



The Richian

Magazine July 2019



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Cover photography

Rich's U14 EDF Energy Cup Final winning team © Martin Bennett/Gloucester Rugby

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From The Headmaster

Welcome to the July 2019 issue of *The Richian*. As we celebrate the end of another productive, challenging and creative year, I do hope this latest edition of the magazine gives you a flavour of School life over the last few months. I am exceptionally grateful to Sara Vielvoye for editing the magazine and for 'chivvy' along its contributors.



Year 11 and Year 13 students have, at the time of writing, just completed a busy GCSE and A Level exam schedule. They have worked extremely hard over the last few months – and years – and we wish them all the very best of luck with the results. My thanks go out to all the staff at Rich's who have once again so effectively and diligently prepared our students for this challenge.

Although, of course, academic achievement is core to the School's ethos, I am always struck at this time of year by how much of the life of the School does not revolve around the exam timetables. Our Economists are out competing in high-profile national competitions, our STEM Ambassadors continue to inspire primary school pupils in dynamic science assemblies, and our sports teams' dedication and hard work continue to enhance Rich's reputation both locally and nationally. In particular, congratulations must go to the Under 14 Rugby Team, who were victorious in the EDF Energy Cup Final at Kingsholm recently. The creative life of the School also continues to thrive, as I write rehearsals are well underway for what promises to be another excellent Summer Concert, and I would also highly recommend reading the superb House Writing Competition winning pieces on page 30 of this issue; I continue to be impressed by the maturity and vision of our young writers. Well done to all involved.

The consistent quality of our pastoral care is also a great source of pride to me. Rich's teachers have just completed visits to over 90 primary schools to meet and welcome every Year 6 pupil who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. This is a major logistical exercise with the vast majority of our teachers taking part, and sets the high standards of care that new pupils can expect from the School. The pressures on young people have never been greater and I am particularly pleased that we have been asked to participate as an 'early adopter' school in Gloucestershire's Mental Health Trailblazer initiative, being run by NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group with the 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, Gloucestershire County Council and Teens in Crisis (TiC). This work means that over time, pupils in the School will have access to additional counsellors working alongside NHS staff.

I am also pleased to report that this year has seen some significant work undertaken in to improving School facilities. A major refurbishment of the swimming pool has recently completed, and planning permission has just been granted for work to start on a new building to be located by the tennis courts, which will house much needed additional classrooms, IT and office space. This work is due to complete by Easter 2020, and I look forward to updating you on progress in the next issue of *The Richian*, out in the winter. In the mean time you can keep up to date with School life online, and follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Matthew Morgan, Headmaster

Downing Street Visit For Year 13 Economists

Year 13 Economists made a surprise visit to Downing Street after participating in the 'Minister for a Day Challenge' at Admiralty House in Westminster back in February.

The Spending Challenge was an amazing experience in which we gained an insight into the civil servant occupation. The challenge itself involved two teams formulating a government budget for the UK comprised of four main parts; healthcare, defence, education and justice. The aim was for each ministry to increase their budget as much as possible, due to increased spending pressures, without cutting too many services that were previously provided.

On the other hand, two students from our school had the alternative role of being Chancellor, meaning their aim was to reduce spending as much as possible. Throughout the challenge, each Ministry engaged in negotiations with their team's Chancellor to form a budget. At the end of the negotiations, a budget was formed and each competitor that



didn't resign from their post was able to vote for their favoured budget.

As a result of tense negotiations, my Ministry (Defence) and I resigned in protest of the proposed, forced cutting of the nuclear deterrent programme. After all disagreements had been put aside, we were treated to a surprise visit to 10 Downing Street with a guided tour of the building. Overall, the day was an outstanding success, giving every student a new perspective on this prestigious career.

James Goatley 13H

Kirby & Knott Financial Planning Sponsor 2019/20 Careers Fayre

Sir Thomas Rich's is delighted to announce that Kirby & Knott Financial Planning will be lead sponsors for the 2019/2020 Careers Fayre. The Fayre forms a key part of the School's support for students, enabling them to engage with local and national employers and universities.

The Careers Fayre – planned for next January – will see representatives from a range of companies and industries covering an expansive array of career options, designed to allow students to understand the options available to them whilst giving them time to ask questions to experts in various professions.

Directors Alex and Rich (pictured below right with Rich's Head of Careers Jenny Manning and Headmaster Matthew Morgan) have both had successful careers in large corporate organisations, and now run their own company offering financial advice to individuals and businesses. Their wealth of experience can really help make a difference to our students.

Alex says: "We are really excited to be supporting the School and the students in a crucial part of their education. Having been lucky in finding a profession that we both genuinely enjoy and get a great deal of pleasure from, we feel that a career should be built around doing what you love. Therefore, we are passionate about ensuring students are well equipped for the working world and understand all avenues that they can explore."

This sponsorship opportunity is even more special as both Alex and Rich are alumni of Sir Thomas Rich's, having attended the School between 1994 and 2001. Rich explains: "It has been great to have an opportunity to get back to the School and while there have been many physical changes, the culture and feel of the School remain. Sir Thomas Rich's gave both of us a great start for our future and we hope that by supporting the students and the Careers Fayre we can give something back."

Kirby & Knott Financial Planning will also be supporting Rich's students throughout the year with some practical career-planning sessions.

Vicki Lynn, Development Director





TV Actor's 500 Reasons Charity Benefits Gloucester Secondary Schools

TV actor Joe Sims – known for his appearance in the ITV drama series *Broadchurch* and a host of other well-known UK series – visited representatives from the G15 Partnership secondary schools at St Peter's High School back in March, to talk about his 500 Reasons charity. (G15 represents all the secondary schools in the Gloucester area.)

Joe explained that he set up the charity by asking 500 of his friends to set up a weekly standing order of £1. He then gives £500 a week to deserving causes, which are nominated by the 500 people involved.

Joe revealed his 500 Reasons idea on *The Two Shot Podcast* back in 2017, which you can listen to here: <https://twoshotpod.podbean.com/e/tsp014-joe-sims>.

Year 11 student Alex Owusu is pictured left accepting a cheque for £500 for the G15 schools from Joe.



Sugar-Free Challenge For Year 9!

Last term's challenge for Year 9 was to make a cake or dessert without sugar. They had to research alternatives to use, both natural and substitute.

It made students aware of the uses of sugar in food and the challenges faced by those who are diabetic or cannot tolerate sugar in their diets. Thanks to the staff judges (pictured right), Mr Hinds, Mrs Morgan and Miss Vielvoye, and congratulations to the winners!

Lanie Phillips, Food Tech

"Working in pairs to make a sugar-free meal was a very enjoyable and new experience, as no one in my family is sugar free. It was a challenge as it opened my eyes to how many items of food are unavailable to people who are sugar free. Sam and I made an apricot crumble and used honey to sweeten the dish. The work really made us think especially the presentation, as this part was very difficult. I think these challenges are good as they make you think and realise how different some diets are."

Toby Priddle 9R



IEA Budget Challenge National Final

On Thursday 7th March 2019, a team of four Sir Thomas Rich's Students – Theo Imeson, Fin Gregory, Henry Mercer and Owen Harrison – attended the IEA Budget Challenge Final in London.

The IEA, a British free-market oriented think tank, ran a national competition in which teams wrote a fiscal policy recommendation for the government outlining a proposal for government spending and taxation in 2019. Twelve teams reached the final and put a focus on a wide range of topics, such as the UK's problem with productivity, the government's debt crisis, the incoming effects of Brexit and even marijuana legalisation. In addition to the high-quality presentations from all teams, members of the IEA gave fascinating speeches – "is Democracy worth it?" and "The Economics of Brexit". Although Rich's missed out on the prize of £1000, all finalists took home £50, and an opportunity to apply for a summer internship at the IEA for which we are very grateful. Special thanks to Miss Jauncey for organising the event and Mr Parker for making the travel arrangements.

Henry Mercer 12R



DofE Bronze Practice Expedition

Ninety-one Year 10 students arrived at the car park in Bourton-on-the-Water on 27th April ready to start their Bronze D of E Practice Expedition. Apart from a few adjustments to their packing, all were properly prepared and kitted out for their expedition.

With staff in place at checkpoints along the route, the teams were briefed by Mr James and Mrs Rigby and set off at 10-minute intervals along the two routes. All 14 teams were away by 10.30am. Saturday was a horribly cold and occasionally wet day by contrast with the Easter weekend, but it didn't dampen the boys' spirits throughout the day and they were all in good form. Sunday was at least dry from the start of the day and we were able to get all 14 teams breakfasted, packed and away by 9.30am. Staff were also well fed by Mr Parker's now signature fried egg and bacon sandwich. All 91 boys successfully completed their Practice Expedition, well done to all.

Sarah James, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



Rich's Economists Reach National Finals

Following on from success taking part in the Institute of Chartered Accountancy in England and Wales' (ICAEW) BASE Competition, which Rich's students won in 2018, two of our highly-able Economists entered the Linklater's essay competition and progressed to the National Final.

Angelo Thavaratnarajah and Daniel Underwood-Morrell fought off tough competition to secure a place in this prestigious event, a credit to their hard work and dedication in producing an essay that so impressed the judges. Angelo represented the School at the National Final, which involved a presentation to a panel of judges where he narrowly missed out on winning. However, both Angelo and Daniel won £250 and the School won a further £2000 in prize money. Needless to say, I am extremely proud of the achievements of these exceptional students and all of the students in our current Year 13 cohort. I wish them every success in their examinations and future plans.

Meanwhile in Year 12, a team of four students progressed to the National Final of the Institute of Economic Affairs' (IEA) Budget Challenge and presented their alternative budget for consideration to a group of judges. Well done to Fin Gregory, Theo Imeson, Henry Mercer and Owen Harrison for producing such an excellent report in the first round. This was an impressive achievement considering the high quality of entrants to

this competition. Students in Year 12 have also progressed to the 2019 ICAEW BASE Competition Final, where the number and calibre of entrants are increased from last year. Congratulations go to Remo Bucciatti (Team Captain), Amaad Amin, Joe Vickers and Sam Weiss in passing the challenging first round. At the time of writing they are about to compete against 48 other schools in Birmingham at the end of June – keep an eye on the Rich's website and Facebook pages for news about how they get on! I am most grateful to the support of my colleagues in the Department, who help to prepare students for these competitions and embed such excellent economic and business knowledge in their students through their teaching.

In recent years, students have read Economics or related subjects at Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities. A key part of the Department's philosophy is to invite back former students to guide students in their UCAS preparations and I was delighted to welcome back Harkeerit Kelsi and Chris Rawlings to support the current Year 13 groups. It was also a pleasure to see Toby Churchley, who presented a talk on the Bank of England and the possible career avenues to pursue in banking. More recently, Anna Clarke gave an excellent talk on apprenticeships in accountancy.

Fiona Banks, Head of Business and Economics



Year 7 Celebrate Paddington's Birthday!

Year 7 have taken Paddington Bear as their theme in Food Tech this year, to celebrate his 60th anniversary, which took place in 2018. We have covered many subjects including the correct storage of food. The boys had to imagine they were Paddington, writing to Aunt Lucy to explain the importance of this and how different things are in London. Cooking has included an orange theme, marmalade and foods from Peru.

Lanie Phillips, Food Tech

"In Food Tech we have been celebrating Paddington Bear's 60th birthday. We have been using vegetables from Peru in our foods as well as using orange and marmalade in some cakes and scones. I have really enjoyed Food Tech this year."

