



# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

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## Examinations

Although a short term, it has been one filled with activities, not least Founder's Fortnight, the Spring Concert and trial exams for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I am sure pupils will be busy revising over the Easter Holidays in preparation for MFL GCSE and A Level speaking examinations starting in April and the main body of public examinations starting 9 May. I would encourage students to use their time wisely over the next two weeks and to schedule regular breaks and exercise. Year 7 also start their exams at the end of April, and for many, it will be their first experience of formal full curriculum examinations, at least at our school. I am confident that they have worked hard since September and will acquit themselves accordingly.

## Year 10 Work Experience

If you work for or run a Gloucestershire company which could help provide work experience for our Year 10 students during the week of the 15-19 April, Mrs Manning, Head of Careers, would be grateful to hear from you. Her email address is [jam@strs.org.uk](mailto:jam@strs.org.uk). This need not be for the full week, even a couple of days would help enhance a student's CV immeasurably. Work experience is so important for young people; it is a vital way to develop transferable skills and industry insight. These employability skills, alongside academic results, are what make our students workplace-ready when they leave school.

## Presentation by Rob Higgs

This week Year 8 pupils attended an anti-bullying presentation which was both thought-provoking and highly informative. Rob Higgs's session used a combination of drama and small group activities which kept pupils engaged throughout. He also provided very practical advice on how to build resilience and encouraged pupils to reflect on their own treatment of others as well as understand the power of not being a bystander. My thanks to Rob for his work, which was well received by students and staff alike.

## Easter Trips

The Netball Tour of Malta and the Ski Trip to the USA both take place during the Easter break, and I am confident the students attending these trips will have a thoroughly good time and make memories which will stay with them their entire lives. My thanks to the staff who work so hard to organise overseas trips for our students, as the burden of administration is considerable and staff are never 'off duty' while away with students. I am immensely proud of Sir Thomas Rich's extracurricular offer, which is consistently excellent, and it would not be possible without the dedication of the staff involved.

## Finally

The vernal equinox this week marked the beginning of astronomical spring, where day and night are almost equal in length. With the clocks changing on 31 March, lighter days and better weather will be with us when we return for the Summer Term. Whether you will be celebrating Easter as a Christian, currently marking the holy period of Ramadan, or simply enjoying a few days downtime, I wish you a pleasant break and look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Monday 8 April.

## Matthew Morgan HEADMASTER

## I Watched a Blackbird

*By Thomas Hardy*

I watched a blackbird on a budding sycamore  
One Easter Day, when sap was stirring twigs to the core;  
I saw his tongue, and crocus-coloured bill  
Parting and closing as he turned his trill;

**SIR THOMAS RICH'S** a stem of hay,  
Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF building scheme was under way,  
01452 338400  
[info@strs.org.uk](mailto:info@strs.org.uk) nest were never shaped on spray,  
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