

# The Richian

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# contents

2	<i>From the Headmaster</i>	15	<i>French Exchange</i>
3	<i>Speech Night</i>	16	<i>Spanish Exchange</i>
4	<i>Pavilion Opening</i>	17	<i>European Language Day</i>
5	<i>Leavers</i>	18	<i>Rhineland</i>
6	<i>New Staff</i>	20	<i>South Africa Rugby Tour</i>
7	<i>Lord Tyler</i>	24	<i>Geography News</i>
7	<i>Remembrance Assembly</i>	25	<i>Orielton</i>
8	<i>Careers</i>	26	<i>Art News</i>
8	<i>Y11 Student wins Scholarship</i>	27	<i>St Ives</i>
9	<i>Choir at the Olympic Park</i>	28	<i>Hampton Court</i>
10	<i>Y7 Stratford</i>	29	<i>English News</i>
11	<i>Y7 Medieval Day</i>	30	<i>D&amp;T News</i>
11	<i>Future Chef School Heats</i>	34	<i>Now and Then</i>
12	<i>China</i>	36	<i>Sports</i>
14	<i>Normandy</i>	39	<i>70th Rugby Celebration</i>

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

I write this having just returned from the splendid Carol Service at St Catharine's and I look forward to a repeat performance on Thursday at Holy Trinity, Longlevens. The end of term is a mixture of keeping going with the regular routine of work and scheduled extra-curricular activities and the extra programme of events as we prepare for the Christmas break.

Last Friday's Jazz Night perhaps comes into both categories – it was great fun and my thanks go to the Jazz Band, Mr Lynch and Mrs Jones, along with other groups and soloists for providing us with such fine entertainment along with refreshments and a great cabaret feel.

I actually think how we go about celebrating Christmas in School reflects how we go about our business all the time. At a recent talk to a local Rotary Club, I was asked what I thought the School is known for locally. It would be easy to say 'academic results' or 'activities', but I think the answer is more subtle.

We are a community which has a can-do attitude, optimistic and ambitious for all the young people who attend the School. We are a community which does what it does properly, professionally, and with integrity. I think – I hope – we are a community which knows it is privileged and knows all of this means nothing if we do not give back, that talent to better the world.

I would like to thank all parents for the support and encouragement that they have given to their children and the School over this term. It seems a long time since the beginning of September and a lot of hard work has been done, inside and outside the classroom.

I very much hope everyone has a thoroughly deserved Christmas break.

With all my best wishes

*Matthew Hagan*



# SPEECH NIGHT

Speech Night means that yet another school year has been completed. A chance to reflect on the success of the year gone and to look towards the year ahead.

Speech Night has become an important occasion at Tommy's, and we are led to believe that it originates from Victorian times. The school archives state that annual Speech days have taken place at our present site since its opening in 1964. Interviewing the Headmaster, he said that his favourite part about Speech Day was that it reminded the School about its values and its fundamental purpose, 'to provide pupils with the best education and opportunities we can'. There were also stories of how neighbours could hear the singing from their homes, something which reinforces these values!

Special guests, past pupils and their parents are invited back to the School to see how it has developed and to celebrate the achievements of current pupils.

The smart dress worn by those who attend gives a sense of occasion, giving prizewinners a sense of importance and pride at achieving the award that they have won.

This year, the special guest was Professor Richard Kerswell, who studied at Cambridge and then at the University of California before moving on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to take a PhD. Currently working at the University of Bristol's School of Mathematics, Prof. Kerswell has undertaken a lot of research into Fluid Dynamics. Impressively, he has achieved a fellowship of the Royal Institute for his efforts within his field.

During his speech, Prof. Kerswell firstly reminisced on his experiences of the School, remembering several teachers that particularly inspired him to become who he is today. In particular, he thanked his maths teacher for the kind encouragement that he gave to him during his time at the School.

Secondly, he gave a message which perhaps all of us should take on board for the future. To get to where you want to be, you must work hard. However, the hard work will not be so bad if you find something that you are interested in, as your work will not bore you as it would if you are working on a project that does not interest you. I am sure many reading this can empathise with these wise words!

The evening concluded with time for refreshments and a chance to talk to other prizewinners, as well as a number of special guests. We look forward to another Speech Night next year, but for now the hard work begins!

R Birch







## PAVILION OPENING

As a hugely successful grammar school, Sir Thomas Rich's has always placed huge importance upon enriching students' time spent at the School. This includes a variety of school-based activities whilst also being involved heavily in the local community. Since 2014 Sir Thomas Rich's School has been working towards raising money for the development of a new pavilion for both the School and the wider community.

The School already has a proud history of nurturing talents of elite young sportsmen and women. Former rugby internationals Steve Boyle and Ian Smith were both educated at Rich's along with Sam Underhill a previous Under 18 England Rugby Captain. Sports teams at the School also achieve huge success, and the School rugby teams compete in national competitions such as the Natwest Cup and Daily Mail Trophy. The development was planned to allow the School to enrich the experiences of these teams whilst also encouraging the participation of new individuals.

The original buildings on the present site built in the 1960s accommodated for just over 400 boys. In the last 40 years, the School has had many academic and sporting successes and so has grown to now accommodate just under 1000 pupils, including a mixed sixth form. With these numbers and the School's links with the existing community increasing, the facilities were not able to accommodate the level of use so the Pavilion was planned and developed.

On Thursday 24th September The Clive and Sylvia Richards' Pavilion was opened. Those invited to attend included the many generous people who donated much needed funds to the pavilion building fund along with the architect for the project, pupils and staff members from the School.

In order to fund the new project, the School received many charitable donations along with a Government Capital Grant. The financial support of several generous donors helped immensely, including a generous and much needed donation of £37,000 from the Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity. Along with these donations, Old Richians, parents and friends of the school also contributed to the funding. The pupils got involved as well in the form of a whole school biathlon. The combined effort of all those involved raised enough money to enable The 'Clive and Sylvia Richards' Pavilion to be completed to a fantastically high standard which provides an amazing space for many generations of pupils, staff and local members of the community to enjoy in the future.

I Baldwin-Dorkin



# LEAVERS

## LUKE BARNES

Luke was a pupil at Sir Thomas Rich's from 2000-2007. He then went to Swansea University and the University of Gloucester before re-joining the School as Commercial Operations Assistant and then latterly Commercial Lead. Luke worked extremely hard managing the Commercial Operations Department, spending untold hours in School generating as much income as possible during week days, evenings and weekends. He will be most fondly remembered by pupils as a superb sports coach, taking responsibility for the 3rd XV on the 2013 New Zealand rugby tour and the 2nd XV back line on the 2015 South Africa rugby tour. He refereed or coached every Saturday in the rugby season whilst also taking responsibility for Senior basketball and 2nd XI football. In the summer, Luke would also coach the U14 cricket team and run weekly Strength and Conditioning sessions for school rugby players. We wish him well as he embarks on his teaching career, completing his PGCE qualification at Exeter University.

R Williams

## ANGIE JONES

Angie Jones joined us as a Teaching Assistant in February 2014, as part of the care and support team for one of our sixth form pupils. In addition, she played a crucial role in supporting some of our Key Stage 3 pupils with learning or organisational difficulties. Angie's professionalism led to an extension of her role and she also became a reliable member of the examination invigilation team.

Sadly, Angie's contract came to an end after the sixth former she so ably supported left to attend University. Angie quickly secured a new post in Linden Primary School, Gloucester. We are, however, delighted that her commitment to our School continues as Angie will be returning to us for the next examination season.

K Hansen

## HELEN THACKWAY

We were delighted to welcome Helen into the English Department at Sir Thomas Rich's in September 2014. From the start, Helen impressed with her calm and reasonable approach to everything that was asked of her. This ranged from teaching pupils in Focus Groups and assisting with handwriting club, to teaching across the whole of Key Stage 3 and even to running a lunchtime War Hammer club. She nearly always said 'yes' to requests for extra help, and was totally reliable in her delivery. She contributed her invaluable insights into assessment, straightaway getting to work on re-vamping the Key Stage 3 assessment criteria for our pupils. Helen is a dedicated and gifted teacher and it was always a pleasure to observe her lessons, in which pupils would benefit enormously from her diligence, her kindness and her sense of fun. We miss her invaluable contributions to the English department and wish her well in her new post in the Forest of Dean.

C Saunders

## DAVID TOMLINSON

David joined STRS in March 2013 as a Cover Supervisor. During his time at the School he proved to be much more than just a cover teacher, immersing himself fully in the life of the School immediately. David assisted with coaching the Year 8 rugby team and also helped out with rugby across the age groups, giving countless hours of support. He also coached the Year 10 cricket team during his time at Tommy's. David was certainly seen as an important member of the staff here at STRS and he took on the role of a Year 9 form tutor with much success, allowing him to gain vital experience for his chosen career as a teacher. David's commitment to extra-curricular life also saw him spending time at weekends helping with D of E expeditions. We wish David all the best for his future as he has now embarked upon a PGCE course based at Bath Spa University; he is currently in his first school placement at a school near Swindon.

