



The Richian

Magazine February 2019



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Rich's visit to PMM School Uganda by Claire Parry

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From The Headmaster

Welcome to the February 2019 issue of *The Richian*. Though not a comprehensive round up of all School activities, I do hope this latest issue gives you a flavour of School life over the last few months.



As I write, it strikes me once again that the academic and extra-curricular opportunities available to Rich's students are unparalleled. In December, Rich's Politics students interviewed the Speaker of the House, John Bercow, in the week that Theresa May survived a no confidence vote initiated by her own party, Year 7 kicked off the School year with a superb week-long residential to Stratford, and just before Christmas students from all year groups came together under the guiding auspices of Mrs Sarah Jones (Drama) and Mrs Pauline Jones (Music) to stage a highly professional and entertaining production of the musical, *School of Rock*. Indeed, so fired up by the experience were some of the cast, they have gone on to secure leading roles in the Cotswold Savoyards' upcoming production of *Oliver!* being staged at the Cheltenham Everyman in May.

It is with sadness, however, that I must turn to the news that former Rich's Headmaster Tony Stocks passed away in January. In post from 1961 to 1973, Mr Stocks was an inspirational Head who implemented many much needed reforms to education in the School and oversaw the move to the present site in 1964. Our sincere condolences to Mr Stocks' family. His insistence on high standards and pride in the School will be his legacy, and one which we will endeavour, as always, to live up to. We will be paying a full and proper tribute to Mr Stocks in our next issue, out in July, so if any of our Alumni would like to write to us with memories of Mr Stocks we would be very happy to hear from you. You can email Vicki Lynn on vn@strs.org.uk.

We have just hosted our annual Sixth Form Open Evening, and welcomed hundreds of Year 11 pupils from schools around Gloucestershire to view our modern Sixth Form facilities and hear more about life at the School. To coincide with this, we have developed a new area of the school website dedicated to the Sixth Form at www.strschool.co.uk/sixthform, where you can view the Sixth Form Prospectus and access information on careers advice, university applications and find contact details for the Sixth Form staff team. One of the big draws for girls applying to our Sixth Form is, of course, the excellent netball coaching on offer, and the squad currently boasts 31 players, including a number of dedicated club players. Under the leadership of Mrs Brown and Mrs Lynn, the squad has worked extremely hard to develop skills and fitness, and to promote team spirit. As such it comes as no surprise to me that our A Team won the recent Gloucestershire Challenge Cup tournament, beating some tough sides fielded by the likes of Pate's and Stroud High. Well done all and particularly thanks to all the staff who make School life at Rich's so vibrant.

The next issue of *The Richian* comes out before the end of the School year in July, 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

The School That Rocked!

The West End musical *School of Rock* shook the main hall for three nights in December in another fantastic School production, with Head of Drama Mrs Sarah Jones and Head of Music Mrs Pauline Jones managing a huge (and talented) cast and crew to bring the musical to life.

With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and a script by *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes, the production follows the story of Dewey Finn – a wannabe rock star posing as a substitute teacher in strait-laced private school. Dewey takes the job to earn some quick cash, but soon gets involved in teaching the kids to rock out, entering them for a prestigious 'Battle of the Bands' competition.

With plenty of comedy, great songs and some top class acting, the cast – which included pupils from all year groups as well as several members of staff – played to standing ovations every night. Special mention goes to Jonno Taylor in the role of Dewey Finn, which was a huge responsibility with Dewey appearing in almost every scene. Jonno worked tirelessly and took ownership of the role, truly making it his own.



Rich's Students Crowned BASE 2018 National Champions



A team of students from Rich's become the BASE 2018 National Champions at the end of the summer term, beating more than 520 other schools and 4,000 students.

BASE is a Business and Accounting competition run by the Institute of Chartered Accountancy in England and Wales, for students in schools or colleges aged 16-17. Students were required to study several documents of information before drawing a conclusion as to a profitable and ethical business strategy for a wearable tech company. Their final recommendation was presented to a judging panel who then questioned the team on their decision. Oliver Gordon, Hunter Gray-Steele, James Goatley, Ireoluwa Adegboyega, George Hawthorne and Angelo Thavaratnarajah impressed the judges the most out of all of the finalists, who had previously made it through regional competitions across the UK. Each winning team member won a Macbook Pro and will also take part in a Champion's Day at the Chartered Accountants' Hall in London. On top of this they secured a suite of iPads, alongside a day-long employability skills workshop for Rich's. Well done all!

Fiona Banks, Head of Business & Economics

"On Wednesday 10th October the BASE team were invited to Chartered Accountants Hall, London, to interview the CEO of the ICAEW, Michael Izza. The team asked a variety of probing questions ranging from topics such as Brexit to the financial crash, and Mr Izza's responses were very interesting and gave the team a far better understanding of some important issues.

Following this, the team were invited to a meal at Davy's Brasserie in Woolgate, where we were joined by various organisers of the BASE competition and the guest speaker Zoe Wong, Finance Director at Depop. The meal was an excellent opportunity for the team to network and learn more about career in accountancy. Afterwards, we had the chance to explore London, visiting the Bank of England Museum and taking a trip up the Shard. The day was an extremely enjoyable experience

for all involved and we wish to thank the ICAEW for their generosity throughout the day."

George Hawthorne 13C

"The team's success was appreciated by the ICAEW West of England President Neil Cutting, who invited the team to a celebratory dinner at The Daffodil in Cheltenham. Also attending the dinner was Simon Emery (ICAEW West of England member and long-standing judge at BASE both regionally and nationally), Ololade Adesanya (ICAEW West of England member), and Daniel Webb, the team's mentor for the latter stages of the competition, who helped provide valuable advice. Rich's Head of Business and Economics Fiona Banks and Headmaster Matthew Morgan, who supported the team throughout, also attended. The dinner was a great success, presenting the team members with an opportunity to gain yet a further insight into the ongoings of the business and accounting industry, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss the highlights of the competition. The regional members of the ICAEW were full of praise for the team's triumph, and were interested to hear our thoughts on the competition."

Oliver Gordon 13B



School Development Fund Report

The recent BBC television documentary series *School* has reminded us how challenging it is for us all to balance budgets whilst endeavouring to maintain high standards.

I am particularly proud of the School's efforts to raise funds in order to mitigate against extreme budget cuts in real terms. The individual and collective support of parents particularly through regular giving, together with alumni and the Parents' Association, raised over £86,000 this academic year, enabling us to continue to provide an outstanding education for pupils at Rich's. If you have not been able to contribute up until this point, but now feel able to make a donation to support the School, you are now able to set up a direct debit online at https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SirThomasRichsSchool_1/development_fund.html.

I am grateful to all those who have supported Rich's financially, volunteered their time and given advice to enable their children to make the most of the opportunities the School offers. Your involvement helps make the School the vibrant community of which I am so proud.

Here is a brief summary of what we have been able to achieve thanks to your generosity:

Science Laboratories: £16,000 towards the refurbishment of three labs has enabled students to benefit from classrooms with better lighting, flooring and greater access to gas and electric services. Learning will be enhanced making it easier and safer for key experiments to be undertaken. The PA too was able to contribute to some urgently needed equipment.

Careers: £13,000 has been contributed towards careers education, information and guidance, together with enhancing

our support for university entrants through profiling and assisting with the UCAS process.

Learning Resources Centre: £2,000. The LRC received £2,000 for the renewal of subscriptions to *The Economist* and *New Scientist* magazines for the next three years. Thanks to the PA, the LRC has also been able to provide an eplatform of audio and ebooks for students, which has already had an impact on the reading culture in the School.

Modern Foreign Languages: £24,000 has enabled the employment of three Language Assistants, providing valuable conversational and examination practice for pupils studying German, French and Spanish.

Staff salaries: £10,000 contribution towards salaries in Drama and Music has enabled us to continue with the annual School productions and House Drama Competition, maintain A Level Music and continue to provide opportunities for pupils to perform in orchestras, choirs and bands.

Sports Coaches: £17,000 has enabled us to employ additional Coaches to help run practices and undertake fixtures. Our 1st XV finished the season as the highest placed state school in the country for rugby – this cannot be achieved without the efforts of staff throughout the School.

Art Department: £4,000. The Art Department received £4,000 funding to buy additional equipment and to help students work with new techniques and technology. A Gallery area within the Department to help showcase student artwork is now completely up and running. Our Art results are among the highest in the South West.

Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

Official Opening of Newly Refurbished Labs

The newly refurbished Labs 3, 6 and 8 were officially opened by Clive and Sylvia Richards (pictured right, with the Headmaster) on 8th November in a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by benefactors, staff and students.

The refurbishment was made possible by donations from the Clive and Sylvia Richards, Garfield Weston, The Wolfson Foundation, plus the Rich's Parents' Association donated money for much-needed new equipment.



New Staff Join Rich's

We have welcomed a number of new staff to Sir Thomas Rich's over the last few months.

Tom Williams (pictured right) joined us as Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor at the start of the academic year, with his main role being to ensure everything within the PE Department is organised and prepared for match days and extra curricular activities. Tom was previously a Welsh teacher at Llanidloes High School and Welsh is his first language. Tom says: "I've enjoyed the amount of passionate and commitment by staff and pupils that's put in to ensuring the highest quality of rugby throughout the School."



Jamie Payne joined the Sports Department in September as teacher of PE and Games. Jamie is a Year 8 form tutor, teaches GCSE and A Level PE, Key Stage 3 PE lessons and games to all years, plus he's the Under 14s rugby coach. Jamie is a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) who completed his PGCE at the University of Gloucestershire. He trained at Dene Magna and Archway schools, and prior to that attended Cardiff University where he studied Sport and PE BSc (Hons).

The thing Jamie has enjoyed the most about joining Rich's is "becoming a Richian and being welcomed into the School by my brilliant colleagues and the boys themselves. Rugby training and fixtures have equally been my most enjoyable moments!"

Charlotte Baskerville (pictured right) joined us in September in Music. Charlotte teaches Years 7-13, and her responsibilities also include the orchestra and wind band, as well as generally helping with any other rehearsals or musical events! Charlotte completed her PGCE last year at The Cotswold School and Pate's, and before that worked briefly as the musician in residence at Pate's. Charlotte says "I've enjoyed the amount of extra-curricular music going on at the School. It was a great experience being



involved with *School of Rock*, as well as preparing for the School carol services."

Gayle Bennett has joined us in the English Department teaching part-time at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. This year Gayle will also be subject mentor to the English trainee teacher we have on placement. She last worked at the University of Warwick, and before that at Balcarras School and Chosen Hill. Gayle says the thing she has enjoyed the most about joining Rich's is "the fabulous department, who read, care about one another and laugh. Not necessarily in that order...!"

