



The Richian

Magazine July 2018



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From The Headmaster

Welcome to the July 2018 issue of *The Richian* - our cover photograph this issue features Year 8 boys in the Biology lab, captured during a photoshoot for the School's new prospectus, which will be out later this year. Though not a comprehensive round up of all School activities (you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the School website at www.strschool.co.uk), I do hope this latest issue gives you a flavour of School life, and an insight into the range of activities that have been taking place here at Rich's as we head towards the summer break.

A busy year draws to a close and, at the time of writing, GCSE and A Level examinations have just finished, preparations are well underway for the School's trip to visit PMM School in Uganda this summer, the end of year Sports Evening and Summer Fayre is about to take place, the A Level Art Exhibition has taken place in the Drama Studio, Rich's teachers have completed over 80 visits to the incoming Year 7 pupils in their primary settings, next year's Year 7 and 12 pupils have attended induction days at the School, and 13 STEM Ambassadors from Year 12 are undergoing training to help them in their excellent work inspiring local primary school children in science. To name but a very few of the many and varied activities taking place within the School through the Summer Term.

However, it is important to recognise that Rich's is not an inward looking school, simply providing a utilitarian service to those who pass the grammar school admissions test. While we rightly value our academic successes, our sporting successes and our extra-curricular activities highly, we are just as proud of the School's place in both the immediate and wider Gloucestershire community. Rich's continues to be an integral part of the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership (GITEP), providing Initial Teacher Training for around 30 trainee teachers between September 2016 and July 2018. As well as working with GITEP, we continue to work with other ITT providers to train teachers in STEM subjects - six students from the University of Bristol and UWE have completed placements at the School in

Science and Maths in 2016-2018. A small number of these trained teachers go on to secure a teaching position at Rich's, but the vast majority leave us to work at schools throughout Gloucestershire and beyond - a fact of which we are extremely proud.

Also this year, Rich's has led an outstanding Primary Science Programme, developing Gloucestershire primary teachers' skills so they can educate and inspire the next generation of STEM Ambassadors. This work, under the guidance of Rich's Biology teacher Joy Mee, has seen a large number of primary pupils from several local schools (over 100 Year 2 pupils from Longlevens Infant School alone) visit the School to pond dip, bug hunt and use equipment such as Bunsen burners in our labs for the very first time.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the expanded Alumni news pages. Once a Richian always a Richian - a fact which the flourishing Old Richians Alumni Association is a testament to, and we are of course immensely grateful for all the ongoing guidance and support our Alumni offer the School, whether that be financial support, sponsorship or through coaching and mentoring.

The next issue of *The Richian* comes out in the winter, and in the mean time you can keep up to date with School life online, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SirThomasRichsSchool and follow us on Twitter at @strsglos.



Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

Rich's Partnership Launches

Sir Thomas Rich's has launched The Rich's Partnership - a way for the School to build closer links with the business community and raise much needed funds.

Since 1666, when the School was founded on a donation from a local business man, successive generations of pupils have benefitted from our outstanding learning environment. We pride ourselves on preparing students for the adult world, collaborating with a wide range of businesses to provide work experience opportunities, taster days and careers advice.

Through involvement with The Rich's Partnership, companies can gain an insight into the needs of young workers, get to engage with some of the brightest minds in the county, and can increase awareness of their business amongst the wider School community.

As a Rich's Partner, companies and small businesses are supporting one of the best schools in the country, well known for both its academic excellence and sporting success. Such an association can be an important business asset; boosting company image, increasing awareness of a company's brand, providing a company with PR opportunities and contributing to its social media presence. Companies are also able to reach an extensive network of parents across Gloucestershire and the South West, plus our Alumni span the globe and include many local business leaders and decision makers.

There are a range of partnership levels available, starting at just £250, and opportunities include company logos on School minibuses or sports kit, banners around sports pitches, logos in programmes for School performances, adverts in *The Richian*



and sponsorship of awards at our annual Speech Night. All contributions go towards our students' academic and extra-curricular education, and help to develop and improve School facilities for both pupils and the local community.

We're also looking for non-financial support in a number of areas - for example work experience placements, careers advice, mentoring and help with interview techniques. If there are any parents who can offer their expertise and advice, we would be very happy to hear from you.

To find out more contact the School's Development Director Vicki Lynn on vn@strs.org.uk.

New Support Staff Join Sir Thomas Rich's



We have welcomed three new staff members to Sir Thomas Rich's over the last few months.

Kate Morgan (pictured left) joined us as Assistant Educational Visits Coordinator at the start of this year. Kate is the administrator for all off-site visits - a big job as that's all the trips, exchanges and sporting fixtures that take place!

Before joining Sir Thomas Rich's, Kate spent 20 years working in educational publishing, for publishers including the Oxford University Press and the BBC. During her studies, Kate spent two years working in grammar schools in Austria and Switzerland. On working at the School, Kate says: "I enjoy the dynamism of being around young people, along with the sense of purpose in the role, and in the School generally!"

Lyn Meredith (pictured right) joined the administration team at the School as Pupil Data Officer & Senior Administrator at the end of June. Lyn has previously worked in a number of primary schools - Meysey Hampton, Bourton-on-the-Water, and most recently, Chesterton School. Lyn's role at Rich's involves anything related to pupil data and records, plus some reception cover. She says she's most looking forward to "working as part of a bigger team in a secondary school".



And last but not least, a belated welcome to Rich Boucher, who joined the hard working site team as Maintenance Assistant/ Carpenter some time back, but became permanent as of December 2017.

Warhammer 40,000 School League Tournament 2018

This year, the Rich's Warhammer Club entered the Games Workshop National Schools Warhammer Tournament for the first time. Two teams took on the challenge of collecting, painting and using the armies of miniatures in the inter-school tournament.

The first round consisted of the local heats. The first heat took place at the Games Workshop in Cheltenham in February. The boys competed against a team from The Crypt School, and managed to win the overall heats, and also had Guy Mitchel winning the award for Best Army and Best General.

The second team competed against Wycliffe College at the Gloucester Games Workshop. The team won the overall round, as well as Finley Hitchings winning Best General, and Joseph Shrimpton winning the Most Sporting Player Award. This put both the teams through to the semi-finals, held at Warhammer World in Nottingham.

The semi-finals took place on the 24th and 26th April, and the two teams spent many hours practicing their games of Warhammer 40,000 at the Warhammer Club, and final coats of paint were applied to their miniatures in preparation.

As well as teams gaining points in the tournament for winning their games, they also gain points for having fully painted miniatures and all the equipment they need in order to play the games, such as rule books and counters. On both days the boys played well, all gaining some wins and losses, but the overall standard on each day from all schools was particularly high, and unfortunately, neither team made it through to the national finals. Guy Mitchel did gain a lot of praise from the judges for his superbly painted army.

Although neither team made it to the final, all the boys performed incredibly well, and they all had an excellent time at Warhammer World. They have also gained some expertise on playing at tournaments, in preparation for next year's School League Competition!

Cheltenham Team:

Guy Mitchel, Ben McLoughlin, Isaac Williams, Joe Eagle-Davis.

Gloucester Team:

Finley Hitchings, James Cassey, Joe Shrimpton, Theo Atine.

Chris Bream, DT



Sixth Formers Lead Science Programme With Local Primary Schools

Sixth Form pupils have been working hard with Biology teacher Joy Mee to deliver fun science sessions for local primary schools - running interactive assemblies, supervising bug hunting and pond dipping sessions at the Rich's pond and wildlife area, and helping primary age children to explore the wonders of Rich's labs.

A big thanks to Rosie McMahon 12H, Ajay Edakkara 12B and Sam Lomax 12R who put in a lot of effort. The following students also helped with the primary school visits to Rich's, and were all really helpful and good at interacting with the younger children: Freddie Elsey 12T, Mohammed Pandor 12T, Joe Gooch 12R, Rasiegha Ketharalingam 12S, Yasmin Patching 12T, Sanchay Saxena 12T, Amber

Fowler 12R, Maaria Lala 12R, Bill Carter 12R, Jess Tang 12G, Laura McPeake 12G, REDACTED 12T, Yasmin Patching 12T, Will Naylor 12R, Zoe Ibbotson 12R, Chris Holman-Marshall 12G, Madison Lynott-May 12S, Olivia Evenson 12B and Edward Newitt 12C.

Joy Mee, Biology

"We would just like to record our appreciation of all the effort made by you and your team of staff, technicians and sixth form students to create three visits to the science labs for our pupils. They have all thoroughly enjoyed being in a 'real' science lab and taking part in practical enquiry work. John and I have learned a great deal about teaching practical science and I'm pleased to report that my timing during the third visit was

so much better that I got through all the planned activities successfully! We have certainly succeeded in our aim of engaging the children in science and whetting their appetite for more when they reach their respective secondary schools in just over a year's time."

Helen Iles, Year 5 Teacher
Meadowside Primary School

"I just wanted to say a massive thank you to you and all of your team (including students) for having us over to pond dip. We had the best experience and the children are so enthused by the opportunity."

Jo Wykes, Head of Year 2,
Longlevens Infants School



Chess Team Match Round Up

The School Chess Club has completed 23 matches this season. The A team has won 8 and drawn 5 of their 18 matches. The B team has won 2 and lost 3.

In the National Schools' Championship, the A team came 2nd in the Bristol heat and progressed to the Gloucestershire and South Wales Regional stage. We won through to the semi-final, but lost a close match to the eventual regional winners. The B team did exceptionally well to also qualify for the regional stage. The A team also came 2nd in the regional heat of the British School's Rapid-play Competition. Unfortunately only one school qualified for the finals at Imperial College, London, so we missed out on the chance of

repeating our fantastic 4th place finish in the National Finals of 2017.

In the North Gloucestershire adult league we finished mid-table in division 3, with a symmetrical result of won 4, drawn 4, lost 4. We have played some good chess against local adult teams, including a pleasing drawn match against Cirencester Chess Club B, and a victory over Wotton Hall C team. These evening chess fixtures give our boys valuable experience in the step up from junior to adult chess.

House Chess was won this year by Westgate with Southgate a close second.

Ian Robson, Maths



DofE Bronze Practice In Wiltshire



Over the last weekend of April this year, 108 Year 10 boys successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice in the Wiltshire Downs.

This is our first year where sheer numbers have forced us to engage an Approved Activity Provider to run the expedition section of the Award. Whilst there is no doubt that those staff who did join the expedition have missed out on enjoying the camaraderie with the large numbers of staff previously involved, we have been very happy with the extremely

professional organisation and the friendly, capable staff at Ocean Rock Adventures. I am pleased to report that this is a reciprocal appreciation. Ocean Rock also commented on how impressed they were at the courtesy, attention and quick intelligence shown by the boys on a whole day of training on Wednesday 18th April. They were also impressed by the boys in the field, their excellent preparation, navigation skills and camp craft. Most importantly, they praised the boys' courtesy and manners, not only to the staff and each other but also through

reports from members of the public along their routes. It can't be everybody's idea of a pleasure, when out on a Sunday countryside walk, to encounter 108 fourteen to fifteen-year-old boys so all credit to the boys for their achievement, and they should be commended for their resilience. I have never experienced such unrelenting cold as we were subjected to over both days, and what little complaints there were, were good natured.

Finally, de-briefing the groups at the end, a common observation was the importance of teamwork and support of each other. This is absolutely key and probably the biggest value of this section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

At the time of writing, 71 boys have completed all three of the other Activities of Volunteering, Physical and Skill, and a further 19 have just one left to complete. We hope all 108 students will have completed these activities before they undertake their Assessed Expedition in July, hopefully in warmer weather.

Sarah James, DofE Leader

Grounded! German Play Wows Pupils

Onatti Productions made a popular return visit to Sir Thomas Rich's on Friday 23rd March to perform the German Play *Hausarrest (Grounded)*.

Pupils studying German in Key Stages 3 and 4 were offered the opportunity to enjoy a performance from Onatti. The play provided another brilliant example of how the learning of a language can be enhanced and made enjoyable through drama.

The professional actors, all native speakers, performed the whole play in German. It was set in a German home and told the story of a young man whose school report was so bad that his mum punished him by not allowing him to go out in the evening. None of our own pupils risked being grounded, though. On the contrary, they not only behaved

immaculately as an audience, some of them also got on stage and took part in the play by performing little roles. Needless to say, the element of pupil participation was particularly appealing to the audience!

Once again the Onatti Company produced an excellent play and we look forward to inviting them back again next year.

