



# The Richian

Magazine March 2018



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## FROM THE HEADMASTER

**Welcome to the latest issue of *The Richian*, I do hope you enjoy reading about the busy and varied life of the School over the last year or so. My thanks go out to Linda Herron for her sterling work editing *The Richian* for the last few years; Linda has recently moved on to take up fresh challenges at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.**

I must also take the opportunity to thank all the Year 11 and Sixth Form journalists and photographers who put so much into producing the magazine - and I hope that many more pupils will be involved with *The Richian* as it continues to evolve. We plan to publish two issues a year from now on, one in the autumn/winter and another in spring/summer, so you can expect another edition to land with you before the end of this academic year. I know I have said this before, but we now have made concrete plans to ensure this happens!

Our annual Sixth Form Opening Evening took place at the end of January, and as I met the many young men and women considering Sir Thomas Rich's for their journey into A Level study, it struck me once again that Year 11 pupils (both from Sir Thomas Rich's and many other schools in Gloucestershire) specifically choose our Sixth Form not just for our reputation for academic excellence, but also for the excellent extracurricular opportunities on offer, such as taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and taking up opportunities to travel overseas on the ever-popular rugby and netball tours. I hope this edition of *The Richian* continues to give you a strong sense

of what we are trying to offer and achieve at Sir Thomas Rich's: balance between the pursuit of results and the sheer enjoyment of learning; balance between the classroom and all else we seek to do. Above all, recognition that education is about more than mere achievement: it is about development. Despite extreme cost pressures I'm pleased to report that Rich's is more vibrant than ever, with more excursions and visits enjoyed by more pupils than ever before. These visits are memorable for those who take part, and most importantly really do make classroom theory count - from trips to Stratford to enjoy Shakespeare plays, to Geography fieldwork in Devon.

We also continue to enjoy the very best quality music and drama performances from pupils, and I was particularly pleased to jointly comper the annual Jazz Night at the end of January, with some fantastic performances from our young musicians; you can read more about the night elsewhere in this issue. For details of upcoming events and up to date news on School activities, please do visit our recently redesigned website at <https://strschool.co.uk>, follow us on Twitter at @strsglos and 'like' our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SirThomasRichsSchool](http://www.facebook.com/SirThomasRichsSchool).



Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

## SPEECH NIGHT/PRIZE GIVING 2017

**On the 22nd of September 2017, Sir Thomas Rich's hosted its annual prize giving. On the night, there were 132 students rewarded for excelling in a subject area.**

This year, our welcome Guest of Honour was former pupil of STRS Mr Babar Vaqas, who studied at Rich's from 1990 to 1997.

After leaving Rich's with the best GCSE and A Level results the school had seen, Mr Vaqas moved on to studying Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Mr Vaqas trained further in Cambridge and now works at Imperial College, London. He is a pioneering brain surgeon in the areas of neuro-oncology and minimal invasive techniques.

The evening began with a hymn, followed by the Headmaster's address. Mr Morgan congratulated the students and reflected on the last year at Rich's, while stressing the importance of a growth mindset.

Prizes were then awarded to the 132 current students and last year's Year 13s. Notably, Peter Methley was in receipt of the Saunders' Scholarship Prize for Physics, Chemistry and Excellent GCE (A Level) Results, and Timothy Hubbard (a former writer for *The Richian*) was awarded the Idris Williams Prize for Service to the School.

The prizes awarded by the School cover the expanse of the curriculum, such as Maths, the Sciences, Politics and Economics. The School believes it is important to reward success where it is due, and speech night provides the opportunity for this. The prizes were in the form of books, and students chose volumes covering a wide range of subjects, from Philosophy to Physics.

Following the Headmaster's report and prize giving, Mr Vaqas engaged his audience with an insight into the life of a brain surgeon. Mr Vaqas described

the brain and his job, and dissected the curriculum at STRS to demonstrate the importance of a wide education for young minds.

Mr Vaqas highlighted the relevance of some of the subjects he studied at Rich's to his current job as a brain surgeon. For example, he analysed the subject of Art and explained that he has been required to produce fine line drawings of brains in order to properly explain to his patients the surgery he will be carrying out.

In summary, the night was a success and the Headmaster tied up another successful year at Rich's.



## NEW STAFF AT SIR THOMAS RICH'S



### **Zak Hinds, Maths**

A former pupil at the School, Zak joins us in Maths. He taught at John Kyrle School in Ross-on-Wye before coming here and enjoys the School's rugby. He wanted to teach here because of the School spirit and Rich's excellent reputation.



### **Alex McDonald, Cover Supervisor**

Alex joined us at the start of the school year and has previously worked as a cover supervisor at Hereford Academy. He enjoys the enthusiasm of the students at Rich's, and was once an official in a professional rugby match.



### **Rowanne Hollings, Science Technician**

Rowanne previously lived in South Africa for 12 years and joins us within the Science Department as a technician.



### **Claire Parry, Art**

Claire finished her PGCE before joining Rich's, and says that all the staff are friendly. She has just taken up ballet as a hobby.



### **Cameron Hunter, Cover Supervisor**

Cameron has joined the staff at Sir Thomas Rich's as a Cover Supervisor.



### **James Raddon, Physics**

James is a recent graduate and likes the sense of community within the School, saying that the staff and students are very tight knit. He once played chess against the #4 player in the world, but sadly lost.



### **Ellen Jauncey, Business & Economics**

From the Isle of Man, this is Ellen's first year of teaching, having previously gained a degree in Accounting and Financial Management. She likes the positive and friendly atmosphere between staff and pupils.



### **Sam Rideout, Cover Supervisor**

Sam is a former pupil, Man Utd supporter and sports fanatic who thinks that Rich's is a fun environment to work in. He is the former 1st team cricket captain, and says that Mr Deacon once gave him a detention.



### **Samantha Load, Head of Psychology**

Samantha used to be a project manager before she started teaching, and was previously at Balcarras. She says the students here are motivated, engaged and interested in her subject. In her spare time she runs a Brownie unit.



### **Chloe Rigby, Maths**

Chloe's previous job was teaching at Balcarras, and she thinks it is interesting teaching classes of all boys. Chloe likes the competitiveness of the houses and the friendliness of everyone here. She records music regularly and busks in Cardiff.



### **Jonathan Margetts, English**

Jonathan previously worked in educational recruitment and likes the ethos and academic excellence at the School, and the drive that his students have. He was a mascot for the England football team, and in Year 8 was taller than Michael Owen when he met him!



### **Sara Vielvoye, Marketing, Communications & Events Manager**

Sara has worked in publishing and marketing for many years and has previously worked for Future Publishing and the Environment Agency. She enjoys the atmosphere at the School, and has just taken over production of *The Richian*.



### **William Marks, History**

As a newly qualified member of staff, William appreciates the atmosphere and the polite, friendly students at Sir Thomas Rich's. For his work experience, he worked at the UN in Geneva.

### **Scott Carbin, Cover Supervisor**

From Cheltenham, Scott has taught in primary schools and has previously worked for PGL and Capita. He thinks the School is friendly and welcoming, and his claim to fame is that his great-grandfather played for Man Utd.

# SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT 2016-2017

**During the last academic year, I have been enormously proud of the School's efforts to raise funds in order to mitigate against extreme budget cuts. The individual and collective support of parents particularly through regular giving, together with alumni and the Parents' Association, raised over £100,000 to enable us to continue to provide an outstanding education for pupils at Rich's.**

I am grateful to all those who have supported the School financially, volunteered their time and given advice to enable their children to make the most of the opportunities the School offers. Your involvement helps make the School the vibrant community of which I am so proud. This is a brief summary of what we have been able to achieve thanks to your generosity.

• **£18,000 of new books have been ordered for departments** who are embarking on teaching new GCSE and GCE specifications. This will enable students to have access to important material to support the new curriculum and help teachers design lessons that focus on key techniques to allow pupils to maximise their potential.

• **£24,000 has enabled the employment of three Language Assistants** (Amelie Doche, Diana Esparza and Laura Wiltfang, pictured right), providing valuable conversational and exam practice for pupils studying German, French and Spanish.



• **£10,000 towards staff salaries in Drama** has helped us continue with the annual School productions and House Drama competition. Additionally, £10,000 towards staff salaries has allowed us to maintain A Level Music and continue to provide the opportunity for pupils to perform in orchestras, choirs and bands.

• **The Parents' Association contributed £14,000 towards coach hire** for sports' matches, field trips and course related visits. Without this funding our pupils would not have the

opportunity to participate in challenging sports fixtures and less chance to enjoy academic extension work and wider development.

• **£15,000 has contributed to careers education, information and guidance**, together with enhancing our support for university entrants through profiling and assisting with the UCAS process.

• **We have continued with a rolling refurbishment programme to keep the fabric of our buildings safe and in good condition.** Over the summer, funds enabled us to make the memorial garden safe for pond dipping, have some tree branches removed, create a new gate in the tennis courts, improve the swimming pool changing rooms, provide new benches for pupils to eat outside and create a 'gallery space' from some old cupboards for the Art Department.

Although expenses are managed carefully to remain within budget and the prospect of improved funding from the Government yet again remains on the horizon, Sir Thomas

Rich's School is still one of the lowest funded secondary schools in the country. We aim to provide a fantastic learning environment for our children, but there is always something more that could be done.

Last year, a parental survey indicated that basic essentials - books and teacher salaries - were parents' top priority, along with

the development of Science subjects and Maths.

This academic year, we will continue to strive to provide the best experience we possibly can for every student, with a focus on these areas. Your generosity is a vital part of the School's excellence and the outstanding education we offer. Without your help, Rich's would be so much poorer. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do.

Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

## FENCING AND RUNNING SUCCESS FOR RICH'S PUPILS

**Bryn Miles in 8R competed in the South West Regional Fencing Championships in the U14 Boys category. The competition format was two rounds of pools, followed by Direct Elimination (DE).**

Bryn had a very good start to the competition, and after both rounds was seeded fourth in the competition. This put him in a strong position for the direct elimination rounds. He won his first DE 15-1, his second was harder and after being 12-6 up after the first period, narrowly won the match 15-14.

His semi-final was also a hard won match, plagued with equipment problems (his opponent), and then Bryn had to retire one of his blades, and broke his spare. He borrowed a blade, and eventually won 15-13.

He then had a long wait for the final, which was another nail biting match, but unfortunately he narrowly lost.

Bryn displayed good performance and excellent sportsmanship during the day. Finishing in second place was a good result and means that he has qualified for the British Youth Fencing Championships (BYC), which take place in Sheffield on Sunday 6th May 2018.

Callum Jeffers in 8T participated in the Scout Cotswold Marathon Bronze event (10 miles) at the beginning of February this year. His team won the Male Novice Trophy for being the fastest all male runner up team in a cracking time of 3 hours and 50 minutes.

# PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - REPORT 2016-2017

**The Parents' Association at Sir Thomas Rich's is thriving, with many parent volunteers helping with the uniform shop, the refreshments rota and other PA events. Our aim is to not only raise additional funds for the School but also to develop a positive and supportive parent community who can act as a valuable resource.**

One of our key activities is to run the uniform shop which is staffed entirely by volunteers throughout the year, providing a helpful service to all students and their parents. Parents regularly get involved in providing teas for rugby and cricket matches, feeding competing teams from Gloucestershire and across the country. Most of the volunteers provide the food without reimbursement, enabling us to use our funds to support other activities in the School. In addition to these activities, we run a very popular '100 Club' which pays out every month to the numbers drawn at the most recent PA meeting. Our Easyfundraising account has grown significantly in the last year, providing us with money whenever Easyfundraising members buy items from certain retailers online.

We have raised money in the last year by sales of Christmas Puddings, an Easter raffle, a silent auction, and organising clothes recycling. The Quiz and Pudding Night in the autumn term was an excellent opportunity for parents and students to compete whilst enjoying a few drinks and sampling lots

of puddings. Volunteer parents also provided refreshments for a variety of School activities, including bacon baps at the new Year 7 morning, concert and drama productions, parents' consultation evenings and the last summer sports' evening.

