



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

Examinations

School is rather strange at the moment as we are well into the second half of external GCSEs and GCE A Levels, which of course are more spread out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the public examinations, Year 12 students sit their exams next week, Years 8 and 9 have recently completed a week of formal assessments and Year 7 have assessments beginning on 27 June. It goes without saying that we expect our pupils to take these internal exams seriously and to revise thoroughly, and we are always pleased by the positive attitude pupils demonstrate during their tests.

The most important part of the process happens afterwards, however, when papers are given back and answers discussed. The crucial step in learning for pupils is in the way they respond to teachers' feedback, and the targets they set themselves to achieve in the future. It is vital that they understand the gaps in their knowledge and the ways in which they can address these. When pupils report back on the marks they achieved in exams, please can I urge you to discuss with them how they have responded to feedback and the goals they are setting themselves for future learning. Many schools have lost the traditional 'end of year exams' and I believe it is to the detriment of their students. It is the opportunity for reflection and a commitment to put right mistakes they have made that together yield sustained progress.

Hot Weather

This week I declared it 'officially hot' from Wednesday to Friday, which allowed a relaxation of the usual uniform rules (blazers and ties not required). From Monday the usual uniform rules will be back in place, as the weather is set to be much more changeable.

Grammar School Test Registration

A reminder that the final date for registration for the test for entry to grammar school in 2023 is 30 June. [Register a Year 6 child to sit the test](#)

Forthcoming Events

Our Interim Director of Sport, Mr O'Neil, has already informed you of the arrangements for this year's House Athletics and Sports' Evening, which is scheduled for Thursday 7 July. All students in Years 7 8 and 9 are expected to attend, along with competitors of field and track events in Years 7 to 13. The event starts at 4pm, and the expectation is that boys in Years 7,8 and 9 who are not participating in track and field events will be responsible for Form stalls in order to raise the profile of Sports' Evening and create an enjoyable festival atmosphere. If you were unaware of this and have important plans, this is understandable. We are all readjusting to the 'new normal' including the challenges that going back to 'the old normal' brings!

Our annual Summer Concert takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 8 July in the school hall. As always, this will be a lovely way to showcase the richness of musical talent here at school. Please do come along and share in this summer evening musical celebration. We will be serving refreshments in the Quad beforehand, weather allowing! [Book Summer Concert tickets](#)

The summer Drama production is also back this year and will be "Our Day Out" by Willy Russell, featuring students from the lower school predominately. The play takes place in the school hall, and starts at 7pm. [Book Our Day Out tickets](#)

A reminder that a Race Night and Auction in aid of the Netball and Rugby Canada Tour July 2022 takes place on the evening of Friday 24 June.

[Book Race Night and Auction tickets](#)

INSET Day 24 June

There is a staff INSET day next week on Friday 24 June, no students will be in school this day except for those taking public examinations (and a few Year 12 students who will be personally invited in to catch up with missed Year 12 examinations).

Tommy's Award

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are nearing the end of their first year of participating in the Tommy's Award and we are planning to present successful participants with their badges to recognise their achievement in assemblies before the end of the school year. The Tommy's Award is unique to our school and recognises pupil achievements in areas which go beyond the classroom such as leadership, service, creativity and participation in extracurricular activities. We are planning to extend this award to more year groups from September with the ambition that all pupils will be

participating in the award by September 2024.

Sue Bain

This week we said goodbye to our Registrar, Sue Bain, who leaves us to take up a new post as Operations Manager at Gloucestershire Music. Sue has been with the school for over 10 years in various roles, and for the last few years has run admissions to Year 7 extremely efficiently and professionally. She has been tireless in answering parents' questions and guiding families through the testing and applications process, and she has never failed to go the extra mile, not least when it comes to organising the mammoth task that is the grammar school test day every September. Sue is a highly valued colleague who will be much missed, and we wish her all the very best in her new venture.

Finally

It was great to see the photos on our website and social media channels of Year 10 Geography students enjoying fieldwork at Lulworth Cove in Dorset on Monday. Trips such as these have been very much missed and do so much to support learning in the classroom. My thanks to the staff of the Geography Department for their hard work organising the field trips, and I look forward to seeing the results of the Year 8 visit to three locations along the River Churn at the end of the month. I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing weekend.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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