



From the Headteacher 23 January 2026

Dear Parents

Year 11 Mock Examinations

I would like to congratulate Year 11 pupils on completing their mock examinations over the last two weeks; our invigilation team have praised their approach and maturity. As I mentioned in my previous email, the main purpose of these assessments will be to provide valuable feedback to help pupils focus their revision and prepare for their forthcoming GCSE examinations. The key message is that time is still very much on their side, and much can still be achieved with continued hard work and proactively acting on the advice of Year 11 teachers.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place next week, on Thursday 29 January. Parents who have registered to attend will receive an email with full details regarding timings and parking arrangements. We gratefully appreciate your support in helping us to ensure the evening runs as smoothly as possible; we are expecting a very large number of visitors next week as we aim to showcase all that our Sixth Form has to offer.

With this in mind, due to the extremely high level of interest in our Open Evening, you may have noticed we have taken the decision to close pre-registration for the event on the website. However, if you have not yet registered and would like further information about our Open Evening, please contact sixthformadmissions@strs.org.uk, and we will be happy to provide guidance and answer any questions.

INSET Day 30 January

A reminder that there is an INSET day for staff next week, on Friday 30 January, when the School will be closed to pupils.

Our INSET day will continue our CPD curriculum for staff and will include digital safety training for all staff, alongside sessions on the effective use of AI to enhance teaching and learning, along with the potential benefits and pitfalls of AI from a student's perspective. It goes without saying that these represent very important and quickly evolving topics in education. We hope that staff will find these sessions useful in equipping us to best support pupils to use AI appropriately to support their learning and completion of academic work.

Year 9 Online Options Evening

We look forward to welcoming Year 9 pupils and their parents to the upcoming Virtual Options Evening, taking place on Monday 2 February from 5.00pm. This information event will support pupils and parents in making informed decisions about GCSE study in Year 10 and will be led by Mr Tilley, who oversees the Options process. Information on how to join us online will be emailed to parents by Mr Dempsey (Deputy Headteacher). There will also be a live chat function whereby staff will answer questions from parents throughout the talk.

Mock Trial Competition

Pupils in Years 8 and 9 can now sign up to take part in the Mock Trial Competition, which takes place on 11 March. This exciting opportunity allows pupils to work as a team and bring a real courtroom trial to life, performing in front of real magistrates. A wide range of roles are available, including solicitors, witnesses, magistrates, court reporters, court artists and ushers, giving pupils the chance to showcase key skills in confidence, communication skills and quick thinking.

Pupils are encouraged to sign up via the Microsoft Form on Satchel One.

House Music

Pupils in all year groups are also invited to take part in House Music 2026, with the final performance taking place on Monday 23 March. Events include Junior Solo (Years 7-10), Senior Solo (Years 11-13) and an Open Category (Years 7-13). Sign-up is open now, via House Captains, with auditions beginning from Monday 2 February. New for 2026, pupils can also earn House Participation Points simply by auditioning. Alongside many of our other House Competitions, this event is an excellent opportunity for pupils to showcase the incredible creative and musical talents that exist in the School.

80 Years of Rugby Dinner

A reminder that tickets are still available for our 80 Years of Rugby Dinner on Saturday 21 March. Parents, alumni, current and former staff and friends of the School are warmly invited to join us for a variety of contact and touch rugby games between current students and alumni throughout the day; the evening will conclude with a black-tie

dinner featuring a three-course meal and live music.

The event page has also been updated with FAQs covering everything from timings of the day, menu choices and how to put a team together. Please see the links below for further information.

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Event Information and FAQs](#)

Extracurricular


Finally, well done to the Netball B and C Teams, who both won their friendly matches against St Edward's School in Cheltenham last week, 31-20 and 27-8 respectively. Congratulations also go to the 1st V Basketball Team, who played Cheltenham College at home yesterday, taking a decisive 82-34 victory.

The Girls' U18A Basketball Team travelled to Cheltenham Ladies' College last week and, despite a 60-30 defeat, showed real toughness and determination. They competed relentlessly and fought right through to the final whistle, which was a credit to their character and commitment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish good luck to the Rugby teams, who face tough opponents away at Warwick School over the weekend. In addition, the very best of luck to the 1st XI Football Team, who play local side Churchdown School at home in the County Cup next week.

I wish you a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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