



From the Headteacher - 20 September

I start my email this week with sad news. We were very sorry to hear that longtime member of staff, Steve Morgan, passed away in the summer. Steve was a teacher of Biology at the School for many years, and latterly our Examinations Officer, retiring in 2022. The role of Examinations Officer is an extremely demanding one, and Steve ran public examinations at Rich's with military-like precision. Steve also gave countless hours to support students by ensuring access arrangements and special considerations for examinations were appropriate and timely.

We have extended our deepest sympathies and condolences to Steve's family, and colleagues and I attended his funeral this week on behalf of the School community.

We were also very sorry to hear that two further ex-colleagues have recently passed away; John Drake, former lab assistant, and Celia Brown, who was a regular examination invigilator and valuable supporter of our Cricket Tours. We have passed on our sincere condolences to the families of both John and Celia.

Induction

Since my first email on 6 September, much has happened to help make our new students feel welcome. On Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 September, our Year 12s ventured to South Cerney to complete an outward-bound adventure day, including high ropes, archery, paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking. The trip has been designed to help break the ice both for students joining our Sixth Form and members of our previous Year 11.

This week has also seen 7C head off to Stratford-upon-Avon for their two-day residential trip, with all Year 7 forms visiting over the next three weeks. The trip is a fantastic opportunity to get to know their classmates and teachers, as well as experience activities such as boat trips, a workshop with the Royal Shakespeare Company, visits to the Butterfly Zoo, mini-golf and much more.

Along with the many form-time activities, my thanks to all the staff who put so much time and effort into organising these induction events. A reminder that should your son or daughter need any further support with settling in this term, their Form Tutor or Head of Year are, of course, always available to listen and reassure.

Parents' Meetings

It has been great to see so many parents in School over the last week for our various Parents' Information Evenings, including our GCSE Information Evening, Year 12 Parents' Information Evening, and Year 7 Informal Parents' Evening. Parents are, and have always been, an integral part of our Richian community; it is a relationship that often lasts well beyond Year 13, with parents continuing to attend concerts, volunteer with the PTFA and support with careers education. I look forward to seeing many of you again over the coming year.

During our information evenings, I talked about the invaluable support given by parents to the School, and how you can get involved if you can. Rich's has always aimed to provide a broad, balanced curriculum with an extensive extracurricular provision; parental donations through our regular giving scheme are incredibly important to the School in achieving and maintaining this, both for our current pupils and those of the future.

If you would like to find out more about regular giving, our Development Director, Vicki Lynn, would be pleased to hear from you on vn@strs.org.uk. The link below will also take you to the relevant page on our website.

[Regular giving](#)

It goes without saying that support of this kind is not expected of any parent or family, but gratefully received whenever possible.

eBooks and Audiobooks

You will have received an email from Sarah Roche (Assistant Headteacher – Learning and Teaching) last week about the importance of reading and the positive impact it can have on all subject disciplines. Our ePlatform, which provides access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks, is a great way to encourage your son or daughter to engage with a wide variety of texts and to try out a new genre or non-fiction topic. Audiobooks and eBooks can also be used as the reading target for the Tommy's Award.

Students can access the ePlatform when logged in to a school computer by opening Launchpad on the bar at the foot of the screen (a rocket icon) and searching for ePlatform. When using a mobile telephone or tablet, students should install the ePlatform Digital Libraries app from their app store, then click 'Add New Library', type in 'Sir Thomas Rich's School' and select it from the list. All they need to do is log in with their standard STRS email address to start browsing and borrowing.

Sixth Form Parking

Just a reminder that there is parking available for Sixth Form students at the Old Richians' Rugby Club, which is just a

few minutes' walk from the School; students can see Mrs Webb in the Sixth Form Centre for a parking permit to display in the windscreen of their car. We are very grateful to the Old Richians' Rugby club for affording us the use of their carpark, and thank our Sixth Form students for using it in order to help minimise the impact of cars on our neighbours who live in the immediate vicinity of the School.

Careers

Many thanks must go to the nearly 40 alumni who gave their time to speak to Year 13 students at last Friday's Alumni Day. Hearing from former students about their varied career paths is incredibly helpful to students as they consider their university and post-school options.

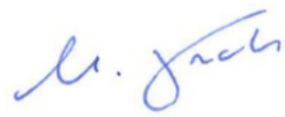
If any parents would like to help with mock interview practice for Year 11 students on 21 November at the School, Jenny Manning (Head of Careers) would be pleased to hear from you on jam@strs.org.uk.

Netball and Rugby

Finally, just to say congratulations to our Netball team who won 49-19 against Malvern College in the Sisters 'n' Sport cup at Malvern last night; the team face Wycliffe College in the next round. We also wish our Rugby teams all the best for their fixtures against The King's School, Worcester on Saturday.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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