Stuart Cooper has also joined us as Head of Physics. Stuart is form tutor for 10R, coaches the 2nd XV Rugby and teaches every year group! Stuart was previously Head of Physics at Cheltenham College, and has also worked at Dean Close, Harrow School, Pate's Grammar School and St Edward's Cheltenham. Stuart says: "I have enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm of the boys as well as being associated with a successful rugby team. I look forward to the Rugby 7s season, and encouraging the boys to be even more ambitious academically."

Adam Flattery joined us in September in RE as Maternity Cover, and Lauren Marrinan in Biology. In October, Pierre Le Menager joined as French Language Assistant, Agustín Such Cabeza as Spanish Language Assistant, Aylin Tavus as German Language Assistant and Sarah Ball as Science Technician.

Sarah (pictured right) helps to prepare the equipment needed to support practical lessons in the Science Department. She was previously Science Tech at Crypt, and before that worked as a Science Administrator at Newent. "I have felt very welcomed by everybody at Rich's," Sarah says, "all the staff are very friendly and the atmosphere around the school is extremely positive, making it an enjoyable place to work."



We also welcomed Adam Gouha (Geography), Claire Eva (Chemistry) and Rowena Ewens (Biology) in January, as maternity cover posts.



Sixth Form Web Pages

The Rich's Sixth Form now has its own dedicated area on the main School website.

Check out the new pages at www.strschool.co.uk/sixthform to find information about applying for Sixth Form, to download a PDF of the new Sixth Form Prospectus, to access guidance on careers and university applications, and for a full list of Sixth Form staff contacts.

Speech Night 2018

Speech Night at Sir Thomas Rich's once again celebrated achievement throughout the School, this year with our Guest of Honour, Clive Richards OBE.

Mr Richards is a successful entrepreneur and private venture capitalist who, along with his wife, established the Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity in 1986, which specialises in supporting educational establishments. His services to charity were recognised in 2000, when he was awarded an OBE, and he has extensive experience chairing school governing bodies and driving excellence in the schools with which he works. We are indebted to the Charity as the main benefactor of the Rich's Sports Pavilion, and the recently refurbished science laboratories.

Speech night commenced with a rousing rendition of *I Vow To Thee My Country*, followed by a welcome from the Chairman of the Governors, Roger Ogle, and the traditional reading of the 'Tommy Psalm'. Our current School Captains Rose McMahon and George Hawthorne welcomed and thanked our Guest of Honour Clive Richards (pictured below), and Headmaster Matthew Morgan gave his report on the busy and varied 2017-18 academic year. Prizes were then awarded by Mr Richards to the current students and 2017-18's Year 13s.



Notably the Idris Williams Prize for Service to the School went to Ireoluwa Adegboyega, Henry Parkinson took both the F E King Prize for Mathematics and the Parents' Association Prize for Music in Year 12, and also in Year 12 Bethany Powe was awarded both the PA Prize for D&T and the OSG Co-operative Society Prize for Business Education.

Following a musical interlude by Henry Parkinson, performing Schumann's *Eintritt from Waldscenen Opus 82* on piano, Mr Richards' address followed, and he went on to present the Blue Coat Boy award to Samuel Brook, his second year in the role. The honour is awarded to a pupil who is held in high regard, and the Blue Coat Boy wears the traditional uniform of Sir Thomas Rich's Blue Coat Hospital, as the School was originally known. A pupil can hold the honour until he grows out of the uniform – a boy once held the honour for five years! The evening concluded with a vote of thanks from the School Captains and the *National Anthem*.



Sicily Field Trip

A successful Geography field trip in the autumn saw pupils and teachers fly from Gatwick to Catania in Sicily at 6.25am on 18th October.

After checking in at the Hotel Alexander in Giardini Naxos, the party had the rest of the day to explore the area on foot, before meeting up for the evening meal back at the hotel.

Day 2 – Etna and Craters

Day 2 started with breakfast at 7am and then coach travel to meet the guide at the Municipal Park of Zafferana Etna for a full guided tour. Then the party continued on to Silvestril Craters – born from an eruption in 1892 which lasted six months in the territory of Nicolosi.

Following an easy path along the summit ring of the lower Silvestri, we were able to observe and examine the explosive manifestations in the area – from large volcanic bombs to products with a finer granulometry such as ash and volcanic sand. Plus there was a wonderful view from the summit.

We continued on to the lava scree of 2001 that destroyed the cableway pylons Etna, and it was fascinating to note the morphological changes of the pioneer pulvini ice plants to adapt to the sandy soil.

The second part of the day comprised a visit to a lava flow cave, with its characteristic lava tunnel shape, discovered accidentally thanks to the partial collapse of the vault during the construction of the adjacent road. Provided with protective helmets and torches, inside we noticed all the typical characteristics of the tunnels lavice.

After lunch and some free time, the group visited the Museum of Etna for more information on terrestrial geomorphology, volcanoes of the world and Etna in particular.

Set up in a large modern building, this is the largest museum dedicated to volcanoes in Italy, and the main educational and cultural exhibition on



Etna dealing with the natural, historical and ethno-anthropological aspects of living with volcanoes.

Between blow-ups and large-scale dioramas, lava flow simulations, geyser puffs and lava flow caves, we came into contact with the eruptions of Etna described by the documentaries projected in the wide cinema hall. At 3.30pm we returned to the hotel for a freshen up and change, and some welcome free time before our dinner.

Day 3 – Vulcano Island and Mud Baths

Day 3 kicked off with another early start, and after breakfast the coach took us to the Port of Milazzo for a 9.30am crossing

to Vulcano Island. After a 45 minute journey, the group disembarked on to the island and climbed the crater.

After lunch and some free time to explore – the choices were either a visit to the beach, or covering ourselves with mineral enriches mud in the natural hot springs! – we returned on the boat and headed back to the hotel for our evening meal.

Day 4 – Teatro Antico and Panoramas

On our final day we breakfasted and checked out by 8am, and met the coach for a transfer to Taormina to visit the Teatro Antico and explore the perfect panoramas and monuments. With a final opportunity for free time

and exploring the town, we met the coach for transfer to Catania and boarded the 4.30pm flight to Gatwick.

Marian Brown, Geography

“My favourite time on the trip was going to Vulcano Island. The views were spectacular and I learnt lots about volcanoes and the beautiful Aeolian Island chain. I also enjoyed the natural mud baths on the island.”

Jack Hotchkiss 9S

Rich's Brass Meets Cheltenham Silver

On 10th October the Sir Thomas Rich's Brass Band joined the Cheltenham Silver Training Band in a joint rehearsal at Rich's.

It was an excellent opportunity to forge links with Cheltenham Silver Band

after their successful Christmas concert held at the School as year. Colin Forster, the musical director of Cheltenham Silver Training Band, led us through a range of music all the way from *Yellow Bird* to *Handbags and Gladrag*s and even *Tequila*.

We performed a short concert of these pieces to family and friends at the end of the rehearsal. I think our shouting of “Tequila!” was particularly successful. Everyone involved found it a great opportunity not only to improve our brass playing but also to meet new people interested in brass banding. Some members of our School band are now keen to join Cheltenham Silver Training Band, which welcomes brass players of all abilities.

Innes Peek 11R

Year 12 RSC Chemistry Competition

On Wednesday 23rd January, three Year 12 Chemistry students, Max Harper, Florence Milne and Ben Woodward travelled to University of Bristol to take part in the South West (North) Regional Year 12 Analytical Chemistry Competition.

They were given several experiments to run, using equipment that they were familiar with and also some new equipment and techniques, as well as a quiz. All three had a fantastic time and worked well together under time pressure.

In the afternoon they were treated to a fun but informative lecture demonstration on the gases in the atmosphere. Sixteen schools entered, including Cheltenham College, Cheltenham Ladies College, Wycliffe, Bristol Grammar School, Clifton College, Sidcot and Exeter School. We didn't place in the top three, but valuable experience in analytical chemistry was gained. Well done for representing the School in a national competition.

Dave Tilley, Chemistry



National School’s Chess Championships 2018-19

Bristol Region Qualifying Competition

Sir Thomas Rich’s entered two teams into the Bristol heat of this season’s National School’s competition. Fourteen teams from nine schools entered the afternoon event at Bristol Grammar School on Monday 19th November. The Rich’s A Team came second, losing in the last round to Chepstow School A Team. Robert Ashworth (13C) played well on board 1 to score 2.5 point from 3 and Sid Venkatanarayanan (7T) performed very well on debut for the school 1st Team, scoring 2 wins from 3 games on board 3. The star performer in the A team was Ishan Jani (10T) winning all his 3 games on board 4.

The A Team have qualified for the knockout stages of the competition, with matches having started in the New Year.

STRS B had a great start to their competition drawing 3-3 against Hereford Cathedral School A Team. However, they found the competition difficult in the following rounds, although the young team put up a good fight in every match. The top players in the B Team were Nick Poyser (9B) and Pranay Pai (9T), who both won 2 games from 3.

Ian Robson, Chess Club Leader



National School’s Chess Championships 2018-19 Bristol Region Qualifying: Final Results		Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Won	Drawn	Lost	Tot Game Pts	Tot Match Pts
1	Chepstow A	6	6	4.5	3	0	0	16.5	6
2	Sir Thomas’s Rich A	6	5	1.5	2	0	1	12.5	4
3	Queen Elizabeth Hospital A	4	3	5	2	1	0	12	5
4	Bristol Grammar School A	6	3	3	1	2	0	12	4
5	Churchill	4	1	5	2	0	1	10	4
6	Hereford	3	4	3	1	2	0	10	4
7	Redland Green B	0	4.5	4	2	0	1	8.5	4
8	Queen Elizabeth Hospital B	2	2	4	1	0	2	8	2
9	Bristol Grammar School B	2	4	1	1	0	2	7	2
10	Redland Green A	6	0	1	1	0	2	7	2
11	Sir Thomas Rich’s B	3	2	2	0	1	2	7	1
12	Chepstow B	0	4	2	1	0	2	6	2
13	Wyedean	0	1.5	4	1	0	2	5.5	2
14	Queen Elizabeth Hospital C	0	2	2	0	0	3	4	0

House Chess 2018

Westgate won House Chess 2018 beating Southgate in a thrilling final. Southgate came so close to drawing the match, but Westgate held on to win 5½ - 4½.

House Chess was expanded this year to teams of 10 players. This allowed six players from lower school to play together with four older players; there are always many boys wanting to get involved in house chess from the younger years and it was good to get two boys from each of Years 7, 8 and 9 in the teams for each house. This year’s competition saw Westgate and Southgate comfortably win on the first day against Eastgate and Northgate. Eastgate were awarded 3rd place. The final was always going to be a close match, with Westgate perhaps the marginal favourites. The early game results went Westgate’s way, and after 40 minutes play the score stood at 5-4 with the top board game still playing, with both players running out of time on their chess clock. George Hawthorne was winning for Southgate – yes, head boy George looked like he was about to beat the county U18 champion

Robert Ashworth. George continued to build his advantage and had a completely won position, but he couldn’t play his moves fast enough when, to his huge disappointment, he ran out of time. His position was so dominant that the rules of chess decree that the game be declared a draw. So Westgate prevailed by the narrowest of margins, 5½ - 4½. One other game to note was on board 2 where Southgate’s young Y7 Sid Venkatanarayanan played a very good game against regular school team player Oli Bates from Year 13. Congratulations to Westgate.