Birgit Testoni-Ranken, German



A Visit From South Korea

On the 30th of May, Rich's hosted 37 sixteen-year-old students from South Korean school, Hanmin High, for the day. Hanmin High was looking to establish a relationship with a Gloucester-based school due to the historical links that Imjin, their region of origin, has with the city. In the Korean War, the Gloucester battalion fought in a notorious battle for the Imjin River. Up until 2011, this remained the bloodiest battle by British troops since WW2.

Hanmin High is four to five times oversubscribed, and entry to the Middle School relies upon a points system measuring academic achievement. After Hanmin High requested a prestigious and academic school to match their own standards, Sir Thomas Rich's was seen as a perfect fit.

The day of visit began with students sitting down for drinks and biscuits in the main hall to talk to our own Sixth Form students and teachers, and about each other's school systems and experiences. This was followed by the Headmaster's address, where Mr Morgan thanked Hanmin High for visiting and expressed our wishes to have a long and successful relationship.

Following the address, a number of our Upper and Lower Sixth Form students took Hanmin students on tours of the School, and their students were amazed with the quality of work produced by Sir Thomas Rich's students. The creative arts, technology and sports departments were noted to have particularly impressive facilities. After this, the South Korean students attended three classrooms, where they were pleased by the engaging and challenging lessons delivered. Finally, in the afternoon, a handful of Sir Thomas Rich's students delivered a hands-on introduction to rugby - no visit to Rich's would truly be complete without a taste of this!

At the end of the day, my counterpart reported that we had provided a real insight in to and demonstration of the importance of a wide education for young people. Overall, with the help and dedication of our students, the visit was a huge success. It created the foundations for a thriving relationship, where, ultimately, we hope to establish an exchange program. We look forward to hosting Hanmin High again in the future.

William Marks, History

"The day provided us with a fantastic opportunity to learn about South Korean school culture, we were all amazed after speaking to them about their education system and were particularly surprised to discover their school day began at 7am. A particularly entertaining part of the day were the games of touch rugby in the afternoon. For most Korean pupils, it was the first time they had ever played the sport, however they quickly got the hang of it and it was an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the students further. Overall, the day was a very interesting and enjoyable experience."

George Hawthorne 12C and Benjamin Gleeson 12T



DofE Navigation Practice For Gold & Silver

The day started well back in May with all students on time and appropriately dressed and equipped. Closure of the road through the Forest led to some set back on timings but we still made good time to the two start destinations.

A useful day was spent with both Gold and Silver candidates gaining confidence in map reading, interpreting the landscape around them and developing their navigational skills with compass use and techniques such as hand railing and aiming off.

A few errors were made but useful lessons were learnt, including by staff - not least to make sure they have correctly identified the students before yelling "you're going the wrong way" at some poor unsuspecting family out for a day's peaceful enjoyment of the countryside!

Route maps and cards have been completed and approved for the students' Practice Expedition in Exmoor at the end of July and plans are underway for the Assessed Expedition in the Black Mountains in the first week of September. Students are well



Silver at lunch.

prepared and we are confident that they will have a good and successful time.

Finally, Jonathan Taylor's mother heroically lived up to his expectations in "welcoming" his sheep skeleton find - but please Jono, remember you are travelling back from Exmoor by train.

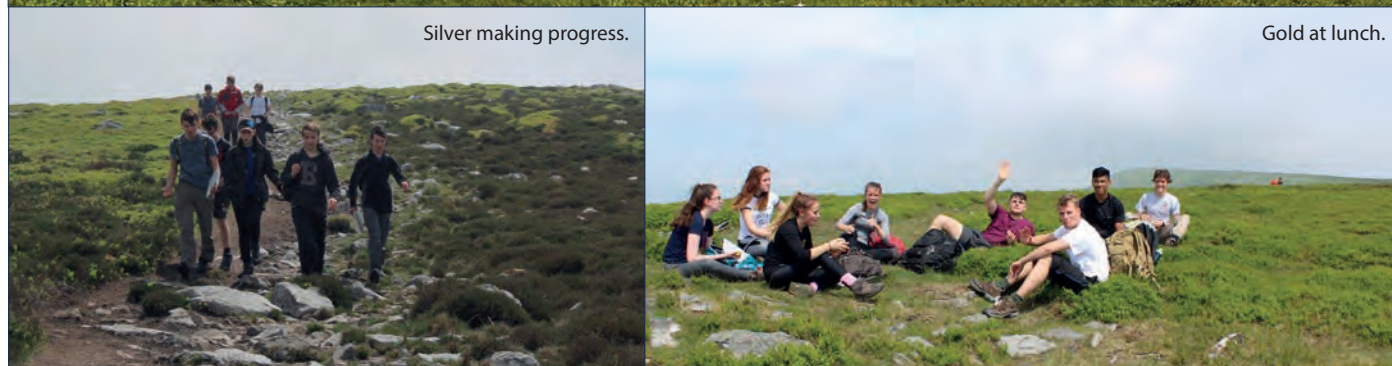
Sarah James, DofE Leader



Silver candidates taking a breather.



Gold nearing the summit.



Silver making progress.

Gold at lunch.

Washington DC Politics Trip February Half Term

During February half term Mr Morgan, Mrs Stroud, Ms Harris and 26 students visited New York City and Washington DC to further examine elements of their History and Politics A Level courses.

The trip started with a two-day visit to NYC, which involved a brief shopping trip to Times Square, dinner in the Hard Rock Café and a look out over the NYC landscape from the Top of the Rock. On day two we headed to the Starlight diner for an all-American breakfast and on to the Centre for Social Innovation, where we were fortunate to meet with Mark Levy, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement who had worked in the Mississippi freedom schools. He posed the question: what in life was worth fighting for? He gave examples of how we must always continue to fight for equality and democracy.

Mark was an engaging speaker, passionate about fighting for equality, and he had a lively debate with our students on the



current American Political climate. Mr Morgan then led a walk to the 9/11 memorial for some quiet time and reflection, followed by lunch and a ferry trip to see the Statue of Liberty.

Later that evening we arrived at our hotel in Washington DC. Our first day started with a city tour from Richard Chema, an ex-federal prosecutor and Congressional candidate. His tour included the Capitol, the White House, the US Supreme Court, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, to name but a few. At the Vietnam War Memorial his very personal account of the impact of the conflict brought many of us to tears. For many, Richard and his tour were the highlight of the trip; his passion for education, justice and democracy inspired many a debate along the route and it culminated in an emotional final few words stood on the spot that Martin Luther King Jr delivered his 'I have a dream' speech.

We were also fortunate to see the recently unveiled portraits of Barrack and Michelle Obama in the National Portrait Gallery and visit the National Archives to see the original Constitution, Bill of Rights and Articles of the Confederation, alongside one of the four original copies of the Magna Carta. A trip to Mount Vernon to see the home of George Washington provided an opportunity to examine the impact of slavery in the US, and provided a welcome rural retreat and slower pace in our busy schedule.

Many thanks to the staff and students who made this such a memorable trip. We will be welcoming Mr Mark Levy who we met in NYC to Rich's in September to deliver a school assembly and workshops about the Civil Rights movement.

Abi Harris, Geography & Politics

Gold Awards At The Palace

On 17th May four of our seven latest Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award achievers were present with their mothers at Buckingham Palace to receive their certificates. Our group was visited by Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, and we were lucky to be allocated an A-list celebrity in Paul Hollywood.

After the royal visit, Paul spoke to the students about the importance and value of taking on a challenge. He also urged the parents and teachers present to take up the 2018 Duke of Edinburgh Challenge to raise funds to help support children from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the DofE Award scheme. He even offered his own challenge with three recipes for participants to choose from. He will judge the photographic entries and give two winners and their guest passes to attend one of the episodes of *The Great British Bake Off*. Google 'DofE Challenge 2018' for details.

It was lovely to meet four of our successful students, Molly Ashmeade, Ed Birt, Heather Christie and Tim Hubbard, and to catch up with their progress at university. Congratulations to them and also Will Hopes, Alice Kennedy and Alicia Wells, who all achieved their Gold Award this year.



The DofE Award continues to be rated by employers and universities as second and third most important evidence of 'soft skills' for the volunteering aspect and in its own right. We value this Award as we also see how the experiences and challenges help our students to develop greater resilience and confidence.

Sarah James, DofE Leader

Tutor2u - A Level Economics & Business Flying Start Revision Workshop

Over 40 Year 12 Economics and Business students attended an A Level Economics and Business revision workshop in March in Bristol. Our talk was split into four sessions, and each of these sessions explored the different topic areas we had been studying during our first year of A Level Economics and A Level Business.

The idea behind going to the conference was to enhance our learning and reinforce our previous knowledge in time for the Year 12 mock examinations. We found it very useful as we as an audience were able to actively question experts in their own field. We were given a booklet at the start of the first presentation which provided us with small activities/questions to complete throughout each session, to get us all involved. Students were asked to read out their answers, and with the help of the experts these answers were finely tweaked and eventually provided us with the perfect model answer. Both the answer and techniques used to reach the answer can be transferred and utilised in our revision.



A key skill used in Economics and Business to obtain top marks is 'chains of analysis'. With the help of A Level examiners we were taught an effective way to use the skill, and shown how it helps us to gain AO4 evaluation marks (which are responsible for a large portion of long-answer question marks).

Cole Beech 12H

Major Lab Refurbishment For L3 and L6

Originally labelled Lab E and Lab F, L3 and L6 have remained the last bastions of the School build of 1962/4. The old wooden benches, metal stools with small wooden seats and the cupboards with dovetail joint drawers were the only areas of the School which had never experienced an upgrade in over 50 years.

In part, this was due to my own love affair with tradition, the memories of 23 years as Head of Department and also the seven years as a pupil. If you listened carefully you could still hear the voices of Geoff Sheard, Graham Middleton, John Jeffries and others still reverberating around after all these years. Even the Terrence Cuneo picture, Evening Star, with customary mouse delicately placed, looked down on today's pupils - oblivious of the picture's history.

However, time and boys and girls had aged the laboratories; the floor surfaces were in poor condition, handles were falling off cupboards and general wear and tear resulted in an appearance unfitting for Richians. It was time to plan for the future.

Uploading the final laboratory pictures of L6 onto my Facebook page resulted in a flurry of responses. Some comments came from classmates I had not been in contact with for over 40 years. They too had memories.

Grateful thanks must be given to all staff who started the journey. Ideas and plans were recorded. Potential financial sources were contacted, grants gathered and donations given. This support made the road as smooth as it could be.

Tenders were invited, a winner chosen and designs analysed, rejected, accepted and modified.

That final day was sad. The wooden benches and stools, complete with graffiti, whisked away by eager staff for use elsewhere. An easing of my pain; benches and stools all went to good homes and are now serving different purposes: as bedside tables, flower stands and tables in a new coffee shop in Cheltenham! Even the DT department grabbed what they could for future projects.

The fantastic help given by so many boys in carrying the scraps to the skip and the screed to the laboratories was much appreciated; the fitting company, Labform, was impressed. Thank you to you all.

Six weeks later and the refit is nearly complete. Where there was dark, aged wood we now have bright modern materials, new lighting, new IT and storage facilities. The end result is much different. Memories will remain - see right for the before, during and after photos - but I know that what we have now will serve the future well.

Many thanks to:

Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity
Wolfson Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Labform

Alan Passey, Physics



Labs before...



Labs during...



And finished!

Year 7 Residential - Osmington Bay, Dorset

At the start of May, Year 7 pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to the beautiful Jurassic Coast. They took part in a wide range of exciting activities, from dragon boat racing to rifle shooting. We were very lucky to enjoy fabulous sunshine throughout our visit. The key aims of this trip were to develop new friendships, build independence and enhance teamwork skills. It was evident to all of the accompanying staff that pupils had achieved these aims. They also impressed PGL staff with the polite and enthusiastic approach they took to all of the activities. Here's what some of the pupils in 7R had to say about their experiences:

"At Osmington Bay I was able to interact with pupils from other forms, as before I'd only hung around with 7R and 7B. This was good because now I have friends in all forms. Also it was good to conquer my fear of heights by scaling the Jacob's ladder and the trapeze, with a large amount of support from my newly formed friends.

"I feel we all encouraged each other and we all benefitted. Another reason Osmington Bay was so good was because of the teamwork everyone used. As an example, you had someone belaying you up Jacob's ladder, and if that belayer wasn't there, you either fell or were not able to reach the top!"