Kyle McKenzie 7B



Politics Student Shortlisted For Prestigious Essay Prize

Politics A Level student Natalie Sodzi has been shortlisted for a prize in The New College of The Humanities London Essay Competition. The competition is open to students who are in their penultimate year of secondary education, and who are interested in studying humanities or social sciences at university.

is the only Politics student in the School to have entered this competition. A total of 3,600 entries were submitted, so it is a fantastic achievement to be shortlisted. Natalie travelled to London on 25th June for the prize giving ceremony, details below, and you can read her essay on page 34.

Nigel Pitel, Politics

"It was a lovely evening. I received Highly Commended and got a certificate and an Amazon gift-card. The Politics professor and Professor AC Grayling discussed my essay with me and said that they were interested in sending a few of my ideas to a think tank/parliamentary research centre. Overall it was brilliant, and although I didn't win £1000, I'm very pleased to have made the shortlist of about 12 out of 3,600."

Natalie Sodzi 12B

Cheltenham Festival Gold For Year 9 Pupil

Mitchel Emery, of Year 9, recently competed at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. He was competing against 16 other performers from around the county in the Solo Acting class.

Mitchel delivered an absolutely faultless and totally believable performance, ultimately winning the competition. He scored 88 out of a possible 90 for his performance. Mitchel was awarded the gold medal, and received much praise from the adjudicator. Huge congratulations go to Mitchel for his outstanding achievement.

Nick O'Neil, Head of Year 9



Drama Department Trip To London

Twenty-two students and three staff visited London at the end of May for an engaging and eye-opening theatre experience.

The trip began with a backstage tour of the National Theatre, which provided an engaging insight into the theatre industry. Students were able to explore every aspect of what it takes to stage a London show. They were given an opportunity to see the backstage dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms, props department, assembly department, set making and set painting rooms.

Following a Pizza Hut tea, they were able to catch a sneaky peek of Elton John at the London Premiere of *Rocketman*. Following this they saw the West End Show *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* starring Luke Latchman.

With an overnight stay at the Royal National Hotel, students then made their way to Covent Garden to visit Pineapple Studios. Once here they joined in with a singing workshop learning songs from the show. The tour culminated in a Q&A session with Luke Latchman.

Sarah Jones, Head of Drama

Goodbye MFL Assistants

On 24th May we said a fond farewell to our Modern Foreign Language Assistants, who have come to the end of their placement in the School.

Aylin, Pierre and Agustin have been very much part of the languages team since their arrival in September. Pupils in the Sixth Form at Rich's have enjoyed weekly one-to-one sessions with the Assistants and boys in Key Stage 4 have also benefited from group sessions to improve their language skills in preparation for their GCSE examinations. At the end of the year, Key Stage Three classes also had the opportunity to spend time with Aylin, Pierre and Agustin.

Headmaster Matthew Morgan was the first to pass on his thanks to the Assistants for their commitment and hard work this year. Aylin, Pierre and Agustin were then presented with gifts and cards as tokens of appreciation for the invaluable support they



have given our pupils. This year's Assistants have developed an excellent rapport with staff and pupils alike and the trio will be very much missed next year. We do hope that it will be a case of au revoir and that they will visit us again.

Jane Hanson, Strategic Languages Officer

Politics And History USA Trip

A group from Rich's travelled to New York City and Washington DC in February to discover the history behind one of the largest global democracies around today.

After a long flight, Mr Dempsey, Mrs Stroud and a group of Rich's students landed at JFK International Airport to begin a five-day trip looking at the founding and development of the US political system – perhaps the largest, most successful political experiment in human history.

Before all of that, however, some sightseeing was in order – two days in New York included a shopping excursion in Times Square, a visit to the infamous Top of the Rock and an impromptu Five Guy's visit after a cancelled Ellen's Stardust Diner meal. We visited Ellis Island, home of the Statue of Liberty, a symbol of hope for new arrivals.

The most emotional day of the trip was the first in Washington DC. We were fairly relaxed, having just arrived in our comfortable hotel after a long coach journey. We received a tour around the city, beginning with the recognisable Capitol Building, which was tall and distinctive enough to be visible from virtually anywhere in DC (the hotel was appropriately named, 'Capitol Skyline Hotel'). We then visited the many war memorials marking the sacrifice made by millions in the name of freedom. The World War II memorial highlighted the cohesion not just of all the American States but all nations fighting against the threat of Nazi tyranny.

The Vietnam memorial depicted the extreme suffering troops went through to fight against the Communist expansion program. The Korean War memorial included a stone that read: "Our nation honours her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met".

Whatever your opinion on the US influence on the world stage, the strength of the uniting patriotism, the nobility of those who served and the underlying love of freedom was difficult to ignore and very moving. All of this gave the group a new perspective on the American experiment. The Constitution – once perhaps perceived to be just a boring legal document with details to be memorised for a test – suddenly became a symbol of freedom for which millions had laid down their lives. Communists and Nazis alike had received the same rebuttal: that a free government controlled solely by the people was the only way forward.

Despite being a proud nation, many Americans readily admit its faults in history. Slavery was a shameful moral scar on the country and its admired leaders who, despite their exceptionalism, were part of the disgraced system. The remarkable George Washington, when offered the role of de facto King of America, turned the role down in favour of democratic elections – something very few world leaders have done in the course of history. Yet, despite his country-founding virtue, the slave memorial at his country home, Mount Vernon, is unable to name all the slaves that had been buried at the site. It could only mention "unidentified graves". The simultaneous moral greatness and terribleness of America's history make it difficult to judge morally, and our trip was most eye-opening in this regard.

A special thanks to Mrs Stroud and Mr Dempsey for making the trip possible – and to Mrs Harris, who despite being unable to attend was crucial in organising and planning a wonderful trip.

Henry Mercer 12R



World Book Day 2019

World Book Day in March saw a strong collaboration between the English Department and the LRC, which created a buzz around reading. The LRC hosted a Book Fair from Scholastic and all boys in Years 7 to 9 were given lesson time to visit, browse and buy books.

Over £1000 was spent on books in Book Fair week and as a result, we have earned a considerable commission to spend on new books for the LRC. The spend has already begun, as we seek to fill holes in our collections, renew popular books and introduce new stock to the LRC. The end of the Book Fair coincided with Parents Evening for Year 7 and many parents said how much they enjoyed being able to buy books as rewards for their boys after seeing teachers!

World Book Day saw us making bunting which promoted books the boys have really enjoyed reading. This was displayed for some time and, when it was taken down, each book suggestion was slipped into the protective covers on our shelved books to lead readers to other exciting books which they might enjoy. We also held a pop-up café, where students from all year groups and staff donated books and received a raffle ticket for each book they gave. Over the following few days, raffle tickets were exchanged as currency for books. Students seemed to love this and over 450 books were traded.

To help with our World Book Day celebrations, we were very lucky to receive funding for the author, Steve Cole, to visit. Steve wrote the last four of the Young Bond series and he gave an engaging talk about spy gadgets and gizmos to Year 7, 8 and 9 students. This linked nicely with the House Writing Competition on the theme of spies, and a spy gadgets design project set by Design and Technology. The stories are now published in a spiral bound format kept in the LRC for students to enjoy, and many of the gadget designs adorn the walls. The creativity and enthusiasm for this cross-curricular project was very positive.

We were also lucky to secure an up-and-coming author, Gabriel Dylan, who gave a talk on his rising career and introduced us to his book, *White-Out*. Gabriel's talk was inspirational and showed how an idea is born and a book is written, plus he took us through the process of getting published.

LRC Update

The LRC has been able to provide weekly reading lessons for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) students and, guided by the LRC Manager and English teachers, we have looked at the range of different types of reading which our library can offer, including our eplatform of ebooks and audiobooks, which is proving to be popular and for which we are very grateful to the PA for funding. Reading Circles in Year 7 and the Bronze to Gold Reading Challenge in Years 8 and 9 continue to stimulate an interest in reading and in talking about books. The Denner Blue Coat Best Book Award is underway for the second year in conjunction with Denmark Road High School. Eighteen boys from Year 9 were invited to take part, based on their school reading record and enthusiasm for reading. They have all read the longlist of

ten books and are about to join forces with Denmark Road High School in a 'balloon debate' to select the shortlist of five books. (A balloon debate is a debate in which a number of speakers attempt to win the approval of an audience. The audience is invited to imagine that the speakers are flying in a hot-air balloon which is sinking and that someone must be thrown out if everyone is not to die!) Key Stage 3 students will be encouraged to read the books on the shortlist and vote for the book which they most enjoyed at the end of the Summer Term. This involves considerable commitment on behalf of the boys who take part!

Many departments have worked more closely with the LRC this year in suggesting how we can improve the selection of books

which we offer to students, and how we can encourage students to make use of the LRC. Some classes in Year 7 Science have had access to lessons on research skills run by the LRC Manager, and we continue to support students and teachers alike as they prepare for university applications and writing their EPQs.

The Archive has now been moved and we continue the process of keeping a comprehensive record of the School's history. Phil Brown has been making digitised copies of *The Richian* magazines, available at <https://archive.strschool.co.uk>.

The LRC is assisted most enthusiastically by a great team of Library Monitors, some of which have continued with the work

they started in Year 7. Other boys joined us this year and they are a real asset to the running of the library, helping to promote reading and enthusing about books, amongst many other things. The LRC also supports the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and we have had a number of boys who have fulfilled the volunteering element of the Award through the LRC.

Creating a healthy reading culture in the School and helping students to find the information which they need when they need it are at the heart of the work in the LRC.

Judith Case, LRC Manager



D&T Coursework

This year has seen the greatest number of Design and Technology students undertaking coursework projects for many years. Students successfully completed their GCSE and A Level projects, designing and making full working prototypes for a wide range of design briefs.

GCSE students were given themes of Festivals, Travelling and Going to the Zoo, and had to create a product for a specific user group. Projects ranged from secure camping storage, camping cooking stoves and collapsible seating to in-car sweet dispensers. A Level Product Design students could select their own design brief based on a problem they had identified. They then researched their chosen client or user group, and designed and developed their final prototype. Products were varied and innovative from the group, ranging from a device to help people suffering with arthritis to open medicine bottles, to a radio made from cement. A number of the A Level students are now looking into studying design engineering, architecture and engineering at university.