K Jobson

## JESS WELLS

Jess Wells left us at the end of last academic year to take on a well-earned promotion as Second in Department at Marling School. Jess worked with us at Sir Thomas Rich's for 3 years. During her time in the English department she worked with a committed and enthusiastic spirit. She was responsible for adapting and creating schemes of work, developing literacy intervention strategies, reading schemes and attaining fantastic results from each of her examined classes. As I went off on maternity leave, Jess stepped up to take over as Head of Drama and did a wonderful job. After jointly directing the School production of 'Oliver' the previous year, Jess went on to direct 'A Christmas Carol' in 2014. She worked exceptionally hard with Year 10 and 11 Drama GCSE students; organising trips, workshops and devised performances. Jess went on to co-write the staff pantomime that was positively received by all. She will be hugely missed by her colleagues. Her friendly, motivated and committed approach to her time at STRS was greatly appreciated. We all wish her well in her new endeavours.

S E Jones

## NEW STAFF



### **BETHAN SADLER**

Miss Sadler is the latest edition to the English department. Her previous occupation was a lawyer, where she was working for a Corporate Law firm based in London. After training in Cambridge, she taught for a while in London.

She finds teaching meaningful and worthwhile. Miss Sadler strives to offer students skills that could set them up for life after school. So far, she has enjoyed her time at Tommy's.

J Garratt



### **ROB BURROWS**

Mr Burrows has joined the School as a Cover Supervisor. He has always had a keen passion for sports and upon leaving school he went on to study at Hartpury College. At Hartpury, he became interested in coaching and developing others. Mr Burrows then took up a place at University of Gloucestershire to study 'Strength and Conditioning'.

He has been involved with a few sports events in his short time at STRS. One of his roles has been to coach and referee the U15B rugby team.

In the next few years he hopes to progress onto and complete his PGCE and become a fully qualified PE Teacher. For now, his time is spent covering lessons and helping the Sports department.

L Herron



### **GRAHAM BOGLE**

Having worked in the building trade and as a National Trust Ranger, Mr Bogle has joined us as a Cover Supervisor. Over the past four years he has travelled to over 30 countries around the world, experiencing incredible landscapes, new cultures and indigenous tribes. Other hobbies of his include, skiing in the Alps and spending time in the country with his dog. He hopes his time at Tommy's will help him decide between a career in teaching or one in the military.

L Herron



## LORD TYLER



On Friday 9th October, Lord Tyler visited the School to meet with sixth form students of Politics and the Year 11 Academic Excellence group to discuss life working in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The former MP addressed students to discuss his views on current matters of national concern, such as the refugee crisis, EU referendum and further constitutional reform. He invited questions from the students and debated topics such as the current Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, the rise of the SNP and lowering the voting age. Lord Tyler told stories relating to his time in the House of Commons, explaining in detail the reality of the whipping system and party divides.

Student Euan Archer of 13H said 'it was a privilege to meet such an experienced and affable member of Westminster. I was reassured to learn that despite there being only one member of the House of Lords under the age of 40, there are many people like Lord Tyler representing the views of young people like me'.

Students of Government and Politics will be able to use information gleaned from this visit in their British Government Parliament examination.

A Harris

## REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

On the 11th of November at 1100 hours, the whole country observed a two-minute silence to commemorate all those British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who have died during conflict since 1914. Sir Thomas Rich's School was, as always, no exception. The entire school filed into the hall in silence. (Having been a part of this tradition since Year 7, pupils arriving in silence is still an achievement in itself).

Following school tradition, Mr Pitel took to the podium to conduct the ceremony. The School, along with the rest of the nation, then upheld the two-minute silence. During this silence, it was a great honour, as one of the School Captains, to take the wreath of poppies to our school war memorial, commemorating Richians who have fallen in the two great conflicts of the 20th century. After the silence, a short presentation followed reminding us of the hardships, casualties and the many whom have paid the ultimate price in the service of fellow countrymen. William Barradell-Black, a pupil in Year 12, was the focal point of this year's tale of sacrifice, whose great-grandfather fell during the Great War. Will read out the poem "For the Fallen", after which we were told of him visiting his great-grandfather's grave in France on the Year 9 annual Battlefields trip.

The poignancy of this assembly is always remarkable. Rarely does a story affect such a mass of people. It shows the great respect held for those who have laid down their lives to protect our freedom. The assembly is a unique event in the calendar and it was a privilege to be involved.

Callum Anderson





## CAREERS

At the start of July, Sir Thomas Rich's hosted a very successful Careers Fayre in the Main School Hall. Students from Years 9-13 were able to engage with numerous representatives covering an expansive array of Career options. We had numerous Universities representing higher Education, major industrial giants, like Renishaw plc, the key professions ranging from Dentistry to Accountancy and other organisations, all geared to provide valuable information to our students. The student feedback on the Fayre was exceptionally positive and our guests were really impressed with our School. Subsequently, the intention is now to make the Careers Fayre an annual event on the Richian calendar. Many thanks to all those individuals, particularly all of the representatives who attended the Fayre and voluntarily sacrificed their valuable time to help our students with their future careers.

P Lloyd

## Y11 STUDENT WINS PLACE ON 'FLY TO HELP' SCHOLARSHIP

Y11 student, Joe Anderson, won a place against stiff opposition at the start of term on the prestigious 'Fly to Help Aim High Scholarship Scheme' which he completed over half term at Staverton Airport. During the week, he gained valuable experience working on projects with Global companies such as Airbus and Rolls-Royce. This experience will pay dividends later on as, after A levels, Joe is planning to read Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering at Leeds University, and then develop a career as an airline pilot or aeronautical engineer.

C Carter

*(Joe Anderson - top left)*





# CHOIR SING LIVE AT THE OLYMPIC PARK

On November 7th, 31 boys from the Choir sang live on the pitch at Olympic Park as the second leg of the RL Autumn Internationals took place between England and New Zealand.

The series opened with the first match at the KC Stadium in Hull on Sunday November 1 in an international that formed part of the 150 year celebrations of host club Hull FC, who were founded in 1865 (Mrs Jones home team)

On Saturday November 7th, 31 boys left STRS at 7am to travel to the Olympic Park. Ironically, the transport for this crucial RL International was on the Gloucester rugby tour bus! Boys had participated in three hours of workshops with professional opera singers from 'Chant Productions', including a mass rehearsal hosted by STRS with other participating schools, Crypt and Marling.

BBC Radio Gloucestershire recorded the mass rehearsal and interviewed Jack Stanley (8T) and Ryan Birch (11T) about the experience.

The performance and the match were televised live on the BBC. However, perhaps the most exciting experience for the boys was being inches away from the England squad as they warmed up on the pitch, or maybe it was the cheerleaders!

An injured veteran brought the ball onto the pitch, the last post was played, and a minute's silence was held.

The performance to the 44,393 crowd was fantastic, as the England players came on to the pitch, there was a mass of fireworks and plumes of fire.

The NHS choir joined the mass choir of STRS, Marling, Crypt and 3 London primary schools.

The boys also watched the game afterwards! Unfortunately, Shaun Kenny-Dowall scored the only try. New Zealand levelled the three-Test series at 1-1, with England putting in a disappointing performance: the final score being 2-9 to New Zealand.

B Bussell & P Jones

*Boys who performed:*

*Jack Stanley 8T, Adam Blackwood 8T, Sam Woolridge 8T, Jack Jones 8T, Josh Newman 8T, Ben Cosgrove 8S, Ben Burwell 9T, Blake Birch 8S, Elvin To 8S, Aiden Derby 9S, Hugh Clist Woodward 8S, Ben Bussell 8S, Nate Parker 8S, Chris Borely 7T, Toby Watine 7T, Adam Walters 7S, Zuhayr Shaik 7S, Alex Price 7R, Digby Woodham 8T, George Hawthorne 10T, Will Webster 8T, Will Evans 8T, Callum May 11B, Harry Jenkins 11T, Ishan Jani 7T, Ryan Birch 11T Nathan Cavan 10R, Will Storey 9S, Cameron Shirto 9R, Louis Hawthorne 8T and Alex Parvanov 7R.*



## Y7 STRATFORD

Writing this as a Year 12 student, I feel a remarkably overwhelming sense of nostalgia, having remembered going on the exact same trip 5 years ago, filled with excitement not only at the fact that this was my first school trip as a Richian, but the fact that I was at such a fantastic school and had many great moments ahead of me. I also write this in awe of the fact that the itinerary has changed very little since my visit to Stratford back in 2010. Anyway, enough about me and more about the present Year 7s, as the Stratford trips in 2015 were just as much fun as ever.

The boys' journey began on a Wednesday morning at 9:15am when they left school. Having asked form 7S a few questions about their experiences of the trip, they said they felt "very excited" about the trip, and most importantly they were all free of stress and fully equipped and prepared. From my memories of a Year 7 pupil, I remember the bus journey being one of mixed feelings; excitement over the trip ahead, yet sheer boredom as we were on an old school minibus for over an hour with nothing to do.

At quarter past ten, the boys arrived at the hostel, amazed at how "huge" the hostel was, dropped off their bags and took their packed lunches and swimming kits with them for the first of three immensely rewarding days.