During the past year, we introduced a new system for staff to apply for small grants, enabling us to support clubs and educational activities which otherwise struggle to find funding. Our recent grant to the Warhammer Club was very well received, enabling them to purchase basic equipment that can be enjoyed by students for many years. Other PA funds have been used to lease two minibuses for the school to replace the two old ones, which were no longer economical to run. We have awarded £8,000 for school books for this academic year, required due to curriculum changes in certain subjects, for which there was no central funding available.

Our plans for this year include investigating online ticket sales for events, using social media to enable parents to support each other within year groups and to improve the activities which we have recognised are most successful. We would like to thank the many parents who support us and continue to work together for our children and the School.

**If you would like to join us you are always welcome, please contact Corinne Goatley at [pachair@strs.co.uk](mailto:pachair@strs.co.uk).**

## VOLUNTEERING AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE, GRH

**We are very proud of the link between the Modern Languages Department and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.**

This year six students from Year 12 have had the opportunity to visit the Children's Centre at Gloucester Hospital where they have gained work experience, teaching modern languages to children during their stay in hospital. The arrangement benefits both the Hospital and our students, who gain invaluable experience in preparing and delivering teaching materials, learning to be flexible and learning to relate to both the children and staff at the centre. They furthermore learn the value of helping in the community, something which we hope will stay with them in the future.

J Hewett

**Students at GRH have been benefitting from the weekly visits from Sir Thomas Rich's pupils for several years now.**

The students range in age from KS1 to KS4 and have been able to learn some simple phrases in either French, German or Spanish, or to practice and build on existing skills for those with previous knowledge of a modern foreign language.

The pupils from Sir Thomas Rich's have been inspiring and encourage the students in the GRH School Room to aim high.

Carmel Herrick, School Team Manager

## CHESS TEAM RESULTS

**The School A and B chess teams both qualified for the knockout stages of the year's ECF National Schools Championships. We travelled to Hereford Cathedral School for a peculiar double-header, our A team v their B team and vice-versa.**

Both A teams won, but congratulations should go to Sacha Dudley (7R) who won his game scoring a point for our B team against an HCS A team player. Our A team are now through to the Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and South Wales Region semi-finals, the last 64 in the country. The four remaining schools are STRS, HCS, Chepstow School and St Johns, Cardiff.

STRS entered both an A and B team to the regional heat of the ECF National School's Rapidplay Competition on 5th February 2018. The heat, at Bristol Grammar School, was contested by 11 school teams. Our A team came a very close

second, scoring 11½ points from a maximum of 16, with the winners Chepstow scoring 12 points. We drew 2-all in our match against Chepstow (and played them again at the end of February in the main national schools' championships). Robert Ashworth (12C) on board 1 had a fantastic competition winning all four of his games. George Hawthorne (12C) and Adam Schonbeck (13T) both scored 3 out of 4. The STRS B team were the second best B team at the event. Oliver Bates (12H) and Sacha Dudley (7R) both scored two wins from four games. Unfortunately only the top school qualify for the national finals, so STRS will not be able to defend its 4th place in the finals from last year. Results of Bristol heat:

1st	Chepstow School	12 points
2nd =	STRS A	11½ points
2nd =	Churchill School	11½ points
4th	Redland School	9 points
5th	Bristol Grammar Sch	8½ points
7th =	STRS B	6 points

## LANGUAGE LECTURES AT STROUD HIGH SCHOOL

**On 30th November, Year 12 and 13 linguists visited Stroud High School to attend lectures delivered by native speakers about their countries.**

There were lectures held in German, French and Spanish, and the content of the lectures was linked to the topics that are studied at A Level, such as family and relationships.

I attended the Spanish lecture, and thought that it was engaging and informative, despite the fact that it was challenging, as the entirety of the lecture was in Spanish! However, I still learned

a lot of information about the country, for example, about the different traditions that take place in different parts of Spain, and the different types of climate in Spain.

In addition, the lecture helped me in improving my pronunciation of certain words. The lecture was very interesting and has deepened my knowledge of Spain and strengthened my interest in the language.

J Hewett

## MODERN LANGUAGE PUPILS ENJOY ONATTI PRODUCTIONS

**This year pupils of Modern Languages have had the opportunity to enjoy performances from Onatti Productions in French, German and Spanish. Learning outside the classroom is hugely important for our pupils, and the plays are a superb example of how learning can be enhanced and made enjoyable through drama.**

The actors, native speakers and professional actors, never resorted to English to communicate and, in imitation of real life scenarios, used gesture, repetition and carefully selected vocabulary to ensure understanding.

The first performance was the Spanish Play ¿Cuántos me gusta tienes? This play was set in a Spanish hospital and told the story of a young man who gets himself into all sorts of difficulties with his female visitors. The slapstick comedy and pupil participation were particularly appealing to the teenage audience!

The scene for the German play shifted to a campsite. Whilst some people embrace the outdoors and a return to basic living without modern day gadgets, it is not everyone's cup of tea. Much hilarity ensued as the two protagonists tried to cope with the challenges of camping.

"It was very enjoyable to watch and I learnt new vocabulary which I can now use for my GCSE. I was involved throughout and thought the interaction a key feature for the effectiveness of the performance."

The French play, Le Café, was based around the main character, Collette, whose first day at work as a waitress in a café resulted in a series of amusing mishaps. Perhaps the most challenging of the plays, the play stretched our most advanced learners whilst providing our younger learners with sufficient basic language to support their understanding.

This play followed a bilingual play for French beginners earlier in the year, to which we were pleased to invite pupils from Longlevens Junior School, Elmbridge Primary School and Harewood Junior School. Shipwrecked en France centred on the escapades of a young boy on holiday in France who finds himself adrift in a rubber dinghy and, on coming ashore, has no option but to find his own way back with the help of a young French girl and a little help from the audience.

J Hewett



## BASE BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING COMPETITION

**BASE is a national Business & Accounting Competition organised by the UK's largest accounting body ICAEW. Our regional heat was held at UWE in Bristol and we were competing against 15 or so teams from across the region.**

Essentially the task was to analyse a comprehensive business case study - about a business facing several issues - and recommend the best strategy for the business in question. We had around two hours to complete our analysis before all 15 teams were split into two groups in order to present our analysis to a panel of judges - all of whom were industry experts and of course ICAEW Chartered Accountants.

It was to our surprise that we won our heat and then we had to present our findings again in front of all the groups and judges. It was then announced that our team had won and to be honest, we were rather happy - partly due to shock and partly down to knowing we were through to the National Final.

The National Final came around a couple of months later and consisted of the top 7% of teams in the competition. It was held at Hilton Metropole Hotel in Birmingham and was fully paid for by ICAEW and included an overnight stay and enough food to satisfy even the biggest of gym goers. A buffet was served up the night before the competition and we made what we thought to be a good use of our evening using the recreational facilities of the hotel, for free!



The competition commenced the next morning and was based on the same business as in the first round, and took a similar format in terms of the presentation and analysis. Whilst the judges were contemplating a worthy National winner we had the chance to go to a careers fayre and find out more about careers in business. Although we did not win the final we had an amazing time and would definitely do it again, not just because it's a great experience but also because it was just good fun.

Martin Burley and Xan Allison

## ANNUAL JAZZ NIGHT AT RICH'S 2018

**On Friday 26th January 2018 we had the pleasure of inviting parents and friends to our annual Jazz Night.**

An opportunity to showcase the talents of our students - from the fantastic jazz and brass bands, to solo performances, and everything in between - it was an incredibly successful evening enjoyed by all. The set list was diverse and featured show tunes such as Hello Dolly, movie classics like The Pink Panther and You've Got a Friend in Me, and swing, jazz and blues greats such as Fly

Me to the Moon, One For My Baby and Aint Misbehavin. The performers were:

### Jazz Band

Alto Saxophone:  
Charlie Bennett, 11R  
William O'connor, 11R  
Magnus Pearson, 9R  
Bass:  
Evan Howard, 9R  
Clarinet:  
Benji Bussell, 10S  
Oliver Perkins, 12R  
Cameron Shirto, 11R  
Drums:  
Felix Bird, 12L  
Eddie Morrison, 13L  
Alan Paulson, 11R

James Stiles, 10R  
Flute:  
Simeon King, 10R  
Guitar:  
Alex Keffler, 13T  
Horn:  
Aiden Derby, 11S  
Piano:  
Callum May, 12B  
Tom Thistleton, 13B  
Saxophone:  
Oliver Dyer, 7R  
Tom Pickard, 8T  
Trombone:  
Jack Jones, 10T  
Ed Pawley, 9T  
Innes Peek, 10R  
Tom Thistleton, 13B  
Trumpet:  
Louis Appleyard, 13C  
Jo Crouch, 10T  
Joel Merrick, 11T  
Vocals:  
George Abutat, 13C  
Tom Beer, 11B  
Ben Burwell, 11T  
Benji Bussell, 10S  
James Goatley, 12H  
Callum May, 12B  
Mary Ogunleye, 13R  
Alan Paulson, 11R  
Tom Thistleton, 13B  
Danny Tilley, 10B

Taras Wolczuk, 10B  
**Brass Band**  
Baritone:  
Thomas Ball, 7R  
Luke Young, 13C  
Flugel:  
James Stiles, 10R  
Horn:  
Joe Bryce, 8S  
Aidan Derby, 11S  
Joel Goulding, 12B  
Theo Wildman, 10R  
Soprano Cornet  
Louis Appleyard, 13C  
Trombone:  
Rueben Cordery, 11T  
Edward Pawley, 9T  
Innes Peek, 10R  
Thomas Thiselton, 13B  
Matthias Wildman, 7R  
Trumpet:  
Adam Blackwood, 10T  
Henry Bye, 8S  
Samuel Brook, 7B  
John Carrington, 10R  
Ben Connole, 13B  
Joseph Crouch, 10T  
Rosie Forbes, 12H  
Harry Jenkins, 13H  
Alex Johnston, 10R  
Ivor Northup, 7B  
Ben Vernall, 13C  
Peter Watson, 12G



## GEOLOGY TRIP TO MULL

I was lucky enough to join the Geology trip on an expedition to the beautiful island of Mull on the West Coast of Scotland with five Year 12s, in preparation for their AS Level. I started at STRS in January last year and hadn't met the Geology teacher and trip leader, Mr Green, but his reputation was one of getting the best results in the country for Geology. Whilst on the trip I could see why: he has a genuine love for his subject and imparts his knowledge with enthusiasm.

We stayed in Craignure and travelled extensively around Mull meandering our way around the narrow roads lining the outer edge of Mull, with the sea always close by our side. We visited Gribun on the West Coast, Loch Don and Loch Spelve in the South East, Carsaig Bay on the South Coast where we hunted successfully for sapphires, Craig in Central Mull and finally the Ross of Mull in the South West. We saw highland cattle, feral goats with huge horns that feed on the seaweed from the beach, and some of our party saw red deer, sea otters and seals. In addition, we walked over bogs on the island of Iona to find a remote marble quarry and went by ferry to the beautiful Isle of Staffa, where hexagonal columnar basalts hugged the side of the island and acted as stepping stones to take you round to the spectacular Fingal's Cave.

All seemed to enjoy the expedition, negotiating the challenging terrain and learning about the geology of this fascinating volcanic island. I for one will be looking at rocks in a new light; I now know my sills from my dykes, my Triassic from Jurassic and have a new fascination for cone sheets! I learnt that Geology is so

much more than just learning about rocks - it is the study of how our planet has changed over time, giving rise to our surroundings and informing the way we live.

