



From the Headteacher - 21 November 2025

Upcoming INSET Days

A reminder that the School will be closed to pupils on Friday 28 November and Monday 1 December for our staff training days (INSET).

During this time, all staff and Trustees will receive our annual Safeguarding training from Sarah Tapscott (Deputy Headteacher – DSL). This year's training focuses on identifying the risk students face from *Online Harms*, including 'fake news' and 'sextortion'. The training, which sits within our year-long programme of safeguarding training for all staff, covers mitigating risks to pupils, along with supporting pupils to manage their exposure to these risks.

Our INSET days also give staff time to review recent updates to the Ofsted Inspection Framework (now referred to as the Inspection Toolkit), and to take part in further training and discussions on how to tailor teaching to support all pupils. Our programme includes bespoke workshops for staff on:

- **Adaptive teaching strategies:** the ways teachers adjust their lessons so that all pupils – whatever their starting point – can understand and make progress.
- **Developing pupils' executive functions:** helping pupils to build the mental skills they need to manage their learning and everyday tasks. This can include strategies for planning and organising their work, solving problems and managing their time. This speaks directly to our whole-school curriculum aims of Self-Discipline and Behaviours for Learning.
- **Research-backed methods for building pupils' resilience:** also one of our five whole-school curriculum aims, building Resilience involves helping pupils cope with challenges, recover from setbacks, and keep trying when work feels difficult.

[Curriculum Aims - click here to open](#)

As part of our ongoing exploration of our digital strategy, staff will also receive further ICT support and training for using the latest software to enhance our sharing, creating and adapting of key resources.

White Ribbon Day

As you may be aware, Tuesday 25 November is national White Ribbon Day, which aims to raise awareness of the need to address the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence against women.

This year, the Female Lead Society at the School has organised a raffle with some great prizes to raise funds for the Appeal and The Nelson Trust – a Gloucestershire charity which supports women in need. Entry closes on Monday 24 November, and tickets are £2 each or £10 for five; payment via Scopay.

There is a range of fantastic prizes to be won, including:

- 2 x Saturday tickets to Royal Ascot (20 June 2026)
- 4 x tickets to Robin Hood at the Cheltenham Everyman (5 December 2025)
- 2 x adult tickets to Cheltenham Races (any day except Cheltenham Festival)
- £10 voucher for Wholly Gelato
- £20 voucher for House of Grillz
- Limeleaf and Ginger diffuser from The Emporium
- A sauce hamper from Tubby Tom's
- A book bundle from Hatchard's
- Tea and cake for two at King Shots Coffee

My thanks go to the Female Lead Society for all their continued hard work, and support for this cause would be greatly appreciated.

Parliament Week

In recognition of Parliament Week next week, there are several activities for all year groups to increase pupils' awareness of the role of Parliament and the broad and balanced political views that exist. This includes:

- Tutor time quizzes on the UK Parliament – prizes available.
- Politics Society – Monday 24 November at lunchtime in V9. The Society is open to all year groups next week to discuss current global political issues.
- Key Stage 3 assembly on political participation.
- Great Political Pun Whole-school Bake Off – Wednesday 26 November. This competition will be open to all pupils; please see SatchelOne for further details. £20 Amazon voucher and more prizes to be won.
- Debate Society – Thursday 27 November at lunchtime in V9. Pupils are invited to debate the role of Parliament

and how it represents our views.

My thanks to Mrs Harris for coordinating these activities.

School Council

The first round of our School Council process has begun once again, with multiple opportunities for pupils' views and suggestions to be put forward at form, year group and Key Stage level. From here, we will do all that we can to facilitate changes and improvements raised by the Student Council.

Last year's School Council was successful in working together to achieve a range of developments for the School, including securing new basketball hoops for the Tennis Courts, and an increased variety of Games Options for girls in the School. Once again, discussions this year have been very productive, and I am grateful to all pupils who have put themselves forward to represent their form or year group as a *School Council Rep*, as well as to our Year 13 Student Leaders for coordinating this process.

Charity Rugby Match

Congratulations go to the 1st XV at Kingsholm last night in the annual charity game against Cheltenham College, this year raising money for *Scotty's Little Soldiers*.

The 1st XV led for much of the game, with tries from Matt Jones and Charlie Cotton. However, Cheltenham College fought back to take the lead with minutes to go. The 1st XV were able to regain possession and earned a penalty; Jake Webb's successful kick in the last play of the game was a fantastic display of composure and precision to secure a win for Rich's: 25-26. Well done to all players for their excellent commitment to the game, as well as to the school community, who not only helped to raise money for a very worthy cause, but also did the School proud in their conduct and support for the players.

The 1st XV will next play Sherborne at home in the last 16 of the Continental Tyres National Cup on Wednesday 26 November 2.30pm.

Well done also goes to the 2nd XV, 3rd XV and U16B team, who also recorded wins against Cheltenham College this week.

Upcoming Dates

- This evening (Friday 21 November) – **PTFA Quiz and Pudding Evening** – 7.00pm, in the School Hall – tickets are available until 5.00pm on the PTFA website: www.strspa.co.uk.
- Friday 28 November and Monday 1 December – **INSET days**; School closed to pupils.
- Thursday 4 December – **Jazz Night** in the School Hall at 6.00pm; tickets can be bought online at www.tickettailor.com/events/sirthomasrichsschool.
- Wednesday 17 December – **Carol Service** at Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens at 6.00pm. No need to book tickets, all welcome.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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