



## From the Headteacher - 5 June 2026

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Dear Parents

I hope you had an enjoyable half-term break, during which, in what can often seem like a rarity, the weather was warmer and sunnier than it has been during term time. For our examination students, I appreciate the fact that the May half-term break provides a much-needed pause from the examinations, whilst perhaps also being a slightly frustrating break in their momentum. Needless to say, students in Year 11 and 13 have continued to impress this week with their determination to give their very best – and I know they are grateful too for the cooler temperatures.

### **Science Lab Refurbishment**

I am delighted to report that work started over the half-term break on a full refurbishment of Lab 7. This particular lab has become increasingly outdated over the years, and it has now been stripped out entirely with a view to transforming it into a modern, fully equipped teaching space ready for the new academic year. We are particularly pleased to announce that we were successful in our bid to Gloucester United Charities, who are generously funding £60,000 of the project, covering almost the full cost of the works. This is a fantastic outcome for the School, and we are extremely grateful for this support as every pupil at Sir Thomas Rich's will benefit from this investment for years to come.

Looking ahead, Lab 7 is the first step in what we hope will be a broader transformation of our science facilities. Labs 4 and 5 are in a similar position and are becoming increasingly limited by ageing infrastructure. We are currently devising a capital campaign to address this and aim to share more details with the school community in the coming months.

### **Sports Evening**

As you may already be aware, our annual Sports Evening takes place on Thursday 2 July, starting at 4.00pm and ending at 7.30pm. The event is our annual celebration of sport at the School, and marks the culmination of the year's House Competition.

A reminder that all students in Years 7, 8, and 9 are expected to attend, along with competitors in the field and track events from Years 7 to 12. For those pupils in Years 7, 8, and 9 who are not participating in the athletics, they will be supporting the event by running the Form stalls, helping create a fun atmosphere for everyone to enjoy, whilst also raising money for our link school, PMM Girls' School in Uganda.

Pupils have begun signing up for events in form times this week, and Mr Payne (Head of PE) will be sharing further details with pupils and parents on how they can get involved in the athletics and with running the stalls.

Parents and family members are very welcome to attend, and parking will be available on the tennis courts, with entry via Gate 1. Refreshments and food will be available to buy on the night, courtesy of the PTFA, with cards and cash accepted.

### **Year 8 Residential in Dorset**

Year 8 pupils enjoyed a fantastic residential trip this week at Buddens Activity Centre, near Poole in Dorset. Despite some rather wet weather, activities included raft building, archery, canoeing, tomahawk throwing and tower climbing – to name just a few.

My thanks to Mrs Rigby-Smith (Head of Year 8) for organising the residential, and to all the staff members who attended and led the running of another successful trip.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

As I am sure you are aware, the Department for Education (DfE) is due to put the new mobile phone guidance for schools on a statutory footing. Over the last few months, we have continued to refine our mobile phone policy for next academic year to ensure that it not only meets the requirements of this new guidance, but also sits alongside our wider curriculum goals and School ethos. This policy is currently being finalised, and we aim to share it with pupils, staff and parents for comments ahead of final publication in September.

### **Year 12 Work Experience**

A small number of our current Year 12 pupils are still seeking work experience placements for the end of August, particularly within the engineering and finance sectors. The work experience week is scheduled for the week commencing Monday 31 August, but we can be flexible on dates if needed. If you can help, Mrs Manning (Head of Careers) would love to hear from you on [jam@strs.org.uk](mailto:jam@strs.org.uk).

### **Culture Day**

Our annual Culture Day takes place on Friday 10 July, which is also a non-uniform day with donations going to *Lives of Colour*, a charity promoting diversity and inclusion in business, education and government. Pupils are invited to wear traditional or cultural dress if they wish, and are also encouraged to contribute dishes for the food festival in the main hall during lunchtime, something which is always a highlight of the day. All food should be accompanied by a full list of ingredients – for more details on how to donate, please see the notice posted on Satchel One.

### Extracurricular

Well done to Hugh in Year 7, who has finished his swimming season having earned a silver and two bronze medals at the Gloucestershire County Swimming Championships across 13 events. As a result, he qualified for the South West Regional Championships at Millfield in May, where he competed in five events and achieved four personal bests.

Congratulations also go to the Year 12 students from the Female Lead Society who led the organisation and delivery of our whole-school collection in support of The Nelson Trust, a charity that supports women and men affected by substance misuse, trauma, and involvement with the criminal justice system. Members of our Female Lead Society recently visited the Gloucester Women's Centre to drop off our shoebox donations, which contained a range of new hygiene products and other essential items. Thank you to all those pupils and their families who donated.

### Key Dates

Please find below a brief reminder of some of the key dates for the remainder of the academic year:

- Friday 26 June – INSET Day, school closed to pupils (unless sitting a public examination)
- Monday 29 June – Year 12 induction week for Year 11 pupils
- Thursday 2 July – Sports Evening, from 4.00pm
- Thursday 9 July – Summer Concert, from 6.00pm, tickets can be purchased here: [buy tickets](#)
- Friday 10 July – Culture Day, non-uniform
- Friday 17 July – last day of term, with the earlier finish time of 12.45pm

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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