



Dear Parents,

May I wish you and your families a Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and enjoyed time with your family and friends. It has been

wonderful to welcome your children back to School this week and I know that many of them (and you) were also pleased to get back into routines.

I must say it was a bit of a shock to the system for some students on Monday morning as our singing was somewhat below par during our Senior School Mass as we celebrated the new term and the baptism of our Lord. You will not be surprised to learn that the volume of the students steadily increased as the day went on and, by lunchtime, the College had regained its warm glow and was buzzing with energy as the chatter and laughter of young people filled its classrooms and corridors once more. It really is great to have the community back together.

Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising such a splendid Decadence Ball on the first Saturday of the Christmas holiday. The Refectory was resplendent in gold and black decorations. I am delighted to report that over £2000 was raised on the evening, money which will be used to support your children's education in the future.

Thank you to all those parents who attended and contributed to such a successful evening. Mrs Etty and Mrs Bruiners have also written about this in the PA section of this newsletter.

Students from Years 10-13 enjoyed a fantastic, albeit very cold, History and DT trip to Berlin during the first week of the holiday. The group had a very busy itinerary during their stay, visiting a variety of museums as well as check-point Charlie, the remains of the old Berlin wall and various galleries to support their studies. To read more please [click here](#).



Before the College finally shut down for Christmas, there was a wonderful turnout of families at Carols by Candlelight and Mass on Christmas Eve in our beautiful Chapel. Our thanks to Father Philip and the Chaplaincy and Catering teams for all their hard work and, in particular, Mrs Alex Slack, from the Ratcliffian Association, who co-ordinated the event so well ensuring children and parents had a memorable start to the festive season.



The Spring Term heralds new beginnings for us all as we say farewell to 2017 and welcome the New Year. There is so much to look forward to for the students across the College both in and out of the classroom over the coming weeks. In my reflection to the Senior School students in Headmaster's Assembly, I challenged everyone to reflect on the past year and to consider making positive resolutions for the future. Taking time to reflect on the past is so important if we want to lead happy lives. Not only should we reflect on our past ways, but we should also listen to the advice of those closest to us: our parents, grandparents, friends and yes, even our teachers! In particular, I encouraged the students to value the experience of others and listen to what they have to say as their knowledge can help guide their futures.



An old Chinese proverb has this to say about those who have experienced things we have yet to go through, "to know the road ahead, ask those coming back". I hope that we all feel able to draw upon the wealth of experience of those around us and, in times of need, offer our advice and support in return.

As a College, we are so fortunate to have a community that is so willing to share their gifts and talents with one another. So, as we reflect on the past and consider new paths for the future, never be too shy or too proud to ask for help or advice; after all, supporting one another is what our community does best.

I look forward to meeting many of you on the touchline or at an event in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I wish you and your families well for the week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.

Please can I encourage you to read the Spring Term Calendar and make a note in your diary of the key events for your child this term. We will, of course, send you reminders for many events in due course. I would like to draw your attention to the following dates this term:-

Monday 15th January – Year 9 GCSE Options Evening, Theatre and Rosmini Sixth Form Centre – 6.30pm

Wednesday 31st January – Parent Café, 'Emotional Health', Mr Jeremy Thomas (Guest Speaker), Old Library – 5.30pm

Friday 9th February – Casuals Day in aid of CAFOD (£1 donation per student)

Saturday 24th February – Primary Schools' Cross-Country Meeting – 9.00am-12.00pm, Ratcliffe College

Saturday 24th February – Parents' Association Quiz and Curry Night – 7.30pm – 10.30pm

Monday 26th February – What's Next? Information on Life After Sixth Form for Parents and Students, Years 11-13, Theatre and Sixth Form Centre – 7.00pm

Saturday 10th March – Open Morning – 9.30am-12.00pm

Saturday 17th March – Parents' Association Spring Fair – 11.00am-3.00pm

Wednesday 21st March – Sports Presentation Evening, Sports Hall – 7.00pm

Thursday 22nd March – Senior School House Music Competition, Sports Hall – 2.00pm (students only)



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Welcome back! I hope Christmas was a blessed time for you and your families, and that the New Year is full of blessings. The celebrations in school to finish the term were vibrant and uplifting, as we dined in honour of Our Lady during the Immaculate Conception celebrations, held a Carol Service on the last day of term, and of course enjoyed the House Drama competition. Many thanks from the Chaplaincy Team to all students who participated, and of course to the parents who so beautifully decorated our Church. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an account of our beautiful Christmas Eve Mass. [Click here to read full article.](#)



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

Achievement Awards

Merit Badge

YEAR 7

Connie Colville Sophie Leighton
Sophie Packwood Sophie Shield

YEAR 8

Grace Karanja Wilfred Milner
Tristan Turner Victoria Wheatley

YEAR 9

Nigel Denham Beth Pick
Annie Rose Reddin Marley Totten

BUSINESS LANGUAGE CHAMPIONS

“The war of the words” French debating challenge,
Friday 8th December 2017



On Friday 8th December, four Year 12 students: Hebe Jackson, Sarah Astill, Molly Edwards and Olivia Delargy, took part in a French debating competition at Stamford school. [Click here to read the article.](#)



Merit Shield

YEAR 7

Katherine McCrindell Sophie Walker

YEAR 8

James Clark-Pratt Amelia Tebbutt

YEAR 9

Elise Atkinson Dominic Goodman

Achievement Voucher I

YEAR 10

Samantha Diaz Eva Hluchan
Krishnan Jivanji Yasmina Lock
Osuji Ihuoma Eleanor Shaw

YEAR 11

Eddy Robinson

YEAR 12

Isobel Coombs Dennis Ding
Steven Lai

YEAR 13

Annie Bridgwater



On 6th October 2017, myself and a crew from Boats.co.uk took a group of 10 boats on a flotilla from Cala d'Or, on the southeast side of Mallorca to Ibiza. [Click here to read the full article](#) by Ben Dexter.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 5

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Evie Ashford | Francesca Atkinson |
| Ruby Doran | Isabella Elsby |
| Andres Kassner | Tom Lander-Belfie |
| Freya Mackay | Isobel McCall |
| James Packwood | Joshua Smellie |
| Alexander Whitelaw | |

YEAR 4

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Alfie Hodges | Reece Holder |
|--------------|--------------|

SECOND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 6

Thomas Giles
Ernie Hoggard
Millie Lake

YEAR 5

Zara ETTY

YEAR 1

Freddie Blake-Smith
Riley Donegan
Martha Gallacher
Spencer Hampson
Nia Hughes
Rahul Khoda
Grace Martin
James Proctor
Francesca Tuccy

Malachy Desmond-Ainge
Matilda ETTY
Ewurama Gyesi-Appiah
Sebastian Hesketh
Amaira Khan
Rose Lander-Belfie
Vir Patel
Navraj Sidhu
Henry Tuckwell

Well done to the following pupils who all received excellent results in their recent LAMDA examinations:

SPEAKING VERSE AND PROSE ENTRY

LEVEL: Freddie Moores, Edgar Wilson, Rosanna Wilson, Coral Kairamkonda, Deeya Tailor, Sophia Alexander, Henry-Maher Stillman, Romy Totton, Olivia Lynch.

ACTING ENTRY LEVEL - SOLO:

Florence Newham, Francesca Atkinson, Katie Bradley, Lydia Haggis, Millie Lake, Rebecca Bloor.

ACTING GRADE 1 - SOLO:

Anabelle Hull

GROUP ACTING ENTRY GRADE:

Eva Perry, Thomas Giles, Rebecca Dowding, Kerry Wells, Megha Thakrar, Zara ETTY, Evie Ashford, Lily Grieff-Liggins-Mulvey, Sophia Hull, Mollie Hunt, Arabella Wilson, Isabella Westwood.

SOLO INTRODUCTION STAGE TWO:

Matilda ETTY, Sebastian Hesketh, James Proctor, Navraj Sidhu, Rahul Khoda, Martha Gallacher.

SOLO INTRODUCTION STAGE THREE:

Maahi Patel, Edward Karanga, Constance Bowden.

CHORAL-SPEAKING GRADE 1 YEAR 4:

Samuel Giles, Lola Gallacher, Freya Smith, Phoebe Smith, Max Kew, Thomas Bloor, Leo Gabriel, Samuel Traynor.

SPEAKING VERSE AND PROSE GRADE 1:

Harry Clark.

GROUP INTRODUCTORY STAGE TWO: NEW YEAR IN CHINA TOWN

Easher Austin, Joseph Bradley, Max Cottingham, Marcus Singh, Tyler Rutherford, Oreon Patel.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

SAMUEL LEAKE, YEAR 6

Has been selected to represent Leicestershire in the Under 13's County Hockey Squad. He received a squad hoodie which is to be worn as part of the hockey kit on training and match days.

TABITHA KYLE, YEAR 6

Had an excellent time competing over the Christmas break, winning classes at Southview and Keysoe competition centres. The pinnacle of the year was winning the 138cm championship at Liverpool International Horse Show on New Year's Eve.

TOM LANDER-BELFIE, YEAR 5

Was named 'Man of the Match' on Sunday for Syston Town Football Club beating Desford 8-0.

ZARA ETTY, YEAR 5

Passed her Primary Tap examination with Honours.

ISHA SIDHU, YEAR 4

Achieved her 50 metre swimming award.

EMILY WOODLEY, YEAR 4

Passed the following dancing examinations: Freestyle (Gold) - Highly Commended, Salsa (Bronze) - Honours and Ballroom Dancing (Silver) - Honours.

FREDDIE POUTCH, YEAR 3

Received his 800m Swimming Award from Ratcliffe College Private Swimming Lessons.

TALLULAH JOHNSON-MAYES, YEAR 3

Received her Level 1 and Level 2 Gymnastics Award from Loughborough Academy.

DIYA PATEL, YEAR 3

Received her Advanced Student Honour Roll Level 1 Trophy and Certificate from Kumon.

