



10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## HEAD-LINE NEWS



**D**ear Parents,  
**W**elcome back to school following the half-term break. I hope that you and your families have enjoyed precious time together. As you will have learnt from this publication in past weeks, a great deal

has been achieved by the students, staff and the wider community in the first seven weeks of the academic year, and we are looking forward to the opportunities which lie before us in the lead up to Christmas.

**C**ongratulations to Miss Rachel Green who has been appointed as Head of Nursery. Miss Green will commence her new role in January 2018, moving from her current role as Year 1 Class Teacher. We wish Miss Green every success in her new role. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Neuberg will replace Miss Green as Year 1 Class Teacher in January. This, of course, means that Mrs Rankine will retire at the end of this term after 20 years of distinguished service to the School. Mrs Rankine will be sorely missed by the community. As an outstanding practitioner for so many years, she has inspired generations of children by modelling excellence in the classroom as well as being a leader. We wish Mrs Rankine every happiness in her retirement, but not before one last Nativity play!

**S**taying with Preparatory School news, congratulations to Tom Giles and Holly McNeeney who have been appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl of the Preparatory School for this academic year, and to George Leite and Holly Page who have been appointed as their Deputies. We congratulate all the children who have been rewarded with positions of responsibility. We hope that they will continue to model the highest standards in all they do and inspire the younger children who look up to them.



**M**y trip to New York prior to the end of half-term with Mr Yell, Development Director and Mr Neville, Assistant Head and Head of Sixth Form, was well-received by the Old Ratcliffians we met and was a great success. We were able to say a heartfelt thank you to a number of alumni who are currently giving to our bursary schemes, as well as sharing with all present the success of the College. They were delighted to hear about the achievements of our students as well as sharing with us stories about their time here at school. Please [click here to read more](#).



**M**r Donegan, Deputy Head Pastoral and Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding, also spent 5 days in Mexico to investigate the feasibility of recruiting boarding students in future years. It was a busy and productive trip, and time will tell whether we have been able to secure any applications.

**W**e are delighted to share with you that we have started a Pet Club in the Senior School following requests from the student School Council over the past few years. My sincere thanks to Dr Kyle-Ferguson who has devoted so much time to ensure that this project has started this half-term.



**W**e have two beautiful rabbits and two energetic guinea pigs which are housed in their own wooden hut with a lovely big run. The students have been delighted with this, and Dr Kyle-Ferguson has certainly not been short of volunteers to help with her new club, as we have so many animal lovers here at Ratcliffe.



**T**he purpose of the club is not only to give students the opportunity to care for an animal and to find out more about how they live, but also to support our work on student well-being. A great deal of research clearly demonstrates the calming effect that petting animals can have on young people. It has been wonderful to see the broad grins on the students' faces as they hold and cuddle our new pets.

**W**e hope that the Nursery and Preparatory School will also enjoy the animals and we hope to develop this initiative with more animals in the New Year. [Click here to read more.](#)

**T**he College has enjoyed a successful first half-term on the sports field with some excellent results for both the girls' and boys' teams. We also welcomed England and Loughborough Lightning netballer, Beth Cobden, last week as she put our younger girls through their paces at a netball masterclass. In the creative arts, we have been delighted with the success of the after school Drama Club and Musical Theatre Society who gave their first performance in last week's Last Night of the Proms concert, performing 'Circle of Life' from the Lion King musical. It was absolutely superb. The concert itself was excellent with over 70 students showcasing their music-making talents through choirs, ensembles, orchestras as well as individual performances.

**T**he CCF contingent enjoyed another fabulous day of outward-bound adventure in Thetford Forest last weekend, while Year 7 students enjoyed their retreat at The Briars in Crich, Derbyshire. Our boarding community joined large crowds as they enjoyed the firework display in Abbey Park on Saturday 4th November. Please scroll down to the 'Big Six' section to read more.





I am grateful to Mr Donegan, Deputy Head Pastoral and Mr James Neville, Assistant Head, who, along with members of the Parents' Association, students and staff have been meeting regularly since September to discuss plans for our Well-being Square at the heart of the Senior School. They have been supported and guided in their thinking by parent, Mr Ashley Lynch, who has many years of experience in landscape architecture.