Brendan Lee 7R

"When we went to Osmington Bay I learnt lots of new skills and I learnt how to belay when a friend was climbing. I also learnt how to shoot a rifle which I found really fun. I made lots of new friends in my activity group who I hadn't spent time with before."

Oliver Dyer 7R

"My best part about Osmington Bay was the buggy building challenge. I liked this part because we had to use teamwork and confidence, even though we had one rolling accident with Damien. The food was nice although one morning it was spaghetti in tomato sauce, rather than baked beans in tomato sauce! Another fun activity was the giant swing. I was paired up with Mr Hinds and he surprised me by pulling the 'let go' rope and we swung in the air laughing."

Constantin de Chabot 7R

"The Osmington Bay trip was very enjoyable. We got to do many activities which were fun. My favourite activity was the giant swing. It was amazing because it was a playground swing but bigger and more daring. Furthermore the food was delicious, especially dinner. If I could, I would go again."

Chinonso Oguike 7R

"One of the best things about Osmington Bay was having fun with people that I don't usually talk. On the low ropes course I talked to Leon while we were in a team. I think we bonded more and talked more and became better friends."

Karim Patel 7R

"At Osmington Bay I gained many new friends. I spent time with my new friends doing activities and conquering my fears. An example of this is when I went on the giant swing. I am quite fearful of falling and heights so this was a first. To get it over and done with, I went first with a new friend, Thomas Cox, and we conquered my fears. 'No not bad at all,' I thought to myself."

Thomas Ball 7R

"I really enjoyed the trip to Osmington Bay as we were split into groups with people from other forms. I made new friends with people I had never spoken to. Also I tried out lots of new activities and enjoyed them greatly. My favourite of the activities was orienteering because I enjoyed going around with friends and finding different stations around the centre. We had a map and we had to find different numbers without having specific buildings marked on. The evening activities were also really fun because on the last night we played capture the flag. It was nice to have a big run around whilst trying to avoid capture and also trying to get the flags. One activity I found challenging was the trapeze. I was stood on the tower and I could not bring myself to jump off. After much encouragement from my peers, I leapt off the tower."

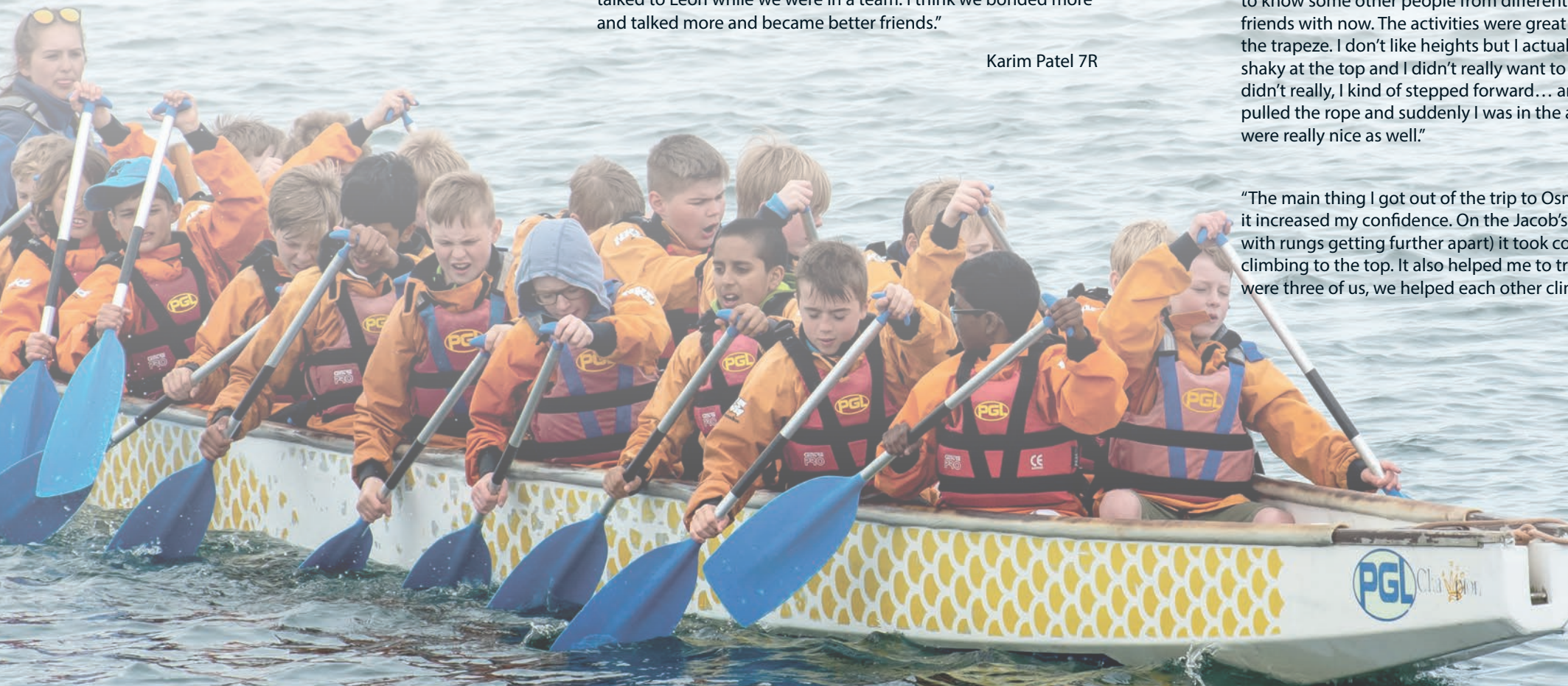
Callum Thurlow 7R

"I loved Osmington Bay. I developed many friendships and I got to know some other people from different forms who I am still friends with now. The activities were great and my favourite was the trapeze. I don't like heights but I actually enjoyed it. I was shaky at the top and I didn't really want to jump off the top - I didn't really, I kind of stepped forward... and the instructor pulled the rope and suddenly I was in the air. The instructors were really nice as well."

Sacha Dudley 7R

"The main thing I got out of the trip to Osmington Bay was that it increased my confidence. On the Jacob's ladder (a giant ladder with rungs getting further apart) it took confidence to keep climbing to the top. It also helped me to trust people as there were three of us, we helped each other climb up."

Ben Parker 7B





The Old Richians Association - Garde Ta Foy!

Welcome to the Old Richians Association section of *The Richian* magazine!

The Old Richians Association's online presence recently had a makeover and we are inviting all friends and former pupils to become members and help strengthen links between Richians old and new. We have four key aims:

1. To strengthen links between Rich's and its former pupils by promoting and facilitating Old Richian contributions;
2. To organise regular events to reconnect Old Richians with their peers and former teachers;
3. To keep Old Richians informed about their peers and school life; and
4. To financially support Sir Thomas Rich's.

In addition to receiving this glossy magazine bi-annually, our members will receive regular email updates and invitations to Old Richians Association events, and can take advantage

of a number of exclusive benefits. Further details can be found on the Alumni section of the School's website at www.strschool.co.uk/alumni - please do also search for us on Facebook and Instagram and like and follow us to stay abreast of the latest developments.

I must make a quick thank you to the School for their efforts in re-energising the Association - in particular to Vicki Lynn, the School's Development Director, for her energy and patience. Also a thank you also to those Old Richians who have contributed to this issue of *The Richian*, your support is much appreciated. If you have any questions, would like to discuss your contribution to the School, contribute to future editions of *The Richian* magazine or get involved with the Old Richians Association itself, please contact me at alumni@strs.org.uk. I would love to hear from you. Garde Ta Foy.

Tom Grogan (pupil, 2003-2011)
Chairman, Old Richians Association

Spitfire Experience

Brian Roberts, a pupil at Sir Thomas Rich's from 1955-1958, has very kindly shared his chance of a lifetime flight in a Spitfire with our pupils.

Brian said: "The whole experience was simply magical, one that I shall never forget and will always recall with a broad smile on my face."

"Although it was a wonderful joyride for my friend and I, we cannot but remember that for so many brave men during the Second World War it was not a joyride and so many of them never came back to tell the tale - and neither did we take off with the very real risk of being shot down by enemy fighters!"



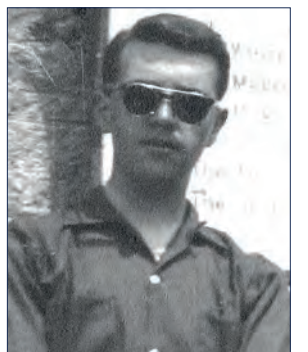
Alumni Profile: Michael Sykes

Years at Rich's: 1954-59

Honours: In the final year of a relatively undistinguished scholastic career, was appointed School Timekeeper/Bellringer at Barton Street 1958/59 - never missed a period other than when off site or during GCEs. Former Hon. Sec. and Senior Vice-President ORA (original Old Richians' Association). Note the apostrophe!

Memories: Geoff Sheard encouraged my love of physics. J R Nicholas inspired my love of English literature. Frank Bradford inspired my love of the English language and ability to précis long texts. John Burrow encouraged my interest in foreign languages. Howard Terrington and David Joseph who, reluctantly, tolerated my loathing and avoidance of ALL things sporting. Idris (Ike) Williams who made Chemistry seem so simple. Cold showers in the PE changing room. Cold, highly chlorinated water at Gloucester Baths. The old bus at Elmbridge.

Life & career: Studied for HND (Electronics) at Gloucester Technical College. Joined Debenham Group as Management Trainee., establishing Bang & Olufsen Sales Division, followed by SONY Sales Division. Departed Gloucester 1969 establishing SONY UK Ltd as independent company in London, leaving in 1984 following European reorganisation. Joined Renishaw plc in Wotton-under-Edge 1985, retiring 2008, then was found various voluntary jobs.



Advice to current pupils: Keep things simple. If it ain't broke - don't fix it! Keep smiling - it worries the hell out of people if they think you know something they don't. Above all, be kind!

Obituary: Eric Lewis, Pupil 1938-1943

Eric was born in May 1927 in Clegram Road, his Dad a bus driver; his Mum had worked in a shirt factory before she was married - she always made her husband’s shirts.

Both he and his elder brother, Roy, went to Tommies, Dad from 1938 to 1943. His School reports (there are two for the archives in the papers) indicate he was not the most dedicated student but he came into his own when he and Roy joined the School Air Defence Cadet Corps (which became the Air Training Corps) in 1940 - his report card for that shows an exemplary cadet.

Roy reached Sergeant and Eric, Corporal. He made his first flight in October 1941 and retained a life-long love of flying, making his final flight in 2011 at the age of 84 when he and Roy went to Hullavington airfield to help celebrate 70 years of the ATC.

Dad took his flying log book with him to enter the flight; the last entry was 1945. He also took part in the 75th anniversary celebrations.

To his teachers’ amazement he didn’t do too badly in the School Certificate (the predecessor to GCSEs and O Levels), passing seven exams and gaining Credit in six subjects.

The only one he failed was History, ironic really as he later became very interested in History and became a Guide to

Gloucester after he’d retired, once again astounding everyone by passing the relevant exams - we were really proud of him and the visitors loved his talks, all delivered in a broad Gloucester accent.

In May 1944 at the age of 17 he volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm and was called up in March 1945. His service record is included in his papers. He trained at HMS Daedalus in Portsmouth and then Clyffe Pypard near Wotton Bassett in a Tiger Moth (he tried to go up in a Tiger Moth for his 90th birthday but his GP advised him against it, much to our relief).

He travelled with the Fleet Air Arm - though sadly not flying; they had enough pilots - visiting Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Singapore and in Australia, Freemantle, Hobart and Sydney; and Hong Kong, where he met up with Roy who was in the RAF.

He was particularly pleased that he obtained the necessary authority for the removal of the old School gates in Eastgate St and organised them to be re-erected either side of the score board on the School’s bowling green.

He was also very much a family man being a very good son, brother, etc, and he and Mum had been married for 66 years when he died.

Alumni Profile: Harry Young

Years at Rich’s: 2003-2010

Honours: School Captain.

Memories: I look back with very fond memories. A range of characters, using different methods to create an engaging place to spend our teenage years. Some would tell stories, others would dictate at speed, with the occasional DVD for good measure. The ‘fun’ may not have been obvious at every moment of the day, but students and teachers shared a lot of laughter, and all staff (in and out of the classroom) did a very good job at creating an environment where we were motivated to learn and develop.

