe's grave.

Alfred L Crowe was a young man with great potential and a bright future ahead of him. John Crowe told me that Alfred was very fond of sport. I found out that Alfred had won "3 silver medals for swimming", which John had brought with him and he also "played water polo for Gloucester and spectators would repeatedly chant 'come on Crowe!', due to his team leadership and excellent swimming ability". He also had a medal in cricket, another sport in which he excelled.

As a 21 year old, Alfred joined the Coldstream Guards at Wakefield, along with several other brave young men. As the war progressed into 1915, Alfred Crowe was sadly killed in action on 25th January, just four months after enlisting in September of 1914. John Crowe made the point that Alfred was an example of the millions of people who lost their lives to "the war to end all wars". The loss of life, especially in such young men with their lives ahead of them is a "terrible thing for parents to cope with and many never get over their loss".

Although the First World War was a terribly devastating war, seeing a huge loss of life, the war efforts for the Second World War should also be remembered. Alfred's nephew John Crowe fought in the Second World War, having served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. I asked him about his memories of the ending of the war and he told me about his presence at D Day. "Ships landed at Juno Beach at the middle sector and then brought back the first casualties. There was a medical team present, along with armed soldiers and a temporary hospital. There were 200 men wounded, who were mainly Canadians." John also told me about the events of the following day, when they sailed to Gosport. "Three men died overnight and were buried at sea. We then went back and forth on ships, bringing new troops in and taking casualties back to England until V Day on 8th May 1945."

Alfred's name is included on the School war memorial, along with the other 74 school pupils and two teachers who fought for their country. Alfred's grave is located at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France.

Leo Ashby

Battlefields Trip





The trip to Belgium to study WWI Battlefields was extremely interesting and enjoyable but also very moving. I think it is important to understand the horror and hardship of WWI and the tough conditions that soldiers lived and died in.

We stayed in a hostel, visited several museums and even went bowling but, for me, the war memorials we saw were the most memorable sites. In total, we managed to visit five cemeteries: Thiepval, The Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Essex Farm and Langemark. It was amazing to see the difference between the German and the Commonwealth cemeteries and how they are maintained.

At these memorials, those with relations could lay crosses and remember those who had lost their lives at war. At Thiepval memorial, I was able to lay a cross for my great, great grandfather. This was an amazing and quite moving experience.

Caspar Lindgren

MENIN GATE

We went to the Menin gate on our first day in Belgium. I had learnt there were around 55,000 names along the many panels there. When we got there, we held our very own memorial service (we had missed the official one earlier on), laying a wreath and spending a minute in respectful silence. After that, we were given a chance to look around the memorial. A couple of my friends and I wandered round the lower area looking at panel after panel of names until we realised that there were upper areas as well. On the walk up the stairs, we saw the many wreaths laid out by people wanting to commemorate lost family members or just to remember the ones who died fighting in the war.

In the upper areas, we saw countless more panels each with row after row of names. We finally had some kind of understanding of the vastness and scale of the death that war brings.

There was also a memorial garden, which had a model of the Menin Gate, and two grass areas that were covered with crosses that had been laid down. It was very moving to know that so many people had been killed here. I realised that we should not judge anything by what it may seem like but what it is like when we experience it. I know this because of the way we all underestimated the size of the Menin

Gate at first despite the number of names there.

Whilst there, I most appreciated finding my namesakes and helping other people find theirs because, it showed us that there were huge amounts of people and even though a century has passed, we could still connect with the men named there.

Jack Brierley

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

In the morning of the second day (13th November), we headed to the Thiepval memorial. After stopping near the Ulster Tower for lunch, we went to the monument itself. Located in the Somme area, it is the largest memorial of British soldiers with no known grave, remembering over 72,000 soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme. The monument, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932, and unveiled by the Prince of Wales with the President of France on 1 August 1932. It is a tremendous architectural project.

When we arrived, we were given the task of using the directories to find the names of Old Richians remembered there. Thanks to the work of some of the older pupils and Mrs. Sargeant, we were able to find and pay respects to more fallen Richians than on any other year. For every Richian we found we wrote on a cross, and at the end of our visit we laid a wreath. We also found the relatives of two boys on the trip and paid our respects to them. It was an extremely moving part of the trip and it put into context just how many people died in WWI.

George Hawthorne

THE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS

When we went to the Vimy memorial centre, we first had a tour of the preserved trenches. The trenches were well maintained and were very realistic. For example, the sandbags which 100 years ago would be filled with cement is still cement today. The narrowness of the trench gives you a feeling of the cramped conditions that the soldiers had to live in. Though I liked the trenches, my favourite part of the Vimy memorial was the fact that we got to go in the underground tunnels. They were about 5 metres deep and were used in the war for transport and protection from the shelling. There

were some living quarters for officers or runners. Runners were the soldiers that carried messages from the officer to the soldiers on the front line. We also learnt that because the army shot deserters (people that tried to escape) they put a white wristband to prevent people shooting their own men. However, the Germans soon figured out that the people with white wristbands were important and the life expectancy of a runner was five days. We got lucky, in that it was a nice day so the tunnels weren't knee deep with water like they usually were 100 years ago. Also, the tour guide turned the main lights off and showed us what it would have been like in the war. It was pitch black but with one extremely dim light every 20 metres. When walking down the tunnels, I imagined soldiers cramped in a small space knee deep in water thinking if they were going to survive another day or not.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

At the start of our third day on the Belgium trip we went to the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' in Ypres. This was all about the years of the Great War, the aftermath and the recovery after the war. There were also lots of artefacts including weaponry, defences and some civilian objects.

At the start of our visit we were all given a white band with a poppy on the front. We could use this to sign in and learn about specific characters and stories that were allocated to us. When you saw an interactive exhibit you would scan your band in and the computer would show a story of a particular person and their story from World War I.

The museum was arranged in chronological order so it was easy to get around. The first year was 1914. It told us how the war started and gave a quick overview of the year's battles around Ypres. This was a good interactive exhibit because it told you a lot about how a stalemate was established briefly and efficiently.

My favourite part of the museum was the section on the defence warfare. I liked it because it clearly presented the artefacts well and explained them. It had also good diagrams, especially the one of the underground trenches.

