



From the Headteacher - 19 June 2026

Dear Parents

I always make a point of explaining to prospective parents at our Open Days that, here at Sir Thomas Rich's, we are not simply an 'exam factory'. This is to let parents know that, whilst clearly important, examinations are not *all* we care about, and our many extracurricular and enrichment opportunities are equally fundamental to the experience of studying here. However, there is no denying that, over the last few weeks, examinations of one form or another have dominated the calendar, given the time of year.

Internal Examinations Years 7-9

Over the last week, pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been completing their end-of-year examinations; these provide an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding they have developed through their subjects so far, while also requiring pupils to draw on each of our five whole-school Curriculum Aims:

- **S:** Self-Discipline
- **T:** Thinking Skills
- **R:** Resilience
- **B:** Behaviours for Learning
- **C:** Core Knowledge and Understanding

(A reminder that the initials of our Curriculum Aims represent the School's full name – Sir Thomas Rich's Blue Coat School – and the letters of our five form groups in Years 7-11. Whilst you have no doubt seen them before, the details of our Curriculum Aims can be found in our [Priorities for Development](#) booklet.)

I am very pleased to say that Year 7 and 8 pupils have been excellent in their approach to both the revision sessions and their examinations. The feedback pupils will receive from teachers who are now busy marking their papers will be invaluable over the coming weeks. This will continue to inform pupils' areas for improvement as we look ahead to next academic year.

Year 9 examinations begin next week, and I wish pupils the very best of luck.

External Exams and Results Days

As the public examination season draws to a close, I would also like to once again congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils on the way they have approached their studies and examinations over the past few months. Their maturity and positive attitude throughout this demanding period have been extremely impressive, and I am sure their hard work and commitment will be reflected in their results.

To mark the end of their examinations, members of our Year 11 enjoyed their celebration trip to Thorpe Park yesterday, as did the team of staff who joined them, and our Year 13 students now look forward to their Prom next Friday.

A reminder that the dates for Results Days in the summer are:

- Thursday 13 August – A Level Results Day
- Thursday 20 August – GCSE Results Day

Further details regarding timings, collection arrangements, and support for pupils on the day will be shared nearer the time.

Induction Events

As Year 11 and 13 complete their academic year, we immediately begin our programme of induction events for pupils who will be joining us in September. This starts tomorrow, with our new Year 7 pupils coming in to school to collect their uniforms and meet their form tutors and fellow students for the first time, before returning next week for a full day of lessons and activities.

Meanwhile, many of our prospective Year 12 students will be joining us at the end of the month for A Level taster sessions, providing an opportunity to explore their chosen subjects and learn more about life in the Sixth Form.

I would like to thank all the pupils who are helping to support these transition events, particularly those currently in Years 7 and 12. Their enthusiasm and encouragement play an important role in ensuring that new pupils feel welcome and settled as they prepare to join our community.

INSET Day 26 June

A reminder that Friday next week is an INSET day for staff, and the School will be closed to all pupils. Throughout the day, colleagues will be taking part in a range of professional development activities designed to support teaching, learning and student wellbeing. The programme for next Friday includes updates on careers education and university admissions, opportunities to continue sharing effective classroom practice, collaborative work on curriculum development and school improvement priorities, as well as specialist training in areas such as fire safety and allergy awareness.

We will also be considering how to further develop our 'supercurriculum' provision, ensuring that pupils have even greater opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Alongside this, we will be exploring ways to make more effective use of pupil focus groups, enabling us to gather meaningful feedback and strengthen student voice. Both areas will form an important part of our ongoing development work in the months ahead.

Design Technology and Art Displays

Over the last week, we have been treated to displays of both the GCSE and A Level Design Technology and Art coursework. To say that this work was incredible is something of an understatement. The attention to detail, ingenuity, research and countless hours of work that have gone into these projects are quite remarkable. A huge thank you goes to Mr Bream (Head of Design) and the Design Department, along with Mr O'Neill (Head of Art) and the Art Department, for all their support and hard work in developing and showcasing the immense creativity of our students.

Cricket

Congratulations to the 1st XI, who won by three wickets against the RGS Worcester last weekend. I wish all our cricket teams the best of luck as they play King's School Gloucester tomorrow. The 1st XI, U12A and U12B teams are away at King's, while the 2nd XI, U15A and U14A play here at the School. For those parents coming to school tomorrow to watch the matches, a reminder that we will be welcoming our new Year 7 parents tomorrow morning; there should, however, be ample parking around the front of the School via Gate 4.

Key Dates

As mentioned in my last email, a further brief reminder of some of the key dates for the remainder of the academic year:

- Friday 26 June – INSET Day, school closed to pupils
- 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, [buy tickets here](#)
- Friday 10 July – Culture Day, non-uniform
- Friday 17 July – last day of term, earlier finish time of 12.45pm

Warm Weather Next Week

Several weather forecasts state that we are due to experience some particularly warm weather next week.

We will, therefore, declare it *officially hot* from Monday 22 June for the entirety of next week (although pupils are not required to be in school on Friday due to staff INSET day).

During this period:

- blazers and ties are not required
- top buttons may be undone if ties are not worn
- shirts must remain tucked in.

For the avoidance of doubt, neither blazers nor ties need to be brought into school during next week. The usual reminder is to check blazer pockets for important items (such as bus passes) if leaving the blazer at home.

As things currently stand, we will return to normal uniform from Monday 29 June, but I will provide a further update nearer the time.

For now, I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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