However, the true success of a trip can only be measured by the students and the five Year 12s we took were a credit to their families and to the School. They were as enthusiastic about Geology as their teacher and great company. Here are some of their reflections:

***"It was a great opportunity to see some amazing geology as well as to pick up some spectacular specimens."*** Angus Morton

***"The field trip really put what we've learnt this year into perspective, allowing us to apply our knowledge to the geological landscape."*** Rebecca Hale

***"Not only did we gain higher level geology skills, but life skills too."*** Thomas Thiselton

***"The best thing about the trip is that you don't realise how much you've learned until you look back on it."*** Felix Bowers

***It was an incredible trip; great landscape, stunning wildlife and brilliant food courtesy of Mrs Churchill. As usual, Mr Green supplied the witty banter. Memories were made."*** Alastair Foyne

S Churchill





## BIOLOGY TRIP 2017

**On the bright and sunny Wednesday morning of 11th October 2017, we set off to one of the most aesthetically pleasing counties in the UK - Pembrokeshire - to enrich our knowledge of wildlife and broaden our perspective on the application of A Level Biology in ecosystems. We completed PAGs 3,6,10 and 12 in our activities.**

Time does fly by when you're having fun, between the contagious laughter and sound of surprised rain splattering violently against our coach windows, the four-hour journey felt like nothing.

After we settled into our cosy dorms at Orierton and chilled out with a biscuit or two, our first activity split us into two groups that involved the 'mark, capture and release' of pond snails in order to estimate the population. Then came the stream sampling, where many fell in mud puddles, the stream and even down the bank in the name of science.

Fortunately no one was hurt and we all had a good laugh among the miniature pond organisms. After a scrumptious hot dinner of beef chilli or veggie casserole, the 'sofa room', our common room, was certainly the best place to relax after the long day. With a telly, the company of another school and a deck of cards, every night was games night!

The second day, or beach day if you will, consisted of thin layer chromatography and Year 13 students dressed head to toe in bright yellow waterproofs, some even had yellow Marigold gloves to complete the look!

Our group of bananas studied periwinkles, sampled whelks and studied other sea animals that can survive in exposed areas of the rocky shores. Sand dune progression was an interesting topic to study on the third day, as many didn't realise that many landforms such as hills and mountains have progressed from tiny sand structures.

One of our favourite phrases from that day was 'embryo dune', as it made us imagine prehistoric baby dunes making cute noises.

On our last day, we returned to the pond snails and calculated our results, and to our surprise, my group - which had left it for two days longer than the other group - had a larger number for the population size of the pond snails. In the afternoon, the teaching groups were split into groups of four or five as we chose our own topic to carry out an experiment on.

My group chose to investigate the effect of trampling on the growth of vegetation along a path. This allowed us to practice our outdoor practical skills, which ultimately benefits us in our study of not only ecosystems but also in many other areas involving the environment.

It was a sad moment to wave goodbye to our team leaders but at least 9/10 would say they had one of the best residential trips, because I did. As we dozed off on the coach journey home, I started to wonder how my favourite sea snails are.

## SKI TRIP FEBRUARY 2017

**The annual ski trip last year was the largest trip of any kind that has occurred at the School, with 102 students plus 12 members of staff participating.**

The Nassfeld area of Austria provided a backdrop of challenging skiing both for beginners and advanced skiers alike. The Jugendsporthotel Leitner was the chosen accommodation and this was ideal for school trips, having fully-fitted ski hire facilities in the basement and numerous areas for recreation. The first day we were met with thick mist on the pistes, which gave the environment a surreal effect, but for the rest of the week we woke up to bright blue skies and crisp white snow. By the end of the week, students who had never put on a pair of skis were able to negotiate some of the most challenging slopes on the mountain with confidence. The advanced group were put through their paces by instructors who themselves had been skiing since the ages of two or three. Friday came around too soon for everyone; after a day's skiing it was room clean-up time, the evening meal and then back on the coach for the journey home.

As a testament to the students who attended this trip, the owner of the hostel personally told me how well behaved and courteous everyone was, and said that he would be more than happy to welcome the School back in the future. Taking students on trips can be a challenge, but the effort and time involved in organising these excursions are more than compensated by the pride and pleasure members of staff get by being in the company of young people who know how to behave in public and live up to the responsibility of representing Sir Thomas Rich's School.

I Birchall



## NORMANDY TRIP 2017

**I really enjoyed the Normandy trip. It was full of great activities that helped us experience everything Northern France had to offer. For example, we went to a market that allowed me to use the French I have learnt in lessons in a real situation, which was very interesting.**

I learnt a lot about France that you wouldn't be able to learn in a classroom, like the techniques used in French bakeries and the kind of language used on an everyday basis. At first, feeding the goats and tasting goat's cheese didn't seem like a very exciting activity, but it turned out to be surprisingly fun. We learnt some very interesting things about how the farm works and practised our French when asking the questions about the farm. The PGL instructor we had was very nice and enthusiastic, often getting involved in our activities, he even played a bit of basketball with us in our free time! Overall, the trip was great fun and helpful for our language skills.

Guy Mitchell 9R

My favourite activity of the trip is hard to decide. I liked going to the bakery. We made a croissant while the baker explained how he makes them, and said that he makes everything on sale in the shop fresh each day. His bread was delicious and many of us went into the shop afterwards to buy some. I also liked the sensory trail, learning to trust my friends and use my other senses like my hearing and touch. My favourite part of the trail was going through the muddy hole.

Christopher Borley 8T

Thirty-nine boys from Years 8 and 9 spent the first weekend of last July at the PGL Centre Chateau du Tertre in Normandy. Activities included visits to a French market, a goat's cheese farm and a local bakery to meet the baker and have a go at making croissants. The boys also enjoyed a campfire in the woods, a sensory trail and making pancakes. The trip gave the boys frequent opportunities to practise their French as well as being a good deal of fun.

A.J. Gregory



# GÖTTINGEN EXCHANGE 2017: YEAR 10

## **The second leg of our long running and very successful exchange with the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium in Göttingen.**

Twenty-three Year 10 boys and 23 girls from the High School travelled to Germany to stay with their exchange partners and their families.

Our pupils received a very warm welcome from the entire school and enjoyed the opportunity to become fully immersed in German life and culture.

The official programme included: a reception with the Mayor of Göttingen; an exciting visit to the German capital, Berlin; and a trip to Eisenach, where we traced the steps of Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach.

In their private time, our pupils and their exchange partners indulged in such activities as going to the cinema, shopping, bowling and swimming in Göttingen's fantastic spa pool 'Eiswiese'.

Although everybody returned very tired, this was once again a truly successful trip. Here are some of the thoughts the pupils had on the exchange:

**Taking part in the German exchange was a very new and interesting experience for me, I learned a lot about German culture and the typical way of life for a German student.**

I enjoyed the day trips, especially the trip to Berlin. Göttingen is a city very similar to that of Gloucester or Cheltenham and has a lot to do and try. I was originally apprehensive about going on the trip

because the thought of speaking German was a little scary, however, my exchange family understood this and would help me if I forgot how to say a word.

I would recommend the trip to all people who like to try new experiences and visit new places.

Jimmy Willis, 10S

**I signed up to the exchange because I thought it would be a good experience that would let me improve my German.**

The exchange really helped my German speaking level increase, as well as my understanding of the language as a whole, including how native speakers use it.

My favourite part of the trip was spending time with my exchange as we became good friends, and I also enjoyed experiencing everyday life in a German family and seeing the differences and similarities compared with England.

Oliver Pritchard, 10T

**I really enjoyed the German exchange, the family I stayed with were really nice and helped me improve my speaking and widen my range of vocabulary.**

My favourite day was on the Sunday. This is because we went to watch the local basketball team, then a large group of us went to eat at 'Va Piano', an Italian restaurant.

I also enjoyed trying new foods like Bratwurst and Currywurst. I'm glad I went because prior to going, I was nervous due to my speaking ability not being one of

the best in the class. Yet I am glad that I went and it will be an experience I'll never forget.

Michael Baron, 10T

**The German exchange trip was really great. Before the exchange, I was worried about making mistakes and what the German family might think of me if I kept making mistakes, however, I really had no need to be as they made me feel very welcome.**

I really enjoyed going to Berlin and seeing what's left of parts of the Berlin Wall and the difference between East and West Berlin, with the different traffic light men. Also my family made me feel very welcome and we even went go karting. I also enjoyed the experience of being thrown into the German language and only speaking German for a whole week.

Samuel Singha, 10R

**The trip was a very interesting experience, I learnt a lot of new vocabulary and skill gaining in confidence throughout the stay with the family.**

I was worrying about going on this trip because of the idea of having to speak a foreign language, but I wanted to go as I knew that it would be a lot of fun and I would regret it if I didn't go on this trip. The highlight of the trip for me was the party we had with the exchanges.

We got to play sport with each other and helped expand our vocabulary, helping us learn the way the Germans speak. It was a very fun experience and I am glad I went on the trip.

Philip Schonbeck, 10T



## YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE TRIP TO AACHEN 2017

**During the February 2017 half term, a group of 11 German A Level students took part in the Halsbury work experience trip to the beautiful, historic town of Aachen in Germany.**

This was an excellent way to not only improve our German language, but also to experience the culture and develop useful skills for future work. We were working in all sorts of different placements, ranging from kindergartens to marketing companies, whilst still having time to explore the town and see its sights.

At the beginning of the trip we were all quite nervous, with a long coach trip ahead of us the mood of the group was rather apprehensive, but worries were soon forgotten as the journey began and we began to look forward to the experience ahead. After a smooth ferry and coach journey, we finally arrived in Aachen in the late afternoon. Everyone was relieved that we'd made it and excited to stretch our legs and start showing off our linguistic skills.

Our first full day was a Sunday, and after a lovely dinner and good night's rest, we were all full of energy and ready to get going. The Halsbury supervisors had organised a tour of the town for us, where a rather funny tour guide took us round and gave us a tour of Aachen in German. The highlight was when we went to a fountain with water that came straight from the earth, the guide assured us it only smelt awfully but actually tasted like normal water - to our dismay he had fooled all of us and it tasted just as it smelt. Afterwards, we were sent to go and look for our work placements so we knew where to go the next day, really testing our language capabilities as some of us had to ask about buses and trains.

Then came the day we'd all been waiting for, the first day at work. For many it was an early start, we had breakfast at the hostel and were straight off to catch the bus or train. At first it was difficult for everyone to get accustomed to their placements and to using the language in a working environment, but it didn't take long before everyone was fully happy and engaged at their work. The people there were all really kind, and I even got invited out for dinner by my colleagues

one night. However, my friends weren't too jealous of the excellent food I had, because they were able to go on an organised ice skating trip with the Halsbury group leaders. As the week drew to a close, we were able to reflect on what had been an academically challenging and highly beneficial trip, as well as a great social experience where we improved our German and made many new friends.

Overall, it was a truly unforgettable trip that we are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of. Now our German class is also much closer as a group, sharing this time together helped us bond through our passion to learn the language, and we often still laugh about events from the trip. I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone studying German at the School who gets the opportunity to take part, as it is a unique opportunity.

Tim Ranken, 12G



**Overall, the Halsbury trip to Germany was a very rewarding experience! We stayed at the A&O Hostel in Aachen, with spacious rooms.**

I worked in a kindergarten, where I had to play with the children and help out with day to day tasks, such as tidying up at the end of the day. At first, it was a struggle because I found it very difficult to understand the children but towards the end of the week, I found myself beginning to have full conversations with both the staff and the children! The best part of the trip was definitely being enabled to be fully independent in a foreign country and having the freedom to explore different parts of Aachen. My confidence in German speaking has hugely improved and I would definitely recommend the trip to anyone who takes German A Level.

Romanie Andrews 12B

**I thought it was a fantastic trip as it was a very valuable experience which really helped with my German speaking skills and improved my confidence.**

I worked in a second-hand clothing shop, called Bandbreite, where I cleaned, sorted and priced items, and spoke to many customers. It was a fun and interesting shop and everyone was very friendly. My favourite part of the trip was meeting new people and having lots of freedom and independence. I would recommend going as it is an excellent opportunity to experience German customs and culture.

Cem Eroglu 12T

**Although the work experience seemed like a very daunting task before we set off for Aachen, the trip was very enjoyable from start to finish.**

I had the opportunity of working in a kindergarten with children from the ages of 2-6. It was a great opportunity to further my German vocabulary and understanding of the language, especially as the children appeared to not know how to speak slowly! The teachers were all very kind and helped me to learn lots of new words and phrases that are commonly used in Germany. Outside of the placement, I made lots of new friends with whom I am still in contact with and even got to know some of the locals!

