



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

Last week, the Cambridge Dictionary announced 'perseverance' as its word of the year, which it defines as a "continued effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult or takes a long time". While undoubtedly a choice inspired by NASA's Perseverance Rover landing on Mars in February, and the related surge in online searches, this word does seem particularly apposite for school life at Rich's. This second half of the Autumn Term has remained busy with sports' fixtures, Year 11 trials and live events. Indeed, it was extremely heartening to see the return of live music last week with the Chamber Concert held in the Drama Studio. Performing in front of an audience has been much missed by us all and I would like to congratulate everyone who took part and thank Mrs Baskerville for planning an excellent programme.

I must also give special mention to all the students who played against Cheltenham College in a charity rugby match at Kingsholm last week. Although the result didn't go our way, the Rich's players put on a tenacious second-half performance. Tries were scored by Michael Nixon, Sam Loftus, Jake Renow-Clarke and Finlay Gwillim. You can keep up-to-date with all the latest Rich's Rugby news by following [@tommiesrugby1666](#) on Instagram.

Ofsted

The Chair of the School's Trustees has written to all parents regarding our recent inspection. Click [here](#) to see a copy of his letter.

Variety Show

Our Christmas whole-school performance is the Variety Show, which takes place next week in the School Hall over three nights from Wednesday 1 December to Friday 3 December. Tickets are on sale now (£5/£2.50); see the link below to book.

The Show features a range of musical, theatrical and entertainment performances by students from all year groups – and some staff too! The final item on the programme is a scene from Alan Bennet's Olivier Award-winning play, *The History Boys*, which debuted at the National Theatre in 2004. Set in a fictional boys' grammar school in Sheffield in the 1980s, the plot focuses on eight pupils preparing for entrance examinations to Oxford and Cambridge. I think we would all find the attitudes portrayed in the play to be rather out of step with current thinking and sensibilities, and parents may feel that the subject matter is not quite appropriate for younger audience members, so there will be an opportunity to leave the Hall just before this excerpt starts, should you wish.

[Book Variety Show tickets](#)

Carol Services

Our Carol Services return this year at their usual venues – St Catharine's on Monday 13 December and Holy Trinity on Thursday 16 December. Please do join us for our traditional telling of the Christmas story set to music; a beautiful way to start the festive season. The Services are free to attend, and tickets can be reserved using the link below.

[Book Carol Service tickets](#)

Business Networking Event 10 December

Parents and alumni interested in finding out more about sponsorship are invited to our first Business Networking Event on Friday 10 December, 9am-11am. This will be a great opportunity to speak with our current sponsors and partners, as well as to meet some of our entrepreneurial students. If you run your own business or work for a company which may be interested in supporting the School, please do join us.

[Register online here](#)

Free Dress Day

Our traditional 'Christmas jumper day' takes place on Friday 10 December, when it is free dress day for all students and staff in return for a charitable donation. Funds raised will go to our link school, PMM Girls' School in Uganda.

PFTA Quiz and Pudding Night

The Parents, Friends and Teachers' Association is running another of its popular Quiz and Pudding Nights on the evening of 10 December to raise funds for the School. Tickets must be bought in advance and there is a restricted capacity in the Hall due to COVID-19, so please visit www.strspa.co.uk to order your tickets, £7.50 per person.

The Richian

The next issue of The Richian e-newsletter will be emailed to all parents by 17 December, featuring a round-up of School news from this half of the Autumn Term. If you didn't receive the (slightly delayed) first edition last week, contact parentnews@strs.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

Dates for the Diary

29 November INSET day (staff only)

1-3 December Variety Show

10 December Business Networking Event

10 December PFTA Quiz and Pudding Night

10 December Free dress day

13 December Carol Service – St Catharine's

16 December Carol Service – Holy Trinity

17 December – last day of Autumn Term

5 January – first day of Spring Term

Finally

With just three weeks until term ends, I am sure we are all starting to look forward to the Christmas break for some much-needed down time. Temperatures in the UK are set to plummet over the next few days; a reminder that pupils can wear an additional layer of clothing in school in order to stay warm as we have to ensure classrooms are well ventilated by having windows and doors open. However, I would ask parents to reinforce the expectation that correct uniform is still worn.

I wish you all a relaxing couple of days, however you are spending your time.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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