



Key Stage 3 Easter Email

Dear Parents

We hope this email finds you well and that you are looking forward to a relaxing Easter break after what has been a long and busy term.

Examinations

As is traditional at Sir Thomas Rich's, pupils in all year groups complete an end of year examination in a designated examination window. These examinations are completed formally using examination desks in the Sports Hall. We believe that getting our pupils used to the formality of an examination environment is key for preparation for both GCSE and A Level examinations. However, we are aware that examinations can be a stressful time for pupils, so we will be supporting pupils next term with advice regarding how to manage their revision, and specific guidance on how to best prepare for their end of year examinations.

The Year 7/8/9 examination windows are as follows:

Year 7 Monday 29 April – Wednesday 1 May

Year 8 Thursday 2 May – Wednesday 8 May

Year 9 Monday 24 June – Thursday 27 June

Pupil Absence

A reminder that, should your son be absent from school for a particular reason, they should ensure that they catch up on any work missed from lessons; homework will still be accessible via Satchel One. Pupils are required to obtain copies of class notes from either their peers, or via department resources on *SharePoint*. Departments are currently working hard to update the information on our newly relaunched *SharePoint* to further support pupils to access any classwork missed due to absence. Should a pupil be away from school for longer-term reasons, communication should be made with the Head of Year who will help to co-ordinate the catch up of lesson work as necessary.

Extra-Curricular Update

As the Spring Term comes to a close, it is a great time to look back and applaud the success of so many pupils who took part in an array of extra-curricular activities and events.

House Music took place towards the start of the term in January. Again, it was brilliant to see the depth of musical talent on display from pupils across our entire school community. The contest was eventually narrowly won by Southgate.

On the Rugby field, Year 7 had a challenging start to the season, but after some initial defeats, enjoyed some excellent victories. The U12A team have recorded impressive wins in the second half of the season, notably against Dean Close, Haberdashers' Monmouth and local rivals Pates. The U12B and U12C have also enjoyed successes this season, with notable wins against Cheltenham College, Bromsgrove and Dean Close. A huge well done to all Year 7 pupils who have represented the school in a rugby fixture this year.

In Year 8, the U13A team have had a difficult season in terms of results, but have continued to work hard and train with tenacity, giving their best efforts every week and showing a true Richian spirit.

The Year 9 team have enjoyed a successful season, winning all but one of their matches this term and winning the County Cup final in a dominant display at Kingsholm. A huge congratulations to all of those involved and the Year 9 rugby squad.

Basketball is thriving in Key Stage 3. The U12 team have won 7 of their 8 jnr NBA Matches and are set to advance to the playoffs for the West Midlands as the second overall seed in the Western Conference. The U13 have been equally successful winning 5 of their 6 matches, with their final matches taking place this week.

The U14 team represented the first cohort of STRS basketball teams to enter the Schools National Cup and although they did not progress from the group stages, they did themselves proud in competitive fixtures against Millfield and Bristol Met Academy. In local fixtures they have recorded impressive wins against Pates, Thomas Keble and Cleeve School. The U14 side also go on tour to Plymouth during the Easter Holidays to watch and train with British Basketball League sides and continue to play in competitive fixtures.

Year 9 students are now preparing for their DoFE Bronze Practice expedition between Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth at the start of next term. A reminder to all participants that unless they have already notified Mrs Rigby-Smith, they are expected to have all skill, volunteer and physical sections in progress if not already completed on the eDoFE system.

House Competition

Following the completion of events in the last two terms the scores for the year so far are as follows:

Southgate are top with 21 points, Northgate and Eastgate tie for second with 20, Westgate are fourth with 17 and a resurgent Newgate, who were slow out of the gates, are on 15. With House Football having taken place across the final weeks of term, we head into the Summer Term with a close competition and all 5 Houses having the potential to win the Cock House Cup at the end of the year.

Next term, students will have the opportunity to take part in House competitions in Creative Writing, Debate, Cricket, Indoor Cricket and our Sports (Athletics) Evening, which takes place on Thursday 4 July.

LGBTQ+ Month

Students across all years have engaged in this year's annual LGBTQ+ History Month theme #UndertheScope. We have had a tutor time specifically focused on the History of the LGBTQ+ community as well as to discuss the difficulties that LGBTQ+ individuals and their families may face within a medical environment historically to the present day.

Founders Fortnight

From Monday 4 March to Friday 15 March we also held the schools annual Founders Fortnight, where all pupils work together, raising money to support the education of 20 girls at PMM school in Uganda, much like our founder, Sir Thomas Rich, in 1666.

Year 7 forms showed their usual enthusiasm, hosting carnivals, setting up sweet sales and completing a sponsored silence for a whole school day.

Year 8 form groups sold seat swap passes, ran a sweet/cake shop, completed a sponsored swim and more. Special mention goes to Samuel Fraenkel of 8S, who individually raised £475 by shaving his head to raise money.

Year 9 forms set up a circus, held a FIFA tournament, ran a splat/dunk the teacher and convinced Year 9 form tutor Mr Emmerson to also shave his head to raise money.

It is always a joy in this fortnight to see the school community unified to the common goal of raising money for charity and providing education to those less fortunate than themselves.

It just leaves us to wish you and your family a lovely Easter holiday, and we look forward to a warm and sunny summer term ahead.

Best wishes

Jamie Payne (Head of Year 7)

Chloe Rigby-Smith (Head of Year 8)

Zak Hinds (Head of Year 9)

Peter Daniell (Assistant Headteacher)

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