Results

1st	Westgate
2nd	Southgate
3rd	Eastgate
4th	Northgate

Ian Robson, Chess Club Leader

Westgate		5 ½ - 4 ½	Southgate
1	Robert Ashworth (13C)	½ – ½	George Hawthorne (13C)
2	Oli Bates (13H)	1 - 0	Sid Venkatanarayanan (7T)
3	Raiph Ackroyd (11B)	0 - 1	Ishan Jani (10T)
4	Aadit Sikand (8R)	0 - 1	Tom Falkiner (12B)
5	Nick Poyser (9B)	1 - 0	Finley Hitchings (9T)
6	Eddie James (9B)	0 - 1	Pranay Pai (9T)
7	Sam Shore-Nye (8B)	1 - 0	Ashrith Agastyaraju (8T)
8	Thomas Caine (8B)	1 – 0	Avin Yoganathan (8T)
9	George De Burgh Thomas (7S)	0 - 1	Ollie Johnston (7S)
10	Alberto Castromil (7R)	1 - 0	Theo Morgan (7T)

LRC Update

The library continues to see more and more students using the resources available to them. We now have over 8000 borrowable resources, including books and DVDs.

Managing the space alongside me are a very keen team of twenty Library Monitors from Years 7 and 8. They are an immensely helpful team who have been trained to issue and return books, shelve books and prepare them to go on the shelves. They are also greatly helpful in helping to select new books and in promoting reading. Our new Library Management System, Accessit, helps students to choose books and to manage their own accounts, with self-renewal being a new facility. As we weed and tidy the stock, we are making the catalogue more user-friendly and improving the Search facility to support learning throughout the School.

All students have induction and refresher sessions to help them to use the library and to get the most out of it. Our online resources prove to be very useful to our Sixth Form Students.

This year we have benefited from some very generous gifts from the Parents’ Association which have allowed us to maintain our subscriptions to *The Economist* and *New Scientist*. Even more exciting is our new eplatform of ebooks and audiobooks which will extend our library even further and which will have appeal for those who prefer to read on their devices or listen to books whilst travelling to and from School. We hope this will be a great success and thank the PA for making this happen and for supporting our endeavour to create a rich reading environment. This year we have also set up trial subscriptions to eight new magazines for the whole School to enjoy.

Some are born with a love of reading, others need a nudge towards finding books which appeal to them. There is no doubt that a well-developed reading habit helps students to maximise their potential. Here in the LRC we continue to promote reading and independent learning and hope to share the love of the written word.

Judith Case, LRC Manager

Centenary Battlefields Trip

Last year, Year 9 pupils were offered the opportunity to take part in a competition to win places on a special government-funded guided visit to the Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme. The History and the English Departments combined with the LRC and asked students to submit an essay on whether we should continue to remember all those who served our country in the First World War.

All entries were of a very high standard. To further assist in the selection process, the boys were asked to attend a viva explaining how they would share what they learned on the trip with the wider community. The two winners were Alex Price and Guy Cornish, both now in Year 10.

The trip was organised by Equity and University College London under an initiative set up by David Cameron's government to make sure that all young people have an understanding of the meaning and considerable sacrifice of the First World War. The trip was guided by historical experts, an excellent Battlefield Guide and active soldiers. Along with teachers and students from many different schools in the region, we visited the allied cemeteries of Lijssenthoek, Tyne Cot and Caterpillar Valley and the German cemetery at Langemark. We also travelled through trenches at Beaumont Hamel in the Newfoundland Memorial Park where so many of the Newfoundlands lost their lives on the first day of the Somme.

At Sunken Lane, we were able to visualise the Lancashire Fusiliers as they waited to go over the top and we were encouraged to imagine the scene and understand the strategies, advantages and disadvantages of the positions, and the feelings which the soldiers must have experienced. The trip was greatly enhanced by the leadership and the ability of the team of educators who helped us to understand the realities of war. We also had time to visit the immense memorial to the missing at Thiepval and the Menin Gate, where we attended *The Last Post*.

At Passchendaele, we travelled through dugouts and trenches to experience the lives of the soldiers more closely, and this was complemented by an excellent evening performance of *Journey's End* at the Gunpowder Store in Ypres.



During our trip, we searched for the graves and memorials of fallen Richians, whose names appear on our war memorial. We found them all and spent time remembering these young, brave men, many of whom were not much older than Guy and Alex.

Guy described the trip as "amazing". Both boys are now charged with the Legacy 110 which is the mission of the project. Each student passes on what he/she has learned to 110 people. If all of the students who participate manage to achieve this, then the lessons of the First World War reach the same number of people as died. Guy will present a talk accompanied by a PowerPoint describing the trip in an assembly for Year 7, and Alex has created a documentary combining his thoughts and feelings with images which he filmed on location. Both presentations will be available to a wider audience online through the School website.

Judith Case, LRC Manager

"The Battlefields trip is a journey I will never forget. Even though it was only three days, we saw things that very few people are lucky enough to see in a lifetime. The sights we visited were extraordinary. It was powerful and had a huge effect on me. I felt good that I was there paying my respects but at the same time shocked by the number of innocent soldiers who just died what they were told. I felt so privileged to be there and grateful for the opportunity. It showed how many lives were affected knowing that each of them had their own story and family. We will never forget."

Guy Cornish 10B

"The Battlefields trip was a great experience and helped put into perspective the amount of people who died in the war, and consequently how many more were so greatly affected. We've always heard of the great numbers of those who fought for their country, however standing in the graveyards showed how little these numbers actually mean to us and showed how little comprehension I had of the magnitude of soldiers that lost their lives. Seeing the rows upon rows of graves was an experience I'll never forget and has helped me start to understand the extent of life lost."

Alex Price 10R

Remembrance Assembly 2018

At 11am on Friday 9th November, the School paid tribute to all those, including former Richians, who have served their country in both World Wars and other conflicts since. The whole School gathered in the Assembly Hall to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many. Following a reading of *Dulce Et Decorum Est* by World War One poet Wilfred Owen, Rosie Forbes in Year 13 played *The Last Post*, while the School Captains laid a wreath at our memorial. Garde Ta Foy.



Careers and HE Fayre 2019

The Careers and HE Fayre 2019 was held on Friday 25th January. The School hosted 50 companies and 42 universities for the morning across two fayres, which were visited by students in Year 8-13.

In addition, there were 27 careers talks that students of Year 11 and 12 could opt into. Students found both the talks and the fayres extremely useful and informative.

Jenny Manning, Head of Careers



Year 8 Masks

Year 8 have spent a number of weeks creating these incredible masks inspired by African culture.

You can keep up to date with the Art Department Instagram account at www.instagram.com/strsartdepartment.



Warhammer Latest

We recently had two teams of boys from Year 7 to Year 12 competing in the regional heats for the Warhammer School League Competition.

One team competed in Cheltenham against Marling School and won, the other in Gloucester against Wycliffe College and

also won. Both teams go through to the Semi-Finals in March at Warhammer World in Nottingham.

Chris Bream, Warhammer Club



Beating the Breadline in Food Tech

Many families are living on very tight budgets and rely on charitable food banks. Some of the Year 9s were set the task to work in pairs and plan a two-course nutritious meal for a family of four, using fresh and store cupboard ingredients.

They had to cost everything within a budget of £4. Their efforts were judged by fellow peers and two of our regular judges, staff members Leigh-Anne Boucher and Ian Birchall.

Lanie Phillips, Food Tech

"This year I have really enjoyed our weekly lessons of Food Tech. We have learned how to cook simple sauces and healthy meals such as pastas, desserts, vegetarian meals and burgers. As well we had to consider health and safety, such as using the same knives for uncooked meats and other foods. We have also looked at certain health problems such as diabetes and lactose and gluten intolerance, all very useful skills in the outside world. Recently our class were involved in the 'Breadline Challenge'. This involved us working in pairs and attempting to make a meal and dessert to serve four people for under £4.

"This was quite challenging and really encouraged us to think about pricing whilst still trying to make a healthy, tasty and well-presented meal. In the end we managed to create a pasta with homemade tomato sauce and four cookies for dessert for just £2.43. One cookie came out at just 23p. The meal tasted very nice and was presented well. I found this task very interesting as we had the chance to see what feeding a family every day for

some people is like. We learned important life skills that will be important for us when we leave school."

Jamie Davis 9S

"Food Tech this year has been a fun year because we have been able to bring in our own recipes and cook what we want. Our first topic was cooking a normal meal. I cooked pasta with a cheese sauce and asparagus. This was a good time to experiment because this was our first timed cook, and it was fun to cook something I wanted to cook. We then cooked a dessert. I cooked an Eton mess which incorporated strawberries, cream and home-made meringue, which was a very fun experience with trying to balance the flavours. Our next challenge was cooking a healthy, foreign meal. For the challenge I cooked a stir fry with noodles and green beans.

"Our final task and the most fun was the Breadline Challenge. That consisted of coming up with a main meal and a dessert to feed a family of four for under £4. I went with Vihaan for this challenge and it was a laugh. We struggled to come up with a meal for under £4. Vihaan came up with the main 'cheap pizza' – which is bread with tomato puree and melted cheese on top. I came up with the dessert which was a Greek-style yoghurt with strawberries and raspberries. It was a good challenge because it made you think about the overall costing and serving up a balanced diet."

Chris Borley 9T



Biology Field Trip To Pembrokeshire

Year 13 enjoyed a successful Biology field trip to Pembrokeshire in October, here's how they got on!

9th October

After a long but pleasant journey to the centre we arrived and found our rooms. Almost straight away we started our fieldwork. The first activity involved measuring the abundance of organisms using a quadrat.

We then explored the effects of abiotic factors such as pH and nitrates on the organisms in a stream. After dinner we had an introductory lesson on the rocky shore.

10th October

After waking up bright and early at 7am and having a cooked breakfast and making our lunch, we headed outside and painted pond snails with nail varnish in order to help us estimate their population size. We then headed off to the rocky shore in the sunshine. Here we studied the abundance of seaweeds, snails and lichens in an interrupted belt transect up the shore. We also found crabs, starfish and anemones. The evening was then spent on statistical analysis of the results.

11th October

After breakfast it started to rain heavily but we headed off to the beach to study succession in a sand dune system. We used point frame quadrats and a stratified sampling method. We also measured abiotic factors including light intensity – which was very low and humidity – which was very high! As the rain gradually soaked through our waterproofs our sampling got faster and luckily we could return to the centre early to get dry. In the evening we went out again to set mammal traps.

