



## From the Headteacher - Friday 10 October 2025

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Dear Parents

### **Prize Giving**

Last Friday we hosted our annual Prize Giving event, an evening dedicated to celebrating the achievements of our pupils from the last academic year. During the event, I also took the opportunity to reflect on Prize Givings of the past, drawing on the former Headmasters' speeches that we have in our archives, the oldest copy being from 1936. Not only does each speech capture the history of the School over the last 90 years, they also celebrate the successes of the year in question, along with nods to the past and hopes for the future. Our 2025 event was no different, celebrating not just individual pupil and extracurricular achievements, but also our recording-breaking academic results from last summer. We also looked forward to all that we are currently exploring, such as the role that AI and digital media can play in the future of education (both benefits and pitfalls), along with the prospect of investing in the sustainability of the School through the installation of solar panels in the not-too-distant future.

We were also delighted to welcome back Old Richian Major Richard Farrow, who left the School in 2009, as our special guest speaker. Having graduated with First Class Honours in International Politics and Military History in 2012, Richard went on to join the Royal Marines Reserves, earning his first Green Beret; he then began working in the Houses of Parliament. Richard became the Parliamentary Assistant to Sir Alan Duncan MP, then Minister of State for International Development, along with advising the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), during the Brexit period. We are incredibly proud of Richard's accomplishments and grateful for the time he spent with us on Friday, sharing his experiences and inspiring the next generation of Richians.

Congratulations once again to all our prize winners, and thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

### **Former Colleague, Brian McBurnie**

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that former colleague, Brian McBurnie, passed away this week at the age of 78. In total, Brian served our school for 50 years, as a teacher of Mathematics and then latterly as Deputy Headteacher. Brian retired from teaching in 2007, but remained as a Trustee at the School until 2019. Brian will forever be remembered as a highly supportive, knowledgeable and dedicated colleague who played a key role in shaping the School as we know it today. We have sent our condolences to Brian's family at this very sad time.

### **Bad Weather Arrangements**

As we move towards the winter months, I thought it would be worth taking a moment to outline our procedures should bad weather impact travel to school, or the operation of the School site; we will always aim to remain open unless conditions make it unsafe for pupils and staff.

#### Alerts:

The first place to check for information about closures is the home page of our website, [www.strschool.co.uk](http://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](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures) and on their X 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 have 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.

## Train To Teach Event

For your information, the next *Train to Teach in Gloucestershire* event takes place on Thursday 6 November, run by the *Odyssey Teaching School Hub* and the *Balcarras Teaching School Hub*, with whom we work closely. If you or someone you know are thinking about training to teach in Gloucestershire – whether as a graduate or as a career change – the event is an excellent opportunity to find out more about routes into teaching and how to get started.

Date: Thursday 6 November 2025, 5.00-7.00pm

Location: Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham GL51 0HG

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/GlosTrainToTeach>

Email: [admin@odysseytsh.org](mailto:admin@odysseytsh.org)

## Netball County Cup Success


Many congratulations to the First VII Netball Team, who competed in the Schools' County Cup this week at Oxstalls Sports Centre, Gloucester. The Team were given the choice of playing in the Shield Competition or the National Cup, opting for the latter, and played against some of the top Netball teams in Gloucestershire. The Team did exceptionally well, winning all but one of their games to finish second overall. The Team will now join Hartpury College (last year's National winners) at the Regional Finals in Bournemouth – a fantastic achievement.

## End of Term

A reminder that this half term finishes on Wednesday 22 October at 3.20pm, and we return to school on Monday 3 November.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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