First on the agenda was a trip to a local playground, followed by a game of crazy golf, which is always loads of fun and thoroughly enjoyable. The crazy golf was the favourite activity of the day for form 7S, because it was something most of the boys hadn't done in a long time and is also ever so slightly competitive. The boys then had lunch and in the afternoon they visited a butterfly farm and then headed off to the leisure centre afterwards for some swimming. The butterfly farm was full of a wide variety of insects, including butterflies as well as many other species and was a fascinating activity. After a tiring but enjoyable walk back to the hostel, the Year 7s were treated to multiple tasty choices of dinner, one of which being lasagne. The dinner received positive response from the Year 7s, who generally felt the food was "delicious".

Dinner was followed by some free time in the hostel, when many of the boys took the opportunity to contact their families to let them know how the trip was going, shortly before going to bed at 9pm. This was the official time, however from my experiences at Stratford I doubt anyone went to sleep anywhere near as early as this.

With the second day of the trip on the horizon, the boys woke up at 7am the next day and enjoyed a full-English breakfast with juice and croissants at the hostel. They then took part in a treasure trail around part of Stratford which was the most enjoyable activity of day 2 for 7S, as they had "a great time and enjoyed the challenge". This was shortly followed by playground time. The boys also got to see the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre and took part in a workshop. There was also a boat trip along the River Avon, something I never got to experience, but I would very much have liked to. In the afternoon, the boys enjoyed an open top bus ride along with a trip to Mary Arden's house and a falconry centre.

The end to day 2 was very similar to day one, although the boys were reluctant to stay up as late due to the tiring nature of the trip.

The final day began with breakfast followed by the boys packing their belongings away and clearing their rooms in preparation to leave the hostel, a moment which was "quite sad as the trip was so fantastic". The day was largely occupied by a trip to the motor museum at Gaydon, where the boys also took part in a "LEGO speed challenge", involving building a car made out of LEGO and racing them along a track. After many fun activities and exciting moments, at last, the Stratford trip came to an end. However, despite being sad to leave Stratford and return home, the new Richians can be happy that they have made more friends and formed some happy memories which they will never forget.

L Ashby





## YEAR 7 MEDIEVAL DAY

On Thursday 18th June we enjoyed a medieval day at Gloucester Cathedral. It was a nice day spent learning even more about our current topic in History as well as relaxing just prior to our first end of year exams at school. While there, we took part in five different workshops about different topics from the medieval times. Each of the workshops were especially enjoyable in their own ways.

We had a talk from a stonemason who worked at the Cathedral and he told us about his tools, the stone he uses as well as even letting us have a go at chipping some stone! Three of the workshops were in the parliament rooms around the back of the Cathedral. These were on the weaponry and armour, medieval food and curing remedies. Weaponry and armour taught us that armour was made for one man and one man only. They were fitted for you and no one else, therefore could try the armour on. He also did a demonstration of how to hold and swing a sword safely. The food workshop, which was probably my favourite, was a table with lots of different medieval foods as well as being able to make something. What we made was called a Tussie Mussie (herb bag) which was used in medieval times because the streets were so dirty and smelly; people carried nice smelling herbs in their Tussie Mussie to keep the smells away. The other workshop in the parliament rooms was the curing remedies. Our guide did two very amusing demonstrations of ways to cure a headache and how to take an arrow out of your body without ripping your insides out!

After lunch, we had one more workshop, the Cathedral tour. We were shown around the Cathedral which included a tour down to the Crypt. This was the highlight of the day for my group when they were fascinated over a poorly mouse. Once this was done, we all got together and Mr Pickard played us a medieval song that we learnt. We also sang our Tommy's medieval day song that Mr Pickard also wrote for us.

The highlight of the day for me was how interesting the people working at the Cathedral made the workshops. They used demonstrations, chances to do and make, and provided many interesting facts about our medieval ancestors!

T Weygang

## FUTURE CHEF SCHOOL HEATS

Three students competed in the Future Chef School heat on Friday 16th October. Springboard's Future Chef is an exciting interactive programme of resources matched directly to the food-related curriculum in the UK. Future Chef provides pupils aged 12-16 years with access to, and direct support from, chefs and other hospitality professionals, bringing the industry alive in the classroom and getting the classroom out into industry. The challenge was to cook one course of food with a value of no more than £5.

Three students were competing for two places in the regional final they were:

- Ryan Hawkins of 9T who cooked homemade spaghetti with bacon and onion sauce and homemade pesto
- Nathan Parker 8S who cooked Chicken Pie and Steamed Vegetables
- Bilal Ahmed 9R who cooked Hot and Sour Prawn and Noodle Soup

The level of technical skill was impressive, Ryan made the pasta himself, Nathan made his own short crust pastry for the pie and Bilal used a wide range of seasonings to bring out complex flavours in his soup. The dishes were well planned and beautifully presented. It was great to see the students enjoying cooking and trying new recipes and ideas.

The competition was judged by Mr Brown who used to teach Food Technology at the School; he looked at the workmanship of each cook, the creativity and presentation and composition, taste and flavour.

Mr Brown commented, 'it's good to see the boys so enthusiastic about cooking and enjoying their time creating each dish; a great range of workmanship and flavours, well done.'

Congratulations to Ryan and Nathan who progress on to the regional heats.

A Harris







# CHINA

What a trip! 17 students with Mr Gowler and Miss Bale headed east in July, to the Far East. Our adventure, which seemed to revolve around the amazing number of modes of transport we took, began in Beijing, a traditional, glorious and truly Chinese capital city. We were treated to a local tour of the Temple of Heaven with its brightly coloured buildings and community feel and the Forbidden City behind the formidable façade honouring Chairman Mao at Tiananmen Gate. Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world can hold 1,000,000 people! The rickshaw ride through the back streets of Beijing was certainly an exciting (albeit bumpy) highlight. It was fascinating to see how Beijingers live their every-day lives, away from the pomp and ceremony of the city centre.

The following day brought our visit to the majestic Great Wall. Every bit as magnificent as imagined, we had a cable car ride up to the Mutianyu section and walked up and down the incredibly steep steps marvelling at the construction, the views and of course, the stifling heat. After an amusing 'toboggan' ride back down we caught an overnight train to Xian, a walled city the size of London and home to the awe inspiring Terracotta Warriors. Cycling atop the city walls, devouring a dumpling dinner and a show were all highlights of Xian as well as the 8000 strong army of clay soldiers discovered only in the 1970s, all individually created with unique impressions, all protecting the tomb of the Emperor.

From urban chaos to rural idyll, our trip took us south to Yangshuo. This Chinese tourist destination is a bustling market town set amongst the most strikingly beautiful karst scenery; a geographer's dream. Our home for a few days, we explored the evening markets, revelled in the refreshing rains and enjoyed cycling trips through the breath-taking countryside. As well as a relaxing raft ride, a definite highlight was a delicious lunch cooked for us by our guide's brother, in her family home.

Finally, we flew to Shanghai, the financial and international capital of China. Shanghai immediately felt like a city we recognised. Very European and American in parts, Shanghai prides itself on its spectacularly tall buildings and contrasting architecture both of which are forward thinking in their nature and style. Highlights of Shanghai included an evening boat ride along the river to view the amazing lights of the city and travelling in the fastest lift in the world (8 metres per second) up to the second tallest building in the world.

J Bale









Thirty one boys from Year 8 and Year 9 spent the first weekend of July in France. They stayed at a PGL centre in Normandy. Activities included a visit to a French market and a cider museum, swimming, mini-golf, climbing and archery. The boys were accompanied by Mrs Ferguson, Mr Gregory, Mrs Khokher and Mr Deacon. The trip was enjoyed by all!

A Gregory





# FRENCH

# EXCHANGE

A group of Year 10, 12 and 13 students recently spent a week in France staying with their host families. They were paired with students from our partner school, the Lycée Jules Supervielle in Oloron Sainte Marie. Activities included a visit to the capital city of the Béarn region, Pau, to a local winery and to Fort Du Portalet, the prison where the wartime leader of Vichy France, Maréchal Pétain, was held captive after the war. Time was also spent in school observing and participating in lessons. The French students will come to England for the second leg of the Exchange in March.

A Gregory





# SPANISH



On the 15th October, 40 students from Sir Thomas Rich's and the High School for Girls flew from Bristol to Madrid to kick off the 2015 Spanish exchange. There was a huge greeting when we arrived at the School, followed by a few minutes of confusion and chaos as everyone tried to find their partners! Over the next 7 days we all got to know our partners, their families and their friends from Spain, as well as making friends with the students from the High School for Girls. There were plenty of tours and interesting visits as well as some free time and fun activities. It was difficult at first to get used to a different daily routine, especially the late nights. It was one of the best things I have done in a long time and I would happily go back at any time.

S Scrivens



# EXCHANGE



## EUROPEAN LANGUAGE DAY



On Friday 25 September, the School celebrated the European Day of Languages. It is a day to celebrate the large number of languages spoken around the world (approximately 7,000), promote language learning and have some multilingual fun! This day was the initiative of the Council of Europe and it has been celebrated every year since 2001. Language ambassadors from Year 10 and the Sixth Form ran a number of activities during the morning. These included testing their language skills to recognise "Hello" in 12 different languages, sequencing numbers in Welsh, Swedish and Dutch and trying out some tongue twisters in French, German and Spanish. The culmination of the event was an exciting "Who wants to be a millionaire" competition which was ably hosted by Julian Richardson and won by a team from 9T. It was an enjoyable day and reaffirmed the School's commitment to the importance of languages, cultural knowledge and international understanding in today's world.

