



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

We are at the end of what has been a longish spring term, with Easter being rather late this year. We return to School on Monday 25 April for the summer term. By then it will be just over two weeks until study leave begins for Year 11 and less than three weeks for Year 13. So, for Years 11 and 13, these final weeks of revising, teaching and examination preparation are crucially important. I do not wish to expand on the theme of students using their time wisely or working hard – an important message, but one that I am sure is already widely appreciated!

Easter is, for most Christians, the most important festival celebrating Jesus' victory over death. But after Jesus was crucified on the Friday, his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave; the four Gospels have quite different accounts of what happens next. How many women went to the tomb and when did they leave? How many angels visited the tomb? Did Jesus appear to all the women or just Mary Magdalene? Can the four Gospels be reconciled? Or is this just evidence that points towards scripture being wrong, or just made-up nonsense?

For me, it doesn't really matter that the Gospels contain some variance – I would believe them less if they were perfectly aligned. Indeed, it is often difficult for teachers to establish the precise facts of incidents when they occur in school, but it is much easier to unravel the truth: the key events and attitudes that led to any situation arising.

When we examine any situation, it is important to remember that there are always at least two sides to every story and I actually think that our happiness, our well-being, depends on us being able to see things from other people's perspectives; to really understand other people's motivations and truly appreciate why they react and behave the way they do. It's a simple concept, but it can be very hard to master. I am always grateful to parents when they acknowledge that their perspective is subjective. I would add that the school will always endeavour to be fair and even handed when dealing with incidents.

Spring Concert

Well done to everyone who took part in our Spring Concert on Thursday, whether in one of the ensembles or as a soloist. The opportunities for curricular and extracurricular Music at the School continue to be wide-ranging and I would like to thank Mrs Jones and Mrs Baskerville for all their hard work this term.

Netball

Well done to all three Netball teams who played Wycliffe College last Wednesday afternoon on our outdoor courts for the last fixture of the season, with two wins and one loss. I know that our hard-working and dedicated coaches Mrs Brown and Mrs Lynn were very pleased to see all three teams out on court. They wish to extend their particular thanks to students Kate Dutton and Millie Mason for all their help this season.

Rugby

Congratulations to students Mikey Nixon and Sam Loftus who represented Gloucester Rugby U17s on Sunday. Both played extremely well, drawing against Harlequins, coming up short against Sale, but beating Saracens.

Business Networking Event

Our next Business Networking Event takes place on Friday 13 May at 9am, and any parents who run their own business or work for a company which might be interested in partnering with the School would be very welcome to attend. The event is free, breakfast is provided and you can [book tickets](#) online.

Open Days

Our next face-to-face Open Days take place on 4 and 5 May 2022. If you know of any family members or friends who are considering their Year 7 choices, do pass on the information. Please click on the link on the home page of the website to register, www.strschool.co.uk. At the time of writing, the 9.30am sessions are almost full, but there are places left for the sessions at 11.30am and 12.30pm both days.

Finally

I was rather taken with the news this week that two stolen notebooks written by Charles Darwin have been mysteriously returned to Cambridge University, in perfect condition, 22 years after they were last seen in the University library. The small leather-bound books are worth many millions of pounds and include the scientist's first 'tree of life' sketch, dating from around the late 1830s, which went on to form the basis of his theory of evolution some 20 years later in *The Origin of Species*. The BBC reported that the two postcard-sized notepads were left anonymously in a bright pink gift bag containing the original blue box the notebooks were kept in and a plain brown envelope. On it was printed a short message: "Librarian, Happy Easter X."

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break, and I leave you with a passage from The Gospel of Mark 16: 1-7, The Resurrection.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'

M. S. Morgan.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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