Draft plans are being drawn up for consideration by the Senior Leadership Team and we will share these with you once final decisions are made on the design. This is a unique project and one which we are keen to move forward swiftly to support our young people's emotional welfare.



The Science Department welcomed students from Grace Dieu Manor Preparatory School on Monday for a Science Taster Morning. Hosted by our Head of Science, Mr Chorley, the boys and girls enjoyed an action-packed morning of practical experiments including building and flying their own rockets! [Click here to read more.](#)

I hope that students in Year 11 and their families found Monday evening's Sixth Form Information Evening helpful with their deliberations for their options for post GCSE study.

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form provision and I would encourage students or parents who might require further support with their decision-making to make an appointment with Heads of Department or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be delighted to help on any matter.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to confirm that the School has now purchased its own mobile coffee wagon which we will unveil this coming Saturday at our sports fixtures. We are completing the training of our in-house baristas who will serve our drinks and snacks. We hope that this will be a welcome addition to our facilities for parents who give up their time to support our teams. If you are in school on Saturday morning, please come along and buy a coffee.



I wish you all well for the new half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin,  
Headmaster.



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The first and final days of a half-term are very busy at Ratcliffe College, and the last month has been no exception. Students and staff have generously given of their time, effort and money to support the work of Chaplaincy to help us meet God in shared stories, shared celebrations and active love. Assemblies, fund and awareness raising, liturgical services and retreats have all helped to underline the culture of shared values, respect and responsibilities. [Read more.](#)





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## SENIOR SCHOOL

**C**ongratulations to the following students who have successfully gained their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award:-

Year 12: Sebastian Cook, Harneeka Dhillon, Krishan Gupta, Mollie Page.

Year 11: Eduardo Robinson, Adam Shaw, Kapil Soni.

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FIRST CERTIFICATES OF MERIT,  
2ND NOVEMBER 2017, WERE AWARDED TO:-

### YEAR 6

Ernie Hoggard

Millie Lake

### YEAR 5

Bella Barton-Jacques  
Harry Pole  
Gracie Smith  
Megha Thakrar

Lottie North  
Charlotte Shield  
Khrish Tailor

### YEAR 4

Emily Woodley

### YEAR 3

Max Hunt  
Charlotte Joy  
Lucy Markham  
Hugo Misiuda  
Lorcan Murphy  
Iszac Rodrigues  
Caspar Webster

Tallulah Johnson-Mayes  
Maisie Leake  
Lucy Mason  
Luke Mowinski  
Diya Patel  
Jessica Tuckwell  
Jack Westwood

### YEAR 2

Abigail Cole  
Chloe Oliphant  
Oreon Patel  
Marcus Singh

Isabella Cottingham  
Maahi Patel  
Harrison Poutch

**T**he Mathematics Faculty are very pleased to announce our very first faculty ambassadors, Tom Cusack and Esme Kelly. Given the popularity of Mathematics at Ratcliffe, the faculty intends on selecting ambassadors from the Sixth Form every year, who will all be able to wear the special badge, designed by Tom Cusack himself. Both Tom and Esme are superb Further Mathematicians themselves and will be great ambassadors to the faculty, helping to promote the subject, support other students with revision and prep, as well as running competitions throughout the year.



### TOM GILES, YEAR 6

Won the Leicestershire Novice Level 2 Gymnastics Championship and was awarded a gold medal and the Champions Shield.

### JONAH WALKER, YEAR 6

Achieved his 1st degree Black Belt from the Tae Kwon Do Association of Great Britain.

### IMOGEN BARKER, YEAR 5

Has been awarded Gold for her floor routine in the 'Gymnastics for All' 4 Piece Competition; she was awarded Silver for her Beam Routine and Silver for her Vault Routine.

### SAM GILES, YEAR 4

Was awarded a Silver medal in the Novice Level 1 Leicestershire Gymnastics competition.



# THE BIG SIX

## CHAPLAINCY

To see photographs of the Chaplaincy activities, [click here](#).



## MUSIC

The Senior Choir will be singing at the annual Menphys Christmas Concert on Friday 8th December. Menphys supports children and young people with disabilities and complex health needs, and relies on events such as this to provide the care they do. Tickets should be booked in advance from De Montfort Hall and are priced at £9. Please support Menphys as well as enjoying an evening of uplifting Christmas music.

**Mr McCall, Director of Music**

*Menphys*

Catholic Schools  
**Carol Concert**  
in support of Menphys

Friday 8th December, 7:15pm  
De Montfort Hall, Leicester

Tickets £9, available to purchase from De Montfort Hall  
Tel: 0116 233 3111  
Email: [dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk)  
[www.demontforthall.co.uk](http://www.demontforthall.co.uk)

Sponsored by

[www.menphys.org.uk](http://www.menphys.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number 270700





# THE BIG SIX



*Raising the roof at Last Night of the Proms!*



## CCF

Over half-term, four senior CCF Army cadets attended the demanding Senior Cadet Instructors' Course at Beckingham. Cpl Owen Sommerville, Cpl Arran Grant, Cpl Grace Clark and Cpl Luke Chilton spent the week preparing and delivering lessons to their peers.

The course was extremely challenging and tiring with very long days. However, all four cadets performed extremely well and achieved good passes. The Unit congratulates them and looks forward to the input of their newly learnt skills. [Click here to read more.](#)

### Lt Col Balmбра, CCF Contingent Commander



# THE BIG SIX

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

### Gold Expedition Training

**O**n Saturday 14th October, our Year 12 Gold participants began their training in the Peak District with some reminders of how to put tents up and they also did some trangia (cooking stove) training before everybody relaxed for the evening. The next morning we drove to Edale to spend a day in 'wild country'. Each group worked with a leader, spending time learning and practising advanced navigation techniques, especially those that would be needed in low visibility (we often get serious fog on Dartmoor for our assessed expedition). Unfortunately, we didn't get the chance to practise in real fog as it lifted just as we reached the top of the hill.

**A**ll groups worked hard to find tiny landmarks such as dry ponds, broken down sheepfolds, stream junctions and boundary stones; they all made really good progress in their navigation skills, despite there not being a path in sight for most of the morning!

**F**or the second half of the day, we completed a training route and enjoyed some wonderful scenery – students especially enjoyed climbing on the rocks! At the end of the day, everybody was rather tired and pleased to get back to camp.

**D**ue to the progression of ex-hurricane Ophelia, we took the decision to end the training weekend early, as there was too much of a risk from falling trees or dangerous driving conditions for minibuses on the tops of the moors. We all enjoyed an unusual DofE lie-in and headed back to school. Well done to all the participants, who can now look forward to practising their new skills in the Brecon Beacons at the end of the Easter vacation!

**Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator**





# THE BIG SIX

## DRAMA

### Musical Theatre Club

Musical Theatre club had their debut with a performance of 'The Circle of Life' from the Lion King in last Thursday's Last Night of the Prom's concert. An enthusiastic and talented group really enjoyed performing to their first audience. This is a new club which Miss Monk started in September and around seventeen students have been regularly attending every Monday evening. With the help of Miss Argo and the Drama Ambassadors, Natasha Walsh and Sophie Dring, students have been honing their singing and performance technique, learning through group exercises and, of course, enjoying plenty of singing! Students have made lots of suggestions for other songs from their favourite shows that they wish to learn and we hope to grow the club with more performances to come throughout the year... watch this space!



### Starlight Youth Theatre's, Oliver!

Jacob Storey and Holly Clark-Pratt starred last week in Starlight Youth Theatre's, Oliver! Miss Monk went to see the opening night on Wednesday and was extremely impressed with the standard of the show, and particularly proud of Holly and Jacob. Jacob was superbly cast as the energetic, cheeky Artful Dodger with incredible movement skills, and Holly demonstrated the versatility of an actress beyond her years, taking on a range of roles with great enthusiasm. Congratulations to the entire group on a fantastic show!

### Miss Monk, Head of Drama



## SPORT

Please find the link to our weekly Sports Report below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



# AND BEYOND...

## BOARDERS' TRIP



**O**n Saturday 4th November, the boarding community wrapped up warm as they were taken to Abbey Park firework display in Leicester. The students enjoyed a superb display of bright lights, shooting stars, loud bangs and impressive rockets on a chilly autumn evening.



