



26th January 2018

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

The College's excellent academic performance at A Level was highlighted in the recent Department for Education figures where we were placed in the top 5% of

schools nationally for value-added for the second consecutive year. This is a wonderful achievement and is testament to the hard work of the students and our dedicated team of professional staff. Of course, our school community is not merely about examination success, important as these may be. We educate students to develop their individual characteristics and their talents through the extra-curricular programme.

Last week, I attended the Catholic Independent Schools' Conference in Liverpool where the theme for the conference was Hope. As leaders of Catholic schools, we were reminded that our schools are places to find God, that our schools are places where everyone can flourish regardless of faith, language, culture or ability – in short, our schools are welcoming of all. This is, after all, the Christian message. We were also reminded that it is our responsibility as leaders to ensure that, when our children leave our care, they take with them not just examination grades, but a deep sense of community, love, service and sacrifice as well as the confidence and desire to give back to the communities in which they live and work.

This message echoes our school Mission and our vision of *Strength of mind, Strength of values and Strength of purpose.*

With this theme ringing in my ears, I have, over the past week, reflected on our children's experience at Ratcliffe to see how we measure up to these challenges. I have witnessed so many examples of children living out our mission in their work and play. For example, I watched a fantastic assembly by Year 6L which focused on the great rivers of the world and the precious water they supply. Not only did the children share their knowledge of Geography and the precarious balance of our ecosystems but, more importantly, their hope for mankind to use water more carefully.

During lunchtime on Wednesday, I chatted to students in their common rooms about their learning and activities, and so many spoke of hopes for the coming days and weeks. Last evening, I had dinner with a number of students from Years 12 and 13 in the Old Library to celebrate their outstanding studies grades. Once again, the word 'hope' sprung to mind as students shared their future plans post-sixth form. Just this morning, the Senior School Chaplaincy assembly celebrated the Gospel value of justice by highlighting the injustice shown to the world's indigenous people. Such diverse examples in terms of content, but they are all laced together through the common theme of hope.



It really is a privilege to teach here at Ratcliffe and to spend every day in the company of so many enthusiastic, bright, funny, interesting and compassionate children and young people who, through their daily lives, work so hard so that their hopes for the future may become a reality.

I hope you enjoy the variety of articles and reports in this newsletter. So much has taken place since I wrote to you last. Thank you to those parents who completed the electronic survey about our sports kit supplier, PlayerLayer. Your feedback is most helpful in helping us with our future planning. Thank you to parents who attended the GCSE Options Evening, and I hope that you and your sons and daughters found it helpful in planning for the all-important GCSE years. Thank you, also, to the loyal band of parents who attended the Parents' Association meeting. Mrs Etty and Mrs Bruiners have included their news later in this newsletter.

Mr Benjamin arranged a successful and enjoyable live debate at Plumtree School, and you can read all about this under Student News. We hope to replicate this at other local schools to form links and perhaps even partnerships with them in the future. Our budding Sixth Form engineers went on an Engineering Education Scheme trip, whilst our Preparatory pupils embarked on a residential retreat at Alton Castle (Year 5) and Year 3 pupils went to the National Computer Games Arcade in Nottingham; Years 1 and 2 had a historic trip to Warwick Castle.

On the extra-curricular side of school life, we held our Extra-Curricular Fair over a lunchtime in the Senior School, and we hope that your sons and daughters have signed up for some interesting activities, and that they are perhaps trying something new. Please encourage them to talk to Miss Doig if they would like any further information on any of the many activities that we are running this term.

Sporting-wise, our U14 boys played in the County hockey cup, whilst our U13 boys competed in the Independent Schools' Hockey Cup and the U18 rugby county cup took place (you can find out results in the Senior School Sports Report within "The Big Six").

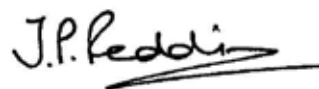
The CCF ventured to the Search and Rescue Training Centre at Bicester and then to 'Meet the Marines' at Covenham Reservoir in Louth. Year 8 students have been working hard on their Pantomime rehearsals. Our boarding students had a challenging but fun time at Twin Lakes in the 'Escape Room' and I am pleased to report that they made it out and back to school! This Sunday, they are off to The Snowdome for "Ski Sunday" (or perhaps tobogganing?!).

Mr Neville has reported on three INSPIRE events which have delighted our audiences, with another already planned for Friday 23rd February, entitled "Internships, Apprenticeships and Warner Bros: Why University alone is no longer enough." An insight into the entertainment industry and advice on how to break in. We welcome guest speaker, Jake Bird, Old Ratcliffian. Years 11-13 welcome.

Looking ahead to next week, I shall be attending an ISI Compliance Boarding Inspection next Wednesday and Thursday, so Mr Ryce will be deputising for me.

