



From the Headmaster

Sixth Form Open Evening

The Open Evening last night was a huge success and the fact that so many students from other schools are considering studying at Rich's in Year 12 is a testament to the excellent reputation the School enjoys. My thanks to all the staff who worked so hard to organise and prepare for the event, and to all those Year 12 and 13 students who helped out and answered our visitors' questions. They proved to be excellent ambassadors for their school.

School Production

The whole school production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat takes place on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 February at 7pm, £5 for adults and £2.50 concessions/children. [Buy tickets for Joseph.](#)

House Music

The House Music competition took place this week, congratulations to Northgate for taking a decisive win. Miss Howell can't seem to wipe the smile off her face! Once again students across year groups and of all musical abilities performed in front of their peers with spirit and enthusiasm, and it was good to see so many keen to take part in what has become a truly joyful and inclusive event.

Drug Awareness Talk

My thanks go to Mr Marks for organising a talk for parents on drug usage and addiction on Tuesday evening in the Drama Studio. We are grateful to Simon Leigh, a UKCP Registered Independent Counsellor specialising in the treatment of addictive disorders, for speaking. We plan to run more talks for parents in the future. We will of course, inform you of the details.

Chess Team Victories

Well done to the Rich's Chess teams who enjoyed success in the English Chess Federation regionals, qualifying for the next round, which will be played before 3 March. This week Mr Moore also took three teams to the West of England Team Chess Regional Qualifier event at Bristol Grammar School. Out of 20 teams our A team (Sid Venkatanarayanan, Tommy Wilkins, Gabe Cole and Finley Hitchings) came second overall and have qualified for the national finals.

Rugby Successes

A huge well done to the Under 15s for winning the County Cup Final 7-0 last week against a tough Crypt side. They should all be very proud of the way they played, and the way in which they represented the School. Man of the match, as nominated by Mr Rideout, was Sam Edgar in Year 10.

My congratulations also go to Wolfgang Cross in Year 13 who has been selected to play rugby for the Southwest England Counties Squad after a number of trials.

Talk on The Ancient Schools of Gloucester

Sir Thomas Rich's is set to feature in the first Gloucester History Festival King's Talk of 2023, on 'The Ancient Schools of Gloucester'. Speaker David Evans, historian, archivist and a former Deputy Head of King's School, has written a book on the subject and he promises to lift the lid on the intriguing history of Gloucester's oldest schools and some of the extraordinary pupils who attended them. Rich's, Crypt and King's School are all included, along with a number of other schools. The event takes place at 6pm on Friday 10 February in the Ivor Gurney Hall at King's School in Gloucester. Tickets are £6 and can be booked online at www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk.

Teachers' Strikes

As you are aware, this week saw the first of the planned National Education Union teachers' strikes, and the decision to close the school to students in Years 10 -13 was one which was not made lightly. There are further strikes planned in our region for 2, 15 and 16 March. I will of course keep you updated with regards to the situation and any plans we may need to make to mitigate the impact on students' learning.

Finally

February is here, with just two weeks until we break for half term on the 17th. Next week will be a busy one with Year 8 students undertaking Bikeability training, a trip to Parliament for Year 13, and a trip to Trinity College, Oxford for our Year 12 Oxbridge hopefuls. Modern Foreign Language GCSE trial speaking examinations start next Thursday as well, and I wish bonne chance to all pupils involved.

The name February comes from the Latin word 'februum', which means purification, and the month was named after

a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring-cleaning festival. Although I rather prefer the old Saxon name for the month, 'Sol-monath' which means cake month. I wish you all a pleasant and relaxing weekend, whether you are eating cake or spring cleaning.

M. S. Morgan

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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