



From the Headteacher - 4 October

Prize Giving

As you may be aware, our annual Prize Giving ceremony takes place this evening, with Mr Bennet Carr, Headmaster of King Edward VI School, Stratford-upon-Avon as our guest speaker. The event is a great opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the effort and incredible achievements of our pupils throughout the last academic year.

Each year we invite our Year 7 pupils and parents to attend Prize Giving as we feel it is important for Year 7 to be able to experience one of the more formal school occasions, but also to remind them of the importance of striving for success. In the last couple of weeks, Year 7 have been keenly rehearsing for their role in the evening, which involves singing a selection of hymns, including our School song; *the Tommy Psalm*. An ex-colleague recently gave me a book, published in 1969, that had collected several 'school songs' from a variety of state and private schools. In the introduction to the book, the author describes "*the oldest English Language song that I have collected is not from a public school at all, it is the Tommy Psalm of Sir Thomas Rich's Grammar School, Gloucester, written in the Eighteenth Century*". Our Year 7 pupils are aware of this 'claim to fame' and will hopefully be inspired by it in their proud singing of the Psalm tonight.

Year 8 Guides

Last Thursday we welcomed parents and pupils in Years 5 and 6 to attend our Open Day and Evening. Our Year 8 pupils gave guided tours of the School throughout the event and received high praise indeed from our visitors. My thanks go to all pupils who volunteered to support our Open Day – they certainly did their School proud.

Year 13 Autumn Tests

Year 13 students start their autumn tests next week; this is designed to support students to revisit subject content covered in Year 12 as part of an approach to interleave revision, in order to help maximise attainment. As with all assessment periods, we know this can be a stressful time as they approach public examinations next year. A reminder that there is plenty of support that students can access in school from their subject teachers and the Sixth Form Team. Please do contact Head of Year 13, Mrs Downes, on rad@strs.org.uk if you need any help or advice with supporting your Year 13 son or daughter with their well-being and study skills.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair takes place at break and lunchtimes for pupils from 16 to 23 October inclusive in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). It is a chance for pupils in all year groups to buy books at a discount; and with every sale we earn free books for the LRC. Sales are cash only and there will be a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles to choose from. My thanks to Mrs Roche, Mrs Deane and Mrs Kellaway for their work in organising the event.

Bad Weather Arrangements

Due to the recent bout of prolonged heavy rain, I thought it would be worth outlining our procedures in the event of bad weather affecting travel to School or the opening of the School site.

We will always remain open unless it is unsafe for students and staff for us to do so.

Alerts:

The first port of call for information about closures is the home page of our website, www.strschool.co.uk. If there is no message on the home page, then the School is open. If we do have to close the School, we will post a message at the top of the home page and we will send an email to all parents at the same time. We will also inform the Local Authority, Gloucestershire County Council, who publish information on their website; www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures and their X (Twitter) feed [@Glos_schools](https://twitter.com/Glos_schools), where you can subscribe to text alerts. They will also alert local radio stations.

Buses:

If school buses operate in the morning but the weather deteriorates during the day and the coach companies take the decision to send the afternoon buses to the School early, we will ensure that the pupils who use those services are made aware of this and are seen safely onto the coaches. We will also communicate this to parents as soon as we are made aware. It is important that your son or daughter has instructions as to how he or she should gain access to their home if this is the case.

Closing early:

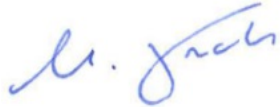
In the unlikely event of the School closing during the course of the day, there will be plenty of staff on hand to supervise pupils until they have been collected or made arrangements with their parents for travelling home. On

such a day, it would be most helpful for your son or daughter to have a telephone number on which we can contact you if you are not at your usual contact point. Pupils should not leave the School site without an agreed plan of action with their parents about how they should travel home.

Finally, a huge well done to our A and B Netball teams, who won against Cheltenham Ladies College at home this week, 20-16 and 22-14 respectively. As ever, we wish our Rugby teams all the best against Dean Close on Saturday.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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