James Bishop

CORNWALL GEOLOGY

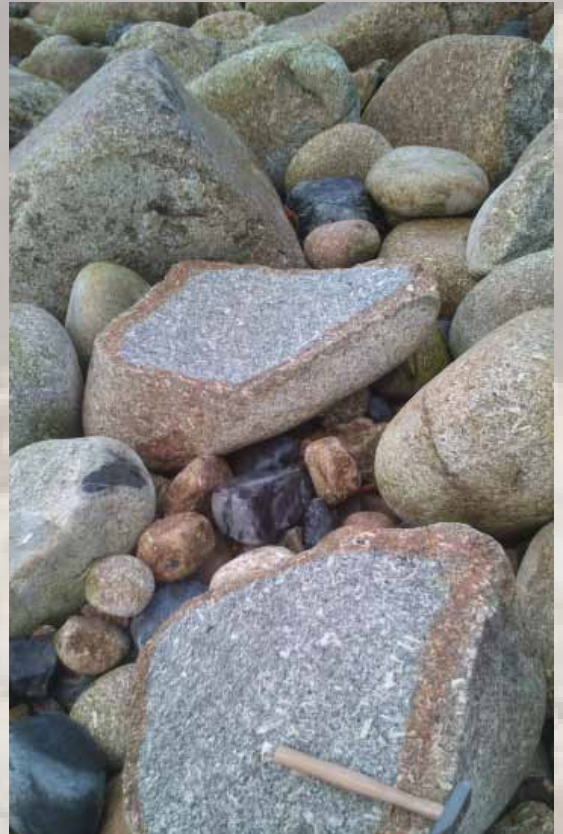
In November 2014, the AS Geology set travelled down to Cornwall to investigate the Geology there. We stayed in Perranporth at a self-catering youth hostel.

On the first day, we travelled to Cornwall making some strategic stops on the way. One of our stops was an old mine. This mine extracted iron and copper from the ore (arsenopyrite), which we found bits of in the rocks left behind. We also stopped at a beach near Bude, at which we saw some intense folding, along with graded beds, ripple marks and flute casts. Later that night, at the youth hostel, we inspected some samples from earlier making a sort of Geology Lab in the youth hostel.

On the next day, we went to Porthmeor cove at high tide, so that felt like we were ants because the smallest “pebbles” were the size of a rugby ball and there were boulders that we climbed over that were much larger than us. This was because these boulders were made of granite – a very hard rock that is especially resistant to weathering and erosion. We did this to see the unconformity at the other end of the cove that was the join between the pluton and the country rocks creating a metamorphic aureole that we couldn’t see to the end of. We also made a flying visit to the town of St Ives, though we did not meet a man with 7 wives. Here we inspected Clodgy Point, which was originally on a sea floor millions of years ago, spewing out pillow lava into its paleoenvironment.

On the last day, we visited the Lizard. This is basically a cross section of an ocean ridge as it is an Ophiolite, meaning that it is a bit of the crust obducted onto the continental crust. This meant it was ideal for us to study. We first went to Porthallow which was the start of the major unconformity, which contained the obducted ocean crust. We then went to a quarry in Porthoustock which had lots of dykes at unexpected angles. We then went to Coverack and ascertained that the dykes were formed after the obduction meaning that they had a more expected nature now. All in all, it was a really great trip with some good laughs, lots of learning and lots of geology, taught to us by the wise Mr Green and the other teachers (including “Doctor Quartz”) he had brought along and the year 13s who joined us, providing a good example for us to follow.

Mark Thiselton



SPAIN GEOLOGY



The 13 day Geology trip to Northern Spain started before half term on 24th October.

The trip was led by Mr. Green, Mr. Pack and Miss Bale. The geology students were also accompanied by Javier (our Spanish guide) and Dr. Quartz (a mineralogist). The first 2 days of the trip were mainly spent travelling, with very few stops at rock exposures. The first day was spent driving to Portsmouth to catch a 24 hour ferry to Santander. When we awoke the next morning, we were surprised to be met by a glorious Spanish sun! 19°C in October! The second day was also primarily spent travelling to Ezcaray, a small village, home to an annual jazz festival. In the evenings, the village was always alight with smiling faces and smooth jazz.

We arrived at Ezcaray fairly late and were eager to see our accommodation, but we couldn't find the hotel in the maze of narrow streets. Happily, however, with some rough Spanish over the phone and guesswork, we stumbled upon the owners of the establishment; they kindly showed us the rest of the way. The studio apartments had plenty of room to cook, though we chose mostly to eat out. Tapas restaurants were, unanimously, our favourite. Although ordering was difficult – Oliver Power resorted to pointing at the

menu, running his finger along all the entrees and simply saying “si.” The next day was spent visiting outcrops and exposures, practising map reading, taking bearings and collating notes to create a sense of the topography of the area. We quickly got the grasp of it and were ready to map out an area in the next 2 days for the geology course work. We were studying an area of intense folding and faulting created by regional pressure from the contact between France and Spain. This same regional pressure gave birth to intense uplift, creating the Pyrenees.

The next 2 days were spent hiking through the blistering heat of the Spanish sun, taking readings of the dip and strike of rock outcrops and making notes of areas of interest. Along the way, we were accompanied by an adorable puppy, presumably a stray, from the local village. We didn't understand his immense dedication to our group, but the company was welcome none the less.

The rest of the trip was spent visiting more outcrops and exposures of rock, and gaining experience in the field. After the last day of map work, we left our accommodation and moved to a different hotel which was in Las Navas del Marques, an area considerably more urban than Ezcaray.



The stores were only a little more expensive than in the rural area and the locals were friendly (and forgiving of our dodgy Spanish). We mainly chose to eat in here, as the studio apartments were equipped fairly well. It was fairly surprising how good gelatinous, tinned meatballs can taste after a long day in the field.

After staying there for a few days, we moved to Bilbao. Some students went to visit the Guggenheim, but we all enjoyed exploring the beautiful metropolis. Whilst we were there, we found an excellent restaurant with stunning service (and low prices) which we ended up going to every night.

On the last day, we visited some beach outcrops. This was, inevitably, the first day without any sun. I suppose you could describe the rainfall and frigid air as ‘reminiscent of home.’ When we were packed up, we went to board another 24 hour ferry. All of us ecstatic to have gone, all of us glad to finally be going home.

Elliot Howard

Slapton 2014



This was a three day long Geography trip to Slapton for the Lower Sixth Form. This is a vital part of A level course work which encompasses the departments ethos of learning outside the classroom. The purpose of the trip was develop investigation skills and case study knowledge.