With best wishes for the weekend, and I will write to you before I depart on my trip to Hong Kong, just prior to half-term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Headmaster spoke at the beginning of the year about the centrality of Gospel Values. Since then, our assembly schedules on Wednesdays and Fridays have tried to reflect on certain ones of these. Over the past two weeks, one of the themes that has come to the fore is justice. Certainly, this is a central concern of our world today. Whether looking at our own boarders or without, we see people whose lives are at best hindered, at worst destroyed, by a lack of justice. Justice is etymologically derived from a word meaning "righteousness or equity", and can never be divorced from our relationships. Within the Judeo-Christian tradition, "justice" is about proper a relationship with God, self and others.

The relationships that are not proper around our world today vary widely – economic injustice, legal injustice, social injustice. The patterns of perpetrated injustice are hauntingly familiar – race, class, gender, religious affiliation, bodily or mental ability and age are all used to "justify" certain injustices. Just over the last week, assemblies have contemplated the sexual abuse scandals of Hollywood, the treatment of poor farmers, poverty and the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Students and staff have researched and presented these topics, and our students have had the opportunity to reflect on their own criteria for judging the proper rights due those around them. Last Friday morning, we welcomed Mr Phil Sparke, CEO of our Whole School Charity, HCPT, which organises pilgrimages to Lourdes for people living with mental or physical disability. He spoke of the life-changing opportunities for volunteer pilgrims, as well as the depth of gratitude of those needing assistance. We thank him for his time, and wish to make

every effort to support this group, with whom Ratcliffe College has had a long association.

Returning to the theme of justice, it was pleasing to hear more than once during presentations the following passage from Scripture (Micah 6:7-8):

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you*

***but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?***

Let us build relationships of empowerment and respect, display kindness in our every action and thought, and remember that "there – but for the grace of God – go I."

Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain



YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY TIME



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

In this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, there were over 82,000 entries from across the UK, with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze. [Click here to see results.](#)



DEBATE

Mr Benjamin and Mrs Bennett would like to thank the Key Stage 3 Debaters who performed at Plumtree School last Friday:-

Year 7: Katherine McCrindell, Nyah Gill and Sam Davies

Year 8: Victoria Wheatley and Maisie Ashford-Clark

Year 9: Oliver Hunt.

The teams debated two questions: *Is Homework Necessary?* And, *Are School Uniforms Necessary?* An audience of 40 students, teachers and parents enjoyed the presentation. The audience voted 60% in favour of keeping homework and uniforms!

Mr Benjamin, Head of Public Speaking and Debate, Teacher of English

Achievement Awards

Merit Badge

YEAR 7

Munashe Manjengwa

YEAR 8

Joseph Atkinson
Phoebe Greenaway
Eleanor Newberry

Holly Clark-Pratt
Eleni Malhan

YEAR 9

Matilda Cregeen
Albert Fletcher
Verity Mangham

Jessica Elton
Oliver Hunt
Henry Winterson

Merit Shield

YEAR 8

Amelia Haggis

Annie Jarvis

YEAR 9

Daata Apiafi
Emily Curnick

Rachel Astill
Brooke England

Achievement Voucher 1

YEAR 10

Daniella Hendry
James Turner

Isabella Mulvihill

YEAR 11

Henry Wells

YEAR 12

Pom Khetsamut
Nicole Spencer
Beam Wongsasensuk

Bon Laohin
Num Tohmusor

YEAR 13

Hannah Grinham
John Sommerville

Jack Nightingale

Achievement Voucher 2

YEAR 10

Rebecca Davies



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

LAMDA CERTIFICATES FOR EXAMINATIONS TAKEN LAST NOVEMBER:-

GRADE 1 MERIT

Emily Ball
Keira Perry

Thomas Ball
James Hollis

DISTINCTION

Gizella Perrins
Charlie Smith
Ava Kinch

Hannah Murray
Zoe Howling
Katherine McCrindell

GRADE 2 PASS

Grace Karanja

GRADE 3 MERIT

Isabella Illsley-Ridge

Annie Jarvis-Kainth

DISTINCTION

Freya Smith

GRADE 4 MERIT

Jasmin Jarvis-Kainth
Rebecca Davies

Olivia Crawley
Annabel Mills

GRADE 5 MERIT

Jake Kirby

DISTINCTION

Ellie Baker

Mia Baker

GRADE 6 DISTINCTION

Grace Lindop

MEDIA STUDIES STUDENTS OF THE TERM (AUTUMN)

Recognising effort and/or achievement, awarded to:-

Year 10: Jenson Curtis - for sustained excellent effort and attainment.

Year 11: Thomas Binnie - for an outstanding coursework performance.

Year 12: Molly Page - for impressive dedication to the course and response to feedback.

