



From the Headteacher - 20 March 2026

Dear Parents

Next week we will have our final whole-school assembly of the term, during which we will reflect on the many incredible achievements of the School community over the past three months. This includes the publication of our Ofsted report in January which, despite our continued pride in the 'strong' grading in all areas, continues to be a catalyst for further improvement in the School. Most importantly, our final assembly will see the presentation of several awards, colours and trophies to students in all year groups for their extracurricular successes. We do endeavour to keep our school website as up-to-date as possible with news of their achievements, many of which I am also pleased to highlight below.

FameLab Academy STEM Competition

Congratulations go to Toby (9B), who last week won the prestigious FameLab Academy STEM Competition at the Rose Theatre in Tewkesbury. His presentation on the mathematics of Rubik's cubes concluded with an impressive live solve of the Rubik's cube, in what seemed like a matter of seconds.

Sir Thomas Rich's has now taken part in this Cheltenham Festivals competition for seven years, competing successfully against schools from across Gloucestershire. My thanks to Mrs Mee for her continued dedication in organising our annual participation in the FameLab competition.

Mock Trial Competition

Similarly last week, members of Year 8 and Year 9 made an excellent debut at the Mock Trial Competition held at the University of Gloucestershire. Supported by our Year 12 Law Society coaches, the teams delivered strong performances against Stroud High School and Cheltenham Ladies' College.

In a closely contested event, the Rich's Defence Team secured second place, finishing just two points behind Cheltenham Ladies' College. This is a fantastic achievement in our first year taking part, and my thanks go to Mrs Garcia for co-ordinating and securing our involvement in the competition.

Economics Olympiad

Continuing the successes of last week, 45 of our Year 12 and 13 pupils took part in the regional finals of the Economics Olympiad at the University of Worcester. We are delighted that six students have progressed to the National Finals in London this June. We wish them every success at the next stage, particularly with the prospect of progressing to the International Finals in Greece later this summer. Thanks go to Mrs Downes and Mr Richards for their oversight and support of the Olympiad.

Spring Concert

Our annual Spring Concert took place last night and was a highly enjoyable event, showcasing a wide range of solo and ensemble performances. The standard of music was exceptional yet again, and my thanks go to Mrs Jones, Mr Hinton, Mrs Dudley and Mr Jones for co-ordinating the performances. My sincere thanks also go to the PTFA volunteers for their support with planning, setting up, and serving the extensive range of refreshments last night; their ongoing fundraising continues to be invaluable for the School.

We now eagerly look forward to the annual House Music competition, which takes place on Monday.

Founders' Fortnight

Today marks the conclusion of two weeks of fundraising for our Founders' Fortnight. It is by no means an understatement to say that this has perhaps been our most wide-ranging year yet; form groups in all year groups have run an incredible selection of stalls and events to raise money to support the education of students at our link school, PMM Girls' School in Uganda. Without being able to list everything, activities have included staff vs. students sports matches, cake and milkshake stalls, casinos, 'guess the teacher's baby photo', sponsored swimming, sponsored silences, caricature drawings – the list goes on and on.

Huge thanks go to all pupils who have given their time to run these events, as well as to all those who have supported them. I am also very grateful to Form Tutors for helping to co-ordinate our two-week programme, along with Mr Buttle for overseeing our Founders' Fortnight once again. We look forward to sharing the final amount raised, along with the winning form and House, in our final whole-school assembly next week.

School Council

We have also recently completed our second School Council process of the year, where pupils in all year groups have

discussed areas of the School that they would like to work together to develop. The School Council have proposed a number of very valid areas that we will now explore, including increasing the amount of outside seating, enhancing our use of study spaces, and developing the role Merits play in the School. I am also pleased to report that, following the last School Council round, we will soon be replacing our cricket nets on the School field.

Our School Council process is also entirely run by our students, and I am enormously grateful to James, Freya and Tash in Year 13 for co-ordinating the Council throughout the year. Doing so involves organising agendas, chairing meetings, providing minutes and supporting follow-up actions. Having done such a great job, the team will now pass the role over to the new members of our Student Leadership Team, who are soon to be appointed.

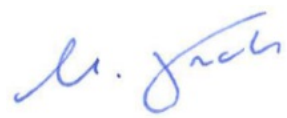
End of Term

Finally, a reminder that we finish the Spring Term on Thursday 26 March at the usual time of 3.20pm; the summer term will begin on Monday 13 April.

Much will still be taking place over the two-week break, including the Malta Netball tour, the Ski Trip to France, and the Gold Practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Best wishes also go to our Year 10 (RS), Year 11, Year 12 (Further Maths), and Year 13 students for their continued preparation for the external examinations next term.

Heads of Year and Heads of Key Stage will send a final round-up of the term next week, leaving me to wish you an enjoyable Easter break.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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