



From the Headmaster

It has been good to welcome students and staff back for the start of the Spring Term. Year 11 students have been working hard to prepare for their GCSE trial examinations, which start next week, and the School in general has been a hive of activity with a myriad of sporting, musical and other activities taking place every lunchtime and after school.

Bad Weather Arrangements

At around this time of year, I always feel that I ought to remind all pupils and parents of the arrangements should the weather take a turn for the worse. Firstly, we will not close the School unless it is unsafe to remain open. This may include situations where very few staff can travel to School and it would be impossible for us to supervise students adequately. However, it is usually the case that a number of pupils and staff can walk to School, whatever the situation, and therefore it seems right that they should have the option to come to School if they can.

If you live in an area where poor weather conditions prevent your child from getting to School, it is important that you report their absence as early in the morning as possible either via Parent Gateway or by phoning the pupil absence line 01452 338400, option 2. It is essential that we can account for all pupils. If a weather situation arises which is serious enough to threaten school opening hours, the message will appear online at www.strschool.co.uk, so please check the website first in the event of worsening conditions. We will also inform the Local Authority if we close, who publish information on www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures and on their X/Twitter feed @Glos_schools, where you can subscribe to text alerts. The Local Authority will also alert local radio stations.

If school buses operate in the morning, but the weather deteriorates during the day and the coach companies take the decision to send the afternoon buses to school early, we will ensure that the pupils who use those services are made aware of this and seen safely on to the coaches. It is important that your child has instructions as to how they should gain access to their home in this eventuality, and I would be grateful if you could discuss this matter with them. Where the School is closed during the course of the day, there will be plenty of staff on hand to supervise pupils until they have been collected or made arrangements with their parents about travelling home. It would be most helpful for your son or daughter to have a telephone number on which we can contact you on such a day if you are not at your usual contact point. Pupils should not leave the school site without an agreed plan of action with their parents about how they should travel home. A reminder that if the school closes due to snow, remote learning commences on the second day of closure.

Careers Fayre 30 January

If you work for or run a company which would like to attend our annual Careers Fayre on Tuesday 30 January 9am-1pm, please do get in touch with our Head of Careers, Mrs Manning, via jam@strs.org.uk. The event is an excellent opportunity to speak with students and showcase your business alongside a number of top Gloucestershire employers.

Sixth Form Open Evening

The next Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 1 February, starting at 5.30pm with two information talks. It is an excellent opportunity for current Year 11 students and parents to hear more about study in the Sixth Form, and to speak with subject teachers and the Sixth Form Leadership Team about GCE Advanced Level choices. There is no need for existing students or parents to pre-register for the event; please just come along on the night.

Jazz Night

A date for your diary - our popular annual Jazz Night takes place on Thursday 8 February from 7pm. Booking details will be available shortly.

Rugby Stars

Congratulations to three of our Year 13 students, James Lilwall, Ollie Rendell and Jay Evans, who were part of the winning Gloucester RFC Academy Under 18 team against Harlequins last Saturday at Kingsholm. The final score was 24-17, with Jay scoring for the cherry and whites. It was also fantastic that the 1st XV secured a great victory at Millfield on Wednesday as did both our netball teams!

DfE Consultations

In December the Department for Education launched two consultations. Firstly, on its plans to introduce the Advanced British Standard (ABS) over the next decade; a new Baccalaureate-style qualification framework for 16-19 year-olds. The government is inviting views from teachers, parents, young people and employers on the development of the ABS which, it states, will: "Bring together technical and academic routes into a single framework, taking the best of A levels and T Level". The new qualification aims to increase the number of taught hours for all students and require students to study maths and English to the age of 18. In addition, the goal is that the ABS will allow a greater breadth of study, increasing the average number of subjects students take post-16, with students

able to choose a combination of bigger and smaller subjects, called 'majors' and 'minors'. Of course, this is a long-term plan, and the outcome of the next general election may well affect whether it progresses at all. However, I would encourage parents and students to respond to the consultation via the link below, by 20 March.

[Respond to the DfE A Level Consultation](#)

The second consultation is on the DfE's draft non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges about children questioning their gender, including supporting children who are questioning their gender, protecting children from bullying or abuse, and maintaining child safety and wellbeing. You can respond using the link below, and the survey closes on 12 March.

[Respond to the DfE Gender Guidance Consultation](#)

Term date reminders

INSET day (school closed to pupils) – Wednesday 31 January

End of half term – Friday 9 February

Term restarts – Monday 19 February

End of Spring Term – Friday 22 March

Start of Summer Term – Monday 8 April

With best wishes for a pleasant and relaxing weekend.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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