12th October

In the morning we excitedly set out to check our traps, some of us were very disappointed but between us we caught 5 mice and 4 shrews. After examining them we released them back into the grounds. We then worked in small groups to carry our own investigations in the centre grounds. For this we had to research our chosen project and apply the knowledge and skills we had gained over the last few days.

There was a moment of panic when we thought we may not be able to travel home that evening due to the very high winds. However, luckily our coach made it through (if slightly battered) and the all clear was given for our journey home.

Written by 13B



Year 7 Residential

Year 7 took part in a fantastic a five-day residential trip to Stratford back at the end of September 2018.

They enjoyed a dramatic workshop run by the RSC, a boat trip and a visit to a butterfly farm – plus many other activities. Friendships were forged on the trip which was a great opportunity for the boys, having only recently started at Rich's, to get to know each other and bond as a year group.



Old Richian Drop In Visits

The establishment of the 'Old Richians' Association' has reconnected many of our past pupils with the School as it stands today.

Newsletters and communications have been so warmly received and resulted in individuals visiting the School and enjoying tours of our facilities. We are grateful to those who have brought in photographs for our archives, and even 'old school' blazers, caps and scarves. Our archives are expanding and our aim is to reorganise them to allow quick searches for photographs by year. All this contributes to building a picture of the School's history, a heritage which our pupils, past and present are proud of. It was wonderful talking and reminiscing with our visitors John Rice (1943-54) and John Fielding, pictured right, as we searched our archives for some familiar faces.

Visitors are always welcome and we hope that more contacts are re-established over the coming year. Contact Vicki Lynn to arrange a visit on vn@strs.org.uk. Vicki would also be keen to hear from you with your memories of former Headmaster Mr Stocks, who sadly passed away in January, for a special tribute we are planning in the next issue of *The Richian*, to be published in July.



Alumni Update: Dr Ian Hemming

Dr Ian Hemming (1959-1966) would like to get in touch with his contemporaries. If you remember Ian and would like to get in touch, please email Vicki Lynn, vn@strs.org.uk for his contact details. See below an email we received regarding what Ian has been up to since leaving the School.

I trained to be a teacher, obtained a degree in Education at Durham (B.Ed), went on to obtain a M.Sc. in Nuclear Physics at London and then a Ph.D. in Solid State physics at Bradford. I actually created the world's most sensitive Infra-Red detector at the time (1974) and had a part in the first laser research. I left and taught physics at Cheltenham Gentleman's College before joining an oil company in the UK, where I had a spectacular ascension through the ranks over the next eight years. I left the UK for Australia in 1983. Before retiring in 2005 I was Executive Vice President for a global company with responsibility for all of Asia – Pacific (more than a third of the world's surface area so lots of flying about). Hope this background helps. I came to Sir Thomas Rich's when we were in Barton Street (July 1959?) and left July 1966 if I recall correctly. Many thanks and God bless.

Dr Ian Hemming (1959-1966)



Alumni Update: Dr Glyn George

It has been a while since my last appearance in *The Richian* publication. I have enjoyed a career at the Memorial University of Newfoundland (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering) for 30 years and counting.

I have taught mathematics to nearly 5,000 engineering students during that time. My two most recent awards are Honorary Membership in PEGNL (Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador, the regulatory body for engineering in the province) and the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching (only two such awards are bestowed each year across the University). I have volunteered with the K-12 school system, serving on school boards in 1990-98 and on school councils since then. I retain fond memories of STRS from the 1970s. The successes I have enjoyed in the following four decades were founded on the excellent education that I received at the School.

Dr Glyn George (1972-77)



Alumni Update: Andrew Williams

Former Rich's pupil Brigadier Andrew Williams has recently retired from the Army.

Andrew is currently working in the Middle East.

Alumni Update: Richard Pegg

Since leaving STRS I went into theatre as a career, starting off locally at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham as an Assistant Stage Manager (ASM), subsequently moving to the Richmond Theatre in the London suburbs as a DSM, then SM and finally as a Company Manager on the national tours of plays, and a brief stint in the West End.

After getting married I spent some time back in Gloucester whilst the family was growing, working as Department Manager in Furniture at Debenhams. But the lure of the theatre drew me back and I worked as a Technical Manager at theatres in Wolverhampton, Milford Haven, Bexhill and Worthing. Theatre is a hard taskmaster and took its toll on my personal life, with divorce being the result. Whilst in Worthing I met my second wife, an American, and in 1992 we emigrated to Denver, Colorado. In the last 25-plus years, I have worked constantly in theatre as a scenic designer, set builder and director, working on over 160 productions, in one capacity or another, and many times more than one. I am delighted to say that despite the divorce, and not just for my daughter and step-son's sake, I and my wife are all great friends with their mother and, of course, them! Excuse me if I now brag a little, but I'm honoured to say my step-son Simon Pegg (yes, he of *Star Trek*, *Mission Impossible* etc fame), has continued in the family tradition. I am equally proud of my daughter who's in the fashion industry in London. In closing I think it is important to acknowledge the teachers who inspired me 'to exceed my own grasp', John Tavener, the Art teacher, L.C. Huddleston (English), C.A. Broome (English) and I. Williams (Chemistry), E.J. Pritchard who taught me so many carpentry skills, G. Middleton (I think), the teacher who started the Rowing Club and lastly J.A. Stocks (the Headmaster). I'm sure you now have many equally great teachers who will inspire their student to go on to great things!

Richard H. Pegg



Alumni Update: Ollie Young

Honours: Prefect. U15s Rugby Captain, reaching the School's first national final at Twickenham. First XV Rugby Captain 2014-15.

Memories: You couldn't ask me to pick out my favourite time at the School. I joined in Year 7, left in Year 13 and loved every minute. The teachers I had throughout the School were committed to me, my development and my interests. I remember throughout my years at the School making some mistakes, but what sticks with me is how they were dealt with by the staff. There is a recurring theme of care, and emphasis on me growing as a person. Rhys Williams always used to say to the boys before a big fixture: "You will remember these games for years to come." We all believed him, and he wasn't wrong. I will never forget the big games we played, in front of the School or away at some magnificent venues. I will never forget running out at Twickenham, as the Under 15s Captain for the School's first national final, nor will I forget the tour to New Zealand, which is an experience that I might never have had. The culture at Tommy's is just different. You are always pushed to maximise your potential but to do it in the right way, surrounded by the best teachers, which has built this community that all Old Richians feel a part of.

Life and career: The natural progression from a school like Tommy's is university. However, throughout my time in the Upper Sixth it became apparent it wasn't right for me. Despite being accepted by Loughborough to study Human Biology, I joined Nationwide Building Society in August 2015. By June 2016 I was working in the Cheltenham Office as a consultant, I also began studying for a Diploma in Financial Advice (DipFA). After two years as an adviser at Nationwide, I was approached by Corinthian Wealth Management. I now work as a Wealth

Management Consultant, as part of Corinthian running my own business providing clients of all backgrounds with financial advice. I am proud of the job I do, and I have achieved this opportunity without going to university. Since leaving I have been talking to pupils and attending School events, to try share my experience and help pupils to understand the options available to them. I have no doubt that running my business will be something I do for the rest of my life, and the skills I use day in day out with clients were all built during my time at School.

Advice to current pupils: Don't take anything for granted. You're extremely lucky to be at the School, the support you receive is unparalleled and should not be overlooked. Naturally, you will leave with great grades. But the biggest thing I can stress is the importance of being a rounded individual. The School has an ever-improving careers strategy, get involved in mock interviews, public speaking and anything else that may be on offer. It is vital that whatever you do, further education or not, that you have skills that an employer looks for.

Ollie Young (2008-2015)



Obituary

We are sad to report that Terry Roberts (1955-1963) died on 1st September 2018, in Sao Paulo Brazil after a sudden heart attack.

PMM School Uganda 2018

Rich's enjoyed another successful trip to our partner school in Uganda in the summer - here's what the students thought about their experience!

Our trip to Uganda gave us the opportunity to experience various exciting activities such as going on safari, where we saw a variety of animals including countless elephants and giraffes, as well as hiking through the heat to the top of Murchison Falls to appreciate the amazing view.

The highlight of the trip for me was having the chance to interact with many of the students from both PMM School and St Gonzaga Gonza School. They were all friendly and approachable,

and I found it particularly interesting to learn about both the similarities and differences between our home and school lives. We were able to bond over various things such as our taste in music, our favourite books, and even took part in some sports activities. Overall, the trip was an amazing opportunity, and we all enjoyed experiencing a different culture, which involved meeting the local people, tasting new food, listening to their music and watching traditional dances.

Sophia Swell 13G

As my time at Rich's draws to a close, it has become a habit of mine to reflect on my career here. Despite having several precious memories, no memory, no experience shines as brilliantly as my time spent in Uganda and travelling the country with my friends and visiting PMM Girls School.

Over the course of two weeks we visited many places and people. We started our journey in Entebbe, despite only spending a night there we made the most of it by venturing to the shores of

Lake Victoria. Gazing at the tides and talking to the locals was enough to cure us from the sleepless 25 hours of travelling before. The next day we set off to Jinja, where we would spend the following week in PMM Girls School and other schools. A lot of prized memories were made that week, a few of my favourite being the school play we performed and Caspar and I teaching maths lessons, despite both of us being awful at maths. But at the same time we all learnt a lot from the people there. I interviewed a former student at PMM

who had reaped the benefits of our sponsorship. The stories she told of her family and her struggle moved me deeply and made me realise how grateful I should be for everything in my life. Uganda maybe wasn't the most exciting trip but we learnt more there than we ever would've in a classroom. However, the next week was where the real exploration began. As you can imagine, the seven hour journey to west Uganda went like most seven hour journeys do; sweating under the sun, with pins and needles encompassing our legs in funny

feelings. However we didn't mind, for the countryside and wildlife was so beautiful it made us forget about the metal box we were travelling in. One cannot truly understand the meaning of the word wanderlust until you see giraffes running alongside and being held gently in the vast Ugandan Savannah. The land was truly majestic and the life around us fruitful. On arrival we settled into our rooms and relaxed. The next week was spent climbing up the sides of waterfalls and having breakfast with rhinos that were only metres away. ►

And even though the days were truly breathtaking, it was the nights that I looked forward to. No lights, no sound. Just the view of the moon floating over Lake Albert and the sound of a family of elephants in the distance. At night we would sit on our porch and just watch the stars in the sky and lake down below, the moon was so bright that you could see the rich green grass at your feet. It truly felt like heaven on earth.

Whether it was wandering through the remote countryside of a village you couldn't find on a map, or singing your heart out with the girls from PMM School, the country induced a certain sensibility of comfort and belonging in you. Whenever we visited a new area, the locals wouldn't just say "hello", to us, they would say "you are welcome here," as if we were one of them, as if we had never left our homes that were thousands of kilometres away. And even though I sit now, typing away at my desk, in my comfy chair, in my own home, I still feel homesick.

