



Pastoral Update

Dear Parents

It has been a pleasure to compile my first Pastoral update, since joining Sir Thomas Rich's as Deputy Headteacher.

To complement the termly emails from Heads of Year, Heads of Key Stage and the regular communications from the Headteacher, these updates aim to keep parents informed about whole-school pastoral matters throughout the academic year.

Whole-School Assemblies

Our traditional bi-weekly whole school assemblies have recommenced this term. These take place alongside individual year group assemblies within the two-week timetable. So far, Mr Lynch has addressed the School on getting the 'little things' right such as uniform, behaviour and keeping the School clean and tidy. Mr Dempsey's assembly touched upon self-discipline and hard work. He spoke about how both attributes have allowed him to be a part of Prize Giving; whether receiving a prize as a pupil, to announcing the awards at his 34th event, which was held at the beginning of October. In my first whole-school assembly, I spoke about being an active bystander, and the difference we can all make by uniting against negative behaviour. The golden thread running through each of these assemblies being what it means to be a true Richian: getting the little things right, self-discipline and looking out for each other. We look forward to continuing our programme of whole-school assemblies after half term.

PSHE

All pupils in Key Stage 3 have begun the new Autumn Term schemes of work. Year 7 pupils have explored ways to manage transitions in life, online safety and healthy relationships. Year 8 pupils have been exploring attitudes to drugs, the law and managing risk and influence. In Year 9, pupils have considered the impact of puberty on relationships, returning to the themes of healthy and unhealthy relationships and the importance of consent.

Pupils in Year 8 have also recently attended an anti-bullying presentation which was both thought provoking and highly informative. Our external speaker was Rob Higgs, and he used a combination of drama and small group activities that kept pupils engaged throughout. He also provided very practical advice on how to build resilience and encouraged pupils to reflect on their own treatment of others, as well as understanding the power of being an active bystander.

As part of our ongoing commitment to raise awareness of important issues within modern society, the interactive play '*Chelsea's Story*' was presented to Year 8 pupils on 3 October. The play, which is performed by Narrative Alchemy and supported by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership, alerted pupils to the dangers of child exploitation and provided them with guidance as to where to seek help should they feel at risk. We believe that this is a powerful way to enhance our PSHE curriculum and help our students to stay safe.

Year 12 have begun their programme of Enrichment, which aims to nurture students' personal, social moral and cultural understanding. Topics this half term have included stress management, higher education, employability and the labour market, alcohol safety and online behaviour including professional identity. We are grateful to Mrs Garcia (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Marks (Head of Enrichment) for co-ordinating these provisions.

Tommy's Award

Pupils across the School have begun their efforts towards achieving the Tommy's Award (2024 - 2025). The Tommy's Award recognises our pupils' efforts and achievements both in and outside the classroom. Pupils will be working towards demonstrating their skills in the following areas:

- Leadership
- Connectedness
- Creativity
- Adventure and endeavour
- Personal learning
- Service and commitment

Last year, we had many pupils achieve the award in Year 7 (Bronze), Year 8 (Silver), and Year 9 (Gold) receiving their Tommy's Award badges in the summer term. We look forward to supporting the pupils in achieving this prestigious award over the coming terms. Pupils can check their progress online, and we would encourage parents to support the award by periodically checking progress, too.

House Competitions

Congratulations to Eastgate on winning the 2023/4 Cock House Cup, securing their victory in the last event of the school year, House Drama. The 2024/5 Cock House Cup is already underway, with Westgate winning House Chess

and currently leading with 5 points. Eastgate and Southgate tie for second with 4 points, Newgate are in fourth position with 2 points and Northgate in fifth place with one point.

Upcoming events in the autumn term include Creative Writing, Badminton, Art, Debate and Swimming. If your son or daughter would like to get involved, please encourage them to speak to their respective Head of House:

Northgate – Ms Spiller (EMS@strs.org.uk)

Southgate – Ms Marston (PVM@strs.org.uk)

Eastgate – Ms Hayman-Hands (KEH@strs.org.uk)

Westgate – Ms Marrinan (LMM@strs.org.uk)

Newgate – Mr Emmerson (JAE@strs.org.uk)

Extracurricular

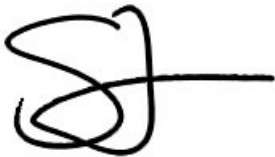
We are extremely proud of the rich and diverse extracurricular programme we offer. The Autumn extracurricular timetable is now available on the School website, and we encourage all pupils to take the opportunity to broaden their interests and try something new; we hope that there is something for everyone. We are grateful to all staff who give their time to provide these opportunities. Please click [here](#) to access the timetable.

Wellbeing

In recognition of World Mental Health Day this year, Heads of Year delivered assemblies on how to maintain positive mental health, and pupils were invited to share advice for their peers in post-boxes around the School. It is wonderful to read the words of advice, support and encouragement to their peers, which demonstrate the care pupils have for one another. The cards will soon be on display in school. We are incredibly proud of our friendly, 'small school' ethos here at Sir Thomas Rich's, and we have been recruiting Anti-bullying Ambassadors to help deliver a range of projects to further enhance our existing positive and inclusive culture. Ambassadors from all year groups will play a leading role in maintaining our ethos by working on projects, assemblies and events to raise awareness of the importance in being an active bystander. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far and we are looking to provide comprehensive training for all ambassadors.

Having celebrated World Mental Health Day and looking forward to Anti-bullying week, I thought it appropriate to remind parents of the pastoral support available to all pupils at the School. The pastoral pages of the school website have been updated and can be accessed [here](#). This year, the pastoral team has put together a Pastoral Support booklet for pupils which outlines the support available inside and outside school. The booklet can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of the School, and I wish you and your family a restful Half Term break.



Miss Sarah Tapscott

Deputy Headteacher

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

This email was sent to letters@strs.org.uk, because you have signed up with STRS.
If you wish to unsubscribe, [click here](#).

This message may contain information and/or data that is confidential and legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s) only. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, publication, reproduction or dissemination is strictly prohibited and may violate certain laws.

If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by return e-mail and destroy this and all copies of this message and/or data.

Sir Thomas Rich's School is a limited company registered in England with company number: 7331954

Registered Office: Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF