



From the Headteacher - 6 June 2025

Dear Parents

I hope you had enjoyable half-term, although I appreciate revision continues for our examination students. It has been said many times already this week that we cannot believe we have arrived at final half term of the academic year already.

Good Schools Guide

Just before the recent holiday, we were pleased to welcome a reviewer from the Good Schools Guide (GSG) for a visit to our school. During her time with us, the reviewer experienced tutor time with 8B, met with pupils from a range of year groups, joined Year 8 pupils for a tour of the School, and spent time with Year 7 and Year 9 pupils over lunch. Our pupils were excellent ambassadors for the School; they were described as articulate, welcoming, and enthusiastic throughout.

As I am sure you are aware, the GSG is completely independent and we have no influence at all over their final report. The review is now live, and I am pleased to say it is extremely positive about the School, summing up Sir Thomas Rich's as:

"A popular and ever-evolving grammar school known for its academics and sport, although there's much more besides. Great community feel and a place where pupils can be themselves."

My thanks go to all those parents, pupils and staff who were invited to take part in the review by the GSG.

Bletchley Park Visit

Our Year 8 pupils visited Bletchley Park this week, the centre of British codebreaking during the Second World War. During the trip, pupils took part in a coding and ciphers workshop, where they were introduced to a range of encryption techniques and challenged to solve puzzles using methods inspired by those employed during wartime. The group also enjoyed a guided tour of the site, learning about the significant work carried out at Bletchley Park and its pivotal role in the Allied war effort. Staff who attended the visit praised Year 8 for their excellent critical thinking skills and exemplary conduct throughout the day. As ever, pictures from the visit can be viewed on our website or social media accounts.

Greece Trip

At the end of last half term and into the holiday, Year 12 students took part in trip to Greece where they were involved in a project working with homeless people and refugees in Athens; this was followed by visiting and supporting a marine conservation turtle rescue programme. The students involved carried out an amazing fundraising effort to support the trip and fund key resources for the marine conservation, raising almost £1000 through a raffle. Our hosts in Greece could not speak more highly of the Year 12 visitors – not just for their fantastic fundraising, but also their dedicated and mature approach to all the project work experience. My thanks to Mr Gowler and Mrs Harris for running such an incredible trip.

[STRS Geography Instagram](#)

Junior National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals

Congratulations go to the Year 7 and Year 8 Basketball teams, who both made it through to the Junior NBA Finals, which took place on Wednesday this week at Worcester University. Both teams played in the Eastern final, winning their matches to go through to play the winners of the Western final. In the final battle the Year 7 Rich's side were victorious winning 23-13 against Holly Lodge High School. The Year 8s only narrowly lost out 37-42, also playing Holly Lodge High School. STRS player Toby C did, however, win the Year 8 shooting competition. My thanks to Mr Hinds and Mr Raddon for their dedication to Basketball in the School; well done to everyone involved.

Science Festival

To celebrate the fact that the FameLab competition has been running for an impressive 20 years, the Cheltenham Science Festival has invited past *FameLabbers* from across the world for a special showcase event. As a result of his success in the FameLab Academy Gloucestershire Final earlier this year, I am delighted that Hem B in Year 9 has been invited to perform his talk at the science festival event in Cheltenham this weekend. Congratulations and the best of luck go to Hem once again for this highly impressive achievement.

Culture Day

We are looking forward to our annual Culture Day on Friday 27 June, a special student-led event where we celebrate

the diverse traditions, customs and culture of our community. In previous years, the event has been a great opportunity for pupils and staff to come together and learn about different cultures through food, music, dance, clothing, and more. Pupils are encouraged to come to school in cultural dress, and a highlight of the day will be the Cultural Food Fair in the main hall. Pupils who would like to contribute food should see the posters around school to scan the QR code and complete the Google form.

[Culture Day poster](#)

Upcoming Offsite Visits

Whilst we have a vast and varied programme of trips and visits throughout the academic year, this particular half term is well known for having a large number of possible destinations for our pupils.

Alongside the aforementioned Greece Trip and Bletchley Park Visit, our Year 10 pupils are visiting Slimbridge Wetlands Centre today, and there are many other visits planned for the remainder of the year:

- Year 7 will be having their trip to the Aztec Adventure Centre to celebrate the end of their first year at the School.
- Year 8 will be visiting the River Churn in tutor groups next week to support the coverage of the Geography curriculum. Year 8 pupils will also attend the highly enjoyable trip to the Lake District, along with their Zoo Project trip to Bristol.
- Year 11 will also be celebrating the end of their examinations with the traditional trip to Alton Towers.
- Year 12 Geography Students will visit Llanberis in Snowdonia to support their A Level Glaciation module.
- The Senior Basketball Tour will leave for Valencia on Sunday 29 June.
- Our Warhammer team will attend the National Schools Finals in Nottingham in July.
- Our highly successful Debate Team will attend the National Finals of the European Youth Parliament at Liverpool Hope University.
- The much-anticipated Rugby Tour departs for South Africa just before the end of term.

Whilst this is by no means an exhaustive list, I am incredibly grateful to all staff who give their time to plan and run these experiences for our pupils. A special mention of thanks must also go to Mrs Coady (Finance and Educational Visits Officer) who oversees the organisation and administration of our entire educational visits programme.

Key Dates

Just a reminder of some key dates for the remaining half of this term:

- Friday 20 June – INSET day, school closed to all pupils (except those taking public examinations)
- Thursday 3 July – Sports Evening, 4.00pm start
- Thursday 10 July – Summer Concert, 6.00pm start
- Thursday 17 July – end of Summer Term, 12.45pm finish

Finally, I wish all students in Year 12 the best of luck for their end of year examinations, which start next week.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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