



# RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## HEAD-LINES



**W**elcome to the 5th edition of Head-Lines. As the month of November begins to draw to a close, our thoughts begin to turn to the end of term and the end of the liturgical year this coming Sunday, when we celebrate the feast of Christ the King

before our attention shifts to Advent and Christmas.

**N**ovember can be a challenging month. Interestingly, it is the only point in the calendar year when students are in school for the entire month and coincides with the coming of shorter hours of daylight and falling temperatures. Academically, departments beaver away to cover all-important syllabuses, with staff and students working at full capacity both in and out of the classroom.

**F**or students in Year 11 and their teachers, mock GCSE examinations and reports have dominated proceedings. November is a month characterised by hard work and long hours requiring determination, commitment and resilience. It is a time to fully commit to the task at hand and to stay the course in the knowledge that, what follows, is an opportunity to reap the rewards of our labour in the warm embrace and excitement of Christmas preparations. It is a time when we draw inspiration from our vision statement – *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose*.



GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING, 22ND NOVEMBER

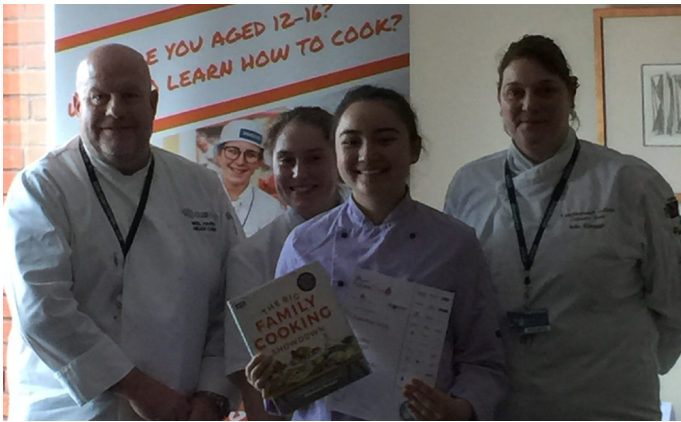
**S**o, as we complete the tenth week of the academic year and surge towards the season of Advent, there is much to look back on and to be proud of during November, as well as a great deal to look forward to as December beckons.

**O**ur sports teams continue to show outstanding commitment and determination whichever sport they play. Regardless of the result, I am so very proud of all the students who give so generously and willingly of their time and skill to represent the College after school and at weekends. Please do enjoy reading our sports reports under The Big Six. A huge thank you to you, the parent body, who support the students, come rain or shine. Your presence on the touchlines means so much to the students and the staff. I hope many of you have enjoyed a warming cup of coffee or tea courtesy of our new Ratcliffe coffee van, which has been well-received.

**M**any students across the College took their LAMDA examinations last Sunday and we look forward to receiving their results in due course.



**C**ongratulations to Yasmina Lock, Year 10, who won through to the final of this year's FutureChef competition, winning the second round. Congratulations also to Charlotte Langford who secured 4th place overall. [Click here to read more.](#)



**O**ur talented art scholar students have produced a fantastic display of their work which is now adorning the walls of the Art Department corridor, so do please visit the Department to look at it.

**O**n the academic front, we congratulated Year 10 students on passing their European Computer Drivers Licence (ECDL) with a presentation ceremony where students received their certificates as well as a well-deserved pain au chocolat. [Click here to read more.](#)



**W**e also saluted the achievements of a small but talented group of Year 10 French linguists who were victorious in the Business Language School event – félicitations! [Click here to read more.](#) as well as formally congratulating our Year 12 students for their GCSE success at the GCSE Presentation Evening.

**N**ational anti-bullying week is celebrated in November. Students in the Preparatory School and the Senior School were engaged in a variety of activities, ranging from assemblies, mini-plays, discussions and role plays, to reinforce the message that we are a listening school and that we must always show kindness to others and always report bullying type behaviour.

**W**e welcomed parents to our parent café on anti-bullying, led by Breaking the Cycle, who also led many of our PSHCE sessions on the same theme in the Senior School. Mr Turner led a number of excellent assemblies for the Preparatory School children, including a wonderful assembly by his own class which helped to remind all the children of the importance of putting other people's feelings before your own.