Adam Schonbeck 12T

# Year 7 trips...



Lakeside



Stratford

## ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS & NEWS

**Does anyone remember when the School was in Barton Street in Gloucester? I attended there in 1954, there used to be a plaque outside the Guildhall in Eastgate Street and it was originally called the Blue Coat School, The Headmaster was Mr Veale.**

Other members of staff were, Mr Fox Geography and Maths; Mr Pritchard, Carpentry and Sports; Howard Terrington, Geography and Sports (as he played for Gloucester R.F.C.); Mr Burrows, Languages (mainly French); Mr Sinkinson, Maths - he drove an old car, we used to say "you will never go to heaven in Sinkis car, as Sinkis car won't get that far!!!". Miss Thompson, Art; Mr Bloxham, Biology and Chemistry; and Mr Shear, Physics. The Maths teacher who dealt with all Maths subjects, arithmetic algebra, geometry was Mr Sweeting. He was Welsh, one of his first questions to us: I suppose you all know your times table? Yes sir! What is 14 times 23? he asked - dead silence! His reply was things don't stop at 12 times 12 you know! Mr Bradford, English Literature, Merchant of Venice, Greek mythology - you were set pieces to learn 'off by heart', if you forgot them you had to stay after school and attend his 'chain gang' as he called it and you had to write it out for an hour, so you certainly knew it by then.

At morning break times you had your bottle of milk plus you were able to buy a currant bun obtained from the bakers next door, Featherstone's, 2p. In the playground there were two fives courts similar to squash with only three walls, and you used your hand instead of a racket and a tennis ball. For our sports afternoon we had to make our own way to Elmbridge playing field (where I believe the School is now) for 2pm. I rode my bike



there from town, I remember we had rugby in winter, athletics after Easter, then cricket in summer. I played cricket for junior 11 wicketkeeper in 1956.

I enjoyed my time at Rich's, and as you can see I could probably write a small book about my times there if I haven't already!

I found a small picture of myself on a school holiday in Holland and Belgium - cap on blazer and a square tie, you couldn't wear a proper tie until you were in the third year, always had to touch your cap if you saw teacher, even in town!

Plus a photograph of myself in the Junior cricket team around 1956, happy days!

Philip Langley (pupil, 1954-57)



**I returned to Rich's on Tuesday 30th January 2018, having been invited to speak at the Sixth Form Open Evening.**

It was amazing to be back and walk the corridors again, catching up with some of the longer-serving staff, and meeting some more recent joiners. I was really struck by the huge development

work that has been done since I left in 2010 and yet, somehow how very little had changed. The pupils all had the same confident swagger, the same positive demeanour and the same rapport with the staff that I knew and remembered so well from my time at Tommies. Some things, it seems, are timeless.

Tom Grogan (pupil, 2003-2010)

## LEAVERS' 2016 REUNION

Friday 30th June saw the return of many familiar faces to school for the Leavers' 2016 Reunion. Whether it was the BBQ that remained remarkably unburnt (for the most part at least), or the opportunity to catch up with friends, classmates and teachers, the turnout was a brilliant success. Thankfully the weather held out for the afternoon as well, which is always a relief!

Spending the time to reconnect with everyone, students and staff alike, was a lovely chance to share tales from the first year of university, gap year travelling tales and the world of work - dependent on where we'd all ended up. Of course, no reunion would be complete without the memories and 'do you remember when' stories that come with it. Expecting nothing other than the embarrassing ones to crop up, it must be said that a very good job was done on that front - which certainly gave us a good laugh!

The reality of leaving school and the support network created by the routine of school life is that it's never really gone. That much was clear by how quickly we picked up exactly where we'd left off the year previously with friends and the teachers. Overall, despite the majority of the year group having gone our own different ways, whether to the same universities as our classmates or completely by ourselves, the best part was the, albeit nostalgic, normalcy that came with just sitting in the common room and having a good old catch up.

Hannah Naylor (pupil, 2014-16)



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

Tickets for events are available online at <https://strschool.co.uk/alumni/events>.

Wed 28th March Spring Concert, 7.30-9.30 in the School Hall.

Fri 4th May Alumni Open Day, tour the School, look through the archives and catch up with friends.

Wed 5th July 1st XI Cricket Match V MCC, including a tour of the School and refreshments.

Fri 6th July 2017 Leavers' Reunion, BBQ and drinks, 5-8pm in the Sixth Form Centre.

Fri 6th July Summer Concert, 7.30-9.30pm in the School Hall.

Fri 20th July Old Richian Golf Day, time and venue tbc.

**If you would like to organise a reunion with your year, or any other group you were part of, please do not hesitate to contact us at [alumni@strs.org.uk](mailto:alumni@strs.org.uk) and we will be more than happy to assist you with the arrangements.**

**After leaving Tommies I read medicine at the University of Nottingham and qualified in 2011. From there I undertook further training in London and qualified as a GP last year and now work and live in Bath.**

I combine my clinical work with roles in medical education - I am a lecturer at Bristol Medical School and also work for the Royal College of General Practitioners in the development of the postgraduate curriculum for GP trainees.

I married Suzy (nee Champion) who is also an Old Richian (STRS 2005-07) in 2015 and we were delighted to welcome our son Sebastian to the world last year. My brothers Joe (STRS 2001-08) and Ben (STRS 2004-11) are proving to be excellent uncles!

My memories of my time at Tommies are unequivocally positive ones, although they tend to centre around sporting activities rather than academic pursuits. In particular, sport under the

tutelage of Messrs Gallagher, Lloyd and Swann. It was in fact Mr Mike Swann who first taught me how to assess a head injury. In 2006, while the 2nd XV were playing away at Cheltenham College, one of our team took a blow to the head during a ruck. Mr Swann had to decide if the injury sustained was severe enough to take the player off or not.

There was no concussion protocol in those days - instead he asked the boy for the equation of a straight line ( $y=mx+c$ ). The poor dazed schoolboy mustered, incorrectly, " $y=x?$ " - that was enough evidence for Swanny who promptly arranged a substitute!

Garde Ta Foy!

Dr Ciaran Conway  
(Sir Thomas Rich's 1999-2006, School Captain 2005-2006)

## YEARS 12 & 13 PERFORMANCE - YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

**Year 12 and 13 students performed the play *You Can't Take It With You*, by Moss Hart and George Kaufman. The play tells the story of Alice, who is a member of a small, very eccentric family called the Sycamores, and the love story between her and a co-worker, who belongs to a somewhat more 'normal' family. Following Alice's engagement, the family realise that they must change their unconventional ways in order to 'fit in' with their new in-laws.**

Lots of rehearsals were required in order to ensure that this challenging play was performed to the highest standard, but Bradley Dale said that the highlight of the play for him was 'spending lunchtimes with the cast' and 'being able to be myself around them'. Alfie Harrison also said that the cast 'are really fantastic people' who 'helped eliminate the stress of quite tiring rehearsals'. Many teachers have commented on the comedic aspect of the play, with Alfie saying that 'the best bit was getting it right and getting laughs from the audience', adding that 'it makes him perform better'. Following the success of this play, I eagerly anticipate what the future holds for the STRS Drama Department!

Maggie Sawant

***You Can't Take It With You* was the chosen School production for 2016. Centred on an unconventional family with a playwright and a painter for a mother, a father that seems to have no other occupation but to blow things up, a grandpa that only spends his time attending commencements, as well as two daughters and various other characters that are constantly blowing in and out of the Sycamore family living room. This comedy, filled with hilarious moments, succeeded in its venture and had audience members repeatedly laughing out loud.**

The students would be the first to admit that was unlike any of the previous School productions. With Sixth Form only cast members, this production didn't exactly follow any of the usual rules. "I am a lover of musicals but it was not to be this year and therefore finding this play was a joy for me." Ms Jones, production director.

The story begins with the exciting news that Alice (Amy Johnson), the Sycamore daughter, announces to her family. Alice's new boyfriend, Tony Kirby (Louis Horrell), is coming with his parents, Mr and Mrs Kirby (Harvey Youngsmith and Molly Ashmeade), to meet the Sycamores. She instructs her mother not to read them any of her inappropriate plays, the rest of her family to get rid of the drunk actress, Gay Wellington (Mary Ogunleye), passed out on the sofa, and asks her Grandpa (Alfie Harrison) to make sure his snakes don't bite any of the Kirbys.

As may be expected with a dysfunctional family everything goes wrong. The Kirbys arrive a day early and see the family in all its eccentricity. The two families contrast greatly, with the Kirbys being strict rule followers and the Sycamores being the complete opposite. This causes a clash between families and it seems like Alice and Tony's relationship might not last. This relationship is placed in further jeopardy when Mr De Pinna (James Gautrey), a close family friend, manages to blow up the cellar, as well as everyone present getting arrested by the FBI for being suspected terrorists.

All this occurs on the same night of the Kirbys' visit, giving them an impression that Alice and her family are extremely unsuitable for Tony. Fortunately, this story ends happily. Both families reconcile their differences and Tony and Alice get engaged.

I took part in the production as Gay Wellington, the drunk actress that manages to interrupt the family with singing or manic laughter just at the wrong moments. I didn't have a large role in the plot of the play but coming to rehearsal and watching the other students perform more than made up for this.

The cast was filled with talented performers that transformed written characters into the odd, tight knit family of eccentrics that the audience saw on stage. Being part of the cast had other advantages, such as being a part of the off stage 'family' which did embarrassing, but fun, things such as dancing, with varying levels of skill, joking, and laughing together. It was an amazing experience that I am very grateful to have had.

Although this play was filled with funny moments and the oddest of characters it carried an important message, work isn't everything and at the end of our lives, we can't take all our possessions with us. It teaches that money, success or even a powerful title is not synonymous with happiness.

Mary Ogunleye





## DRAMA - KEY STAGE 3 PLAYS

I always knew that I wanted to work with our KS3 students at some point this year, but sharing this experience with two very enthusiastic Sixth Form students has made the process even more enjoyable. Callum and Alfie have been incredible. Their maturity, creative vision and commitment are reflected in their writing and skilful direction.

The students that took part had given up their own free time, learnt lines, offered suggestions, taken direction and fully committed to the plays. I believe that our students have a wealth of talent.

Here are the interviews with the writers Alfie Harrison and Callum May.

S Jones



**Three very different flatmates find it increasingly difficult to live together. Each of them find balancing life difficult and tensions begin to rise. Will Lewis Carroll help them to find a resolution?**

**What made you want to get involved in writing and directing the KS3 production?**

A few months ago, I wrote the House Drama piece for Eastgate and won. I have always enjoyed writing, and winning gave me a bit of a confidence boost, so when Mrs Jones gave me the opportunity to do this, I was eager to accept.

**What are you trying to say to your audience through your script and where did your ideas originate from?**

My script is trying to uncover a meaning behind life. I have taken great influence from the teachings of Lewis Carroll. The conclusion my play comes to is that

everything in life is nonsense, but because it is all we know, we have been able to make sense of everything in our own individual way.

**Have you enjoyed the directing process?**

The directing process has been, well, mightily stressful. I did at one point consider giving up, as it is hard to balance with school work and other things in my life. However, I'm glad I didn't give up as (as stressful as it has been) as I really enjoyed working with the cast and Mrs Jones.

**Would you write and direct a show again?**

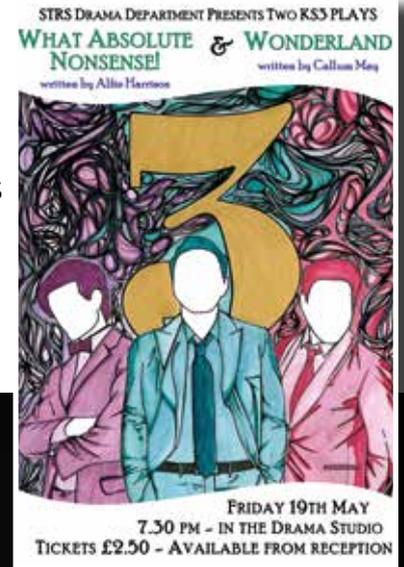
Absolutely! I love writing and I love



seeing everything come together. It is a hobby that I dream I could make a career out of. I think reading Alan Bennett's autobiography inspired me to write and to just enjoy writing and make the most of it.