Chris Bream, Head of D&T



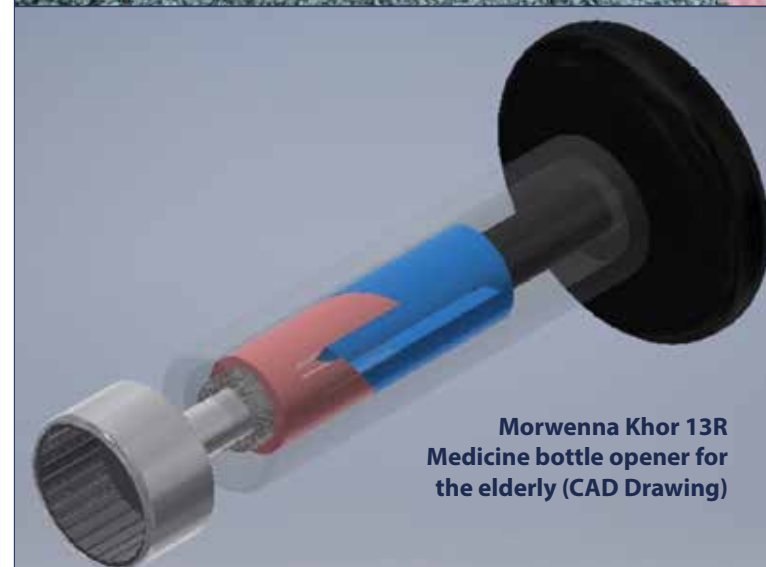
Adam Donough 13C
Insect habitat



Daisy Grainger 13C
Child's planter/
mini greenhouse



Beth Powe 13L
Hair salon point
of sale display



Morwenna Khor 13R
Medicine bottle opener for
the elderly (CAD Drawing)



Ben West 11R



Naveen Navaratne 11R



Ben Bussell 11S



George Palmer 11B



Ed Newitt 13C
Cement radio



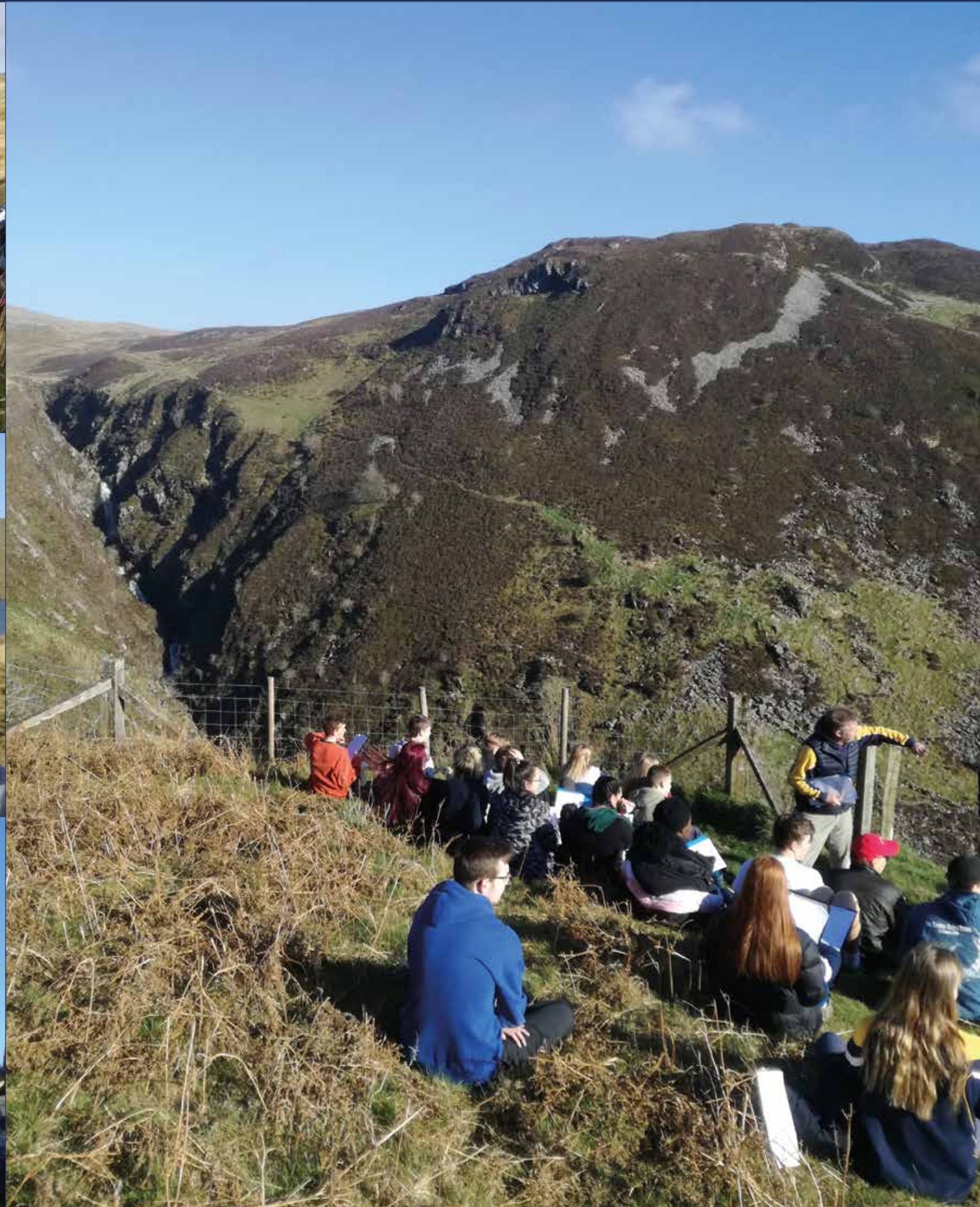
Snowdonia Geography Field Trip

In March this year the Year 13 Geographers attended a four-day revision course in Snowdonia. The field trip course, designed and developed by the Rich's Geography Department, has taken place every year since 2000.

Locations visited included the Merioneth Plateau, the location of an ice sheet in the last ice age, the Nant Ffrancon glacial valley and Cwm Idwal corrie.

The weather was spectacular, warm enough for shorts and t-shirts in March! Pupils attending found it both enjoyable and hard work with full days starting at 9am in the field and the evening lessons finishing at 10pm. All have gained greater understanding of the landforms and processes in glacial environments, preparing them for their summer A Level examinations.

David Gowler, Head of Geography



Year 11 Battlesports

On Friday 3rd May the majority of Year 11 boys headed into the Forest of Dean to blow off some steam before the GCSE examination block got underway.

Two separate groups travelled to Battlesports Glos where they had an opportunity to play war games against each other. Everyone who participated thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Neil Stewart, Head of Year 11



Year 10 German Exchange

Monday 4th to Monday 11th March this year saw the second leg of a very successful exchange with the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium in Göttingen.

Twenty-two of our boys and nine girls from the Denmark Road High School travelled to Germany to stay with their exchange partners and their families. Our pupils received a very warm welcome from the entire school, temporarily becoming members of their host families, bravely tasting a range of German food and, of course, they enjoyed the fun-packed programme our host school put in place.

This included a reception with the Mayor, followed by a town trail, a trip to Hanover zoo, a visit to the German capital Berlin and splash time at Göttingen's fantastic spa pool, Eiswiese.

In their private time, our pupils and their exchange partners indulged in such activities as going to the cinema, shopping, bowling and discovering the surrounding area. Although everybody returned very tired, this was once again a very successful trip.

Birgit Testoni-Ranken, Head of German

Here's what the Year 10 Rich's boys thought about their experience in Göttingen:

"On Saturday, I had a great birthday. I had brunch (and cake) with my exchange's family, then we celebrated by going into the town to play mini-golf with some friends. I had a döner for lunch, and watched a basketball game. It was great to experience the culture in Göttingen, and I hope to come back again!"

Seb Brennan 10B

"On the 4th of March we set off for Germany. The family I stayed with was very nice and went out of their way to make me feel comfortable so by Wednesday we were getting on very well. My favourite day was Wednesday when we went to Hanover and visited the zoo, we saw lots of animals and had a great day."

Tom Sharrock 10T

"One of my favourite parts of the exchange was the swimming pool trip, initially I thought it wasn't going to be great but in the end it was fun and I think that all the German exchanges and the English enjoyed it. I also really enjoyed the Berlin trip as I study history and it was very cool to see it all in first hand, it was very interesting."

William Massey 10B

"The family I stayed with were very nice. Their hospitality was very pleasant with very nice meals kindly prepared by them. On the first day it was a bit awkward as we hadn't met before, however by Wednesday it was fine and I could try and talk to



them with the limited German I knew. Overall it was a very good trip and if I had the opportunity I would definitely do it again."

Chris Borley 10T

"I especially enjoyed the Saturday. First, I did Neon Golf with my partner and after that we went to watch the basketball game against Frankfurt – a big game for Göttingen! In the evening we had a barbeque with some others on the exchange and my partner's dad made burgers, which were delicious. The whole exchange was so much fun and I was sorry to leave on Monday."

Leo Woodward 10S

"The weekend was brilliant! We had delicious waffles for lunch and also went to laser tag together. Later, we explored the Grenzland Museum and I learnt a lot about the history of the wall which divided Germany for 40 years."

Zuhayr Shaik 10S

"I loved the whole exchange, but I especially enjoyed the trip to Berlin. I found the history of Berlin really informative and the beautiful old buildings very interesting. The free time we had in the city centre was also great, as we were able to do some exploring ourselves."

Freddie Goymer-Brown 10T

"I feel as if my German speaking skills have greatly developed from spending the week with my exchange partner and his family. I really enjoyed the Tuesday, where we went on a town trail around Göttingen and met the Mayor at first, and then went laser tagging in the afternoon with other exchange partners."

Ben Peates 10S

"I liked the day out in Hanover. We saw all the sites in a guided tour of the city. This also involved tasting some biscuit tasting from Hanover's Bahlsten factory. Then we went to the zoo, which

was an amazing place. After some free time in the city, we headed back to Göttingen on a double-decker train!"

Toby Watine 10T

"Whilst at the zoo, we watched the seal show, which was funny and my favourite part was when the eagle flew over the audience's heads. I even learnt some of the German names for the animals. The whole day was amazing!"

Kieran Anderson 10S

"Best of all was making lots of new friends among the German students and bonding with the family. My German family was extremely nice and friendly. It was one of the best trips I have ever been on, Germany is a beautiful country to visit."

Ishan Jani 10T



Remembering Mr Tony Stocks, Headmaster 1961-1973

As we reported in our last issue, former Headmaster Mr Stocks sadly passed away on 15th January this year. He was 95 and died peacefully in his sleep. The funeral took place at St John's Methodist Church, Gloucester.

Mr Stocks was Headmaster from 1961 to 1973 and implemented many much needed reforms to education within the School. He oversaw the School's move to its present site in 1964, personally designing many of the buildings which we still occupy today. He made a huge contribution to the lives of many pupils during their time at Rich's and his insistence on high standards and developing an exceptional curriculum will form his legacy. Mr Stocks found it particularly rewarding to see children progress through the School and achieve success in their A Levels and beyond. Mr Stocks is pictured above, third from the right, at the 50th Anniversary of the School's move to the present site in 2014. Current Head, Matthew Morgan, is pictured second from right, with his predecessor Ian Kellie, far right, and former heads Tony Jarvis and John Holdaway to the left.

Former pupils have been sharing their memories with us, if you remember Mr Stocks from your time here at Rich's we would be very pleased to hear from you (vn@strs.org.uk).

"JAS was Headmaster during all my time at Rich's. I well remember his speech to us at assembly in June 1972 (my last term), in which he told us of his decision. He said he'd been mulling a move over for some time as he felt 'at around 50' that he wouldn't otherwise get another decent post as he would be considered 'too old' (ageism rampant then!) and that whereas he didn't specifically want to leave Rich's, he also didn't want to retire from there as he'd been too long in post. He said his decision was finalised by the decision of the former Gloucester County Borough Council – the Education Authority for the City until its 1974 abolition – to abolish Gloucester's grammars. It was a highly political decision with time running out for them – as following the May '72 elections both the Conservatives and Labour had equal numbers on the Authority, but the

Labour Mayor used his casting vote in favour of the abolition. As it happened of course, the awful plan – which involved split sites – was turned down as unworkable some 18 months later by the Secretary of State for Education, one Mrs Thatcher, and having come under County Council control in April '74 there were other priorities for that Authority, which already had completed its comprehensive programme, whilst leaving grammars in Cheltenham and Stroud. Sadly for JAS, the Wolverhampton job did not work out – the problems were immense, even too big for him. After two to three years he returned to Gloucester where he saw out his years teaching at the Kings School part-time. He was well liked there – as I expect he would have been anywhere."

John Jenkins

"Although 'Jasper' came to the school long after I had departed I knew him very well through connections with the Methodist church and have happy memories of many encounters with him! A great character who will be fondly remembered but sadly missed."

David Barber

"He was indeed an inspirational Head and those of us who were at Tommies during his Headship, and particularly the move from Barton Street to Elmleaze, were very fortunate."

Philip Giddings

"As an Old Richian who left the care of the School in 1974, I hold very fond memories of Mr Stocks and his wonderful leadership of Tommies. I recall his mix of requirement for discipline, his generous consideration of those in difficulties and his worldliness."