The first day of the trip saw Tommy's geographers studying the effects of climate change on the landforms along the coast, as well as gathering some primary data and drawing field sketches of Start Point. By looking at certain landforms, it is possible to determine what processes formed them and, in turn, what climate the landforms formed in. The following day the geographers investigated the flood risk posed by land uses in a drainage basin. Later in the day, the students used systematic and stratified sampling at various points in woodlands and fields to measure variations in infiltration rates.

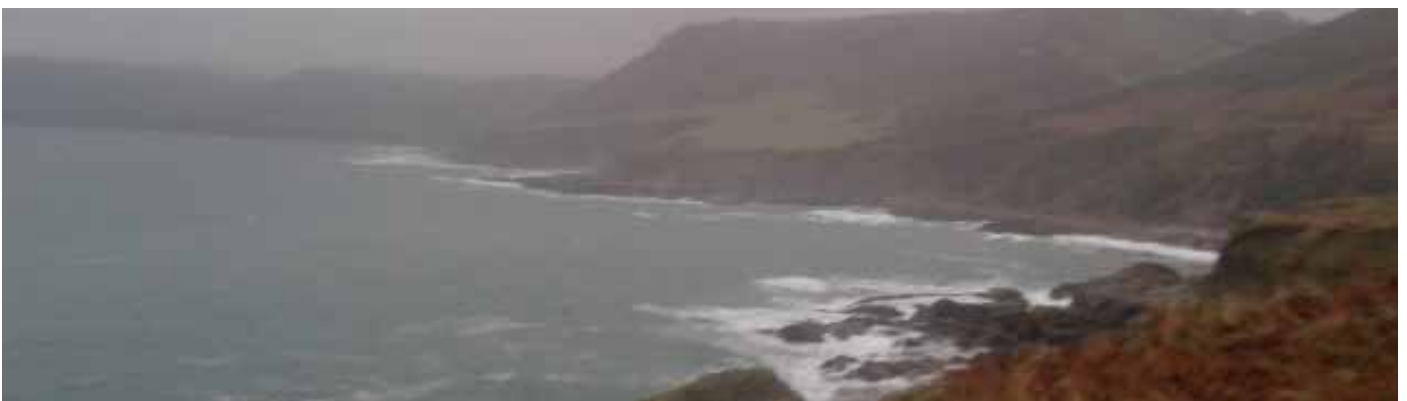


As well as that, the students observed rocks on the coastline, to see how the coastal region was formed. On the final day of the trip the pupils visited the villages of Torcross, Chillington, Slapton and East Allington. Torcross and Slapton were in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so there were many Bed and Breakfasts places for tourists to stay. As well as that, they were by the coast, making them even more popular as a tourist destination. Whilst there, the students studied the coastal defences present and performed more experiments on the coast.



Overall, the trip was an amazing experience, which provided much needed information for the upcoming examination as well as allowing the geographers to spend some time at the seaside.

Elliott Howard





TOMMY'S STUDENTS ACHIEVE FULL MARKS



On the 18th December two students, accompanied by parents and Mr Gowler representing Sir Thomas Rich's, attended the A level awards ceremony in WJEC's offices in Cardiff. The two pupils, George Hopes and Ellen Lockstone, achieved the highest number of points for WJEC A level Geology and Geography respectively from the summer 2014 cohort across England and Wales.

Gareth Pierce, WJEC's Chief Executive, said: "Last year WJEC received over 79,000 A level entries. The results of this group of pupils are extremely impressive and it is a delight to have the opportunity to celebrate their success here today. "A levels provide a solid basis for which pupils can progress. All our winners have gone on to study at some of the UK's best Higher Education Institutions as well as overseas. I wish each winner the very best for the future."

Congratulations to them both.

D Gowler

GLOUCESTER DOCKS

The trip to the Gloucester docks saw Year 10 students studying the area and collecting information on how the morphology had changed over time. The trip occurred 3 times, once for each geography set, the first being on the 12th of January and the last being on the 14th of January. The students first had to label a map of the docks to show the individual uses of the buildings. After this they had to complete 3 tasks.

The first task was the pedestrian count task, where in the students would count the number of people in a given area over a period of 5 minutes. The second task was the 'sphere of influence' task. This task involved determining how the Gloucester docks influence Gloucester's sphere of influence over the surrounding areas, by interviewing as many people as possible on the subject.

The third and final task was the environmental assessment task. This involved splitting the Gloucester docks into the quays and the docks, and evaluating and comparing both sections on specific criteria, such as landscape quality, litter/graffiti, air pollution, noise etc. Rating something a 1 would mean excellent quality (e.g. very little litter) whereas 5 would mean very poor quality (e.g. a lot of noise).

In the summary, the students evaluated their fieldwork techniques, the success of the Gloucester docks/quays development and what possible improvements are needed in the area.

Elliot Howard







ITALY 2015



During February half term the School held its annual ski trip. The trip was open to all years and the destination was Prato Nevoso in Italy. Beginners and experts were allowed on the trip, the variety of skill levels making it appealing to all. The trip was well received by the pupils who especially enjoyed the plentiful snow and attractive location high up in the Alps.

In the future, Mr Birchall, the coordinator of this trip intends to take the pupils to the United States in April. This destination is a step up from previous trips due to the opportunity to snowboard as well as ski. The trip will consist of, 5 days of skiing as well as a two night stay in New York. Activities have been booked for visits to Ellis island, Ground Zero, Planet Hollywood as well as the statue of Liberty.

Tyler Wells



MUSIC

Tommy's Music Department has flourished over recent years with the introduction of many groups, such as the Brass Band, Jazz Band which sit alongside the Orchestra. These are just a few of the many groups which provide musical opportunities at Tommy's, and there will, undoubtedly, be many more opportunities to come.

The Brass band, created by the Headmaster himself, is a very popular music group and is held weekly on a Monday lunchtime. The 50th Anniversary service at Gloucester Cathedral was also accompanied by our Brass Band, where the National Anthem and "Jerusalem" were played with passion. This is just one of the many success stories of the Brass Band and we can be sure there will be many more in the future.

Another success story in the music department has been the Jazz Band. The group takes part in many events, such as the Jazz festival and the Cheltenham festival. Members of the Sixth Form, to whom we give our thanks, have provided leadership in the group. One such person who deserves our thanks is pianist Charlie Ros, who has been a key figure of the STRS Music department through his school years.

