



14th September 2018

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

Whether you are a current parent or a parent new to Ratcliffe College, a very warm welcome to you all for this new academic year.

I hope you will enjoy reading my fortnightly newsletter, Head-Lines. The College has enjoyed a very busy yet productive start to the term and, already, the long hot summer holiday seems a distant memory.

The students in the Nursery, Preparatory and Senior Schools have made a confident start and I have thoroughly enjoyed chatting with so many of them over the past two weeks. In particular, Year 1 children made me laugh as they lined up for lunch, announcing that they had all been visited by the tooth fairy and almost simultaneously showed me their 'gaps' and wobbly teeth - lovely! So many students have shared with me their wonderful holiday experiences and, apart from homework, they seem really happy to be back at school with their friends and getting on with their learning.

Thank you to you, the parent body, for all you have done to help your son/daughter settle in/back to routines. The students look incredibly smart in their uniforms, too. Thank you for your ongoing commitment in this regard, it really does help to set a purposeful tone for the College.

STRENGTH OF MIND, STRENGTH OF VALUES, STRENGTH OF PURPOSE

As we begin the new year, it is most important that we remind ourselves of our College vision. In Senior School assembly, we asked all the students to 'think big' and aspire to achieve their greatest potential in all they do. I asked the students to align themselves with our vision by setting themselves their own targets whether they be academic, co-curricular or both. By agreeing their own individual targets, with the support of their parents and teachers, we will, together, realise our vision and mission.

At the very heart of our vision are the Gospel Values, which remind us of the need for daily kindness, tolerance, respect, forgiveness, service and sacrifice. Thank you for supporting your children with their personal targets this year and our College vision.

In the Preparatory School, this theme was exemplified by Class 6F's assembly on Thursday which gave all the children a glimpse of all the wonderful opportunities that are available to them in the year ahead and challenged them to get involved and to give of their best. Congratulations to Mr Finn and his class for capturing the essence of our vision as a school so very well.



NEW RATCLIFFE COLLEGE WEBSITE

We are delighted to announce the launch of our fabulous new website: www.ratcliffecollege.com. I hope you will enjoy the fresh new look as well as the improved navigation and better accessibility on mobiles and tablets. You will see social media feeds and an on-line calendar, keeping you up-to-date with all that is going on.



DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The ground works on the development in the square in the centre of the Senior School are now finished. The benches are still to be delivered and the water feature is under construction.



We plan to allow students to use this quiet space as of Monday next week. We hope they will enjoy walking through this peaceful new area and use it for quiet reflection and to just be at one with themselves. In the Senior School, the students have thoroughly enjoyed using the re-furnished Music classrooms and Mac computers.

The fitness suite development is on schedule, but we do ask for your understanding and forbearance in the coming weeks as the main structure of the building is assembled, as this will require the use of a large crane which will affect the traffic flow around the South Terrace. The College is working closely with the contractors to minimise disruption and we will give parents advance notice of this work so that you can adjust your travel plans accordingly on the days which will be affected.

CAR PARKING AND TRAFFIC FLOW

Whilst on the theme of traffic flow, the morning drop-off has been very smooth so far. The evening pick-up has been incredibly busy, although this is to be expected as families get used to the system and students settle into their new routines with the co-curricular programme and Prep.

In order to help parking and traffic flow at the peak time (4.00pm - 4.30pm), we have employed a second traffic attendant. One of the attendants will always supervise the zebra crossing opposite the Preparatory School during peak time to ensure children can safely cross the road. In order to help ease congestion at the end of school, please consider adopting some of the following suggestions which we advocate.

Between the end of the school day and the end of the extended day programme, you may collect your children from the Preparatory School and Senior School after they have been to Tea. Preparatory School children in Years 3-6 finish Tea at 4.10pm, while those in the Senior School finish at around 4.30pm. Children can also be collected from Prep at 5.20pm or 6.10pm. This means that you can choose to collect your children at quieter times should you wish to do so. Should your children stay for Prep, they will benefit from completing their homework before going home or, they can join one of the many co-curricular activities on offer, which are so important to developing their skills and talents.



In addition, we have extended the second car park. With the help of the car park attendant there are, therefore, lots more car parking spaces available in the main car park enabling parents to park and wait or park and walk to collect your children, rather than using the drop-off areas. We have also extended the drop-off area past the Preparatory School which is being well used.

The beginning of the school year is always a very busy time but, as routines are established, the traffic flow and parking does settle down. The most important request is that we continue to be patient and courteous of others to ensure the safety of the children and fellow parents. To this end, members of the Senior Leadership Team will continue to monitor the pick-up of students at peak times. If we witness any inappropriate parking that may pose a danger to the children, we will politely request that vehicles are moved immediately. Thank you for your support, as always, in this regard.

‘THE BIG SIX’

The Co-curricular programme is at the very heart of all we do here at Ratcliffe. In support of the academic curriculum, the co-curricular programme enables students to develop their gifts and talents and experience new activities. Under the banner of ‘The Big Six’, the Senior School programme focuses on drama, music, CCF, DofE, sport and community service.

We are keen that every child is involved in at least one activity each week, so please do encourage your son/daughter to try something new. Remember, finding the right balance between academic study and co-curricular activities is most important. If the balance is right, your son/daughter will thrive! If you have any questions about the co-curricular programme, please contact your child’s class teacher or Tutor.

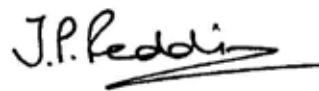
KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 17th September: Headmaster’s Reception for Senior School Parents, Newman Hall, 7.30-9.00pm
- Wednesday 19th September, Parent Café: Study Skills, delivered by Elevate, Old Library, 6.30-7.30pm
- Saturday 22nd September: Ratcliffe College Preparatory Schools’ Football Festival, 9.00am-12.00pm
- Monday 24th September: Nursery & Lower Prep Baby Gigs Concert 1, Newman Hall, 10.00am
- Tuesday 25th September: Preparatory School Harvest Festival, Chapel, 9.00am
- Tuesday 25th September: Nursery Parents’ Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (also on Thursday 27th September)
- Tuesday 25th September: Careers Information Evening for Year 11 Parents, Old Library, 6.30pm

As always, Head-Lines, is crammed with information and stories celebrating the wonderful educational experiences that your children are enjoying. Please do keep us informed of your children’s achievements or experiences out of school, too. It is always lovely to hear about their hobbies and interests and to celebrate their successes.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

Eighteen Year 13 students and two members of staff were lucky enough to attend a training day at Beaumanor Hall to qualify them as Ratcliffe Samaritan Listeners. The Samaritan Listener Scheme within schools is a great initiative and we are the first school locally to be involved in this. The training they received involved fully trained Samaritans leading the students through a series of activities and possible scenarios to help prepare them for their future roles as Samaritan Listeners. The Ratcliffe Samaritan Listener scheme will enable them to lend a listening ear to younger students as well as to their peers to help them through difficult times. The Samaritan Listeners will be available at lunchtimes starting next week when they will be in The Lighthouse (room to the left of the RS classroom upstairs) from 1:40 – 2:10pm Monday to Friday.

Our Students Listeners are Elliot Fawdington, Jenna Pole, Joe Chapman, Steven Lai, Isabella Orsini-Rottner, Hebe Jackson, Arran Grant, Katie Honey, Daniel Bastock, Sarah Astill, Miles Dunne, Annie Walsh, Harry Ainscough, Chantelle Creighton, Isobel Coombs, Mollie Page, Alfie Murray-Scott, Harneeka Dhillon.



GOT WHAT IT TAKES?



Jacob Storey (Year 10) is starring in the popular CBBC Show 'Got What It Takes' a 10 week series aired on Mondays, beginning 24th September at 5.25pm. This is a talent competition about 8 of the most talented kids in the UK who would you like to discover what it's really like to work in the music industry.

Each week they battle it out to get into the sing-off by winning a music industry challenge lead by a different celebrity each week. The twist is that the 3rd place for the sing-off is won by one of their mums winning a different sort of challenge! Yes, his mum Annabel is also featured in the show, much to his embarrassment!

Please tune in and show your support as he may need your vote to get into the final on the 9th episode! If he wins he will get to sing in front of 20,000 people at BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend!



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievement Awards, July 2018

Merit Badge

YEAR 7

Filip Chmurovic
Rocca Lanza

Lucas Kariolis
Keira Perry

YEAR 8

Tyler Black
Toby Nesbitt

Harrington Leake
Harley Walker

YEAR 9

Henry Coombs
Samuel Linnett
Amy Mason

Joseph Davies
Mustafa Mamujee
Sophie Wilson

Merit Shield

YEAR 7

Isabella Boothroyd
Maddy Dunstan
Riley Kirk
Millie Mokha
Keira Perry
Madelaine Whalley

