



From the Headmaster

As you are aware, this week we welcomed a team of Ofsted inspectors in school, and it was very much business as usual for us as the team observed lessons and met with staff and students. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts during the inspection, and I was hugely proud of pupils, who continue to embody the ethos and values of Sir Thomas Rich's in everything they do. Thank you to those of you who completed the Ofsted parent view survey so promptly and positively. We are unable to give an indication of the result of the inspection until the full report is written, which is usually within 38 days.

Speech Day

A reminder that our annual Speech Night takes place tonight, 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.

Home testing

The Department for Education has recently released updated guidance on Covid testing, and as such would like to encourage all staff and students to continue with twice-weekly home testing until at least the end of the Autumn Term. Test kits have been handed out to all students this week.

Two different types of test kits have been given out – the usual nose and throat one but also a new one, Flowflex, which is nasal only. Flowflex instructions are in the box and there is also a two-minute video to watch if you need some help using the kit: https://youtu.be/m2DEsr_PFV8.

Vaccinations

We have received no further updates on COVID-19 vaccinations for students, but I will of course update parents as soon as we have an idea of when the in-school vaccination programme will start and how the consent process will operate.

Evacuation Practice

A reminder that the next evacuation practice takes place next Wednesday 13 October at 10.50am.

Finally

It has been good to see our sports' teams playing fixtures against other schools again this term, and my congratulations go out to the Netball B Team for their convincing win against Cleeve School on Wednesday this week.

Sir Thomas Rich's young mathematicians also continue to shine, particularly Ed Hart in Year 10 who this week was accepted on to the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Mentoring Scheme at Neumann level – something which is usually only offered to high-achieving Sixth Form students. Ed will have monthly sessions with his UKMT mentor, working on problem-solving skills that will both enrich and challenge him. Meanwhile, Ed still enjoys coming to the Maths Challenge Club that runs every Monday lunchtime.

I am reminded of the GK Chesterton quote: "The difference between the poet and the mathematician is that the poet tries to get his head into the heavens while the mathematician tries to get the heavens into his head." My thanks to the maths department and indeed to all of our staff for their hard work reaching for the skies and inspiring students across all year groups.

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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