As well as festivals, the Jazz Band has slowly become involved with more concerts. With many thanks to Mr Lynch, the now famous "Jazz Night" debuted in 2012 and has now established itself as an annual event in the school calendar, as has the Chamber Concert. Having interviewed Mr Morgan about the event, he said that "the idea behind the Jazz Band was to give concerts at the School more of a particular theme and for them to be less formal, yet still a chance for parents to appreciate the music their children are performing." This now significant evening in the school calendar has allowed for more opportunities for the pupils, such as "staff-pupil collaborations and a variety of ensembles." In recent years the music department has also played a massive role in assisting other departments. A few examples of this are: helping with the annual drama performances, providing live music for the WW1 exhibition in the LRC, Open Evenings, Academic Excellence Evenings and Speech Day.

The 2015 Jazz night, which took place on the 6th February, was just as successful as previous years, with superb performances throughout. One of Mr Morgan's highlights of the evening was the Senior Ensemble, which Mr Morgan described as "excellent and really enjoyable". Other performances that Mr Morgan praised were the songs performed by Faith Itumu and Sam Bussell, as well as a performance by Peter Dorey and Charlie Hawkins. As a whole, the evening met the high standards set in previous years and was, once again, a delightful evening of entertainment.

Also worth a mention are the Choir and the Chamber Choir's practices, which take place on Fridays. The Chamber Choir has seen recent success, having come second place in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. In addition to this, the Chamber Choir has also performed at Citizenship Ceremonies, which are highly significant events for new members of our country. The Chamber Choir was also one of the groups which helped perform at the popular World War I exhibition last year and a short film played at the exhibition to commemorate the war, was given a sound track consisting of AS Level Music compositions.

In the week before the Christmas holiday, the choir and chamber choir also performed a 'Nine Lessons and Carols' service at Holy Trinity Church and St Catharine's Church; this is now considered a tradition at Sir Thomas Rich's.



The String Group, yet another successful group of musicians at Tommy's, meet on a Tuesday lunchtime. The senior members of the group have performed at the Cheltenham Festival many a time in recent years, inevitably accompanied with success. Santos Hau, a year 13 pupil and member of the String Group since he joined in year 7, has entered into the Gloucestershire Young Musicians Competition on many occasions and has been highly successful, having made the finals for the past three years. Also held on a Tuesday Lunchtime is the School Orchestra, which is often considered to be the centre of the music at Tommy's, where strings, brass and woodwind all come together to create something special. The Orchestra has always been ambitious with its choices of music, with many challenging yet fantastically played pieces featuring in school concerts, such as the New World Symphony, which will be played in the upcoming Spring Concert.

Assemblies at Sir Thomas Rich's have also excelled in quality thanks to the music department. Assemblies as a whole throughout the school have had an increased level of music influencing them, including the newly-introduced Year 9 Music Assemblies. Our annual House Music competition, held in February, receives a lot of attention and the quality of the winning performances is never any less than outstanding. The winners also perform in assemblies, helping music to have a greater and greater influence on the students of Sir Thomas Rich's.

As well as outlining the facts, we decided that we would like to get a view of the music department from a student's perspective. Therefore, we decided to interview Dominic Trott of Year 13; he is somebody who has been at the forefront of music at Tommy's for many years. Having joined the school in year 7, he immediately signed up for the Brass Band and Jazz Band playing the trumpet, in addition to singing in the Choir. He also went on to join the Orchestra in year 9 along with the Chamber Choir. When asked what his most memorable music moment at Tommy's has been, he responded, "the first Jazz Night was memorable and although it had a different atmosphere, it was somewhat refreshing and was very successful". Dominic has also taken part in events such as the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, where he collaborated with Jamie Callum and various other big names. We also asked whether he was planning on keeping his musical activities going into the future, to which he responded "When I am at University I will continue playing casually as it is very enjoyable and it is also an opportunity to meet new people."

Music is a very large part of life at Tommy's and is one of the Headmasters most loved aspects of the school. As Mr Morgan put it himself, music is "deeply transformational and enormously beneficial to students, not only with skills in playing but also in listening". He also added that music develops "self-discipline and resilience through having to listen to others and through being a team member". With GCSE and A Level groups increasing in size in the School, it is clear that many of our students have a passion for the subject. Ultimately, as well as being academically rewarding, music is a fun part of life and allows for pupils to develop confidence and to be creative, another hugely beneficial skill. With many thanks to pupils and teachers throughout the years, music has been and remains right at the heart of our school.

Leo Ashby & Joe Nicholas



SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVING PUPILS

TOBY HIRAM

Toby Hiram has been an avid player of cricket for Sir Thomas Rich's School since he first joined the School in year 7. Now he plays for the 1st XI, Herefordshire under 17s team and Ross cricket club. Toby also enjoys playing Rugby for the school in the winter, when unable to play cricket. Since captaining the cricket team in Year 7, Toby has grown as a cricketer throughout the years, spurred on by the advice of Mr Pitel and Mr Brown. During this time he has seen cricket gain massive recognition within the school, seeing it progress to become a major Tommy's sport.

In the future, Toby aims to score a century. I asked Toby about recent event's in cricket and how it had affected the sport and he mentioned the death of Phillip Hughes. He said that "the cricketing community had been brought together as a whole by the tragic event and had, in an adverse way, increased the recognition of the sport globally."

Toby gave some advice to any younger students who wished to play cricket in the School. "I think the first thing to do is enjoy the sport. Without enjoyment it's pointless. It's also important to understand that every cricketer has a bad day, and that cannot be controlled, and sometimes, a loss can be just as important as a win."

We would like to wish Toby the best of luck in both his cricketing and academic career.

Will Nunn

ELLIOT PURVIS

Elliot Purvis was awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship on Friday 31st October at a ceremony in London supported by the Institution of Engineering & Technology and the Lloyd's Register Foundation. Elliot was presented with his Scholarship by Dr. Stephen Payne OBE Principal Consultant, Naval Architect and Royal Designer for Industry PFJ-Maritime Consulting Ltd. He then met the representative of the organisation that is sponsoring his Scholarship – Mr Rob Moon of Ultra Precision Electronics.

These Scholarships act as a beacon to the most talented younger STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) students inspired by Tomorrow's Engineers week and other outreach activities. The Scholarships help to ensure that high-potential young people stay engaged in the STEM careers pipeline.

The new Arkwright Engineering Scholars received their awards at prestigious Ceremonies supported by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Lloyd's Register Foundation. This year's Scholars come from all educational backgrounds across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

Scholars are selected for their potential as future engineering leaders by assessing their academic, practical and leadership skills in STEM. These are assessed through a rigorous selection process comprising: an assessed application form including a teacher's reference; a two-hour aptitude exam; and a university-based interview. The Scholarships support STEM students through their Sixth Form studies and encourage them into top universities or higher apprenticeships.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are highly regarded by universities and industry and are one of the most prestigious accolades that a talented Sixth Form student can achieve. The Scholarships are supported by universities, professional institutions, trade associations, the armed services, charitable trusts, Worshipful Companies, personal donors and companies such as: Atkins, BAE Systems, Balfour Beatty, Bosch, Caterpillar, Centrica, Costain, Cummins, Foster Wheeler, Jaguar Land Rover, Laing O'Rourke, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft Research, National Grid, Network Rail, Nissan, Pilkington, QinetiQ, Renishaw, Rolls-Royce, Royal Mail, TATA, Thales, Ultra Electronics and Weir Group.

Elliot and all of our Arkwright Scholars have absolutely phenomenal potential for future careers in the engineering profession.

S Hancock



house

HOUSE QUIZ

On Friday the 12th of December, Sir Thomas Rich's was host to it's annual internal House quiz for both the Senior and Junior school. A Senior and Junior team was selected from each House and the Houses competed, under the quiz mastery of Mr Dempsey. Southgate dominated the Senior quiz, pulling many points and from the book and film questions. The Junior quiz was won by Northgate. The topics for the questions included: film, literature, science, music and geographical locations. All the questions were written by Mr Dempsey himself including a quiz favourite involving the connections between songs.

Tyler Wells

HOUSE MUSIC

Congratulations to all involved in House Music this year. The quality of the performances was the best to date. It was superb to see the effort that so many pupils had put into it, the range of music and the numbers of pupils participating. It was particularly pleasing that so much singing featured.

Westgate and Eastgate dominated the Junior category: Louis Appleyard's Minuet and Trio from Beethoven's Piano Sonata No10, Op3 in D Sonata in A was fluent with a good even tone across the dynamic range to win the Junior Solo prize. Gabriel Fryer-Eccels, Harvey Youngsmith, Vindoh Hansraj and Maxim Gaidakov gave a bold performance of 'Take me to Church' by Hozier to win the Junior Ensemble prize for Eastgate. Westgate were victorious in all of the senior categories: Santos Hau fulfilled expectations to take the Senior Solo prize. His mature and stylish interpretation of Liszt's Transcendental Etude No1, Preludio displayed technical proficiency. Ieuan Lavender Drums, George Alsworth Bass, Sam Bussell Guitar, and Charlotte Hawkins, vocals and guitar took the Senior Ensemble prize with Ran Di Dan's 'Flashbacks'. Charlie Ros drums, Ben Andre, vocals, Peter Dorey Vocals, Dominic Trott trumpet, Emma Coleman saxophone, Alexis White guitar, Sam King keyboard and the mass choir of Eastgate were the clear winners with an upbeat rendition of 'Uptown Funk' by Mark Ronson.

The four 'Open' performances at the end were impressive: they had taken so much organising and it was great to see so much participation and enjoyment– and organised and rehearsed by the students, fantastic! These performances are a constant pleasure to both watch and hear, reinforcing the inclusive and global nature of music.

House music is a shining example of how music has grown throughout the years at Sir Thomas Rich's. In recent years House Music has been far more student-led, involving great effort by all years. The Sixth Form students use their experience of music to create and direct musical pieces which are enjoyable to all.

events



It was a delight to see the more traditional pieces performed by Southgate and Eastgate but also the more modern music across the board. The participation of the staff, also, made this years House Music one of the best yet.

Bravo to all performers and huge thanks to all Sixth Form organisers. Westgate were the overall winners- well done to Charlotte Hawkins and her team.

Tyler Wells

HOUSE ART

Within the last term, the annual House Art event took place. Generally, the event is contributed to by a large amount of the School as opposed to some of the events where a few of more skilled Upper School students take part. This year some changes were made with the hope of improving the quality of work submitted. Head of department Mr O'Neil commented "The art teachers have been trying to encourage students to produce more exciting, thought provoking work that is more experimental and more relevant to young people"

He continued that these changes were linked to the changes made within the department and Lower School lessons. These lessons are being brought in line with the GCSE and A level lessons in order to give Lower School pupils a more accurate view of GCSE Art. This was also being done to link art as a hobby and the interests of the students into the subject. One of the main examples of this is the inclusion of photography within the department. This is one of many ways in which the GCSE criteria are being changed to include more relevant forms of art to the students of the School. "Photography is an artistic skill and it's good to see it being included within House Art", was just one of the comments from the pupils.

Simeon Bystrazanowski



Falling

I make the jump, I fall through the air
 The adrenaline pumping as the wind
 Bristles my hair
 I spread my arms soaring like a bird
 Falling silently never to be heard
 The wind rushes past, for the moment I am free
 But I know very soon that they will see.
 I will be gone soon, but as I continue to fall.
 I realise now that I am having a ball
 As I fly through the air, as I twist and turn
 If anyone else tried, their stomach would churn.
 Finally now as I hit the ground
 I realise now that there is nobody around.

Bill Carter 9R

Green grass breaks through snow,
 As the world slowly turns,
 Every detail grows,
 As cold silence burns,
 Animals come into the light,
 As the sun radiantly glows,
 Never has something been so bright,
 While the streams run below,
 Fields as far as the eye can see,
 We lie in the shade,
 The view gives us glee,
 Not wanting this to fade,
 In this world we are all kings,
 For this is the extraordinary spring

Amin Quershi, 9T

Natures Way

The trees rustled, in the cool evening breeze
 From the trees, lay, the many types of leaves
 The leaves, clamped together in their
 different forms
 Hustling and bustling, making and creating
 obscured paths
 Even in the process of that conjuring
 miniature storms
 The setting sun makes way for the glowing moon
 The orange, left behind from the sun,
 lights up the horizon
 The luminous moon gives natural light to
 darkened rooms
 Night falls over the city creating
 unnecessary gloom
 Owls' hoots can be heard
 Waiting for the early morning cockerel bird

Muhammad Ginwalla, 9T

Have you ever tried standing alongside a tide?
 You should try it; it washes away your bad side.
 The feeling as the water swishes at your feet.
 The peace of flowing with the beat.