Starting a new school is never easy and neither is growing up. Sometimes it's hard to understand what it is we're looking for in life. Join Lou, Aaron and Carroll as they explore their own 'Wonderland.'

Poster artwork by Amish Gudur, 85



## WONDERLAND

### What made you want to get involved in writing and directing the KS3 production?

I've always enjoyed writing and directing and have wanted to do it for almost my entire life. After writing and helping to direct for House Drama I've wanted to be more involved in Drama at STRS and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to do that!

### What are you trying to say to your audience through your script and where did your ideas originate from?

I enjoy writing plays and films that have a deeper message in them; a message that can be taken away by the audience in a very Brechtian way. In 'Wonderland,' it's all about the struggles of growing up and identifying. I would hope that the audience can remember how difficult it

was for them to find out who they are, and remember this when their children reach this stage.

This idea originated from me looking at my younger brothers and realising that they still have the difficult period of growing up to go through, and that although it'll be difficult, it is exciting and not something to be scared of.

### Have you enjoyed directing?

I have enjoyed the directing process a lot. It's been such an amazing few weeks to improve my skills at directing as well as learning from Mrs Jones, who has helped this whole process in unimaginable ways. The cast has been excellent the whole time. They've all (mostly) turned up to their rehearsals and learnt the lines they need to. It's been a joy to work with all of

them and I've gained some valuable skills and knowledge along the way.

### Would you write and direct a show again?

I would definitely direct a show again. It's been an incredible experience and I can't wait to move on to the next production!

### What will you be saying to your cast at the end of the show?

The cast have been excellent - one of the best I've ever worked with so I'll tell them just that.

It's been such an honour to work with them and I hope they'll come forward for future productions and future House Drama competitions. Of course, if it all goes wrong I'll never speak to any of them again.

## HOUSE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION - KS5 WINNER

**She sat down once again on the familiar seat which had been a saviour to her so many times. She reached her hands up and grasped the familiar ropes which her hands had grown to know so well. She could feel the sandy earth beneath her, the grass worn away by the skid of her feet a hundred times. She pushed the ground with slippered feet, and felt the familiar lift as she leant back, and began to swing...**

This very swing, such a simple thing hidden in a fortress of trees had taken her to a thousand places; given her a thousand stories. As her feet left the ground she was another person, in a different life. Upon one blustery day she was a sailor, setting out to sea, the crew jostling around her, the sea writhing beneath. A seagull glided above her, its cry lost in the sweeping sky. Her hands firmly grasped the ropes holding up the billowing sails. She stepped into the prow, and looked over the edge, at the white-horse waves crashing against the hull of the ship, swept away again and again... then from nowhere she felt a cold spot on her cheek. Soon the rain came lashing down, streaming down her face; the waves grew higher and higher, ever threatening to crash down upon the deck, and sweep them all out to the blue depths. She shouted into the storm, screaming at the men to hoist the sails, pulling at the rigging with all her strength. They struggled until they had escaped the clutches of the storm, and now moved onwards, the lull of the waves calming with each push, as she herself stopped pushing, and the swing began to slow.

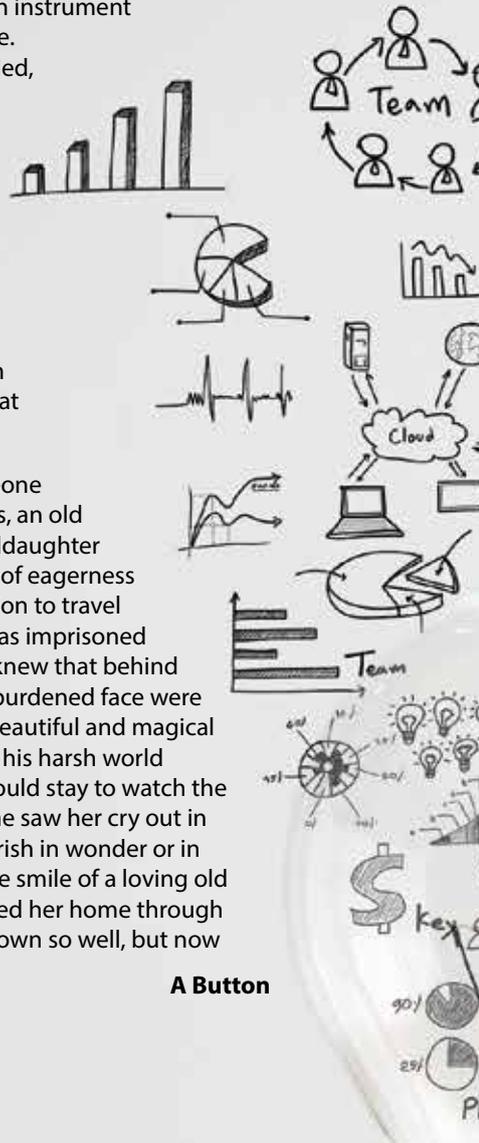
Another day she was there at twilight, the darkness seeping through all the world around her. As the swing slowly went into motion she suddenly was upon a fine horse, clattering swiftly over a stony road. Reins were held in her gloved hands, a mask over her face - she could feel the heat of every breath - and a tricorn hat upon her head. The moon spilled its soft light onto the path before her, and the silence brought a gripping tension. In the forest, the horse's footsteps became soft thuds as they made their way over leaves and mud. They slipped through the overbearing trees, sticking to the shadows, a mutual eagerness inciting every movement; their stifled breathing came in misty clouds. Suddenly with a pull at the reins they stopped in their tracks. She could hear the sound she was waiting for - the gentle roll of carriage wheels crunching on the road, so innocent of its fate. With a kick at her horse's sides, they were off, galloping at full pelt towards their mark. The wind was rushing in her face, its eager fingers trying desperately to pull her hat from her head. She reached her hand for her gun as she neared the road. All of a sudden, the road was in sight, they emerged through the trees, and in a short moment of confusion and disarray, protesting

horses halted the carriage, she sat high in the saddle, produced her gun, and in her brother's voice, spoke the dreaded words - "stand and deliver!".

Often she was in another world, using that simple wooden swing as an instrument to take her to another place. Sometimes stories unravelled, stories with complications, and exciting escapades, full of characters from the books her brother filled her head with. Other times she merely sat and contemplated, the movement of the swing like the pendulum of the clock, going back and forth for minutes, hours, and what seemed like days.

But there was always someone watching through the trees, an old man enchanted by a granddaughter who had once been so full of eagerness for life, with endless ambition to travel across the seas, but now was imprisoned by sightless eyes. Only he knew that behind that seemingly blank and burdened face were a thousand worlds, more beautiful and magical than anyone left behind in his harsh world would ever see. Only he would stay to watch the blind girl swing, and only he saw her cry out in excitement or dismay, flourish in wonder or in terror, and then, smiling the smile of a loving old man he took her arm and led her home through the forest she had once known so well, but now confused her so.

A Button



# creative

**KS3 WINNER**

**The blood in his veins pumps with the rhythm of his feet, unconsciously placing every step deep into the mud with trained precision. They are catching up, the vines whipping his sides, leaving three-inch-long blisters on his body.**

In that instant, without any sound or struggle, the dense undergrowth of the forest evaporates into nothing but dry barren land, an empty void of scorched earth. Without the roots for grip he falls face first into the blazing sand.

He lay there exposed to the radiation, limbs twitching violently from the pain and agony. The wasteland lay barren, scorching and dry. It stretched further than the eye could see, infinitely vast and free of all life forms. Sandstorms would dominate the desert almost daily, sanding down his skin to the bone. He was exhausted and petrified when he would wake from his slumber, and just as terrified in his dreams. His days would pass by as he drifted to and from consciousness on the empty planet. Ghostly spirits chewed at his eyes, seeping in around his vision, threatening to blind him and seize his last sense. He has nothing to live for, no reason left to fight for, so he screams. A cold blooded, spine chilling scream, not from him but from his mouth. It has no purpose, but it is all he can do as his eyes roll back in his sockets and he lies there in the blistering heat.

He awakes in a dark room, the edges of his vision blurred black like a misty haze. He thinks he sees a figure in the corner but as he turns around it's gone. Disappeared into thin air. A sharp scraping sound fills his ears, like a knife to a chalkboard. The pain grows larger with every second until the sounds abruptly stops. The dark figure looms at the edge of his vision once again, but this time he can tell it dons a hood. A cold sharp breath caresses his neck and sends shivers down his spine. The cold hands hold him firmly in place, whilst another breath freezes his mind. He wants to scream, to run, but there is no exit, he's trapped, and he cannot move. The figure raises its scythe above its head and brings it down diagonally; it cuts through like a knife in butter. As his life comes to an end, there's a soft thud as his head hits the floor.

**Herbie Downie**

**writing**

## Worst Week

On Monday my queries went in the bin,  
As my English teacher got snowed in.  
The firemen refused to rescue her,  
So I couldn't ask her what is meant by myrrh.

On Tuesday rugby was really fun,  
I rammed everyone with my bull like run.  
I accidentally broke my leg,  
But at least I didn't need a peg.

Wednesday I woke up in a hospital bed,  
Where I was treated by a man called Ned.  
Next I got my sweet ride,  
I drove my wheelchair with pride.

Thursday I felt my school's arctic air,  
And skidded on the frost with my wheelchair.  
I accidentally hit someone,  
And ended up with a detention.

On Friday I sat out of games,  
Which for me was a real shame.  
In envy I watched the others play,  
And thought "I'll recover someday."

My detention came on Saturday,  
I got the window seat by asking "Please may."  
I copied the code of conduct sixty-three times,  
I know it off by heart, I do not lie.

Sunday, nearly back to school,  
I don't get why some think it isn't cool.  
Most of my homework was a breeze,  
But then I had to eat some deadly string beans!

**Isaac Davies, 7B**

## Waves of Identity

As she was suppressed by the waves; her lungs were filled, but not with water.  
Heart pounding as she ran through the suburbs, turning through alleyways and not stopping to breathe. Her crimson dress trailing through polluted puddles. Seeing a faint glow of supposed safety, but not for her, she was never safe. Then it started to rain, perfectly masking her own salty tears as raindrops streaming down her face, her cheeks red with grief; until it all went black.

She had given up.

Luke Anderson understood very well that his brother was dead, but how he had died was a very different matter. The police station was nearly always empty. 1967 America didn't always have time for crime or mystery, too busy with Elvis Presley and Nina Simone, but Luke didn't have a choice. He had become alone for the first time in a decade. Mr Anderson stared desperately out through the grimy windows, wondering where his brother had been found. After a week without his sibling, he had been expecting his return, but instead this event had made Luke not feel special, like any other average citizen of Boston.

Dull, desensitized and lost.

This broken brother of a forsaken murder victim was still in shock.

Luke stood up and walked over to the police booth in which a husky, heavysset constable was seated, a sugary musk surrounded him. The man's attention was diverted to Luke.

"What you here for?" the man said this with no interest in his voice in the slightest, followed by a weak huff.

"I'm here for my brother," Luke explained, "he died last night," his voice was starting to wobble.

"Well I am so sorry to hear that," that same scripted excuse that he said to all those with deceased relatives, no sympathy involved.

"Unfortunately nobody knows," Luke mentioned.

"Knows what?" the officer leaned back in his revolving chair, intrigued.

"How... how he died," Luke's cheeks had now started to swell and colour, his tear ducts on the edge of explosion.

"At all?"

"No signs of wounds, poison or even organ failure."

The uniformed stranger quietly murmured under his breath, still confused.

No wounds or poison, not even a scratch?

Luke arrived at his flat. His brother had been visiting Washington as he had said he felt he would be more accepted there than here in Boston and had been expected to return. Ironically he had returned, but in a tightly zipped, black bag.

