



From the Headmaster

Speech Night

Our annual Speech Night takes place today, and I am delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Sian Rodway, a Trustee of the School and an Old Richian. A former Rich's School Captain (2010), Sian is currently Chief Operating Officer at MDRx, a successful technology consulting and development business which specialises in delivering legally complex digital transformation projects. After leaving Rich's, Sian went on to gain a degree in Criminology and an MSc in International Defence, Development and Diplomacy at Durham University. As a qualified career development coach, Sian is passionate about empowering individuals to achieve their potential at all levels; it is never too early to start thinking about goals beyond school, and I am confident that our Year 7 pupils will find her speech genuinely inspiring.

Netball

I am pleased to report that we have exceptionally strong Netball teams in the Sixth Form this year; Coaches Mrs Brown and Mrs Lynn tell me that several of our Year 12 players also play for Severn Stars Netball, which is a training pathway for the England Netball team. So far, the First VII have enjoyed a decisive victory over The Farmor's School in Fairford, 30-9, and a 29-29 draw against an excellent King's School Worcester side. Our Second VII lost to Farmor's 9-17 but won against King's 27-24, while the Third VII narrowly lost to King's despite valiant efforts, 17-18. Next week brings friendly matches for all three sides against Cheltenham Ladies' College, who are always tough opponents.

All the latest fixtures, training info and results for all sports at the School can be found on the [STRS SOCS website](#).

New website

Our School website relaunched this week with a fresh, mobile-friendly design, please do take a look if you haven't visited for a while: <https://strschool.co.uk>. Key information for parents still sits within the main 'Parent' menu <https://strschool.co.uk/parents>, which you should hopefully find easier to navigate. We are also developing an STRS Community website for alumni and other groups, more on this soon.

Open Day and Evening

Our next Open Day and Evening for entry to Year 7 takes place on Thursday 5 October, with pre-registration available from the home page of the School website. Many of our Year 8 students will act as tour guides during the day, something which I know that prospective parents and primary school pupils enjoy very much. Students' honesty can be somewhat frank at times, but I know from the feedback I receive that they are always the very best ambassadors for Sir Thomas Rich's.

Year 7

I am pleased to report that our Year 7 students have settled into school life extremely well, and they have thoroughly enjoyed their residential trips to Stratford-upon-Avon this month, do take a look at our website and social media channels for some photographs. Thank you to all those parents who attended the informal Year 7 parents' evening last week; a warm welcome to the School community, it was good to meet so many of you. If you would like to support Rich's through regular giving, a reminder that the form can be found online at: <https://community.strs.org.uk/fundraising/donation>.

Alumni Careers Day

My thanks to all the Rich's alumni who visited the School on Friday last week for the alumni careers day; students benefit so much from hearing about 'real world' career pathways and experiences. Our next major careers event is the annual Careers Fayre on Friday 23 February. If you run or work for a company or organisation which would be interested in having a free stand at the Fayre, I know Mrs Manning would be pleased to hear from you on jam@strs.org.uk.

Rugby Training Kit

Just to reassure parents that STRS crested Rugby kit is not required for after-school Rugby training – only for timetabled Games lessons and for fixtures. I understand the Uniform Shop volunteers have had a number of enquiries from worried parents trying to purchase a second-hand rugby shirts and shorts, please be assured that branded kit is not compulsory for training sessions.

I know it is a big weekend for Rugby with a significant number of fixtures against Monmouth – good luck to all involved.

With best wishes

M. S. Morgan

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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