Sport played a huge role in my time at Tommies. The School offered so many different sports, at different levels, which was the perfect platform for me to try new things, before I focused in on rugby. I was lucky enough to play sport with some great friends, even travelling across the world to compete.

From the Year 9 cricket tour to Jersey, to the rugby tour along the east coast of Australia, the School provided some spectacular opportunities and experiences. In the latter years, I

would passionately follow the School band, Coxon’s Riot, around the Gloucestershire ‘gig scene’ - a fantastic group that did so well to bring the year group together through music.

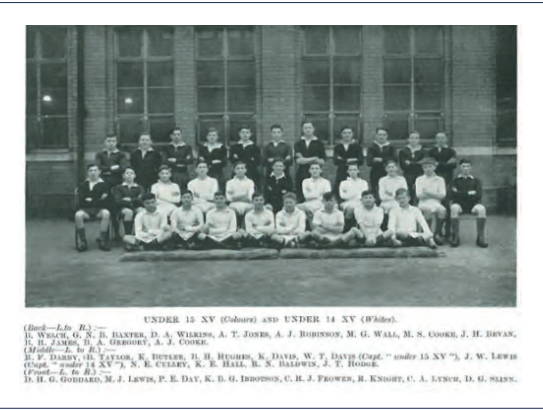
Life & career: I took a year out after leaving Tommies before heading off to Bath to study economics. I then completed a graduate programme at RBS before moving into a ‘fintech’ startup, owned by RBS.

More recently, and alongside the startup, I’ve set up an online pet supplies business - Mabel’s - a brand centred on my dog. The dog towels are flying and more products are on the way - to be sold globally!

Advice to current pupils: Try everything that you have time to try, and take the opportunity to learn with an open and positive mindset.

The chance to learn about so many different things won’t be handed to you on a plate after you’re gone, like it is at Tommies.

Chat to everyone, don’t take things too seriously, work hard and make the most of what the school has to offer.



Obituary: Brian Hughes, Pupil 1944-1951

My father, Brian Hughes, who would have attended Sir Thomas Rich’s in the 1940s and had been an Old Richian for many years, sadly passed away after a series of illnesses, on May 20th.

In his time at the School, he would have played in the rugby and cricket teams, following both sports at many levels for the rest of his life.

Brian is pictured here in the middle row, fourth from the left.

Upcoming Events For Alumni

- Fri 20th July Old Richian Golf Day. Time and venue TBC.
- Sat 21st July Old Richians v 1st XI Cricket Match. An afternoon of cricket for our Old Richians who will be challenging the School’s First XI cricket team, followed by an Indian Buffet in the Sixth Form Centre. ORs are very welcome to join us as spectators and for the post-match buffet. See www.strschool.co.uk/alumni/futureevents.
- Sat 29th Sept 5, 10 and 15 Year Reunion. We would like to welcome back 2003, 2008 and 2013 leavers for a small reunion to look through archives and catch up with friends. A buffet lunch will be served in the Pavilion and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased in advance at www.strschool.co.uk/alumni/futureevents.
- Sat 6th July 2019 Advance warning! 2019 Summer Ball, 7pm at Sir Thomas Rich’s, carriages at 1am. Three-course meal, magician, gin bar and prize draw. £45 per person or £400 for a table of 10. Contact vn@strs.org.uk to book.

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 and we will be more than happy to assist you with the arrangements.

Remembering Rich’s - Five Years On

I realise it’s been about five years now since I left Sir Thomas Rich’s, and ten years since I joined the School, and I got to thinking about what a fantastic experience those five years of my life were!

Looking back at all the classes, trips, sports matches and just the atmosphere of the School I feel a real sense of pride, and whenever I see the buildings as I pass by on the train from home to university I always look out the window and think about the opportunities and support you provided for me during my time there.

I was hoping you could let the people who taught me know that. Even though I did leave for Pates after some great advisory talks with Mr Gallagher, Mr Seales and Mr Gladwell, I still think of myself as a Tommies lad!

Anyway, I thought you might be interested to know how I’m doing these days. I’m currently achieving a First in a Masters Degree in Physics (thanks to you Mr Passey and Mr Johnson) from the University of Surrey, and am on a year-long research

placement at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Knoxville Tennessee, assisting Nuclear Astrophysics research. I joined the swimming and water polo club at university, playing matches, attending meets and helping organise the club as a committee member. I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years here so far. The university is fantastic and I would be happy to advise anyone interested in applying.

Again I can’t emphasise enough how great Tommies was, from the Stratford and Lake District trips in Year 7, the Geology classes, the crazy D Team rugby matches, the fantastic teachers, the Uganda link trip, the careers advice, the after-school clubs and, of course, the opportunity to walk around Longlevens in a bright blue blazer.

I hope the School and all its people are doing well.

Joey O’Neill

Obituary: Tom Smith, Former Language Teacher, 1970s-80s

Tom Smith, former language teacher at Sir Thomas Rich’s in the 1970s-80s, passed away 22nd February 2018 at the age of 84 after sadly suffering with Alzheimer’s over the last few years of his life.

The Learning Resource Centre

LRC Manager - Judith Case

The LRC has seen some changes over the last year with a new full-time Learning Resource Centre Manager, Judith Case, in place every day from 8am until 3.30pm.

"A Cambridge graduate, with a BA Hons degree in English followed by a PGCE from Nottingham University in teaching English to secondary level students, I have 16 years of teaching experience in a variety of schools - from state secondary and primary, to international and an independent prep school, where I was the Head of English for six years.

"A change of direction recently began with a Master of Science degree in Information Management at UWE, from which I have just graduated.

"All of this has brought me to Rich's, where I manage the Learning Resource Centre and the Archive.

"My interests are very focused on reading, writing and creative arts, as well as gardening and long walks in the country with my dog. I have four children, two of whom are still seeing their way through university. I have lived in Holland, France and the USA, as well as many different places in the United Kingdom."



Judith Case, LRC Manager

This Year's News From The LRC

The LRC is a fabulous resource for the whole School - light, airy, versatile and well stocked with over 8,000 physical resources and a wide range of online and paper copy subscriptions to magazines, reviews and newspapers for students at every level. It is a great place for the whole School to work collaboratively and in silence.

It is also a social space at breaks and lunchtimes where students can browse books, read in the Quiet Corner, play board games, finish homework, do research, use the computers, print out homework and be supported in their studies.

The LRC is situated in the Sixth Form Centre and the Sixth Form students can work in their own elevated space on the mezzanine, or on the lower level. I work closely with the Sixth Form team to meet the students' needs as they progress through their A Level studies. Having had the experience of four children going through university over the last decade, I hope I am able to assist in guiding them and in providing the resources which they need to support their higher education requirements, including resource lists, which prepare students for university applications. I also teach research skills and liaise closely with departments to meet the needs of the curriculum.

The LRC stock needs to remain current and relevant, and to that end it is undergoing a lengthy review. Teachers from all departments are invited to work with the LRC Manager to keep the right books on the shelves, and we continue together to encourage students to read as much as possible. One way reading is encouraged is through the Denner Blue Coat Best

Book Award, which for the first time has been a joint enterprise with the High School For Girls. Similar to the Carnegie Award, students in Year 9 elect to read ten books in as many weeks, and then make presentations on the books in teams made up of girls and boys. Year 9 then votes for the shortlist of five and the boys regroup to promote the five remaining books to KS3. In July a vote will reveal the book of most interest to students in KS3. This is a great way of encountering books from different genres and provides a real focus to reading. Blue Coat Award books also find their way onto the Reading Challenge Lists - bronze, silver and gold for students in Years 7 to 9.

This year we have been very fortunate to have a new Library Management System called Accessit. Through the WebApp all students have access to the entire library catalogue in School, and at home through remote access. Students can locate, reserve and renew books; write reviews; access Quick Lists designed to give suggestions about books to read; and access a wide range of websites in their searches for information through the One Search facility.

I am currently trying to make the catalogue as user-friendly as possible. Each book, wherever possible, will carry a summary and notes and will be linked to other digital resources which students can click on to go directly to relevant websites. Searches should become increasingly more fruitful, as the bank of tag words expands. Accessit also has a great home page full of news, book suggestions on a rotating carousel, up to date information, competitions and embedded links for students who want to go that bit further. This is a work in progress

and a real asset to any student's independent research and leisure reading. The LRC has many online resources which allow students to read scholarly articles on vast databases. To complement this, students can borrow from their local libraries, where they can arrange Access to Research and can borrow books through the inter-library loan systems. This year we have added to our digital resources with Massolit and with a great news source called *The Day*, where the news is never fake, can be read in many different languages, and has linked-in activities which allow the students to develop their thinking about many topical issues. Teachers are using these resources for discussion and debate, and families also have remote access to this newsfeed. Students aged 16+ can also sign up to free access to the *Financial Times*. This year, the LRC has a very committed team of Year 7 Library Monitors who work a rota system in lunches and break-times, and whose role is developing from mainly an administrative one to advocacy for

books and promoting reading. There is additional support from those students who choose to fulfil some of the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh Award by volunteering in the library. It is great to see so many willing helpers in the LRC, creating a space which is owned more directly by the students.

During the year the LRC promotes reading through a number of national events such as National Poetry Day and World Book Day. We have also been lucky to host a spiritual art workshop in the LRC, and we invited the author, Steve Cole, into School last summer to talk about writing. This was a great hit with Year 8. Events such as these all help to nurture that love of reading which underpins our children's success through school, and which we endeavour to inspire.





student
art

A selection of work photographed at the
A Level Art Exhibition on 27th June. Follow
www.instagram.com/STRSartdepartment
for regular updates from the Art Dept.

Helene Wotruba 13R



Alisha Ghaffar 13G



Blake Mainwaring-Taylor 13L



Helene Wotruba 13R





Craig Jones 13R



Alisha Ghaffar 13G



Georgina Smellie 13C



Craig Jones 13R



Daniel Christie 13H

Food Glorious Food Tech!

Food Technology is a busy and vibrant Department. Here, boys from Years 7 to 9 learn about all aspects of food including nutrition, health and safety, how to be part of a team and, most important, the valuable life skill 'how to cook'.

It is a real pleasure to watch the boys grow in confidence learning new cooking skills and being independent in their practical sessions. Our aim is to inspire the boys to keep on cooking and trying new recipes. Growing in popularity are the informal workshops for small groups. These are run during the lunchtimes on an occasional basis. We have to date done fudge, apple cake, pasta, sausages and lemon curd. The possibilities are endless. Here are some of the boys' photographs and their stories.

Lanie Phillips, Food Technology



"A few weeks before the Easter break, I was lucky enough to be selected to participate in a lemon curd workshop. It was very fun and interesting because I have had lemon curd before many times in my life but I have never known how it was made. Once we made it, it was lovely."

Aahan Patel 7T

"I find Food Technology an immersive experience. It is enjoyable as well as educational; we learn how to cook meals in a safe, nurturing environment."

"We learnt more than just how to cook and bake, we are also being made aware of kitchen dangers; we have learnt many techniques including knife skills and the rubbing in method. I particularly enjoyed icing Easter cakes as we learnt how to pipe icing, this was fun but challenging, we also put our knife skills into practice cutting mini eggs."

Isaac Davies 7B

"On the 22nd and 23rd of February, five of us, James Hanney, Patryk Zawadzki, Shivam Patel, Leo Woodward and Finlay Rayner made sausages with the help of Mr Bream and Mrs Phillips, who provided great support and resources in the rewarding process. We made two different types of sausages of a flavour we decided then, using a variety of tools and techniques."



"We got to learn a lot of different cooking techniques as well as some history on sausage making, such as the reason they are called bangers (it is due to the fact that during WW2 more water was added to sausages as meat was rationed so the sausages created large pockets that would pop when cut into)."

"We got to use some special equipment used to make sausages, such as the mincer which took larger pieces of pork belly and cut them down to size that would fit into the sausage skin. We also added ready-minced pork to the sausages as these contained less fat. We made two flavours both chosen by us. One flavour was a spicy kind using a garam masala. We also added brown sauce and lemon juice to contrast the spice of the garam masala. The other was a Cumberland style. This one included herbs like rosemary and thyme. For all sausages, a lot of water must be added to prevent dryness, as well as broken up wholemeal crackers to bind the meat together. Both sausages were effective and tasted great. We had to experiment with the amount of each flavour for the meat we had. After a lot of trial we finished the sausage meat."



"To add the meat into the skin we used a special sausage stuffer that wound the meat forward into the skin. The speed was important to the quality of the filling of the sausages."

