



From the Headteacher - 21 October 2025

Dear Parents

As we approach the October half-term break, it is certainly the case that the School community deserves a well-earned break after what has been a very busy and successful first half-term of the academic year.

Achievements this Term

As ever, without being able to mention everything, it has been a pleasure to see our new Year 7 and 12 pupils settling into the School, with the support of Form Tutors, Subject Teachers, Heads of Year, and the various induction activities taking place. Similarly, the newly appointed Year 13 Student Leadership Team, who proudly received their gowns in a formal ceremony attended by families at the start of the year, have been exceptional in supporting the running of the School this term.

In **Sport**, the positive, competitive team spirit that is synonymous with being a Richian has been evident across a range of extracurricular activities. Particular mention must go to the First VII Netball Squad, who recently finished second overall in the County Cup – a brilliant team effort – and they now progress to the regional stages in Bournemouth. In Rugby, the First XV recorded their first ever win against Bromsgrove School in the Daily Mail Trophy, with a final score of 29-14. The team has recorded an incredible five straight wins in the Trophy this term, before very narrowly missing out to Clifton College last week, 22-28. It was also great to see the write-up of the team's success so far this term in the Daily Mail.

[Daily Mail article](#)

As part of our **Careers** programme, former students returned to speak to Year 13 pupils about university, career paths and life after school – offering valuable insight and motivation for the year ahead. Pupils from Years 7-10 also took part in the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow, giving a highly engaging insight into the process of planning for future careers.

Last week, the School ran a successful **Harvest food bank collection**, supporting those in need in the wider community. We were delighted to receive feedback from Gloucester Foodbank, highlighting the impact of the School's generous donations. A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed.

[Foodbank certificate](#)

In the **House Competition**, Southgate currently leads the way, with keen participation across all form groups. The points tally stands as follows:

1st Southgate = 7 points
2nd Newgate = 6 points
3rd Eastgate = 4 points
4th Westgate = 3 points
5th Northgate = 1 point

With the House Badminton competition finishing after the half-term break, and the House Art results to be announced soon, there is still everything to play for.

Of course, in a term as long as this, these activities and achievements sit alongside the vast amount of subject content delivered through each Department's curriculum, along with regular assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding. To this end, I wish students in Year 12 the very best of luck for their upcoming trial tests in the first week of November, which are designed to give an early indication of the progress made in their A Level courses, along with any advice for improvements moving forward.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Newsletter

On behalf of Miss Tapscott (Deputy Headteacher) and the Pastoral Team, I am pleased to share the latest edition of our *Mental Health and Wellbeing Newsletter*. As ever, this publication aims to offer useful advice and links to resources for parents.

[MHWB Newsletter Issue 5 – October 2025](#)

80 Years of Rugby Dinner 21 March

Tickets for our celebration of 80 years of Rugby at the School are selling fast. The event, which takes place on Saturday 21 March, kicks off with an Old Boys' Tournament, where former players from different year groups return to the pitch to compete in either contact or touch games. Later in the evening, there will be a Black-Tie Dinner

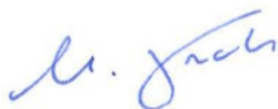
featuring a three-course meal and live music. This event sold out 10 years ago, so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

[Buy tickets](#)

Reminders

Wednesday 22 October - End of half term (3.20pm)
Monday 3 November - Term resumes
Tuesday 11 November - Remembrance Service
Friday 28 November - INSET Day
Monday 1 December - INSET Day
Thursday 4 December - Jazz Night
Wednesday 17 December - Carol Concert (Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens)
Thursday 18 December - End of Autumn Term (3.20pm)
Tuesday 6 January - Start of Spring Term

My best wishes for a relaxing half-term break.



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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