



15th December 2017

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have enjoyed a fantastic Autumn Term, at the centre of which have been our Vision statement, *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose*,

drawing upon our inspirational Mission Statement. The carol services (with the exception of the Annual Community Carol Service which had to be cancelled due to the snow!) and nativity plays have been an absolute delight to attend, providing a most fitting and uplifting conclusion to the term. I would like to thank all the parents, guardians, students, staff and governors for their continued support.

THE RATCLIFFIAN

Ido hope that you enjoy reading this year's edition of The Ratcliffian which encapsulates our School motto: *Legis Plenitudo Caritas*, Love is the fulfilment of the Law. Turning each page, there is so much to excite the reader and to be proud of. Our students continue to astound us with their gifts and talents. Success in academic departments as well as the wonderful array of extra-curricular activities on offer across the College, including sport, music, drama, CCF, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Chaplaincy and local community projects, leap out from every page. Please do take time to sit and enjoy your copy and then pass it on to your friends and family, and share with them a taste of Ratcliffe life.

PREPARATIONS FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

In the depths of winter, summer Public Examinations may seem a long way off. However, it is essential that all candidates prepare as thoroughly as possible, taking the long-term view and maintaining a sustained effort; it is very much a marathon and not a sprint. In particular, I would wish to encourage Year 12 students to prepare thoroughly over the holiday period for their internal assessments (commencing on 15th of January) and Year 13 students to make full use of their mock examinations after half-term (commencing on 19th of February), to maintain their momentum.

They can do this not only by undertaking thorough revision, but also by completing set examination style questions to help them to hone their examination technique. Following their mock examinations, it is absolutely critical that Year 11 students continue to keep the momentum going with their work in the New Year. Now is the time to make the sacrifices necessary for examination success in the summer. Therefore, I encourage Year 11 to use some of their holiday to review files and exercise books to ensure that there are no gaps in their notes, while also making lists of topics that may require further clarification on or help with from their teachers. On their return in January, students can seek appropriate support.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

There have been so many highlights this term, much of which has been reported on within the fortnightly College e-newsletter, Head-Lines. However, I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to the Preparatory School for their wonderfully imaginative and informative class assemblies this term. I am always so impressed by the variety of topics and the confidence of the children as they perform for their peers and their parents each week.

Our youngest children should also be applauded for their support of a variety of charities this term as well as their beautiful singing in assemblies and the recent carol services. Their performance at John Lewis in Leicester High Cross was also very well-received.

The Preparatory School string orchestra is bursting at the seams with over 20 musicians, and we have enjoyed some wonderful performances by the children. On the sports field, Mr Faulconbridge and Miss Stanley have been overwhelmed by the children's positive attitude to training and fixtures, culminating in a number of excellent results.

In the Senior School, Mr Benjamin, Head of Public Speaking and Debate, is deserving of special mention for the excellent lunchtime debates that routinely attract over 50 students each week. It is so affirming to witness students from across the year groups exchange views on the real issues of our time. Those who may flippantly describe teenagers as monosyllabic hermits who grunt, eat and sleep, should come and listen to our weekly debates. Our young people are quick-witted, politically and socially aware, sensitive and funny. They listen and consider. They have original ideas and they articulate their views with passion. The term began with several House and Year Group debates and public speaking events, culminating in the Ratcliffe College Public Speaking Championship in October. We finished yesterday with a rousing

debate for Years 11-13, 'Is the Monarchy relevant?' If your son or daughter has yet to sample Debate Club, please encourage him/her to make this a New Year resolution, as who knows where it might lead?

The Last Night of the Proms was a superb evening of music-making in the Senior School. The Senior School choirs and orchestras have leant wonderful support to our end of term Christmas celebrations. The Musical Theatre group continues to grow, and we are looking forward to seeing them perform in the Spring Term. Please do encourage your children to take up an instrument, join one of our choirs or bands. Music is such great fun, and you are never too old to start. Indeed, the Sixth Form Close Harmony group, under the expert guidance of Mr Neville, is living proof that, with 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration, wonderful things can be achieved.

In the House Drama Competition, our four Houses have dramatised extracts from some of Roald Dahl's most popular stories, cast from students across the year groups from Year 7 to Sixth Form. A number of our talented sixth formers took the lead as directors, shaping the scripts and organising rehearsals. De Lisle started proceedings with an entertaining extract from The Twits with Anna Williams and Louis Massarella enthusiastically leading the Mugglewump family. Leetham produced a humorous extract from James and The Giant Peach with a large number of performers across the year groups even managing to take the audience to the stone of the giant peach with their clever staging by director Natasha Walsh! Emery then gave an action packed performance from The Fantastic Mr Fox who battled the very funny farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean, led by Jack Vinall. This was followed by a by a wonderful introduction to Charlie and The Chocolate Factory showcasing some outstanding performances by Arundel.