"After this, the long sausage was twisted round in places to form separate sausages. Eventually, we had an abundance of high-quality, finished sausages."

"Overall, the experience was very fulfilling and helped us understand more about the hard work of making sausages. We found it very rewarding, especially when we were eating the sausages!"

James Hanney, Patryk Zawadzki, Shivam Patel,
Leo Woodward, Finlay Rayner 9T

The slow and sensual glide almost took forever. Blue, green and red light was splashed across the paved road that took me to the future. But the future of what? A man stood in front of us with his back turned, hands clasped so tightly they glistened white.

Tuneful notes gushed out of multi-coloured pipes fanned out across the wall; I imagined the slender fingers that played them. I looked to my left. The glittering veil that covered her face seemed to dance in an imaginary breeze; the same breeze that could take her away from me. And yet, I was ready for it, even, excited for it. Was I prepared to let go after all these years? I would have to. And so, the walk carried on. I tried to block out all of the beaming faces around me, but I couldn't. I didn't know what to do or where to look! I had

I woke up for the first time, in a box. Every day was the same, wake up, fight for milk and sleep. Until one day I heard a voice of a boy.

"Please can I have a puppy dad, please, please, please?"

"Okay, okay fine!"

From that day onwards I was part of a different pack. There was mum, dad, Jake, who I started to realise was the name of the boy, me, Sam and Oscar the goldfish. Every day dad would leave the house early, mum would stay at home, and Jake and I would go out into the garden to play. I realised I started to grow a tail which was something I could try and catch when we weren't playing ball. Life was great!

After some time, mum, dad and Jake would leave the house leaving me on my own. Well Oscar was there too but he wasn't there for long when I learnt how to push over the fish tank!

just been told to keep walking. Desperately, I clutched at her hand. She met it and smiled. Somehow that reassured me. We were getting close now. At this moment, I had expected to be scared, but I wasn't. It was like my daughter's confidence had leaked into me. Her mother always was the bold one.

Suddenly, I felt her hand slipping away from mine and I knew it was time. From then on, it was almost like I was in a dreamland. Everything seemed to be on fast forward. And then, I heard her voice tinkle "I do," and my daughter was married.

Benji Cartwright 9S

Fish does taste delicious! One day they left the door open by accident so I decided to look around at the other dogs passing by. Then I spotted a cat on the other side of the road, without thinking I legged it across the road and I was so close to catching it before...

BANG!

I thought to myself, this is it... this is the end.

Then suddenly I woke up and somehow I was fine. There was mum dad and Jake. Everything was normal once again. Dad left home early, mum would stay at home and I would go out to play with Jake. However, one day, Jake left with dad and came back with a box. Something was moving in it. Could it be another goldfish, a dog, or perhaps a...

Suddenly it jumped out and I realised... It was a cat!

Nathan Jiang 7B

student

writing

A selection of work from Years 7 and 9, plus the winning pieces from this year's House Writing Competition.

The day had finally come. That mysterious brown package was about to be used. He awoke early that day, ready for the surprise his elder had in store. He raced down the mountain in his dirty, white T-shirt and his absurdly short pair of shorts. He refuelled before he set off, and shortly after he was ready. When he and his guardian had approached the wilderness, he felt a sense of anxiety. Overwhelmed by his surroundings, he persevered and successfully made it across the jungled path.

He was almost there and he began to feel panic; doubt. The first thing he saw was the murky swamp surrounding by tessellating vegetation, and then the huge brown buildings covered in green and fruit. But that was not the most nerve-racking part - standing in front of him were the towering contraptions covered in a coat of yellow and blue. The area around him made him feel as small as the flies that attempt to steal his food. His guardian, however, just stood and watched; her eyes followed him everywhere he

moved. Feeling timid, he began to climb the unstable runs to reach the peak, where he felt a rush of adrenaline circulate around his body. Now he felt like the one in control; the most important person around. However, this moment was short-lived as he was spontaneously projected through the air before he landed on the soft grass. His guardian forced him along, further away from the area. He was out in the open when suddenly she opened the mysterious brown package.

The content inside was simple - a kite. His guardian released it into the air with a jolt and the boy lay mesmerised - he stared at the object in front of the large, white, fluffy clouds, feeling a sense of relaxation. Then suddenly, he was in control, and the adrenaline from earlier came back. The boy was flying the kite! With his guardian by his side, he whispered with excitement, "Thank you, Grandma" and the boy and his grandmother walked back from the park.

Charlie Sterry 9S

A blazing ball overhead, Avery turned the key and attempted to strain his ears to listen to the satisfying 'click' of the lock. Noises. All around him. Everywhere. It was like being back at school when it was home time. He turned to see car after car after car. All beeping their horns like angry monkeys. Avery took a step forward relishing the sound of his flip-flops and pulled his hat down to shelter his blonde, curly hair. He took tentative steps, one after another. After all, he had never crossed the road on his own before...

Avery looked left. Then right. Then left again. Cars everywhere. But when to cross? He remembered his mother's words: "Take your time" and "be careful". They were all too familiar in his head. As Avery pondered, he reached down to his pocket to see if it was still there. The object that gave him a sense of responsibility. Of trust. Of freedom. A five-pound note.

Avery had never been given real money before and he was going to make sure this wouldn't be the last. At the humble age of six, all he had ever been given was chocolate coins. His fingers clasped tight around it and he took it out, staring at the face glaring back at him. "Old, ugly and weird," he thought out loud. As he stood there, Avery noticed a little girl, younger than him. Her eyes pierced

directly into Avery, her face contorted in curiosity. He waved hello only to get a glare from the driver's window. As the light turned to red, Avery knew what to do. He walked and with his eyes glued to the signal, he reached the other side of the road. Now all he had to do was walk straight ahead. To the place where he was commanded to go. The corner shop.

A wild wind started to pick up. The autumn leaves picked back up from the ground suspended in the air. As he sauntered down the pavement, Avery stroked the flowers arranged in baskets as if they were sweet chocolates arranged neatly in boxes. Beautiful chrysanthemums caressed his face while sweet-smelling lavender made him feel at peace with himself - away from his mother's persistent nagging. He paused. Something else was flying away in the gusts of wind. It wasn't a leaf. Something else... Avery watched on in wonder. As the object flew around in the gusts like a puppet, a face was revealed. An old, ugly and weird face.

Panic flared up inside Avery. What would he do? Where would he go? An invisible gale of fear pushed him back. He took a step to steady himself, his heart racing as fast as an eagle soaring through the air.

Dread owned him. His stomach locked up tight, nothing getting in or out. His face was set like rigor mortis, his teeth

closed tight together. There was only one place he could go. Home. Time wouldn't stop. It ticked like a bomb, all the time Avery helpless neither being able to stop it or slow it down. Each tick dragged him forward, back across the road and to the pavement where only a few minutes ago he felt proud to walk down. Avery felt the weight of an invisible demon sat on his shoulders, only him being able to hear the sharpening of its knives. He became pale, a tremor building up in his hands. What would his mum say? Would he ever be trusted again?

Avery's head became giddy with all the questions racing through his mind and he slowly but surely made his way back home. At the door. The all too familiar key held within his sweaty palms. He brought himself to put the key inside, but he couldn't control his hand. He feebly knocked, no rhythm, just two slow and deliberate knocks. The door opened and Avery rushed forward to embrace her before she could see the tears streaming down Avery's face. "What happened?" she asked.

"I'm sorry mum. It wasn't my fault I swear the wind just... and it was flying and..." Avery droned off into a pit of sorrow.

"Oh it doesn't matter. You're just in time for lunch. Pasta bake. Your favourite," she said, smiling.

Zuhayr Shaik 9S

I left. My feet touched the ground once more, but there was something different this time. It was quiet, quieter than it had ever been before. I had with me what I needed in case of emergency. I needed to be quick and so I set off. The area was so familiar. The same air as before; the same smell; the same ground. But there was something missing. As I walked, the sound of my footsteps echoed around me. The footsteps were different too, like two had become one.

And then I reached it. I reached the boundary. I was never supposed to cross the boundary. "It was dangerous" they had said. I hesitated, stopped still. My breathing was short and shallow. For the first time on my journey I was nervous. I stretched my leg out and planted it on to the ground. Excitement filled me as I realised that I had never been here before in this way. Then my other leg. Now both feet were entirely over the boundary. Until

today, this was forbidden. Had this been yesterday, I would have been punished. I didn't have the courage to continue but my excitement overcame that and my adventure went on. As I ventured further into the unknown, the familiarity of everything declined. I did not know where I was going. The birds chirped peacefully in the trees, as if to congratulate me on my achievement. The breeze was warm like a hot summer's day, although it was not. As I continued walking I spotted my destination, I collected what I came for, but I could not resist going even further. "Stick to the route", I was ordered before departing. That didn't matter. A short detour never hurt anybody. I kept moving, noticing things I had never noticed before.

The sounds of the huge, shiny metal vehicles rushing beside me. But that's when it hit me. I remembered what I had always been told; the dangers. My excitement was flushed away by panic.

What do I do? I looked around me, I was unaware of it until now. Where am I? I had to get back, and fast. The panic inside of me enhanced my sense of danger. I was alone, in an unknown place. A dangerous place. I ran. I didn't know where I was going. I needed to move. I lost sense of direction, time, and location. But eventually I regained conscience. I was close. I remembered what I was taught. "Be aware of your surroundings". And I was. I realised at that point that it was only dangerous if I made it dangerous. I practised what I was taught and I felt safe. I returned home. I was immensely proud of what I had done, and so was my mother. I sat down and rested, eating the sweets that I had I had bought from the shop as I reflected on my exciting adventure. I had successfully left the house on my own. I did not need anybody to protect me. I had gone further than I had ever gone before. And for me, that was truly special.

Jamie Davis 9S

Competition Winner On Reflection: The Life Of Queen Massina

When I was young, I dreamed of becoming Queen. It was a fantasy. It would never happen. It was impossible. My childhood was calm and soft, filled with music and laughter. I knew my father was away at war. He was reluctant to fight, but he was fighting for peace. His war was justified. I have spent my entire life trying to justify mine.

I wondered, not for the first time, if I had been wrong to go to war. If I had been wrong to take the crown by force. The few still living members of my father's great council continue to accuse me of treason. They say I killed my brothers. They say I am not worthy. Maybe they are right.

Now, more than ever, I find it hard to remember what happened back then. My sisters-in-law tell me it was justified revenge whilst their fatherless children play at their feet. My uncle praises my bravery every year to the Law Lords, who tell the people who, in turn, tell their children the story how their warrior Queen liberated the nation. I did not liberate anyone.

I was once Massina the Great, the lucky star of the battlefield. They used to say that when I watched over them our troops could never fail. 'They' believed a lie. I rode a warhorse through the city in glory - the people cheered for joy. They believed I had come to save them. I bore my father's namesake. I would bring them peace and prosperity. Even I believed that.

I look into my nephew's eyes. I see my brother staring back. My nephew doesn't know I killed his father. To him his father died a hero. In reality, his father died at my feet. I had stabbed him through the heart. I once tried to explain to my nephew, yet even his mother refused to believe me. I cried as I left my brother alone to die.

'Who will come next?' I wonder. "Who will I choose to bear this burden?"

I have no children. I couldn't stand the thought of them one day killing each other. I have learnt that the throne isn't worth that. After all I did to claim it, I would do anything to have it taken from me. To be relieved is to die, and I am too afraid to face what lies beyond.

I reign unchallenged. I am the foundation of the nation's stability. What will happen when I am gone? I decide on my niece. She is young, but there is time for her to learn. I instruct her to erase any trace of my rule. I am ashamed of my life. I call her Dimalla: the sun goddess. She will be the light in the darkness. She will be the glorious dawn.

I can feel my body growing old. I am weary. I crave inner peace. My mind remains in turmoil. My uncle dies, and I must finally face the world alone. I do not shed a tear. I am simply happy he did not die by my hand. My youngest nephew dies. Again, I cannot cry. I wish to join them in eternal peace. I begin to pray.

I pray to the old gods, the new saints, and any divinity I can find. I need to repent. I killed my family. I wear my mother's heavy bangles because she said they would protect me. I hope they will protect my soul from what is to come.

When I face my father, I hope he will forgive me for what I did to his legacy of peace. I hope he understands my brothers ruined it first.