Harry Roberts, Pupil 1968-1974

"Although I am 76 years old myself, (at Rich's 1954-1961), I distinctly remember Mr Stocks as (I think), I was in my final year at the time, and an Observer. As a Medical Doctor, and a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, Mr Stocks was an epitome of longevity as he was remarkably

slim and always had high energy, and (most importantly in my opinion) an enthusiastic sense of humour, always enjoying an invigorating laugh during our conversations. He had a long life, a distinguished life, and an unforgettable life. Sincere condolences to his family. When Ralph Waldo Emerson was on his deathbed, one of his colleagues asked him "Ralph, have you made your peace with God" to which Emerson replied, "I didn't know that we had ever quarrelled." That was my most vibrant memory of Mr Stocks.

Leo M. Crowley, MB, ChB, MD, MPH, FACPM

"It's sad to hear that Tony Stocks has passed away. He was a great Headmaster and was a very good influence in my own life, particularly after the loss of my father when I was only 14 years of age. He wrote to me when I won a post-graduate place at Oxford University and I remember the pleasant surprise of the telegram from the School, in the changing room of Twickenham, before the Varsity match in 1973. He will be remembered as a legend of STRS whose drive and passion helped the growth of the Sixth Form to over 100 students and when I became a Headmaster I remember him giving me helpful advice on speaking in public, a great strength of his. He was an excellent and inspirational Latin teacher too and he made the subject easy to understand. He will be much missed."

Colin Ashby



"Sad news. I was at Tommies in the '60s – I started in Eastgate Street – and have great memories of Mr Stocks as an encouraging and influential Headmaster and Latin teacher. He was very supportive of me personally, and the standards that he set have always stayed with me."

Colin Wells

Obituary: Maurice Freeman DFC, 9 May 1923 – 19 March 2019



It is with sadness that we report that former pupil Maurice Freeman (pictured centre) has passed away. A service of celebration and thanksgiving for his life took place at St Mary's Church in Painswick on 9th April. Maurice was a Flying Officer in the RAF in WW2, below are extracts from his military records.

Flying Officer Maurice Freeman (162239), R.A.F.V.R., 241 Sqn. DFC Citation

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has consistently displayed skill and courage of a high standard. In January, 1945, Flying Officer Freeman was detailed for a reconnaissance, covering an enemy waterway. During the operation the aircraft was subjected to considerable anti-aircraft fire. Just before leaving the target his aircraft was hit. One engine was damaged. In spite of this. Flying Officer Freeman flew safely to base. He had secured valuable information. This officer has invariably displayed the greatest resolution.

National Archives AIR/27/146 241 Squadron ORB

9th Jan 1945: Operations

F/O M.FREEMAN (162239) and his No.2 took off this morning on a rather special Tac/R between Lake Comaccio and the sea. It had been thought that the Germans had been pulling out along this small causeway and our Tac/R Section confirmed this. Unfortunately whilst flying at about 100 feet to recce a very small bridge F/O Freeman was hit by 20mm fire in the glycol system. He was lucky enough to bale out and make our own lines. F/O Freeman's No.2 did not actually see F/O Freeman's parachute open so two aircraft were sent out immediately to make sure he wasn't in the sea. They came back without anything to report.

9th Jan 1945: Administrative and Personnel

This morning the Squadron was rather shaken by the fact that Maurice Freeman's parachute had not been seen to open and he was presumed missing by everyone. However about 1230 hours F/O Freeman riding in a Canadian armoured car, drove up to the Mess. From his story his baling out was absolutely copybook except for one rather important point. Whilst falling free he spent a lot of time trying to find the ring and consequently his parachute did not open until under a thousand feet. However "Lady Luck" was again in his side as his parachute caught on trees and house roofs and lowered him very gently to the ground. An Italian woman supplied him with a pair of shoes as he had lost his flying boots during the drop, and from then on the Canadians looked after him very well.

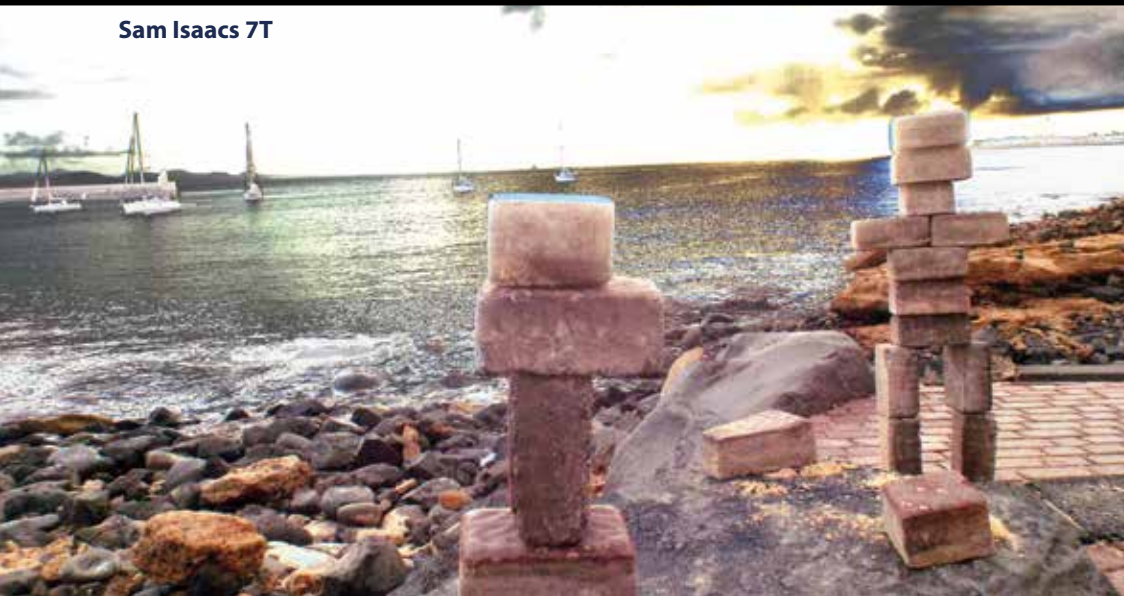
student photography

A gallery of work from the
Rich's Photography Club.



Tom Maltby 9T

Sam Isaacs 7T



Oliver Rudd 9B



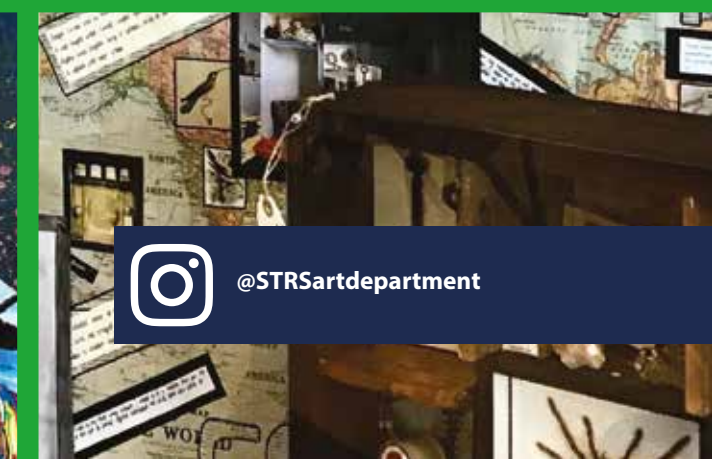
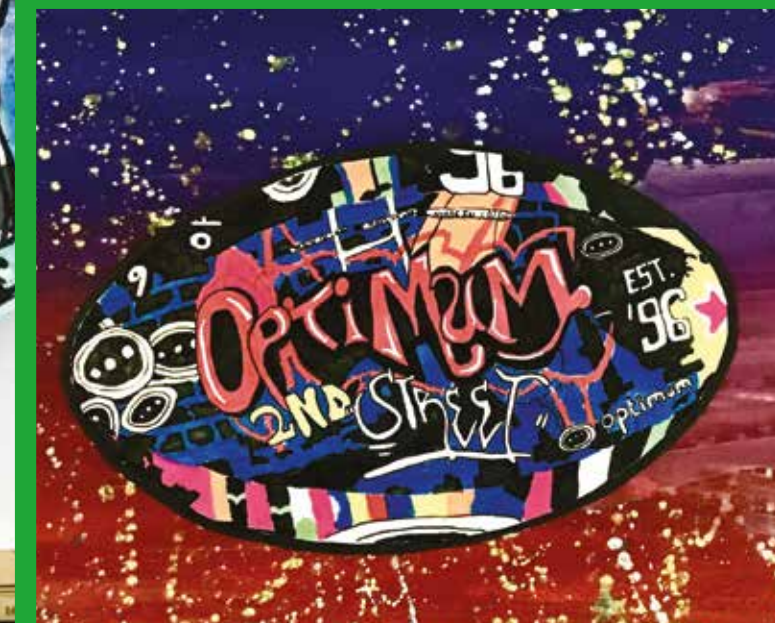
Talha Jeewa 9B





student
art

A gallery of recent exam work
by Year 7 and Year 8 artists.





Focus On Politics

Last July Mrs Harris took part in a three-day training course to become a UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador. The scheme affords the School additional opportunities and resources to develop Politics and Democracy education in the classroom and beyond. Here is a summary of events and activities from this academic year.

Visit from Mr Mark Levy: Civil Rights Veteran

On Friday 21st September we welcomed Mr Mark Levy, a Civil Rights Veteran who worked in the Mississippi freedom schools in the 1960s. Students and staff first met Mark when we visited New York on the Politics and History trip in 2018, and he contacted us to arrange a visit on his second tour of the UK.

Mark gave his time to deliver an assembly to Years 10-13, seminars to A Level History and Politics students and visit

lessons. Mark spoke about attending The March on Washington (where Martin Luther King Jnr. gave his famous 'I have a Dream...' speech) and why he decided to stand up against segregation and the risks he was willing to take. He spoke about the logistics of organising and attending rallies (and making 80000 cheese sandwiches), and why he felt it was important to stand up for those who have less of a voice.

Mark's talk had two main themes: 1) Are you an upstander or a bystander? Asking students what they will stand for and against. 2) The Civil Rights Movement is not over: even when we achieve something we fight for, it can still be taken away.

Mark talked to the students about President Donald Trump and asked them questions about Brexit. He also chose to spend time in Politics, History and Philosophy classes at Rich's,



complimenting the School and the students on the way in which complex issues are debated in class. Students really enjoyed meeting with Mark, he gave them lots of interesting insights into the historical and political themes they are studying. At the end of the day one tearful student approached Mark and said "It's just so nice to know there are good people like you in the world". We would like to thank Mark for giving his time to visit us on his tour of the UK.

Lord Tyler Visits A Level Students

Lord Tyler visited us in October to talk to our A Level Politics students about the work of a Peer. He spoke about life working as an MP and Chief Whip for the Liberal Democrats, including how he was first elected and the work he now undertakes. Students posed questions about his thoughts on electoral reform, Brexit, constitutional change and reform of the House of Lords. Year 12 student Lewis McQueer was particularly impressed by Lord Tyler's frank appraisal of why MPs won't vote for electoral change: "Turkey's don't vote for Christmas!" Lord Tyler is a fantastic, engaging speaker and one of the reasons his visits are always so successful is because of the demographic he represents.

Students of Politics learn about the concepts of diversity and descriptive representation and examine the lack thereof within the House of Lords. Lord Tyler always challenges their impression of the importance of descriptive representation by sharing with them his passion for representing groups different to him, most notably his campaigning for a youth voice in Parliament.

