



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

Whole School Photograph

We very much hope that Gillman and Soame, will be here on 20 October to take a whole-school photograph. This has always been an important tradition for the school, and indeed we have recently had whole-school photographs going back to the 1920s retouched and reframed, ready to go back on display in the corridors. I would like to reassure parents that Gillman and Soame has carried out detailed COVID and Health and Safety risk assessments for the taking of the photograph, in line with current government guidance, which will be updated should the guidance change over the next three weeks.

Evacuation Practice

It is important that all staff and students know what to do in the event of an emergency and we aim to carry out a full evacuation practice once a term. The next practice takes place on Wednesday 13 October at 10.50am; students will be led by their class teachers to the muster point on the tennis courts, and a register will be taken. I am always impressed at the calm and mature way in which students leave the buildings and observe silence as they do so, and I am sure our Year 7 students will find the older students to be excellent role models in this respect.

Vaccinations

At the time of writing, we have no further details regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. As soon as we have more information we will, of course, let you know.

The local community

Sir Thomas Rich's is proud to be part of the wider Longlevens community, and we value good relations with our neighbours. Our students represent the School and everything we stand for, and it is important to us that they behave as respectfully and politely outside the School gates as when they are on the site. Issues do not often arise but when they do, we take them seriously and take steps to ensure that students are clear about their responsibilities both to the School and to our neighbours. Likewise, I would ask parents who drop off and pick up students by car to be mindful of our neighbours by not obstructing their driveways and by driving carefully and parking safely. I appreciate that parents have busy lives and face time pressures, but there are plenty of roads within just a couple of minutes' walk of the school gates where parking is freely available. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Speech Night

A reminder that our annual Speech Night takes place next Friday, 8 October at 7.30pm, and there will be a link on the home page of the school website at www.strschool.co.uk to view the live broadcast. I do hope you will join us for one of the key occasions in the School year.

The Richian

This year, we are moving to a new way of delivering the School magazine, *The Richian*. At the end of every half term, we will be sending a digital newsletter version of *The Richian* to all parents, governors, alumni and friends of the school with a pictorial round-up of the term's events and achievements, including sports' results. At the end of the academic year, we will print a compilation of these newsletters in a high-quality magazine format, which will be distributed to members of the Old Richians' Association, supporters, sponsors and regular givers to the school, and to the incoming Year 7 students.

Speakers Needed for Careers Day

We are running an Alumni Careers Day on 12 October for our Year 13 students and have a number of excellent speakers lined up but have a few gaps in key areas. If any alumni of the school have five-plus years of experience in law, veterinary medicine, HR, retail or architecture and could spare a couple of hours of time to speak to our students about your industry, we would love to hear from you; our students really appreciate hearing from alumni who are established in their careers, it is invaluable when making their career and higher education choices.

The event takes place Tuesday 12 October, 11.30am-1.30pm at the School. Contact Jenny Manning, Head of Careers, jam@strs.org.uk if you are able to take part.

Rich's Violinist Joins NYO

My congratulations to Isaac Williams in Year 13 who after a rigorous audition process has joined the first violin section of the National Youth Orchestra. This is an incredible achievement, as competition for places is extremely fierce. You can visit the School Instagram and Facebook accounts to hear a short clip of Isaac playing.

Finally

Today marks the start of International School Libraries Month. Our own Learning Resources Centre is now under the stewardship of Sylvia Kellaway, who has worked at Rich's for a number of years and has recently taken over as LRC Manager. Sylvia's energy and enthusiasm in bringing the LRC back to life this term has been fantastic to see.

"For books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them." John Milton.

M. S. Morgan.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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