Sanchay Saxena 13T

One of the most valuable visits on the trip, was the one to 'Get Involved: African Street Children Organisation' (G.I.A.S.C.O). It started in January 2016 as a drop in day centre for street homeless children in Jinja.

Three months later, they were able to rent a house and become a residential home for the homeless boys, and the boys were able to start at local schools and actually receive an education, something which many Ugandan children are deprived of.

We were warmly welcomed by Jimmy, who showed us around the house, and served up a traditional Ugandan dish, 'posho and beans'. Posho is ground up maize flower, mixed together with water. It was interesting to acquire a taste of their unique culture and lifestyle of the children, and understand their appreciation of the little they have.

After dinner, we went out to the garden and enjoyed a game of football. The boys were all very passionate and competitive when it came to the game, and many of

them were big supporters of English clubs. A few of us donated old football kits to the boys, which they were all delighted by. Several of us also went to play volleyball, another sport which they spend a lot of their time playing, and thus presented a great amount of skill in it.

The evening game was also joined by the small number of staff from ASCO, making it a great collaborative experience to share amongst us.

Every day, after dark, the students would diligently gather around dinner tables to complete their homework, and prepare for any upcoming tests. We helped them with their homework, although some of the English passage questions proved challenging even for English speakers!

The boys were thrilled to show us their hard work, and it was humbling to experience how grateful these children are to receive an education, something that we as a school, and as a nation, take for granted.

Joe Gooch 13R

The main focus of our trip to Uganda was to visit Rich's partnered school, PMM Girls School. We spent a week in the school and during this time we painted and transformed two of the old classrooms in the main school building.

The teachers and students were equally as excited with the new rooms and they were so grateful that we were able to create a more comfortable learning environment for the girls at the school. We got to teach a lesson to the students, where we taught them all about the UK and they were extremely inquisitive about our lives back in England and the British way of life. During our time at the school we were able to speak to the students individually and get to know them on a personal level.

This was such a humbling experience as they told us about their lives and family life and we shared ours with them. The thing that struck me most during our time at PMM is the dedication and passion for learning and the level of appreciation every single student has for their school, and how much they value education. On our last day at PMM we participated in their

school sports day, which started off with a march around Jinja town. We were split up into houses where we took part in a range of sports events, some that I have heard of before such as javelin and 100m but also some that were new to us all, for example the banana peeling race. The enthusiasm of the students was amazing and the whole experience was very enjoyable, despite the very high temperatures.

Every day at the school we were lucky enough to try posho, Uganda's native food. The best way I can describe posho is interesting with a very weird texture. However, we still ate it and the girls at the school seemed to really enjoy it, and they especially enjoyed our reaction when trying it for the first time!

Visiting Uganda was an amazing experience and spending a week at PMM school was definitely the highlight as it was a once in a life time opportunity which allowed me to see the completely different ways in which the students live their lives, and their outlook on life was so inspiring.

Alice Hutchings 13R

At the end of the trip, we travelled to Murchison Falls National Park to go on Safari. We stayed in raised tents in the National Park, which we weren't allowed to leave at night due to the risk of elephants surrounding us!

Each morning we woke up before sunrise to have breakfast, and then headed off for a game drive. We saw giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, warthogs and monkeys. On one of the days we went on a boat trip down the Nile, and saw crocodiles and hippos, as well as beautiful scenery. We visited Murchison Falls, where the Nile forces its way through a gap only 7 metres wide, creating an amazing waterfall.

We also spent some time at a hotel relaxing, where baboons came right up to us by the pool with their babies. On the last night of the trip, we visited the Ziwa Rhino sanctuary, home to the remaining 22 white rhinos in Uganda. We managed to get very close to them both on our safari and at breakfast the next morning before heading home.

Seb Gray 13T



40 Years of Göttingen!

Part 1: March 2018

Last year the exchange celebrated its 40th year with a special anniversary celebration. Twenty-four Sir Thomas Rich's Year 10 boys plus sixteen girls from the High School for Girls travelled to Germany in March to stay with their exchange partners.

Our pupils had a wonderful time, with a mix of cultural and language based activities they were able to experience everyday life and improve their language skills. Highlights included a walking tour of Berlin, a visit to the mayor, an interactive motor museum and a programme of sports at the university including climbing, archery and disk golf. On the Friday evening, there was an anniversary celebration which included stories of former pupils and even a marriage as a result of the exchange! Mr Morgan also flew over for the occasion and gave a rousing speech on the importance of the exchange programme. Much excellent food was consumed, many friendships have been forged and a great time was had by all.

Michelle Ferguson, German Dept

"On Wednesday we boarded the ICE high-speed train in Göttingen on the way to Berlin where we were allowed time to explore the historic town and purchase presents for ourselves and our families. After meeting back up we took part in a historic tour including buildings ravaged by war and the historical and social change that has always accompanied Berlin's growth. Many of us found the Holocaust memorial a particularly interesting and powerful representation of the dark period in which Berlin found itself during the 1930s and 1940s. Later we came across the historic Brandenburg Gate which marked the starts and ends of eras within Berlin and Germany. It was quite a sight to behold."

James Smith 10T

"On Tuesday, both the English and German exchange partners took part in a sports day during which we had the choices of many physical activities; these were self-defence, climbing, archery and arguably the most enjoyed sport, Frisbee golf. My partner and I both chose Frisbee golf and self-defence which we both thoroughly enjoyed. Personally my favourite was Frisbee golf where you had to throw a Frisbee into a chain basketball

like hoop/target from across a field. This often involved avoiding trees and other natural obstructions."

Sam Cripps

"We got to experience two lessons on our visit to Germany and I was able to see a Physics lesson and an English lesson. One major difference is that they have chalkboards in their classrooms rather than the whiteboards we have in our classrooms here. Also some of their lessons, not just English, are spoken in the English language. Most of the lessons are in German but a few are taught in English. One similarity is that they also have a wide range of practical equipment available to them, as I got to experience in their Physics lesson. Overall, their school was very interesting to visit and we enjoyed the time we spent in our partners' lessons."

Tom Weygang 10S

"The day trip to Berlin was a highlight of the trip for all. The day started with an exciting 250 km/h journey on the ICE (Inter-City Express) train from Göttingen to Berlin lasting a little over 2 hours. Upon arrival, we were given ninety minutes of free time in Berlin to visit souvenir stores, shops and anywhere else of interest. This was exciting and fun with plenty of opportunity to explore in small groups and put the German language into practice. A walking tour of Berlin then began with an opportunity to see many famous Berlin attractions including the Berlin Cathedral, the French and German Churches, The Brandenburg Gate, and the site of Hitler's death. Despite the cold weather the tour was factual and engaging with a lot being learnt about Berlin now, and its rather disrupted history. After an exciting yet tiring day, the warm train journey home was relaxing for all."

Hugh Clist Woodward 10S



"On Friday morning, all members of the exchange travelled on foot into the centre of town to meet the mayor and watch an informative video about Göttingen. The mayor then thanked the schools for their work put into the exchange. After this, we ascended via the lift to the top floor of the town hall, and were able to see the extent of Göttingen. Göttingen is similar to Gloucester in size, but different in buildings. Most of the buildings in Göttingen are modern, and from the top of the town hall this is clearly visible. After this we split into groups to answer questions about the town, by travelling to areas. After some time most people had explored the town and everyone had a good time, with most of the tasks completed. We took group photos at the foot of a statue that was the most kissed girl in the world, (due to a tradition of kissing her cheek after graduating from the university), and finally walked back to the school. It was an enjoyable day, which taught us lots

about the German culture, and enabled us to have fun with our friends at the same time, whilst practicing some German."

Danny Tilley 10B

"The motor museum in Einbeck was a very engaging trip. Unlike most museums, Speicher Einbeck had an interesting layout consisting of multiple floors representing each time period. The highest floor housed examples of the first cars and motorbikes and the lower floor looked at designs for futuristic motorbikes with the middle floors filling the gap. The museum was also interactive which made it more appealing to as we went round. Overall the museum was very informative and engaging and provided an insight into Germany's first motorbikes."

Joe English



that my exchange partner and I were able to have engaging conversations, just like I would have with my friends in England. Overall, the exchange allowed me to practise my German in a comfortable, open environment and make new friends along the way."

Alistair Ryan 10S

"We left Friedland in the morning, it was a long drive to Hamburg. When we arrived in Hamburg we visited the Miniature Wonderland, it was a large warehouse near the river. It was massive inside, with models of Las Vegas, Austria and even Switzerland. After that we visited my exchange's friend who was with my friend Charlotte, we walked around the city centre of Hamburg. It was a large city with tall buildings and a lot of street art. After that, we went to the port and had some German fish and chips. We walked around the dock and saw all of the ships. And then we went under the Elbtunnel, which was an underwater tunnel that crossed the river."

Ben Cosgrove 10S

"Staying with another family in Germany was a great experience and it gave way to lots of opportunities to practice German speaking and listening skills. The family I stayed with were really kind, and even if I didn't completely understand what they were saying, we were always able to get the message across. I quickly found myself involved in the family lifestyle and became engrossed in their daily activities, ranging from shopping to Karate (which was rather exciting). I had a full-on week of new activities, compelling trips and, most importantly, German.

"An exchange can seem like a daunting experience and speaking another language can seem complicated or scary, but I found

"On the Friday night of the 40th German exchange between Sir Thomas Rich's and the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium, a celebration occurred featuring speeches from several former and current members of staff. In particular, Mr Morgan's speech featured a sentence from him in German which was skilfully orated. Speeches from several generations of exchange students and some of the teachers who organised the exchange were especially interesting."

Josh Littler-Jennings 10S

Part 2: November 2018

Back in November 2018, 22 Year 10 pupils said goodbye (how about Auf Wiedersehen?) to their German exchange partners. During their week-long stay, a variety of trips and activities were organised for our guests, including visits to Bristol and discovering Gloucester, where they met the Mayor and visited the cathedral.

Then there was a trip to Wales for a joint fun day out for our pupils and their German partners at the Ice Arena in Cardiff. On Friday evening we celebrated the 40-year anniversary of the Göttingen-Gloucester exchange together with pupils, parents and former teachers. Our guest speaker, Patrick Moss, who had been an exchange student on the 1986 exchange, gave an entertaining ▶



insight into his memorable experience of going to Germany. The Headmaster impressed by delivering the beginning of his speech in German and the Headmistress of the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium, Rita Engels, and the deputy head of the High School for Girls, Alex Wickson, thanked our pupils and parents for their kind hospitality and expressed their confidence that this exchange will continue to flourish. After a ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake (designed and baked by Mrs Ferguson), a barn dance ensured an active and fun-packed end to the evening. Our pupils are now looking forward to the second leg of the exchange in June, when they will meet their exchange partner's family, try out their German, experience a day in a German school and do some interesting day trips, including, of course, one to the fascinating capital Berlin. We are told that the Bread Museum mentioned by Mr Moss will sadly not be on the agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everybody involved in the exchange; parents and pupils for being such brilliant hosts and my colleagues who helped with excursions and the smooth running of events. May I also add that the school is very fortunate to have the Otto Hahn Gymnasium as a partner school. It is committed to maintaining strong links with us and the track record of successful exchanges is a testimony to their dedication and enthusiasm."

