



8th December 2017

HEAD-LINES

WEEKEND WEATHER WARNING!

Please note that the forecast for Sunday is snow across the East Midlands region. Should there be a significant downfall of snow that jeopardises student or staff safety in travelling to the College Community Carol Service, it may be necessary to cancel the Service. Please therefore check the Ratcliffe College homepage at 2.00pm or after to find out if the Service will go ahead. Thank you.



Dear Parents,

Just five more days of school before we break for the Christmas holidays! The Autumn Term has passed by very quickly, which I feel is always a good sign as it reflects a busy yet

productive community. We have achieved so much together this term and we now look forward to a well-deserved rest before throwing ourselves wholeheartedly into our studies and extra-curricular pursuits in the New Year.



I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas lights as you drive into school? They have certainly lifted spirits on the dark evenings with Christmas cheer. Thank you to the Parents' Association for decorating our Chapel and Refectory so beautifully at the weekend. The students have really enjoyed the decorations and it has helped the community to get into the Christmas spirit.

The Advent season began in earnest with Year 7 students' charming interpretation of Dickens' classic tale, 'A Christmas Carol'. Both performances were well attended and I was very proud of the students who worked so hard to produce such a professional show. It is quite something to produce and direct a theatre production which includes every single student in the year group. Mrs Caven-Henrys and her wonderful team are congratulated for their fine efforts. The students adored being part of something so special.

Father Christmas made a surprise appearance in the Preparatory School assembly on Thursday morning. Not only did he take part in the assembly but also kept everyone amused while we gave out the awards. Interestingly, Mr Faulconbridge was nowhere to be found!

Our Boarding Community celebrated the first Sunday of Advent with a trip to see 'Scrooge' at Curve Theatre, followed by evening Mass and a delicious meal in the Refectory last Sunday evening.

I was delighted to Join Mr Donegan and Father Philip on Friday of last week to help judge the Senior School Christmas card competition. Congratulations to Sofia Henderson on her winning entry as well as those students who won year group categories.



On Monday, Mrs Burton hosted the House Christmas Food Competition. [Click here to read more.](#)



As always, the Nursery and Years 1 and 2 Nativity, entitled “Busy Busy Bethlehem”, was a wonderful event for the children and their parents. It was so lovely to see the youngest members of our community working together, developing their confidence and communication skills as they enacted the Christmas story. Well done to all the children and their wonderful teachers.



The Senior School and Preparatory School celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady (explanation on Page 3) this morning with two very moving Masses. Our School is dedicated to Mary and so this is a particularly important day in the School calendar which has always been marked with a special meal and dancing. Old Ratcliffians from all generations remember the ‘Immac’ celebrations very fondly. [Click here to read an excerpt from the Ratcliffian Magazine report of the 1945 “IMMAC” celebration event](#) – the

first one since the end of WWII. Indeed, I attended a Ratcliffian Association London Christmas drinks event on Thursday evening. I was very proud to share the students’ recent achievements with so many Old Ratcliffians, who all shared stories about their Immac festivities.

There is much to look forward to over the next 10 days and I hope to see many of you at the various carol services and Christmas events. A list of the remaining events is provided under Parent News.

Our sports teams continue to perform with great skill and determination with a number of excellent victories over local opposition. On Monday of this week, we welcomed England and Loughborough Lightning netball star, Beth Cobden, who led our Year 8 and 9 girls for a masterclass. We are grateful to Beth for her time as she has only just returned from England’s 3-0 series win over Malawi, in which she played a pivotal role.

We wish those students and staff who are participating in the Berlin trip in the first week of the holidays well as they depart next Saturday morning.

This is the final Head Lines of the year and the end of this term marks the end of my first full calendar year as Headmaster of Ratcliffe College. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the students, staff and parents for your unstinting support of the College. I trust that you will be able to enjoy precious time with your families and friends over the holiday and rest a little. I wish you and your families a happy and blessed Christmas and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of J.P. Reddin

Mr J. P. Reddin,
Headmaster.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Heading into the last week of term, there has been much buzz about Charity, Community and Celebration.

Mrs Waters has compiled an update of Charity events that have taken place this term, and the generosity of all students, staff and families has been fabulous. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain



BOARDERS' ADVENT MEAL

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

– The College Feast Day and its significance for us.

On Friday 8th December, we celebrate our College Feast Day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This College and our School Chapel are dedicated to Mary Immaculate.