J Hewett



# RHINELAND

In the early hours of Wednesday 14th October a party of 39 Year 8 and 9 pupils set off on a long coach journey heading for the Rhineland area of Germany.

On the first full day in Germany we travelled to Cologne for a guided walking tour of the city, followed by a visit to the Lindt chocolate factory and museum. The second day included a boat trip down the Rhine. The legendary Lorelei rock was safely negotiated and everyone admired the gorgeous river scenery. Our destination was the historic town of Rudesheim. There we visited the Siegfrieds Musikkabinett museum and admired its impressive collection of automated musical instruments. A cable-car ride took us up to the Niederwald recreational area close to the imposing statue of Germania (built to commemorate the re-establishment of the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871).

The panoramic views of the Rhine were impressive and we continued to enjoy them as we made our way down through the vineyards on foot and returned to the town centre. Our final excursion was to the Phantasialand theme park near Bonn. Rides such as the Talocan, Black Mamba and the River Quest ensured that all those in need of an adrenalin rush were fully satisfied.

This was another thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip. The boys responded with enthusiasm to all the cultural and linguistic opportunities on offer,

A J Gregory





The day trip to Köln (Cologne) was amazing and really enjoyable. The cathedral was stunning and we learnt a lot about important sites of the city on our guided tour. We all tried to touch the nose of Tönnies, the statue of a farmer, because it was meant to give us good luck. After our tour, we had some free time for lunch and my group went to McDonalds. After lunch, we went to the Lindt chocolate factory, where we had lots of wafers dipped into a chocolate fountain. I bought chocolate for all my family.

A Schonbeck

Köln was really beautiful, founded by the Romans, just like Gloucester. I was particularly impressed by the architecture and how well old and new were combined. I also enjoyed the chocolate factory, seeing how chocolate is made is fascinating. I also bought lots of chocolate in the shop.

T Falkiner

On the third day we went on a river cruise down the Rhine. The coach then picked us up again and took us to Rudesheim, a very traditional village by the river. A cable car took us up the hill to the statue of Germania and then we walked down through the vineyards, something which the Rhine region is famous for. At lunch we all had the traditional German Currywurst mit Pommes dish and we really enjoyed that.

L Dobbs, B Woodward & A Machowski

On our last day, we went to Phantasialand and for the majority of us this was the highlight of the trip. We had the whole day to go on all the rides, and the best thing was that we hardly had to queue to go on the attractions.

The Black Mamba and Mystery Castle were just two of our favourite rides. There were also lots of food stalls in each section of the park; more Currywurst again! We found this day very enjoyable, thrilling and exciting.

A Button & M Luxton

In my opinion I thought Phantasialand was the best part of the whole trip. The rides were amazing, the lines were really short and we got extra money to buy lots of food. I had a lot of fun and the rides were extremely funny. My favourite ride was definitely Black Mamba because the ride was so fast and had many points when you were turned upside down.

F Moir

Both of the journeys, going to and back from Rhineland, were full of fun. For me, mainly it was playing on my games with my friends, but even when I rarely lifted my head and had a look at the view, it was pretty magnificent. The journey did take a huge 16 hours and on the first journey to Rhineland we were caught up in a traffic jam and that slowed us down by an hour. We also travelled across the Channel in a train through the tunnel. At first you couldn't feel the speed underground but if you looked through the window you saw that we were moving very quickly. When we got out of the tunnel, we were all delighted to see the daylight and looked forward to the rest of the trip.

O Morris

When we went to the Rhineland in Germany, the hotel we stayed in was extremely good. The rooms were very nice and we found a sweet on our pillows on arrival. The food was the best thing about it, as it was traditional German food and exceptionally good. We had Nudeln mit Sosse (pasta), Würstchen mit Pommes (sausage and chips) und Fleisch mit Kartoffeln (meat with potatoes).

R Nixon



# Rugby

In the summer of 2015, from the 15th of July to the 4th of August the STRS Rugby Tour Squad visited South Africa. They had very pleasant flights to and from South Africa with British Airways and with only one hour's difference very little jet lag was felt. The atmosphere in South Africa was amazing with friendly people who were very interested in rugby; it was seen by the team as almost a religion. When touring South Africa, one of the most exciting prospects for many was being able to play against some of the best schools in the most thriving schoolboy rugby nation in the world.

The Tour squad spent their first three nights at the Rugby Performance Centre run by Alan Zondagh the ex-Saracens Coach who was brought up in Cape Town.

After the three days training, on the first Saturday the Party went to the finals of the prestigious Craven U18 Provincial Rugby Tournament based in the town of Stellenbosch, which is 31 miles east of Cape Town. The Tommy's squad then had a superb barbecue at the Rugby Performance Centre on Saturday evening.

On the Sunday, the Squad migrated to Cape Town where they were planning to go up Table Mountain, but the visit was postponed due to poor visibility. This was a big disappointment due to it having amazing views. The squad tried to go up again five times but to no avail. Instead, the party went to Big Bay Beach and in the evening had their dinner in a Cape Town waterfront restaurant.

On Monday, the squad went on a guided tour of Robben Island which was very interesting. The guide was a former inmate and they found his experiences interesting and moving. They then travelled to Paarl to meet the host families at Paarl HS; the boys really enjoyed spending time with their billets. The matches against Paarl were very hard due to Paarl being the top-ranked school side in the country and they knew it was going to be a big test. The 2nd XV fought hard but they lost 49-8. The 1st though were outstanding, but unfortunately narrowly lost 8-0. The 1st XV were the better of the two sides in the first half, but unfortunately they could not take the few chances that came their way. However, their commitment for the whole game was outstanding and they resisted Paarl's attacks with a great defensive effort.

In addition, if we hadn't have been so committed at the breakdown, they could have put 50 points on the team. However, to lose 8-0 and miss a few kicks which could have made it closer, was a great start to the tour.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, excursions were made to the Springbok Museum in Cape Town and to the Cape of Good Hope, the southernmost point of Africa. At the Cape of Good Hope the squad not only enjoyed the stunning scenery and wildlife, including penguins and baboons but also a choppy boat trip to a seal sanctuary.

On the Thursday the School played their second set of matches against Langa Township. The 1st won 53-0 and the 2nds won 65-0. Prior to the 2 matches, the party enjoyed a guided tour of part of the Township and experienced the very different lifestyles of the inhabitants compared with their own. They also got to visit the local nursery in which they had prepared traditional songs for us in Afrikaans and in English which many found overwhelming. For many, the day's highlight was visiting a tribal restaurant in the township where they were served traditional African dishes and played live music. They were able to sing a few songs to Sam Brown on the local performance stage to celebrate his birthday too.

After the second set of matches against Langa Township, the team moved to Stellenbosch on the Friday. The team had a guided tour of the Springbok Museum in Cape Town. They then went for an attempted leisurely hour's run to Stellenbosch. However, unfortunately it took the party four hours due to a serious accident on the motorway. Luckily they were kept amused by the actions of some of the more impatient African drivers as they not only used the hard shoulder but also the grassed and very uneven central reservation to advance up the queue.













On the Saturday morning, the squad played their third set of matches against Somerset College; this is an independent school that was built 18 years ago on the site of a vineyard. In their game the 2nds set the tone by winning 22-10 and they were followed by the 1st XV's who won 23-6. In the afternoon the team went back to the Protea Spa Hotel where a number of the boys watched the South Africa V New Zealand match played at Ellis Park in Joburg, the team's next destination.

On Sunday, the squad took a two hour flight from Cape Town North West to Johannesburg where they stayed for a night at the impressive Standon Hotel.

On Monday, the morning was spent at Ellis Park where the curator of the museum allowed the team to go onto the pitch where, only 48 hours earlier, New Zealand had been victorious over South Africa and in the afternoon host families from EG Jansen School were met. On Tuesday morning there was a visit to the Apartheid Museum; it was a very informative place with The Mandela Exhibition being the highlight.

There were photographs of and information about Dr. E G Jansen, one of the founders of apartheid and the person the school was named after. The Right Wing Fascist Parties' emblem of an eagle is also the school's emblem and despite South Africa's complete transformation, reconciliation at the school had still not yet fully happened! They then faced their hardest matches of the tour. The 2nds, once again, played first and, after conceding some early tries and being down 31-7 at half time, they unfortunately ended up losing 43-7 despite a very spirited and determined performance. The 1st XV faced the 8th best side in South Africa. Unlike the game against Paarl HS, their team included their provincial squad members. The 1st XV made the worst possible start by conceding 3 soft tries in the first 15 minutes, but for the rest of the first half were superb and they bounced back with a penalty and a converted try to be down 26-10 at half time.

Unfortunately, at the start of the second half they conceded an early try and some of our key players were lost to injury and as it was their fourth game in 10 days; the team started to tire. As a result in the last 10 minutes the greater power of Jansen enabled them to pull away and win the game 48-10.

On the Wednesday, the party stopped off at a Lion Park in Johannesburg on their way to the High Performance Centre based at the University of Pretoria. This was a great experience and one of the highlights of the tour; the group particularly enjoyed playing with the lion cubs. One member of the tour party came very close to playing with a 220 kg lioness but swift action by the guide prevented a potential fight!

