



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

HEAD-LINE NEWS



Dear Parents,

The College is simply buzzing at the moment with so many students taking full advantage of the fantastic opportunities on offer. The extra-

curricular programme in the Nursery, Preparatory and Senior Schools is thriving – thank you for your support of your child in this respect. We are delighted to see so many of them supporting their favourite activities while also dipping into new clubs and societies, broadening their horizons, and meeting new people and embracing our vision statement. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these activities in the relevant section below.

The Senior Leadership Team completed their first Learning Walk of the academic year this week, focusing on Year 8 and 9 lessons. As always, it is a privilege to be able to drop into classes and observe the wonderful teaching and positive relationships that exist between the students and their teachers and between the students themselves. Whether debating the causes of the World War in History, making bird boxes in DT or exploring the use of 'freeze-frames' and 'gibberish' in Drama, the students were fully engaged, challenged

in their learning and, just as importantly, having great fun. To witness, daily, young people developing their individual gifts and talents with the support of their teachers, is inspirational in itself, reminding us all of the wonder of education. Looking ahead, we hope we will be able to capture some of these amazing moments and share them with you on the website and through the newsletter as your children continue their journey at school.



Thank you for your support of the Headmaster's Reception which was a most enjoyable event. I hope that those who attended found the evening helpful in meeting new parents, staff and our supportive Parents' Association. Thank you also for your support of this year's harvest festival, in particular, your generous donations of non-perishable food items for the Carpenter's Arms charity which supports local families who are unable to support themselves. There will be a full report in Chaplain's Corner section of the newsletter in a fortnight's time.





Looking ahead, there are several events that I wish to draw your attention to. This coming Sunday, 1st October, we are hosting the Ratcliffe College Speaking Championship. Hosted by our Head of Public Speaking and Debating, Mr Benjamin, and ably supported by Mrs Bennett, Miss Corbinzolu and Miss Doig, six students from three local schools, including Ratcliffe, will make four minute presentations on topics ranging from 'the media presents women as objects' to 'dishonesty gets results.'

Our beautiful Refectory will provide a wonderful back-drop for the speakers so should you and your son/daughter wish to join us and enjoy an hour or so public speaking over refreshments, please RSVP to Mr Benjamin (mbenjamin@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk) by 5.00pm on Saturday.

I would like to draw your attention to the Higher Education Convention next week, on Wednesday 4th October, when we will be hosting representatives from around 30 universities, the Armed Forces and GAP year organisations.

We hope that the evening will prove invaluable to Senior Students in Years

into a whole host of careers that they may be considering. The evening is from 7.00-8.30pm in the Sports Hall.

- Monday 2nd October – Year 13 Parents' Evening, Old Library – 6.10pm, Sports Hall, 6.30pm
- Wednesday 4th October – Years 9-13 Higher Education Convention, Sports Hall and Rosmini Sixth Form Centre – 7.00pm
- Thursday 5th October – Music Department Instrumental Staff Parents' Evening, Music Hall – 6.00pm (please see link to letter under "And Beyond" at the end of this Newsletter)
- Saturday 7th October - Open Morning – 9.30am
- Thursday 12th October - Year 7 Parents' Evening, Old Library – 6.10pm, Sports Hall, 6.30pm
- Friday 13th October – Casuals Day in aid of Lourdes pilgrimage
- Friday 13th October – Half-Term (please see link to end of term arrangements)

I will be attending the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference in Belfast from Monday to Wednesday next week. The conference this year is entitled 'celebrating the difference'.



The purpose of the conference is to enable Head Teachers to share best practice while participating in a variety of discussions and lectures on educational matters. Mr Ryce, Senior Deputy Head, will be Acting Headmaster in my absence. I will, of course, be in daily communication with Mrs Govan and the Senior Leadership Team.

I will be attending the Old Ratcliffian Association New York Dinner on the first weekend of the half-term. We have many alumni in the United States, many of whom give generously to our bursaries and scholarship schemes. I look forward to sharing with you on my return some of their reflections on their time at Ratcliffe. This point brings me seamlessly onto a most moving reflection that was sent to us this week from two former students who left this summer at the end of their A levels. It is humbling to read how much their time at Ratcliffe has meant to them. [Click here to read it.](#)

Mr Neville has included information about Sixth Form INSPIRE events which are due to take place this term, so some exciting new initiatives to look out for in the, "And Beyond" section of this Newsletter. You will also find a notice about the Florence Trip

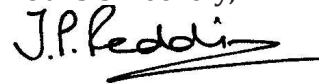
and a letter about an information evening for instrumental music lessons, from Mr McCall, Director of Music.