Indeed, many years ago Ratcliffe College was known as “The College of the Immaculate Conception at Ratcliffe”. In 1854, Pope Pius IX’s solemn declaration, “Ineffabilis Deus,” clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. He wrote:

“The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” (Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, 1854).

Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of her unique role in history as the Mother of God. The Catholic Church says that “... It is right and fitting that a person chosen for such a noble and wonderful role, should indeed be immaculate – that is, free from all sin even from the moment of her miraculous conception [in the womb of her mother Anna]”. (CCL 490 ff.)

Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity to follow: all of us are called to holiness of life; all of us are called to accept God’s plans for us. Therefore, her words at the time of the Annunciation should be ours “Let it be done unto me according to your word – Fiat mihi secundum Verbum tuum”. (Lk 1:38).

Inspired by the example of Mary, our vocation and our mission in life is to be open to the Word of God and to “bear” Christ in our lives. Let us listen to God who says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I chose you, to be a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5-6).



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

The winner of the Senior Schools' Category of the CISC Christmas Card Competition was Josef Hluchan, Year 12. The title of the competition was: "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23).



The writer of the CISC newsletter reported that "Josef's delicate watercolour again uses a group composition very effectively to bring our attention to the baby in the crib. The lack of background contextual details gives a more universal and timeless quality to the image, which is entirely appropriate for the birth of the saviour of mankind."

INTERNAL RESULTS OF COMPETITION:-

OVERALL WINNER (YEAR 11):

Sofia Henderson



SIXTH FORM (YEAR 12): Isobel Pullen

YEAR 10: Cindy Lee

YEAR 9: Jacob McCahill

YEAR 8: Emily Spillane

YEAR 7: Sophie Shield

RUNNERS UP:

SIXTH FORM: Miles Dunne

YEAR 10: Regina Tsang

YEAR 9: Marley Totton

YEAR 8: Amelia Haggis

YEAR 7: Sophie Leighton

On Monday 4th December, we were again hugely impressed by the entries of the Christmas Food Competition, the level of skill and originality of the Christmas food products that had entered our annual competition.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Congratulations to Arran Grant who performed in the Birmingham Military Tattoo on 25th and 26th November. [Click here to read more.](#)



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

MERIT BADGES WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 7

Jessica Bardsley	Rosie Dickerson
Liam Hardy-Smith	Ava Kinch
Daisy Reddin	

YEAR 8

Joseph Butler	Amelia Haggis
Annie Jarvis Kainth	Scott Mawby
Ezra Starley	Amelia Tebbutt
Henry Urwin	

YEAR 9

Daata Apiafi	Rachel Astill
Maddi Bryant	Amelia Chapman
Olivia Crawley	Emily Curnick
Brooke England	

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

SECOND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 5

Bella Barton-Jacques	Constance Bowden
Harry Pole	Charlotte Shield
Gracie Smith	Alfie Stevenson
Khrish Tailor	Megha Thakrar
Romy Totton	

YEAR 4

Samuel Giles	Alex Griffiths
Emily Woodley	

YEAR 3

Maisie Leake	Lucy Markham
Hugo Misiuda	Diya Patel
Iz Zac Rodrigues	Jessica Tuckwell
Caspar Webster	

YEAR 2

Isabella Cottingham	Chloe Oliphant
Maahi Patel	Oreon Patel
Harrison Poutch	

ON THE RADIO BY KRISTIAN BROCKSOPP, YEAR 10

Takeover Radio 103.2fm has a new Thursday evening sports show. Thursday 23rd November was the first day of my new show. I am now part of the Takeover Radio sports team and present with four other people on Thursday nights. The first show went very well and we had numerous calls and texts from people listening in. In the future, we are hoping to go to Leicester Riders Basketball games and commentate live from games over the winter. The show is a mix of sports news and results from the week, plus a look ahead to the weekend sports fixtures. This is linked together with the latest chart hits and requests. I really enjoy broadcasting live, but the dash from school to the station in time to go on air can be a bit of a challenge.

