



From the Headteacher - 10 January 2025

I hope that you had an enjoyable break over the Christmas period and take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

It has been great to welcome pupils and staff back this week, despite the rather cold weather. We have already had our first whole school assembly of the term, where we reminded ourselves that, whether we choose to set a resolution for the New Year or not, to achieve highly in 2025 we must continue to appreciate the importance of hard work, to seek support when we need it, to work closely with others, and to ultimately believe in yourself.

Trial Examinations

It is that time of year already when the first set of trial examinations begin. Year 11 pupils and Year 10 Religious Studies (short course) pupils will start these examinations from Monday. When running these trial examinations, we endeavour to make them *feel like* the summer examinations as far as possible; this is so that we are not just testing subject content but also aiming to increase the familiarity of taking the examinations for pupils. At the same time, we recognise that examination periods and dealing with revision timetables can be a stressful time. Pupils have been advised to give these examinations their best and to remember that the real benefit will be the feedback they receive from their teachers, which will further guide their revision and preparations for the summer. As always, pupils should speak to their subject teachers, Form Tutor or Head of Year if they have any questions or concerns before or during the trial examinations.

A Level trial examinations for Year 13 will take place after the half term break, from Monday 24 February.

Non-Uniform Day

The non-uniform day on Friday 13 December raised an amazing £1126.94 for the *Diana Award*, whose mission is to develop and inspire positive change in the future of young people. Our next non-uniform day will be on Friday 7 February with proceeds going to the Gloucestershire children's charity, the James Hopkins Trust.

eBooks and Audiobooks

Just a reminder that all pupils have access to our ePlatform, which has thousands of eBooks and audiobooks available. Pupils 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, pupils 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.

Audiobooks and eBooks can also be used as the reading target for the *Tommy's Award*.

Date Reminders for the Term

- Tuesday 28 January – Careers Fayre, School Hall
- Thursday 30 January – Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 students (talks in the Hall at 6.00pm and 7.00pm)
- Friday 31 January – Staff INSET day: school will be closed to all pupils
- Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12, and Thursday 13 February – whole-school musical performance of *We Will Rock You*, 6.00pm, School Hall. [Buy tickets](#)
- Thursday 20 March – Spring Concert, 6.00pm, School Hall



Extracurricular

The extracurricular timetable for the Spring Term has been updated and is available to download as a PDF from www.strschool.co.uk/schoollife/clubs.

Very well done to the 1st XI Football team who had a fantastic away win 3-1 against Chosen Hill School this week in the County Cup. They go on to play Churchdown School in the Cup next week. My thanks to Mr Marks for all his efforts coaching Football at the School.

Unfortunately the Rugby games against Loughborough tomorrow have been cancelled due to frozen pitches, but good luck to the Netball 1st VII team who play at home against The Priory Academy LSST in the fourth round of the Sisters 'n' Sport Netball Tournament next Wednesday.

Best wishes

Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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