As Luke unlocked the door with a jangling of keys, the cold frosty air consumed the hallway and up the stairs. He followed the frost, as though being tugged by the wind's icy tendrils towards his brother's abandoned bedroom. The door handle was cold and Luke slid open the closet door. He glanced at the array of frilled skirts and blouses, in awe of his brother's favourite dress: a duck egg blue maxi with white strips diagonally spread across.

Smart but elegant.

The abundance of different varieties of lipstick was a vibrant fantasy whilst the white washed walls combatted this. The dressing table; the silk throws on the bed; the bloodstains in the carpet; the used bloody scalpels and razorblades. Luke had always known his brother to not feel right in his own body, feeling feeble and uncomfortable, but America didn't seem to care. America didn't care about depression.

America didn't care about transgenders.

**Blake Birch, 10S**

## The Best of the Senses

The sweet scented smell of cinnamon rolls,  
And the warming waft of freshly baked bread,  
It's the smoky haze of hot burning coals,  
Or the freshly cut grass outside instead.

The feeling you get when your sheets are clean,  
Stepping outside after the pouring rain,  
When your fingerprint works at the canteen,  
Or drifting to sleep when on board a plane.

The soft crunch of popcorn is just the best,  
And the cosy comfort of cheese on toast,  
A cupcake with icing and lemon zest,  
But nothing can beat a good chicken roast.

For some people on Earth it is not fair,  
To lose a sense would be your worst nightmare.

**Alexander Gray-Steele, 9S**

## I Don't Know What to Do!

I was given English homework to do.  
A proper sonnet I had to write.  
But for writing sonnets I had no clue.  
At my current rate it could take all night.

Although good ideas I had quite a few.  
To make them rhyme was as hard as can be.  
To put them in a verse I could not do.  
Writing sonnets is not the thing for me.

Trouble I'd get in if I didn't comply.  
Detention on Friday and tennis I'd miss  
And Mrs Spilsbury would ask me why.  
I didn't try harder to complete this?

I could write all night or even all year,  
But I will not become the new Shakespeare.

**Kieran Anderson, 9S**

## Platform 2

The dark hunched shadow slid down the alleyway. His target stood at the end of the platform, just an ordinary man in an ill-fitting, beer stained, cheap, grey suit. However, this man had unwittingly robbed him of something much more valuable than money. Reaching into his pocket, the assassin grasped the smooth handle of the sharp knife. Approaching from behind, he whipped out the blade and like a warm knife through butter, he skilfully parted the flesh around his victim's neck, producing a wide crimson smile. As the grey man clutched desperately at his throat, eyes wide, gurgling, the blood gushed through his fingers appearing black in the dull light from the fading platform bulbs. The body crumpled to the floor, lifelessly. Checking around him, the assailant pulled up his hood and disappeared unseen into the night.

They had met before, the assassin and his victim, in a court room where he pathetically defended his actions in the dock. The prosecution informed the court of his reckless behaviour. The QC detailed how the defendant left the King's Arms, too drunk to walk in a straight line to his car, let alone drive the fifteen minutes to the high street. After rushing the traffic lights at 50mph he lost control of the vehicle and mounted the pavement. The pedestrians did not see him coming and he hit a twenty-eight year old victim, throwing her into the air and speeding off, leaving her for dead, eight feet from the crushed pram.

At no point did the defendant stop to check on the victims or even to call an ambulance. She died slowly as she made a desperate attempt to get to her three month old baby until the brain haemorrhage sunk her into the abyss.

The first rays of the morning sun penetrated platform two to reveal the police forensic team examining every inch of the scene. "Right, what we got so far?" barked the Cockney inspector. The young PC confidently thumbed through her notebook and read her report. "The victim's name is Steve Knott, thirty-six, lived alone after recent divorce due to alcohol addiction. He was recently accused of drunk driving but got away with a two year driving ban due to an error at the C.P.S."

The black hoodie was removed, slid carefully into a white plastic bag and put aside to be burnt. The murderer grasped the sides of the cream, weathered picture frame with his wife and child captured inside. "Well, my darling, what next?" he asked, "is that enough, we've stopped one pathetic fool from destroying others' lives. Do we seek out the others?" He slumped into the sofa and habitually turned on the TV news.

"Police are seeking a 5ft 6in female who was witnessed running down Church Street shortly after the murder. Unfortunately, CCTV cameras were not operational at the time." Looking at the picture, he announced: "Enough, time to move on."

**Samuel Moore, 9S**



student  
**art**

A selection of Year 13 pupils' work.  
Follow [www.instagram.com/STRSartdepartment](http://www.instagram.com/STRSartdepartment) for regular updates  
from the STRS Art Department.

Laura Ellam, 13L





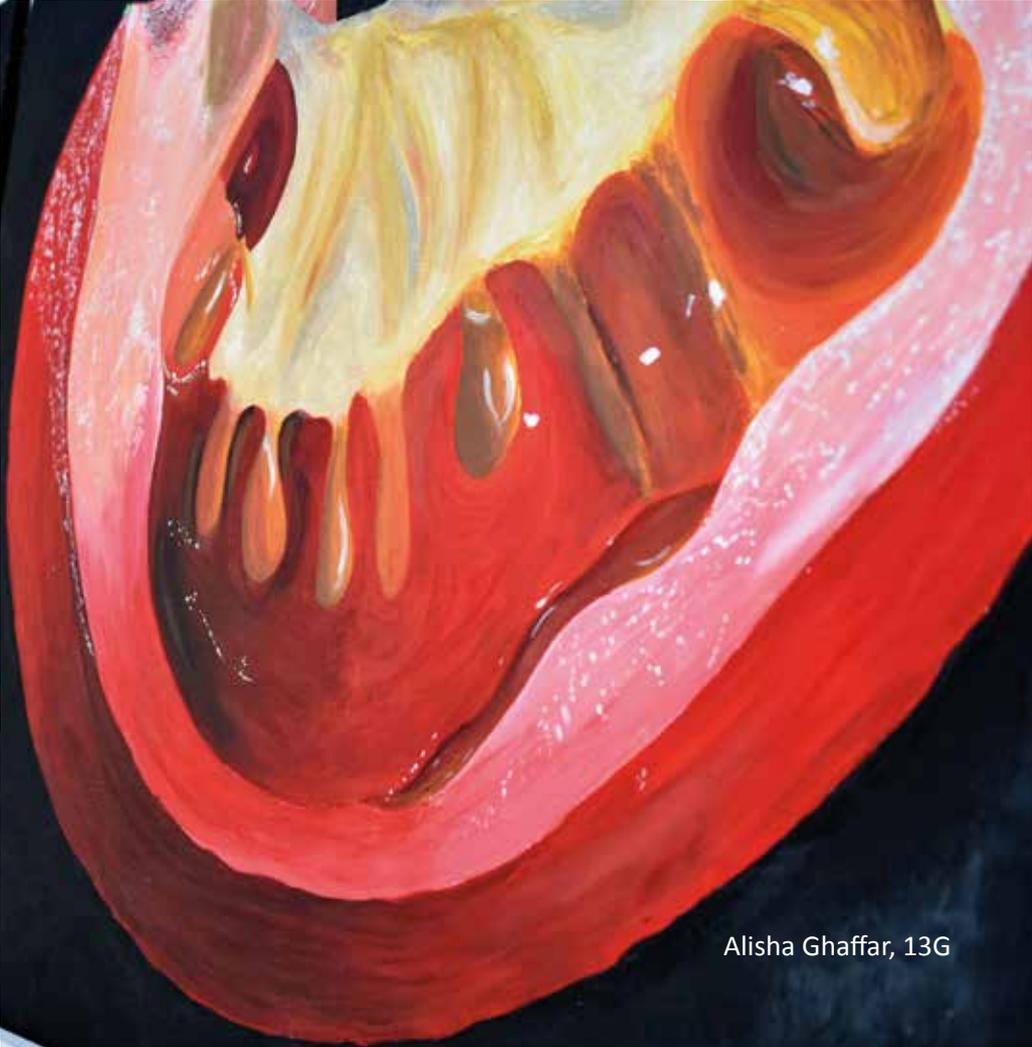
Isabella Norman, 13R



Camilla Delhanty, 13R



Olivia Lawrence, 13L



Alisha Ghaffar, 13G



# NETBALL MALTA TOUR 2018

**We were thrilled to be able to offer the Sixth Form girls the opportunity to attend a Netball tour this year to Malta during February half term.**

As the number of girls joining STRS continues to grow, so too does the number opting to take Netball as their games option on a Wednesday afternoon. Vicki and I are thrilled to be able to play so many competitive fixtures each week and be able to offer A, B and C teams to those schools who have an equally healthy uptake at U19s level.

We took 30 girls, accompanied by 4 staff (pictured right: Vicki Lynn, Debbie Brake, Rhys Davies and Marian Brown), to Qawra in Malta. We worked hard to fundraise for the tour and had invaluable support from three local sponsors; Bovis Homes, Hi-Tech Windows and R W Bearings. Their support has been invaluable and we are very grateful to them for the match balls, bibs and kit we have purchased. We were able to buy a second set of team dresses so that both the A and B team were in matching kit for this tour. Each player was given a tour fleece and looked very smart when they travelled to and from their fixtures.

Every girl was keen to play netball in Malta and represent their school – they were rewarded for their excellent team spirit and commitment with a tour tie to proudly wear at school.

I hope the girls feel inspired to continue to play netball after they leave STRS. The game continues to increase in popularity, not just here at school, but throughout the country. The girls were a pleasure to take away on tour and a credit to the School.

## ITINERARY

### Fri 9th Feb

Morning: Leave Gatwick for Malta at 6am.

Afternoon: Arrive Luqa 2pm, transfer to St Pauls Bay, check in to Hotel Santana. Use of hotel gym, sauna and pool. Early dinner then transfer to Kirkop Sports Complex for the first fixtures.

### Results:

STRS A team v Strikers U21 Won 36 - 25  
STRS B team v NRG U17 Lost 21 - 12  
STRS C team v Strikers U17 Lost 20 - 6

### Sat 10th Feb

Morning: Visit Valetta, capital city of Malta, souvenir shopping and lunch.  
Afternoon: Transfer to Kirkop Sports Complex for the final fixtures.

### Results:

STRS A team v Malta U18 Won 30 - 4  
STRS B team v Malta U17 Lost 18 - 12  
STRS C team v Malta U16 Lost 30 - 11

### Sun 10th Feb

Gozo Jeep Safari. Film night at the hotel.

### Mon 11th Feb

Morning: Visit Bugibba Promenade, souvenir shopping. Lunch in the town square in Qawra. Walk back to the hotel after lunch.  
Afternoon: Visit to Popeye Village, visit the film set of the 1980 Disney musical production Popeye; mini-golf, boat trip.  
Evening: Meal at Mirabelle restaurant in Bay Square, Bugibba then dancing in a local bar.

### Tues 13th Feb

Morning: Breakfast and check out, last minute shopping and sightseeing. Then to Luqa Airport and flight to London Gatwick.

Marian Brown and Vicki Lynn

**The netball tour has been the highlight of my time here at STRS; playing competitive and rewarding netball games against the Maltese National team, as well as spending a week relaxing and enjoying some down-time with my friends and teammates.**

A few of my favourite points of the trip include winning our match against the national side. It was such an amazing feeling, and to have worked so hard all season, it was definitely a huge highlight for the entire team. I also loved the open-top jeep safari. It was a fantastic day in the sun, travelling over to the island Gozo, seeing the sights and visiting the beach. The last night was the perfect end to the tour, celebrating my 18th birthday. The memories and hundreds of photos will stay with me forever!

Georgina Smellie, Y13

**Amongst many amazing memories of our 2018 netball tour to Malta, one of my best moments was standing in the pouring rain, in the middle of the Maltese capital city, my feet soaking wet in my sandals.**

Then, as I turned around, expecting to see some miserable faces, 12 delighted girls fell out of a shop in stitches of laughter dressed in multicoloured, fluorescent ponchos bought for 2 Euros. Suitably attired and ready for the rain, our exploration continued and the sun began to shine. We had a lovely day wandering the historic streets, having a tasty lunch and shopping (Pull & Bear mainly) in our new favourite city - Valletta.

