



From the Headmaster

Ofsted Report

As you are aware, the School underwent a routine two-day Ofsted inspection on 6-7 October 2021, and the Overall Effectiveness of the School has been judged as 'Good' as a result. I know many members of the school community will be disappointed with this overall judgement. I share that disappointment. The Education Inspection Framework introduced by Ofsted in 2019 is exceptionally demanding and to achieve 'Outstanding' no longer is about finding a 'best fit' within the framework. Indeed, the Lead Inspector indicated to me during the inspection that she would be surprised if many schools at all were able to achieve this judgement.

Throughout the inspection there appeared to be little consideration for what we have all been dealing with over the past 18 months. Nevertheless, I was and continue to be extremely proud of the way in which the school community responded to the challenge of an inspection so early in the academic year following the disruption caused by the pandemic.

I am pleased that inspectors highlighted the School's excellent pastoral care and breadth of extracurricular provision. It was reassuring to hear that inspectors found that pupils are happy at school; they feel safe and their behaviour is impeccable.

A full copy of the report is attached to this email and is available here: [This email has an attachment - click here to open](#)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support of the parent body and renew my commitment to doing all I can to continue to improve the School in every respect over the coming months and years.

TikTok

You may be aware that a new trend has emerged on TikTok that encourages students to make inappropriate videos about their school and publish these online. There is no doubt that some of these videos are offensive and defamatory and will have caused a significant number of teachers across the country considerable distress as part of a so-called challenge.

Unfortunately, a fake account has been identified purporting to be from Sir Thomas Rich's and, as with other social media platforms, it is not possible to access the details of account-holders that would enable the School to prevent further videos from being posted or remove the current ones.

Our concerns have been raised directly with TikTok and I know that the government has also taken action in response to the growing number of schools nationally that have been dealing with this issue.

Whilst I am sure we all know that it is never acceptable for anyone to harass or intimidate teachers, I think some pupils are unaware of how even those videos that they perceive to be harmless can still cause real offence, stress and anxiety.

The safe and responsible use of the internet and social media is covered in a number of curriculum areas and specifically in PSHE lessons in all Key Stages. We will be reminding pupils of key messages over the coming weeks. However, please could you also take some time to discuss the seriousness of online bullying and harassment with your child, particularly if they have a TikTok account.

The [NSPCC](#) and [The UK Safer Internet Centre](#) have a wealth of information and sound advice on their websites. In addition, please do feel free to contact your child's Head of Year if you have any concerns about your child's online safety.

Face Coverings

Fortunately, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the school community is now in single figures. We have risk assessed the situation and as a result, we are no longer advising the use of face coverings in communal areas. Pupils and staff may of course continue to wear face coverings should they wish. We will continue with all of our other protective measures for the time being – these are kept under constant review.

Parking

We have had several complaints from our neighbours about parking. Please could I remind parents to be as considerate as possible particularly at the end of the school day. I would encourage as many as possible to park a significant distance from the school site so as to avoid altercations.

Remembrance Assembly

Yesterday, we gathered as a School community to pay our respects to the fallen at our annual assembly. The live broadcast was shown in all classrooms and proved to be a solemn and touching occasion as we remembered all those who lost their lives in conflict, and sent our prayers to those living with the consequences of war and terror today.

My thanks to the Brass Ensemble, School Captains, Observators and Prefects, the current Blue Coat Boy and the students who are members of the cadet forces who took part, and in particular to Alexander Taylor who played the Last Post so beautifully. The assembly is available to view on our YouTube channel for a few more days at <https://youtu.be/Ddiwj8hHHpo>.

The Richian Magazine

This year, we have decided to send out the Richian Magazine as a regular half termly e-newsletter, but still publish a traditional magazine at the end of the academic year. Hopefully, in this way we can keep you all up-to-date with school life in a timely manner, but still produce a keepsake printed publication for students and alumni once a year, which will be free and available for pre-order in June 2022.

Events

Bookings are now live for the following forthcoming events:

18 November – [Chamber Concert](#),

1-3 December – [Variety Show 2021](#)

10 December – [Business Networking Event](#)

13 and 16 December – [Carol Services](#)

Additionally, on 18 November in the evening, the 1st XV are playing Cheltenham College at Kingsholm. This is a charity rugby match with proceeds going to the Pied Piper Appeal – tickets are available via Ticket source: [Charity Rugby Match at Kingsholm Stadium event tickets from TicketSource](#) . I know the 1st XV would appreciate as much support as possible.

Finally

I leave you with a poem by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, The Bed, written in November 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior at his grave in Westminster Abbey.

Sharp winds scissor and scythe those plains.
And because you are broken and sleeping rough
in a dirt grave, we exchange the crude wooden cross
for the hilt and blade of a proven sword;
to hack through the knotted dark of the next world,
yes, but to lean on as well at a stile or gate
looking out over fens or wealds or fells or wolds.
That sword, drawn from a king's sheath,
fits a commoner's hand, and is yours to keep.

And because frost plucks at the threads
of your nerves, and your bones stew in the rain,
bedclothes of zinc and oak are trimmed
and tailored to fit. Sandbags are drafted in,
for bolstering limbs and pillowing dreams,
and we throw in a fistful of battlefield soil:
an inch of the earth, your share of the spoils.

The heavy sheet of stone is Belgian marble
buffed to a high black gloss, the blanket
a flag that served as an altar cloth. Darkness
files past, through until morning, its head bowed.
Molten bullets embroider incised words.
Among drowsing poets and dozing saints
the tall white candles are vigilant sentries
presenting arms with stiff yellow flames;
so nobody treads on the counterpane,
but tiptoeing royal brides in satin slippers
will dress and crown you with luminous flowers.

All this for a soul

without name or rank or age or home, because you
are the son we lost, and your rest is ours.

Best wishes for the weekend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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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Registered Office: Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF