



From the Headteacher - 20 June 2025

Dear Parents

This Saturday marks the start of our induction periods for new and prospective pupils joining the School in September. Tomorrow, our new intake of Year 7 pupils will pick up their uniforms and meet their form tutors and classmates for the first time; these pupils will join us again for a day of lessons next Thursday. Similarly, many of our prospective Year 12 students will also visit us in the last week of June for A Level taster lessons and to find out more about life in our Sixth Form.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank pupils, particularly those currently in Years 7 and 12, for their support in ensuring these transition events are welcoming and enjoyable for those joining the School. I am sure many of them find it hard to believe that it has already been a year since they themselves were in this position.

Government Policy Paper on AI in Schools

As you may be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) has recently published a new policy paper outlining expectations for how schools and teachers should approach the use of artificial intelligence (AI). This new guidance can be found [here](#).

At a recent conference I attended, the prospect of AI use in schools was somewhat crudely compared with the introduction of the electronic calculator into Mathematics lessons in the 1970s. It was noted that at the time, there were varying views on whether the calculator would improve education or result in an over-reliance on technology and a decline in mental maths ability in pupils.

Whilst direct comparisons with AI may be limited, the DfE guidance discusses how 'AI has the power to transform education', at the same time emphasising the need to consider the risks and challenges of generative AI, alongside the opportunities and potential benefits. As a result of this information, we are conducting initial CPD sessions with staff to explore the potential scope of AI for staff and pupils, taking the aforementioned risks and benefits into account. We will use the information contained in the DfE guidance to continue to shape our AI Policy for the School. Ofsted is also due to publish its own independent review of *AI in education* later this year.

Dave Dempsey (Deputy Headteacher) and Matt Hopton (ICT Manager) will also keep parents informed and included in these developments over the coming months.

Essay Competitions

Congratulations to Harry M in Year 10, whose essay received a Highly Commended award in the annual Dulverton Essay Prize, run by The King's School in Gloucester.

The competition is open to all pupils from Years 10 to 13 across Gloucestershire. This year's 1,500-word essay theme was inspired by a photograph from Adam Dobby titled *Hope: the Stubborn, the Unconquerable*, accompanied by the quote:

"No child deserves to grow up without a childhood as we understand childhood. That right to play, that right to learn, that right to share without being afraid."

Entries were judged on originality, academic rigour and relevance to the theme. Very well done to Harry for this impressive achievement.

James A in Year 12 is also a prize winner, having recently taken part in the Sheffield University German Writing Competition. Students were set the challenging task of writing a 555-word essay in German about the environment. James' piece is an excellent poetic meditation on the plight of climate change. A fantastic accomplishment.

Year 9 Enterprise Day

On Tuesday, Year 9 pupils took part in a challenging Enterprise Day, hosted by former Apprentice candidate Adam Corbally. Working collaboratively in teams, pupils were challenged to develop innovative, profitable and sustainable business ideas. These included portable water filters and an app that identified pieces of litter to help encourage recycling. Prizes were awarded for key employability skills such as teamwork, presentation and leadership.

Well done to all of Year 9, who impressed Adam and Head of Careers Mrs Manning with their enthusiasm, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Uniform

Since my email earlier in the week regarding the warm weather, the forecast seems to have changed again from

Monday, with cooler weather now predicted.

As a result of this, pupils should return to the normal uniform from the start of next week (Monday 23 June). As we move through the final weeks of term, we will relax uniform rules again should the very warm weather return.

Key Reminders

Timetable: As the external examination season draws to a close, our school day returns to normal from Monday, with Periods 1-4 taking place before the lunch break, which starts at 1.30pm.

Sports Evening: Our annual House athletics competition and celebration of sport at the School takes place on Thursday 3 July from 4.00pm. Parents, siblings and friends of the School are very welcome to join us.


Rugby Fundraiser: A Race Night in aid of the South Africa Rugby Tour takes place on Friday 4 July at 6.30pm. Tickets are [on sale now](#).

Summer Concert: Join us for an evening of music on Thursday 10 July starting at 6.00pm. Tickets are [on sale now](#).

Finally, I wish the very best of luck to our cricket teams for their matches against The King's School, Gloucester this weekend, and against Bristol Grammar School next weekend. Next weekend we also have both Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh assessed expeditions taking place; I wish all those involved a safe, enjoyable and successful experience.

I hope you enjoy the warm weather this weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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