**A**sincere thank you to all the families who supported the Preparatory School Cake Sale which raised £190.44 for Lushoto, our Rosminian Link School and for your wonderful response to the shoebox appeal. In total, 285 boxes will be winding their way overseas to children who may have very little to look forward to on Christmas morning.

**W**e are looking forward to beginning preparations for Christmas. Our thanks in advance to the Parents' Association who will be decorating the Chapel and the Refectory on Saturday 2nd December (from 9am to 12 noon). If you would like to offer a helping hand, please contact Mrs Alison Etty (alisonetty@gmail.com) or you can simply turn up on the morning (and even better if you have some 'greenery' to bring with you!).



Our boarding community will begin their Christmas preparations this weekend when they attend the Christmas market in Birmingham before their Advent Mass and meal the following weekend. Year 7 are busy preparing for their festive themed play, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens on Thursday 30th November and Friday 1st December at 7.30pm, and we look forward to seeing them perform.



I had the pleasure of attending the Old Ratcliffian Birmingham dinner on Friday 17th November with Father Philip Sainter, Father President and Mr Andrew Yell, Development Director. Forty Old Ratcliffians attended a splendid evening which was hosted by Peter Deeley ('59) and which brought together former students from the past seven decades. Once again, the defining emotion I took from the evening was the deep affection that all those present have for their old school and their genuine interest in the current community. [Click here to read more.](#)

## WHOLE COLLEGE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As many of you will recall, my Exhibition Day address to Senior School parents and Father Christopher's equivalent address to Preparatory School parents last term, introduced our strategic vision for the School under the banner: *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose.*

The College strategic plan continues to be reviewed and honed each term to ensure that we continue to provide the very best education for your children. As part of our on-going self-evaluation, we commissioned an external provider to carry out detailed qualitative research with a sample from the parent body in September.

I am writing to inform you that the Senior Leadership Team has now received a summary of the feedback from this research, the results of which were overwhelmingly positive.

Clearly, as with every organisation, there will be areas for further consideration and we will engage in additional survey research with the students, and if appropriate, parents, to gain further insight into specific matters. The feedback will now be shared with the Governing Body and staff and will then help to inform our strategic planning over the next five years.

My sincere thanks to all the parents who gave generously of their time as part of the telephone interview process and for the feedback you gave on all aspects of our provision. For those families who were not part of the process on this occasion, please be reassured that parental feedback is always welcomed and valued by the College.

We cannot always promise to act upon all the feedback we receive, but we do listen and consider carefully feedback from all our stakeholders in order to make informed changes that we feel will have a positive impact on the overall educational experience of all the children in our care.

Ratcliffe College is a wonderful and unique school. We are very lucky to be part of such a vibrant community and I could not be more proud as Headmaster, to lead our College.



Further to our recent College Health and Safety Meeting, please can I remind parents and students not to use mobile phones whilst driving on site, at all times. I would also like to make another plea with regards to designated drop off/collection areas, please. We have observed parents parking at the front of the Senior School (this area is for parents of Boarders only), on the approach to the back lane to the Rosmini Centre, in front of the farm gate, on the area behind the small tennis court at the back of the School, in front of the CCF building, in the Sports Hall car park and over the Zebra crossings. These areas are not to be used for drop-off/collection.

Thank you for also ensuring that you stick to the speed limit when driving on the campus and for being vigilant when approaching pedestrian crossings on these dark evenings.

Please note the following key dates for the remainder of the term:-

Thursday 30th November

Friday 1st December

Tuesday 5th December

Wednesday 6th December

Thursday 7th December

Friday 8th December

Sunday 10th December

Monday 11th December

Tuesday 12th December

Wednesday 13th December

Saturday 16th December

Sunday 24th December

May I also remind you that there is no exit from the School via the Rosmini Centre onto the A46.

We continue to review the traffic flow system on campus in the mornings and afternoons following feedback from parents, students, staff and visitors with a view to ensuring the safety of the whole community. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important aspect of school life.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin,  
Headmaster.