They say I have gone mad. The pain of losing what once was has now proved too much for my frail mind. They cannot see that it drove me insane years ago. My dreams are haunted by the dead. I can feel their hands trying to pull me through the veil between life and death. I can feel their eyes following me and their breath on the back of my neck.

It is now. I can feel it. I cry for the first time in years because I will never be able to right the wrongs I have done. My body is weak. I lay in bed. The remnants of my family gather around me. My niece holds my hand. She loves me. I do not know why. I wish I could leave something better than a legacy wrought in her father's blood.

'Dimalla,' I whisper. 'The name that I tarnished you will make new. I have lived too long and my brother's too short. When I am gone, there will be no one left to tell you what I did. Do not dwell on the past. You are the beginning of something new.'

I begin to fade. For the first time, I am not scared of what I will find in death. For the first time, I know peace.

She will be a new dawn. She will be a new Dimalla. As I die, so does my legacy. The legacy of Queen Massina the Great will fade to dust. This comforts me. I was never meant to be Queen. From the beginning, fate was against me. When I crossed fate, she crossed me back. She cursed my rule. She killed those I loved.

I see my mother's face. She is weeping. I know now I can never be forgiven my sins.

Amy Johnson 13L Westgate, House Writing Comp Winner

Competition Winner Being Watched

Have you ever had the feeling your every move is being watched? That your entire experience is documented by some stalker whom you've never met, but the pursuer knows more about you than perhaps even you do. I have.

It all began when I was strolling through my favourite forest, with tall trees boasting luscious leaves, displaying all their splendour, set only on a path I could determine. My being radiated with joy, and seemingly there was nothing in the entire world that could eradicate my elation. How wrong I was.

I first spotted the creature when I was resting on the side of my trail. It truly was a frightful thing to behold, enormous with vicious teeth, and the beast pointed a large extension of its body directly at me. It emitted violent attacks to my vision, assaulting my senses and blinding me temporarily.

My instincts quickly came to my aid, and I began to run harder and faster than my legs had even taken me, more rapidly than I imagined was physically possible. My frame shuddered with every step; the mass of tendons and muscles that made up

my delicate body working at full capacity to flee from fatality. I didn't dare to look behind me. I hadn't the time or energy to waste. Somehow in my mind I knew it was still coming for me, whatever the beast was. It must have been seeking to kill me. There was nothing elegant or beautiful in the way I bolted. It was purely for survival. And so, with all my might, I fought for survival, until I heard the noise fill my ears.

It was a revolting sound, like the shrieking of a banshee mixed with the screaming of a mother during the death of her infant.

It was at this moment that I learnt the true meaning of savagery, and finally the emptiness of my existence was revealed to me. The mechanical juggernaut crept ever closer. Its velocity seemed unattainable and unstoppable. I was completely vulnerable and helpless. It collided with me, and I lay on the ground leaking crimson blood onto the cold, heartless floor.

'Oh, Jesus,' the heavy-built human slurred. 'Looks like we've hit another one, Gerald. We're not doing well today, are we? No matter. It's only a deer. Now where's the rest of that Bacardi? I'm beginning to feel my legs again.'

And, just like that, the man stumbled towards the mechanical monstrosity and clambered back into the driver's seat. The two savages then proceeded to depart with their behemoth at an incredible speed. I could no longer make out the jet-black hue of their instrument of death.

When I awoke next, another figure similar to the other barbarians leaned over my wounded body, although the human seemed much more civil than the latter and seemed worried about something I could not understand. I did not matter, as I was sure death would consume me in the near future.

'Damn it,' the distraught figure cried. 'I only intended to take a picture of a majestic animal, not to lead it to its death. Poor bloody thing didn't stand a chance against a car, and it's all my fault. I've got to call someone to help.'

He stormed off and apologetically spoke into some alien device, and before long I could take the torment and agony no longer. After coming to my sense, this time once again there were more silhouettes around me, although by this point my vision was too blurred to make out any details about the situation.

The only thing I could tell for certain was that every moment I breathed I was being watched from all angles, and something told me deep inside that the rest of my dismal reality would be a continuation of this, and that I could never return to the paradise I inhabited before.

So here I am recalling my story to the voices that now occupy my head. They started in this cursed room, and they will never cease to vex my every move until I am finally granted the mercy of death. Let the end come, for I am willing.

Harry Skingsley 11B Westgate, House Writing Comp Winner

I stood up fearfully looking down at the glistening water beneath me, with noisy people all around me. At the other end, I saw kids splashing around in the shallow water. I didn't want to climb back down, but I didn't want to jump down either. I thought to myself, "There is only one way for me to jump down: closing my eyes."

Even though it was the lowest level, I was still scared. I jumped off, landing in a sporadic position. My face pummelled against the water; every inch of my fibre felt pain coursing through my body, from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. Now; underneath I opened my eyes and still saw pitch blackness.

Terrifyingly I said aloud, "I have opened my eyes, right?" I put my hands on my eyes and forced them to open. I felt a tug on my eyelid and my eyes opened. It was as blurry as a foggy car window. I saw specs of blue, so I swivelled around and saw specs of white on the side. I swam as quick as I can, not caring how my form was and hoisted myself back on top of the surface.

I felt a stinging near my eyelid and realised my eyelashes were probably intertwined when I jumped in, restricting my eyes to open.

My dad clapped spontaneously and said, "You did well considering this was your first time." He then raised his finger and pointed at the very top now. "Now try to jump off that!" I gulped, fear struck me like lightning. I didn't want to back out of it now, so I climbed the ladder. At the top now it felt cold.

People were below me, staring at my quivering feet. I thought, "Let's just get this over and done with", and so I jumped in...

It felt like I was going to die; jumping from the diving board into the ten meter pool. My eyes squinted, as I tried to adjust the wind blasting at my face as I went down. This time I landed it: fingertips first.

This time the water glided straight past me and I felt like a dolphin. I heard my dad cheer, which was embarrassing, but it didn't bother me much. I defeated my fear of heights and went to the diving board again.

Now, just like that, I was able to jump off a diving board.

Anthony Nixon 9S

Rugby Report

1st XV
Under the captaincy of Craig Johnstone, it was a slightly inconsistent season for the 1st XV. In terms of results, the South Africa Tour was a slight disappointment and the side had been significantly disadvantaged during the season, due to injury. Losing captain Johnstone for two long periods also did not help the cause.

Also, due to some schools deciding that we had become too strong for them, we now had some new tougher fixtures, with the large majority of 1st XV games being scheduled for away venues, which also did not help. There were bright spots and moments of sheer joy, however it cannot be overlooked that we lost more games this year than in previous years. The fixture list is now tougher than ever, but that is no excuse. There were some great performances but also some performances to forget. However, I cannot fault the effort the boys put in all year. The commitment and dedication that 1st XV rugby players show at Sir Thomas Rich's far outweighs most other extra-curricular activities in the School, and they should all be commended for continuing that great tradition of training and hard work.

The season started with a superb win against Bristol Grammar School, the first time the School had ever won at Failand. Matthew Webster finished off an excellent piece of play to score the winning try with only minutes remaining, as Rich's came back from a 25-7 half-time deficit to win the game 25-26. Rich's then travelled to Northampton School for Boys to meet an entirely Northampton Saints Academy backline, and unfortunately the boys could not repeat the previous week's heroics. Northampton would go on to the NatWest Cup semi-final, so in fairness they were a good side. After defeat to NSFB; a long trip to play schoolboy rugby giants, Kirkham Grammar School in Preston, was a real worry.

However, Rich's were magnificent in defence and on the contact area. When Tom Farmer scored out wide, the score was 13-7 to Kirkham with only 5 minutes to go. Unfortunately, Rich's were unable to finish strongly and it was Kirkham who scored to make the final score 20-7. Rich's had never won a 1st XV game at King's Worcester but a brilliant first half performance meant that Rich's had enough to hold on for a 21-15 win, thanks to tries from Joe Hocking and Henry McCloskey.

Against Monmouth, in a very close and often tense game, it was the Monmouth fullback who proved to be the difference between the teams. After defeating Monmouth for the last few seasons, this year, Rich's could not replicate the same feat and it was Monmouth who gained revenge. Oliver Thomas and James Tayler scrambled over for two tries, but too many attempts at goal were missed and the Monmouth fullback scored a brace of tries to take them to a 10-24 victory at Oakleaze. Following that defeat, Rich's travelled to Stourbridge to take on a resurgent Old Swinford, who after a few lean years had been playing well. Rich's put in a steady, committed performance after going behind early on, to win 17-36.

The first fixture after half term was the NatWest Cup Round Two fixture (Round One - Bye) versus RGS High Wycombe. It has always been a really closely contested fixture v High Wycombe. In 2012-13, High Wycombe had knocked Rich's out of the Daily Mail Cup in the last 16, with a 10-3 win. They then went on to win friendly fixtures in 2014-15 and 2015-16 by 29-18 and 11-16 margins. In 2016-17, it was Rich's turn to knock RGS out of the NatWest Cup in Round 3 on their way to the quarter final, with a last minute 24-23 win. This year, the game proved equally as enthralling, High Wycombe led for most of the game and when they scored with only 15 minutes to go, it appeared that they would go on to win.

Rich's fought back bravely, McCloskey and Tayler scored to make the margin closer. Then with only 6 minutes left Tom Farmer pirouetted his way to the try line, to make the score 19-23 to Rich's. In the dying minutes, Rich's repelled wave after wave of attacks from RGS. The defence was incredible, each player put their body on the line. Then, in the very last play of the game, after what appeared to be an obstruction infringement on the part of RGS, their centre was able to cross for the winning score. It was a heart-breaking result, after reaching the quarter final the year before, the boys had hoped for better, but they should all be congratulated for their resilience and refusal to give in, in what was a magnificent contest.

After such a deflating result it might have been easy for the 1st XV to roll over, especially as they welcomed the might of 2015-16, 2016-17 NatWest Cup Champions, Bromsgrove, to Oakleaze the following week. In what was an incredibly daunting challenge, Rich's were superb. Bromsgrove went ahead, but a second-half fight back led by tries from Webster and McCloskey narrowed the deficit. Then, when Kelvin Osawe scored a blistering try from 40m out, Bromsgrove were on the ropes. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to overtake the strong Midlands school and Bromsgrove won the game 18-22. Rich's then travelled to Pate's Grammar the following Saturday but injuries were starting to make consistency of selection difficult. Rich's won the game 8-19 in awful conditions, but it was not a good performance.



Matt Webster scoring the winning try against Bristol Grammar.

More of the same occurred the following week against Loughborough Grammar School. In a game that Rich's probably should have won, another below-par performance left Webster with the responsibility of scoring in the last play and James Tayler kicking the conversion to draw the game 15-15.

The last two games of 2017 resulted in defeat, firstly against Clifton College, Rich's were magnificent in parts, the enormous Clifton pack were unable to stop Rich's getting on the front foot and over the gain line, particularly around the fringes of breakdowns. However, a few defensive errors allowed Clifton into the game and with 15 minutes to go, Rich's led 14-15. The Clifton outside half, a recent recruit from Ysgol Glantaf in Cardiff, then took centre stage and took the game away from Rich's as they tired badly, Clifton won the game 34-15.

As the snow fell in Gloucestershire, King's School, Parramatta from Sydney arrived and it was yet another great cultural experience for the boys. However, a depleted side, due to injuries and unavailability as a result of the snow, left the Australians with an easy task. Rich's could not match the performance of the Sam

Underhill-led 2013-14 Rich's 1st XV side that narrowly lost to Parramatta 20-21. On this occasion the Australians won the game comfortably 0-52.

The first game of 2018 was, again, Millfield away. Rich's were brilliant from start to finish; heroic in defence and they constantly ran hard in attack. With tries from Tayler, Farmer and Webster, Rich's won the game 19-31, to make it three consecutive years that Millfield had been defeated. The season ended on a slight downwards trajectory as too often the 1st XV were fighting hard in games, only to allow some poor defensive errors to give the opposition too many points. They lost to Solihull and King's Macclesfield but then defeated Llandovery College 22-14 at home in only their fourth home game of the season. Kelvin Osawe scored one of the best tries ever to be witnessed at Oakleaze to help Rich's win that game. The final two games of the season against two strong sides in Warwick and Whitchurch High, Cardiff ended in defeats but all the boys should be congratulated for their hard work and commitment all season. Well done to Henry McCloskey, Matthew Webster, Joe Hocking, Will Sanderson and Oliver Gordon for making an appearance in all 24 games this season.



First XV after their outstanding performance at Millfield.