Harriet Edwards, Y12



**We had an incredible time on netball tour! We played our first fixture against an adult Maltese club. This was challenging but extremely rewarding... the 'A' team winning, 32-25.**

A highlight was the Jeep safari to Gozo, getting to experience some beautiful and unspoilt parts of the island. Our second set of fixtures were against the Maltese national side where the teams were from different age groups. Every game was played with determination and commitment and everyone who went on tour got a chance to play and improve. Our tour ended with a night out at an Italian restaurant followed by dancing in a local bar in St Paul's Bay, where we celebrated Georgie's 18th birthday.

Alicia Wells, Y13

**All three teams got to play netball against two different Maltese sides on the Friday and Saturday of the tour. The games were challenging and each team worked well together to play to their best ability in a new environment. All players cheered each other on during the games and our performance improved as the games progressed.**

A highlight of the tour was the Jeep safari to the island of Gozo, a 30 minute ferry crossing. We visited coastal salt pans, windswept beaches and the collapsed arch known as the 'azure window'. We had lunch in one of the historic villages and had time to explore the local markets where the specialities were fig liqueur, salt, honey and lace. It was a very fun day which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Rosie McMahan, Y12

**One of the best trips I have ever been on. It was great escapism from such a stressful period of time with exams looming. All the activities, including the netball matches we played, were so enjoyable.**

The Gozo Jeep Safari was best by far, as I am sure most of the girls will agree. Unfortunately it wasn't the best weather for the majority of the tour, but on that day it was glorious sunshine, perfect for an open top ride in the jeeps. I have never laughed so much in my entire life and it was lovely to make memories with girls who I grew extremely close to whilst in Malta.

Chloe Bird, Y13



A Team, game 2.



B Team, game 2.



C Team, game 1.



# SOUTH AFRICA RUGBY TOUR 2017



**It's hard to believe that we packed so much in to 19 days. Together with five sets of matches against The Langa Township, Paarl Boys High, Bredasdorp, Daniel Pienaar College and Monument HS we made visits to Table Mountain, The Cape of Good Hope, a crocodile park, Big Bay (a white sandy beach near Cape Town), Haut Bay and Seal Island - and we were followed by a pod of dolphins on boat trip to the island!**

We also visited Robben Island, the Cape Town Waterfront, the Langa Township, the famous Newlands Stadium to watch the Stormers play the Chiefs in the Super Rugby quarter-final, the Apartheid Museum, Sun City and three game drives on the Pilansburg Game Reserve north of Johannesburg.

Apart from two very disappointing defeats for the 1st XV at the hands of Daniel Pienaar College in Port Elizabeth and Monument HS in the suburbs of Johannesburg, the squad of 49 players gave a very good account of themselves against quality opponents; the 2nd XV in particular had an impressive tour.

In the first set of games against the Langa Township the 1st XV had a comfortable win 70-5 with tries from Olly Thomas (2), Henry McCloskey (2), Cole Beech, Daniel Walker, Ben Sherborne, Will Sanderson, Ben Gleeson, James Tayler, Seth Price and Matt Lampitt. Kai Hall (4) and James Tayler converted 5 of the 12 tries. The 2nd XV secured a convincing 49-0 win with 9 tries scored by Will Naylor (2), Dan Akiat (2), Fergus Jackson, Jacob Bexley, James Falkiner, Connor Holland and Marcus Rodriguez. The scoring was completed by Will Naylor who also added a conversion.

We knew before leaving Heathrow that our opponents at Paarl were going to be tough; they were the top-ranked schoolboy side in SA that season! With this in mind the 2nd XV's magnificent win against a far bigger side was an outstanding performance. Their 18-5 victory was built on an impressive defensive effort and two well-taken tries by Seth Price and Cameron Wilkinson. Tom Rees completed the scoring with 2 penalties and a conversion. The 3rd XV also gave a very good account of themselves but went down 24-10. Toby Matthews scored a try and Fergus Jackson kicked a penalty and conversion.

In the final game of the day, the 1st XV came up against a very powerful Paarl 3rd XV side and found it very difficult to impose themselves on their opponents.

A couple of soft tries were conceded in the first quarter from which we never recovered, and the final score was 25-0. A positive reaction was needed after this below par performance for the middle game against Bredasdorp.

A reaction occurred and the 1st XV played with a lot more energy, beating a useful Bredasdorp side 22-13. The score-line flattered our hosts and reflected some interesting interpretation of the laws by the ref!

The 2nd XV were looking to maintain their unbeaten record and didn't disappoint the 'Blue Army' in the stand, with a well-fought 12-7 victory. Aaran James and Ben Gleeson scored our tries one of which was converted by





Tom Rees. The 3rd XV match was very close at half time but a couple of setbacks early in the second half made a big difference to the balance of the game and our hosts ran out 40-7 winners.

We left the Western Cape and headed for Port Elizabeth along the famous Garden Route, stopping off at the very attractive coastal resort of Knysna.

Against Daniel Pienaar, located 30 mins out of Port Elizabeth in Uitenhage, the 2nds were looking to make it 4 from 4. They made a tremendous effort against tough opponents and with three minutes to go were just 2 points down with the score at 21-19. However, DP scored a late try to make the final score 26-19.

Tries were scored by Ben Gleeson and Luke Griffin, and Tom Rees kicked three penalties. Nevertheless this had been another fantastic performance by the 2nds. Unfortunately, the 1st XV made a nervous start to their match making a

number of basic errors at the restart and in defence, and soon found themselves 21-0 down.

They responded well just before the interval to get the score back to 26-12 at half time through tries by Cameron Wilkinson and Joe Hocking.

However, the start of the second half was a repeat of the first half and a number of soft scores were conceded from which the side never recovered apart, from a short spell right at the end of the game when replacement prop Chris Holman-Marshall crashed over after some good forward play. The score ended 66-20 with Kai Hall adding a penalty and conversion.

For the final leg of the tour we took a two-hour flight north to Johannesburg. I think it's fair to say that we enjoyed the sight-seeing - three game drives during which we saw a pride of lions and we had a fun time at Sun City - more so than at the final fixture of the trip against Monument



HS, against whom we suffered two heavy defeats. So after two years in the planning, our sixth Southern Hemisphere tour was over and another group of Richians had experienced a trip of a lifetime in a wonderful country, witnessing some impressive scenery and wildlife, and testing themselves against some of the top rugby-playing school sides in World rugby.

C D A Carter



## TOUR AWARDS

### 1st XV

Player of the Tour – Joe Hocking  
Players' Player of the Tour – Joe Hocking  
Most Promising Player of the Tour – Will Sanderson

### 2nd XV

Player of the Tour – Ben Gleeson  
Players' Player of the Tour – Ben Gleeson  
Most Promising Player – Seth Price

### 3rd XV

Player of the Tour – Luke Pardoe  
Players' Player of the Tour – Jack Norman

### Most Promising Player

Fergus Jackson







## SPORTS EVENING & SUMMER FAYRE 2017

The annual Sports Evening took place last year on Thursday 13th July, albeit in a new and improved format. There were new events such as 3000m and 4x400m relay, as well as a summer fayre, where there was an opportunity to 'hook-a-duck' and 'splat-the-teacher'.

On the track it was a momentous occasion as senior school pupils competed for the first time, and it was superb to see the first ever girls' race at STRS. The 100m senior boys' race was much anticipated and it lived up to the billing with Oli Thomas taking the title, to add to his 200m victory, in an impressive 11.88 seconds. As a result of his sprint double he was named athlete of the evening.

In regards to the House title, it was very close but Westgate claimed the title followed by Northgate and Eastgate in tied second.

Our thanks to all those who supported the event, and particularly to the Parents' Association and the STRS staff. And of course congratulations to all of the competitors!







## TWICKENHAM VASE FINAL

**On behalf of Sir Thomas Rich's School I would like to thank everyone who made this unbelievable experience possible. The RFU provided us with an abundance of fantastic opportunities. Playing at Twickenham is every young rugby player's dream and I can't quite believe I was stood there on the day... Win or lose we knew that was going to be a fantastic day out; the RFU even had the match televised with commentary, making us feel like true professionals.**

The match officials provided by the RFU were excellent, their knowledge of the game was incomparable to previous referees.

However, without Natwest's sponsorship and its continuing financial support none of this could have happened. Its commitment to schoolboy rugby has provided thousands of players with an incredible opportunity, while promoting fitness, nurturing talent and instilling a sense of fair play.

Thank you also to the School, in particular our Headmaster Mr Morgan, for allowing many fellow Richians to be there supporting us; it made a huge difference. Mr Morgan's passion for promoting rugby at Rich's is clear, keeping up a commitment to allowing regular rugby tours to the

Southern Hemisphere. We also owe a big thanks to our parents, who have also dedicated masses of time to our rugby, regularly waking up early to drive us across the county and supporting us on the cold rainy days. I think it is fair to say that without them we wouldn't have been there on the day in our washed uniform looking smart.

On the day we enjoyed a great sporting contest between two very determined sides. The game was played in the true spirit of rugby, showcasing a great deal of passion and commitment.

Many congratulations to Dr Challoner's School. Unfortunately, we lost to the better side; you were the worthy winners.

Finally, a huge thank you to our coach Mr Davies. As a team we fully recognise how influential he has been towards our success. Without his strong belief in the success of the team and in us as players we certainly would not have been at Twickenham.

Having lost heavily in many friendly fixtures, we never envisaged reaching Twickenham, however, Mr Davies changed that, working hard to make sure we trained, completely transforming the way we played rugby.

B Gleeson

## CRICKET 2017

1st XI: P13 W4 L6 D2 T1 AB3

The 1st XI under the captaincy of Joel Price had a re-building year. They lost to Pate's for the first time in four years by 33 runs in the first game. In a disappointing performance, Joel Price top scored with 19 runs. Although he captained the side well, he could not find the same form as the previous year with the bat, which had led to three centuries. The run scoring was left to Matt Cox and Saxon Campbell.

After that disappointment the 1st XI went on to record victories against Wycliffe College, KES Stratford, QEH Bristol and Hereford Cathedral. Connor Holland and Seth Price formed a good opening bowling partnership and although they weren't quite as threatening as Shahzad and Pearce the season before, they still managed to be economical and take wickets when required. The MCC game was drawn and the Staff XI game was tied. The Marling, Crypt and Rendcomb College games were lost to the weather and the game against the Gloucestershire Gipsies was abandoned due to rain. The 1st XI suffered defeats against Bristol Grammar, Monmouth, RGS Worcester, Dean Close and King's Gloucester. Lots of younger boys performed well and this will hopefully benefit us next season. Saxon Campbell's 104 v Hereford Cathedral and Matt Cox's 5 for 14 v QEH were particular highlights!

### 1ST XI CAP PERFORMANCES IN 2017

#### Batting

Saxon Campbell 104 v Hereford Cathedral  
 Matt Cox 83\* v QEH, 80 v Wycliffe College  
 James Tayler 55 v Dean Close  
 Seth Price 66 v Dean Close

#### Bowling

Matt Cox 5-14 v QEH Bristol  
 Connor Holland 4-23 v King's Gloucester  
 4-47 v Hereford Cathedral  
 Seth Price 4-46 v Dean Close

## MCCV 1ST XI CRICKET MATCH

It was a great joy to welcome the MCC back for their second fixture against the school, one of 550 games the club plays against schools around the country each year. Once again, they brought a strong team of club members who aim to support school cricket, recruit future playing members for their club and perpetuate a long standing tradition of sportsmanship and cricketing excellence.

Alas, our team was much weakened by a lack of availability following the exam season, when many students take off for well-deserved holidays. We fielded two county players from Year 9, another from Year 10 and some from Year 11. The strength of this team lay in its bowling rather than its batting.

It is the custom in these fixtures for the club to bat first. On a slow and low pitch, they struggled to score freely against some accurate bowling. Wickets fell at regular intervals with no batsman able to exact control. It was with some trepidation that the school's umpire agreed with bowler Joel Price that his delivery was going to hit all three stumps, and after a considerable delay for contemplation, sent Frocester CC's high scoring opener on his way. However, no MCC member would dream of showing dissent to an umpire, even one so lacking in competence as our nameless official.

