



## From the Headmaster

---

I am writing this having just returned from a rather damp Stratford-upon-Avon where I witnessed first-hand the importance of our Year 7 early residential that I referred to in one of my earlier emails to parents. I am pleased that we manage to find time for these important activities to continue. Last week we held our Open Day and Open Evening, and I am extremely grateful to all the pupils and teachers who gave up their time to contribute so positively to this event. I received a large number of comments, particularly about the welcoming atmosphere in the School and the sheer pride that the Year 8 pupils displayed when giving tours. Many thanks to the parents who dropped off and picked up our student tour guides for the evening event.

### **Rugby success**

Well done to the teams who played Dean Close School at home last weekend, the 1st XV won 24-18 with tries from Grice, Evans, Lilwall and Rendell and two conversions from Anstey. The 2nd XV took an even more decisive victory with a final score of 38-14 and tries from Shaw, Holder, Bellman, Dunnage and Chukwuemeka, with Bellman scoring five conversions and a penalty as well. Incredible team spirit and sportsmanship on display from all.

Support from pupils and parents is always appreciated at home fixtures. If you would like to come along to watch some top quality rugby and cheer on the blue and gold army, I recommend the match where our 1<sup>st</sup> XV play Cheltenham College on the evening of Thursday 16 November. Check the SOCS website for up to date information and kick off times.

### [SOCS STRS Rugby fixtures](#)

### **Missing school buses**

A reminder, that if your child misses their bus at the end of the day, parents will need to make arrangements for them to be collected from school as quickly as possible. I appreciate this can be tricky if you do not live or work near the school, but we are unable to arrange lifts or alternative travel for students who miss a bus service. All buses leave from the front of the school near Gate 2, and there are plenty of staff on duty should pupils require assistance.

### **Illness during the school day**

If pupils are ill during the school day, parents will be contacted by our Reception team and pupils will need to be collected promptly. We appreciate that parents who live or work some distance from the school may have difficulty in getting here quickly, but we would like to avoid situations where pupils who are feeling really unwell are waiting for long periods to be picked up. It may be worth arranging for a trusted friend or family member who could be counted on to pick up your son or daughter if you are unable to get here within 30 minutes or so.

### **Attendance**

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, well-being and wider development. The office of the Children's Commissioner for England has produced a useful booklet for parents on [school attendance](#).

At a time of the year when coughs and colds spread easily, and with COVID-19 still around, it can be difficult to know whether to send your child to school if they have minor symptoms. The NHS website features a useful page: [Is my child too ill for school?](#) - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)), which states:

"It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away."

Regarding COVID-19, the NHS advises the following:

"If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and they either have a high temperature [and/or] do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities."

The NHS goes on to give the following advice should your child test positive for COVID-19:

"Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test."

A reminder that all pupil absences should be reported to the school on every day of absence using Parent Gateway or by phoning 01452 338400.

## Well-being support

With World Mental Health Day taking place on Tuesday this week, it seems appropriate to recap our involvement with a county-wide mental health initiative. We are one of five Gloucester schools taking part in a pilot scheme over the last few months which has been designed to simplify access to mental health support for young people in the county. 'The Children & Young People's Mental Health Navigation Hub' provides a single point of contact for children, young people, families, carers and professionals to access appropriate support. We are pleased and proud to take part in the scheme, as we know from experience that while there are many excellent support services for parents and young people in Gloucestershire, each has a different referral route and navigating a complex system can be confusing and frustrating for all involved.

Services operating within the Navigation Hub have already reported significant benefits from working in this way, citing better access to information and better decision making as tangible outcomes. The Hub includes six services: TIC+; Young Glos; CAMHS & School Nursing; Young Minds Matter; Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service; TALC, Early Help & Education Inclusion.

We are committed to supporting our young people at all stages of their school career; please do contact your Head of Year at any time if you would like to discuss well-being and mental health support for your child (see <https://strschool.co.uk/about/staff> for contact details).

## Book of the Month

The English Department has relaunched Book of the Month today, and I am pleased to start the ball rolling with a review of two political autobiographies: *Kind of Blue* by Ken Clarke and *The Long and Winding Road* by Alan Johnson. If any staff or students would like to recommend and review a book, please do contact Mrs Roche on [sfr@strs.org.uk](mailto:sfr@strs.org.uk).

## [Book of the Month October 2023](#)

## End of half-term 25 October

We finish this half term on Wednesday 25 October at 3.20pm and return on Monday 6 November.

With best wishes for a pleasant and relaxing weekend.



Matthew Morgan  
HEADMASTER

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF  
01452 338400  
[info@strs.org.uk](mailto:info@strs.org.uk)  
[www.strschool.co.uk](http://www.strschool.co.uk)

This email was sent to [letters@strs.org.uk](mailto:letters@strs.org.uk), because you have signed up with STRS.  
If you wish to unsubscribe, [click here](#).

This message may contain information and/or data that is confidential and legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s) only. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, publication, reproduction or dissemination is strictly prohibited and may violate certain laws.

If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by return e-mail and destroy this and all copies of this message and/or data.

Sir Thomas Rich's School is a limited company registered in England with company number: 7331954

Registered Office: Sir Thomas Rich's School, Oakleaze, Longlevens, Gloucester, GL2 0LF