ACHIEVEMENT VOUCHERS WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 10

India Clark	Aimee Cleminson
Rebecca Davies	Ella De Caestecker
Archie Heaney	Rebecca Lindley
Emily McBallantine	Annabel Mills
Samantha Seidu	Lily Stevenson-Ward
Emma Turner	Isabella Whalley

YEAR 12

Sarah Astill	Ciaran Leong
George Morgan-Jones	Mollie Page
Toby Snell	

YEAR 9

Tom Cusack	Isabelle Duckett
Philip Gyesei-Appiah	Esme Kelly



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WERE AWARDED TO:-

YEAR 6

Sophie Bardsley
Lucas Barker
Alice Bower
Charles Carpenter
Maisie Collier
Ben Cooper
Lydia Haggis
Harry Hings
Mollie Hunt
Xavier Illsley-Ridge
Samuel Leake
George Leite
Grace Linnett
Joseph Marsden
Finlay Martin
Holly McNeeney
Sienna Mitchell-Johnson
Jude Moore
Eva Perry
Joss Phillips
Harrison Rutherford
Oliver Smith
Harriet Sykes
Francesca Turner
Justin Ucar
Jonah Walker
Kerry Wells
Isabella Westwood
Arabella Wilson

YEAR 5

Eloise Allsager
Imogen Barker
Hermione Bruiners
Nathan Collyer
Arabella Hampson
Charlie Howard
Jaxon Lee
Hannah Morley
Tafara Mudhefi
Lucas Singh
Jake Woodriffe

YEAR 4

Sophie Alexander
T J Dunstan
Lola Gallacher
Autumn Hampson
Robyn Parker-Toon

YEAR 3

Odera Munonyedi

YEAR 2

Max Cottingham

YEAR 1

Amaira Khan
James Proctor

JAMES PACKWOOD, YEAR 5

Received a golf medal for his football team, Syston, coming first in a tournament.

TOMAS MASON, YEAR 5

Received a medal for taking part in the LRU tournament, playing for Syston.

JAKE WOODRIFFE, YEAR 5

Received a gold medal for his football team, Syston, coming first in a tournament.

HERMIONE BRUINERS, YEAR 5

Received a medal and certificate for participating in the Loughborough Gymnastics Academy Floor and Vault competition.

EDWARD KARANJA, YEAR 5

Won the following medals for swimming in the 2017 Leicester Penguins Christmas Cracker Club Championship:-
50m Freestyle - Gold
50m Breaststroke - Gold
50m Backstroke - Silver

ELOISE ALLSAGER, YEAR 5

Won 4 Bronze and 1 Gold medal for swimming in the Leicester Penguins Open Meet competition for Breaststroke and Front Crawl.

CHARLOTTE SHIELD, YEAR 5

Was awarded 'Gymnast of the Year' from Loughborough Gymnastics Academy and received a gold medal and trophy.

CHARLOTTE JOY, YEAR 3

Won a silver medal in a Cheerleading competition.

GYAAN SAGOO, YEAR 2

Received a Stagecoach One Year Award certificate for studying Performing Arts.



THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL NATIVITY



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



We have continued with our DofE classroom training. Silver participants have returned to training after their mock examinations and are making good progress on their expedition route planning. Bronze participants have continued to undertake a carousel of different training activities, including first aid, kit and cooking stove training. This week, the gold participants have spent a useful training session on the food and nutrition required for very challenging routes over several days. They got a chance to cook and taste different types of food, including dehydrated food, boil in the bag expedition rations and other suitable expedition food. Hopefully, this will be food for thought and they can now try out different menus at Easter when on their practice expedition.

Congratulations to our successful students on gaining their awards:

Silver: Matthew Lindley

Bronze: Connor Fernandes and Joseph Hunt

Mrs Cole, DofE Co-ordinator

CCF

We said a fond farewell to Flt Lt Burton during parade on Tuesday 5th December, following 12 years of devoted service as Section Commander of the RAF section here at Ratcliffe College.



Toby is moving on to become a training Officer with the Eastern Area Leadership Team based at RAF Wittering. He presented the School with a decanter to be used at our next Contingent Dinner. Mrs Grant is now the new Section Commander of the RAF Section, also being promoted to Flt Lt Grant. During this parade, congratulations were also in order for LCpl James Howling and newly promoted LCpl Ben McCahill, who successfully passed their Method of Instruction assessments with Sgt Matt Pickard. The boys will now be using their new skills in order to teach the younger RAF cadets.

Looking ahead, we envisage a very busy programme for the Army and RAF sections, with Air Experience flying, a visit to the Army DEMS Regiment, recruits training and our Easter Camp to the South of France in April 2018. Tuesday 12th December will be our final parade night before we finish for the Christmas holidays and we wish all the cadets, Army and RAF, a very Merry Christmas.

