



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

You may have seen in the news this week that the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, has been promoting new government guidance to prohibit mobile phone use during the school day. While this is something of a non-story, as all schools will of course have their own policies on the use of mobile devices already, it does raise the question of whether mobile phones are useful tools in an educational environment.

Our approach is a pragmatic one which recognises that mobile phones are often useful to students, who may for example wish to check Satchel One whilst working in the LRC before school starts. Once the school day has started though, phones should be switched off and should stay in a pupil's bag, unless a teacher gives permission for a pupil to use their phone, for example during a lesson, to photograph a piece of work, to access Satchel One, etc. Use of mobile phones and headphones is permitted for Year 11 to 13 students in the Private Study Area and the LRC. Our full behaviour and Discipline Policy is available at: <https://strschool.co.uk/about/policies>.

Trial Results

We are not defined as a school by examination results, indeed we pride ourselves on providing pupils with a broad and rich school experience with excellent pastoral care and exceptional extracurricular opportunities. However, following trial exams, now is the time for Year 11 and 13 students – regardless of their results – to redouble their efforts studying and revising. Subject teachers are on hand to advise and support, so please do encourage your child to access their expertise should they need to, or if they have any concerns.

Book of the Month

The latest Book of the Month is *With A Mind to a Kill*, reviewed by Edward in 8T. It's the latest chapter in the world of 007, brought to life by bestselling author Anthony Horowitz. Well done Edward. See our YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/PFKCUM6OQWw>.

World Book Day 7 March

The English Department are once again leading our World Book Day activities; pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters on Thursday 7 March. Many teachers and support staff will also be taking part, and there will be a number of themed WBD activities taking place around the School, in Food Tech and in the LRC that week.

Founder's Fortnight

Preparations are well under way for our Founder's Fortnight, which takes place from 4 March. Every year we raise money to support our link school, PPM Girls' School in Uganda, in recognition of the £6000 Sir Thomas Rich left in his will in 1666 to establish the School and support 20 poor boys from Gloucester. In tutor time this week forms have been discussing the kinds of activities and competitions they would like to run, and I very much look forward to seeing what they come up with in March. My thanks to Mr Buttle, who puts an incredible amount of work into running the programme every year.

Easter Rugby Camp

Senior rugby players are running an Easter Rugby Camp for pupils in Years 7-10 to raise funds for their South Africa Rugby Tour in July. The Camp takes place at the School on 3 and 4 April, 9am-3pm, and the cost is just £15 for one day or £25 for two days. All funds raised from the camp will contribute towards the Tour. The Camp is suitable for all abilities, and pupils don't need to have represented the School's rugby teams before. It's ideal for total beginners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of the sport, right through to more experienced players who are keen to refine their skills. Parents can log in via [Parent Gateway](#) to book a place and pay through ScoPay. Any questions, please email Director of Sport, Mr Williams, rgw@strs.org.uk.

Brass Reunion

We hope to hold a Brass Reunion event on Saturday 27 April for anyone who has played a brass instrument at Rich's; whether former pupils or staff or current parents. It will be a fun and informal event. The aim is to spend a couple of hours rehearsing, have a break, take part in a short concert, then enjoy some refreshments. All who have played in the Brass Ensemble, in any musical group or as a soloist at the School are welcome. Contact our Alumni Lead, Mrs Lynn, on vn@strs.org.uk to register your interest in attending.

My best wishes for the rest of the weekend

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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