



From the Headteacher - 4 July 2025

Dear Parents

As we approach the penultimate week of the academic year, we inevitably experience beginnings and endings happening all at the same time. In the last few days, we have had various induction events welcoming new Year 7 pupils, prospective Year 12 students, and new staff joining the School in September. At the same time, we have said congratulations to Year 11 and 13 for having finished their examinations, and we will soon be saying a fond goodbye and good luck to those colleagues leaving Sir Thomas Rich's at the end of the term. Of course, this is all happening alongside our busy and varied calendar of events.

Culture Day

Last Friday's Culture Day was a great event, bringing together pupils and staff to celebrate diversity and creativity within our School community. The lunchtime food stalls were a particular highlight, with many pupils contributing delicious dishes from their cultural backgrounds. The positive feedback we received about the food and the overall atmosphere was overwhelming, and we thank everyone who participated and helped make the day such a success. My thanks go to Shayeann in Year 12 for leading her team of Sixth Form students to organise this event, along with Mrs Garcia, Mr Williams and Mr Daniell.

Lakeside Trip

Year 8 pupils and staff enjoyed a fantastic residential trip at the YMCA Lakeside Centre on Lake Windermere last week. Activities included archery, hiking, kayaking, abseiling and much more. I am very proud of the way that pupils threw themselves into the many challenges they were presented with, and the way in which they embodied true Richian spirit throughout. My thanks to the Head of Year 8, Mrs Rigby-Smith, and all the staff who accompanied pupils and put so much work into ensuring a successful trip.

1st XI Cricket Update

The 1st XI Cricket team played Gloucestershire Gipsies at the School on Tuesday. Their side featured former 1st XI Captains Joel Price (2017) and Luke Bond (2020), and it was great to welcome them back to the School. Neel K (Year 12) batted brilliantly for 48 runs, but we were unable to chase down the 226 runs by the visitors.

On Wednesday we welcomed the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), whose side featured brothers Chaitanya and Bhavya Bishnoi, both of whom have played first-class cricket in India. Players from top local teams contributed to the strongest side our 1st XI has ever faced, and what followed was an outstanding experience for our young players. George H (Year 9), Adi K (Year 9) and Jamie H (Year 10) all performed superbly, while there was an outstanding spell of bowling from Captain Toby O (Year 12) and a fine 47 from Alex T (Year 12). The game ended in a draw.

We welcome Prince Alfred College Australia today, and another Australian touring side, Brighton Grammar, visit on Monday.

Senior Basketball Tour

The Senior 1st V Basketball team visited Valencia Basket, a professional Spanish Basketball team, for four days this week. The tour schedule was intensive and centred around Valencia Basket's state-of-the-art 13-court training facility. During their stay, players had the opportunity to train under the guidance of the Academy's Head Coach, compete in a 3x3 tournament, and play three highly competitive matches against some tough local club teams. Despite the challenging opposition, the 1st team secured a hard-fought victory in their final match, finishing the tour with a 1-2 record and concluding the season with an impressive overall record of 11-6.

In addition to their sporting commitments, the squad participated in various cultural and recreational activities including Flamenco dancing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and beach volleyball. Throughout the tour, the players demonstrated exemplary behaviour and were excellent ambassadors for the School; a fitting way in which to bid farewell to the Year 13 leavers and to round out an excellent season which included making the final 16 of the National Cup.

My thanks to Mr Hinds and Mr Raddon for all their hard work this year supporting the players and organising this week's trip.

Upcoming Summer Concert

We are looking forward to our annual Summer Concert, which takes place next week on Thursday 10 July at 6.00pm. The event promises to be a wonderful celebration of our pupils' musical talents, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Tickets are [on sale now](#) for £5 and £4 concessions (children under 18, over 65s and students). For the first time at one of our concerts, you can also pre-order a charcuterie cup for £5, with a vegetarian option available. My sincere thanks go to our hard-working PTFA volunteers for running the bar and organising these new food options.

Year 12 Engineering Work Experience

Year 12 pupils are due to start their work experience week on 1 September, which will be their first week in Year 13. We are, however, currently short of a few placements; if any parents who work for or run a local (Gloucestershire) business can help it would be very much appreciated. We are particularly short of placements for students interested in the Engineering sector. If you think you might be able to help, our Head of Careers Mrs Manning (jam@strs.org.uk) would love to hear from you.

Sports Evening

Our Annual Sports Evening was held last night, with our pupils demonstrating excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and determination across all events. It was great to see and speak with so many parents during the event, and heartwarming to see the support and enthusiasm from both participants and spectators.

Whilst there are so many individuals and achievements to mention, the highlights include the following new School records:

- Year 7 High Jump – Owen W – 1.39m
- Year 8 3000m – Theo G – 11 min 31 secs
- Year 9 3000m – Harry O – 10 min 53 secs
- Senior Boys Javelin – Charlie M – 57.11 metres
- Senior Boys 4 x 100m Relay – 50.57 secs

The Best Female Athlete was awarded to Tilly Palmer (Southgate), and the Best Male Athlete was awarded to James Agombar (Southgate).

The final scores for the House Athletics Competitions were as follows:

- 1st Southgate (923.5)
- 2nd Newgate (860)
- 3rd Westgate (789)
- 4th Northgate (741.5)
- 5th Eastgate (688.5)

My thanks go to all students who put themselves forward to represent their House in any of the track or field events, to our staff for running, scoring and marshalling each event, to our Parents', Teachers' and Friends, Association (PTFA) and Mrs Lynn (Development Director) for organising and running the bar and BBQ, and to our Sports staff for setting up and overseeing this important event in our extensive sporting calendar. A special mention of thanks also goes to Mr O'Neill (Head of PE) for co-ordinating the event.

End of Term

A reminder that we finish for the year on Thursday 17 July at 12.45pm. Bus companies will contact parents directly with information, but as things currently stand, the departure times for the final day of term are as follows:

1.05pm

- Cross Street Swindon

Time tbc

- Newent Community

12.55pm

- KB Swindon x 2
- KB Bristol

1.00pm

- Marchants M11
- Marchants M12
- Marchants M13
- Marchants M14

3.20pm*

- Bennetts 1-4 - wait in C1
- Bennetts 5-8 - wait in C2

**Pupils on buses with a later collection time should go to the computer room detailed above at 12.45pm (with staff*

supervision), unless parents and pupils wish to make alternative travel arrangements.

Finally, at the time of writing, our Warhammer team are competing at the National Warhammer Tournament in Nottingham; we look forward to hearing the result. Best of luck also goes to our Debate teams for the National Finals of the European Youth Parliament Debate in Liverpool next Friday.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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