The accommodation and facilities at the High Performance Centre were outstanding and on Thursday the party set off at 6:30 am to play their final 2 matches against Soweto Township. Unfortunately, they were only able to raise one side as a number of their players could not be released from their schools. Our 2nds were in excellent form and won 52-7.

The final 3 days of the tour were spent on the Pilansburg Game Reserve north of Pretoria during which the party enjoyed 3 incredible game drives. Mr Williams was correct, no one saw a lion but the experience of seeing rhinos, elephants, leopards, giraffes for example close up in their natural environment will last with the party forever.

The tour party arrived back in the UK on Tuesday the 4th of August. The tour had been a great success. It was great for their development as people and rugby players; rugby wise they learnt a lot in terms of conditioning and mind-set, and as people many of them were shocked by the cultural differences faced in South Africa along with the quality of life of many of its people. As with the previous 4 tours, though, the tour party acquired numerous memorable experiences both on and off the rugby field in South Africa which will remain with them forever.

South African youth rugby showcased brilliant skill levels from 1 to 15, with every player having a strong set of handling skills, on the other hand we were able to show them our effectiveness at the breakdown which was picked up on by the coaches of Paarl HS.

Timothy Hubbard





## LULWORTH COVE

On Monday the 14th of September, Year 11 embarked on a 3.5 hour journey to Lulworth Cove, Dorset. The trip was designed to allow students to investigate the unique set of coastal landforms found at Lulworth and nearby areas including Man O' War Bay and Durdle Door. The investigations allowed pupils to collect vital data for their IGCSE Geography course work which will make up over a quarter of their final GCSE grade.

Research conducted gave the students insight into the formation of Lulworth Cove and an understanding of the concordant coastline which has led to the shape of the cove. Pupils also looked into the types of waves found in the area and how they were responsible for shaping the landscape. This gave students a rare opportunity to use specialised Geography instruments such as a pantometer in order to assess the relationship between the gradient of the beach and the types of waves.

An investigation into the size and distribution of sediment on the beach was also conducted to assess the impact of any destructive or constructive forces caused by waves. As well as recording data, students were allowed to express their artistic talents through drawing highly detailed field sketches; this allowed the students to map the different rock types found at the cove as well as to highlight any vegetation growing on the rocks as this could be a contributing factor to biological weathering.

Overall, the students found the trip: "Insightful and fun despite the atrocious weather".

P Lipscombe



## RIVER CHURN

Year 7 geographers made a visit to the River Churn for their first piece of geography fieldwork and conducted various experiments to help improve their understanding of how a river changes as it progresses from source to mouth. In total, students visited 3 sites for inspection Cowley, North Cerney and Stratton Mill.

Three experiments were completed at each site to show the changes in velocity, discharge and area of the cross section of the river.

Overall, the students concluded that the river got wider and discharge increased as it got further away from the source at Cowley. A majority of students discovered that the results found at the sites reinforced their hypothesis. Boys described the trip as "insightful" and a good way to see the practical use of the theories learnt in the classroom.

P Lipscombe







## ORIELTON

In October, Year 13 Biologists travelled to Orielton, Pembroke, Wales to take part in a residential Biology field course accompanied by Mrs R Zurick, Mrs Mee and Mr Polgrean. The course was run by the Fields Studies Council, teaching both the theory and practical aspects of the Ecosystems and Sustainability module covered in the A2 syllabus. The sessions were designed especially to cover essential skills and understanding for both the summer exams and the controlled assessment tasks required for the A Level.

Each day was spent time at different locations; Freshwater and Woodland Ecology at Orielton Estate itself, Rocky shore ecology at Sawdern Point and Sand dune ecology at Freshwater West, all of these built up a variety of different techniques to be used in the assessed tasks. The final day was spent completing three pieces of course work; qualitative, quantitative and an evaluative paper, all of which will contribute to our overall results in the Summer.

The course involved hard work from early in the morning, right through to the evenings. Yet, the whole experience was still hugely enjoyable and felt incredibly rewarding; many students have regarded the trip as a highlight of their A Level studies in Biology and were extremely thankful for the dry weather conditions.

I Baldwin-Burkan







The School's Art Department is run by two dedicated and skilled teachers Mr O'Neill, Head of Department, and Mrs Cormack-Hicks. Their massive commitment and experience means that the students produce excellent results and they help to develop students' creativity year on year.

In Year 7, the students learn key skills and create their very own clay creatures. The department tries to develop a student's creativity and use this to assess what skill levels they have with different materials and techniques.

In Year 8, students explore portraiture, storytelling and pattern/design. This helps to develop a students' open mindedness and promote creative risk taking to see what does and doesn't work, and to help the students get the desired effect.

In Year 9 students explore the built environment, fantastic/strange and abstraction. This helps to develop a student's perceptive abilities and improve their experience with a variety of materials.

In Art at A-level the students study a Core Studies Unit, Portraiture and then sit a final exam. Over the course, they develop their skills with materials and techniques along with their general creativity. Although the course work has tight deadlines which means the students have to work hard, with the support of Mr O'Neill and Mrs Cormack-Hicks each and every student seems to rise to the challenge.

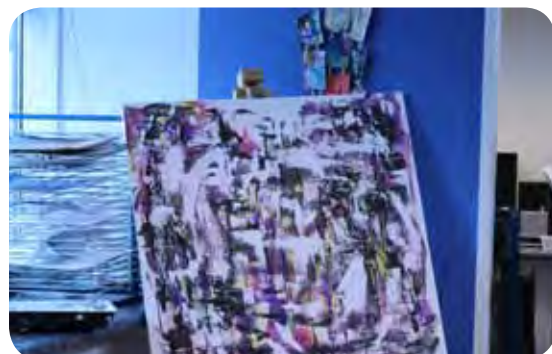
At A-level, the students create a portfolio of course work and in Year 13 undertake their exam unit. The department runs a variety of trips so that students can attend galleries, participate in workshops to further aid familiarity with materials and a wide variety of techniques. As well as this, the students spend time on location (the annual Year 12 and Year 13 residential Art trip, alternating between Liverpool and St Ives in Cornwall) to try and find inspiration for the work they will do over the next two years.

As well as the usual pastels, chalks and paints you would find in any Art department, the School has a small computer suite for photo editing and other computer based work. However, what separates this department is its focus on developing students' creativity.

The department is often open before and after school, meaning there are fewer barriers to prevent the teachers helping and advising the students with their work. Despite the fact that there is more going on around the School than you would expect, the department, especially for GCSE and A-level students, always makes time to help them in any way that they can.

I feel that the spirit and the ethos of the department is summed up in the quote that Mr O'Neill has introduced, round the department "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see", Edgar Degas.

B Tapp





# St Ives

The Art trip to St Ives was a great start to the year, as it helped art students identify the ways we could adapt our work in the step-up from GCSE. Though the trip was admittedly a lovely break from academics, it didn't fail to deliver benefits for our artistic investigations. The exhibitions we visited upheld the whole feel of the trip and gave us a lot to think about.

In addition to the beaches, remote locations and shops that we explored, I found the excursions to galleries very inspiring. Overall, they helped us soak up the artistic feel of the town and seek inspiration aside from that put in front of us. The trip was very enjoyable and a definite bonus to taking the subject.

T Harcourt

At the very start of this school year, we were given an introduction to A Level Art in the form of a group residential trip to St Ives, where we stayed for three nights and four days. This proved to be a comfortable amount of time to find sufficient inspiration and ideas to kick-start my art project, as well as compose some decent studies in my sketchbook along the way.

As a previous student of STRS, one of the main benefits of the trip was the opportunity to develop relationships with the rest of the group, largely composed of people becoming part of the STRS community for the first time, and I imagine this aspect of the trip was especially beneficial for these individuals. From an academic point of view, the trip was also very beneficial. We visited lots of local galleries as well as specific exhibitions, giving a wide range and variety of work to draw inspiration from. We were advised to take photographs and sketches during the day, gathering evidence for our project. We then had allocated time in the evenings to complete a larger volume of work alongside the rest of the group.

Throughout the trip, we were given lots of freedom to explore and find artistic influences that appealed to us as individuals. Dividing ourselves into smaller groups, we had opportunities to explore the seaside town of St Ives, drawing influence not only from the vast array of artwork on display, but also from the rich culture and beautiful natural environment we found ourselves in.

Overall, the trip to St Ives was extremely enriching and worthwhile for a multitude of reasons, and it is a residential trip I will look back on with fond memories.

S Arthur





# Hampton Court





Hampton Court is truly one of Britain's Tudor treasures, magnificently developed by Cardinal Wolsey in 1514 and later by Henry VIII. As part of the A2 History course, 'The Triumph of Elizabeth', the History Department took Year 13 students to visit the palace on Friday 2nd of October. Greatly encouraged by the promise of a sunny autumn day, they set off in eager anticipation at 8:00am in the morning.

On arrival, at the palace the group took part in a 'mid Tudor crisis' themed workshop, whereby they had to vote on how much of a crisis different named events in the time period really were. After this, the students embarked on a guided tour with our knowledgeable, if slightly eccentric, guide Dan. Highlights of the tour included seeing the staircase where Thomas Seymour shot Edward VI's dog, Henry VII's crown and also a lively interaction where both Georgina and Beth were pushed over while impersonating the famous stature of Henry VIII!

All students benefitted from experiencing where much of the A Level story took place, which really helped to bring this complicated era of History to life. The trip was great and a perfect day to see England's most significant palace of the Tudor age in all its beauty and splendour.

D Lewis





# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME



## DRAMA VISIT

At the end of last year, the current Year 11 drama group visited the new theatre in Oxford to see a play called 'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'.

The play is an adaptation by the National Theatre of a mystery novel by Mark Haddon, in which the main character, Christopher, discovers the body of the neighbour's dog, and endeavours to find out what happened to the dog. The play ends with Christopher being optimistic about his future. Having solved the mystery of the murdered dog, gone to London, found his mother, written a book about his adventures, and achieved an A\* in his A-level maths exam. The staging was described as 'brilliant' by pupils who went on the trip.

The pupils attended a drama workshop on how a performance is put together. This included members of the cast and the direction team. In addition, pupils also worked with actors and choreographers from the 'Frantic Assembly', the well-known physical theatre company.

The aim of the trip was to help the drama group devise a piece of their own for their GCSE. Students said that this was the highlight of the day, as they were able to take part in activities with professional actors and that they were able to learn a lot from them.

Ryan Birch

## CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

In October 2015, Mrs Spilsbury's Year 12 English Literature class attended a talk on crime fiction at the Cheltenham Literature Festival. The talk, 'Whose Crime is it Anyway?' sponsored by Dead Good, involved a discussion between different crime writers about crime fiction and its many genres. These authors were, Chris Brookmyre (Dead Girl Walking), Charles Cumming (A Colder War) and Tammy Cohen (First One Missing). After discussing crime fiction at great length, they each read the first page of their new crime fiction novels.



Overall, the trip was very enjoyable and undoubtedly furthered our understanding of crime fiction, which enabled us to give more detailed analysis of the crime novels we are studying in class: Lady Audley's Secret (1862) by Mary Elizabeth Braddon, and The Murder Room (2003) by P.D.James.

S Jones & L White





July 2015 was a busy month in the English Department at Sir Thomas Rich's. We decided to end the academic year with a bang and not a whimper! Our first event was a theatre workshop based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Year 7, devised and organised by Mrs Jones and Miss Wells. The day kicked off with our Year 10 GCSE Drama students performing a reduced version of the entire play. Then, all Year 7 pupils were involved in a range of workshop activities in the morning, before splitting into performance groups at lunchtime. Activities ranged from physical theatre to slapstick comedy as boys discovered more about the worlds of the lovers, the fairies and the rude mechanics. The devised performances in the afternoon saw every Year 7 boy on stage, with the Year 10 Drama students working as directors. Will Morgan wrote: 'I personally enjoyed the whole day in different ways as I was intrigued about how Shakespeare came up with this play and its characters. I also enjoyed the different techniques we learnt, as you realise how much thought goes into a short sketch by comedians.'

This was followed by a visit from children and Young Adult fiction writer, Julia Golding, who led a group of gifted writers from Years 7,8 and 9 in a writers' workshop on Thursday 9th July. The brief was to challenge our able writers to produce a short story with the title 'Transformation.' Boys took part in a range of inspirational activities in the morning (for example, writing a paragraph without the letter S and creating Top Trumps cards to aid characterisation) and also asked lots of questions about the process of writing a novel and getting it published. Boys spent the afternoon crafting their stories and Mrs Saunders is now in the process of reading them and deciding the prize-winner: more news on this later!

On Friday 10th July, a group of Year 7 boys were lucky enough to speak to the children's author Richard Middleton about his latest book 'The Wurm Conspiracy'. Mrs Thackway organised for the discussion to take place via Skype – a first for the English Department. During the session, questions explored plot, setting and character as well as the author's reading interests and plans for the future.

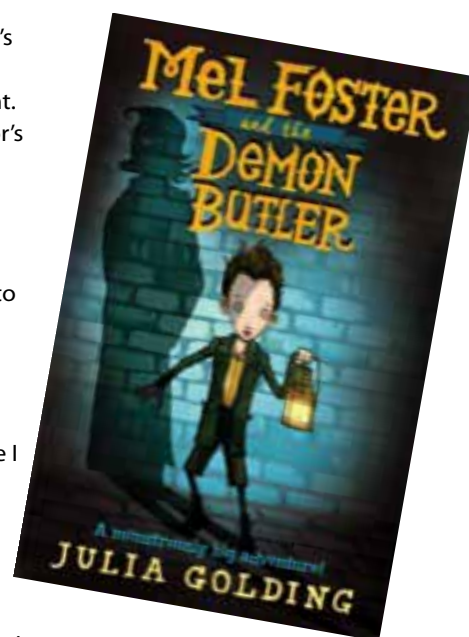
Some comments from students:

"The talk with Richard was a new and different experience – to talk to the author face to face. I have learnt that I should take inspiration (for my next writing task) from real life events."

"I learnt a lot about writing a book, the process and how long it takes. I was more intrigued in narrative writing after the event. I like the more fantasy type story because I usually read modern day/event books."

"I enjoyed the workshop because it really gave me an insight into how he writes and gets inspiration. It was interesting seeing the author describe the process of writing."

C Saunders





## ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

On Friday 30th October 2015, Louis Horrell was back at the Mermaid Conference & Events Centre, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London to receive his Arkwright Scholarships award. He has been selected to receive this prestigious award after successfully negotiating a thorough selection procedure. Louis will receive his scholarship from Rolls Royce, who will also support him in his A level studies. This is a magnificent achievement, well done Louis.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships support young people from across the UK who have the potential to be industry's future leaders in engineering. During their sixth-form studies, Scholars receive sponsorship to support their courses and have access to a range of exciting opportunities to learn more about engineering, such as mentoring and company visits.

Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process comprising a detailed application form supported by a teacher's reference, a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview hosted at a top engineering university. From 1559 student applications this year, 397 Scholarships were eventually awarded.



Dr Martin Thomas Chief Executive of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust said: "I have been hugely impressed by the creativity, technical skills and leadership prowess of the young men and women receiving their Scholarships this year. The country needs 100,000s of new engineers to take the economy and society forward. But some of these newly-trained people need to also act as outstanding leadership beacons within industry and academia. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are the first step on that road to achieving such a vital position within the UK engineering profession.

S Hancock

## YEAR 13 VISIT TO G-TEM

On Tuesday 6th October 2015, the Year 13 D+T students visited G-TEM in Brockworth. G-TEM make "body in white" parts for companies such as Honda, Toyota, JLR and BMW. Phil Akerman (an ex Tommy's pupil and parent of a boy in Year 10) explained how the company had developed over recent years to meet changes in the economy and market. He then took the group on a tour of the factory, highlighting many of the flexible manufacturing systems features, which make the factory efficient. The group saw panels being "pressed" into shape, components being assembled and welded together by robots and the quality of the finished parts being checked using a CMM machine [Co-ordinate Measuring Machine] and assured before being dispatched to the car makers "JIT", just in time for the cars to be manufactured. He also showed the group the developments and improvements that are being made at the factory to implement new technologies and production methods.

S Hancock







## D&T - RIBI TECHNOLOGY NEWS

We arrived at Gloucester University on Wednesday in anticipation and with a little apprehension. It was the first time we'd entered this competition, and we had absolutely no idea what was to come over the next 6 hours, except that we'd be set a STEM task and have to complete it.

We had 2 groups of 4 enter this competition. My group consisted of Tom André, Dan Christie, Blake Mainwaring-Taylor and myself, and the other group had Ryan Birch, Sam Huck, Aaron James, and Irfaan Jeeva.

We went into the sports hall, where the event was to be held, and sat down at our allocated seats. There then was a short talk by the organiser of the event, explaining how the day would progress, following which the task was revealed to us. We had to build a device that carried a small load at least 2 metres over a 'river', and dropped it on the other side. Sounds simple, in principle, but the countless criteria and rules had us scratching our heads from the off, and the paperwork we had to complete also added to the pressure. Immediately, we gave each team member a specific task, for example to look at the criteria and problems or to take the necessary measurements. The groups got to work and began scribbling ideas down, all under the constant watch of the judges.

By 11 o'clock, we had a couple of workable and detailed designs, and having quickly decided on the one we thought was best, hurried to finish the paperwork before the deadline. Then followed a tense lunch break, where we discussed how the morning had gone, and how we were going to build our designs in the small space of an hour. That hour soon began, and we worked together to build all the parts we would need, finishing the design with 10 minutes to spare. Then came the moment of truth – the testing stage. We placed our device onto the rig, and turned it on. To our great delight, it functioned perfectly without a hitch; this was a huge boost to our self-confidence.

We watched as the other schools attempted to get their designs to work during the official, judged testing. Very few were able to successfully move, let alone carry the load. The judges were impressed by our design, as once again it worked perfectly.

Then followed a nervous wait as the judges deliberated and decided on the top 3. They would be judging us obviously on the success of our designs but also on how well we worked as a team and the detail and quality of our paperwork. We were delighted when we learnt that our group had won and the other group had come third, separated by a team from Chipping Campden School. We happily collected our gold and bronze medals, and the various prizes, exhausted after a days' hard work but elated at our success.