Year 13: Maddie Woan - for outstanding coursework effort at all times.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THIRD CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 5

Constance Bowden

Megha Thakrar

YEAR 4

Emily Woodley

YEAR 2

Joseph Bradley
Maahi Patel
Eleanor Ryce

Jameela Dornan
Oreon Patel



ACTIVITIES ON YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP, ALTON CASTLE



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SECOND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 6

Ali Bhojani	Rebecca Bloor
Katie Bradley	Harry Clark
Oliver Clark	Michael Joy
Pavan Kalair	Finlay Martin
Holly McNeeney	Albert Misiuda
Esme Slade	Francesca Turner
Kerry Wells	Arabella Wilson

YEAR 5

Ben Cameron-Smith	Francesca Cotton
Lily Grieff-Liggins-Mulvey	Oscar Jenks
Harry Martin	Florance Newham
Lottie North	Hendrick Tang

YEAR 4

Chloe Elsby	Leo Gabriel
George Gaffney	Sophia Hull
Coral Kairamkonda	Katherine Shield
Isha Sidhu	

YEAR 3

John Bowden	James Calver
Marley Deacon	Roshni Field
Max Hunt	Tallulah Johnson-Mayes
Charlotte Joy	James Lee
Lucie Mason	Rebecca McCall
Freddie Moores	Luke Mowinski
Jack Westwood	

YEAR 2

Abigail Cole	Olivia Pearce
Tyler Rutherford	Marcus Singh
Isaac Traynor	



ACTIVITIES ON YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TRIP, ALTON CASTLE



WHERE'S ALL THE WATER GONE?

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 6

Holly Page	Theo Pope
Harrison Walker	Jacques Wilkins

YEAR 5

Tomas Mason

YEAR 4

Freddie Booth

YEAR 3

Alberta Cooper	Liliana McKaig
Erin Olds	Archie Pole
Isabella Simpson	



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

ALICE BOWER, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 3 Music Theatre examination with Merit.

ANNABELLE HULL, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 4 Music Theatre examination with Distinction.

MILLIE LAKE, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 2 Music Theatre examination.

GRACE LINNETT, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 1 Flute examination.

HARRIET SYKES, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 1 Flute examination with Merit.

EVIE ASHFORD, YEAR 5

Passed her Grade 4 Music Theatre examination.

ROMY TOTTON, YEAR 5

Passed her Grade 2 Music Theatre examination with Distinction.

ISHA SIDHU, YEAR 4

Passed her Grade 1 Music Theatre examination.

ROSANNA WILSON, YEAR 4

Passed her Grade 1 Music Theatre examination with Merit.

AMÉLIE WILSON-KNIGHT, YEAR 4

Passed her Grade 1 Music Theatre examination with Distinction.

ISZAC RODRIGUES, YEAR 3

Passed his Entry Level 3 Piano examination with Distinction.

NAVRAJ SIDHU, YEAR 1

Achieved his 10 metre Rainbow swimming certificate.



THE BIG SIX

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to our successful Silver and Bronze Award recipients:-

Silver Award

Shelly Lam and Thomas Wetton

Bronze Award

Callum Allsopp, Elliot Kelly and George Linnett



Bronze participants have completed their practical carousel of cooking, kit and first aid (we will make arrangements for students to catch up if they missed this due to absence). We are very impressed with our Bronze cohort who have been working on their route planning very efficiently and have already completed the initial draft of their routes and routecards.

Our silver participants have also been working hard and are making good progress in their planning (they have six days to complete rather than just four so they are not finished yet).

Our gold participants have completed their paperwork for the Brecons practice trip at Easter and have now made a start to their planning for the Dartmoor assessed expedition in July. There is a steady trickle of awards being submitted for verification and completion so please do encourage your sons/daughters to get their section reports in so that they can receive their award.



Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

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.

Last term, your unwanted goods have raised £625 for LOROS. Thank you ... and keep on sending us your old clothes!

Mrs S Clarke



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)



On Sunday 21st January, twenty-six cadets and two staff braved the snowy weather to visit the DEMS Regiment Army facility that trains all the bomb disposal personnel, UK and worldwide, in diffusing devices and training how to search for explosive devices. Our visit was to the section that train personnel how to search for explosive devices.

The cadets were split into 4 sections and carried out a rotation of all 4 activities. These included training on how to use metal detectors in a huge sandpit, how to search a house for hidden items, carry out a search for various deactivated ordinance using night vision equipment and. Lastly, a task in 'the cage', a series of cages connected to make a maize – but here the cadets were blindfolded.

The day was excellent enabling the cadets to have hands-on experience on equipment they would never have seen before. The exercise in the cage was, for some, a highlight as they were disorientated being blind folded and required very close communication with each other. My thanks go to the DEMS Regiment for enabling this visit to happen.

Lt Col Balmбра, OC CCF

SPORT

Congratulations to Alex Bown who has been selected for the Leicestershire County U16 Rugby team.



