



From the Headteacher - 16 July 2026

Dear Parents

As we reach the summer holiday, I would like to thank pupils for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. They have not only committed themselves to achieving their very best academically and showcasing their many talents beyond the classroom, but have also embraced the values that make our community so special, or the *little things*, as we refer to them: looking after one another, showing kindness and respect, wearing their uniform with pride, and understanding why these everyday actions are so important.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our incredible teachers and support staff for their commitment and hard work this year. The extent of what they give to enrich both the educational and extracurricular experiences of our pupils can never be overstated.

Finally, I am enormously grateful to our parents for your support throughout the year. That support has been shown in countless generous ways and reflects the strong sense of community that lies at the heart of Sir Thomas Rich's.

Final Assemblies

In our final year group assemblies and the whole-school assembly this week, we have reflected on the many achievements made by the School community this academic year, giving out over 250 awards and prizes to pupils in all year groups in recognition of those accolades. This includes the Tommy's Award, where a record 180 pupils received the award:

- in Year 7 there were 80 Bronze Awards
- in Year 8 there were 56 Silver Awards
- in Year 9 there were 44 Gold Awards

As pupils progress through the School, the criteria for the Tommy's Award become more challenging, with only eight pupils achieving the Award in Year 10. This week, three members of Year 12 achieved the criteria for the Diamond Award, the very first pupils in the School to attain this level of the Award – an incredible achievement. Further information on our Tommy's Award can be found [here](#):

[The Tommy's Award](#)

This week, we were also very pleased to award School Honours to twin brothers Thomas and William in Year 13. This prestigious award recognises exceptional academic achievement, resilience, endeavour, and a commitment to supporting others within our school community. Thomas and William have received this award due to their incredible stoicism, hard work and support for one another in the face of William's illness when he first joined the School, with a long and determined road to recovery that followed. Both students embody everything that Sir Thomas Rich's School stands for, and they are thoroughly deserving recipients of this year's School Honours Award.

Staff Leavers

As was also included in our final assembly this week, I would like to thank those members of staff who are leaving us this term for new challenges and, in some cases, a very well-deserved retirement.

Mr Maggs leaves us after a year as a Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor. During his time at the School, he has shown great commitment to our pupils, particularly through the many hours devoted to coaching sessions and fixtures beyond the school day. We thank him for his contribution and wish him every success as he continues his teaching career.

Mr Keates also departs after two years as a Sports Coach and Cover Supervisor. He has played a significant role in leading our Strength and Conditioning Programme and has also given generously of his time in coaching and refereeing at numerous rugby and cricket fixtures. We are grateful for his dedication and wish him all the very best in his new career.

Earlier in the academic year, we said farewell to **Miss Marston** following her maternity leave. Over three years at Sir Thomas Rich's, she taught Psychology and Business Studies with enthusiasm, expertise and genuine care for her students. We thank her for her contribution to these departments and wish her every happiness for the future.

We also say goodbye to **Mr Fullerton** after five years as a teacher of French and English. As a proud former pupil of the School, he has made a valuable contribution both in and beyond the classroom. In particular, Mr Fullerton has been instrumental in re-launching the Eco Club and advancing the School's sustainability initiatives, work that remains of great importance to our community. We wish him every success with his PhD studies next year.

Whilst not officially leaving the School, I would also like to acknowledge **Mr Johnson**, who retires from teaching after

18 years at Rich's. Since becoming Head of Computer Science in 2010, he has ensured that the subject has continued to evolve in line with developments in the rapidly changing world of technology. Alongside this, he has provided invaluable support to the wider ICT and technical infrastructure of the School. We are delighted that Mr Johnson will remain part of the Sir Thomas Rich's community in a part-time role as an IT Technician next year.

After 26 years of service, **Mr Birkett** retires from the Chemistry Department, which he also led for 21 of those years. His extensive subject knowledge, coupled with his caring and supportive approach to teaching, has left a lasting impression on generations of pupils. The affection and respect in which he is held are evident whenever former students encounter him and are eager to share their memories of his lessons. We all know that Mr Birkett will be a tough act to follow, and he will be greatly missed. We wish him a happy, relaxing, and thoroughly deserved retirement.

Finally, **Mr Carter** retires after 25 years at Sir Thomas Rich's, the first 20 of which he served as Deputy Headteacher. His contribution to the School over those years has been exceptional. As a highly respected Geography teacher, an unwavering supporter of school rugby and a dedicated senior leader, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the School as we know it today. One of his defining qualities has always been his ability to see the very best in both people and situations, earning him the admiration and respect of colleagues, pupils, and parents alike. We also have him to thank for establishing the School's first international rugby tour in 2007, the success of which has meant the tours remain a key part of our rugby provision.