Year 7 Parents' Social, 6.00pm

Year 7 Drama Production: A Christmas Carol, 7.30pm

Year 7 Drama Production, A Christmas Carol, 7.30pm

Year 9 Parents' Evening, 6.10pm

Prefects' Dinner, 7.30pm (invitation only)

Nursery and Years 1 & 2 Nativity, 2.00pm

MENPHYS Concert, De Montfort Hall, 7.15pm  
(admission by ticket)

Ratcliffe College Community Carol Service, 6.00pm

Years 7, 8 & 9 Immac Celebration, 7.00pm

Years 10 & 11 Immac Celebration, 7.00pm

Nursery & Lower Preparatory Christingle, 2.15pm

Years 12 & 13 Immac Celebration, 7.00pm

Parents' Association Christmas Ball, 7.00pm

Family Mass with Carols, 5.00pm

**(please note the earlier start time now)**



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The past two weeks have seen a host of activities led by members of the Chaplaincy Team and of the student body. Our second Briars retreat with the Year 7 students was a great success, and students participated with great reverence in the Remembrance Day Service.

For Philip Sainter delivered a beautiful assembly on the 10th Anniversary of the Beatification of Antonio Rosmini, aided by Year 13 students. As the Headmaster mentioned, last Monday, 285 shoeboxes were delivered to Samaritan's Purse, ensuring gifts for many children who would otherwise go without this joy.

On Wednesday, this week, Year 13 students delivered our Advent Reconciliation Workshops to Years 7-11. Head Girl and Boy, Bea Waters and Jack Nightingale, their deputies, Lottie Warburton and Harry Brooks and Chaplaincy Ambassador, Adam Stamp, brought the reflections to life, providing an excellent example of reflective and engaging public speech.

Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding, continues to facilitate the Boarding House Chaplaincy Team, and she delivered a beautiful reflection at the Head's Assembly last Monday. [Click here to read more.](#)





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

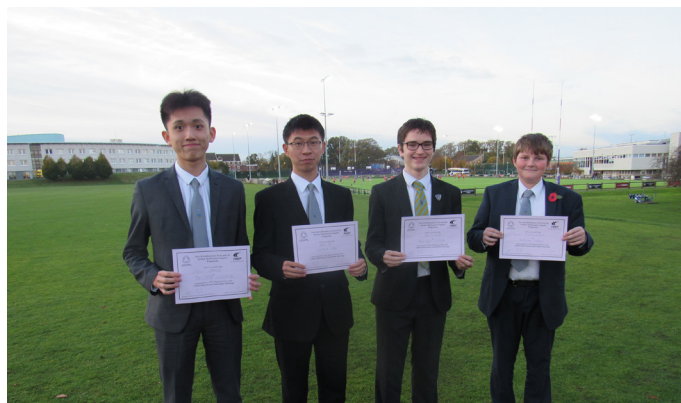
## SENIOR SCHOOL

**F**our Year 9 geographers attended the **Geographical Association's Worldwide Quiz** at Leicester Grammar School on Thursday 16th November. This is a highly challenging contest with questions on a wide variety of geographical matters, varying from map work to current affairs. The students put up a spirited challenge against some very strong competition, and the contest was very narrow between teams from the different schools present. Ratcliffe's teams came 9th and 7th in the contest, and the students reported that they had really enjoyed the experience. Well done to the following students, who are all awarded Geographical Association certificates: Ben Ashford, Brooke England, Oliver Hunt and Ben Jarvis.

**Mr Lambert, Head of Geography**



ACRYLIC ON CANVAS BY TIA DHANJAL, YEAR 12



**O**n Thursday 8th November, Tom Cusack, Owen Sommerville, Dennis Ding and Ciaran Leong took part in the **UK Maths Senior Team Regional Finals** at Loughborough University, where the most talented Mathematicians from 21 schools were competing. The competition was very tough and, thanks to an excellent score in the final round, Ratcliffe came a very respectable 11th out of 21 schools. This was a very enjoyable event and we thank our team for their excellent contribution.

**Dr Jones, Mathematics Teacher**

**M**erit Badges were awarded to the following students on Wednesday 22nd November:

### **YEAR 7**

Hollie Chapman  
Sophie Walker

Katherine McCrindell

### **YEAR 8**

James Clark-Pratt

### **YEAR 9**

Elise Atkinson

Dominic Goodman



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**A**t the recent **Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League Presentation Evening**, **Jack Nightingale**, Head Boy, was presented with the **'Young Player of the Year 2017' Award**. Jack proudly received the award from ex-England cricketers, Allan Lamb and Ronnie Irani. We wish Jack continued success in his cricket and playing for Leicestershire County Cricket Club this season.