You do not have to exaggerate.
 Just let the feelings flow,
 You don't have to wait.
 Release the worries now,
 Live your life and be proud.

Life is like a roller coaster.
 Sometimes under
 And sometimes over.
 To understand this, flow with the waves,
 Clench your teeth and be brave.

Live life, take nature's path,
 Let go of the past
 And live now,
 Because that's what matters.

Faiz Fazaluddin, 9T



THE ESTATE OF NATURE: A MARXIST ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY

A recent Credit Suisse report estimates that the wealthiest 1% of the global population owns nearly half the world's wealth and the poorest 50% possesses less than 1% of it. Given such extremes of poverty and inequality, the idea of property should be seriously reviewed. How is this distribution of resources sustainable? Isn't all property theft by another name? Can we justify material inheritance? In this article I will look at the basis of property in the notion of 'natural property.'

This is the idea that in a 'natural' society before a government has been established, one could still claim to own certain things by right of being a person. Given limited space, I will argue that the only things which are ours alone and by necessity are our labour and thought. To help us see this we can imagine a thought experiment in which society has been disrupted beyond repair and all must fight to subsist, a situation akin to environmental catastrophe, revolution, epidemic, or a combination of all these. We cannot speculate on how we would live together if we were born into savagery, but the idea of the apocalypse is somewhat believable. It also helps us think about scarcity, for it is easy to forget that the vast majority of the human race has lived on only a little more than what they need to survive.

Here then are my criteria for defining natural property: it cannot be taken from one without permission; it cannot be shared indefinitely but is unique to each; and it is the owner's responsibility in that its use is determined by her alone, so only she can be held accountable for it. Life, for instance, is not included since anarchy would entail that anyone could take this without fear of reprisals. I don't assume anyone is 'free' to use property: if we live in a deterministic universe, free will is a myth. Nor is a 'self' a possession but rather that which possesses.

The rewards of someone's labour might be taken by others and in turn controlled by them. This makes the worker dependant to some degree because now it is only their master who is able to give back some of the fruits of their labour so that the worker may survive. However, I would argue that anyone is in a position to withdraw or contribute their labour at any time. Even in slavery, withdrawal of labour is technically possible, even if the consequence of that for the mutineer would be to lose his life, for this would rule out the possibility of further being exploited from that point. I certainly don't condone this, but it is possible. The human capacity for hope and survival generally prevents this happening even when people don't consider their lives worth living.

Likewise, our thought can be used to create wealth but it is so intrinsically connected to our will that we can deny or allow it to anyone. Unlike labour though, it is an internal thing, so it can only be applied to the world through a form of labour, such as writing. It is true that ideological and educational influences give us our ways of thinking and viewing the world, so probably few of our specific thoughts come from us originally. However, thought is also an ongoing activity that goes on within each of us in an individual way, so it can neither be shared totally nor limited externally.

I would argue that the 'apocalypse' scenario shows us that a person's wealth and work is rarely ever owned by his or herself, but rather these are fragile goods that are easily taken by incentive, coercion or force. We have no natural right to the product of our efforts, so we should consider carefully before we commit our own resources to an end, and not forget in the meanwhile the radical independence we have to use both thought and labour.

Freddie Coombes

SAM'S 'SQUID'S IN' AT RIVER COTTAGE

Pupil Sam Singha joined the other finalists from all over the South West, as they gathered for the Regional Final of the national Future Chef cooking competition at the beautiful country setting of Hugh Fernley-Whittingstall's training school located behind the now famous River Cottage HQ.

The winner would go on to cook and present their 2-course menu at the prestigious national final at the Westminster Kingsway College. But today's finalists were all winners, having won through from the initial school-held heats and hotly contested local finals. To mark this success, each competitor received his/her own set of signed chef's whites, apron and cap.

Initial excitement and butterflies were soon forgotten as Gill Mellor, Group Head Chef River Cottage and lead judge, having encouraged everyone to relax and enjoy the experience, dismissed the parents and supporters from the kitchens and announced to the finalists: "Let's get cooking!"

Time for the young chefs flew by. As the cooking period drew to a close, one by one each contestant's main course and dessert plates were brought out from the kitchens to the judging table. Again parents and supporters were dismissed while the judges tasted, tested, deliberated, argued and added up their scores. Contestants were not solely judged on the presentation and flavours of their dishes but on how they managed their cooking spaces and time, as well as the diversity and complexity of the cooking techniques their dishes demanded. Added to this were the special considerations close to the heart of Head Chef Gill Mellor of seasonality, local supply, and using fresh, ethically produced and sustainable ingredients.

The dishes served up were of a very high and professional looking standard, as well as tasting delicious!

Sam's main offering was squid stuffed with chilli, lemon grass & prawns, in a coconut sauce served with jasmine rice. His dessert was a chocolate volcano (fondant) with Chantilly cream.

In preparation for this final, Sam reckoned he had cooked his dishes at least 10 times and he had spent a very fruitful and valuable morning working with David Kelman, Head Chef at Ellenborough Park, Cheltenham Spa.

After the final announcement of runner-up and winner, the chef judges spent several minutes with each contestant giving detailed feedback and valuable advice on not only how they could make their dishes better but also on improving their all round cooking skills and kitchen craft.