Please find the link to our weekly Sports Reports below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



THE BIG SIX

MUSIC

During Headmaster's Assembly on Monday, we enjoyed two musical performances given by Lydia Bellamy, who performed 'Blue' on the Flute and Edward Smellie, who sang Ultra Violet whilst playing the Piano. Both students performed exceptionally well to the delight of the other students and staff. The purpose of the assembly was to officially launch the House Music Competition, which takes place in the last week of the Spring Term. This is one of my favourite musical events of the School Year due to the sheer variety of music-making presented by the students across the Senior School.

I challenged the students to consider how they might contribute to the competition, in particular, those musicians who may not have had the opportunity to perform so far, or who haven't considered performing before. I would like all our musicians to share their talents with the community and to enjoy the 'buzz' performing in front of an audience. Knowing that you have shared one of your skills on stage is hugely satisfying.

It is a Ratcliffe tradition for the House Captains to draw the title of the song that their House will sing from a Hogwarts style Sorting Hat! The Captains of Arundel, De Lisle, Emery and Leetham stepped forward to select the following titles from well-known musicals:-

Arundel: Love is an Open Door (Frozen)

De Lisle: I Just Can't Wait to be King (Lion King)

Emery: A Whole New World (Aladdin)

Leetham: Can You Feel the Love Tonight (Lion King)

So, I ask the Senior School students to step up to the challenge of participating in the House Music competition. I hope you agree that events such as these are at the core of our school ethos and exemplify our vision statement, *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose*. I encourage all of the students to take a risk. If the thought of performing is initially a little daunting, this will change quickly to excitement and the thrill of performing on stage. So, please encourage your children to speak to their House Guardian over the coming days and weeks; we very much look forward to hearing what they will offer.

Mr McCall, Director of Music

Ratcliffe College Music Department

Scholars Concert



Tuesday 30 January
5.30-6.10pm
Old Library

Free entrance & refreshments served afterwards



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA



We would also like to promote to you our Year 8 pantomimes taking place on Thursday 1st February.

Year 8 Present.....

PANTOMIMES

Four Ten minute versions of the nation's favourite Panto tales!



Come and be entertained and see our Heroes and Heroines, Dames, Ugly sisters and Pantomime cow in action!

Thursday 1st February 5pm & 7pm in the Theatre.

Entry- Free

On Friday 20th January, Years 10, 12 and 13 Drama students enjoyed a workshop run by Steve Miller, from renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly. Their aim is to create visually engaging theatre through their physical performance style alongside music and text. [Click here to read full article.](#)

Miss Monk, Head of Drama.



AND BEYOND...

SIXTH FORM EPQ TRIP TO LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY



On Wednesday 11th January, our Sixth Form students travelled to Loughborough University to attend a highly engaging workshop on research skills for the Extended Project Qualification, where they gained a great deal from the event and join me in thanking Mrs Joanne Culpin for providing such an invaluable insight into online research, referencing and the remarkable range of resources available at the Pilkington Library.

INSPIRE EVENTS



Over the past few weeks, Students have been meeting every Wednesday for talks led by engaging external speakers.

[Click here to read](#) about the INSPIRE events that have taken place.



Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form

INSPIRE

Weekly events to broaden horizons

Friday in the SFC Lounge @ 5.20pm

This week:

Internships, Apprenticeships and Warner Bros:

Why University alone is no longer enough. An insight into the entertainment industry and advice on how to break in.

On **Friday 23 February** we welcome guest speaker, OR Jake Bird.

He will also focus on how to get an internship/placement year during a degree and good alternative options to university study at Warner Bros
All staff and Year 11, 12 and 13 students are welcome

Mr Neville



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 9

Vaccination Details

YEAR 11

Geography GCSE Guidance

Maths GCSE Revision Guides

PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We are thrilled to announce that the Decadence Ball made a profit of over £9000. The PA have therefore made a second donation of £10,000 towards the construction of the Wellbeing Square in the Senior school. We were delighted to hear, at the PA meeting, that plans are being finalised. Thank you for your support of the PA events. I am sure you will agree that this is a substantial amount raised and the PA wish to pass on our thanks to you all, for both donating and purchasing of both auction and raffle prizes and to those who came on the night.

The PA Quiz and Curry night is a fun quiz night with questions and activities to cover a whole range of topics, from gestation periods of animals to naming the stations on a Monopoly board. Please gather a team of no more than 10 together and buy your £10 ticket from Prep School Reception. Quiz and Curry night on Saturday 24th February 2018 from 7.30 (prompt start) until 10.00pm. There is a bar too!

The Annual Spring Fair will be held on Saturday 17th March. If you can support the event through donating prizes for the raffle, tombola or Easter egg stall, or running a stall on the day, please contact Alison Ety on 0771 2523295.

Alison Ety and Sasha Bruiners
Joint PA Chair