As another proud former pupil of Sir Thomas Rich's, we are confident that retirement will not mark the end of Mr Carter's connection with the School. We extend our sincere thanks for his remarkable service and wish him a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement.

Cricket

It has been a whistle-stop week for Cricket in the School, starting with the U15A Cricket Team; on Monday, they played in the national semi-final of the Barclays Knight-Stokes Cup against Altrincham Grammar School for Boys at the historic Headingley Stadium in Leeds. The team lost by just 42 runs, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. It is an amazing achievement to have reached the final four, with over 700 boys' teams having entered the competition. Despite this busy and tiring start to their week, on Tuesday, the U15s bounced back, displaying true Richian spirit to win the County Cup Final against Newent School by 91 runs at home.

Well done also to the U14A Cricket Team, who have had an equally successful season, culminating in reaching the final of the U14 Gloucestershire County Cup. They will be playing Cheltenham College in September.

The U13A Cricket Team put in some excellent performances to reach the semi-final of the National David English Cup competition against Hampton School a few weeks ago. The team reached the Gloucestershire U13 County Cup Final against Marling School earlier this week, winning by 13 wickets away. An excellent achievement.

The U12A Cricket Team won the Gloucestershire County Cup Final away at The Crypt School on 6 June. Our U12 players scored 153 for 4 from their 20 overs and bowled Crypt out for 81 runs. They will now progress into The David English U13 National Cup next season.

Many congratulations to all the pupils and coaches involved for such a fantastic season of Cricket.

House Trophy

This week, we have had the pleasure of announcing the final result in the hard-fought Cock House Trophy. After another year of competitive and highly enjoyable House events, congratulations go to Southgate for winning the trophy, with just 2 points in it between Southgate and runners-up, Westgate.

- 1st place - Southgate (172)
- 2nd place - Westgate (170)
- 3rd place - Newgate (161)
- 4th place - Eastgate (147)
- 5th place - Northgate (134)

Once again, a huge thank you goes to all pupils who have put themselves forward to represent their House this year.

Draft Mobile Phone Policy

Last week, Miss Tapscott (Deputy Headteacher) shared our draft *Mobile Phone Policy* for September 2026. This draft has been developed following consultation with both staff and pupils. We are very grateful to parents who have already shared their constructive comments via the form below; if you have any further comments on the draft, the feedback form is available until the end of term, Friday 17 July. Over the summer, we will consider all comments carefully before publishing our Mobile Phone Policy for September.

[Mobile Phone Policy letter](#)

[Comment on the draft policy](#)

Water Safety

With the warm weather looking set to continue, The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) has been in touch to share its

free *Have the Conversation* toolkit to help families discuss and understand important information about water safety.

If you would like a copy, you can request it directly from the RLSS via the link below:

[Royal Life Saving Society – Water Safety for Teenagers](#)

Results Days

A brief reminder of the dates for GCSE and A Level results days:

- A Level – Thursday 13 August at 8.00am
- GCSE – Thursday 20 August at 9.00am
- Short-Course RS (Year 10) – Thursday 20 August at 10.00am

Please do see the emails from Heads of Year and Head of Key Stage for further details.

Autumn Term

A reminder that we finish the Summer Term on Friday 17 July at 12.45pm. The start of term dates for each year group in September are as follows:

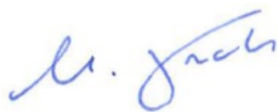
- Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September – Year 13 Work Experience Week.
- Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September – INSET days (the School is closed to all pupils).
- Thursday 3 September – only pupils in Year 7 and Year 12 in school.
- Friday 4 September – all pupils in school (apart from Year 13).

I will be in touch again before September with further information about the start of the new academic year.

Finally, the very best of luck to all those pupils and staff undertaking the DofE Gold assessed foot expedition next week.

It just leaves me to say I hope that you and your family enjoy a safe and enjoyable break this summer, and thank you once again for all your support.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

Support Us with Regular Giving

Ours is a school shaped by the support of those who came before. By setting up a regular monthly gift, however small, you can help us maintain the breadth of opportunity that defines a Rich's education. Our message is simple: if you are able and wish to support us, whatever the amount, the Rich's community - now and in the future - will be enormously grateful.

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SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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