



From the Headmaster

This morning we gathered as a whole school for our Act of Remembrance, outside on the tennis courts to accommodate our numbers. I never fail to be moved by the quiet respect demonstrated by pupils at the annual event, as each form proceeds in silence to the music of the Brass Ensemble. It is more important than ever to hold in our hearts, thoughts and prayers for those caught in conflict around the world, particularly in Ukraine and the Middle East, while we pay our respects to all those who have lost their lives in the service of their country. My thanks to the members of the cadet forces who carried the flag, and to the School Captains for the laying of the wreath at the School's War Memorial, which commemorates the past pupils and staff who gave their todays for our tomorrows.

Charity Rugby Match

A reminder that tickets are still on sale for our 1st XV Charity Rugby Match against Cheltenham College at Kingsholm Stadium on 16 November. I know the players would appreciate as many supporters as possible on the big night; tickets are just £5 and funds raised go to the National Star College. I encourage as many people as possible to attend – do invite grandparents and friends! Kick-off is at 7.30pm and you can buy tickets online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheltenham-college.

Relaunched eBook Library

All parents received an email from Head of English and Associate Assistant Head (Literacy) Mrs Roche this week about the relaunch of the Wheeler's ePlatform, an inspiring digital library of ebooks and audio books offering 1,000,000+ titles written by the best authors and publishers from across the globe.

Your support in encouraging your child to use the Wheeler's ePlatform is much appreciated; reading for pleasure is associated with numerous benefits, from improvements in reading achievement and comprehension, writing, vocabulary, and general knowledge to improved empathy, understanding of self and others, and wellbeing. Many students may wish to read an ebook or listen to an audiobook in addition to reading physical books, and Wheeler's is an excellent way to help them develop healthy reading habits. Audiobooks and eBooks can also be used for the reading target for the Tommy's Award.

Students can access Wheeler's ePlatform when logged in to a school computer by opening Launchpad on the bar at the foot of the screen (a rocket icon) and searching for Wheeler's. When using a mobile telephone or tablet, students should install the ePlatform by Wheeler's app from their app store, then click 'Add New Library', type in Sir Thomas Rich's School and select it from the list. All they need to do is log in with their standard STRS email address to start browsing and borrowing.

Scholastic Offer

You may have seen some information about Scholastic on our social media channels recently. If you are buying books online for yourself or for Christmas gifts, I would encourage you to take a look at [Scholastic](http://www.scholastic.co.uk) before you order as you may find some titles at a somewhat cheaper price than many of the large online retailers. In addition, by nominating Sir Thomas Rich's as your school of choice, we receive 20p for every £1 spent (for orders over £10), to spend on new books for the LRC. There is also an option to choose titles from the [STRS Autumn Book Club](http://www.scholastic.co.uk/strs) list, the deadline for which is 24 November, with orders placed this way being delivered to the School in early December for pupils to take home.

Kirkland Rowell Pupil Survey

Matthew Lynch emailed parents before half-term regarding our external Pupil Survey provided by Kirkland Rowell which we ask pupils to complete every three years, to supplement the internal wellbeing surveys that take place throughout each academic year. Pupils' feedback is extremely important to us as is parents! A reminder that the next Parent Survey is scheduled for October 2024.

Christmas Celebrations

The Christmas Concert takes place on 14 December at 7pm, in the School Hall.

On 19 December, we will hold our Carol Service at 7pm, at Trinity Church, Church Road, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AJ. Do put these dates in your diary.

During this morning's Act of Remembrance, the School Captain Joe Gray read *In Flanders Fields* by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. I thought I would end today's email with its text:

*In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

My best wishes for a pleasant weekend

M. S. Morgan

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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