



## From the Headteacher - 4 September 2026

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Dear Parents

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, as well as to all our returning pupils. I am also looking forward to meeting many of our new parents at the *Year 12 Meet the Tutor and Information Evening* on Thursday 10 September, and at the informal *Year 7 Parents' Evening* on Wednesday 16 September. Further details will be shared by the relevant Key Stage team.

Throughout the year, I will aim to send a regular email update to parents, with occasional extra messages if anything urgent or important arises. Key information from the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and Heads of Department will also be sent via email throughout the year to keep you up to date with school matters.

Our latest school news can also be found on our school [website](#), along with our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

### Welcoming New Staff

As we start the academic year, it is a pleasure to welcome our new staff to the School:

- Miss Walton – Teacher of Science and Biology
- Mrs Bakker – Teacher of Physics
- Mr Dando – Teacher of Computer Science
- Mr Hawker – Teacher of Mathematics (maternity cover)
- Mrs Mills – Sixth Form Progression and Destinations Officer
- Mr Goode – Cover Supervisor and Sports Coach (Strength and Conditioning Lead)
- Mr Kelly – Cover Supervisor and Sports Coach

We are also really pleased to welcome Suz Hale and Lisa Birks as our Netball Coaches this year.

### GCSE and A Level Results

As you may already be aware, this year we have celebrated another excellent set of GCSE and A Level results. At GCSE, 52% of all entries achieved grades 8 or 9, with 73% awarded grade 7 or above. In addition, our Year 13 leavers achieved an outstanding 58.3% of grades at A\* and A in their A Levels, with 89.4% of all grades awarded at A\* to B, and the most common grade being an A grade.

Whilst these are fantastic results for our subject departments and the School, most importantly these are fantastic results for our students who achieved them, who now progress on to the next stage of their academic career. These results are also a testament to the hard work and support of our dedicated subject teachers and pastoral staff who have taught and supported our pupils to give of their best in these examinations, along with the unwavering support of parents for which we are enormously grateful.

### Site Developments

I am delighted to report that the refurbishment of Lab 7 has been completed over the summer, ready for lessons for pupils in all year groups from this week. Please do look out for some photos and video clips on our social media channels of the Lab in use for practical lessons over the next few weeks.

I am also really pleased to say that our solar panels have now been installed on a number of the School's roof areas. The panels are forecast to provide up to 25% of our annual electricity, which will represent a significant saving on our bills. We also have access to a live energy app that will monitor and highlight the energy we generate and use throughout a school day; this information will also be used to support the teaching of relevant topics in subjects throughout the School.

The improvements we make to the School and the opportunities we provide are made possible thanks to donations and grants, including from the Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association (PTFA) and the Gloucester United Schools Charity, along with gratefully received funds raised through *The 1666 Fund*.

*The 1666 Fund* is our major development initiative, established to support projects and improvements that enhance the experience of pupils at the School, enabling us to provide the very best curricular and extracurricular opportunities, both now and in the future. The generosity of our supporters makes a real and lasting difference to what we can provide at Sir Thomas Rich's.

If you would like to find out more about how to get involved with *The 1666 Fund*, please do visit our [community pages](#).

## Pastoral Care and Safeguarding

The well-being of students remains at the heart of everything we do at Sir Thomas Rich's. Your child's Form Tutor is the first point of contact for day-to-day issues, and you can also contact the relevant Head of Year at any time. All staff contact details are available on our [website](#), or you can call Reception on 01452 338400 or email [info@strs.org.uk](mailto:info@strs.org.uk).

If you have concerns about safeguarding or extremism, you can also contact us at [DSL@strs.org.uk](mailto:DSL@strs.org.uk) at any time.

## School Sport Booklet

Sport is an important aspect of life at Rich's, and new parents to the School may find our booklet on arrangements for training and fixtures useful. Please do feel free to contact Rhys Williams, Director of Sport, on [rgw@strs.org.uk](mailto:rgw@strs.org.uk) if you have any questions.

[School Sport Guide \(PDF\)](#)

## Autumn Term: Key Dates

Our main school calendar can be accessed via our [website](#), and key dates for the Autumn Term are also listed below; I will also endeavour to highlight upcoming dates in my regular emails.

- Thursday 10 September – Year 12 Meet the Tutor and Information Evening
- Wednesday 16 September – Year 7 Informal Parents' Evening, 5.00pm
- Thursday 24 September – Year 10 GCSE Information Evening, 6.00pm
- Friday 2 October – Prize Giving, Main Hall, 6.00pm (invitation event)
- Wednesday 21 October – End of half term (school day finishes at 3.20pm)
- Monday 2 November – Start of second half of term
- Mon 23-Wed 25 November – *The Wizard of Oz*, 6.00pm
- Friday 27 November – INSET day
- Monday 30 November – INSET day
- Thursday 3 December – Jazz Night, Main Hall, 6.00pm
- Wednesday 16 December – Carol Service, Holy Trinity Church, 6.00pm
- Thursday 17 December – End of Autumn Term (school day finishes at 3.20pm)

Tickets will go on sale [online](#) for *The Wizard of Oz* and our popular annual Jazz Night later this term.

## Lost Property

Finally, a polite appeal to ensure that all items of personal property, including shoes, trainers, coat, and water bottles, are clearly labelled with your son or daughter's name. Every year, despite our reminders to pupils, many expensive items are often left in the changing rooms and classrooms after lessons, much to the frustration of parents. Labelling everything really helps staff reduce the amount of lost property and return items to their owner. Unlabelled items are placed in the lost property cupboard and, after a month, are donated to charity if unclaimed.

After what has been a relatively short week for pupils this week, I hope you have an enjoyable weekend, and thank you, as ever, for your continued support as we work together to make this another successful year for the School.

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.

[Donate](#)

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