Harry Carroll
Eliza Geraghty
Alexandra Mawby
Jayde Patterson
Charles Smith

YEAR 8

Maisie Ashford-Clark
Jacob Butler
Frances Daly
Samuel Gray
Isabella Illsley-Ridge
Jessica McCall
Cameron Mulvihill
David Seidu
Jack Tang

Tyler Black
Tobias Chilton
Harry Gamble
Ibrahim Hussain
Chelsea Makandeni
Matilda Miles
Thomas Murray
Emily Spillane
Lucy Tuttey

YEAR 9

Jasmin Jarvis
Victoria Oliver-Vanrell

Verity Mangham
Freya Smith

Super Shield

YEAR 7

Zoe Howling
Sophie Leighton
Edward Offer
Gizella Perrins
Jessica Westwood

Ejemen Joel
Ruby Lord
Sophie Packwood
Marisa Smith
Romi White

YEAR 8

Fisayo Abiodun
Holly Clark-Pratt
Grace Karanja
Jonathan Shaw
Jack Tang
Tallulah Wood

Daniel Bailey
Phoebe Greenaway
Wilfred Milner
Ethan Starley
Tristan Turner

YEAR 9

Annie Rose Reddin

Marley Totton

Achievement Voucher 1

YEAR 7

Rosie Dickerson

YEAR 8

Annie Jarvis

Eleni Malhan

YEAR 9

Elise Atkinson

Achievement Voucher 2

YEAR 10

Jonathan Bellamy
Harry Cusack
Hadia Hussain

Max Chapman
Charlie Foulds
Louis Morrison

Achievement Voucher 3

YEAR 10

Rebecca Davies
Ihuoma Osuji
Emma Turner

Isabella Mulvihill
Eleanor Shaw



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ELOISE ALLSAGER, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 1 Drum exam with merit.

BELLA BARTON-JACQUES, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 1 Music Theatre exam with merit.

BEN CAMERON-SMITH, YEAR 6

Won the U10's club championship at Rothley Tennis Club. He was also awarded 'The Ace of The Academy' certificate from the Activate Summer scheme.

LILY GRIEFF-LIGGINS-MULVEY, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 4 Music Theatre exam with distinction.

FREYA MACKAY, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 2 Music Theatre exam with distinction.

FLORENCE NEWHAM, YEAR 6

Passed her Grade 1 Music Theatre exam with distinction.

JAKE WOODRIFFE, YEAR 6

Was awarded the 'Man of the Match' trophy by Syston FC Under 11's team.

AMÉLIE WILSON-KNIGHT, YEAR 5

Passed her Grade 2 Music Theatre exam with distinction.

EMILY WOODLEY, YEAR 5

Passed her Grade 2 Piano examination



FR PHILIP, FR PRESIDENT BLESSES THE PREP SCHOOL CLASSROOMS



KEY STAGE I CELEBRATION



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

JOHN BOWDEN, YEAR 4

Passed his Grade 1 Trumpet exam with distinction. John also took part in a 25 mile cycle sportive at Belvoir and was interviewed by the BBC, for the local news, for being the youngest rider to complete.

LOCHLANN DESMOND-AINGE, YEAR 4

Achieved his 800 metre swimming award and also received a certificate for taking part in the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge.

LUCY MARKHAM, YEAR 4

Passed her Grade 1 Violin exam with distinction.

REBECCA MCCALL, YEAR 4

Received a medal and certificate for taking part in the LCFC summer football camp.

LORCAN MURPHY, YEAR 4

Was awarded the 'Players' Player' 2018 award from Stoneygate FC Under 8's team.

FREDDIE POUTCH, YEAR 4

Achieved his 1000 metre swimming award.

JESSICA TUCKWELL, YEAR 4

Was awarded the 'Player of the Tournament' trophy playing for the Under 9's Quorn Hounds football team.

EASHER AUSTIN, YEAR 3

Passed his Grade 1 Piano exam with distinction.

HARRISON POUTCH, YEAR 3

Achieved his 200 metre swimming award.

MALACHY DESMOND-AINGE, YEAR 2

Achieved his 15 metre swimming award and also received a certificate for taking part in the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge.

MATILDA ETTY, YEAR 2

Achieved her Stage 4 Swim England swimming award.

NIA HUGHES, YEAR 2

Received a certificate for taking part in the Mischief Makers Summer Reading Challenge.

ISABELLE ASHFIELD, YEAR 1

Received a certificate for swimming 100 metres.



