



## From the Headmaster

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### Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Bronze

I recently received some wonderful feedback from the team at Ocean Rock Adventure, who work with us on our DofE programme. They took the time to write to praise the Year 9 pupils who have recently undertaken their final Bronze expedition; I am extremely proud of our students:

*"We would like to express, what a lovely year group! The students were extremely polite, well-mannered and respectful. The progress they made from practice to final was amazing!*

*Even when some teams made a mistake they were keen to acknowledge this, showing humility and respect. They took the opportunity to better themselves, to put their error right and in doing so showed themselves to be mature and kind young men."*

Our DofE Silver students are out (hopefully on the water) this weekend; my best wishes for a successful trip.

### Examinations

Public examinations continue after the break, along with examinations for Year 9 pupils and trials for Year 12 students. I know pupils in all year groups have been working hard and I am confident their diligence will pay dividends. If parents have any concerns about how to support their child with revision or exam nerves, please don't hesitate to contact Heads of Year. Their contact details are available at [www.strschool.co.uk/about/staff](http://www.strschool.co.uk/about/staff). Parents may also find this guide from the Young Minds Matter team helpful: [Self-Help for Exam Stress](#).

### Labelling Uniform

A quick reminder that all uniform, including shoes, boots and trainers, should be labelled. These are expensive items, as parents are well aware of course, and every day there are several pairs left behind in changing rooms. It also helps to label water bottles and pencil cases as small items are often left in classrooms. Unlabelled items are placed in the lost-property cupboard and after a month are donated to charity if unclaimed.

### South Africa Tour Fundraiser

The Quiz and Auction Night to raise funds for the South Africa Rugby Tour takes place on 14 June at 6.30pm in the Sixth Form Centre. Tickets are available at the link below for £10 for individuals or £50 for a team of six.

[www.tickettailor.com/events/sirthomasrichsschool/1247472](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/sirthomasrichsschool/1247472)

### Test Registration

Registration for the Gloucestershire Grammar Schools' Entrance Test in September opened earlier this week and closes on 28 June at noon, with the Test taking place for Year 6 pupils on 14 September. Please do share this information with friends and family considering their Year 7 choices for 2025. The link to the test registration form is on the home page of our website at [www.strschool.co.uk](http://www.strschool.co.uk).

### Trips

We end this week having welcomed back Year 10 and 12 students from the Cholet leg of their French Language Exchange, and Year 8 and 9 cricketers back from their successful development tour of Cardiff. After half-term the Battlefields trip to Belgium takes place for our Year 9 historians, and I am sure Year 8 pupils are eagerly anticipating their forthcoming residential to Dorset later in June. My thanks go out to all the staff who give up their time to run and attend so many trips which involve overnight stays and weekends. Their dedication to delivering so many positive, character-building experiences is woven into our DNA at Rich's, but it is not something that should be taken for granted.

Additionally, I would like emphasize the unique role that language exchanges have in providing students with an unparalleled opportunity to improve their language skills, gain cultural insights, build confidence, and grow personally. The combination of living with families in another country, attending lessons, and experiencing daily life creates a rich and truly immersive learning opportunity that traditional classroom settings cannot replicate – I would encourage all students who have this opportunity to take it.

### Finally

As you will know, a General Election has been announced for 4 July. Interestingly both the Conservative and Labour Party have already published very similar commitments to expand music, sport and the arts in schools. Pledges on education tend to push at an already open door with voters – more teachers, more funding, wider opportunities for young people – but until the main political parties publish their manifestos, it remains to be seen as to how much they differ, or indeed concur, on the subject of education. The pre-election period (often referred to as 'purdah') is not a

principle of law, but a convention under which public servants, councillors and officials are expected to refrain from taking controversial decisions. However, it is my firm view that it is always good to see young people confident at Rich's to talk about their own emerging political identities, engage in speech and respond positively to public debate. I also believe that the call for improved education funding can be made to all parties equally.

My best wishes to you all for a pleasant and relaxing weekend and half-term break.



Matthew Morgan  
HEADMASTER

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