Congratulations must go to Henry McCloskey, Matthew Webster and Oliver Thomas, surpassing 40 appearances for the 1st XV during their rugby career at Rich's. McCloskey was the top try scorer for the season, with 11 tries and although Kai Hall missed a number of games through injury, his 88 points made him top try scorer for the season (6th all-time with a total of 178).

The 1st VII had a disrupted season, as three tournaments, Wycliffe, The Marches and Champion, were lost to the weather, Oliver Thomas led the side well as they finished 3rd at the Gloucestershire tournament, not quite able to retain the title we had won in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The 1st VII also reached the quarter final of The King's School, Worcester tournament, losing narrowly to Bradford Grammar.

Mervyn Moody Award For Player Of The Season - Joe Hocking
1st XV Players' Player Of The Season - Matthew Webster
1st XV Award For The Most Improved Player Of The Season - Andrew Hunter
1st XV Award For The Most Promising Player Of The Season - Ethan Wilson

I am sure the 1st XV will go from strength to strength next year, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the 1st XV for the past 10 years. I wish all the players moving into all the senior rugby teams next year the very best of luck. Continue to work hard, Garde Ta Foy!

Rhys Williams, Director of Sport



from Beaufort and Balcarras, losing both 45-19 and 12-27. After the Monmouth and High Wycombe games were cancelled, the 3rd XV were magnificent against Bromsgrove, drawing the game 22-22.

The 3rd XV then defeated Pate's and Rendcomb 1st XV, before yet again putting in a heroic performance, narrowly losing to Clifton College 24-15.

The last two games of the season against Millfield and Warwick are some of the toughest fixtures any schoolboy side in the country could face. Unfortunately, Millfield were too strong and won the game 45-28 but against Warwick, the 3rd XV almost had a famous victory, only to allow Warwick to score to win the game 10-14. A big thank you to those boys who have represented the 3rd XV this season, well done!

U16

Following on from their success in the NatWest Vase last season, the Under 16s had another pleasing season. Notable victories against Bishop Wordsworth's, RGS, High Wycombe, Monmouth and King's Macclesfield.

The small squad coped well with some significant injuries. Louis Fox transformed himself into a prop with aplomb and was the cornerstone of a strong and mobile pack. Michael Baron had a strong season that culminated in his selection for the Gloucester side at the Wellington Festival. Other stand out performers were Jamie Bagnall, whose defensive work was second to none, Captain Ethan Yip, who won countless turnovers and Saxon Campbell, whose hard running in the centre gave the team vital gain line success. This all bodes well for transition into the senior sides next year.

U14

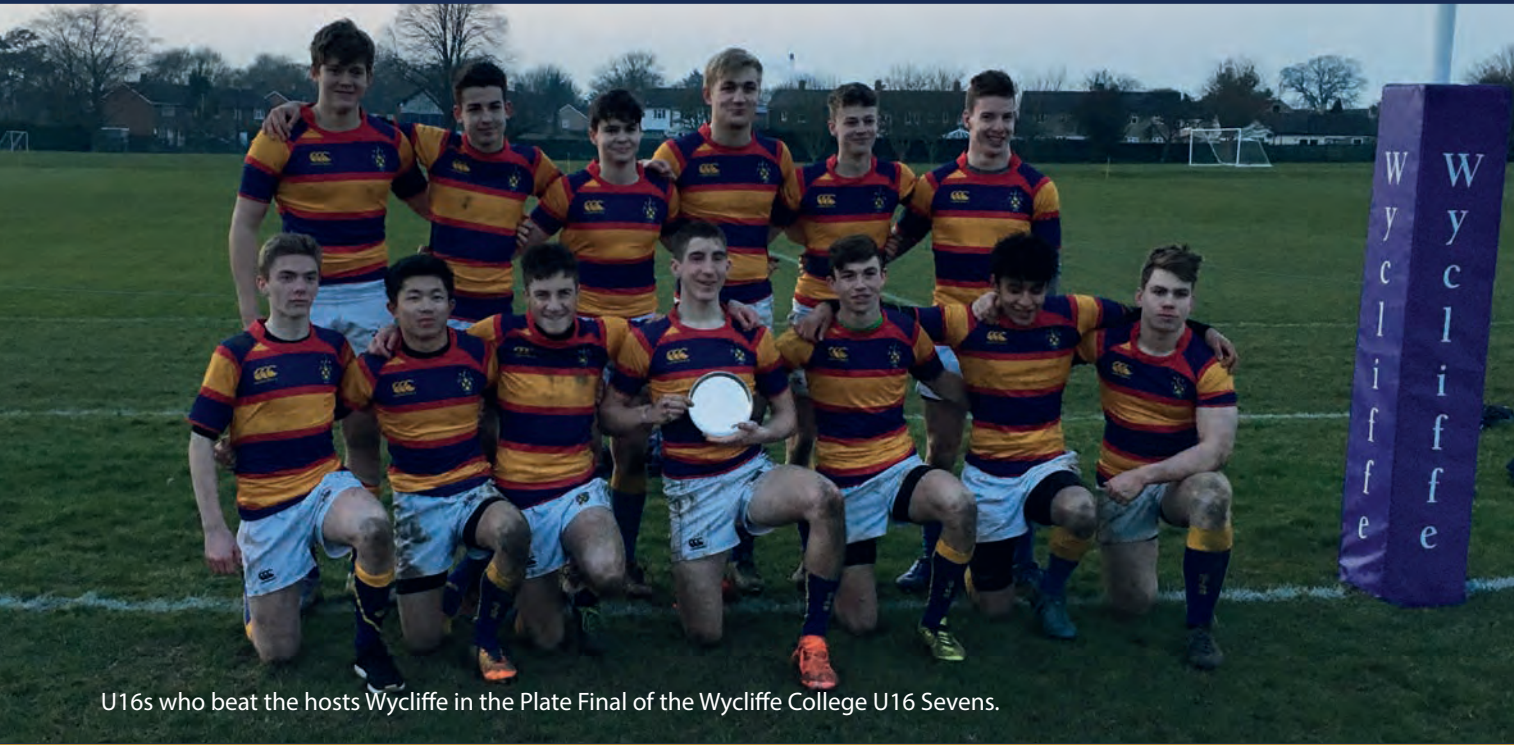
The U14A team improved enormously over the season, winning the EDF Energy Gloucestershire County Cup at Kingsholm. They struggled early on, losing to Bristol Grammar, Glantaf, Monmouth, Bromsgrove, Clifton and King's Worcester.

However, wins against Pate's Grammar, Marling, St Peter's, Old Swinford, Loughborough Grammar and Dartford Grammar illustrate the development all the boys made. They have all

3rd XV

It was really pleasing to see so many 3rd XV players training regularly this season. It was great to see so many players who had played rugby lower down the School but had moved away from it, coming back to represent the School. Under the coaching of Mr Hinds, it is hopeful that the 3rd XV can progress even more next year, train regularly each week and not only provide a stepping stone for boys wishing to represent the 1sts and 2nds, but also have a successful and enjoyable season in their own right.

This season after defeats to Paarl Boys and Bredasdorp in South Africa, the 3rd XV defeated Bristol Grammar 0-36. It is testament to the skill and ability in the 3rd XV that they then took on 1st XVs



U16s who beat the hosts Wycliffe in the Plate Final of the Wycliffe College U16 Sevens.

started to work hard on their conditioning and hopefully they should have a very successful, enjoyable 2018-19 season. The 14B team lost more games than they won but a large number of boys were constantly rotated to allow all pupils who wanted to play the opportunity to participate and develop. Under the enthusiasm of Mr Raddon, a large number of boys improved and performed well during the year. Notable wins came against Ysgol Glantaf, Pate’s Grammar, Loughborough Grammar and The Bishop of Hereford’s Bluecoat School. The U14C team played well this year and a number of boys represented the U14B team. They lost three games to top independent schools really narrowly, to BGS 15-17, Bromsgrove 22-15 and Clifton 10-48. They also defeated Wycliffe College U14B team 65-12. Well done to all the boys involved.

U12
With a fixture list of 23 games the U12A team took part in a vast amount of rugby this year with the task constantly being improvement. With such strong opposition throughout the year and some very narrow defeats to Warwick and Northampton School for Boys it was brilliant to gain victories over RGS High Wycombe and Loughborough Grammar.

“Additionally in the latter part of the year against the local Gloucestershire Schools the U12A team were undefeated showing real strength within the County, with the tenacity of the boys in defence, proving to be the difference. Over 50 boys represented the School throughout the A, B, C and D sides this year. I hope these numbers remain high as they go into U13 rugby next year.”

George Angell, Rugby

“Notable victories for the B team included RGS High Wycombe and Solihull school and it was fantastic to see so many boys make the transition from the B team to the A team towards the end of the year.”

Chris Holder, Rugby

“The U12C team had a mixed start to the year but showed excellent commitment to training which resulted in winning their last 5 games of the year. This was down to much improved skill level and good movement between the forwards and the backs through intelligent play.”

Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

U13 Rugby Season

P24 W23 D1 LO Pts F 1075 Ag 135
Considering the quality of our fixture list this was an outstanding season for the U13s. To remain undefeated over the course of 24 matches was a first class achievement in itself, but the quality of the performances was even more impressive, illustrated by the fact that they scored over 1000 points averaging 9 tries per game.

The U13s had never beaten Warwick in a 15 or 13-a-side game, but the impressive 10-all draw away, after trailing 10 nil at half time, was bettered at home with a superb 25-5 victory. These two performances exemplified not only the skill, pace and power of the team but also their great spirit, tenacity and will to win.

Two other major highlights included the away wins at Solihull 30-10 and RGS High Wycombe 25-0, both high quality sides. In the tough game at Solihull the ‘try of the season’ was scored. Solihull had taken an early 5 nil lead and were camped on our line pushing for a second try. Great defence kept them at bay, blunting many surges and, having turned the ball over behind our own line, the ball was moved expertly between Jasper Elliot, Tom Pallister and Alfie Griffin to Max Pattison who made ground up the left-hand side of the pitch before timing his pass perfectly to Alex Green, who scored under the posts - it was ‘1973’ all over again – well, almost Mr Williams!! It was a magnificent effort which epitomised the all-round talent of the side. RGS had had a very good season and were a very talented and physical side.

Early pressure and useful attacks from them, once again nullified by excellent defence - only 135 points were conceded all season - was followed by a superb performance of running rugby with forwards and backs combining to create and finish five unanswered tries, including an excellent score from Bryn Miles.

The success of the team was largely based on the quality of the squad of players that we had to choose from; attendance at training rarely fell below 50 and when boys from the B team came into the As they fitted in seamlessly. However, a number of players deserve special mention. Max Pattison was an outstanding fullback who was rock solid in defence and scintillating in attack; he came into the line with great timing and scored a number of excellent individual scores including six tries in the 60-0 win over St Peter’s. Toby Folayan was equally at home on the right wing or outside centre and along with left wing Alex Green was one of the side’s most improved players - they were both strong finishers. Will Lewis also performed well in the ‘back three’. There’s no doubt that we had the best centre pairing on the circuit which combined the attacking power of Sonjal Rai with the handling ability of Alfie Griffin. They were also both superb in defence. Half backs Jasper Elliott (scrum half and captain) and Tom Pallister (fly half) forged an excellent partnership and were the catalysts for many of our most effective attacks. In the forwards Zebedee Gibson at prop was outstanding at the ruck and in defence and, along with Sonjal, one of the side’s most effective ball carriers.

Tom Evans at No 8 never appeared to stop running, always one of the first to support an attack or compete at the breakdown. Prop Sam Loftus joined the School this year and made an immediate impact with his powerful scrummaging, carrying and strong work in the tackle area. His fellow front row forward, Gabe Jordan, not only had the best hands but was also the quickest hooker on the circuit, as he was equally at home playing in the centre. In addition, Jamie Mackleworth, Henry Bye, Jude Colebrook and Bryn Miles all performed well in the second row, competing well at the ruck and maul and contributing significantly to the side’s outstanding defensive record.

Well done to all of the boys who represented the As this season. I look forward to seeing you progress up through the different age groups. Remember, though, that you will need to work even harder to maintain and improve on the standards you have set this year - I’m confident that you have the character to do so. Such was the strength of the squad, the 13Bs, Cs and Ds all performed well throughout the season and players such as Ali Hussain, Charles Rule and Kit Dagleish showed much promise for the future. Finally, I’d like to thank the many parents who braved all that Britain’s weather could throw at them on the touch-line, both home and away, for their great support - it was very much appreciated.

