



From the Headmaster

Welcome back

It is somewhat of a cliché that as soon as we return to school we have a heatwave, and that's exactly what has happened this week, with temperatures hitting well over 30 degrees in Gloucestershire. I would like to congratulate students and staff for the stoic way in which they have dealt with the sweltering conditions in what has been a very busy week.

It has been wonderful to hear the buzz of excitement and enthusiasm in the classrooms and corridors, and my thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard to help pupils settle in as quickly as they can. The School's ethos very much lies in mutual respect, kindness and tolerance, and the excellent pastoral support we offer to all students is central to everything we do. The first few days in a new school can be daunting, but I am confident that with the support of staff and their peers, it will not be long at all before our new starters count themselves as true 'Richians'.

I will continue to endeavour to send these fortnightly email updates to parents over the year, with the occasional extra email where needed, should a matter of importance arise. Key information will also be communicated to parents by email by the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Year, so please do check your inbox regularly for updates.

It is also well worth following our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts if you haven't done so already for general news about the School and pupils' achievements. We are always pleased to hear about students' successes outside school as well, so please do let your son or daughter's Head of Year know of any achievements, as we would love to highlight them.

If you need to get in touch with the school, the contact details for the Heads of Year are below; alternatively, you can telephone our Reception team on 01452 338400 or email them on info@strs.org.uk.

Concrete

I am sure you will have seen reports in the media that the government has asked some schools to close or partially close due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in their buildings. I would like to reassure parents that we are not affected by this. We commissioned a survey back in 2021 by an external contractor, *Birmingham City Laboratories*, to investigate the school buildings for RAAC. I am pleased to confirm that a thorough inspection revealed no traces.

Filtering and Monitoring

Safeguarding and the well-being of students is a hugely important aspect of the work of all schools and we have recently updated our relevant policies; see link below.

Keeping pupils safe online is always a key priority, and our school systems only allow access to age-appropriate content that is suitable for learning. Our website filtering lists are reviewed regularly by our ICT Manager, Matt Hopton. In addition to this, we have recently strengthened our monitoring of pupils' online search activity, in line with statutory guidance from the DfE outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#). This monitoring is primarily designed to enable us to provide timely pastoral support to anyone who may use the internet to search for ways of harming themselves but also to highlight any instances where pupils might search for inappropriate or malicious content when using a school computer. We hope that by being as transparent as possible with parents and pupils about this at the start of the academic year, we will seek to minimise such areas of concern, whilst reminding those who wish to seek pastoral support to come and speak to one of our Heads of Year, Heads of Key Stage or Pastoral Support Assistants, details below.

Heads of Year and Pastoral Staff Contacts

Head of Year 7: Mr J Payne – jnp@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 8: Mrs C Rigby-Smith – cer@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 9 / Senior Head of Year Key Stage 3: Mr Z Hinds – zfh@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 10: Mr N O'Neil – no@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 11: Mr D Tilley – dpt@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 12: Mr W Marks – wrm@strs.org.uk

Head of Year 13: Mrs R Downes – rad@strs.org.uk

Senior Head of Year (Sixth Form): Miss E Jauncey – elj@strs.org.uk

Pastoral Support Assistant: Mrs G Filipkova – gvf@strs.org.uk

Pastoral Support Assistant: Mrs C Roberts – car@strs.org.uk

Head of Key Stages 3 and 4: Mr P Daniell – pmd@strs.org.uk

Head of Sixth Form: Mr A Williams – aiw@strs.org.uk

[Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy](#)

[Behaviour Policy](#)

[ICT Policy](#)

School Sport

Sport is an important aspect of life at Rich's, and Year 7 parents may find our booklet on arrangements for training and fixtures useful. It may also provide some useful reminders for all parents. If you have any questions at all, please do feel free to contact Rhys Williams, Director of Sport, on rgw@strs.org.uk.

[School Sport 2023-24 Guide](#)



Supporting the School

The School remains indebted to our sponsors and corporate partners, who support Rich's in a myriad of ways – some financially, some by lending their time and expertise offering careers advice, mentoring and work experience placements. Many of our supporters are alumni and parents of both current and former students.

We believe in an ethos of 'paying it forward' and know from experience that many parents value the education their child has received at STRS extremely highly and welcome the opportunity to support the School in a tangible way. Opportunities range from sponsoring a team (Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Cricket) to supporting our performing arts by advertising in or sponsoring event programmes. Support is equally welcome from individuals as it is from companies. If you are interested in finding out more about supporting the School in this way, take a look at our Corporate Partnership Brochure for an idea of the different levels of support in which you can get involved. Development Director Vicki Lynn would also be very pleased to hear from you on vn@strs.org.uk.

[Corporate Partnerships Brochure](#)

Key Dates and Events

Tuesday 12 September – Year 10 information evening
Thursday 14 September – Year 12 information evening
Wednesday 20 September – Year 7 informal parents' evening
Friday 29 September – Speech Night (prize winners and all Year 7 pupils to attend)
Thursday 5 October – Open Day and Evening for Year 4-6 primary pupils
Wednesday 25 October – end of half term
Monday 6 November – start of term
Tuesday 14 November – Year 11 parents' evening
Thursday 23 November – Year 12 parents' evening
Friday 24 November – PTFA quiz and pudding night
Friday 1 December – INSET day, school closed to all pupils
Monday 4 December – INSET day, school closed to all pupils
Thursday 14 December – Christmas Concert
Tuesday 19 December – Carol Service
Wednesday 20 December – end of Autumn Term
Monday 8 January – start of Spring Term

Finally

I hope to meet many of our new Year 12 and Year 7 parents at the informal parents' evenings on 14 and 20 September respectively; please do attend if you can as it will be a relaxed occasion with the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor, and members of the senior team, as well as other parents.

With best wishes for a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M. S. Morgan'.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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