



From the Headmaster

It has been lovely to welcome so many families into School this week for our Open Days. I was extremely impressed with the Year 8 pupils who showed visitors around; I received a great deal of positive feedback from prospective parents about their experience, citing the maturity, helpfulness, and confidence of their guides as one of the highlights of their visit. My thanks also to all the Year 12 students who helped in the hall and with marshalling and car parking duties.

COVID-19

Cases of COVID-19 have thankfully reduced greatly following the Easter break, but staffing levels remain somewhat affected. Thank you to all parents for your forbearance and patience during this time. I know some students in Years 11 and 13 may be concerned about missing a public examination should they test positive. I would like to take this opportunity once again to reassure students and parents that examination boards are aware of the situation and in the vast majority of cases, students will still be awarded grades even if they are unable to take an examination. Please do contact the relevant Head of Year should you wish to discuss this further.

Uniform

The weather is finally turning a little warmer, so just a brief reminder about uniform expectations. Blazers should be worn during the school day and to and from school, except on the field at lunchtime and in lessons at teachers' discretion. Ties should be worn with the top buttons of shirts done up unless wearing the crested white shirt, which can be worn without a tie and unbuttoned. Pupils should now only wear a school jumper under their blazers, not hoodies. Games kit should only be worn on PE and Games days.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I very much enjoyed seeing our Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award students on their successful assessed expedition in Wiltshire and Berkshire last week - well done to everyone who took part. I know our Year 9 pupils are eagerly looking forward to their expedition tomorrow in the Cotswolds, and I'm sure will enjoy every second of the experience. Thank you to Mrs Rigby-Smith for all her hard work in organising this.

Cricket season starts

It has been great to see so many boys playing cricket and taking part in fixtures over the last couple of weeks. The Under 13 cricket teams started their season with three games away at King's Worcester, with wins for the A and B teams. Plenty of debuts were handed out in the C team and although they were defeated by a strong King's Worcester side, their spirit and determination shone through, along with their obvious enjoyment and pride in representing their school. Also of note, on Wednesday the 3rd XI stole the show with an excellent win away, also at King's Worcester.

Chamber Concert

The Music department is staging another Chamber Concert in the Drama Studio on Thursday 19 May, with an eclectic programme of musical entertainment. Tickets are free, please just book online at the link below so we have an idea of numbers. I always enjoy these events, and I look forward to seeing parents and families there.

[Book tickets.](#)

Business Networking Event

I'm pleased to announce that Shane Duff, property developer and former Cheltenham Town FC Captain, will be the speaker at our next Business Networking Event on Friday 13 May at 9am. 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, with breakfast provided and you can [book tickets](#) online.

Congratulations

Well done to Laurence Whitelock in Year 7, who has made it through the regional heats to reach the national final of the Poetry By Heart Competition for his poetry recital, against some stiff competition from other schools in the area. He will be going to the Globe Theatre in London in June to compete.

Ben Jones in Year 9 has been accepted onto the University of Oxford's Royal Institution Masterclasses in Computer Science, which take place on Saturdays in June. This is a huge honour, as they selected just 12 boys and 12 girls from state-funded schools across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Swindon, Gloucestershire and Buckinghamshire.

Congratulations also to Mille Capper in Year 13, who recently competed at the Cheer Summit in Orlando, Florida. She is part of Gloucestershire Cheerleading Academy and the team did amazingly well coming seventh in the world in their division.

Finally

I wish our Year 11 and Year 12 students the very best of luck as they start their study leave before taking their GCSE and A Level examinations; they should all be very proud of what they have achieved at Sir Thomas Rich's over the last couple of years. I am absolutely sure I have quoted it before in exam season, but Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States famously said: "I'm a greater believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

Enjoy the good weather; I wish all members of our School community a pleasant and relaxing weekend.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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