



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

I promise I intend to reduce the frequency of my emails to parents to fortnightly; however, that said, it is only fair that I bring to your attention the situation regarding staff absence in school. We currently have 12 members of staff off work, mostly with COVID-19. We will do all we can to minimise the disruption to our pupils' learning but there is no doubt that we continue to face significant strain in covering classes and maintaining our normal provision – I am grateful for your forbearance as always.

In an effort to minimise further absences, we will continue with our measures of ventilating classrooms and indoor spaces by opening windows and doors where possible, encouraging regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap throughout the day and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach. Our improved cleaning regime remains in place, with regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, tabletops, etc.

Foodbank Appeal

A reminder that Mrs Phillips' Gloucester Foodbank Appeal runs until 24 March; items can be dropped into the Food Tech building foyer any day except Tuesdays. The Foodbank is in particular need of dried, packet food and long-life juice and milk.

Parents' Evening Survey

Thank you for all the comments in relation to the parents' evening survey that Mr Dempsey sent out. We really do value your views. Some of the comments are detailed and we are currently undertaking a 'sentiment analysis' as well as examining the figures. Working with parents is so important and I am conscious that some responses indicated that parents have never visited the school site! I can recommend concerts, sports matches and other events, plus I am sure your son or daughter could give you a brief tour at the end of the school day. Please do also take a look at the forthcoming events below; the Business Networking Event on 1 April will include an opportunity to tour the School.

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 9am, free [book](#)

7 April - Spring Concert (tickets available shortly)

Finally

The importance of human interaction, especially in such fragile times, has never seemed more precious. Ordinary people in Ukraine appeared to be living lives just like ours four weeks ago, and now they are either living in a war zone or fleeing across the borders. The ubiquitous idiom 'count your blessings' originates not as we might think from Shakespeare, but from a Judaic tradition of counting 100 blessings during the day – anything from spending time with loved ones to enjoying a good meal. So let us all actively count our blessings this weekend, as we keep the people of Ukraine in our thoughts.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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