Birgit Testoni-Ranken, German Dept

"On the German Exchange, I enjoyed the ice skating the most as it was an opportunity to try something out and have fun with the exchange partners. I also enjoyed the chance to try out my German on someone who spoke the language natively so they could help me pronounce the words properly."

Kieran Anderson 10S

"My favourite part of the exchange was meeting my exchange partner for the first time, as I quickly realised we had a lot in common and got along quite well, which got rid of my fears of not having much to do and talk about for the week. This set up a good week as since we could talk a lot about our similar hobbies, we could do things together throughout the week that we both enjoyed."

Ben Peates 10S

"The exchange was top quality. My partner was very nice and we had a fun, enjoyable time together. During the week we went to Cheltenham and hung out with friends, whilst also playing football and going to the racecourse on Saturday. I can't wait to go to Göttingen now!"

Finley Donnelly 10T

I really enjoyed hosting my German exchange. My partner was very nice and we had a good time together. We did lots of fun things together. During the week we went trampolining, we played crazy golf and we met with our friends. These were all great fun. However the highlight of the week was when we went to Brighton. We saw the beautiful sea views. We went on Brighton pier and played lots of the games and finally we walked around Brighton. Overall I really enjoyed the experience and cannot wait to go to Germany."

Freddie Goymer-Brown 10T

"I really enjoyed the German exchange in England because of the fun nature of the exchange partners but also the meeting up of all the exchange partners on various days during the week; such as many people met up at Airborne on one of the days and then went to KFC. I also went to bowling with some of my friends on the weekend and also played a few arcade games (actually we got 4600 tickets with those arcade games). But what I liked best was on Sunday, I went karting with my friend and his partner which was really fun as we crashed a lot into each other, went around to a restaurant and around Gloucester Quays, which was a great way to end the exchange."

Vihaan Bhavanarushi 10T

"I really enjoyed the German exchange especially when all the people on the exchange met up for joint activities like Airborne, ice skating and bowling. It was interesting to meet new people from Germany but also the other people from England on the exchange. All the people on the exchange were extremely kind even after meeting for the very first time. It was a very different experience to show someone your day to day life."

Toby Watine 10T



student writing

Year 8 and Year 12 students treat us to some chilling tales and sinister stories...

Eleven Fifty-Nine

All conceivable light was consumed by the ever-growing darkness as Jonas wandered home, down the streets of London. The night was cold and wet with the headlights of speeding cars illuminating the downpour. 23:59 was when it happened. Lightning struck as the roaring of engines faded away; streetlights flickered out, plunging the city into darkness.

He was surrounded by nothing, nothing but the thoughts of his clouded mind. There was, however, one light that snapped on. A cone of light in front of Jonas, and a silhouette standing there. What was it? It stared at Jonas... It stared into Jonas... All until his body froze and his cry couldn't be heard. No way to move; no way to run.

It was a beautiful day outside, birds were singing, flowers were blooming, on days like these you would never expect to see this on the news:

"Local 30-year-old man Jonas Kain was killed on the night of January 13 1990, the death is claimed to be a murder but no proof is yet to be found. The police are working on the case."

Later that morning you arrive at the crime scene in your uniform and get to work. The area is entirely blocked off by black and yellow striped tape with surrounding officers and police cars. For anyone walking by it was a dose of reality, existence is delicate and can be taken in an instant. You see a mother and child walk past and stop, staring, the child like he has seen a ghost, the mother letting go of her clenched fist.

"Detective! Get back to work!" shouted the commanding officer.

Sigh "Yes sir, sorry sir." You replied, you were used to that, being an illegitimate child.

Studying the body is quite an unusual sight for you, this isn't normal, something's not right. The entire body has already decomposed, it's like the body had been left for years – not hours...

Why did you spend all night on this case? Why bother? Why go through the pain? You question yourself as no answer was showing itself after an entire day of research. It was late at night when you finally conclude your work and fall asleep, very late... Just before midnight. There is a loud crash of thunder. Your ears

popped, all that was left to hear was a loud, beating pulse. Your whole body stuck, paralysed in an upright position, all as it crept closer. And closer. And with a final step, as close as it could be. An entity of darkness in the rain. Drenched in hot sweat you jump out of your bed sheets and recollect your earlier paralysed body. It felt so real, no detail was spared. That was more than a dream, but what?

Every night it got worse, the dream seemed to evolve. More and more things would happen: there would be thick fog; the rain became hail; noises of moaning and crying would echo through your head. It wouldn't stop. It drove you insane, waking up in fear every day whilst so scared to sleep you would only drift away at midnight. Fear can drive you mental and it did to you. It started with you questioning life, not going to your job, avoiding sleep all together. This wasn't a dream. It was almost as if it was telling you something... How you will die.

It was 21:55. Sleep deprived you went down to make another cup of coffee, and noticed something. You could run away, away to the country, away from the curse that you felt upon yourself. And your clouded mind went on with it. In a dressing gown and slippers you open the door and get into your car. The night is dark, cold and wet. As you drive the rain turns to hail, the streets become empty, and with a final splutter, your car stops. You get out and everything turns black. You reach for the handle with the hail smacking your head but it's locked. Checking your watch you see it changing from 21:58 to 21:59... Instantly a clash of lightening hits the road in front of you, the street lamps go out, your ears popped. You could hear your heartbeat, paralysed in an upright position. A singular lamp flickers on, it is there. Creeping closer. And closer. And closer, all until an inch from your face the silhouette stops.

"Hello. Why you look so scared huh? You must've seen this coming." It said in the dark. "The death of Jonas, what a ghastly man. He was illegitimate you know? He wanted me to kill him, but you're no different..."

The voice of a monster, a ghost. And with that, you felt a great pain surge through your body, your life draining into the ever growing silhouette. Until you were nothing, but a corpse.

Leon Santarsieri 8R

Ghost Story

A creeping realisation came over me. They were coming but not quick enough. The traffic was bad and the fire brigade would be a minute still. The low sea mist was crawling up from the water a mere one hundred metres away, crawling up the pavement like a hunter on its prey.

I turned to my wife and then to the burning building from which I came. I ran in, and up the stairs, fire whipping at my feet with only a second of hesitation. I could hear his screams. This was good as I could tell he was still alive. A flaming plank hit my back, but I was so determined I got up quickly and kept on running up the stairs. I had one turn left, I was almost there.

Then it hit me; the baby had stopped screaming. As I turned the corner, a boiling rage and fear built up in me. Standing over the cot was a hooded figure in black holding the baby, and I watched as he jumped out the window into the low sea mist and ran into the nearby sea. I had frozen with fright.

I snapped; I had been still about ten seconds, utterly dumbstruck, when I snapped. I ran and without thinking, I vaulted myself out of the third story, around ten metres above the ground. Mid-flight I realised my fatal error, I was too high, and I might die. I could not even see where I was going to land, as the sea mist now covered the ground, hiding the rough debris all over the garden. This was always going to hurt, but I never thought it would hurt as much as it did.

I hit the ground and instead of land in feet first or rolling, like in the movies, I crumpled. I let out a scream of the most severe agony for both my physical pain, and that of losing a two-week-old baby. It all went black after that.

My wife and the fire department, that just arrived, heard my scream and immediately ran to the back garden, and to their dismay see a feet deep layer of mist covering the entire garden. My body had become covered in the fog and much to my wife's gratitude I was found quickly. Then she heard the paramedic say: "He is dead."

The first words I heard when I came back from 'death' before I was properly awake was those three very ironic words. Then I remembered what had happened and

I instantly snapped my eyes open and sat up. I felt fine until the pain hit me again and I went back under. A few hours later I woke up from the second pain and everything was white, I thought I was dead for real and then I realised it was just my eyes adjusting to the light coming through the window, my eyes fully adjusted and I saw my wife smiling at me as I woke. I felt at peace. Until I remembered what I had failed to say when I first awoke. A ghost stole my son and I needed to tell the world, but my wife first.

Before I could say a word, my wife spoke. "What happened" she enquired in her ever positive quiet tone. So I told her, how a ghost had taken my son, but when I said it to her, I used the word devil as that was what I thought of the hooded man dressed in black. She held me and we cried for hours alone on that bed in the hospital, and we thought the world had no meaning.

One month later, we were having a funeral for my dear son, and my eyes were welled up with tears. I looked onward to where the empty coffin was being laid into the grave, when on the other side of the coffin there stood the man that haunted my dreams. The hooded man dressed in black was the closest he had ever been to me, and I knew what I had to do.

With a scream of rage, I jumped the coffin and chased the devil of a man who had already turned to run. I chased him down and he just managed to turn the corner before I could grab him and show the world who he was. A few more steps and he was mine and then, he turned to dust. He clothes sat spread around on the floor and he was a pile of dust at my feet. I picked up the clothes to inspect, looked back down and the dust was gone.

6 Years Later

We moved since the incident into another house on the same road as our old home, and on a very similar day, we had gone to our best friend's house for dinner, and a cooling low sea mist was crawling in as we moved back inside to avoid the inevitable rain.

We were sat down and talking while the dinner was cooking. We had not talked like this since the incident; it was fantastic. Our friends went to the kitchen to get

the food out of the oven, when we heard a scream. A few seconds later, they both ran through screaming, one was on fire. The front door was locked, as we tried to escape the persecuting fire, it came crawling through into the hallway as we left stumbling outwards.

Then I remembered their daughter! A creeping realisation came over me. They were coming but not quick enough. The traffic was bad and the fire brigade would be a minute still. I turned to my wife and friends and then to the burning building from which I came.

I ran in, and up the stairs, fire whipping at my feet with only a second of hesitation. I could hear her screams. This was good as I could tell she was still alive. Then, it hit me twice. Firstly, the flaming plank, and then that everything was the same from the incident, and he was going to be here. However, I was so determined I got up quickly, even though I thought I knew what was going to happen and dreaded it, and kept on running up the stairs. I had one turn left; I was almost there. The baby had stopped screaming, but I knew this was going to happen.

As I turned the corner, a fear of the inevitable built up in me. Standing over the cot was a hooded figure in black holding the baby, and next to him, my six-year-old son. I was so shocked I fell over and almost into a burning flame. I sat there for a whole minute just staring in wonder, I had never expected it; I never even thought this was a possibility. Then the black figure turned and stared deep into my soul.

He said in a raspy and unearthly tone that I do not want to hear again, one simple word. "Sorry." He spoke before jumping out the window, and this time I did not follow. I stood up and walked over to my son, my eyes watering with tears. I took his hand in mine and picked up the baby girl. Together we walked down the burning stairs, where flames all around me died to the rain. We felt like gods.

Josh King 8R

The Ghost in the Black Cloak

It was a dark and stormy night and the three children were huddled together in the window alcove, totally in awe. The youngest sibling, Archie, was frightened by the thunder as it echoed round the hills. The wind that whistled through the old house made the children shiver, doors slammed and windows rattled. They all were scared now. This was no ordinary storm. No ordinary storm makes you shudder at every bolt and thunder clap. This storm was far from ordinary.

“When will Great Aunt Jesse be back?” enquired Archie timidly.

“I’m sure she’ll be back before this storm ends,” Poppy reassured.

“I do hope so, this storm is sca-” before James could finish speaking, a huge bolt of lightning struck and the house descended into complete darkness. “Aaarrrrggghhh,” screamed Archie.

“It’s ok, don’t worry,” comforted Poppy, “look, here we go, I’ll light a candle.” She struck a match.

“Look,” Archie tremored, “what’s that black thing?”

As the children looked over to where he was pointing, they saw a black cloak billowing out of the door. Archie ran after it, followed by James and Poppy. However the cloak was too fast and they could only just keep up with it. Down onto the landing it lead them and down flight after flight of stairs, all the way down to the coal cellar. As soon as they entered the cellar their candle went out. Click. The door locked behind them. Trapped. Lightning flashed through the grille of ferns that led out of the cellar onto the back porch, illuminating the cloaked figure for a second, but a second was enough to catch a glimpse of the pale, almost see through face of this thing that hovered before the children. Trapped with a ghost!

James tried again and again to open the door, but it was bolted tightly shut.

Worthless Dog

Another year, another pound; why can’t I just be like any other dog? All I want is a home, at the moment I don’t even have a name; though ‘Worthless dog,’ seems to be a popular choice with the humans who are ‘taking care of me’.

Since they found me in the woods they’ve put me into twelve different pounds, thirteen as of today; every year I go somewhere different to see if anyone wants me; no-one does, everyone just wants a puppy or a dog with four legs: I guess that’s just not me. We left North Virginia about three hours ago, so it’s got to be fairly close to New York, I think.

After what feels like years (dog years of course), we arrive. This cage is the smallest I’ve been in; however, I overhear someone saying this is largest size. At least the food is good here, flavoured with lamb, my favourite and every day. Meal times are the only times I get some peace, none of the other dogs bark at me or stare at my missing leg like I’m some sort of reject, just whilst we eat.

“Quickly,” Poppy whispered to her terrified siblings, “run around to the left and out of the coal bunker!”

“B-b-b-u-t-t what about you?” Archie stammered.

“I’ll stay and try to distract our ‘visitor’, while you two escape,” Poppy said trying her best to be calm. “Now go! I’ll be right behind you, I promise.” She hugged both her siblings, knowing that could have been her last chance to say goodbye.

James and Archie ran to the coal bunker and climbed out into the open night. They ran and didn’t stop until they were huddled under a blanket on Archie’s bed. They waited for what felt like forever and every minute without their sister made them more scared. They feared the worst.

Then the door opened and in came Great Aunt Jesse, followed by a shivering Poppy. The brothers ran and hugged their sister like it was the last thing they would ever do.

“Why are you so cold?” Jesse asked, clearly concerned at the boys’ shivering.

“I-i-i-t-t’s-s very cold in here, Great Aunt Jesse,” the boys stuttered, “please could we put the heating on just this once?”

“No, don’t be silly, I haven’t put the heating on in this house for thirty years and I’m not going to start now. Just get another blanket.”

“Ok, thank you Great Aunt Jesse, we will be going to bed now,” said Poppy.

“Good night,” the children said, “see you in the morning.” But the children didn’t know for certain that they would, and as Poppy told the other siblings how she escaped, they wondered if the ghost in the black cloak would strike again.

Oliver Dyer 8R

“I’m just like you,” I bark nervously, I’m not. I know I’m not; all I am is a worthless dog, a dog that doesn’t even know what it is liked to be loved; I am a reject. I’m barely two days in, everything could get better.

What’s this noise? I can hear shouting, it must be important, because it woke me up. It sounds like ‘treat them fairly.’ This ends with the sound of approaching sirens, after this the day goes on as normal.

The next day I wake up, but not in the pound. On a comfy, soft, fluffy thing; there’s a human in a box on a stand saying, “Reports indicate a break into New York Pound.”

I think I’m free, I think I have a home, I am not a worthless dog!

Isaac Davies 8B

IOWA

\$4.98. The cost of an extra-large macchiato. A tumble weed passes.

I’ve only known this place. My Papa grew up here, his Papa ’fore him and his ’fore him. Our hearts lie within Iowa. There ain’t much to do here mind you. A small barn down the road, edging nearer and nearer to the gigantic quarry. Atlantis we’d call it, my sis’ and I. We’ve never been to the bottom, although when Ma and Papa were out in the barn, tending to the cattle, we’d rush down the dusty path and frantically scramble down the cliff face and sit on the garden-patch shaped ledge; jus’ thinkin’. Thinkin’ about what our futures held, what our favourite dinosaurs were.

We were so happy that we almost forgot.

An escape, from what was out there, from the stories we’d overheard. Greta was sixteen; an adult from my perspective. We’d share everything: clothes, toys and cereal (Caramel Crunch was my favourite). We tended to camp on the ledge, whilst Ma and Papa fought. We were safe here.

Were.

Being sisters ‘n’ all, we tried to stick together. Greta would teach me literacy and number. I hated it, but Greta was forceful and seemed almost scared. We’d sit in the barn, chatting and playing with Brucie; our prized possession. He’d whinny whenever he saw us, and we’d sit there for hours on end. Jus’ strokin’ him. In a way, he was more of a father to us than Papa. Not that Brucie did, but Papa would never say “I love you”, never read us a bedtime story, never teach us to tend to the farm. He was just... Papa.

It was a brisk autumnal morning with a hazel sky and angelic cotton clouds. The sun was peering over the quarry and everyone was beginnin’ to stir. The blaring siren screamed about a kilometre away; to be heard all around. As everyone became restless, the siren blared for a fifth ring. The conventional bustle of the farm evolved into an ear-splitting silence and everyone on the farm froze. Five, not four. After ’bout a minute, Papa beckoned us in his stern, military voice and we knew that we wouldn’t be feedin’ the chickens today. That’s for certain.

As Greta and I leapt from our bunk-beds, there was an apocalyptic implosion resonating from the neighbourin’ village that created nauseous tremors in my gut. The bulb swung round the ceiling and flickered incessantly like a panicked pup. The wallpaper began to

crumble, and the sound of crockery shiverin’ could be heard from outside. The prodigious shockwave had encapsulated the village and was chargin’ for us like an armada.

Greta snatched me, her eyes bore into mine, moistening rapidly.

“We gotta get outta here NOW!” she squealed, grabbin’ my arm with unforeseeable strength. She pivoted and began to sprint down the stairs to the kitchen. The floor was varnished in the contents of our cupboards and we were shoved by a mini-shock to send us clatterin’ into the broken porcelain.

The adrenaline controlled us as we ventured on, unaware of our severe gashes and we rushed to the window. Through the grubby stains and dust, we could see telephone wires flattened and all the shacks had been instantaneously demolished into a shrivelled pile of rubble. The ground was desiccated and there were no screams. No screams. No life.

The weeds tilted towards us and rocks began to be flung into our house. We shrunk to the ground with our heads in our laps, hiding from the piercing shrapnel targeted at our house. The floor shook vigorously, and an ominous quake echoed through our ears, getting louder and louder and LOUDER.

The time is 16:04. Date, 25.02.56. I walk into Bill’s Bargains, the local petrol station where Greta and I used to buy Caramel Crunch. The cheery jingle of the door opening almost mocking the drab, chestnut tinge of the convenient snacks, 11 years old now. The coffee machine crooning a monotonous tone, claiming a special discount on macky - mackyartoes or somethin’ like that. I feel a sudden surge of decrepitude, causing me to quake and collapse in a moment of blindness. I lay here, sinking into the floor, despondency engulfing me as I am whittled down to nothing.

I have no-one. I’m alone. Isolated. Hungry. Tired. Dying.

I scream. No-one hears. I’m sorry Papa. I love you Ma. I love you Greta. But I was born here. My heart lies within Iowa. And so it shall stay.

\$4.98. The cost of an extra-large macchiato. A tumble weed passes.

Lewis Dobbs 12R



Netball Challenge Cup Win For Rich's A Team

Well done to our A and B Teams who played with enthusiasm and commitment at the recent Challenge Cup. Our A Team won the overall tournament, beating tough opposition such as Pate's and Stroud High.

We have worked hard in training to improve our skills and team play. We are also thrilled that many of our 31 players are club players or have joined the netball fun league since joining our Sixth Form.

Mrs Lynn and I work hard to make sure that there are plenty of fixtures for all our players, whatever their level. We also like to promote team spirit and enjoy witnessing the friendships grow between the Year 12 and Year 13 girls. Our Malta netball tour runs every two years, with our next trip planned for February 2020.

Follow the team on Twitter at @STRSNetball for all our latest results.

Marian Brown, Netball Coach



Swimming Success In District Gala

The Rich's swimming team once again dominated the district swimming gala, winning the overall boys' competition.

The boys won four out of the five age groups, finishing second in the senior event. There was another strong showing by the two senior girls' teams, who finished joint first and third respectively.

It was an excellent all round team effort with particularly good individual performances from Scott Munden (Y12), Ellie Dobbin (Y12), Theo Jenkins-Lane and Edi James (both Y9). We look forward to defending our title next year.

Nick O'Neil, Head of PE

Rugby Report

As of February, there have been 211 rugby fixtures across all age groups. It is fantastic to see so many pupils involved in rugby.

The 1st XV have had a pleasing start to the campaign beating Bristol Grammar School, Monmouth School, as well as King's Worcester and Colston's School.

Despite losing some very tight games against Cheltenham College, Bromsgrove School, and Dean Close in the Cup, the team bounced back with excellent wins over Pate's, Crypt, Northampton School For Boys, Solihull School, and King's Macclesfield School. There have been some stand out performers this year, but none more so than second row William Sanderson who is top of the try scorers' leader board. William has scored no less than two hat-tricks this year picking an average of two tries per game. Joe Hocking has captained the team superbly and there has not been a better forward player this season for any team that we have come up against. The 1st XV finished in 20th place out of 104 in the *Daily Mail* Schools' League – making us the top ranked state school in the country. (See the *Daily Mail's* website for a full report: <https://tinyurl.com/y8m488tz>.)

There have also been some representative honours gained this year. James Emmerson (hooker) has played two matches for The Lambs RFC versus the Irish Exiles and The Boy's Club of Wales, whilst Kelvin Osawe (number 6) has progressed into the U18s South West team, the first to do so since Sam Underhill.

It is also pleasing to see that Michael Baron and Saxon Campbell continue to progress in the Gloucester Academy set up. In addition Luke Carr, Miles Calvert, and Alex Cole have also been selected for Gloucester County U17s team.