## **HEBE JACKSON, YEAR 12**

Won both the FT Carmichael Cup for Orchestral Stings (Ages 16-17) and the Josephine Orringe Cup for Piano recital up to and including grade 6.

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FIRST CERTIFICATES OF MERIT,  
9TH NOVEMBER 2017, WERE AWARDED TO:-

### **YEAR 5**

Constance Bowden  
Zara ETTY  
Harry Martin  
Alfie Stevenson  
Romy Totton

Ben Cameron-Smith  
Oscar Jenks  
Florance Newham  
Hendrik Tang

### **YEAR 4**

Samuel Giles  
Isha Sidhu

Alex Griffiths

### **YEAR 3**

Eliza Barton-Jacques  
Robert Horst  
Rowan Thompson

Marley Deacon  
Freddie Moores

### **YEAR 2**

Joseph Bradley  
Eleanor Ryce

Tyler Rutherford

### **YEAR 1**

Malachy Desmond-Ainge  
Grace Martin

Rahul Khoda  
Francesca Tuccy

## **FRANCESCA ATKINSON, YEAR 5**

Has been awarded Silver for her Vault Routine in the Gymnastics Regional Competition; she has also been awarded a Bronze for her Floor Routine.

## **ZARA ETTY, YEAR 5**

Came 4th place for her Lyrical Dancing in the B.T.D.A and received a medal.

## **LOTTIE NORTH, YEAR 5**

Achieved 3rd place in the LAGC Gymnastics Competition.

## **JAMES PACKWOOD, YEAR 5**

Received Man of the Match at Syston Town Football Club.

## **CORAL KAIRAMKONDA, YEAR 4**

Received her Level 2 British Gymnastics Proficiency Award.

## **MATILDA ETTY, YEAR 1**

Has received Gold and Silver in the B.T.D.A Dance Troup Competition.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

FIRST CERTIFICATES OF MERIT,  
16TH NOVEMBER 2017, WERE AWARDED TO:-

## YEAR 6

Katie Bradley  
Thomas Giles  
Albert Misiuda

Oliver Clark  
Michael Joy

## YEAR 5

Francesca Cotton  
Lily Grieff-Liggins-Mulvey

Freddie Daynes  
Lily Stevenson

## YEAR 4

Chloe Elsby  
George Gaffney  
Coral Kairamkonda  
Freya Smith

Leo Gabriel  
Sophia Hull  
Katherine Shield  
Amelie Wilson-Knight

## YEAR 2

Olivia Pearce  
Isaac Traynor

Gyaan Sagoo

## YEAR 1

Riley Donegan  
Martha Gallacher  
Sebastian Hesketh  
Navraj Sidhu

Matilda Etty  
Ewurama Gyesi-Appiah  
Rose Lander Belfie

## ZARA ETTY, YEAR 5

was awarded three silver medals in the  
B.T.D.A dance competition.

## HUGO MISIUDA, YEAR 3

Received the 'Man of the Match' trophy at  
Asfordby Football Club.

## LOTTIE JOY, YEAR 3

Received a rosette for galloping.

## LUCIE MASON, YEAR 3

Received 2 rosettes from Somerby Equestrian  
Centre for games and cantering.

## JAMEELA DORNAN, YEAR 2

Received her British Gymnastics Level 7  
proficiency award.





# THE BIG SIX

## CHAPLAINCY

**S**haun Walker, Resources Manager and Paul Alexander, Residential Site Officer, delivered 285 shoeboxes to the Leicester warehouse for Operation Christmas Child on behalf of the College. The volunteers were overjoyed to receive so many boxes, and thanked all the staff and students.



**F**or those parents and students who paid on line and put the barcode inside their boxes, they will be sent an e-mail informing them of the destination once they have been delivered. Last year, some of the Ratcliffe boxes went to Latvia. Thank you for your sterling efforts.

