



## From the Headteacher - Thursday 17 July 2025

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Dear Parents

In our final whole-school assembly this week, we have reflected on the countless number of achievements made by the School community this academic year, as well as given out many awards and prizes in recognition of those accolades.

As the summer holiday arrives, I would like to thank pupils for their hard work and dedication this year, committing to not only strive to achieve their best academically and to showcase their extracurricular talents, but also for championing *the little things* too; looking after each other, being polite, wearing the uniform with pride, and ultimately understanding why these things are important.

I would also like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment, hard work and support. It can never be underestimated how much our staff give to support the education and extracurricular provision for our pupils.

Similarly, I am enormously grateful to parents for your support this year. This has come in many different and generous ways and is a testament to the strength of community that exists at Sir Thomas Rich's.

### Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association (PTFA)

I would like to acknowledge the recent email from PTFA Chair, Kerry Williams, which stated the amount of money generously donated to the School this year by the PTFA. The figure stands at just over £70,000, a phenomenal sum that reflects years' worth of tireless fundraising initiatives. With financial pressures ever-present, it goes without saying that the School has benefited enormously from this donation, with the funding being used for the following initiatives:

- The purchase of a new minibus.
- The renewal of ICT equipment.
- The purchase of sports kit.
- The increased breadth of curriculum resources.
- The provision of a new suite of music keyboards.

Whilst this is by no means an exhaustive list, on behalf of the School community, I pass on our sincere thanks to the PTFA for all they do for the School.

Despite this fantastic achievement, the PTFA would very much welcome some new volunteers. As pupils grow older and leave the School, there is inevitably a natural reduction in the number of active volunteers and key committee members; this will be felt more so than ever next year. If you are able to offer even a small amount of your time, whether on a regular basis or occasionally, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please do get in touch with Kerry on [PAchair@strs.org.uk](mailto:PAchair@strs.org.uk) if you are interested in finding out more or getting involved.

### Staff Leavers

In this final email of the academic year, I would like to thank those members of staff who sadly are leaving us this term for new ventures, some as far afield as Dubai and Australia.

- **Miss Marshall** leaves us after a year with us as a Teaching Assistant. Miss Marshall has been a highly valued member of the team and will be greatly missed. We wish Lorna all the best for her teacher training next year.
- **Mr Emmerson** leaves us after three years at the School as a Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor. He has been instrumental in the provision of our Strength and Conditioning Programme, not just running sessions, but also supporting the improvement of our gym facilities; this is alongside the countless hours he has given to coach and referee our many rugby and cricket fixtures. We wish James all the best for his continued career in London.
- **Mr Davis** has taught History for three years at the School, and will be missed by both pupils and staff. We thank him for his dedicated and passionate teaching of the subject and wish Tom and his partner all the best for their move to Western Australia and his continued teaching career.
- **Miss Spiller** leaves us after three years teaching Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 in the DT Department to take up a position teaching Key Stage 2 in a primary school. We thank Emily for her dedication to the subject, particularly the hours she has put in supporting countless coursework projects.
- **Mr Foylan** started as Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor six years ago, before taking on the role of Commercial Lead and running our facilities hire at the School. He has been responsible for building and maintaining key relationships with community groups. James has recently undertaken extensive training with the NHS, and we wish him all the very best for his new career.
- **Mr Wyn Williams** has been a Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor at the School for the last seven years, having also taken on the role of 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Coach. Tom has been an excellent leader in rugby; the teams he has coached have had countless national successes thanks to his calm, knowledgeable and strategic approach. This

includes the 1<sup>st</sup> XV finishing last season as the highest placed state school in the country in the *Daily Mail* Trophy. We wish him and his partner the best of luck for their exciting move to Dubai.

- **Mr Cooper**, our Head of Physics, leaves us after seven years to begin a new role at Cheltenham College. Not only has Stuart led the Physics Department with passion, knowledge and a genuine care for those taking the subject, he has also given an incredible commitment to extracurricular sport at the School, particularly with coaching and refereeing many of our weekly rugby fixtures. We cannot thank him enough for all that he has done for us and wish him well in his new role.
- **Mr Rideout** has also been a stalwart of extracurricular sport at the School, taking on the role of Head of Cricket in recent years and ensuring that our cricket provision is of an exceptional standard. We wish Sam the very best for his new venture as he leaves us after eight years to take a lead role in the management of his family business.
- And finally, **Mrs Glover** officially retired four years ago, before agreeing to return on a part-time basis to teach RE, Philosophy and Ethics, allowing us to benefit from her knowledge and expertise a little while longer. After what is now 16 years at Sir Thomas Rich's, we wish Debbie an enjoyable, well-earned retirement and thank her for everything she has done for the School.

### Cock House Trophy

This week, we have had the pleasure of announcing the final result in the hard-fought Cock House Trophy. After another year of competitive and highly enjoyable House events, congratulations go to Northgate for winning the trophy, with one point in it between Northgate and runners up, Southgate.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Northgate (64)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Southgate (63)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Eastgate (62)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place - Westgate (59)
- 5<sup>th</sup> place - Newgate (51)

Once again, a huge thank you goes to all pupils who have put themselves forward to represent their House this year.

### Results Days

A brief reminder of the dates for GCSE and A Level results days; please do see the emails from Heads of Year and Heads of Key Stage for further details:

- A Level – Thursday 14 August, 8.00am.
- GCSE – Thursday 21 August, 9.00am.

### Autumn Term

A reminder of the start of term dates for each year group in September:

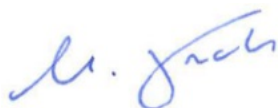
- Monday 1 September and Tuesday 2 September – INSET days (school closed to all pupils).
- Monday 1 September to Friday 5 September – Year 13 Work Experience.
- Wednesday 3 September – only pupils in Year 7 and Year 12 in school.
- Thursday 4 September – Years 7 to 12 inclusive in school.

Finally, the very best of luck to all those students and staff who have set off on the South Africa Rugby Tour this week; please do follow the Rugby Instagram account on [www.instagram.com/tommiesrugby1666](https://www.instagram.com/tommiesrugby1666) for all the Tour news and results.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold assessed foot expedition and Gold mixed mode practice expedition also start next week – good luck to all those pupils and staff taking part.

It just leaves me to say I hope that you and your family enjoy a safe and enjoyable break this summer.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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