



HEAD-LINE NEWS



Dear Parents,

Is it really half-term already? Where have the past six weeks gone? I'm sure that many of you, like me, can't quite believe the October half-term has arrived. It has

been another breath taking six weeks where our community has achieved so much. Thank you for your support of your children over these first few weeks of the academic year.

Much has happened since the last edition of the newsletter. Our CCF contingent enjoyed a fantastic camp at Swynnerton while our Gold DofE students made the most of their training day in Bradgate Park, our sports teams enjoyed notable successes in their inter-school fixtures and A Level and GCSE Drama students enjoyed trips to Nottingham Playhouse and Curve, respectively.

The Chaplaincy Team has also been busy sending our wonderful Harvest offering to the Carpenter's Arms, as well as joining together for a soup lunch in aid of CAFOD and an own-clothes day to raise money for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Catch-up on some of the news from these trips under the 'Big Six' section of this newsletter.

We were delighted to host the Ratcliffe College Public Speaking Championship on Sunday 1st October. This event crackled with excitement as the six competitors from three schools went head-to-head with some memorable speeches. Read more about this new initiative and who was crowned champion for 2017 under the 'And Beyond' section of this newsletter.

My sincere thanks to Mr Benjamin, Head of Debating and Public Speaking and his team of staff for his foresight, energy and passion in bringing our collective vision to life. We have enjoyed so many wonderful debates this half-term too, which reached its zenith last Saturday at our Open Morning where our students participated in a charged debate, 'Is hate speech free speech.' All those present left invigorated by what they had witnessed, questioning their own position on free speech, such was the quality of the debate! Read more about this and the fantastic Model United Nations trip and Year 12 Geography Field trip to Snowdonia later in this newsletter or by clicking the full articles.



Open Morning was an affirming experience for everyone. It continues to be one of my favourite days in the College calendar.

Thank you to all the parents who supported their children in helping them to showcase their school so well. Our students really do love their school, and they are our best ambassadors and marketers. We welcomed 102 families, 76 in the Senior School and 26 in the Preparatory School.



Thank you for your support of our Parents' Evenings over the past two weeks for Years Cygnets, Swans, 1, 2, 7 and 13. I hope that you found these occasions useful in understanding better your child's academic progress. Please do make sure that, where appropriate, you access your child's Study Grades via the new Studies Grade App. [Click here for the letter.](#)



I would like to draw your attention to the forthcoming Year 11 mock examinations starting on Monday 13th November (until Tuesday 21st November inclusive). In case you are not aware, your children received a copy (via e-mail) of their timetable on Monday 9th October and this is also available on the website and parent portal.

The Nursery, Preparatory School and Senior School sparkled, and I would like to publicly thank all our staff, teaching and support, who worked so hard in the lead up to, and on the day itself, to ensure that we made a positive and lasting impression on our visitors.

Our youngest children have been out and about with trips to the Warning Zone, a Roman Fort and Perelethorpe Centre in Sherwood. These trips really do help to bring the curriculum alive in a way that classroom work simply cannot. My weekly visits to the Nursery to read a story enabled me to see first-hand the wonderful progress the children have made in their organisation, concentration and communication skills since September. Last week's story, Ronald the Javan Rhino, helped the children understand the importance of celebrating difference in our community, while also showing off their listening and observation skills – well done Cygnets and Swans!





We wish all the students participating in the trips and activities over half-term well; our CCF RAF students on a gliding experience in Syerston, our Gold DofE students on their training weekend, our artists and historians in Florence, our classicists who travel to Rome and Pompeii and our Biologists who will be studying at Preston Montford. My sincere thanks to my dedicated staff for their time and expertise in running these trips which really do bring alive our vision statement, 'Strength of Mind, Values and Purpose'. We look forward to hearing all about these trips in the next edition.

Our intrepid New Zealand exchange students have arrived safely down-under. They all look remarkably well following their 22-hour flight. We wish them a safe and happy time as they explore the wonders of this special country over half-term.

