



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

The School has been a hive of activity over the last two weeks; we have enjoyed an excellent Chamber Concert yesterday evening, DofE training, World Book Day and a Year 9 enterprise day which saw students working together to come up with ideas for reusing old tyres in a way that would benefit local communities; these are but a few of the recent events and there are a few more details below. Our Registrar, Mrs Bain, has also been busy organising an appeal for donations to the Ukraine crisis. The rapid response to our request for essential items has been amazing, and I would like to thank everyone for their donations, all of which have now gone to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester. Some of our staff were there when a good number of the STRS boxes were loaded on to the lorry heading for Lviv; a humbling experience. I am sure I speak for the entire School community when I say that we keep the Ukrainian people in our thoughts and prayers. The appeal is now closed, but if you would like to make any donations directly to the Church, it is easy to find on Derby Road, Gloucester GL1 4AE. They accept donations from 5pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday from 12 noon to 5pm, and on Sunday from 2pm to 5pm. Please label your box with the contents. You can find them on Facebook where they list the items they are currently prioritising.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Students in Years 9-13 took on a full day's training last week, in preparation for their forthcoming DofE expeditions. The weather wasn't too good on the day, but I was pleased to see that everyone tackled their challenges with such good humour and resilience despite the rain. We received some lovely feedback from staff from one of the providers, Ocean Rock, about the conduct and attitude of the students; well done to all involved.

World Book Day 3 March

World Book Day took place last week and it was great to see so many students and staff dressed up as characters ranging from Arthur Dent to the Woman in Black (very scary, thank you Mrs Workman!). There are some pictures featured on our social media channels if you would like to take a look. My thanks to all the staff who worked so hard on the activities for the day.

Pop-up Café

The Pop-up Café is back in the Food Technology building at 1.30pm-2pm on Wednesday lunchtimes and during break on Thursdays. All items are at pocket money prices (bring small change, cash only), with plenty of healthy and gluten-free options available. All proceeds will go to charity; last week the £25 raised bought supplies to donate to the Ukraine Appeal.

Tim Marshall Talk

Sunday Times bestselling author Tim Marshall gave a well-attended live talk in the hall last week, as part of Mr Marks's lecture series for Sixth Form students and parents. Tim is a world-leading analyst on geopolitics and a former Diplomatic and Foreign Affairs Editor at Sky News and his book - Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need To Know About Global Politics - has been translated into 30 languages, selling over 1.5 million copies. Look out for emails from Mr Marks about forthcoming lectures.

Business Networking Event

If you run your own business or work for a company that might be interested in partnering with Sir Thomas Rich's, we would love to see you at our next Business Networking Event on Friday 1 April, 9am-11am. We can offer great conversation, breakfast and excellent coffee, [book online here](#) or contact Development Director Vicki Lynn on vl@strs.org.uk for more details.

Gloucester Foodbank Appeal

Mrs Phillips is organising another appeal for Gloucester Foodbank, which is part of the Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. Items can be left in the Food Tech building foyer over the next week. The Foodbank is in particular need of:

- Long-life fruit juice (not chilled)
- Long-life milk (not chilled)
- Tinned fish
- Packet instant mash
- Packet pasta 'n' sauce
- Fray Bentos pies
- Pot Noodles
- Shampoo
- Deodorant

Forthcoming Events

25 March - Quiz and Pudding Night for the Canada Rugby & Netball Tour, £6 [book](#)

28 March-1 April – Abigail's Party, Drama Studio, £4/£2 [book](#)

1 April - Business Networking Breakfast, free [book](#)

7 April – Spring Concert (tickets available shortly)

Finally

This week, I was fascinated by reports about the discovery of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance at the bottom of the Weddell Sea, 107 years after it sank in the Antarctic. The ship was crushed by sea-ice and sank in 1915, forcing Shackleton and his men to make an astonishing escape on foot and in small boats in treacherous conditions. Found at over 3000 metres depth, the ship's timbers, although disrupted, are still very much together, and the name, Endurance, remains clearly visible on the stern. Marine archaeologists say it is the finest wooden shipwreck they have ever seen, and it is an incredible scientific achievement to have located and filmed the ship which was so integral to Shackleton's story. I mention it as it strikes me how endlessly enquiring and ceaselessly curious the human condition is, "Curiosity is, in great and generous minds, the first passion and the last" to quote Samuel Johnson. This spirit of intellectual enquiry, adventure and discovery is exactly what we seek to inspire in our young Richians. We know the world and life outside school can be difficult to navigate, and our aim is to provide students with the tools, confidence and courage to pursue their ambitions to the best of their, often considerable, abilities. I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing weekend, in the hope that we experience a little more of the spring sunshine we have enjoyed earlier this week.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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