The work of the House of Lords forms a significant part of the A Level Politics course and this visit has developed students' understanding of who works in the House of Lords, what forms their agenda and the role they have in scrutinising the work of Government. The students have been able to use his examples

and ideas in essays about the extent to which the House of Lords needs reform. Lord Tyler's frank and engaging analysis was welcomed and enjoyed by all.

The Speaker of the House of Commons

In December A Level Politics were fortunate to take part in the UK Parliament Education programme called #AskTheSpeaker. During the hour-long Skype call students had the opportunity to ask John Bercow questions about his role as The Speaker, his work as an MP, what it is like to work in the House of Commons and his views on the future of Parliament. Questions included:

How do you decide which questions are appropriate to be tabled as urgent questions?

What you believe to be the main consequences of Brexit for young people?

In March 2003 what was your rationale for voting that the UK should use 'all means necessary' to ensure the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction?

Mr Bercow spoke briefly to the students about his role when introducing himself and was keen to take questions from our students. Students submitted their questions for Mr Speaker in advance covering a wide range of topics.

A Level Politics were able to ask him about a range of concepts studied in lessons including voting conventions, Parliamentary scrutiny, the role of backbench MPs and Mr Bercow's views on the behaviour of MPs during Prime Minister's Questions. Mr Bercow said that when reflecting on his time as Speaker, he was pleased that he had been able to use the role to raise important urgent questions to support Parliament to respond quickly to the needs of the electorate. The opportunity helped to support A Level students of Politics to better understand mechanisms within Parliament and the complexities of ▶



British Politics. As a result of the Skype two students were invited to BBC Radio Gloucestershire to talk about their experiences.

UK Parliament Week

This year for UK Parliament Week a number of staff assumed the role of a person in history involved in gaining votes for women. As part of this year's #Vote100 themed week, students at Rich's took part in a number of School-wide events. Our week-long quiz required students to complete a table about notable people in history and give a brief description of how they contributed to achieving votes for women. To complete the quiz they had to find the member of staff representing that person for the week to sign off their sheet. Congratulations to 9T for the most correct entries per tutor group and to Joyel Paul from 9T for winning first prize in the draw. During Parliament Week Mrs Harris visited a local primary school to teach Year 2 students about the role of the House of Commons and the House of Lords in the passing of a bill. Students formed parties in which they suggested and voted on a new law, and then passed this through the elected group of MPs to debate it, who then sent it to the Lords for further discussion. When they had finalised their bill it was sent to the monarch for royal assent. Congratulations to the students for their eager participation in the day and on their new law 'Maths day, every day'.

The Weekly Debate

This academic year saw the whole-School introduction of 'The Weekly Debate'. The weekly debate aims to broaden understanding of how Parliament works, engage students in the political process, and encourage debating skills and further understanding of topical issues that are covered in the press.

Using a wide range of media sources, including our subscription to the topics online newspaper *The Day*, all tutor groups use time in registration to consider the debate of the week. A number of our Sixth Form Debate Society visit lower school tutor groups weekly to chair the debate and further support our younger students to develop the ability to listen and respond to other points of view, question concepts within the debate and develop their 'cultural capital'. The weekly debate has proven very popular this year and is now a permanent feature of the broad curriculum provided at Sir Thomas Rich's School.

The Science and Technology Committee

In October students from all years completed an optional survey examining screen use and social media for the Government's Science and Technology committee. The Science and Technology Committee calling for evidence to inform their research on screen use and social media. The nine-question survey examined the use of screens and social media and was sent to us by the UK Parliament Education team. The results of the optional survey were collated and sent to the Select Committee. The result of that research was compiled and formed a report titled *Impact Of Social Media And Screen-Use On Young People's Health* which will help inform government policy on the subject. The full report can be read here: www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/impact-of-social-media-young-people-report-published-17-19. The opportunity to actively help shape Government policy is part of the School's ongoing commitment to engage our students in the democratic process. Select Committees regularly call for evidence and all citizens are encouraged to participate. The current requests

can be found here: www.parliament.uk/business/committees/inquiries-a-z/current-open-calls-for-evidence.

Abi Harris, Politics

Debate Society Report

A few years ago several students re-energised the Debate Society at Rich's. The society is led by our students and now runs as an option for all Sixth Form students on a Wednesday afternoon, and offers a rich programme of debates with ex-pupils (such as former debate Captain Alfie Harrison) and a wide range of guests. This year we invited Crypt's debate team and are looking forward to hosting a number of debates with local schools in the next academic year. We are also excited to have partnered with the University of Gloucestershire who will be visiting the Society next academic year to help us develop our debating skills. There have been two main highlights of the Debate Society calendar this year. Firstly, we invited Richard Graham MP (pictured below right) in to chair a debate on Obama Care (ACA) and we would like to thank Richard for supporting the society and encouraging us to consider debates beyond those which appear in the mainstream media. Secondly, a small team from the Society attended and won the European Youth Parliament UK Regional Final in Exeter and now progress to the National Finals in Liverpool in late June. One of the Debate Society's greatest strengths is that we are a student-led group, and as such we have organised the group ourselves, including the debates we have participated in. We would like to thank Charlotte Atkins, outgoing Debate Team Captain, for her hard work and effort in continuing to develop debate at Rich's. We would also like to thank the staff for supporting us.

The Debate Society



student writing

This issue we feature the three House Writing Competition winning stories on the theme of spies, Year 8's shipwreck poems linked to The Tempest, and a prize-winning political essay.

Key Stage 3 Winner: Northgate, Sam Isaacs

One Day

5th November 1947. An extract from Geoffrey's diary:
"It is the 5th of November 1947. It has happened. I knew it would, but now that it is here I can see how unprepared I was for this. The time has come, the one day is here. And there's nothing I can do about it..."

8th of October 1946. An extract from Geoffrey's diary:
"I sat alone, friendless, separate from this world. I have felt like this for years. Years and years. It has dogged me, that nagging worry, I know that it is real. Nobody believes me but so what. I know the truth. The dream was real, it was a vision, not just one of those 'silly old dreams' as mum had put it."

The walls seemed to close in upon him, as the calamity of what he had seen crashed over him. The windows were closed; the air had that awful taste to it that it had been used. All that Geoffrey had to do was get up, and move, and open the window. Then, all would be OK. The thing was how could he get up, when the weight of that vision pressed upon his shoulders, as if he was carrying the whole of the world. But then, in theory he was. The hopes of the Earth's survival depended on him. He must go, he must act.

Sleep came, as unwillingly as fire in water, and Geoffrey embraced it. Unknowingly, he moved, and travelled far away, deep, deep down into the Earth, right down to the core.

And there he saw it: a sea of magma, much too high, much too close to the crust. Then, it happened. With a huge surge the mass of lava rushed towards the surface, and it burst through that protective barrier which could not take a force. It was pulled apart, cracks came as he rose and could see great plumes of the magma leaping out, rejoicing at its new-found freedom. He stood there, watching it.

Geoffrey was the Earth's spy.

When he woke, he was sweating, and a great fear crept over him, encasing him. Suddenly, he realised that he had thrown off his duvet. If he didn't tell someone, then that day would come, the one day, the day of the Earth's destruction.

At the Pentagon, two CIA and FBI officials were in deep discussion. The situation here was as the situation is everywhere around the world. A country's intelligence agencies not helping each other,

constantly bickering. However, in this particular instance, it was not a matter that such important Americans would like to be seen talking about. You see this was a matter of, in the head of the FBI's mind, a very important matter. The small problem with this being that a small boy had come to them, literally knocked on the door of the White House and exclaimed that he had had a vision. A vision of the Earth's destruction. Now, the CIA were having none of it: probably one of those Russian spies sent to try and distract us before they attack somewhere.

Around the world, emails were being sent to all of the famous volcanologists of the age. Apparently, the FBI had uncovered something that was dreadful, something that could mean the end of the world. The rumour was that a young boy had come to the White House and given the Americans some shocking information. The Earth was 'going to explode'. Yeah, right. Even so, the FBI had called a meeting, where if all went to plan, there were going to be some scientists assigned to testing this ludicrous theory.

After months, months and months and months. After investigation, after investigation, after investigation, the trail had gone cold. "There is simply no way that the Earth will explode. Our experts have spent many a day checking if your fascinating vision will come true. I'm so sorry little boy." The Head of the FBI had explained, sarcasm etched deep into his voice.

For the first time, Geoff wondered if it might have actually been a dream after all, if he had only seen what he feared would happen, not that which would. He felt curious, strange. As if he had trusted in a dear friend, but had been let down. In some ways, he thought, it was true. Deep down, deep, deep down, he still had an inkling, that all was not well, that, despite all the odds he might be right. In his mind he came to a resolution, if he had another vision or dream, whatever it was, he would act upon it, and take the consequences.

Inside the Earth, a storm was brewing, like a simmering solution. The Earth's crust was being put under immense pressure and strain. Great earthquakes broke across the Earth. Huge cracks formed. Volcanoes sprouted. Valleys grew. Hills fell. It was as if the Sun had thrown a boulder at the Earth, with all of its strength behind it. The Earth had exploded...

Sam Isaacs 7T

Key Stage 4 Winner: Eastgate, Simeon King

A Message

To whoever may find this letter, I enclose a full report of happenings over the last rotation of the Sun, regarding our dear Emperor's health. Of course, when you find this, you will know exactly the state he is in, but I will not be there to tell you in person. For this reason, I have prepared this text.

It was in the first month of the fifty-second year of our greatest Emperor's rule, that word began to circulate around the court of an assassination attempt on the Paragon of Mankind, our great Emperor, too holy to be named. His Majesty, of course, was not worried, and dismissed it as but a poor attempt by one of the current rebel groups still active; one that would be stopped before it began by the Imperial Guard, that greatest corps of elite troops on our entire planet.

However, out of the blue, the attempt came, and was nearly successful. The assailants, three swarthy Northerners, breached all security, almost reaching our Divine Ruler's chambers, before they were stopped by a valiant group of Guards, who took them for questioning. A Northerner myself, I was called in to interpret for the inquisitors, who interrogated the would-be assassins. The questioning lasted for over five hours, with the torturers learning nothing but the sentence, "The Emperor shall die". Eventually, my countrymen were executed by strangling, as is fit for all traitors to our Heavenly deity. As any good servant should do, I felt no sadness for these fools.

Of course, the idea that I, a Northerner myself, could be a spy colluding with the rebels, was raised. However, in his infinite wisdom, the Emperor of All that Exists defended me. "This poor Fool has only his wit to attack with – how can he harm me?" To argue with the Representative of Heaven would be folly at best, treasonous blasphemy at worst, so I was safe.

However, the sacrilegious attempts still came, though none were as successful as that first catastrophe; we later learnt that the attack had been achieved through use of the sewer system, which was quickly decommissioned in favour of that old staple, buckets. Those attempts I can remember vary, from that carefully-aimed firework to the time one poor nobleman, mistaken for the Greatest by some idiot of a murderer, was dissolved from the inside out by acid in his drink. And all that these thugs, poisoners, "magicians", and highly-trained warrior-monks would say was "The Emperor shall die, by the last night of the year".

Naturally, Rumour's ghost went about its merry business, accompanied by its spectral accomplices, Gossip and Misinformation. As the months passed, and attacks waxed and waned in frequency, tensions at court rose to a high. I, of course, as the "poor old Court Jester, who couldn't harm a fly", heard all. Some noblemen and women even came to me as though I were a priest, to hear their confessions of doubt in the divinity of the Paragon. Of course, I reported all those hapless fools to the guard, who dealt with them swiftly.

These executions, however, did not sate the potential attackers, and attempts continued. At last, my esteemed master became worried to the point of paranoia and insanity, seeing any unfamiliar face as a potential assailant, and wishing me with him at all times, so I could defend him. Of course, the Guard cleared up any would-be traitors before he saw them, but I don't think the public executions did anything to appease the Paragon's now sadly-altered mind. He took to eating vast amounts of meats and confectionery, to ease the pains of his fervent worries, inflating his once-nimble body to over twice its original size. However, all we could do was wait until "The Last Night", when either an attempt would be repelled, or the Empire would fall.

Then came the last night of the year. The Imperial Guard was on high alert, stationed at every conceivable point of entry, and filling the corridors like termites guarding their queen. However, at the centre of that labyrinthine palace, lay the room in which the Emperor, Paragon of Humanity, Divinely Chosen, sat to wait out the night in fear for his life. I was the only person in the room with him, as he desired no contact except with his most loyal, and humorous, servant. I entertained him throughout the night, to take his mind off any potential threats, and he was glad. Eventually, he felt at peace enough to take to his bed and sleep.

Once the snoring had begun, I silently undid my rope belt, walked over to the massive mound upon which the man's bloated body, fat from rich eating and decadence, lay, twisted the rope around his flabby neck, and swiftly pulled upon the cords that sealed the tyrant's death.

Now you who read this will see the folly of this Empire, that a "Fool" can seal the death of the Emperor of all that Lives, and why, now this deed is done, this Thousand-Year Empire cannot help but fall in fire and chaos only for a new, Northern Empire to rise from the ashes to take command of the World and cleanse it with fire and steam. Those many assassins who willingly went to their death, are but regrettable sacrifices for a Northern World, which shall now be unstoppable. Try as you may to appoint a new Emperor, the many seething revolts shall flare up again, and you will be unable to stop them. For God has deserted you and your kind, and lives now with those of us who stayed true, when the Empire at large descended into decadence, foolishness, and a parody of those who shall truly inherit the Earth. For we in the North are strong, and centuries of oppression has formed a great horde of those who wish for their freedom, such that has not been seen since Antediluvian times.

And now dear reader, farewell, and if you wish for your life: surrender.

The Loyal Servant, or as some know me, "The Fool".

Simeon King 11R

Key Stage 5 Winner: Westgate, Harriet Boyle

The Confession Of An Operative

Sauntering around the court at Elsinore for almost my entire life has taught me many a valuable lesson about politics. Up to this point, the political landscape at Elsinore has been centred on tradition and nobility – you know, doing the right thing. However, with Claudius usurping the throne? Well, that has dramatically changed everything. No one yet knows of the cunning plan he so skilfully carried out. Killing his own brother and marrying his wife to take the throne; well, that’s supreme genius, wouldn’t you say?

I think so. And, what makes these circumstances even better is the fact I’m always watching. A pair of prying eyes keeping tabs on events at the court of Elsinore. You see, I hold the highest of aptitudes for surveillance. The court are utterly unaware that they have a mole in their ranks, infiltrating from the inside out and gradually burrowing into the strength and stability of the government, like a parasite destroying its host. So, as you can imagine, following Hamlet’s unearthing of Claudius’ masterful actions and his resulting antic-disposition, (which is also very adept, may I just add), the crumbling of the court contented me tremendously.

Then, as I see Polonius’ limp cadaver tumble to the floor, I can only imagine how eager young Fortinbras will be when he hears of the total disintegration of the court at Elsinore. Then, when it’s at its most precarious, he’ll be in a position to swoop into power, finally fulfilling his father’s legacy. The ensuing attempt of Hamlet to salvage his mother’s soul from the incestuous sin she has continually committed only emphasises the weakness and divisions within the court, creating the perfect circumstances for Fortinbras’ return.

Now there’s a chance you’re wondering who I am, and eventually I shall reveal my identity, but not yet. Surprisingly, you may wonder how a spy managed to penetrate the court, and to

answer your question, relatively easily in fact. The vindication for this is another feature of Claudius’ politics: surveillance. You see there is just an abundance of within court spying, a constant need to monitor the unpredictable individuals.

Claudius’ plan was brilliant, however his miscalculated judgement of those at court and conscious proved to be an obstruction. His employment of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern failed miserably because he significantly underestimated Hamlet’s intellectual abilities, resulting in further divisions and subsequently weakening his rule.

After years of skulking around corridors discovering the deepest darkest secrets of the court, I had uncovered the perfect opportunity for the take-over. After hearing of Claudius’ scheme to rid the world of Hamlet forever, I spotted the opening for the final invasion. Of course, I comprehended the prospect that most, or all as it played out, individuals’ demise would arise from this event. You see another individual that Claudius underestimated was Gertrude, he never envisaged that the timid and feeble woman he believed her to be, would ally with her son and really, she was central to the fiasco that was his scheme.

Following the death of the key individuals at court, I gave the signal and Fortinbras stormed in, only to receive the one and only Hamlet’s true blessing to rule Denmark.

The situation had just played out more perfectly than I could’ve imagined, some could even say that most of it was down to me.

I am Horatio, and this is my confession.
Harriet Boyle 13T

Year 8 Poetry: On The Theme Of Shipwrecks

They could tell something was wrong,
Was it the unfitting calmness or the cry of crows overhead,
Or was it the tension running through their veins,
But they all knew that nothing could prepare them for the coming cataclysm.

Twang! Twang! The rigging snapped in a sudden debacle,
Causing a wave of recklessness to flood over the crew,
They rushed to their stations while the rain gave a thrashing,
And the wind gave a drubbing while the captain was aligning the wheel.

Boom! Boom! The masts snapped as thunder screamed overhead,
Crack! Crack! The ship’s hull took affliction,
While the ship’s crew watched on in horror as the ship was being propelled by the tempest to its inevitable doom...

Sun shone above the prostrated crew who were splayed out,
Just like fish on a beach after a tsunami,
After all they were lucky to survive the calamity,
Since the only fatality was the ship’s hull...

Snapped in half with seaweed hanging over the edges,
Driftwood coming ashore along with belongings,
Having no value and legibility they would have to repledge
Them to survive their new desolate island-home.

Tom Arnold 8R

Grounded

Grounded, ever closer to Davy Jones’ locker.
The screams of man, the clap of roaring thunder
Nothing can save us now,
Too late to say our prayers
Too late to reach the lifeboats.
The maelstrom comes ever closer
Bringing death’s gleaming scythe.

The storm attacks, torrents of precipitation unleashed
The gleam of metal, the crunch of wood. At last peace.
And as the ship submerges, the last words
“A man goes down; another rises up”.

Shipwrecked

The sky screams, his voice tainted with bloodlust
Ready to attack, to unleash
Bringing an army of infinite power
Maelstroms, cyclones, and the clap of thunder
The flash of lightening temporary blinding all those aboard
The screams of those who were attacked
Nothing compared to the roar of war
The Tempest sat upon its throne of fire.

Death cleans his silver scythe
The sea of red erupting with the force of an earthquake
The ship holds up
the splintering of wood
the crush of metal
Snap! The mast splinters
falling to instant destruction
under the crown of the cloudburst.

Many drawing their final breath
Drowning, falling, dying.
The storm knows he has won
he lets out one last deafening roar
Another ship in his cabinet.

Thomas Ball 8R

The tempest rages around the ship
A maelstrom set to rive.
As the last of the crews’ lives fade
The squall begins to rise.

The remaining men struggle to swim
Their wills are beginning to falter.
With a prodigious effort they move to the mast
Their heads sink underwater.

Whilst the ocean mars the wreck,
The sailors wash up on the shore.
The smell from the dead and dying is rancid
The grieving cannot stay much more.

The alive find themselves on an island
It is unlike any other.
There are only four of them left
They have no one but one another.

Matthias Wildman 8R

Alone on the open ocean,
Combers rushing by,
Salty spray in my face,
My spirits are so high.

Far away in the distance,
I see a cloud of grey,
And feel the wind strengthen,
A storm is coming to play.

I take down some sail,
And say a final prayer,
The storm is coming,
And I will have to take care.

The waves are tipped with white,
Coming forth with spite,
A wave crashes down on the deck,
I fear the end of my trek.

I hear a loud ‘crack’
The mast goes overboard.
I’m stuck in the Atlantic,
Alone in a dangerous storm.

A calamity has befallen me,
My boat is stuck at sea.
The storm rages on,
The gale picks up.

I’m crouching in the cabin,
Water rushing in,
I cannot calm a storm,
I am just a humble man.

As the ship is going down,
And I slip below the waves,
One thought goes through my head,
“At least I will die at sea.”

Theo Cinnamon 8R

Lying still in the dark:
Silent, broken, ended,
Now home to the fish and sharks,
Hear the story of how this ship came to be.

The mast is rising up through the sky,
The deck is gleaming in the sun,
The wind is blowing gently forward,
All this is soon to change.

Intense rain is falling,
The waves are filled with fury,
The ocean’s capacity is broken,
Surging forward, waves break over the bow.

The deck is flooded,
The sailors battered by the torrential rain,
This once majestic ship now crippled,
How much longer can they stand?

The dreary downpour swamped the vessel,
As it began to sink under the ocean,
Fear spread through the heart of all the men,
We have not heard of them since then.

Joel Ryman 8R

My icy breath stuck in my throat,
My forlorn heart sinks like a capsized boat.
Will I be breathing underwater tonight?
I relentlessly struggle, yet sink far out of sight.
The darkness envelopes me all around.
Misery fills me, it weighs me down.
The hopelessness of a casualty of a shipwreck,
The feeling dawns of a heavy anchor tied around my neck.
A yearn of hope is let in,
My collapsed lungs are growing paper thin,
My crimson blood frozen, no longer freely flows.
I have become hidden in the shadows.
Frantic cries drift up shore towards the docks,
Just to be crashed against the rocks,
And even though I being tossed by the ferocious waves and
windy gales,
I yearn to seek refuge within your sails.

Adit Ravishankar 8R

Strike after strike blasts the poor ship,
Flash after flash blinds her crew,
Crash after crash opens her sides with a rip,
Men reminiscing about when the sky was blue.
Scream after scream brings all to her hull,
Blast after blast taking many to their deaths,
Smash after smash cracking a man’s skull,

As the vessel sailed through the sea,
The wind unleashed its fury,
The frigid water in my face,
We are here in this place,
The turbulent waves hit are boat,
I was amazed to see we were afloat,
The immense downpour swamped the deck,
How much longer will it trek?
As a maelstrom pulled us into a rounded motion,
We fell slowly into the ocean,
I heard the cries of all men,
I never heard them ever again.
Will Hall 8R

Hundreds brought to their final breaths.
Snap after snap leaves her masts in the sea,
Crack after crack takes the water into the ship,
Boom after boom makes the crew try to flee,
Any sane man would prefer to be under the whip.

Jacob Sandys 8R

NCH London Essay Competition Entrant, Natalie Sodzi

Year 12 Politics student Natalie Sodzi has been shortlisted in the New College of the Humanities Year 12 Essay Competition. Natalie chose the essay title ‘What measures can be taken to increase voter turn-out at elections?’ and competed against students from around the world.

“To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain.”

An articulate message from an American storyteller summarises the problem that current democracy faces; true democracy is moribund. Its health will continue to deteriorate for as long as participation rates in formal politics decline. By addressing barriers to voting entrenched in the electorate, we will be able to universalise the accessibility of politics, thus increasing voter turnout.

Turnout in UK General Elections has suffered a catastrophic decline since 1950, dropping from 84% to a devastating low of 59% in 2001. These statistics suggest that in conjunction with an arguably illegitimate mandate possessed by elected governments, the UK is experiencing a crisis of representation. In the words of political strategist Donna Brazile: “Voter turnout comes down to organizing, educating and activating”. It is upon these bases that I have recognised three main steps to increase voter turnout.