**O**ther entertainment included fair rides, candy floss and ice cream. Great fun was had by all, and the International students appreciated a bit of British culture!

**Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding**

## HALF TERM TRIP REPORTS

### FLORENCE TRIP

**S**ixteen students from Years 11 and 12 accompanied by Ms Wright and Mr Kellighan, visited Florence. Florentia, the 'flowering' city is the capital of Tuscany and home to many masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture – so an ideal place for any student studying Art. [Read more.](#)





# AND BEYOND...

## ROME TRIP

Seventeen students and three teachers set off in the dead of night to pack in as much as possible on their Classics trip to Italy. Hot off the plane, we visited Ostia Antica, and the boys showed few signs of tiredness at this little-known but fascinating site. Our hotel in Rome was close to the Vatican, and we had a good look at St. Peter's on the Sunday morning, before walking across the city to the Pantheon, and eventually to the Colosseum and Forum.



On the way out of Rome, we visited the very moving Catacombs of St. Callixtus, before heading south; we had a lunch at a lovely trattoria, before arriving at Herculaneum, smaller, but arguably more impressive than Pompeii. A last-minute change meant an upgrade to a rather nice hotel in Sorrento. We climbed Vesuvius the following morning before visiting another hidden gem, the Villa at Oplontis, and then moving on to Pompeii. On our final day, we drove further south, to Paestum, to see magnificent Greek temples in an Italian landscape. My thanks to Mrs Grant and Mr Michel and, of course, to all the boys, especially for their attempts to speak Italian.

**Mr Walsh, Trip leader**



## NEW ZEALAND TRIP

On Saturday 7th October, sixteen Year 8 and 9 pupils departed for New Zealand as part of a school exchange with St Peter's College, Gore, accompanied by Miss Gatt and Dr Robinson. [Read more.](#)

**Miss Gatt, Trip Leader**



# AND BEYOND...

## BIOLOGY TRIP

As part of the Year 13 A Level Biology course, the Biology Department were pleased to take thirteen students on the Biology field trip to Preston Montford in Shropshire for part of the October half-term. An account of the trip has been written by Jess Neuberg, a Year 13 student who attended the trip. [Read more.](#)



## CYBER SECURITY: SMALLPEICE

After attending a four-day cybersecurity course for teachers during the summer, it was made apparent to all present that this strand of computer science was not being followed, or noticed, by students at our schools. The course was run by people who have worked for, and in some instances, continue to work for: GCHQ, NCA, MI5 and other security companies.

The Smallpeice Trust is offering FREE places to Year 7, 8 and 9 students to attend this CyberFirst Adventurers course with a parent/guardian.

CyberFirst Adventurers is a free one-day course aimed at students in Year 7, 8 and 9 who have not yet made their GCSE choices and their parents/guardians. [Click here to read more.](#)

## SPITFIRE PROJECT

[Click here to view](#) Bulletin No15 of our exciting Spitfire Project.

**Mr Berry, Head of Art**





# AND BEYOND...

## PARENT LETTERS

This is the section where you will find Parent letters which are on the **Parent Portal** on the school website (for which you will need to click on the appropriate link on the right hand side and enter the password).

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We are looking forward to the Bicester trip on Tuesday 14th November. If you are attending the event, please park on the grass to the right of the main drive, to avoid congestion throughout the school day.



**Unfortunately, we will be cancelling the Gin Tasting event, on Wednesday 15th November. Apologies for any inconvenience.**

Tickets for the PA Decadence Ball, on Saturday 16th December, are selling fast. Please purchase your tickets from Senior School Reception. Also, please note that you can make a saving with prepaid wine orders. Senior School parents, please collect your raffle tickets to support the event from either the Senior or Prep School Reception.

## PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)

Please sell these on to family and friends and return money and stubs to the Prep School Reception. Any donations towards the raffle would be gratefully received. Please liaise with your Year Representative.



The PA will be decorating the Chapel on Saturday 2nd December, from 9.00am until 12.00 noon. Please come along with a bag of greenery and some secateurs, to assist in decorating the Chapel and the Refectory in preparation for the Christmas events.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Parents' Association events.

**Alison Etty and Sasha Bruiners**  
Joint PA Chair



Prep School



Ratcliffe College



Our Facebook



Sport



Boarding