**Mrs Waters, Chaplaincy Team**

## DRAMA

**P**lease see the links to the Year 7 "A Christmas Carol" production ticket order form and a letter to Year 7 parents about a theatre trip to see "The One Hundred and One Dalmatians". [Click here to read more.](#)



**Miss Monk, Head of Drama.**



A RECONCILIATION SESSION WITH FR PHILIP SAINTE, FR PRESIDENT

## SPORT

**C**ongratulations to the boys' U13 tennis team who competed in the regional finals last Friday. They beat Trent comprehensively in the semi-final but, unfortunately, lost to Warwick in the final. Nevertheless, this meant that they were among the 8 best schools in Great Britain. Well done to Sam Davies, Louie Fletcher, George Binnie and Joe Davies.



**P**lease find the link to our weekly Sports Reports below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



# THE BIG SIX

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

There is plenty going on in DofE at the moment, although Year 11 have had a break from silver training while they take their GCSE mock examinations. Gold participants are currently working on their planning and preparation for their practice expedition in the Brecon Beacons and Bronze participants have begun some practical training in small groups.



They will spend four training sessions learning about cooking stoves, first aid and expedition kit.



On Thursday 9th November, two Old Ratcliffians (Max Wheeler and Archie Herrick) collected their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards from St James's Palace. It is always a really special day, and one of the highlights is talking in a group with HRH The Earl of Wessex about the highlights of your DofE experience. Mel Giedroyc, Television Presenter, presented the certificates on behalf of HRH The Earl of Wessex.

Congratulations to our successful Silver and Bronze Award recipients:-

### SILVER

Harry Heaney, Year 13  
Beatrice Waters, Year 13  
Louis Massarella, Year 12

### BRONZE

Matthew Wetton, Year 12

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





# THE BIG SIX

## MUSIC

### PREPARATORY SCHOOL

We have had a couple of busy weeks in the Preparatory School, not only busily rehearsing for all of our exciting Christmas events but showing off our talented musicians throughout the School. We held a Key Stage 1 concert for students and parents on Wednesday 8th November and all the children were fantastic.



We are also excited to show off our new electric drum kit which was generously paid for by our Parents' Association. This will enable all children who have drum kit lessons to have access to the new electric kit as well as the acoustic kit which we have in the Preparatory School.



Preparatory School Chapel Choir are singing in John Lewis, Leicester, on Wednesday 6th December (10.30-11.15am) and we welcome any support from parents or friends who may wish to come along and listen to the beautiful Christmas programme we have put together.

**Mrs Markham, Music Teacher, Preparatory School**

### SENIOR SCHOOL

Alongside being busy rehearsing for all of our up-coming Christmas events, we would like to wish all the students taking examinations the very best of luck as they do their final week of practice and preparation. There are two examination sessions next week with London College of Music (LCM) and Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).

**Miss Thompson, Music Administrator**





# THE BIG SIX

## CCF

On Friday 10th November, the CCF paraded into the Church for the School's Remembrance Parade. All the cadets had made a special effort with their uniforms and to ensure that the parade was a success, to remember all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in War, particularly the Old Ratcliffians listed in the Church.

A special thanks goes to Arran Grant for piping the contingent into Church, Sophie Brown and Molly Edwards for their readings, the Year 9 cadets who were involved in laying candles on the Altar and Hugo Tuttey for playing the last post as well as the Colour Party – Anya Stokes, Nathalie Dawe and Tom Cusack.

**Lt Col Balmбра, Contingent Commander**



[Click here to read a report on CCF Training by Molly Edwards.](#)



# AND BEYOND...

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

We are proud to continue to support the nationwide Anti-Bullying Week and, as usual, lots of different initiatives took place. The week started off with the Anti-Bullying Crew hosting a whole school assembly on this year's theme: All Different, All Equal. Thereafter the majority of students took part in anti-bullying activities, especially during PSHCE.



Later during the week, the School invited Parents to a Parent Café on anti-bullying to both highlight some of the issues surrounding the topic and furnish parents with practical ideas on dealing with bullying. The presentation and information from the evening can be located on the school anti-bullying web page.



Year 7 students entered the Ratcliffe Anti-Bullying competition, Year 8 students designed a T-shirt, Years 9 & 10 students performed role plays and watched other students act out short plays.