Participating in this competition was an excellent experience for all of us; we all learnt how to work efficiently in a team under pressure and communicate well to complete the tasks set, and the victory made this a highly worthwhile experience.

F Pervaiz





## NOW AND THEN...

In 1987, Sir Thomas Rich's School allowed girls into the Sixth Form for the first time. Twenty eight years later, we have gone back and researched how this was thought of at the time, as well as interviewing current students in the Sixth Form. Our findings have proven insightful and we have learnt a lot about the way people felt at the time, along with how things have fallen into place since.

We discovered three articles written on the subject in the 1988 edition of the Richian. The first was slightly different as it was based on the first female teacher to become a member of the STRS staff; Winifred May Thompson, in 1914, who remained at Tommy's until 1957. Despite the unusual circumstance of a female member of staff back in these "pre-liberation" days, it is remarkable how quickly she established herself as a respected member of the system, remaining so for 43 successful years of teaching at the school. The other two articles were written about the sixth form in 1988; one was written from the perspective of a female member of the sixth form and one written from a male's. It was interesting to read the 2 articles and compare their opposing views.

One article was written by Justine Thompson, which focused on the benefits of having a mixed sixth form. Although the article began talking about the initial imposing atmosphere and that there were "far more boys than girls", the article went on to mention many positive impacts of the decision. For example, once having been an atmosphere of "shyness" and "working out how to break down barrier; this soon became an inclusive atmosphere, where everyone could "fit in." One important aspect of school life for Justine was the ability to take part in many school activities, such as "making a valuable contribution to the Wednesday squash team".

The second article, however, written by a male member of the sixth form, was more hostile towards the decision to include girls in the Sixth Form. The article was centred on the idea that having a single sex school isn't sexist and that change was not required, and that the "minority of girls" would only be viewed as a "novelty" and a "greater disruption." He commented that the idea that "mixed education prepares for interaction in the real world" is not valid and that the primary function of schools should always be to "educate pupils."

When we compare this second article to views today on the matter, we generally find the polar opposites; people are completely fine with having a mixed sixth form. Some research has shown that many students work more efficiently in a mixed environment.



Last year's School Captain Poppy Watson said, "she really enjoyed her time at her previous school, but felt she needed the opportunity to make a fresh start at Tommy's Sixth Form". She told us that the Chamber Choir and Choir have been enjoyable extra-curricular activities and particularly likes the fact that students can influence how the groups are run, which makes them more enjoyable. Furthermore, we spoke to 2 other Sixth formers; Ellie Brasher in Year 12 and Issy Baldwin, a prefect in Year 13, who are formerly from King's School and Cleeve School respectively. They both take a mixture of the arts and sciences for their A level choices and both decided to come to Tommy's above other schools, as it is a respectable, high achieving school with "a good balance of social life and academia" and "had a particularly impressive open day". Issy said that her first day of sixth form was a "little intimidating", but she quickly overcame this due to the "positive atmosphere" of the school. Furthermore, the strong relationship that all students have with their teachers at Tommy's means that lessons are always worthwhile, which was something that stood out about Tommy's compared to her former school. They both feel as though the School provides everyone with immensely rewarding opportunities and that they are not limited in terms of opportunities despite the school being a boys' school.

These articles mentioned may read differently to people of today compared to those reading 28 years ago, as views appear to have changed over time. In our view, a mixed Sixth Form provides more benefits than disadvantages, in that all people in the catchment area of the School have access to a superb education, and the top class facilities of the school are not limited to 50% of the adolescent population.

L Ashby & J Nicholas







## SIR THOMAS RICH'S RFC 2015-16

So far this season Sir Thomas Rich's School RFC have played a total of 142 games. The results so far ...

### 1st XV

P 16 W9 L6 D1 PTS FOR 478 AGAINST 187

After the tough difficult tour to South Africa, the 1st XV's record was played 4, won 2 after victories against Lagunya Township and Somerset College, Stellenbosch but defeats to Paarl Boys High and Dr E G Jansen.

The pre-season in August continued with a fixture v Seaford College, Sussex. With a few boys still away on holiday, Rich's started brightly with tries from Henry Peach and Sam Brown but unfortunately they could not hold on, Seaford scored to draw the game 21-21.

After the 1st XV's next opponents, Bridgend College from Wales failed to fulfil the fixture, the 1st XV travelled to Bath, to play Kingswood School. Last year, Kingswood won a very close contest but this year Rich's over powered their opposition and ran out 67-0. Harvey Ryder, Fred Morrish, Ben Vallender and Louis Earl-Davis all scored a brace of tries and Pete Carter and Gabriel Chelotti scored one each.

The 1st XV then played QEH Bristol at home. Rich's haven't lost to QEH for many years and started quickly as Ryder scored a first half hat-trick of tries. Pete Carter, Joe Kiely and Matt Evans also scored tries as Rich's won 40-9. In Rich's next game v Hereford Cathedral, a weakened 1st XV played a good team that Cathedral have recruited recently. Rich's dominated the game but too many missed kicks and a lapse in concentration in the final five minutes allowed Cathedral to score a try that eventually won the game 13-8. In the 1st XV's next fixture they completely steam rolled RGS Worcester again. In a superb performance, Rich's ripped through RGS Worcester defence at ease and recorded a 43-14 victory. Jacob Hughes scored three tries and Ryder, Carter, Vallender and Rob Webster all scored as well.

For the first time in the School's history the 1st XV played Clifton College on a full block fixture. In a very close hard fought game, a few mistakes such as a kick charged down and lapse in concentration on a kick chase allowed Clifton to build a lead. There were moments in the game when Rich's played some superb rugby, Ryder scored a great try from a driving line out and Earl-Davis finished off an excellent few phases of play but Clifton won the game 25-13.

The next game of the season was one of the toughest so far as Rich's welcomed Monmouth School to Oakleaze. The 1st XV were desperate to record an historic win over Monmouth. Three seasons ago only a spectacular performance from Ollie Young rescued a 33-33 draw in Wales, along with a Ross Preedy penalty in the final minute. Since then, Monmouth had won the other two fixtures by very small margins. 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. Ryder scored three tries and Chelotti, Webster, Earl-Davis and Evans all scored as Rich's recorded a 45-0 victory, the first ever 1st XV win against the prestigious Welsh school!

After a bye in the first round, the second round of the Natwest Cup saw Rich's take on Chosen Hill School. In a completely one-sided encounter the 1st XV scored ten tries to make the final score 62-0. The try scorers were Ryder with another hat-trick, Evans (2), Roper, Kiely, Webster, Fred Watson and Jack Tyrer.

In the last game before half term, Rich's travelled to the 2012 U18 Daily Mail Cup Finalists Old Swinford Hospital. The 1st XV had little trouble recording a nine try 55-7 victory against OSH with tries from Harvey Ryder (3), Kiely (2), Greenleaf (2), Rhys Moore and Sam Brown.

After half term, the 1st XV played Pate's Grammar School. Rich's hadn't lost to Pate's since 2011 but last year the game was abandoned at 0-0 in dreadful conditions. In a closely fought contest in poor conditions again, Rich's battled hard to record a 17-9 victory. Rob McLaughlin and Jacob Hughes scored the tries.





The next game was the Third Round NatWest Cup tie with Stowe School in Buckingham. After the 23-17 win in 2013, Rich's were defeated last year by the prestigious school. In a very hostile environment with the Stowe crowd attempting to intimidate Rich's, the worst start possible happened. The Stowe, Scotland U18 outside half put a kick through for their England U18 centre. The 1st XV had the kick covered but Tyrer and Watson both slipped which allowed Stowe to capitalise, scoring a very fortuitous try. Stowe then dominated most of the first half, kicking a penalty to make the score 10-0. Then five minutes before half time Ryder intercepted a pass, ran 50m but was hauled down 10 metres short of the Stowe line. Rich's were awarded a penalty in front of the post that would have made the game 10-3 but chose to tap and go spurning the opportunity. In the second half, Stowe kicked a penalty but Rich's began to dominate territory and possession. Rob Webster scored a try from a driving lineout and Chelotti powered over from close range, however Carter missed both conversions and Rich's unfortunately lost 13-10.

Three days later saw Rich's entertaining RGS High Wycombe at home for the first time. The game was played in difficult conditions and was level at 6-6 after 15 minutes. Then from a few superbly well organised series of plays, the captain, Roper, scored an excellent try and Rich's led 11-6 at half time. The second half was equally as close, RGS kicked a penalty to make it 11-9. However, Rich's defended superbly and thought they had won the game. Then, in the last play of the match RGS was awarded a penalty close to the Rich's try line, the RGS scrum half tapped and went but the referee deemed the Rich's defence to have infringed and ran under the posts awarding RGS a penalty try, which allowed RGS to win the game 11-16.