It is important to first understand why people may be reluctant to vote. A group of political researchers have identified a psychological process referred to as the ‘diffusion of

responsibility’. This is defined as the ‘tendency of individuals to reduce their personal responsibility when around others’; they are led to believe that there are people who are better qualified than themselves to vote, and consequently accept their role in the process as being less important. To remove this as a detrimental influence of low turnout, initiatives to better inform people about elections and referendums need to be introduced. Rather than having to buy books filled with complex political terminology, people should have access to simplified summaries; this takes into consideration that the average adult reading age in the UK is that of a 9-year-old (as of 2016). Not knowing does not make people unintelligent; it just means no-one has explained things to them yet. The British population needs to understand this.

The UK should look to its European counterparts for inspiration, such as Sweden, which itself had a remarkably high turnout of 87.18% in its 2018 General Election, despite voting not being compulsory. The latest version of the ‘Global Passport to Modern Direct Democracy’ was launched in Sweden in 2017, describing the ‘tools of modern direct democracy’ as well as including key definitions. The IDEA website describes it as offering a ‘starting point’ for those who are questioning what they can do when it comes to ‘active citizenship’. This concept entails citizens being involved in the happenings and maintaining of their country. The issuing of a ‘democracy passport’ would be incredibly useful for the electorate not only in the UK but also worldwide. This is because one could not be expected to fulfil their role in society unless they can understand the importance of their contributions, and to be able to properly contribute, ►

one needs to be well informed. This, as well as the incorporation of political studies in school curriculums, would extend the reach that politics has, making it more accessible to those who perhaps want to vote, but are uneasy about the whole process.

Individuals may be inclined to have a sense of pluralistic ignorance; they rely on the actions of others, particularly when they assume that their opinions are common to those around them. This becomes an even more prevailing factor in decreasing turnout if they do not believe that their vote will have any specific impact on the final outcome. This is where electoral reform must be considered, to ensure voters that their input will have a relatively small chance of being wasted. The introduction of the Single Transferable Vote system would achieve proportional representation as well as reducing the number of wasted votes. This means that most voters would be able to identify with a representative that they personally helped to elect, thus increasing the representative’s accountability in the process. Due to there being no safe seats under this electoral system, candidates cannot be complacent. This would, therefore, improve voters’ individual sense of importance, simultaneously acting as a motivator to vote.

A way of imposing social pressure on the electorate may also be used to instil a sense of significance about the election; sociologists have proved that individuals are constantly seeking for the approval of those around them. Results from political science experiments during the 2006 Michigan primary elections show that when voters were reminded through a ‘Get Out The Vote’ mailer that their neighbours would know whether they voted or not, voter turnout increased by nearly 8%.

Living in an age of growing prosperity and capitalism, people are continually looking for ways to improve their lives. It is vital that the benefits of voting are accentuated, as there is little to lose from voting, but a lot to lose if one does not contribute their own stance on the way the country is being run. Costas Panagopoulos writes an article titled “Extrinsic Rewards, Intrinsic Motivation and Voting”. The results of a pilot study are included, looking into what motivates people to vote. The results of the experiments reveal that nominal incentives failed to effectively raise turnout in elections. However, non-trivial incentives elevated electoral participation, such as a financial reward. To avoid criticisms of a monetary incentive being used to increase voter turnout, the government should look for alternative motivations, which would implement a sense of overall benefit among the electorate. Drawing upon the quote stated at the start of this essay, “One who does not vote has no right to complain.” The implementation of a fine for non-voters could be used to persuade people to turn up to the polling stations.

The fact that the right to vote has been hard-fought-for should be reinforced throughout the build-up to elections. The media has been proven to have an impact on the way people behave. Norris (1996) claims that media coverage of political issues can influence voting behaviour, and so more could be done to increase the accessibility of politics and voting. The media can be utilised to improve public perception about politics. Viewership is diverting for linear television, with a move towards online platforms. As of January 2018, there were 44 million active social media users, mainly being comprised of the younger generations (under 30); this translates to 66% of

the UK population. An increased presence on social media will improve the reach that politics has, hence dispelling the myth that politics is only for white, middle-aged, middle-class men; because it isn’t. True democracy is in the hands of the people, and the fact that voting is a matter for everyone should be emphasized. Making the youth aware that they are being considered will also contribute to increasing electoral turnout when they come of the legal voting age.

Short-term ways of altering the process of voting itself could be made to suit the hectic lives of the electorate. An automatic voter registration process is common amongst the European countries that exhibit the highest turnout rates. France, Sweden, Iceland and other Union countries automatically add eligible citizens to the electoral register as they reach voting age, which takes out this undesirable, bureaucratic hurdle. Statistics show that two-thirds of poll workers reported having to turn away people who mistakenly thought they were registered. Furthermore, the registration website crashed just before the EU referendum in June 2017, due to a flood of applications. The conventional voting day of Thursday could be changed to a Sunday as the majority of the population is more likely to be free on this day rather than in the middle of the working week. Alternatively, there could be a national holiday made specifically for voting to facilitate the needs of the whole country. If people still are not able to vote on the weekend, early in-person voting could be introduced so that it is possible for votes to be cast ahead of time. This gives people the chance to vote at a time that is more convenient for them as well as avoiding the hassle and time restrictions of applying for a postal or proxy vote. Barack Obama – the former President of the United States of America – once claimed that the US is an “advanced democracy that makes it deliberately difficult for people to vote”. This is applicable to the UK, but it doesn’t need to be.

Increasing voter turnout does not only increase the strength of the government’s mandate; it also works to improve the representation of the electorate. The suggested solutions discussed in this essay contribute to facilitating marginalized socio-economic groups by establishing what they need to feel confident enough to vote. Advancing this social inclusivity in the UK will have a knock-on effect, empowering the population to exercise its right of voting. Apathetic attitudes towards the electoral process would diminish by creating a more equal society, thus preventing economic factors being the cause of safe seat constituencies. Going forward, it must be acknowledged that low voter turnout is a by-product of a multiplicity of problems. Organize. Educate. Activate.

Natalie Sodzi 12B

EDF Energy U14 County Cup Final

The last game of the 2018/19 season saw Tommies line up against local rivals Crypt at Kingsholm in the final of the EDF County Cup.

Tommies endured a smooth passage to the final winning three games in commanding fashion. On the other hand Crypt had some close encounters, including an extremely tight game against Pate's. Having warmed up extremely well, Pattison led his team out the tunnel to a vocal reception. Crypt had brought plenty of supporters and they were making their voices heard. Crypt got the game underway and started extremely well. Truth be told they looked like a team ready for a physical battle, and Tommies did not.

Mistakes from both teams early on eventually resulted in a penalty on the half-way line for Crypt. With the wind behind them, the Crypt 10 put in a lovely kick to just inside the Tommies 22. Tommies did well to halt the subsequent driving lineout, but Crypt carried hard off 9 and 10, powering their way deeper inside the Tommies 22. Credit to Crypt they started brightly and were in control of the game but Tommies weren't helping themselves. The pack were not working hard enough to get round the corner and instead were content on packing a blindside with no Crypt attackers. The backs were guilty of this too, and failed to communicate with each other at vital times. As a result it was no surprise to see Crypt power over for the first try of the game after just five minutes played. The extras were added and Tommies found themselves 7-0 down.

Regrouping under the posts, Tommies were determined to sort out their defensive set but equally create some opportunities in attack. From the restart, the Crypt 9 started dictating the game and put in some exceptional box kicks to gain his side valuable field position. Once again Tommies found themselves deep inside their own 22. A massive strength of this Tommies side is their ability to run from anywhere and create things out of nothing. However, this approach does need some game management at times. At not one but two lineouts on their own 5-metre line, Tommies looked to run from deep. Unfortunately, both times Crypt forced mistakes and were able to turn the ball over. Tommies were under huge amounts of pressure and Crypt were clearly in the mood for a second score. Huge hits from Evans, Gibson and Loftus repelled Crypt ball carriers coming hard round the corner. Eventually Crypt sensed an opening and moved the ball wide. Moving the ball quickly into the outside channels it looked certain a second Crypt score was on the cards. Tommies' Captain Pattison had other ideas and hit his opposite man backwards in a huge collision metres from the Tommies line. Despite Pattison's huge hit Crypt were able to secure the ball and a few phases later bundled over for a second score. Once again, the extras were added. 14-0 to Crypt after 20 minutes played.

With five minutes left in the first half Tommies found themselves 14 points down and facing a huge five minutes.



All the momentum was with Crypt and the next score seemed crucial to the outcome of the game. Tommies went long off the restart and the chase was good. Bye, Nixon and Joy all made good tackles before Gibson and Green were able to force a turnover. Handling errors, just a few phases after the turnover, once again broke down Tommies' attacks. However, for the first time during the game Tommies were inside the Crypt half. Looking to gain back field position, the Crypt 10 put boot to ball but his kick found Beech positioned brilliantly just

in behind the Tommies line. Beech flew onto the ball and sensed an opportunity. Quick feet enabled Beech to beat his man on the inside before a lethal combination of pace and power saw Beech dot down for a crucial Tommies score out wide. A fine individual score from the talented winger to get his team back in the game. The extras were missed and the ref blew for half time. Not the half Tommies wanted but the boys dug deep and kept themselves in the game.

After some honest words at half time, Tommies were keen to show Kingsholm what they can do. Elliott got the game back under way and executed a fine high, hanging drop kick. Folanay chased well and put in a sundering hit on his opposite man. Loftus was quickly on the scene and demonstrated why he's earned the title of "the turnover king". Finally the tempo in the Tommies game appeared to be there. Evans hit some tidy lines round the corner and Mackleworth made an impact at the breakdown. The forwards had upped their game and ▶



ensured the backs had a better platform to work off. Elliott started to see more ball and Tommies started to flow. Pallister constantly looked to break and inject pace into the game. This brighter start to the second half, matched with more brunt up front, saw Tommies work their way up to the Crypt 22. Winning a penalty in front of the posts, Tommies had a decision to make. Take the points or look for a second score? Pallister took this decision into his own hands and went quickly before shifting the ball out to Jordan. Jordan freed up men on the outside and hit Griffin with a lovely pass. Griffin, like he does time after time, delivered the goods and fired a fantastic pass out to Beech. A pass I'm sure Grandpa Roy would be very proud of! Beech found himself with the line at his mercy. Try time for Tommies. Despite an excellent effort from the Beech, the extras were missed and Tommies still found themselves 14-10 down.

Tommies looked a completely different side. Wingers Beech and Folayan looked dangerous and half backs Pallister and Elliott were starting to boss the game. Gibson continued to hit hard upfront with Nixon and Loftus hitting tidy lines off the breakdown. After a huge first half defensively, Captain Pattison was showing there's more to his game than just big hits. The Tommies Captain hit some superb lines back against the grain and put his side on the front foot throughout the second half. Tommies found themselves deep inside the 22 and had the throw in at the lineout. The pack set up a solid driving lineout

before the backs demanded the ball. Pallister fixed the ball out to Elliott who pulled the ball in behind the hard running Jordan and onto the flying Folayan. Folayan hit a fantastic line at pace and could not be stopped, smashing his way over to give Tommies the lead. Beech added the extras and Tommies went 3 points up, 17-14.

Tommies had started to fire but we were yet to see the best of the backline. A scrum wide left just outside the Tommies 22 looked a perfect set piece for the backline to come alive. Griffin and Pattison came back hard against the grain to two separate waves of attack but both times the ball was pulled in behind. Folayan had wrapped round off his wing and found himself with space wide right. Jordan fired the ball out and put Folayan away. Folayan broke up the left hand side before passing wide to his wing partner Beech. Beech cut into out breaking in field before looking to fly down the outside. With one man to beat, Ellis fixed him and hit Jordan supporting on the inside. The deceptively quick inside centre was not to be caught and dotted down for an exceptional 70m breakaway try. The Tommies backline had arrived and boy did they deliver a spectacular try, 22-14 the score with around 10 minutes to play.