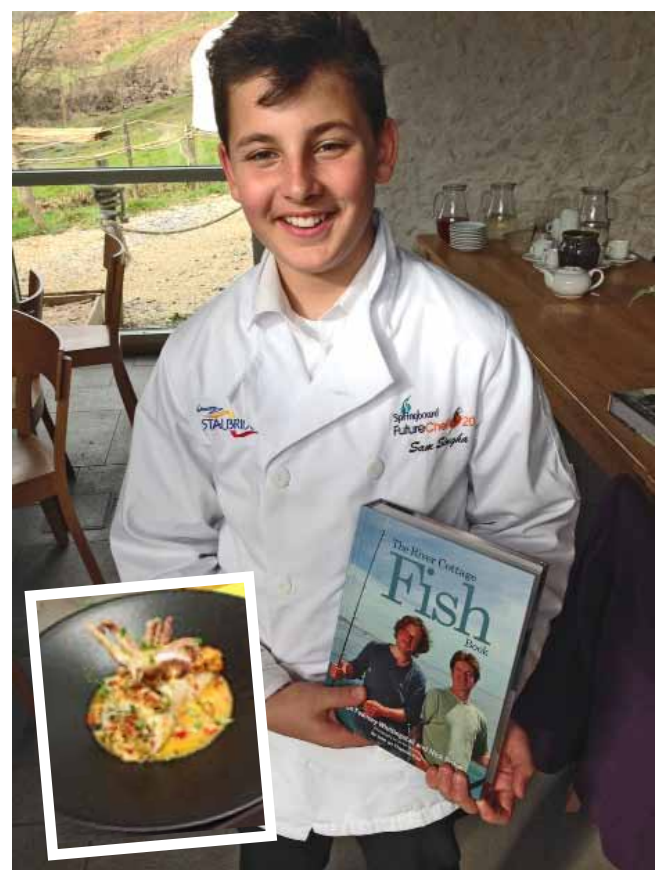
Sam didn't quite make the top two places but said afterwards that, the whole day was really fantastic". Time flew by and suddenly everyone was plating up. The judges were fantastic – they helped you remain calm and offered occasional advice to keep you on track."

In summing up, the judges commented: "Everyone's plates looked fantastic and the range of ideas and choice of ingredients showed some real inventive and creative thought processes going on.

We were all amazed how calm and quiet the kitchens were as each young chef focused on their cooking – nothing like the hubbub and noise of the kitchens we work in every day!"

When asked what he most got out of his Future Chef journey Sam answered: "The skills I learnt from David Kelman on how to lift the presentation of food on a plate to an art form. It was really awesome spending the time with David in his kitchens at Ellenborough Park."

Phil Brown



Tommy's RUGBY 2014-15

Sir Thomas Rich's RFC 2014-15

So far this season Sir Thomas Rich's School RFC have played a total of 202 games

The results so far

1st XV

P 20 W 14 L5 AB1 PTS FOR 612

AGAINST 249

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 Rich's 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's Grammar School. Rich's again dominated the contact area with Harvey Ryder scoring a try from a Jack Tharme break. Wordsworth's came back into the game in the second period after Rich's had made lots of replacements and with 20 minutes to go Wordsworth's led 14-5. Dan Scholey then scored a well worked try and Rory Payne converted. Rich'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 Rich'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 steam rolled QEH Bristol again. In a superb performance, Rich'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 Rich'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 Rich'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. Rich's, down to 13 men, held out for a while but eventually RGS scored two tries. When Rich'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 Rich'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, Rich'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 Rich's.

Rich's next test came against a very good Kingswood Bath side that they had defeated 12-5 the previous year. Kingswood had been unbeaten so far this season but Rich'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 line out. Kingswood led 17-10. In the second half Rich's dominated the first ten minutes and Payne kicked two penalties to make the score 17-16. However, Rich'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. Rich'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 Rich'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 Rich'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 Rich's travelled to Monmouth School. Rich'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 (and a Ross Preedy penalty in the final minute) rescued a 33-33 draw in Wales. Last year Monmouth scored in the final play to steal a game that Rich's had led throughout. However, this year's game could not have had a better start for Rich's as from the outset the 1st XV dominated the contact area and three Payne penalties gave Rich's a 9-0 lead. The tough week of playing Kingswood and Chosen had taken its toll in the second half and Rich'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. Rich'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 Rich'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 Rich'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. The 1st XV played KES Bath after half term in a late kick off on a Thursday. KES have always been particularly strong with their driving mauls from lineouts and although work had been done to counter this, KES still took the lead with two tries scored in this

manner.

The 1st XV eventually took control of the contact area and ran out 41-19 winners with tries from Harvey Ryder, Harry Schofield, Lyn, Dom Alden, Carter and Payne.

Two days later the 1st XV entertained Pate's Grammar School. Rich's hadn't lost to Pate's since 2011, but in dreadful conditions against the wind Pate's dominated territory and possession. At half time the score was 0-0 which felt like a lead considering the gale force winds that the 1st XV had played into in the first half. In the second half using the elements, Rich's had more possession and territory although Pate's also had chances and showed they were a useful side this season. Unfortunately, the rain and wind increased to such an extent that the 1st XV pitch resembled the school swimming pool and the game was abandoned 0-0.

The next game was the Fourth Round Natwest Cup tie with Stowe School at home. After the 23-17 win for Rich's last season against the prestigious school, Stowe were looking for revenge. Rich's started well dominating the early exchanges but Stowe scored against the run of play. Although Rich's competed very well in the tight exchanges, the Stowe backs were incredibly dangerous from turnover ball and won the game 36-13, ending Rich's cup run for the season.

After this disappointing defeat, it was always going to be difficult to bounce back. Rich's welcomed Hereford Cathedral to Oakleaze on the following Saturday. In a disjointed and lackluster performance, with only five minutes to go, Rich's found themselves trailing 13-7 with only a Rory Payne try and conversion to show for their efforts. They were awarded a penalty, which they kicked to the corner. Then from the resulting driving line out James Adnett crashed over and Rory Payne slotted a difficult conversion to win the game.

Rich's then went on a run of games putting in some excellent performances. They demolished Crypt Grammar 62-0 to make it 11 years since Crypt defeated Rich's at 1st XV level, beat Loughborough Grammar School 31-3 and defeated Beechen Cliff Bath 38-10. However in the most anticipated game of the season Rich's travelled to Street in Somerset to take on Millfield on the Gareth Edwards Pitch. Rich's started superbly with a scintillating break from Peter Carter, which was finished off by Fred Morrish. Rory Payne kicked an incredible conversion

and Rich's led 7-0. Matthew Peters was unfortunately yellow carded which left Rich's with only 14 men, Millfield were quick to capitalise making the score 14-7. Millfield scored another try in the second half to make it 21-7 but from a training ground 12 man line out Rich's managed to drive Millfield 25 metres to score. Payne added the conversion to make the game 21-14. Then with five minutes to go Rich's camped themselves in the Millfield half attempting to gain at least a draw. It wasn't to be, but a 21-14 defeat to Millfield who had won the Champions Cup trophy and the St Joseph's Tournament this year was an extremely credible performance.

Games against Old Swinford, Whitchurch High School Cardiff and Warwick School were unfortunately lost to the weather. Therefore like last season the 1st XV's last fixture was against Solihull School. Rich's started extremely well but could not score. Then when the break through did eventually happen through a piece of Jack Tharme brilliance, Rich's managed to secure a very good 29-12 win with the other tries coming from Foylan, Dan Scholey and Sam Brown.