Miss Spencer, Head of PSHCE & Careers



# AND BEYOND...

## BIOSCIENCES INSPIRE, 15TH NOVEMBER

Following on from Adele Ruston's engaging INSPIRE talk on Higher Education and Careers on 1st November, we were delighted to welcome Dr Amanda Avery from the Biosciences Department of The University of Nottingham to Wednesday night's INSPIRE session.

Leo Gilliver, Year 12, wrote: I really enjoyed the INSPIRE talk on 'The Exciting World of Biosciences' as I found it reassuring that choosing an extremely tough course within the Biosciences doesn't limit you to careers in pure research, but branches out into other disciplines, e.g. business/economics. I also found the range of subjects required or not necessarily required for various courses in Biosciences really interesting and, following the talk, I may even consider a career in Biosciences now.



On Wednesday, 29th November, we welcome Old Ratcliffian, Andrew Finnan, to talk about 'Entrepreneurship: Making Luck and Learning Lessons' at 7pm in the Sixth Form Centre – all welcome.

**Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form**



## UPPINGHAM OXBRIDGE EXCHANGE

On Wednesday 13th November, our Year 13 Oxbridge applicants had a very productive day at Uppingham School. The event included mock interviews for each of the students and advice from representatives of both Oxford and Cambridge universities. My thanks to Mr Ryce, Mr Chorley and Dr Robinson who joined me in leading interviews in our respective specialisms. Our students found the experience very helpful, and we are grateful to Uppingham for coordinating this invaluable experience.

*Ratcliffe College*

*Community Carol Service*

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm*

*College Chapel*



*followed by seasonal refreshments*





# 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:-

### **ALL YEARS**

Key Dates for the Summer Term 2018

Year 7 Production - A Christmas Carol, Ticket application form

End of Autumn Term arrangements

### **YEAR 7**

"The One Hundred and One Dalmations",  
Theatre Trip Letter

### **YEARS 11, 12 & 13**

Summer 2018 Public Examinations Timetable

## PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)

## DEAR PARENTS

We are the Year 12 Young Enterprise Group at Ratcliffe College and are selling originally designed Christmas cards and will be selling other greetings cards throughout the year. The cards have been hand-designed by a member of our team and your support would be greatly appreciated.

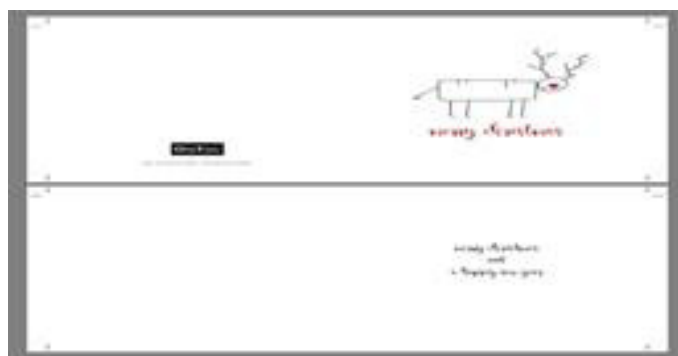
The prices for these cards will be:-

1 card: £1

Pack of 5 cards: £4.50

Pack of 10 cards: £8

Pack of 20 cards: £15



Each pack includes an equal amount of each design (there are 5 designs).

**If you are interested in buying any of our cards, they will be available to buy at Reception in both the Senior School and the Preparatory School. Thank you.**

Kate Honey.



# AND BEYOND...

*Food Technology Christmas competition*

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017*



*Task: To make a Christmas themed product of your choice.*

*Your product will be marked on taste, flavour, appearance  
and originality.*

*Bring your finished product up to the Department at the  
beginning*

*of the day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.*

*Please see Mrs Burton if you need any other details.*

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### BICESTOR SHOPPING TRIP

A thoroughly enjoyable event! Everyone shopped until they dropped. Very well arranged and lovely to see new faces joining us. Looking forward to Bicester 2018.

Regards,  
Natalie Stevenson

We are thrilled to announce that the Decadence Ball tickets are sold out. Thank you to everyone who has paid for the tickets. Please ensure that those attending the Ball inform the Senior School reception of your menu choices and wine pre-orders by **Thursday 30th November**. Please purchase raffle tickets and return stubs to the Prep School reception. We look forward to a fantastic evening!

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



Prep School



Ratcliffe College



Our Facebook



Sport



Boarding