This heart-breaking result, along with the closely fought defeat at Stowe has characterised this season for the 1st XV. They are a very good team, certainly one of the best 30 school sides in the country. They have worked incredibly hard, lifting weights before school three days a week, pushing themselves in conditioning sessions and spending hours scrutinising performances in video analysis sessions. However, a couple of these results ending in close defeats has left their record a little disappointing. It is important to remember that the School's fixture list is incredibly strong and predominately narrow defeats to the number one and number eighth ranked Schools in South Africa, to the currently unbeaten Clifton College, to the St Joseph's Festival runners up RGS and a team full of schoolboy internationals from Stowe are no disgrace. Hopefully, with a little more concentration and accuracy and with, perhaps, a touch of luck, they can turn some of these narrow defeats into victories in the second half of the season.

So far this season, Harvey Ryder has scored 19 tries, which breaks the one-season try scoring record and leaves him just one try behind Lee Hathaway's overall 1st XV try record of 31. Peter Carter has scored 119 points and is currently 6th on the overall 1st XV points scoring records.

## 2nd XV- P14 W10 L4

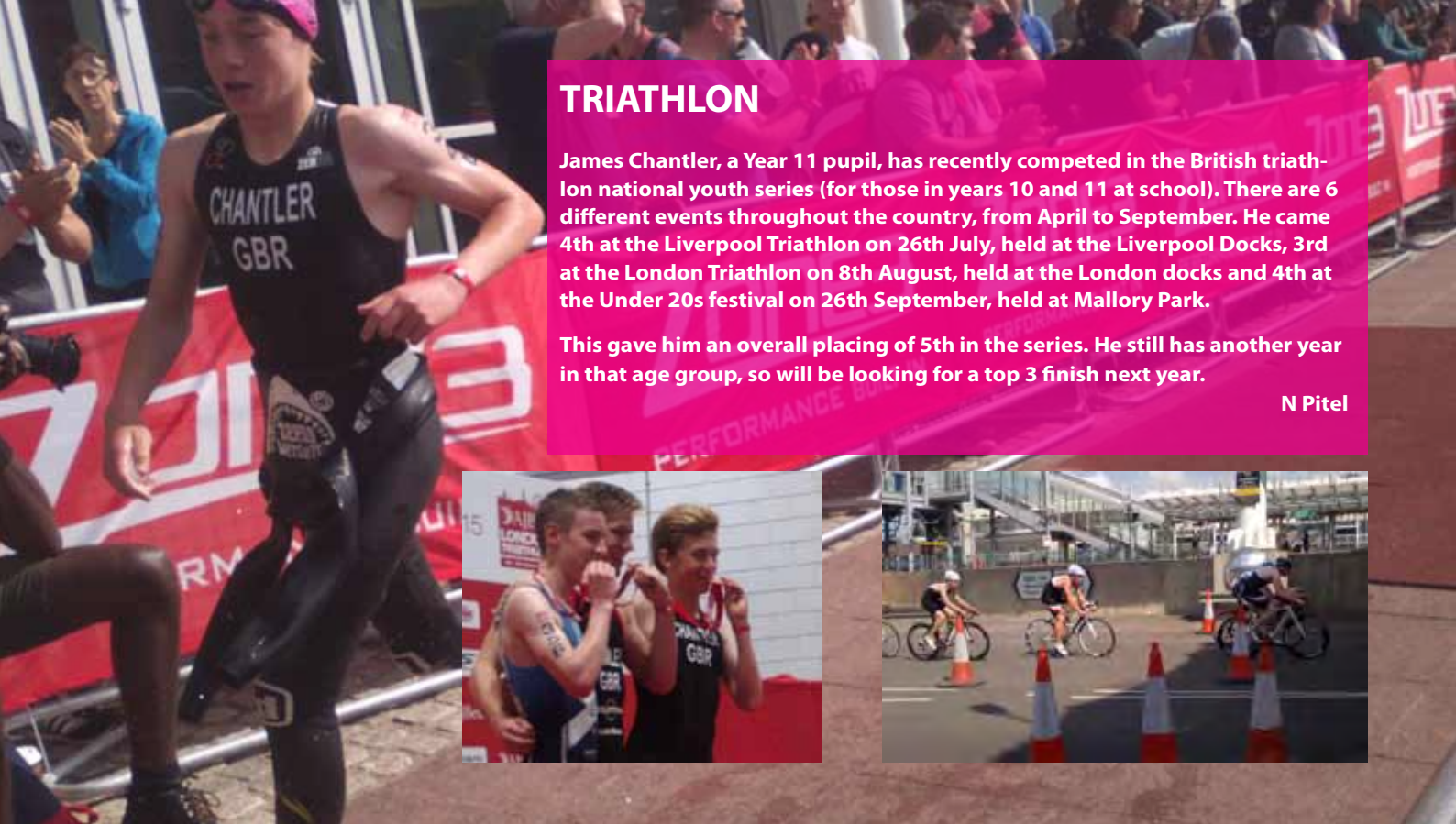
The 2nd XV have been outstanding this year and captained superbly well by George Edwards. They lost to Paarl and E G Jansen in South Africa but after that they went on a superb unbeaten run, defeating Kingswood, RGS Worcester, QEH, Pate's and OSH. Unfortunately, they lost 7-0 with a weakened team v Hereford Cathedral but fantastic wins v Clifton College and Monmouth really show what a tremendous team they are. In their last game, v RGS High Wycombe they were yet again physical and dominated the big Wycombe team for large parts of the game. However in the last five minutes RGS broke through to win the game 10-5. Hopefully they can bounce back and continue their superb form for the rest of the season.

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

Age Level	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Win Ratio
Boys-U18A	16	9	1	6	478	189	289	56.3%
Boys-U18B	14	10	0	4	379	174	205	71.4%
Boys-U18C	3	1	0	2	29	82	-53	33.3%
Boys-U16A	10	7	0	3	233	144	89	70.0%
Boys-U16B	3	2	0	1	99	55	44	66.7%
Boys-U15A	13	5	1	7	274	375	-101	38.5%
Boys-U15B	8	2	0	6	83	293	-210	25.0%
Boys-U15C	1	0	0	1	0	50	-50	0.0%
Boys-U14A	11	3	0	8	94	265	-171	27.0%
Boys-U14B	8	5	0	3	143	134	9	62.5%
Boys-U14C	1	1	0	0	42	27	15	100.0%
Boys-U13A	16	13	0	3	722	105	617	81.2%
Boys-U13B	11	8	0	3	314	123	191	72.7%
Boys-U13C	4	2	0	2	106	89	17	50.0%
Boys-U12A	9	6	0	3	187	145	42	66.7%
Boys-U12B	9	4	1	4	211	150	61	44.4%
Boys-U12C	5	4	0	1	90	69	21	80.0%
Totals:	142	82	3	57	3484	2469	1015	56.7%

R Williams





## TRIATHLON

James Chantler, a Year 11 pupil, has recently competed in the British triathlon national youth series (for those in years 10 and 11 at school). There are 6 different events throughout the country, from April to September. He came 4th at the Liverpool Triathlon on 26th July, held at the Liverpool Docks, 3rd at the London Triathlon on 8th August, held at the London docks and 4th at the Under 20s festival on 26th September, held at Mallory Park.

This gave him an overall placing of 5th in the series. He still has another year in that age group, so will be looking for a top 3 finish next year.

N Pitel

## ESSA REGIONAL TEAM RELAYS

On 23rd September the School entered the Regional Team Relays at Millfield School.

Despite competing well the teams were unable to gain the necessary times to qualify for the National Finals in November.

Senior Boys – J.Smith, M.Munden, J.Hadden & G.Moran

4x50m Freestyle – 25th 1min 49.50 secs

4x50m Medley – 24th 2min 08.98 secs

Senior Girls – N.Smith, N.Yip, E.Brasher & O.Christie

4x50m Freestyle – 30th 2min 13.73 secs

4x50m Medley – 30th 2min 37.47 secs

Intermediate Boys – C.Dickson, J.Maiden, S.Munden & C.Ifeacho

4x50m Freestyle – 25th 2min 06.91 secs

4x50m Medley – 24th 2min 29.61 secs

Junior Boys – W.Bateman, W.Croft, R.Nixon & T.Ellis-Jones

4x50m Freestyle – 21st 2min 25.67 secs

4x50m Medley – 27th 2min 57.00 secs

I J Gallagher

## GLOUCESTER SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA 2015

On Tuesday 24th November, the School entered the Glos Gala with teams entered in all the boys' races and also in the Senior Girls. The Senior races were held first and both the boy's and the girl's teams competed well.

The Junior team also competed well in the face of some strong opposition and although there were some individual successes the team work and consistent second and third placings enabled the School to stay ahead of the competition and secure an eleventh straight victory.

There were individual victories for:

Cameron Smerdon	25m Front Crawl	Yr 9
Edan Jupp	25m Breaststroke	Yr 7
Scott Munden	50m Front Crawl	Yr 9
Guy Floyd	50m Backstroke	Yr 10
Scott Munden	50m Butterfly	Yr 9

There were further successes in the relays where the Senior boys won both the Freestyle and Medley Relays, and the Yr 9s won both their Freestyle and Medley Relays.

The final positions were:

Boys Competition:	1st STRS	428 pts
Mixed Competition:	1st Newent	777pts
	2nd Newent	406
	2nd Kings	665
	3rd Kings	338
	3rd STRS	505

Congratulations to all swimmers.

I J Gallagher





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*Years*



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