It has been a very good season for the 1st XV, only losing 5 of 20 fixtures considering the standard of opposition the school faces each week is a tremendous achievement. Defeats to the likes of RGS High Wycombe, Monmouth and Millfield are certainly no disgrace but the boys must keep working hard to push themselves to the next level. I am looking forward to a positive sevens season, where hopefully among other successes we can win the Gloucestershire 7s title for the third time in four years!

Other results below – report for each team to come

2ND XV- P17 W12 L5
3RD XV – P3 W3 L0
U16 A – P11 W6 L5
U16 B – P3 W1 L2
U15 A – P17 W11 L6
U15 B – P11 W5 L6
U14 A – P20 W9 D1 L10
U14 B – P13 W5 D1 L7
U13 A – P23 W8 L15
U13 B – P18 W14 L4
U13 C – P8 W6 L2
U13 D – P1 D1
U12 A – P16 W11 D1 L4
U12 B – P15 W8 D1 L6
U12 C – P8 W5 D1 L2

Rhys Williams

TOMMY'S BEAT MIGHTY MILLFIELD

Sir Thomas Rich's U16 Rugby team entertained Millfield recently in Longlevens. Millfield, based in Street, Somerset is arguably the top rugby- playing school in the country and has produced a number of senior International players including the great Gareth Edwards, after whom their 1st XV pitch is named.

In ideal conditions, Rich's played up the slight slope and into the breeze and sun in the first half and, after nullifying some dangerous Millfield attacks with excellent defensive work in midfield, took an early 6 nil lead through two excellent penalty goals by scrum half and captain Will Allenby.

The Rich's pack were dominating the forward exchanges and putting relentless pressure on Millfield's defence around the fringes, but a poor clearance kick enabled Millfield to set up a driving maul from a line out from which they scored an unconverted try in the corner.



Forward Will Barradell-Black sets up another Rich's attack

The home side hit back though almost immediately, and after a number of strong forward drives, Louis Earle-Davis powered over from close range. Captain, Will Allenby, kicked an easy conversion and then a third penalty goal from a more difficult angle to make the half time score 16-5.

With the slope and weather to their advantage the home side started the second half with great intensity and increased their lead early on with a try by Gabriel Chelotti converted by Will Allenby who was having an excellent afternoon from the kicking tee. Allenby soon added another penalty to give his side a commanding 26-5 and raise his personal contribution to an excellent 16 points.



Captain and Scrum-half Will Allenby clears his lines

Millfield though continued to compete hard putting the Rich's XV under a lot of pressure in the last quarter but the home side's well organised tenacious defence held firm, leading to a memorable win, 26-5.

Most of the U16 side are part of an U17 Tour Party of 47 players and 5 staff who going to South Africa this summer. This will be the School's 5th Southern Hemisphere tour since 2007 and the boys are very much looking forward to the 20- day visit which will involve 5 sets of A and B matches, time on safari and a number of excursions to, for example, Sun City and Table Mountain.

If you would like to sponsor the Tour, please contact Deputy Headmaster, Chris Carter, at the School [01452-338435].

Rhys Williams



ENGLISH SCHOOLS SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Following their success at the Regional Trials in September, at Millfield School, the Senior boys' team qualified for the National Finals in both the Medley and Freestyle relays at the London Aquatic Centre.

The team consisted of Craig Munden, Jamie Harper, Jordan Lee and Matthew Munden. For Craig, Jamie and Jordan this was the third final that they have reached and to compete at this level is great testament to them. Therefore, to swim at the London Aquatic Centre was a fitting end to their School swimming career and coming 13th and 14th place nationally in the Medley and Freestyle Relays respectively, they can be very proud of their performance.

Medley Relay – time: 1 min 58.30 sec (Long Course, over 50m with no turns)

Jordan Lee	Backstroke	– 30.82
Craig Munden	Breaststroke	– 32.43
Matthew Munden	Butterfly	– 28.99
Jamie Harper	Front Crawl	– 26.06

Freestyle Relay – time: 1 min 44.80 sec (Long Course, over 50m with no turns)

Jamie Harper	26.74
Craig Munden	24.65
Jordan Lee	26.99
Matthew Munden	26.42

Well done to all four swimmers.

GLOUCESTER SWIMMING GALA RESULTS 2014

The School entered the Boys' competition in the Gloucester Schools' Gala on Tuesday 25th November. There were many good individual performances, particularly in the Senior races, but it was a whole team effort that secured the 10th straight victory in a close fought competition. Well done to all swimmers, but congratulations to the following who won their individual events:

Senior	Joseph Smith	25m	Frontcrawl
Senior	Joseph Smith	25m	Backcrawl
Senior	Alexander Hamilton-Foyne	25m	Breaststroke
Senior	George Moran	25m	Butterfly
Senior	Craig Munden	50m	Butterfly
Senior	Alexander Hamilton-Foyne	50m	Breaststroke
Yr 7	William Bateman	25m	Backstroke
Yr 9	Guy Floyd	25m	Backstroke
Yr 9	Callum Dickson	50m	Backcrawl
Yr 10	Tomas Lappy	50m	Backcrawl

There were team successes in the Freestyle Relay for the Seniors and the Yr 7s, and the Seniors and the Yr 8s won their Medley Relays. The Final result was:

1st STRS – 392 pts
2nd Newent – 338
3rd Crypt – 319

I J Gallagher

Upcoming Events

Music Dept. Spring Concert

School Hall

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015
AT 7.30PM

STRS Bowling Club Open Day *(based on school grounds)*

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2015
FROM 2.00PM

Annual Y7-10 Sports Evening

School Field

THURSDAY 2 JULY 2015
AT 6.30PM

Alumni Summer Ball *at Gloucester RFC (1873 Ricoh Lounge)*

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2015
AT 7.30PM

Music Dept. Summer Concert

School Hall

FRIDAY 10 JULY 2015
AT 7.30PM

Open Days *Parents and children are welcome to visit at their convenience*

TUESDAY 5 & WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015
The school may be seen 'at work' from 8.40am, starting with morning assembly, to 1.05pm, and

70 Years Celebration of STRS Rugby 1946 - 2016

*A day of Rugby Festivities and Celebration
with an Evening Black Tie Dinner*

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2016



Oakleaze
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