From the Headteacher - 6 November 2026

Dear Parents

I hope you had a pleasant half-term break; we return to a busy term ahead, with Year 12 November examinations taking place this week, and an ever-busy calendar of events taking place both in and out of school.

School Calendar

A reminder too that we have two INSET days this term, on Friday 27 and Monday 30 November, when the School will be closed to pupils.

Remembrance Service

Our annual Remembrance Service takes place next Wednesday 11 November, when we will gather as a School community to mark Armistice Day and remember all those who have served and given their lives in conflicts past and present, including former Richians. As is our tradition, the School Captains will lay a wreath at the bronze War Memorial at the entrance to the School. We also look forward to welcoming veterans from the local community to attend our Remembrance Service, which we hope will take place once again outside on the tennis courts, weather permitting.

Pupils are invited to wear poppies; these are available in Reception or will be brought round to form rooms during tutor time, with donations going to the Royal British Legion.

Emergency Lockdown Practice

I would like to give you advance notice that we intend to practise our emergency lockdown procedure on Thursday 19 November at 10.50am. All pupils will be briefed in advance during tutor time so that they are fully aware that it will be happening and will be reminded of the protocols involved. While we do not wish to worry pupils, it will be made clear how important it is that this drill takes place in order to re-familiarise the school community with the procedures to follow in the unlikely event that a lockdown is required.

Catering

This week we have been pleased to welcome our new catering company, Taylor Shaw. The team spent much of the half-term break rebranding our canteen and servery areas and have been busy getting to know our pupils and staff.

Pupils can look forward to a mix of familiar favourites and some exciting new 'street food' counters, as well as regular theme days throughout the year. Their freshly prepared menus meet the Government's School Food Standards; menus and further information about Taylor Shaw can be found on our website:

Menus and catering

Representatives from Taylor Shaw will also be meeting with members of our student-run School Council in the coming weeks to gather initial feedback and share plans for the year ahead.

Anti-Bullying Week

As part of national Anti-Bullying Week (16-20 November), we are taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16 November to raise awareness and funds for the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Pupils are encouraged to wear odd socks with their normal school uniform, and we kindly ask for a £1 donation, which can be made via Scopay.

Throughout the week, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be running a lunchtime stall where pupils can write a pledge card to share one positive action they will take to stand up to bullying and support others. This year's theme, 'Break the Silence', encourages us all to speak up, listen to one another, and take action.

In addition to the pledge stall, there will be a range of interactive tutor-time activities during the week, giving pupils the opportunity to explore the theme, discuss real-life scenarios, and reflect on how they can make a positive difference in our school community.

This work by the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, along with support for Odd Socks Day, helps us continue to celebrate individuality and our ethos of kindness and respect for each other that fundamentally underpins the Tommy's Way.

Kingsholm Charity Rugby Match

Our annual charity rugby match against Cheltenham College takes place on Thursday 19 November at Kingsholm Stadium in Gloucester, the home of Gloucester RFC, with kick-off at 7.30pm (Prep match at 5.30pm). This year the

event is in support of the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust.

Please do save the date, as the event is always a fantastic occasion, and the Rich's teams will really appreciate support from pupils, families, alumni and friends of the School. A link to buy tickets will be available shortly, via our social media channels and website.

Charity Rugby match poster

Year 9 and 11 Subject Choices

Further to the email from Mr Dempsey (Deputy Headteacher) this week, a reminder that we are now inviting pupils in Year 9 and Year 11 to give their first indication of their respective GCSE and A Level choices.

As mentioned by Mr Dempsey, these choices will not be set in stone but merely help us with initial curriculum planning for next year. We kindly ask that these choices are submitted by Monday 7 December.

PTFA Quiz and Pudding Night

The next Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association (PTFA) Quiz and Pudding Night takes place on Friday 20 November in the School Hall. Doors open at 7pm, with the quiz starting at 7.30pm. New for this year, the event will also feature some live jazz music from some of our current and former students. Tickets cost £7.50 per person, with teams of up to six (smaller teams welcome). Please see the link below for full details and to buy tickets.

Buy Quiz and Pudding Night tickets

Sixth Form Open Evening

As parents of our Year 11 pupils may already be aware, our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 28 January. In order to help us manage the very large number of visitors expected to attend this event, the link to register for the Open Evening can now be found on the home page of the school website, along with initial details about how the evening will run.

Register to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening

School Performances

Our popular annual Jazz Night takes place on Thursday 3 December, starting at 6.00pm, and tickets are now available to buy online.

Buy Jazz Night tickets

The Christmas Carol Service takes place on Wednesday 16 December at Holy Trinity Church in Longlevens at 6.00pm. A ticket is not required for the Carol Service; all members of the school community are warmly invited to attend.

Our next school musical production, *The Wizard of Oz*, will now take place on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February, with performances starting at 6.30pm.

Buy Wizard of Oz tickets

The 1666 Fund

Mrs Lynn (Development Director) will shortly be sharing an update on our development initiative, *The 1666 Fund*, to let the school community know how your donations are making a difference to our school and where the money raised is being spent. The email update will be shared via our online community platform, https://community.strs.org.uk, which is powered by ToucanTech. This platform helps us stay connected with both current parents and our many alumni around the world, and share news, updates and opportunities to get involved.

The Richian school magazine, which used to be the main publication to summarise school news (before social media allowed us to post news frequently), is also set to be re-launched as a termly e-newsletter through the platform, giving us a further way of keeping our wider community informed, and to celebrate all that is happening across the School. We hope that the first issue will be sent out before Christmas.

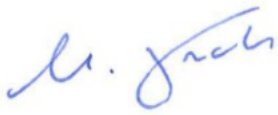
Key Dates for the Term

- Friday 27 and Monday 30 November - INSET days
- Thursday 3 December - Jazz Night, from 6.00pm
- Wednesday 16 December - Carol Service (Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens), from 6.00pm
- Thursday 17 December - End of Autumn Term (3.20pm finish)
- Monday 4 January - Spring Term starts.

Finally, the very best of luck to our rugby teams who play in a variety of fixtures against Hereford Cathedral School, Warwick School and Pate's Grammar School tomorrow.

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.

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