AWARD TIME DURING ASSEMBLY



CHAPLAINCY/ COMMUNITY SERVICE

In July, twelve Ratcliffe students travelled to Lourdes, France, on pilgrimage, accompanied by Mr Walsh and Sister Debra Warburton. Group 512, the Ratcliffe - Rosmini group, consisted of 53 pilgrims including staff, students and former Ratcliffe students. Led by Mrs Teresa Gamble, we were also assisted by our group Chaplains, Fr Philip Sainter and Fr Anthony Meredith. Once again, the Lourdes pilgrimage was a deeply inspirational, personal and humbling experience for all those involved. The theme of the pilgrimage was HCPT's theme of the year: 'I am special'.

'Emily and I were looking after Paul this week and had to work as a team. Never have I met an individual so relaxed, funny and warm as Paul. I was slightly nervous that I would do something wrong at the beginning, but Paul made us feel at ease and confident. Diversity is a value that both HCPT and Ratcliffe College embrace. All of us, with different stories, faiths and experiences come together for some beautiful Masses and other services. This has been a week of joy!'

Miles Dunne, Year 13



On Monday 10th September, all Year 7 students travelled to The Briars Residential Centre in Crich, Derbyshire for a retreat and activities visit. The students participated in a number of activities which were led by The Briars team, based on the theme of relationships and community. On Tuesday evening, Fr Jonathan celebrated Mass with the students. All students were involved with the readings, offertory and drama and everyone sang joyfully. Before departing on Wednesday afternoon, the students were presented with affirmations; each student received a certificate highlighting their qualities as identified by other members of the group. It was wonderful to witness all the students entering fully into the spirit of the trip and representing the School impeccably. Thank you to all parents for your support – it was much appreciated.

Mr Walsh, Head of Religious Studies

Jon Reddin, Headmaster, hands over the minibus keys to Mrs Jo Anderson, Headteacher of St Francis Catholic Primary School in Melton Mowbray. The minibus will provide much needed transport to St Francis for sporting fixtures and for visiting us to join in with spiritual and co-curricular events at Ratcliffe, building on the excellent relationship of the two schools.



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA

Congratulations to Edward Smellie, Eve Millward (Year 12), Tilly Goodwin (Year 11) and Will Evans (Year 10) who are performing in Westside Story at Melton Theatre this week.



In addition, Maddy Dunstan (Year 8) is performing in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Haymarket theatre and Harriet Walne (Year 7) is in CATS at the Little Theatre, this week and next respectively. Break a leg to you all!

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama.

MUSIC

Please [click here](#) to see the practical music examination successes of our students.

SPORT

I had the best day of my life in August, when after training and competing all year, all over the country, I went to the pony club championships to try and win so we could compete at the Horse of the Year Show 2018. There are hundreds of pony clubs in this country but only 6 make it to HOYS to compete for a week for the Prince Phillip Cup. We managed to win after being on my pony all day and are now heading for HOYS in the first week of October.

Fred Jackson, Year 10



Click here to read the [latest sports report](#) and a report on the summer [Golf Tour to Norfolk](#)

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport



COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

Congratulations to CSgt Molly Edwards on passing the Army Officer Selection Board.



MY BOARD EXPERIENCE

In June, I travelled down to Westbury, near Bath, for a three-day Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB). Throughout the three days,

SUMMER AT CAMP, CYPRUS

Three, ten-day camps in Cyprus were brilliant! Open to both RAF and Army cadets, we had six cadets attend this year: Grace Clark, Matthew Lindley, Arran Grant, Joshua Bellamy, Max Chapman and Sam Seidu. It was hot, but the taster AT sessions mixed with gorgeous weather and making great new friends, made the camps go so quick. Scuba, rock climbing, High Ropes, Go Karting, hiking through a gorge and waterfall, beach team games, water sports, clay pigeon shooting, escape rooms, lots of meals out ending in a last night party ... we hope we will entice lots of others to sign up for next year?

I had to complete a number of challenging and assessed activities, including an obstacle course, a problem solving exercise, mental aptitude tests, leadership and command tasks, gruelling interviews and a bleep test. The experience was both mentally and physically challenging, but there was some opportunity to socialise with the other candidates and weigh up the opposition. The route to AOSB is quite long, starting on GCSE results day, and whilst not everyone is successful, the processes enables you to gain new skills and to make new friends from a variety of social backgrounds. I was very proud to receive the news I had passed AOSB, although I was not offered the Army Officer Sixth Form Scholarship.

I now have 7 years to take a place at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst to train to become an Officer.

Molly Edwards

Any student from Year 9 to 13 is welcome to join the CCF and get involved in the wide range of activities available. To read all about the CCF summer camps, [click here](#).

