



From the Headmaster

Charity Rugby Match yesterday

My congratulations to the First XV, who achieved a decisive victory at Kingsholm Stadium against Cheltenham College last night, winning 32-14. Their clear effort and determination to succeed were inspiring, particularly the desire to defend with good line speed. The team displayed incredible decision-making skills and put the opposition under a good deal of pressure, making the match, which was in aid of the National Star College, a real pleasure to watch – I was so proud. My thanks to the efforts of our coaches, particularly our Director of Sport Rhys Williams, and Tom Williams. The match is available to watch on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4p6NvSEKDo.

Rugby is a sport where supporters of both teams can integrate and mix in crowds, in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. At times during the charity match at Kingsholm last night, some of the choices made by our supporters were not acceptable, and I would be failing in my duty as Headmaster if I did not draw attention to some of the negative chants and actions directed at the opposition. In this respect, we let ourselves down.

Unlike football, there is no segregation of supporters at rugby matches, something which – usually – fosters a spirit of good-natured rivalry. The sport is a physical one, and spectators witness and appreciate the efforts and demands placed on the players of *both* teams. While of course, each team's supporters are partisan, it is most definitely not usual or acceptable for that support to descend into any form of abuse of the opposition. I hope that my position is clear in this respect. It is probably also worth noting that we received a great deal of support from students from other local schools and, whilst we welcomed this, some of their actions were not ones that we would expect of our supporters or true Richians.

Consultation on the Sixth Form Admissions Policy

Parents of Year 10 pupils have today received an email from Matthew Lynch regarding changing the admission policy for Sixth Form entry in September 2025. If you have any queries regarding admissions, please contact Alison Ewart (Registrar – Admissions) via ale@strs.org.uk.

Kirkland Rowell Pupil Survey

Matthew Lynch also 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 well-being surveys that take place throughout each academic year. If you could encourage your son or daughter to complete the survey, it would be much appreciated.

Careers' Fayre January

Our annual Careers Fayre has moved to 30 January; if any parents work for or run a company which would be interested in exhibiting, please do contact the Head of Careers, Jenny Manning - jam@strs.org.uk.

Lost Property – Coats

We currently have over twenty coats in the lost property cupboard which are unnamed, and reception staff will put them out in the hall next week for pupils to check. If your son or daughter is missing a coat, please encourage them to check in the hall as soon as they can, as after next week they will be donated to charity. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to store our ever-expanding lost property long-term, so please do add name labels to all items, especially coats and shoes, as otherwise it is very difficult for staff to reunite misplaced property with owners.

Picking up by car

If you pick up your son or daughter from school by car, please could I ask you to assist us by parking safely and considerately, as we have recently received some complaints from residents about cars parked opposite junctions, on corners and on pavements at the end of the school day. Thank you for your help with this; it is much appreciated.

Quarter-zip Fleeces

The Sixth Form Fundraising and Charity Committee would like to remind parents and pupils that the deadline for ordering STRS-branded quarter-zips is today, to ensure delivery before the end of term. They are available to students in Years 10-13, and may not be worn in and around school as they are not official uniform, but may be worn on non-uniform days of course. To buy a quarter-zip fleece, first pay on Scopay and then fill out the sizing and design order form at <https://forms.gle/oBddtQKzxmRd4h7h6>.

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. Please put these dates in your diary.

Finally

I sincerely believe that all Sir Thomas Rich's pupils know in their hearts what it is to be a true 'Richian'. Every student should not only be able to list the qualities intrinsic to being a Richian, but be able to demonstrate those qualities every day, whether on the bus to school, in class or out taking part in activities. Being proud of one's school is core to our ethos, but that pride should lie in what we stand for, our principles, our morals, and how we conduct ourselves as we go out and greet the world. Lebanese-American thinker and poet Kahlil Gibran said: "Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution".

I wish all members of our school community a harmonious and relaxing weekend.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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