MAAHI PATEL, YEAR 2

Achieved her 'Water Skills' swimming certificate.

MATILDA ETTY, YEAR 1

Passed her Preparatory Modern Jazz examination with Honours.



CHAPLAINCY

This year's candlelit Christmas Eve Mass proved a particularly atmospheric beginning to the liturgical celebrations at the earlier time of 5pm. It was well attended by current school families, Old Ratcliffians and the wider community. Everyone was given a candle when they entered and the lighting in the church looked beautiful. With particular emphasis on this being a family service, some of our current younger students were encouraged to dress as nativity characters which was a beautiful sight.



The capable guidance of narrator, Father President, Phillip Sainter, helped them re-enact the gospel story beautifully. With over 350 people that attended, it sure made everyone get into the Christmas Spirit. Afterwards the congregation joined together in the Refectory for festive refreshments. The Mass is an annual event in the School's calendar and all are welcome to attend.

Sarah Elsby, Parent.



COMBINED CADET FORCE

The CCF have planned to visit the DEMS Regiment in Bicester on 21st January where the cadets will experience how to carry out our search and rescue techniques using night vision equipment and metal detectors.

On Thursday 25th January, there is a visit to 'Meet the Marines' when the cadets will gain an insight into how the Royal Marines operate in a very hands-on way. The RAF section also have two Air Experience slots this term, so we hope the weather is kind to us to enable this fantastic training to go ahead. We also have training on 25th February for the senior cadets at Chilwell and training for the recruits at Ratcliffe College.

During the Easter break, 18 cadets will travel to the South of France to carry out some Adventure Training: kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding on the River Ardèche.

Lt Col Balmbra, OC CCF



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to our successful Silver and Bronze Award recipients:-

Silver: Matthew Baker and Billy Wheatley

Bronze: Jake Kirkby, Dempsey Mayne and Luke Millett



We are back to training after the Christmas break with groups working on a mixture of route planning and practical activities. This week, the Bronze participants continued their practical training with the usual mix of classes on first aid, equipment and camping stoves. The silver participants learnt some first aid just before Christmas and are now back to working on expedition planning. The Gold participants have nearly finished their planning for our Easter trip to the Brecon Beacons and will soon start working on their assessed expedition.

This week, I emailed progress updates home to parents of anybody in school who has not yet fully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (including new starters), so please let me know if you did not receive your e-mail.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

DRAMA

The House Drama Competition took place on the last day of the Autumn Term. [Click here to read more.](#)



SPORT



Please find the link to our weekly Sports Reports below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA

The Drama Department started the term with a trip to Birmingham Rep to see 101 Dalmations. Both students and staff were highly entertained by the very clever, energetic production.

Click [here to read reports](#) from Holly Clark-Pratt and Ewan Metcalfe.

Miss Monk, Head of Drama.



MUSIC

The following students have passed their ABRSM examinations:

| Name | Subject & Grade | Result |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Easher Austin | Piano Prep Test | |
| Isabella Boothroyd | Flute 1 | Pass |
| Abigale Cole | Piano Prep Test | |
| Harriet Sykes | Flute 1 | Merit |
| Grace Linnett | Flute 1 | Pass |
| Shreya Mistry | Piano 1 | Merit |
| Osuji Ihuoma | Piano 5 | Distinction |

Congratulations to all those who took practical music examinations last term. It is really wonderful to see that the time and effort you put into the preparation has resulted in such a healthy set of results once again. [Click here to see a full table](#) of these students' examination results:

*Ratcliffe College Music
Department*

Scholars' Concert

*Tuesday 30 January
5.30-6.10pm
Old Library*

*Free entrance & refreshments
served afterwards*



CLOSE HARMONY GROUP



AND BEYOND...



OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT 2018, SATURDAY 24TH MARCH, 7.00PM

The evening promises an exciting new programme of singers from Covent Garden, along with performances by Ratcliffe College Music Scholars

In aid of Ratcliffe College Music Scholarship

Tickets are available from Mrs Govan (cgovan@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk), £45 per ticket.



STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



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 below and enter the password).

Posted on the Parents' Portal This fortnight are the following letters/items of information:-

YEAR 10

Geography Compulsory Fieldwork Residential

YEARS 13

English Trip to see Hamlet

PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would like to thank everyone involved with the Decadence Ball 2018. It was fantastic to see everyone having a fantastic night, letting their hair down, at the end of a very busy term. Thank you to everyone who supported the event through purchasing raffle tickets and donating prizes for both the raffle and the auction, which on the night raised over £2100. We look forward to the next PA meeting on Tuesday 16th January 2018, 7.30pm in the Conference Room, to find out the final amount raised, overall from the Decadence Ball.

Forthcoming PA Events dates:

QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT

Saturday 24th February, 7.30pm – 10.00pm
A fun-filled quiz evening testing every skill level! Tickets will be on sale soon.

SPRING FAIR

Saturday 17th March, 11.00am - 3.00pm
Looking forward to lots of stalls, games, balloon modelling, hog roast and lots more!!

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Alison Ety and Sasha Bruiners
Joint PA Chair

