



# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

## From the Headmaster

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### Last Day of Term

School finishes at 12.45pm on Wednesday 20 December. If your son or daughter travels to and from school by coach, I would be grateful if you could contact your transport provider to confirm last day arrangements. As ever, any pupils who need to wait for their bus may do so safely and warmly in the School Hall. We return on Monday 8 January for the Spring Term.

### Admissions Consultation

We are making some changes to the Sixth Form admission policy for 2025/6 entry to Sir Thomas Rich's School. As a result, we are required to consult with all stakeholders including, but not limited to, parents of children aged between two and 18 years, neighbouring local authorities and relevant organisations. The [attached letter](#) explains the substantive changes, together with the [draft admission policy](#).

These can also be found on our website here: <https://strschool.co.uk/admissions#noticeofconsultation>.

Any queries or feedback should be sent to Mrs Ewart, our Admissions Registrar - [ale@strs.org.uk](mailto:ale@strs.org.uk).

### Christmas Concert Tickets

The School Christmas Concert takes place on Thursday 14 December in the School Hall at 7.00pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for concessions; tickets are available to buy online at:

<https://community.strs.org.uk/event/christmas-concert>. Refreshments will be available. Please do join us for a festive night of music.

### Carol Service

Our annual School Carol Service returns to Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens (GL2 0AJ) at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19 December. Students, their families, staff and friends of the School are all very welcome to attend. We are not operating a ticket or booking system for the event as the Church has excellent seating capacity. Please arrive by 6.50pm to be seated ready for the 7.00pm start. The Carol Service is free to attend, and there will be a collection in aid of local charities.

### Book of the Month

Book of the Month for November is Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver, reviewed here by Henry in 8C:

<https://youtu.be/ruXmywLRDS8?si=-YQw2BjL3enjCDn>.

Well done, Henry! Students in any year group who would like to review a book for this series (the review could be audio only if they are feeling camera-shy) should contact Mrs Roche (Head of English) on [sfr@strs.org.uk](mailto:sfr@strs.org.uk), or speak to any teacher in the department.

### The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza, has launched a national campaign called *The Big Ambition* to survey the children and parents of school communities across England. The survey provides an opportunity for children to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. Dame Rachel will be sharing responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard. Please note that this is separate from the pupil survey recently carried out for the School by Kirkalnd Rowell, which Mr Lynch emailed you about before half-term.

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition).

### School leadership

In many ways this is one of the most difficult emails I have had to write as Headmaster of Sir Thomas Rich's. I have been offered the post as Head Master of Bishop Wordsworth's in Salisbury and I have accepted the position. This post will commence in September 2024, and I will leave Rich's in August 2024.

This has been a difficult decision to make. Whilst I am very much looking forward to my new role, I will be immensely sad to leave STRS. I joined Rich's as Deputy Head in September 2007 and then was appointed as Head in 2013. 17 years is a long time in the life of any school, and I would not leave unless I felt the school was in good shape. All organisations benefit from new ideas and approaches, and schools are no exception. I have long been a proponent of the importance of a fresh pair of eyes, and this is as true for my role as it is for any job in the school.

There will, of course, be a chance to reflect later in the year, but I wish at this stage to thank parents (past and present) trustees and pupils for their steadfast support over the years. Sir Thomas Rich's is a special place and there is not one day that goes by without me remembering that I have been enormously privileged to have helped lead this precious community.

I have discussed arrangements with our Chair of Trustees and I know the appointment of my successor is in safe hands.

There is much to be done in the remainder of this year and I will endeavour to redouble my efforts in order to ensure the School continues to develop.

### **Finally**

Sunday marks the start of Advent in the Anglican calendar and is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. In Western churches, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and is the beginning of the liturgical year, although in many Eastern churches, the nativity season occurs during the 40 days before Christmas. Traditions encompassing Advent include the placing of [wreaths](#), candles, and the decoration of Christmas trees. Advent is also a reminder that we are nearly at the end of a long term, but there is more work that must be completed before we break up for a well-deserved break.

I wish you all the best for the weekend



Matthew Morgan  
HEADMASTER

## **SIR THOMAS RICH'S**

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