Thank you to House Guardians, Mr Seth, Mr T. Walsh, Mr N. Walsh, Mr McCall and their team of Sixth Form House Captain and helpers who worked so hard to produce such polished performances from the students.

Exciting dramatic events to look forward to in the Spring Term will include: Year 8 proudly presenting pantomime havoc on Thursday 1st February, 5.00pm and 7.00pm in the Theatre (all welcome, no tickets required). Year 11 will then be performing short extracts from a variety of plays including John Godber's 'Bouncers and Shakers', duologues from 'Two' by Jim Cartwright and short scenes from 'Journey's End' by R. C. Sherriff and the black comedy, intriguingly titled 'The Woman who Cooked her Husband'. These are due to be performed on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd February with the time yet to be confirmed by the examiner who will attend. Tickets will be available from Reception at the start of term.

Later in the term, we will have a performance from 'Faustus' accompanied by a devised piece on the theme of 'Freedom' by our extremely talented Year 13 students along with Year 12's re-interpreted extracts from Caroline Bird's version of 'The Trojan Women'.

WEEKLY AND PART-TIME BOARDING

We are delighted to have seen many of our 'day' students in boarding throughout the term, and they all seem to have enjoyed the experience. The students have been able to benefit from the company of peers, the mentoring and support of staff during the mid-week evenings, and immediate access to the learning and recreational facilities which the School has to offer during the week in boarding time.

Owing to the popularity of Weekly and Part-Time Boarding, there are now fewer vacancies available. I would urge anyone who is considering either option to inform the School as soon as possible so that we can, hopefully, accommodate your requests.

We recently invited all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to complete the 'Ratcliffe Experience' and sign up for a 5-week period for either two or three nights per week. If you would like your son or daughter to take part in this boarding experience, please contact Mrs Jo Leite (Head of Boarding) or Mr Philip Gilchrist (Senior Housemaster) who will be pleased to book this in for you. This experience can take place in either the Spring or Summer Term.

Girls' Boarding: jleite@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk;
Boys' Boarding: pgilchrist@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk

Looking ahead to next term, boarding students should return to School between 12.00 noon and 4.00pm on Sunday 7th January. We appreciate that flight times will mean that some Boarders will arrive at School on Sunday morning.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS TO DATE

We have just hit £10,000 which is amazing.

CHARITY	AMOUNT RAISED
CAFOD	6.60
DOVE COTTAGE HOSPICE	90.00
HOSANNA HOUSE PILGRIMAGE TRUST	1293.42
LUSHOTO	715.29
MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH	1220.80
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD	4410.00
THE CARPENTER'S ARMS	1450.00
THE DIVINE INFANT OF PRAGUE,	
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, SYSTON	75.00
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	383.56
THE STOREHOUSE,	
MELTON MOWBRAY	200.00
TILINANU ORPHANAGE	155.45

Total Raised for Charity so far	
2017-2018	10000.12



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS WITH CAROLS

This year, we are celebrating the extremely popular Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday 24th December at **5.00pm**. It is very much a family service and, this year, we will be inviting the younger children to participate in the Christmas story. Everyone is welcome. Following the service, seasonal refreshments will be served. Please note that there will be no Midnight or Christmas morning Masses in the Ratcliffe College Chapel.

FAREWELL, MRS RANKINE

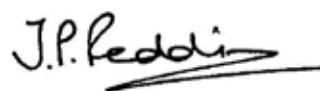
This week, the College bid farewell to Mrs Rankine following 20 years of outstanding service. Many students who are now in the Senior School visited Mrs Rankine in the Nursery this week to thank her for giving them such a wonderful start to their education. The children in the Nursery and the Preparatory School, together with parents and staff, had the opportunity to say goodbye at the Preparatory School Christingle Service on Wednesday.

The College will be forever thankful that so many children have had the benefit of her gifts and talents as a teacher. Our community has been truly blessed by her presence in our school. We wish Mrs Rankine the best of health and every happiness in her retirement; no-one deserves it more.

Trustees, Governors, Teaching and Support Staff join me in wishing you and your families a blessed, peaceful and very happy Christmas, and a joyful New Year of good health and happiness.

With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.



CONGRATULATIONS TO EMERY, WINNERS OF THE HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE OF FANTASTIC MR FOX.



Prep School



Ratcliffe College



Our Facebook



Sport



Boarding

May God Bless You
and your family
Happy Christmas



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE



Nativity



'Immac' Celebrations



Debate



Senior Carol Service



Christingle



Christmas Lunch



A Visit from Santa



Carol Singing
in John Lewis



Sixth Form Close Harmony



Christmas Jumpers



Carols By Candlelight