Fortified by an excellent lunch in the new pavilion, the club declared and set the School a target they never looked like reaching. However, encouraged, by some attacking fields, and plaudits from the opposition, Luke Bond, captain of our Year 9 side, started to play his shots and scored an enterprising and skilful 35. Ultimately, the School rolled over obediently and all those of a suitable age retired to the bar to end a splendid day.

Nigel Pitel



# RESULTS

	1st XI	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	U15A	U15B	U14A	U14B	U13A	U13B	U12A	U12B	U12C	Totals:
P	13	3	12	4	11	5	11	7	12	9	1	88
W	4	1	8	2	5	2	4	4	7	3	0	40
D	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
L	6	2	2	2	6	3	7	3	5	5	1	42



### U15A

The U15A team played particularly well all season and managed to win the Gloucestershire County Cup. They then defeated Sheldon School in the next round before being knocked out by Millfield School in the South West of England last 4 schools. Well done to Mr Pitel and all the boys involved!





## RESULTS FOR THE 2017-18 SEASON AS OF 27/11/2017

	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	3 <sup>rd</sup> XV	U17A	U16A	U16B	U15A	U15B	U15C	U14A	U14B	U14C	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B	U12C	U12D	Totals
<b>P</b>	14	13	8	1	12	1	9	8	2	15	12	3	15	15	9	1	11	11	10	4	<b>174</b>
<b>W</b>	6	10	3	0	8	0	5	3	1	8	3	1	14	6	4	0	5	4	3	1	<b>86</b>
<b>D</b>	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>L</b>	7	3	4	1	4	0	4	5	1	7	8	2	0	8	4	1	6	7	7	3	<b>82</b>

# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL RFC

## Rugby 2017-18 so far ... 1st XV

Under the Captaincy of Craig Johnstone it has been a difficult season so far for the 1st XV. In terms of results the South Africa Tour was a slight disappointment and the side has been significantly disadvantaged during the season, due to injury. There have been bright spots and moments of sheer joy, however it cannot be over looked that we have lost more games this year than in previous years. The fixture list is now tougher than ever, but that is no excuse. Hopefully the boys can pull together and finish the season on a high.

R Williams



Opponent	Result
Langa RFC	Won : 70 - 5
Paarl Boys High School	Lost : 0 - 25
Bredasdorp High School	Won : 22 - 13
HTS Daniel Pienaar	Lost : 20 - 66
Monument High School	Lost; 105-8
Bristol Grammar School	Won : 26 - 25
Northampton School for	Boys Lost : 7 - 38
Kirkham Grammar School	Lost : 5 - 20
The King's School, Worcester	Won : 21 - 15
Monmouth School	Lost : 10 - 24
Old Swinford Hospital	Won : 36 - 17
RGS, High Wycombe	Lost : 23 - 26
Bromsgrove School	Lost : 18 - 22
Pate's Grammar School	Won : 19 - 8
Loughborough Endowed Schools	Draw : 15 - 15

	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	2 <sup>nd</sup> XV	3 <sup>rd</sup> XV	U17A	U16A	U16B	U15A	U15B	U15C	U14A	U14B	U14C	U13A	U13B	U13C	U13D	U12A	U12B	U12C	U12D	Totals
<b>PF</b>	292	315	181	27	283	0	274	240	66	404	172	95	660	290	210	5	120	150	155	55	<b>4004</b>
<b>PA</b>	319	166	170	38	173	0	120	196	72	409	275	51	100	340	260	10	296	260	245	80	<b>3585</b>
<b>PD</b>	-27	149	11	-11	110	0	154	44	-6	-5	-103	44	560	-50	-50	-5	-176	-110	-90	-25	<b>419</b>
<b>Win</b>	42.9%	76.9%	37.5%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	55.6%	37.5%	50.0%	53.3%	25.0%	33.3%	93.3%	40.0%	44.4%	0.0%	45.5%	36.4%	30.0%	25.0%	<b>49.4%</b>

# FOOTBALL REVIEW

The STRS 1st XI enjoyed a very successful season, playing some excellent attacking football throughout. The highlight of the season was reaching the County Cup final, held at Forest Green Rovers FC during the week that saw the local side promoted into the National League!

The year started with a resounding victory at Beaufort, scoring six goals and keeping an impressive clean sheet. This victory was followed up with another convincing display against the same team in the County Cup; this time, the score being 3-0.

Next came two narrow defeats against a strong King's Worcester side (lost 3-4) and Marling (lost 2-3). Despite losing, the boys played some good football and confidence remained high.

Next was a trip to the notoriously tough opposition of Old Swinford. Our team dug deep and came away with a very much deserved 5-4 victory. The spirit of the team was brilliant and the boys were beginning to really gel as a unit.

Another narrow loss followed, with RGS Worcester scraping past to record a 2-1 win.

STRS then went on a four game winning streak, producing some extremely impressive and accomplished performances. Local rivals, Crypt, were swept aside 5-1 before we headed to Cotswold School for the County Cup quarter final. A competitive match saw us come away 3-2 winners. Hereford Cathedral were next to face the buoyant yellow and blues, succumbing to an abundance of power, pace and skill - the score being 6-1. Finally, we headed to KLB for the County Cup semi-final. A convincing performance resulted in a dominant 4-1 victory, meaning the boys had played their way to the game at Forest Green Rovers FC.

A strong St Peter's side were waiting and the opponents were quicker to settle, resulting in a goal inside the first couple of minutes. STRS equalised through Noakes to give some confidence but a further two, albeit scrappy, goals put St Peter's back in the driving seat. The score soon became 4-1 after half time but then the deficit was reduced when Smerdon coolly slotted home a penalty.

The Sir Thomas Rich's side was beginning to play better football but in throwing everything forwards, chasing the game, they unfortunately conceded a fifth. The score line didn't reflect the balance of play although St Peter's did end up worthy winners.

Mr Jobson would like to thank the boys for their commitment, good humour and level of sportsmanship shown throughout the year. A healthy team spirit was maintained and the team was a credit to Sir Thomas Rich's.

K Jobson



OPPONENT	SCORE	GOALS	ASSISTS
Beaufort	6 - 0 (W)	Smerdon (2) Ahmed Bosano Price Kadodia	Ranken (2) Stefaniszyn Ma Smerdon
Beaufort (Cup)	3 - 0 (W)	Smerdon (2) Townsend	Baldwin Townsend Ranken
Kings Worcester	3 - 4 (L)	Smerdon (2) Stefaniszyn	Price Noakes
Marling	2 - 3 (L)	Price (2)	Higgs Mainwaring- Taylor
Old Swinford	5 - 4 (W)	Price (2) Chadwick (2) Ranken	Ahmed (2) Mainwaring- Taylor Price
RGS Worcester	1 - 2 (L)	Smerdon	Ranken
Crypt	5 - 1 (W)	Smerdon Price Chadwick (2) Ahmed	Price Chadwick (2) Ahmed Townsend
Cotswold (Cup)	3 - 2 (W)	Noakes (3)	Price (2) Smerdon
Hereford Cathedral	6 - 1 (W)	Chadwick (3) Ahmed Price Smerdon	Price Smerdon (3) Chadwick (2)
Katherine Lady B's (Cup)	4 - 1 (W)	Noakes Smerdon (2) Ranken	Smerdon Boyle Ranken
St Peter's (Cup Final)	2 - 5 (L)	Noakes Smerdon (pen)	

## GOALS

Smerdon 12, Ahmed 3, Bosano 1, Price 7, Kadodia 1, Townsend 1, Stefaniszyn 1, Chadwick 7, Ranken 2, Noakes 5

## TRIATHLON ACHIEVEMENT

**STRS student, James Chantler, recently achieved 4th place in the ITU World Championships, Elite Junior Race - a remarkable achievement given that James was more than two years younger than his competitors. In the weeks following James' triathlon, I interviewed him, and learnt more about how worked his way up to being one of the best triathlon competitors in his age group.**

### **Is competing in triathlons something you'd like to continue?**

Yes! Although the races are extremely hard and testing, finishing the race with one of the top positions more than remunerates me for all the effort, and sometimes pain, that I put into completing the competition.

### **Where are you hoping to go to from Rich's?**

I love competing, and I would hope to continue to compete at a high level when I move on from Rich's. I want to move onto higher education, and have been looking at universities such as Bath and Loughborough. The support at Rich's has been fantastic and I hope I will continue to receive such sincere support post-Sixth Form.

### **What would you say to a young person thinking of considering competing in triathlons?**

Don't get me wrong, triathlons are very hard - but also extremely rewarding. Hard work certainly pays off. The best advice of mine is that consistency is absolutely key in training. It is crucially important to train regularly, and the harder you train the better you become! The earlier you start the better.

### **How long have you been competing for, and how often do you train?**

I think I started working hard at the three disciplines involved in triathlons when I was about five years old. I train probably around 20-24 hours a week. The length of time I train may seem daunting to some that are considering triathlons, but I focus on the end product of my labours: finishing highly rewarding races! Training definitely isn't something I look forward to on cold winter mornings, but as I said, consistency and regularity is key.

### **Do you favour either running, swimming or cycling?**

Running is undoubtedly my favourite. Despite swimming being my best discipline of the three, it is my least favourite by far.

Joel Thomas



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## OBITUARIES

### **John Ernest Crouch, 1930-2017**

#### **Sir Thomas Rich's Pupil 1941-1947**

#### **Local teacher John Reid remembers former colleague and Richian, John Crouch, who died last summer aged 87.**

Born in 1930, John went to Longlevens School, then to Rich's. He was an absolutely outstanding sportsman, Captain of School cricket in 1947, a Gloucestershire County cricketer, and the star of Sir Thomas Rich's football and rugby sides. He played in the 1st XI at football, then the senior game, and was part of the first successful rugby side the school began to turn out at the end of the 1940s.

After Rich's, John captained the St Luke's College Exeter team that won the 1951 Festival of Britain Cup, played rugby for Gloucestershire and Devon, along with football in both county sides. He was on the books of Chelsea at 17, and played for Brentford, Bristol Rovers and Bristol City. He also later coached national squads at squash as well.

John's funeral, on Wednesday 5th July 2017, was attended by many. There were those who remembered him as a colleague at Cleeve School where he served, first as Head of PE, then as a Housemaster. Also in attendance were many friends and colleagues from different organisations that John had belonged to, including Cheltenham Rugby Club, for whom John had played for many years when they were a first-class side, as well as Tewkesbury Squash Club.

Above all, John Ernest Crouch was respected and loved by all as an unfailingly courteous, most professional colleague. He was in every way a Richian to be proud of.

John Reid

### **Mark Brinley Bryant, 3 May 1952 - 9 August 2017**

Mark was born in Coventry. The family moved to Gloucester when he was four and all his schooling was in Gloucester, first at Elmbridge Junior School, then at Sir Thomas Rich's. It was here he encountered Tony Stocks, as Headmaster, and Michael Rangely and John Winstanley, all of whom he remembered fondly and with whom he kept in contact. In 1971, he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to study Law. However, on graduating he joined the accounting firm, Arthur Andersen. Before he began working for them in Birmingham and studying for his accounting qualifications, he took a year off travelling, including to Australia where he met his future wife, Anne.

In 1978 he moved to Sydney, again working for Arthur Andersen and becoming a partner in that firm in 1987. When Arthur Andersen collapsed, he moved to Ernst and Young, then later to a small Australian firm, KordaMentha. Mark was an extremely enthusiastic football player and played from 1979 until 2017 for a Sydney suburban team whom he organised and improved, providing many happy games for himself and others. He was also a keen tennis player. In 1997 Mark joined the Board of the Spastic Centre of NSW (later renamed Cerebral Palsy Alliance) and he continued this voluntary work until 2017. In 2008, Mark was awarded an Order of Australia medal for services to cerebral palsy and local football.

Mark died in August 2017 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Anne, and children, Julia and David.

Anne Bryant



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