Please can I may a plea to everyone driving around the school campus to refrain from using mobile phones whilst driving on the College premises; please also be vigilant when approaching the zebra crossings and driving past parked cars at the drop off/collection zones.

We wish well those students who are travelling to St. Peter's School, Gore, New Zealand on Saturday 7th October. The students will experience the trip of a lifetime. They will be accompanied by Miss Gatt and Dr Anne Robinson. Appropriate cover has been put in place for the last week of term.

I wish you and your families well for the fortnight ahead and look forward to meeting you at some of the forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

REFLECTION

It has been a busy start to the year in terms of the Chaplaincy Team. We welcomed Fr Philip Sainter IC, as our new Father President. He has come to us from St Mary's in Loughborough and is now living at the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer with Fr Ted Mullen. We are also joined in the Chaplaincy Team by Mr Clement Donegan, our new Deputy Head in charge of Pastoral matters. Both are offering some fresh eyes to our undertakings, and they are most welcome.



of a Chaplaincy Assembly to the Senior School on the Harvest. We were joined for the occasion by Judith Spence of the Carpenter's Arms, who spoke to us about foodbanks.



Years 7 and 9 students have both enjoyed encounters with the spiritual life of the College through retreats. Year 7 had a "mini-retreat" at the Rosmini Centre during their first week, and only last Friday spent the whole day learning about the Rosminian Order and the history of the College during the annual Year 7 RS day.

It involved meditation, team-building, quiet reflective writing and the preparation and celebration of Mass. Growing from this was their presentation on Friday 29th September



Year 9 students also led an assembly on Monday 18 September entitled "Choices for Peace", and heralded a Peace Vigil held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel throughout



the day. Students prepared the assembly themselves, having spent a weekend at the Briars thinking about their choices in life. We were joined on the occasion by representatives of the Nottingham Diocese, in preparation for a Canonical Inspection we are expecting this year. They were impressed by the students' involvement in the assembly, and their discussions with them on the spiritual life of the College.



It is heartening to see our Chaplaincy Assembly schedule filling fast with student-led reflection and worship. Upcoming assemblies and services will be led by Megha Patel (Year 12), student volunteers who travelled to Lourdes (6th form), and the CCF (for our Remembrance Day Service). We are most appreciative of this generosity and courage (it's not easy for everyone to stand before their peers and speak), and encourage all staff and students to consider leading an assembly.

We were joined again by a diocesan representative on Thursday 28th September in the Boarding House, which is right at the centre of our school community. The Boys' Rooms were blessed for the year by Fr Philip, and Victoria Wheatley of Year 8 led us in night prayer with a song she had prepared. My thanks to the Boarding Staff and students who participated in the visit.

The school played host to a gathering of people for a day of workshops and prayer, and a night of praise, worship and adoration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement, on the evening of Saturday 16th September. Organised by the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer, the occasions were well attended and appreciated. We were joined by Bishop Patrick of our Diocese, as well as visiting speakers and worship leaders. My thanks to all who helped organise the events. Read about that here.



Our school is a place of prayer and service, and I would like to advertise that all members of our Ratcliffe family are welcome to join us in our praising God through worship or active love. Each weekday, Mass is celebrated at 5:30pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Each Sunday, Mass is celebrated at 10:30am with the Boarding Community in the Church. A children's liturgy is run during Mass for our youngest members, and light refreshments are enjoyed afterwards. This Sunday we are celebrating the harvest, and the steps before the altar are filling with generous donations. All are welcome to come, and should you wish to contribute to our donations for the foodbank, please bring them along.

Our annual MacMillan Coffee morning was held on Thursday morning, organised by Mr Nigel Taylor and the Year 12 students. Thanks to all who contributed their time and money to raise funds for this great cause.

Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

SENIOR SCHOOL



Ratcliffe Samaritan Listeners

Congratulations to the following Sixth Form Students who have been appointed as Samaritan Listeners (you will see them around school with a red and gold triangular badge or a white and green Samaritan Ambassador badge, or indeed both badges:-



Ben Dexter, Matthew Ward, Adam Stamp, John Sommerville, Jack Vinall, Jack Nightingale, Oliver Cooper, Lara Gee, Callista Tsatsa, Harriet Ball, Poppy Beech-Pickering, Alex Mitchell, Darcie Naylor, Eleanor Godwin, Isabelle Duckett, Charlotte Warburton, Olivia Back, Kate Tyszka, Ines Munoz Torre, Jess Neuberg and Stephanie Newham.

The Royal Society of Biology, Intermediate Biology Olympiad

In June of last academic year, all Year 12 A level biologists entered The Royal Society of Biology's Intermediate Biology Olympiad competition. By taking part, the students showed a commendable willingness to challenge themselves and to explore the depth of their biological knowledge!

Our students were highly successful, as detailed below:

Commended: Archie Banks; Billy Wheatley; Ruaidhri Gorton

Highly commended: Datela Kubelabo; Jess Neuberg; Kate Tyszka; Zoe Duffin

Bronze award: Oliver Cooper

Gold award: Joe Smith. As a Gold award winner, Joe has been invited to attend an ecology training course run by the Field Studies Council.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Tabitha Kyle, Year 6, competed at the Richmond Equestrian Champions Day show and she placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Grand Prix and won 3 sashes, rosettes and a trophy.

Lucy Markham, Year 3, achieved her Tap Preparatory Grade and Ballet Preparatory Grade certificates, passing both with distinction.

Diya Patel, Year 3, achieved her Learn to Swim stage 4 certificate.



OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

Presentation at the Old Ratcliffian Golf Day



The inaugural Ratcliffe Golf Day took place on Thursday 14 September and was held at Rothley Park Golf Club amidst beautiful, autumn sunshine. The day attracted over 60 golfers (mainly current and past-parents) and raised over £4,000 towards the Ratcliffe 2020 Sports Appeal.



An inspirational poem has been written by an Old Ratcliffian about Hurricane Irma. Take a look for yourself [here](#).

Please [click here](#) to read all about the successful and enjoyable day

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



THE BIG SIX

HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION



Arundel Selected *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Whilst **De Lisle** will be presenting comic scenes from *The Twits*



Emery will perform from *Fantastic Mr Fox*

Leaving **Leetham** to create their own version of *James and the Giant Peach*



DRAMA

It was with great excitement that this year's plays for **House Drama** were selected last Friday. House Captains drew their choices from the sorting hat during assembly. This year's theme is Roald Dahl stories. The competition will take place on Friday 15th December with groups performing extracts from some of Roald Dahl's most popular tales!

The finalists for the **House Public Speaking Contest** were:

Miles Dunne, Year 12, De Lisle (Champion); Dalila Watson, Year 10, Emery (2nd place); Meraal Saleem, Year 13, Arundel; Oliver Hunt, Year 9, De Lisle (Champion); Victoria Wheatley, Year 8, Leetham (2nd place); Holly Clark-Pratt, Year 8, Arundel; Ben Ashford, Year 9, Emery.



THE BIG SIX



SPORT

On Wednesday 20th September, Beth Cobden, England and Loughborough Lightning player ran a defensive masterclass for the Year 10-13 players who are currently training for the county tournament. Find out more about her visit [here](#).



Our Annual Ratcliffe College Football Festival saw nine teams compete throughout the morning, demonstrating a high level of technical skill and tactical understanding of the beautiful game. Yet again, this event produced another fantastic footballing feast, enjoyed by all who had the privilege to witness it.



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



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

22 Bronze participants and 3 leaders spent a happy hour wandering around the fields near school on Monday, having their first lesson on how to relate a map to the real world. The participants all made an excellent start and we look forward to repeating the exercise with the rest of our Year 10 recruits next week.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



Congratulations to our successful D of E students. Certificates were presented by Mr Louis Massarella, Chairman of Governors, at the awards evening on 5th September.