Having scored four unanswered tries to go 8 points up, the momentum was clearly with Tommies but it was Crypt's turn to demonstrate huge amounts of courage. Ill-discipline in defence



cost Tommies as Crypt picked up three penalties in a short space of time and worked their way up to the Tommies try line. Setting up a driving lineout 5 metres from the line Crypt then worked hard round the corner and looked to smash their way back into the game. Tommies had to defend for their lives once again. Off a midfield scrum Oli Scholes made an exceptional tackle to deny the Crypt number 8 before various members of the Tommies pack threw themselves in the way of Crypt ball carriers. Tommies held out for as long as they could but Crypt proved too powerful and eventually powered over for a third score. The conversion fell short and as a result Tommies had a 3 point lead with under five minutes to play.

The last five minutes were a bit of blur, with both teams locked in a midfield battle. Crypt were determined to smash their way up towards the Tommies line but the boys in Blue and Gold held firm. Pallister kicked the ball into the stands and that was that, 22-19 final score. Tommies had won the County Cup for a third straight year and what a thrilling game it was. Credit to both sides, they put on a spectacular game of rugby and thankfully for Tommies they just came out on top. Gloucester Rugby player Tom Hudson voted Tommies fly half Jasper Elliott as Man of the Match. After a slow start, Elliott grew into the game and pulled the strings superbly in the second half. A classy performance and one which displayed huge bottle. Well done Elliott.

I would also like to give a mention to full back and Captain Pattison who led by example in defence, making some huge tackles and keeping his side in the game. Number 8 Gibson was also instrumental in everything good from a blue point of view. Big hits and hard carries throughout. Finally, scrum half Pallister was quite simply exceptional. Intelligent kicks, slick service and classy breaks throughout. Well done Pallister!

Thank you to all the Rich's staff and pupils who came to support but especially the parents who have supported the boys all season. It has been a pleasure coaching this year group for the past two seasons whether it be the As, Bs or Cs. The boys have provided me with fantastic memories and have done things on the pitch and at training that I did not believe possible. Keep working hard and pushing each other along. I look forward to watching a big NatWest Cup run next season!

Sam Rideout, Rugby Coach

Many thanks to Gloucester Rugby Club for permission to use their photos from the EDF Energy Cup Final. Photography: © Martin Bennett/Gloucester Rugby



@tommiesrugby

U14A Rugby Union Final Stats 2018/19		Fixtures played	Total MVPs	Stand outs	Tries	Assists	Cons	Pens	Total points
1	Ellis Beech	20	2	4	29	5	4	0	153
2	Oluwatobi Folayan	23	1	5	27	7	0	0	135
3	Sonjal Rai	10	1	4	12	7	32	0	124
4	Gabe Jordan	25	3	5	14	12	16	0	102
5	Max Pattison	20	2	6	17	5	0	0	85
6	Henry Bye	25	1	3	1	3	32	1	72
7	Zebedee Gibson	26	2	9	9	8	0	0	45
8	Alexander Green	22	1	5	7	3	0	0	35
9	Samuel Loftus	24	2	6	7	1	0	0	35
10	Bryn Miles	12		1	4		0	0	20
11	Michael Nixon	24	1	6	3	7	0	0	15
12	Jasper Elliott	24	3	6	3	20	0	0	15
13	Alfie Griffin	26	2	2	2	18	0	0	10
14	Rory McLoughlin	7		1	2	1	0	0	10
15	Benjamin Hellier	2			2		0	0	10
16	Tom Evans	25	1	4	1	3	0	0	5
17	Tom Pallister	25	2	3	1	21	0	0	5
18	Oliver Scholes	22		2	1		0	0	5
19	Will Lewis	15		1	1		0	0	5
20	Samuel Silmon-Clyde	3		1	1	1	0	0	5
21	Charles Rule	8		1		1	1	0	2
22	Jamie Mackelworth	26		3					
23	Kit Dalglish	19		3		1			
24	Adam Joy	10		1					
25	Alex Bevan	10							
26	Rohan Iype	8							
27	Ali Hussain	5							
28	Takuma Cheong	5							
29	Joshua Lawrence	3	1						
30	Sai Sanapala	3							
31	Alan Bijo	2							
32	Ethan Chan	1							
33	Jacob Corris	1							



Netball Season Success

The 2018-19 Netball season has been our most successful to date. We are attracting excellent players from all over the county due to the number of fixtures we offer (33 games including the tournaments), the regular training slot and the overseas netball tour.

A particular highlight this year was travelling to Millfield School with the boys' Rugby teams to play A and B Netball fixtures in January. We look forward to a return fixture next year, along with a tour to Malta during the 2020 Easter holidays.

Marian Brown & Vicki Lynn, Netball Coaches

Date	Opposition	Venue	Result
26th Sept	The Cotswold School (A and B)	Away	A Won 42 - 1 B Won 27 - 4
3rd Oct	Denmark Road High School (A and B)	Away	A Won 32 - 23 B Won 33 - 6
11th Oct	County Netball Tournament (A)	CLC	3rd place
7th Nov	Ribston Hall (A) Churchdown School (B) GlosCol (C)	Away	A Won 35 - 13 B Won 18 - 7 C Won 43 - 3
14th Nov	Chosen Hill School (Year 12)	Away	Won 46 - 17
21st Nov	Cleeve School (A)	Away	Won 47 - 12
12th Dec	Beaufort School (B and C)	Home	B Won 21 - 15 C Won 19 - 17
9th Jan	Millfield (A and B)	Away	A Won 39 - 25 B Won 28 - 24
16th Jan	Netball Challenge Cup (A and B)	Away	A 1st place B 4th place
23rd Jan	Ribston Hall (A)	Away	A Won 21 - 13
30th Jan	Denmark Road High School (A and B)	Away	A Won 28 - 23 B Won 27 - 8
6th Feb	The King's School (A) Beaufort School (A) Beaufort School (B) The King's School (B)	Away	A Won 17 - 3 A Won 17 - 3 B Won 14 - 2 C Won 8 - 1 B Won 9 - 1 C Won 6 - 1
13th Feb	St Edward's School (A)	Away	A Won 48 - 18 B Won 33 - 19



Joint Football/Basketball Tour 2019

In February half-term 29 boys and four staff departed for Lille, France, on the School's first combined sports tour. The 1st XI Football squad and the 1st V and 2nd V Basketball squads spent five days in France following a busy schedule of two fixtures and three training sessions per squad.

There were also opportunities to take in the surrounding culture of Dunkirk, such as the battlefields tour which guided the group through the key sights of the famous operation Dynamo. The tour was a great success and it is great to see the emergence of both Basketball and Football as serious sports at Rich's.

With a growing participation in both sports throughout the year groups, we look forward to the combined sports tour appearing as a regular fixture on the School calendar.

Football Tour Report

Equipped with new playing and training kit, the Football tour was an overwhelming success with Rich's winning their two games played against some tough opposition.

On the first day, the lads engaged well with a two-hour training session led by Mr Marks, Mr Payne and Mr Williams. There were separate sessions for the defenders, midfielders and strikers respectively, and there were to be a further two training sessions on fantastic facilities that put many of the local facilities in England to shame.

The boys were able to experience an enjoyable trip to the training ground of the second placed team in the top French football division, Ligue 1, Lille, and this inspired them to a battling victory in their first match.

We must give James Holder a worthy mention after his heroic last minute penalty save led to us winning the game and jubilant celebrations upon the final whistle blowing.

On the final evening before departure, the boys were amazed as the bus pulled up to the 14,000 capacity stadium, Stade de l'Épopée, the former home of Calais Football Club.

Buoyed on by their amazing surroundings and an intense warm-up, the lads once again fought to a 2-1 victory against strong opposition. I would like to thank all those

involved with the tour as it has laid the foundations for Football to grow at Rich's.

Will Marks, Football Coach

Basketball Tour Report

Upon arrival at the sports hostel, the boys were quick to find their way to the on-site basketball court. Little did they expect that this court would in fact be the stadium for BCM Gravelines-Dunkerque, who compete in the top tier of French basketball, and whose U18 side would be the first opposition for our 1st V.

At this point the squad realised two things – firstly that the fixtures we were set to play were going to be incredibly tough and secondly, but more positively, the opportunity to play in a stadium like this would be an unforgettable experience. When the Dunkirk player went through and easily dunked the basketball during the very first play of the game, it was clear that we were considerably outmatched, however, this did not stop the Richians from giving their absolute best until the final whistle.

Unfortunately, the story was much the same in all four Basketball fixtures, with the Basketball teams coming away from the tour with four losses. This was an experience from which to learn from, being a first opportunity for all players to play and train in an intense and professional-style environment. This experience paid off on returning to School, with the team going undefeated for the remainder of the season.

Notable performances on tour were Chris Ifeacho playing an impressive game for the 2nd V in the first fixture of the tour, much to the delight of the spectating tourists, and Felix McDermott-Krasket and Kelvin Osawe (C) in the 1st V. Kelvin and Felix both impressed against some very tough opponents and did not look out of place against either of the teams we played. With a large number of the tourists still being at Rich's next year, I look forward to seeing them continue to improve into next season.

Zak Hinds, Basketball Coach



@STRS_Basketball
@STRSFootball





Football Season Round Up

It has been another successful season for Football at Sir Thomas Rich's as the sport continues to grow; we now have a football pitch which was marked out during the Spring Term and we also have two full-sized goals.

The 1st XI yet again played some fantastic football throughout the season and were narrowly beaten 4-3 in the County Cup semi-finals against eventual winners Marling. The season commenced with the usual opening fixture against

The King's School, Worcester, whereby we were defeated 4-1. However, following this fixture, training commenced and routine was restored as the boys won five games on the trot including an 8-1 win against Old Swinford Hospital.

Complacency then kicked in as without Mr Marks at the helm, the 1st team lost 2-1 in 'El Glosico', as the boys could not compete with the physicality of the Crypt side. On route to the semi-finals, the boys beat local rivals Pate's Grammar School and

demolished a previously unbeaten Cleeve side 10-1. In total, the boys ended the season with 8 wins, 1 draw and 3 defeats, scoring 42 goals and conceding 19. Well done to Sam Singha and Noah Smerdon who finished the season as joint top goal scorers with 10 goals each. Sam Gunnell was also rewarded for his outstanding debut season as he was awarded with the Player of the Year at the combined sports awards. Although the 1st XI must be commended for another successful season, it gives me even greater pleasure to inform you all that this

year we have run three 'junior' sides from Years 9, 10 and 11. Although the Year 9 team did not record the best results, their promise was shown in their final fixture where they battled to a draw against an extremely competitive RGS Worcester team.

There were a number of stand-out performers in this game, including Ansh Nair, who threw himself in front of every shot, Will Lewis, who had a relentless work ethic, and Ellis Beech who carved out a number of chances from nothing. ▶

The Year 10 team were captained fantastically by Dylan Clucas and went unbeaten for the season, winning five games and drawing one. With a solid backline, the team only conceded four goals and the front four of Arthur Schad, Finlay Gwillim, Oliver Ranken and Victor Yordanov played some scintillating football and scored some fantastic goals. I am very excited to see what next season brings for them. The Year 11 side won the only game that they played. My thanks goes out to all the staff for their commitment to training and fixtures, to the parents of the boys who have played and finally all the boys for their commitment, good spirits and high level of sportsmanship.

Will Marks, Football Coach



@STRSFootball

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:



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