The U14s remain in stunning form, picking up where they left off in Year 8, winning eleven consecutive games. Although they have now had the experience of losing a few games, this will set them in good stead for the future.

The U13s are showing great promise again this year with some excellent wins at Bromsgrove and Pate's.

The U12s, who have five teams, are producing some excellent rugby and improving their knowledge and understanding each week. The Year 7 coaching team, led by Mr Powell, have done a fantastic job to date by enthusing and inspiring the next generation of Rich's rugby players.

Rhys Davies, Director of Rugby

U13 Rugby

It has been a pleasure to coach the U13 rugby team this year and I could not have asked for more commitment from the players.

The hard work has paid off, with the U13 A Team recording some impressive wins against tough sides such as Bromsgrove, Pate's, Beechen Cliff and Crypt.

The U13 have also had the chance to travel the country, with consecutive fixtures away in Macclesfield and Llandovery.

The team responded well to the demanding requirements of travelling, playing some impressive rugby in both games. Rich's won in Macclesfield 40-10 and played two fixtures in Llandovery, racking up an impressive 66 points for the day, while conceding only 5.

With the combination of talent and commitment that the boys have shown this season I look forward to seeing them progress in future years.

Zak Hinds, PE & Games

Badminton Clubs Smash It

The badminton clubs on Wednesday afternoons and Friday lunchtimes have been richly attended this year with enthusiastic and skilful play, showing a strength in depth for future teams.

In December, we took three teams for our first fixture against Farmor’s School with a mix of experienced players and new Year 7s and 8s. All three teams won their two matches. In the District Badminton finals we entered a KS3 team and KS4 team. Having both won the previous year we had high hopes for continued success.

The KS3 team of Ansh Nair, Sai Kenche, Justin Abraham and Elvis Edakkara beat Severn Vale, Beaufort and Gloucester Academy all 5-0 to comfortably win the Gloucester District Competition. Over the 3 matches they conceded only 73 points, which was impressive.

The KS4 team of Raiph Ackroyd, Mark Thomas, Taras Wolczuk and Ishan Jani beat Severn Vale, St Peter’s and Crypt all 5-0 to also comfortably win the Gloucester District Competition. Over the 3 matches they conceded only 74 points, which was impressive. The KS3 team will be pleased to know that they were 1 point better than the KS4 team!

The KS4 Badminton team then competed in the county finals tournament in early February. The team comfortably beat Farmor’s, Rednock and Forest High 5-0. Balcarras also went into the final game undefeated so it was set up for the third year in

a row with the last match deciding who was to be County Champions. After going 2-0 down, Mark won a tight singles game. Taras and Raiph produced their A-game to also win 2-2 going into the last doubles game, which proved to be a tight affair; finally won by Balcarras 21-19.

Also congratulations to the KS3 Badminton team in winning the county finals for the second year in a row. The team of Ansh Nair, Sai Kenche, Justin Abraham and Elvis Edakkara easily beat Deer Park and Newent schools 5-0. They had tougher games against Balcarras (3rd overall) and Katharine Lady Berkeley’s school (2nd overall) beating both 4-1, although some of the games were a lot tighter than the overall score line suggests.

Including the district round, the team have beaten 7 schools in Gloucestershire with five 5-0 wins and two 4-1 wins. In doing so they have scored 716 points and conceded just 340.

An excellent achievement. Well done.

Dave Tilley, Badminton Coach



Basketball Continues to Grow at Rich’s

Basketball is continuing to grow at Rich’s with a number of firsts in 2018/19. The senior team will be embarking on the School’s first ever basketball tour during February half term in which we will travel to Lille in France for five days and play a total of four basketball fixtures.

We have also, for the first time, been able to put out a second basketball team who played an excellent match against Bromsgrove’s U16 team at the start of the season. The Senior 1st V are looking sharp this season, beating Wycliffe College 52-48 in a closely fought encounter. This is a huge improvement on the 60-22 beating we took in Bromsgrove last year, and shows just how far the squad has come.

An impressive 75-33 win over Wynstones School followed with captain Kelvin Osawe, who continues to put up impressive numbers this year, to the fore.

Junior basketball is looking just as promising, with Rich’s being one of only two schools able to enter teams into every age group for the recent district tournaments. All teams represented Rich’s well, particularly the U12 team who went undefeated through the tournament led by Jordan lwhiwhu and Kobe Dela Cruz. With over 30 boys routinely attending the junior basketball club on a Monday lunchtime, the future is looking very bright for basketball at Rich’s.

Zak Hinds, PE & Games

Keep up to date with Rich’s fixtures and results for all our teams at www.strschool.co.uk/activities/sports

Sports Evening 2018

The annual Sports Evening and Summer Fayre took place last year on Thursday 12th July, with another excellent raft of performances from pupils in all year groups.

Westgate claimed the Cock House title for 2017-18, see the results table below for all the House event results.

Our thanks to all those who supported the Sports Evening, and particularly to the Parents’ Association and the Rich’s staff. And, of course, congratulations to all of the competitors!



House Events 2018-19	Northgate	Southgate	Eastgate	Westgate
Autumn Term				
Chess	1	3	2	4
Public Speaking	1[2]	3 [6]	2[4]	4 [8]
Art*	8 [10]	6 [12]	2 [6]	4 [12]
Quiz	0.5[10.5]	3 [15]	2 [8]	4 [16]
Junior				
Cross country	2.5 [13]	4 [19]	1 [9]	2.5 [18.5]
Spring Term	N	S	E	W
Jun Basketball	1[14]	4[23]	2[11]	3[21.5]
Music*	8[22]	2 [25]	6 [17]	4[25.5]
Netball	4 [26]	3 [28]	2 [19]	1 [26.5]
Drama*	2 [28]	6 [34]	4 [23]	8 [34.5]
Sen Rugby	1 [29]	3 [37]	4 [27]	2 [36.5]
Jun Rugby	2 [31]	4 [41]	3 [30]	1 [37.5]
Summer Term	N	S	E	W
Creative				
Writing	2.5 [33.5]	1 [42]	4 [34]	2.5 [40]
Tennis	1.5 [35]	1.5[43.5]	3 [37]	4 [44]
Athletics *	6 [41]	2 [45.5]	4 [41]	8 [52]
Indoor Cricket	3.5 [44.5]	2 [47.5]	1 [42]	3.5 [55.5]
Jun Cricket	2 [46.5]	3 [50.5]	1 [43]	4 [59.5]
Sen Cricket	2 [48.5]	1 [51.5]	3 [46]	4 [63.5]
Work*	2 [50.5]	8 [59.5]	6 [52]	4 [67.5]
Total	50.5	59.5	52	67.5
Position				
20 -07-18	4th	2nd	3rd	1st

*Double points



Football Teams Start Spring Term Strongly

After a successful season last year, 1st XI training commenced earlier than usual, starting in October.

This seems to be paying dividends as to date we have won 3 matches and lost 1. Unlike last season, where we tended to rely heavily on goals from set pieces, the boys have been playing some fantastic football, which has led to us having 12 different goal scorers thus far, a fantastic achievement. I am also pleased to report that our 2nd XI have won their first game of the season, with a convincing 5-2 win over Old Swinford Hospital, and that we have been able to give a number of students their debuts. The enthusiasm shown by the Sixth Form boys for football has been matched by the lower age groups, as we are now running Year 9, 10 and 11 sides who all train weekly and have a very competitive fixture schedule. Of particular note was a 2-0 win for the Year 10 team over a decent Old Swinford side, and this was the first home fixture that we have hosted for several years.



William Marks, Football Coach

The Rich's Partnership

Rich's Partnerships are a way for the School to build closer links with the business community and raise much needed funds.

As a partner you will be 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 your company image, increasing awareness of your brand, providing you with PR opportunities and contributing to your social media presence.

As a Rich's partner, companies are also able to reach an extensive network of parents across Gloucestershire and the South West. In addition, our Alumni span the globe and include many local business leaders and decision makers.

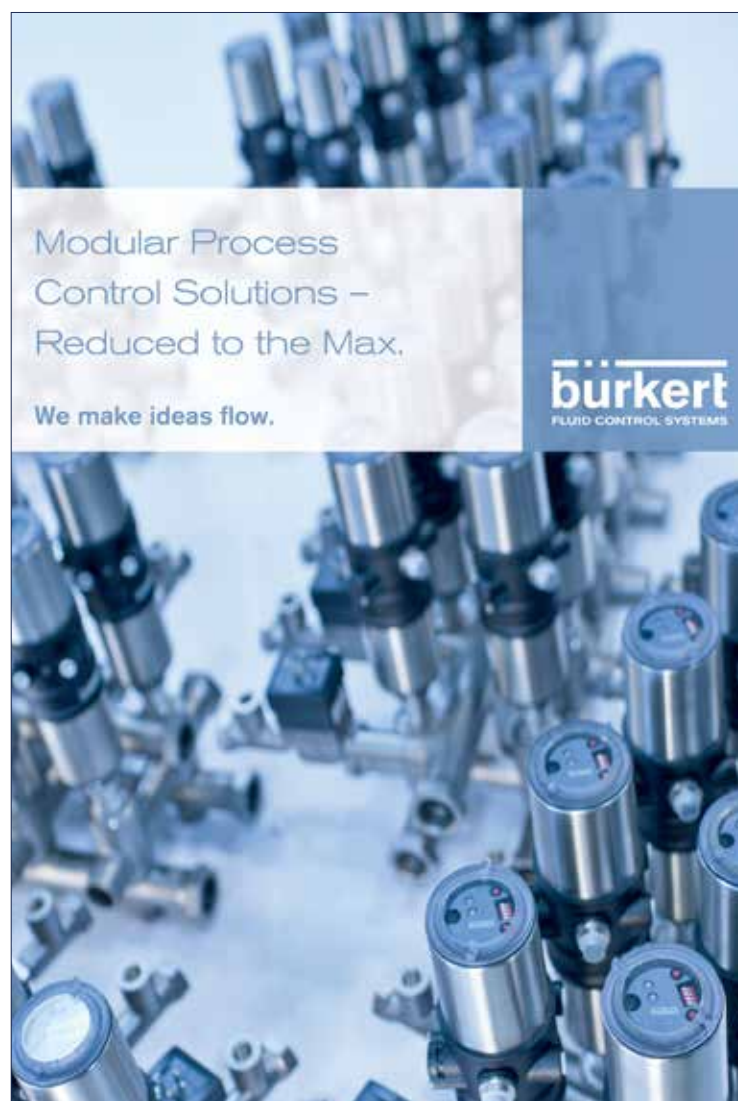
If you wish to discuss a bespoke Partnership package please contact Rich's Development Director Vicki Lynn on vn@strs.org.uk or telephone 01452 338400.

Thank you to our current partners, below, your help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

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.



Rich's Partners:





SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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