



From the Headteacher - 28 February 2025

Dear Parents

I hope that your son or daughter had an enjoyable half-term break. We have returned to what is a seven-week half-term, leaving a very short amount of time after the rather late Easter holiday before the external examinations begin. Further details on study leave dates for our Year 11 and 13 students will follow in due course. For now, Year 13 are currently completing their internal mock examinations, and support for Year 11 following their trial examinations last term is being actioned by departments and the Key Stage 4 team. We have been making sure that our GCSE and A Level students fully appreciate the importance of making this long, but very important half-term count towards their final examinations.

School Production

Before half term students treated us to amazing performances of the musical show, *We Will Rock You*, running over three nights in the school hall. A huge well done to everyone involved, students and staff; it takes a lot of dedication, rehearsal and organisation to put on such a big production. My thanks to the staff and volunteers who put so much of their own time into the show, in particular: Mrs Roberts and Mrs Webb (co-directors); Mr Hinton (music); Mr Pilkington-Crowe and Mr S Tilley (sound); and Dr Whitelock (lighting). So many staff, students and parents were involved and it is impossible to list them all here; the show programme with the full cast and crew credits can be viewed on our school [Facebook page](#), along with some excellent photographs of dress rehearsals taken by Year 13 student, Ben A.

World Book Day - 6 March

As I am sure you are aware, World Book Day takes place on Thursday 6 March, with lots of activities planned in school. Students can pay £1 to come to school dressed as their favourite, recognisable book character on the day; prizes will be awarded for the best costume and the runner-up. The popular *Masked Reader* competition is back around school and on our social channels; students are also invited to bake a cake and decorate it to look like a book or book character. Prizes will be awarded for the best three bakes. Students should contact Miss Bond if they have any questions about getting involved with any of our World Book Day events.

Parent Talk on Mental Health Awareness

Experienced mental health professional, Satveer Nijjar of *Attention Seekers?* returns to the School to give a talk to parents on self-harm awareness on Tuesday 4 March at 5.00pm. If you would like to attend, the talk takes place in the Drama Studio (Sixth Form Centre); Mr Marks (Head of Enrichment) emailed parents on Wednesday this week with full details. There are no tickets for the talk; please just indicate [on this Microsoft form](#) if you intend to come along.

Nominating STRS PTFA in the Benefact Draw

The Benefact Group runs a regular draw to give charities awards of £1000, and the more nominations a charity gets the more chance there is to win. We would be most grateful if parents could take a few minutes to nominate the STRS Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association (PTFA), who do so much to raise essential funds for the School. Please just [click this link](#) and type 'Sir Thomas Rich's PTFA' in the search for organisation box; you will then be asked to fill in some brief details. One nomination now enters the PTFA into all future draws.

A reminder that the PTFA also continue to rely heavily on the generosity of many parents in our school community who give their time and efforts to run our uniform shop, fundraise and support a myriad of school events throughout the year. It is no understatement that School would be considerably worse off without this immense support. If there are any parents who are willing and able to contribute too, no matter how much or how little, your support would be extremely gratefully received. Please contact Kerry, our PTFA Chair (pachair@strs.org.uk) if you would like to volunteer or find out more information.

Supporting Our Uniform Shop with Year 7 Fittings

You may already be aware that our Uniform Shop is appealing for volunteers to help after school between 4.00pm and 8.00pm on Monday 17 and Wednesday 19 March to assist with uniform fittings for our September new starters. Please email pauniformshop@strs.org.uk if you feel this is something you would be willing and able to help with; we, along with volunteer Uniform Shop Manager Sarah Cripps, would be most grateful for any help given.

Budget Challenge Semi-Finals

Year 12 economists Harry C, Harry Y, Olly G and John S represented Rich's on Wednesday at the semi-finals of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Budget Challenge. They placed in the top 20 out of 200 entries – an incredible achievement. My thanks go to Miss Jauncey (Head of Economics) for supporting the team and organising our participation in the event.

Onatti French Play

This afternoon students in Years 7-10 enjoyed a comedy play by the Onatti Theatre Company; *Prendre Sa Revanche* is performed entirely in French, with plenty of student participation. The aim of the play was to reinforce classroom French lessons in a humorous and exaggerated manner, and was a great opportunity for students to hear native French actors using some of the vocabulary they have been learning over the last few months.

Founder's Fortnight 10-21 March

Pupils in Years 7-11 have had assemblies this week about our upcoming Founder's Fortnight. This annual event is overseen by Mr Buttle and its goal is to raise funds for our link school, PPM Girls' School in Uganda, in recognition of the £6000 Sir Thomas Rich left in his will of 1666 to establish our school and support 20 poor boys from Gloucester.

Pupils have been asked to start planning activities to take place around the School during Tutor Time. Last year, 'soak the teacher' was a popular choice, with Mr Ormston, Mr Richardson and Mrs Hayman-Hands acting as the brave volunteers. Other events organised by form groups ranged from 'guess the number of sweets in a jar' to 'staff vs student' sports matches. The total amount of money raised last year was an amazing £7,144.32. This year's Founder's Fortnight ends with a free dress day on Friday 21 March, with £2 donations.

On the subject of fundraising, I am pleased to report that our last free dress day raised £759.46 for the James Hopkins Trust, which provides nursing and respite care for seriously ill children in Gloucestershire.

Bennetts Coaches Announce New Abbeymead Stops

Some parents may be interested to know that Bennetts Coaches has added three new stops in Abbeymead (Gloucester) for their existing STRS services. The new bus stops are:

- *Lobleys Drive/Hazel Way*
- *Turmut Hoer*
- *Roman Road*

Parents can book places from and to these additional stops by contacting Bennetts Coaches directly, via www.bennettscoaches.co.uk or by emailing melissa.lovell@bennettscoaches.co.uk.

Finally, the Chess team had a very dramatic ending to their regional knockout match with Balcarras School this week. It came down to the wire with the winner of the final (Board One) match determining the outcome of the whole fixture; after two hours of play, Sai V (Year 10) managed to squeeze out a narrow victory. Our team will now go through to the final regional match – an outstanding achievement. If we win the regional match, we will then be through to the national finals in London. Congratulations to all the team players and Mr Moore.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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