I wish you and your family a very happy half-term holiday. Whatever you may be doing over the next two weeks, I hope that you will stay safe and enjoy spending precious time with your children.



Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A growing trend this year has been student leadership of Chaplaincy and Charity events, and we are so proud to have had our Sixth Form students run the Chaplaincy Assembly these last two weeks. Megha Patel and Olivia Delargy delivered a lovely reflection on volunteering and the environment and Mr Nicholas Walsh and our Lourdes pilgrims from last summer led assembly this Friday. Our Harvest Appeal was generously supported by Preparatory and Senior School staff, students and parents.

Thank you all for your donations. As important as the acts of charity are our attitudes of charity, and it was these that were cultivated this Wednesday in our CAFOD Soup Lunch. [View our full article for more news and photographs.](#)



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

ANUJ SAVANI, YEAR 10 won the boys' Under 15 Leicestershire County Closed Squash tournament on 24th September and was runner-up in the boys' Under 17 tournament.



STAGE I FUTURECHEF 2018

Stage 1 of the annual FutureChef competition took place in the Food Technology department on Monday 9th October during prep time. The challenge was to make a main course meal for 2 people costing no more than £5 in 60 minutes.

[Read more and see the students' creations](#)

GUY GAMBLE, YEAR 8 has successfully passed his LAMDA Level 4 examination in Verse and Prose.

The following Year 8 girls have passed their Standard 3 Ballet examination which took place in the summer: Maddy Dunstan and Chelsea Makandeni gained a Pass and Elena Griffiths gained a Merit.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

TABITHA KYLE, YEAR 5

Competed at the Horse of the Year Show last Sunday having qualified during the year on three ponies. Poppy came 8th in her class and Buggy came 6th in his class; Tabitha was the youngest competitor by three years in this section!

AMÉLIE WILSON-KNIGHT, YEAR 5

Took part in the British Theatre Dance Association Home Counties Championship and was awarded the Home Counties Junior Champion trophy for her Madeiran Clapping Dance and the Home Counties Junior Runner up trophy for her song and dance 'Truly Scrumptious'. She is now through to the National Championship finals in November. Amélie was also successful at audition and is to perform as a junior troupe dancer in the Little Theatre's production of Dick Whittington over the Christmas season.



SOPHIA ALEXANDER, YEAR 4

Achieved her Level 4 British Gymnastics proficiency award.



CHAPLAINCY



Ratcliffe College Mother Teresa Group

Please help...

We would welcome donations of old clothing and shoes. You can drop these into the Mother Teresa basket in the Church corridor opposite the Medical Department.

We will sort them into gender/age groups and donate these to local charities.

In the last year, your unwanted goods have raised £2450 for LOROS. Thank you ... and keep on sending us your old clothes!

Mrs S Clarke



During their Religion, Philosophy & Ethics session, Year 12 gave thought to the plight of farmers in third world countries. They heard stories of communities in El Salvador, who are growing their way out of poverty thanks to the work of CAFOD (Catholic Aid for Overseas Development). Students considered the saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." At Wednesday's Soup Lunch, students raised awareness of CAFOD, and approximately 100 students and staff gave up their Ratcliffe lunch for a simple and delicious bowl of soup with bread, in solidarity with those less fortunate.

Mrs Waters, Chaplaincy Team

CCF

On 1st - 2nd October, fifty nine CCF cadets went to Swynnerton Army Training area near Stoke on Trent, where the new Year 9 recruits took part in some basic training of drill, living in the field, field craft and some rifle training. During the evening, they participated in a night navigation exercise, with Year 10 cadets taking control of the small sections. The more senior cadets continued to develop their leadership skills by assisting with taking small lessons as well as taking part in various field craft lessons to improve and develop their skills. This was particularly useful to Years 11 and 12 cadets, especially those attending the Senior Cadet Instructor Course over October half-term. There is an exciting opportunity for four RAF Cadets who are due to go gliding on Saturday 14th October at 644 Volunteer Gliding Squadron based at RAF Syerston.

