



From the Headteacher - 9 October 2026

Dear Parents

It is always tempting to start each email by referencing the passage of time since my last email, and whilst failing to resist the temptation here, it is worth pointing out that we are now within only two weeks of completing what is the longest half term (in calendar weeks) of the academic year. Without wishing to over-dramatise this point, for our Year 11 and 13 pupils this half term alone will represent about a quarter of their teaching weeks for the academic year. To be clear, this is not to cause any panic; of course, time is still very much on our side, it just doesn't hurt to remind ourselves that A Levels and GCSEs are a marathon, not a sprint, and making each week count is very much part of the strategy for success.

Prize Giving

Our annual Prize Giving ceremony took place last Friday evening, with our Year 7 pupils in attendance, in order to represent the School and to hopefully inspire them to become prize winners in the future. I also received many positive comments about their spirited singing of the hymns during the event, including our school song (one of the oldest school songs in the country), *The Tommy Psalm*.

As I said to the prize winners in our rehearsal before the evening, not only is it a great honour and reflection of their achievements to receive a prize, their name and their prize as listed in the Order of Service will now be added to our School archive, alongside almost a hundred years' worth of similar Orders of Service, each one a record of the historic achievements of the Rich's School community.

We were also delighted to welcome Rachel Thorpe, Principal of Alcester Grammar School (AGS), as our guest of honour. Rachel's speech highlighted the shared vision of both AGS and Rich's in ensuring that pupils leave our schools with academic results that reflect their own potential, alongside the development of personal character that prepares them to be positive contributors in the world of the future.

Congratulations once again to all our prize winners, and thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

The first meeting of the PTFA took place last week – it is always difficult to express just exactly how much gratitude I have for our volunteers, who give so much time, freely, to support the School. This first meeting of the year included a detailed reflection on the fundraising activities of last year and the ever-present creative discussions on how to develop these activities further, along with thorough reports shared on the incredible work of the Uniform Shop, and the overall accounting position of the PTFA. As I know I have said before, the School would be considerably worse off without this immense support.

The PTFA would also like me to share the following reminders:

- Every time you shop online at retailers like Amazon, Argos and John Lewis, you can raise funds for the School at no extra cost to yourself, through the PTFA's [EasyFundraising](#) initiative.
- Uniform Shop payments: Please note that the Mobile Phone Policy applies to pupils when visiting the Uniform Shop in the B Block to place orders during school hours. As with the canteen, payments cannot be made on a mobile phone during the school day and should be made either online in advance or via a debit card.

As ever, the PTFA are always grateful for the support of any other parents who would like to get involved; please contact Kerry Williams (PTFA Chair) on PAChair@strs.org.uk if you would like to find out more.

Harvest Collection

Once again, pupils are busy collecting for Gloucester Foodbank in their form groups; donations can be brought into school by pupils up until Friday 16 October and added to the green crates in form rooms. Last year we donated an incredible 694.2kg of food and essentials, equating to 1652 meals for the local community. Non-refrigerated, unopened dried and tinned food is most needed – along with new hygiene essentials.

Next Friday (16 October) is also our first non-uniform day of the year, with proceeds also going to support Gloucester Foodbank.

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting the collection.

The Arts

The House Creative Writing and the House Art competitions have both launched, and the deadline for pupils to submit

their entries is Wednesday 21 October for Art and Monday 9 November for Creative Writing. Pupils can find further details on Satchel One.

The Art Department has also just launched a monthly newsletter to celebrate and share the many creative achievements and efforts of pupils with the wider School community:

[Art @ STRS Edition 1](#)

Sport

Well done to our Netball 1st VII, who competed in the first round of the County Netball Cup on Wednesday this week at Hartpury University. The team played extremely well, only narrowly missing out to The Crypt School on a 'golden goal'. We look forward to meeting The Crypt School again in the *Sisters n Sport* National Competition on Friday 20 November.

Congratulations also go to the 1st V Basketball Team, who secured a fantastic away win against Malvern College 33-47 on Tuesday. The team go on to play New College Swindon in the *Dynamik National Schools* competition next week.

In Rugby, unfortunately, the 1st and 2nd XV teams both lost to Haberdashers' School Monmouth away in *The Daily Mail* Trophy on Saturday, in closely fought matches where the final scores were 38-25 and 35-26 respectively. Both teams are playing Taunton School today.

A reminder that parents can stay up to date with all fixture results on the [SOCS School Sports calendar](#).

Open Day and Evening

Our next school Open Day and Evening takes place on Thursday 15 October for Year 4 and 5 pupils. There is an additional, invitation-only event taking place on Monday 19 October for Year 6 pupils, who by then will know if they have reached the qualifying standard in the recent Gloucestershire Grammar Schools' Admissions Test.

If you have a Year 4 or 5 child and are considering Sir Thomas Rich's, please do book your place using the form on our [website](#).

Cycle Safety

Several staff members have recently commented to me about the number of pupils who cycle to school, often on the busy roads approaching the School, without a cycle helmet. Whilst it is not currently a legal requirement for pupils to wear a helmet, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) strongly recommends that they do so in order to significantly reduce the serious risks of harm should there be an incident. Whilst we are reminding pupils of this in school, parental support in reinforcing this advice would be gratefully appreciated.

Regarding cycling, just a brief reminder from my very first email this term:

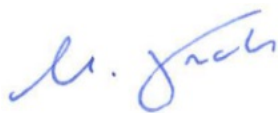
Pupils cycling to school should enter via Gate 1, dismount and walk their bike to the bike shed at the top of the drive (next to the tennis courts). When leaving school, pupils should exit via Gate 4; pupils are permitted to carefully ride their bike to Gate 4 and must always cycle with caution, especially with increased coach and car traffic outside the School from 3.20pm.

End of Term

Finally, and as I am sure you are aware, we finish for the half-term break on Wednesday 21 October at the usual finish time of 3.20pm. We return for the second half of the Autumn Term on Monday 2 November; Miss Tapscott will be in touch before then with a pastoral summary for the term so far.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

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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