Chris Carter, Rugby

Sir Thomas Rich’s RFC 2017-18 Statistics

Age Level	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD
1st XV	23	8	1	14	424	678	-254
2nd XV	19	11	0	8	401	390	11
3rd XV	11	3	1	7	234	253	-19
Boys-U17A	3	0	0	3	52	82	-30
Boys-U16A	18	10	1	7	422	299	123
Boys-U16B	3	0	0	3	64	26	-42
Boys-U15A	16	9	0	7	396	228	168
Boys-U15B	11	5	0	6	324	263	61
Boys-U15C	3	1	0	2	76	96	-20
Boys-U14A	25	12	0	13	626	632	-6
Boys-U14B	17	4	1	12	262	383	-121
Boys-U14C	4	1	0	3	105	99	6
Boys-U13A	24	23	1	0	1075	135	940
Boys-U13B	21	9	1	11	440	490	-50
Boys-U13C	12	4	1	7	250	395	-145
Boys-U13D	2	0	0	2	15	70	-55
Boys-U13E	2	1	0	1	50	50	0
Boys-U12A	23	11	2	10	370	466	-96
Boys-U12B	23	13	0	10	565	390	175
Boys-U12C	20	9	0	11	395	435	-40
Boys-U12D	5	1	0	4	65	120	-55
Totals:	283	135	9	139	6571	5980	591

U14s Win Gloucestershire County Cup Final

The U14 County Cup squad travelled to Kingsholm on the 2nd of May to play the EDF Energy Gloucestershire U14 County Cup Final. The squad, a mix of Year 8 and 9 pupils, played superbly and won 51-10 against Archway School.

Tommies' performance was defined by physical carrying up front and slick attacking play out wide. The forwards were consistently able to get us over the gain line, even off slow balls. Amongst a strong pack, Wilf Bond stood out for his powerful running. The backs, orchestrated by half backs Fin Gwillim and Josh Horrobin, showcased clinical moves and devastating pace. Additionally, the boys have worked exceptionally hard on their fitness throughout the year; both the final and semi final were one score games at half time before the squad's superior fitness carried them to clear victories. Tommies' first try was an example of how far the squad has come this year. The ball was moved wide to the right wing and taken into contact. Two quick phases from the forwards and a well-executed move from the backs allowed Will Silva to score in the far corner. The rest of the tries came in a variety of ways, including several hard carries around the edges of the ruck from forwards, an interception break away from Fin Gwillim, and a length of the pitch carry directly from a restart by Will Silva.

All 27 boys in the squad played in the final and the try scorers were Will Silva (3), Fin Gwillim (2), Sam Overton (1), Ed Pawley (1), Wilf Bond (1) and Monty Kelly (1). Fin (pictured below right with Mr Powell) also kicked three conversions and was awarded man of the match. This is an outstanding achievement for the team as they have improved massively as the year has gone on and won through a challenging route to the final. They beat Marling 32-10 in their first game, who had not lost since Year 7, Dene Magna 36-0, and a strong St Peters 36-14 in the semi final. Stand out performances from the cup run were as follows: against Marling - Zeb Gibson and Sonjal Rai; against Dean Magna - Max Pattison and Sonjal Rai; and against St Peters - Wilf Bond, Josh Horrobin and Emmanuel Chukwuemeka. Congratulations to all boys who have been involved in training and matches on an excellent season.

Chris Powell, Rugby



Under 15 Team Season

The U15s (pictured right and below right) undoubtedly have an abundance of talent. This season's mixed bag of results does not really reflect the true potential within the group.

There were some notable wins against Clifton College, Monmouth School, and Solihull School, and they were also the only team to beat Beechen Cliff School, Bath, ending their 20 match winning streak. Some of the other results, however, did not go our way, losing four matches by a couple of points.

The group rounded of the year with some excellent performances at the Kings' Worcester 7s, and Millfield 10s, winning the plate at both tournaments, pictured below.

I am sure that the group will use this year as a learning curve to progress to bigger and better things at U16 level and possibly the 1XV.

Player of the Season: Robert Nixon

Most Improved: Jed Dods

7s Player of the Year: Max Marshall

One to Watch: Tom Morris

Clubman of the Year: Jed Dods

Rhys Davies, Rugby



Second XV Season

The 2nd XV started the with a successful rugby tour of South Africa, with three impressive wins. Including a win against Paarl Boy's High who are historically the best rugby school in South Africa.

Domestically, we started off by winning the Kingswood Tournament with ease. We began a five-match win streak, including wins over Bristol Grammar and Monmouth.

The rest of the season had mixed results with tight losses against some of the top schools, such as Bromsgrove, and great wins over Loughborough and Solihull. The squad was constantly changing over the season as players earned their place in the 1st XV. But, a strong core of players led the 2nd XV to a successful season under the captaincy of Luke Griffin.

Luke Griffin 13G

Keep up to date with all the latest Rich's sports fixture results at www.strschool.co.uk/activities/sports

Well done to the School netball players this season who have played a fixture almost every week against local schools and colleges, as well as the six fixtures we played on our netball tour to Malta earlier in the year.

We have had a lot of success this year, winning games against schools that have proved difficult to beat in recent years. Our games at the U19s county tournament were also more competitive than usual. The standard is always extremely high and our School team always arrive in October having only played together for a few weeks.

Thank you to Alicia Wells in Year 13 for being an excellent first team captain this season; helping us to organise the teams, fundraise for the tour and lead training.

For this season the following netball colours were awarded:

Half Colours
Steph Loftus, Lauren Keyse, Hannah Goodman, Rosie McMahon, Katie Seymour, Chloe Bird.

Full Colours
Alicia Wells, Helene Wotruba, Georgina Smellie, Olivia Lawrence.

Marian Brown and Vicki Lynn, Netball

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
20 Sept 2017	St Peters A	Away	Won 36-16
27 Sept 2017	Bournside A	Away	Won 46-8
27 Sept 2017	Crypt B	Home	Won 29-6
4 Oct 2017	HSFG A/B	Away	Won 34-16 Won 24-10
11 Oct 2017	County Netball Tournament	CLC	2 x Win 4 x Loss
18 Oct 2017	Ribston Hall A	Away	Won 38-14
1 Nov 2017	Glos College B	Away	Won 22-5
8 Nov 2017	Stroud High A	Away	Drew 20-20
22 Nov 2017	HSFG A/B	Home	Won 25-12 Won 12-10
29 Nov 2017	Cleeve A/B	Away	Won 23-10 Won 47-9
7 Dec 2017	Crypt B/C	Home	Won 27-6
10 Jan 2018	HSFG (Yr 11) A	Away	Lost 31-25
17 Jan	Stroud High A	Home	Won 32-19
9-14 Feb 2018	Malta Tour - see March 2018 issue of <i>The Richian</i>		
7 Feb 2018	Glos College B	Away	Lost 30-28
28 Feb 2018	St Edwards A/B	Bentham	Won 29-18 Won 21-13
14 March 2018	St Peters A	Away	Won 25-13
20 March 2018	HSFG (Yr11) A	Home	Won 28-23



Basketball Season

The 2017/8 Basketball 1st V has shown great improvement under the captaincy of Kelvin Osawe. Following a difficult start to the season, the boys have shown outstanding commitment all season long; the 7am shooting practices and multiple training sessions a week have all been worth it to see the progress that the boys have made this year.

A final record for the season of three wins and four losses is slightly disappointing, as we all felt that there were close games we could have won. However, the season finished on a real high with a comprehensive 70-42 win at Bournside, in which the team showed glimpses of the potential quality of basketball which they are able to play.

With the core of the squad returning and the prospect of Rich's running a basketball tour next year, I am greatly anticipating a successful 2018/19 season for basketball at the School.

Zak Hinds, Basketball

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
18 Jan 2018	Wycliffe College	Away	Lost 22-60
31 Jan 2018	Bromsgrove School	Away	Lost 37-45
7 Feb 2018	Chosen Hill School	Home	Lost 23-29
21 Feb 2018	The Crypt School	Away	Won 40-16
28 Feb 2018	Pates Grammar	Home	Won 32-24
14 March 2018	St Peters School	Home	Lost 18-26
28 March 2018	Bournside School	Home	Won 70-42

Season Leaders		
Points per game		
1	Osawe	20
2	Thomsen	6.8
3	Williamson	5.7
Rebounds per game		
1	Osawe	16
2	Thomsen	13.7
3	Chukwuemeka	8.7
Assists per game		
1	Balkwill	3
1	Holland	3
3	Hocking	2.7
Steals per game		
1	Osawe	6.5
2	Pardoe	5.9
3	Hocking	3.3
Blocks per game		
1	Thomsen	3.5
2	Darrell	1.8
3	Osawe	1.3



Football 1st XI 2017/18 Review

The 1st XI had a re-building year as Mr Marks took charge of his first season at the helm. However, under the captaincy of Tim Ranken (and top goal scorer) Rich's had a successful season playing some excellent football throughout and reaching the county cup semi-final.

Although the year started with a disappointing 7-2 loss to Kings Worcester, it must be noted that this was a game where the students epitomised many of the core principles of Sir Thomas Rich's - they worked hard, had great team spirit, never gave up and were very committed as several students who had not played football for a number of years played due to injuries and unavailability.

After that loss, the 1st XI went on to record convincing victories against All Saints Academy and Balcarras, as well as more narrow victories against Pates, Crypt and RGS Worcester. In the final group game of the season, the 1st XI recorded a 2-2 draw with Chosen Hill to emerge out of group stages of the newly formatted tournament unbeaten.

We headed to Cotswold School for the quarter finals where we absolutely swept them aside in what was the highlight

of the season as the boys put in an outstanding performance, coming away with a 6-0 win against a previously unbeaten side. Finally, in the semi-finals we faced last season's county cup winners St Peter's, where we were unfortunate to be knocked out of the cup competition on penalties following a 2-2 draw in normal time.



The final result did not reflect the balance of play as Sir Thomas Rich's had the majority of possession and the better chances, and conceded one own goal as well as a debatable penalty.

I would like to thank the boys for their commitment, good spirits and high level of sportsmanship shown throughout the year - the team was a credit to Rich's.

I would also like to commend the Year 11 students who fitted seamlessly well in to the 1st XI and coped with the physicality and pace of the matches. Finally, I would like to congratulate Noah Smerdon (pictured above) on captaining the England U18s schoolboy side, a truly brilliant achievement.

William Marks, Football



School Athletics Cup 2018

The Year 8 Athletics Squad competed in Round 1 of the National Schools Athletics Cup at the Prince of Wales Stadium in May. The team did very well on the day and finished 3rd overall with 324 points.

Sonjal Rai won the junior boys shot put, throwing 9.88m. Max Patterson scored highly in the long jump, his best effort being 4.45m. Toby Folayan won the 100m, running his heat in a spectacular 13.2 secs. This meant the team qualified for the regional final in Basingstoke against eight other qualifying schools from the south west. Rich's finished 4th overall on the day. Toby Folayan and Danny Howlett both beat their own PBs in the high jump, clearing 1.38m and 1.35m. Kyle Neal ran hard in the 800 meters with a time of 2.31. Eliis Beech also did very well in the 200m finishing 3rd with a time of 27.7 secs.

Chris Powell, Athletics

Event	Time	Pts	Pupil
100m	13.3s = 13.4s =	17 16	Toby Folayan Max Patterson
200m	27.7s = 29.8s =	18 13	Ellis Beech Edward James
300m	49.5s = 43.9s =	10 19	George Dadd Sonjal Rai
800m	2m31.1s = 2m42.4s =	16 13	Kyle Neal Tom Evans
1500m	5m29.7s = 5m15.8s =	11 15	Tom Pallister Charlie Rule
Hurdles	19.3s = 17.2s =	0 5	Charlie Roberts William Watson
Relay	61.6s =	8	
High Jump	1.38m = 1.35m =	16 15	Toby Folayan Danny Howlett
Long Jump	4.10m = 4.60m =	13 18	Ellis Beech Max Patterson
Triple Jump	8.68m = 9.12m =	12 14	Edward James William Watson
Shot	9.04m = 9.32m =	16 17	Alan Bijo Sonjal Rai
Discus	16.69m = 13.45m =	11 7	George Dadd Tom Pallister
Javelin	22.28m = 21.77m =	15 14	Charlie Roberts Kyle Neal



Sir Thomas Rich's

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