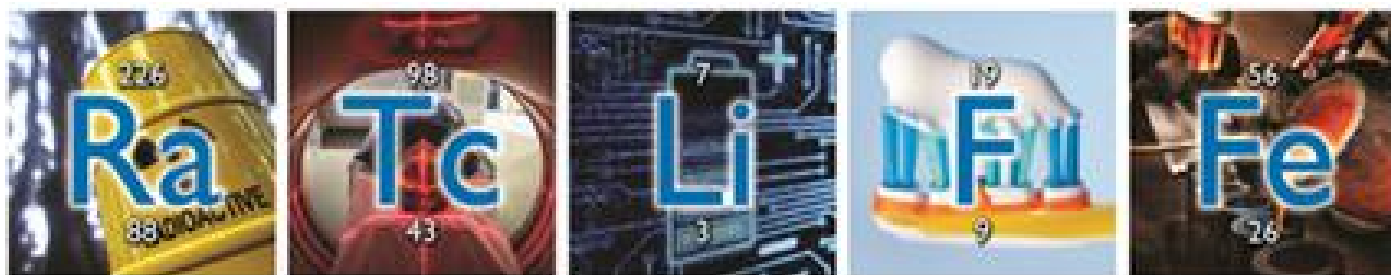
CCF

The Army and RAF cadets are getting ready to go off on Sunday morning to the Swynnerton Training Area, near Stoke on Trent, with the aim of developing the new recruits, enhancing leadership skills and training the Senior Cadets. They will return on Monday evening. Good luck to all of the Cadets as they embark upon their various exercises.

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



AND BEYOND...



NEW SCIENCE LOGO

Find out more here about our new, exciting Science logo

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). The following letters have been posted:

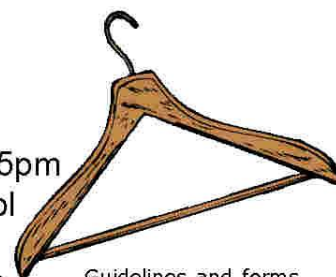
Annual Parents' Evening with Peripatetic staff, Thursday 5th October, 6:00 – 7:00pm

End of Term Arrangements

INSPIRE Events

Parents' Association Second Hand Uniform Sale

Tues 10th
October
3.30pm-5.45pm
Prep School



Uniform wanted in
advance to sell on
your behalf

Guidelines and forms
available from
www.ratcliffeparents.co.uk



Contact us pa@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk

PARENT PORTAL LINKS

SIXTH FORM

YEARS 10-11

YEARS 7-9

ALL SCHOOL NEWS



AND BEYOND...

PARENT NOTICE:

**FLORENCE TRIP
INFORMATION EVENING,
MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2017,
6PM - 6.30PM,
OLD LIBRARY**

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

It was wonderful to meet many new parents at the Headmaster's Reception. Thank you to those parents whom have completed the PA helpers' letter; we will be in contact about volunteering at PA events soon, if we haven't already.

The annual Bicester shopping trip tickets are on sale at Main School Reception. £15 ensures you have a bus to Bicester, for a day of shopping and sparkling refreshment for the journey!

The new PA "Gin tasting event" takes place on Wednesday 15th November, at 8pm. The tickets, £20, are on sale at Prep School Reception.

Wednesday
15th November
8-10pm



Ratcliffe College – Refectory

Two Birds Gin company will give a talk about the history of Gin followed by Gin tasting.

Two Birds Gin products can be purchased on the night.
£20 per ticket -over 18's only

BOSS HUGO BOSS	BALLY	BELSTAFF	BURBERRY	Calvin Klein UNDERWEAR	Chloé	CÉLINE
DKNY	DIESEL	Dior	DOLCE & GABBANA	FENDI	GUCCI	HACKETT LONDON
JAEGER	Ratcliffe College Parents' Association Trip to Bicester Village Tuesday 14th November 2017. Includes 10% VIP discount voucher. Meet at school for 8.45am departure. Arrival back at school 5.30pm. Sparkly refreshments on coach. Tickets £15 on main reception					MISSONI
MULBERRY						VERSACE
TOD'S	HOBBS LONDON	JIMMY CHOO	KAREN MILLEN	LA PERLA	MaxMara	VALENTINO
DOLCE & GABBANA	PANDORA	PRADA	THE NORTH FACE			

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We will have the annual Quiz and Curry night later in the year. Please bring in second hand uniform, to the Prep school asap, before the sale on Tuesday 10th October, 3.30pm until 5.45pm.

Date for the diary:

Saturday 16th December
The Decadence Ball
Black tie with a touch of gold!

**Alison Etty & Sasha Bruiners
Joint Chair**



Prep School



Ratcliffe College



Our Facebook



Sport



Boarding