



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

It has been good to welcome back students this week and we are all looking forward to a positive and productive and, hopefully, more settled year ahead. The start of the year is always both exciting and nerve-wracking, but this year it is even more so as we wonder what the year will bring. Our priority this term remains, as ever, to do everything we can to provide safe and positive learning environments for our students; I hope that students can finally settle into their routines and enjoy extracurricular activities without too much further disruption.

We are also very much looking forward to returning to our programme of educational visits, which are key to supporting learning in the classroom and which I know both staff and students have missed so much. With the pandemic still with us, we will of course be carrying out detailed risk assessments for all visits and extracurricular activities, with the safety of our staff and students in mind at all times.

Free Parent Support Groups

Mental health charity, Teens in Crisis (TiC) is running free parent support groups from September 2021 over a course of six weeks, for parents and carers of children between the ages of 11-18. TiC has run a number of successful groups over the last year, with lots of positive feedback from attendees on how helpful, informative and supportive they have found the courses. The groups are designed to help parents understand any issues or distress their child may be experiencing, and to explore effective strategies to improve their child's resilience. The group is also an opportunity for parents going through similar experiences to encourage, support and learn from each other in a safe and friendly environment. All details are on the TiC website under Parent and Carer Support Groups, www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-carer-support-groups.

New Staff

Alun Williams joins us as Assistant Head and our new Head of Sixth Form. Alun previously taught History and Law at Netherhall School in Cambridge, where he was also Head of the Humanities Faculty. Alun read Law at Cambridge as an undergraduate, and then completed a Master's in History at Manchester University, before returning to Cambridge for his PGCE. Alun is particularly looking forward to leading the Sixth Form and building a community of happy and successful staff and students within it.

We also welcome Emily Bond and Paula García Toja in the English department, Alec Fullerton in Modern Foreign Languages and Lauren Reeves in Psychology, Science and Humanities.

Safeguarding

I am pleased to announce that our former Head of Sixth Form, Matthew Lynch, has been appointed Deputy Head. Matthew also takes over as the SENCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) this term, with responsibility for safeguarding within the school.

Safeguarding remains one of our highest priorities; if you have any safeguarding concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew on mtl@strs.org.uk or email dsl@strs.org.uk. You can also contact any one of our deputy safeguarding leads directly:

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Debbie Brake, Deputy Head db@strs.org.uk.

Rhys Davies, Assistant Head rmd@strs.org.uk.

Peter Daniell, Assistant Head pmd@strs.org.uk.

Prevent Duty (concerns about extremism): Chris Carter, Deputy Head cdac@strs.org.uk.

Commercial Lead (concerns about commercial use of STRS facilities): George Angell gsa@strs.org.uk.

Uniform

A reminder that pupils should be wearing full school uniform this term when not in Games kit on days when they have PE and Games. This includes wearing a tie. I have been particularly impressed with how smart the students have looked so far!

Open Days 23-24 September

Our next face-to-face Open Days take place on 23 and 24 September, and anyone interested in attending can pre-register using the link on the home page of the school website. Please do let any friends and family who are considering Rich's for their son in Year 7 know, and keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Speech Night 8 October

This year's Speech Night celebration takes place on the evening of Friday 8 October. Speech Night is one of the key events in the school calendar, and one that usually introduces our new Year 7 students to some of the many traditions, and values, of which we are proud. We are currently busy planning a blended event with prize winners, parents and speakers joining selected members of staff in the school hall, and the rest of our school community joining us for a live broadcast on YouTube. More details to follow shortly.

School Social Media Accounts

Just a reminder that you can keep up to date with all the latest school news by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

Facebook www.facebook.com/SirThomasRichsSchool

Twitter www.twitter.com/strsglos

Instagram www.instagram.com/sirthomasrichs

Finally

We are all looking forward to a 'back to normal' term, but should we face any setbacks it is worth bearing in mind that Richians young and old have proved to be both pragmatic and resourceful over the last 18 months. Based on recent experiences, I am confident that we as a school community will continue to meet any further challenges the pandemic throws our way with good humour and fortitude. Garde ta foy.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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