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



DRAMA

Year 7 performed 'A Christmas Carol' and for many, it was a very new experience. Sam Davies – one of the three 'Scrooge's' in the play writes about these experiences:

I have learnt a great deal from this fruitful experience. One was the many drama techniques I picked up from Mrs Caven-Henrys' lessons and in practices. I learnt how hard it is to learn and practice words and actions, and from my terrible beginnings of awkward silence, wondering what my lines were, I gradually got better and more confident with my ability to act.

The particular skill I have struggled to learn the most is the art of filling time by moving around or doing this and that and also the skill of expressing emotion just through facial and body movement. I have enjoyed the experience as a whole, particularly practising in lessons and out of lessons, playing around with my 'old man voice' and my movements around the stage. But the best part of the journey was definitely getting applauded on the last night of the play, and thinking, it's all over!

What can I do with my empty evenings now, if not to practise my lines to the extent that they are floating around my head. I have found it hard learning so many lines, but mainly my stage presence, my expression and movement, is what I have battled with most of all.

SPORT



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Please find the link to our weekly Sports Reports below:

[SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)

[PREP SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT](#)



THE BIG SIX

CHAPLAINCY

Between lessons and extra-curricular activities, our students have also been busy fundraising throughout the term. The Chaplaincy Team would like to thank students, parents and friends, for supporting the following events ... [click here to read more.](#)

Mrs Waters, Chaplaincy Team

**Ratcliffe College
Community Carol Service
Sunday 10th December, 6pm
College Chapel**



MUSIC

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Congratulations to those students who took London College of Music Examinations last week on such a superb set of results. It is wonderful to see that the hard work you put in has been rewarded. Best of luck as you enjoy learning new pieces in the coming weeks!

WITH PASS

Evie Ashford
Isha Sidhu

Millie Lake

WITH MERIT

Amy Mason
Isabella Boothroyd
Alice Bower

Emily Wetton
Rosanna Wilson

WITH DISTINCTION

Annabelle Hull
Holly Clark-Pratt
Romy Totton

Amélie Wilson-Knight
Maddy Dunstan

followed by seasonal refreshments

The Preparatory School Chapel Choir treated family and friends, as well as members of the public to 45 minutes of delightful Christmas singing in John Lewis, Leicester on Wednesday 6th December. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sing in public and our audience was extremely enthusiastic. John Lewis were so delighted with the Christmas vibe we created that they have already invited us back next year! Thank you to everyone who came to support us.

Mrs Markham, Music Teacher, Preparatory School



AND BEYOND...

INSPIRE

There was standing room only at this week's INSPIRE as we welcomed Old Ratcliffian, Andrew Finan, who offered a captivating presentation: 'Entrepreneurship: Making Luck and Learning Lessons'.

Andrew's illustrious and varied career has seen him write a critically-acclaimed business book 'Corporate Christ', create a multi-award winning language game, KLOO, and enjoy a period as Managing Director at IMG, global leader in fashion, sports and fashion.

Sarah Astill (Year 12) writes: "The most important thing that I learned from Mr Finan is that it is sometimes okay to fail – it is not the end of the world."



For us to be ultimately successful, we are always going to have that one day where everything goes wrong, or that one job that doesn't work out. If we set our minds to it, we will succeed."

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM

In order to help with the flow of traffic on the last day of term, the South Terrace route, which is normally only open in the mornings, will also be open at the end of the school day.

Depending on the success of this trial, it may then be opened up on subsequent Fridays and other days where an exceptionally high volume of traffic is anticipated. Additional staffing will be on duty to help with supervision.



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 8

Alton Castle Retreat

ALL YEARS

End of Autumn Term arrangements

YEARS 11, 12 & 13

Summer 2018 Public Examinations Timetable

PARENT PORTAL LINKS

[SIXTH FORM](#)

[YEARS 10-11](#)

[YEARS 7-9](#)

[ALL SCHOOL NEWS](#)

DON'T FORGET:

Friday 8th December

Sunday 10th December

Monday 11th December

Tuesday 12th December

Wednesday 13th December

Saturday 16th December

Sunday 24th December

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

Ratcliffe College Annual 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)**. All welcome!



THANK YOU TO MR LEE (BIRSTALL GARDEN CENTRE) FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

A huge thanks to the merry band of helpers for your sterling work in decorating school in readiness for all the Christmas events, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the Decadence Ball, which should be a lovely way to reward us all for our efforts throughout this term.

Alison Etty and Sasha Bruiners
Joint PA Chair

