



## From the Headteacher - 6 March 2026

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Dear Parents

### **Government Education Updates**

As you may be aware, last week the government published its long-awaited Schools White Paper: *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*. We are currently reviewing this paper, alongside other government updates, which include:

- The updated RSE guidance (for September 2026)
- The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (expected to be finalised Easter 2026)
- The Curriculum and Assessment Review (for September 2028)

Each of these sets of guidance covers a vast range of school and educational matters, and there are a wealth of training sessions and inter-school meetings that staff are currently attending to help us process this advice. We will, of course, keep parents informed of how these key updates will be seen and implemented at Sir Thomas Rich's over the coming months.

This week the government has also published its promised open consultation on measures intended to protect children from the risks associated with social media use, following the under-16 social media ban in Australia last December. The consultation seeks views on a range of possible actions, including the introduction of a minimum age requirement for social media use, and whether the recently updated mobile phone guidance, which was published in February, should be made statutory in schools.

[Read the government Press Release](#)

Parents and pupils are invited to respond to the consultation, which closes on Tuesday 26 May. The government has indicated that it will review the consultation responses over the summer and then set out any actions arising from that feedback.

[Respond to the Consultation](#)

### **World Book Day**

We marked World Book Day yesterday and it was great to see so many pupils and staff taking part, with many coming to school dressed as their favourite literary characters. The popular Masked Reader competition also returned; pupils were invited to identify members of staff concealed behind their chosen books. In addition, students took part in a baking competition, creating and decorating cakes inspired by books and literary characters.

This year saw the introduction of a daily Hide the Horcrux challenge, inspired by the Harry Potter books. Pupils were challenged to solve a riddle each day and searched for the hidden Horcrux from break time onwards. Further competitions and activities were also held in the Learning Resource Centre throughout the week.

My sincere thanks go to the English Department and to all colleagues who contributed their time and effort to organising such an engaging programme of World Book Day events.

### **National Careers Week**

It was National Careers Week this week, with pupils exploring a range of career pathways during tutor time. Mrs Manning worked with form tutors to deliver a careers-themed quiz designed to prompt discussion about different professions and career journeys. Pupils were asked a range of questions, from which member of staff once worked as a tennis tournament referee to whose dream job is a train driver. The activities provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the diverse routes individuals take in their working lives and to encourage pupils to think more broadly about their own future aspirations.

### **Year 13 Trials**

Well done to our Year 13 students, who have completed their trial examinations over the last two weeks. It is important to remember that the real examinations will take place over a longer period with fewer examinations as close together as they have been over this last fortnight. As mentioned in an earlier email, these trial examinations provide an important opportunity for pupils to assess their progress, identify areas for further development and refine their revision strategies ahead of the public examinations in the summer. Year 13 teachers are currently busy marking examination papers in readiness to provide this detailed feedback, and the second Year 13 Parents' Evening of the year takes place on Wednesday 25 March.

## Founder's Fortnight

Further to Mr Buttle's email last night, our annual Founder's Fortnight starts next week with the goal of raising funds for our link school, PPM Girls' School in Uganda; the name 'Founder's Fortnight' recognises the house that Sir Thomas Rich left in his will of 1666, along with £6000 with which to establish a school and support 20 poor boys from Gloucester.

Over the half-term break, it was great to receive an email from an ex-pupil of PMM School, who sent her sincere thanks to all of us at Sir Thomas Rich's for the scholarship we funded for her schooling, having recently completed her Bachelor's degree. This was a timely reminder of the hugely positive impact our Founder's fundraising can have on the lives of the students who attend PMM School.

Pupils have been busy planning activities to take place around the school from Monday 9 March with their Form Tutors, with competitions ranging from arm wrestling to guess the member of staff from their baby photos. This year's Founder's Fortnight ends with a free dress day on 20 March, with £2 donations to our collective fundraising effort.

## Extracurricular

Well done to the U14 Squash Team, who competed in the National Finals at the Priory Club, Edgbaston this week, against some of the top teams in the country. The boys defeated St Joseph's, Ipswich but lost to Whitgift and High Storrs, Sheffield to finish 7th in England, a tremendous achievement. A great effort from the entire team, and congratulations to Dan S, our number 1 seed, who won all of his matches on the day.

Congratulations to our Netball A Team who won 24-19 against the King's School and 27-24 against Pate's Grammar School in February. We wish them all the best for their upcoming match against The Crypt School next Wednesday. Well done to the B Team who also won against King's, and who fought hard against Pate's but lost 14-26. In addition, the C Team achieved decisive wins – 29-18 against King's side and 27-17 against Pate's. We look forward to the House Netball competition in two weeks' time.

## 80 Years of Rugby Celebrations – Saturday 21 March

After their 55-21 win against Llandovery College in February, the 1st XV's next and final match will be against Hartpury College as part of our 80 Years of Rugby Celebrations on Saturday 21 March. Parents are very welcome to join us for the rugby from 11.00am to watch the House Rugby tournament, Old Richians' matches and the 1st XV match against Hartpury College in the afternoon. A bar, BBQ, and refreshments will be available, with all profits going to the School Development Fund.

There are also a few remaining tickets for the evening black-tie dinner, which can be purchased via the link below:

[Buy tickets](#)

[Event FAQs](#)

## Spring Concert

A reminder that our Spring Concert takes place on Thursday 19 March at 6.00pm in the School Hall. Tickets will be available to buy online shortly; look out for an announcement on our website and social media pages.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Finally, the very best of luck goes to the 150-plus students taking part in either the Bronze or Silver Practice Foot Expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award over the next few days.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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