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



THE BIG SIX

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to our successful Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award achievers:-

Harry Ainscough, James Berns, Oliver Foulds, Joseph Hluchan, Emiliano Orsini-Rottner, Alexander Purcell, Year 12

Jacob Dawe, James Howling, Kapil Soni, Year 11



SPORT

Congratulations to the boys' Under 13 tennis team (George Binnie, Louie Fletcher, Joe Davies and Sam Davies) who made it through to the regional finals after defeating Carre's Grammar School on Tuesday.



Over the last few weeks, expedition participants from each level have undertaken some practical navigation training. For the Bronzes, this was an initial lesson on how to relate the map to the countryside around them. The silvers had some training on measuring distance and walking on a bearing within the school grounds. The Gold groups practised using their micro-navigation techniques to locate features hidden in the bracken at Bradgate Park, such as tiny stream junctions – this is rather difficult so they did really well!

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

Please find the link to our weekly Sports Report, including our forthcoming sporting fixtures below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA

Year 12 and 13 Drama Students enjoyed a trip to Nottingham Playhouse on Friday 6th October to see 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller. Students have been studying Realism and Naturalism in Drama and we had welcomed experienced Director, Alix Manning, to run a workshop with the students prior to our visit so that they could experience some rehearsal techniques used by the actors. It was great to then see the play in action and witness superb, highly realistic and emotive performances. [Read more.](#)



Congratulations to our newly appointed Drama Ambassadors: Natasha Walsh, Sophie Dring, Louis Massarella, Tia Dhanjal, Grace Lindop and Nicole Spencer.

Miss Monk, Head of Drama

A promotional poster for the 'Last Night of the Proms Concert' at Ratcliffe College. The background features a stylized Union Jack flag. The text is written in a blue, cursive font. The poster includes the college name, the event title, the date and time, the location, and the admission details.

Ratcliffe College
Last Night of the Proms Concert
2nd November 2017 - 7.00pm
Ratcliffe College Chapel
Admission Free – Retiring Collection for the school charity



AND BEYOND...

HIGHER EDUCATION CONVENTION



A great turnout to this year's Higher Education Convention on Wednesday 4th October. Thanks to the huge number of students and parents who attended and to the thirty delegates from universities, Gap year companies and The Armed Forces for their informative contributions. [Read more.](#)

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING: THE CHAMPIONSHIP

In golf, it is simply called 'The Open.' In tennis, it is simply 'Wimbledon.' On Sunday 1st October 'The Championship' etched its name in Ratcliffe stone. The Public Speaking Championship stood at the fulcrum of the school community with a backdrop scored by classically trained musicians and artists displaying etchings and oils on canvas.

[Read the full article.](#)

HOUSE CONKERS COMPETITION

On Friday 29th September, students and staff took part in the Ratcliffe House Conkers Competition. The winning House, scoring a total of 10 victories, was Emery, closely followed by De Lisle with 9 victories. In third place, came Arundel with 8 victories, leaving Leetham in last place with 2 victories.



The champion conker staff player was Mr Spencer of Arundel, who won on 7 separate occasions. The champion conker student player was Zoe Howling of De Lisle, who also managed to win on 7 occasions. In second place came Daisy Reddin of Emery, whose incredible lasso technique earned 6 wins, including a famous victory against Mr Reddin.



Well done to all the students and staff who took part.

Mr Chorley, Head of Science



AND BEYOND...

ART

The Art Department was thrilled to be asked by Mr Benjamin to put up a display in the Old Library as part of the Public Speaking Championship held at Ratcliffe College on Sunday 1st October. There is a lot of essential standing around at such events. Time is required for leisurely introductions, ramping up competitive tension and for adjudicators to make their deliberations. Having the conversation pieces of artwork and music on hand, made the time very easy, added an extra dimension to the event and quickly turned strangers into friends.

old library

Mrs Bradshaw, Art Technician



MODEL UNITED NATIONS: CHEADLE HULME

Last Saturday, at the crack of dawn, twelve students accompanied by Mr Box and Miss Spencer embarked upon a weekend of intellectual debate.



Ratcliffe students were prepared with resolutions and notes to represent Syria and Pakistan on various committees including Human Rights, Health, Disarmament Youth, Environment and Women. After lobbying for resolutions, the delegates got down to the debating. Being the first time that Ratcliffe had attended this Conference, students were naturally a little nervous and also with a very young team of largely Year 10 and 11 students, it took some time to get into the swing of debate procedure. Nevertheless, the students should be commended on increasingly becoming involved in their committees and contributing to some fascinating debates. A special mention to Molly Edwards (the Ambassador of Syria) who was recognised at the end of the conference as a highly commended delegate.

Mr Cantrill, Head of History



AND BEYOND...

A SNOWDONIAN EXPERIENCE

Year 13 Geography students completed an enjoyable and successful field course (between Friday 6th and Monday 9th October), based at Rhyd-y-Creuau Field Studies Centre near Betws-y-Coed where they investigated glacial processes and the water and carbon cycles.

Friday afternoon consisted of a visit to Cwm Idwal to gain an appreciation for upland glacial landscapes before their first full investigation on Saturday, exploring lowland glacial landscapes and conducting till analysis on the coast. Sunday's investigation focused on carbon storage, with the students collecting data in a peat bog high on the Welsh moors before visiting woodland to conduct surveys of carbon storage in trees.



Monday morning allowed students to develop data collection skills based on the water cycle. The students worked very hard and developed their fieldwork and analytical skills, working well as a team and collecting useful data. Mr Lambert, Mr Dziemianko and Mrs Arnold were all impressed by the positive work ethic and attitude of the students in all weather!

Mr Lambert, Head of Geography

SCHOLARSHIPS

New Scholarships for entry into Years 7 and 12 for September 2018:

If you are a parent of a child in current Years 6 or 11, may I remind you about the Ratcliffe College Talent Scholarships, which are available for entry into Years 7 and 12 in September 2018.

We offer a range of talent scholarships - Academic, Sport, Creative: Art and Design, Drama, Music, and All-Rounder (in Year 7 only) now worth up to 50% off the School fee.

If you wish to apply, please contact our Registrar's Department on 01509 817072 / 817031 or email: registrar@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk for an application form.

The deadline for scholarship applications is Friday 24th November 2017, a date to which must be strictly adhered. No late applications can be considered.

[Click here for more information](#)



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).

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

Year 11 Work Experience

PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

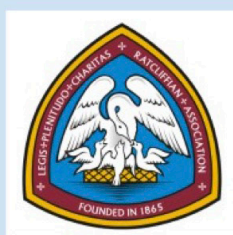
[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)

Do you own a business?

Would you like the opportunity to promote it to 2,400 people in the Old Ratcliffian/Alumni community?

We can provide your business with valuable exposure to successful like-minded Old Ratcliffians.



By placing an advert in our Old Ratcliffian Magazine, not only are you supporting the publication, you are also promoting your business in front of our members from the ages of 18 – 95 years of age, with whom you already have something in common.

The Ratcliffian Magazine is circulated to 2,000 Old Ratcliffians, of which, 1,400 are based in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire and 650 are spread across the UK. We also post the magazine out to over 350 overseas addresses. **Note** - of this population 74% of those surveyed in 2015 confirmed that they look forward to reading this free publication.

We only have 12 spaces available in the 2017 edition and 5 of these are taken already.

For more information on how to advertise as well as the cost and how you can track your advert, please call Alex Slack on 01509 817054 or email aslack@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk



Prep School



Ratcliffe College



Our Facebook



Sport



Boarding