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



THE BIG SIX

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to our students, past and present, who have successfully completed their awards:-

Alex Bown, Eve Millward, Isabella Mulvihill – Bronze
Ed Purcell – Silver
Finbarr Lloyd, Sophie Riley - Gold



We have already been very busy with an assessed expedition, our presentation evening and our information evening in just the first two weeks.



The silver assessed expedition to Shropshire and the Long Mynd area was great fun for the staff, although more of a challenge for the participants. We had lovely weather, just right for walking, and everybody enjoyed spending time together. The participants just need to get their projects in to successfully complete this section. Well done to everybody on such a successful expedition! The assessors commented on what lovely young people they all were – such a credit to our school.



Our presentation evening was a lovely chance for us to congratulate everybody on their success throughout the year: 35 Bronze awards, 16 Silver awards and 16 Gold awards. We enjoyed catching up with parents, participants and it was great to see some Old Ratcliffians too and catch up on their news. Well done to everybody for their hard work and success.

If you missed the information evening and have any questions, please just email Mrs Cole: CCole@ratcliffcollege.com

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



AND BEYOND...



The 2018 'Ratcliffe Golf Day' was held on Friday 7th September at Rothley Park Golf Club amidst beautiful, autumn sunshine, for the second year running. The event attracted 19 teams comprising of 76 golfers and raised £4,500 towards the Ratcliffe 2020 Sports Appeal. The greens were in wonderful condition and the golfers, who played in teams of four, had a shotgun start at 1.30pm. After dinner, during the prize giving, there was much hilarity as the Headmaster announced that, for the second year running, he had been beaten to the Longest Drive, this time by Adi Whalley (current parent). Prizes were awarded for the top three winning teams including a case of Laurent-Perrier Champagne for each member of the winning team.

A big thank you to all those who participated, organised a team or sponsored something on the day. Through this generosity, the event has managed to raise £4,500 towards the Ratcliffe2020 Sports Appeal. We would like to thank all the parents and Old Ratcliffians who took part in the day, with particular thanks to our generous sponsors: <https://ratcliffecollegefoundation.com/ratcliffe2020/ratcliffe-golf-day/>

Mr Andrew Yell, Development Director

SPEECH WRITING SEMINAR



On Tuesday 11 September, students from Rushey Mead Academy joined Ratcliffe students in a Speech Writing Seminar as part of our outreach partnership. In preparation for the forthcoming Public Speaking Championship on Sunday 30th September, Mr Neville offered a presentation on effective speech writing before the students took on the challenge of preparing a 1 minute speech on a topic of their choice in just 15 minutes.

Volunteers took to the stage and courageously performed in front of the audience before questions and feedback from the floor. It was a highly entertaining afternoon which brought together students from across the Seniors and Sixth Form in preparation for the forthcoming championship.



AND BEYOND...

STAFF NEWS



On 31st August, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Tina Wheat, Examinations Officer & Data Manager after 11 years of excellent service to Ratcliffe College. Tina made a significant contribution to the smooth running of the examinations and data management during her time here and she will be sadly missed. We wish her every success in her new career, which is not in the education sector. Mrs Jane Ellis-Laycock will commence this role next week.

INSPIRE: DON'T FORGET YOUR LAYERS



On Wednesday 12th September, Emily Bown was guest speaker at the first INSPIRE event of this year. As the first recipient of the annual Ratcliffian Association Gap Year Scholarship, Emily presented on her amazing experiences over the last 12 months, traveling and teaching in Chile. In the coming weeks Emily will apply all that she has learnt as she commences her degree in Spanish at the University of Exeter.

Next INSPIRE (Years 10-13):

Wednesday 26th September, 5.20pm
Archaeologist, Dr Matthew Morris: Roman Leicester

OPEN MORNING - SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER - 9:30AM - 12 NOON

We will be holding our autumn Open Morning on Saturday 6th October for prospective families wanting to have a look around our lovely School. Our students are our best ambassadors, so Senior School students and our older Preparatory School children will be asked by their tutors/class teachers to help on the day. Please keep this date free for us, if you will and thank you in advance.



AND BEYOND...

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENTRY INTO YEARS 7 & 12 FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

If you are a parent of a child in current Years 6 or 11, may I draw your attention to the **Ratcliffe College Talent Scholarships**, which are available for entry into Years 7 and 12 in September 2019.

We offer a range of talent scholarships – Academic, Sport, Creative: Art and Design, Drama, Music, and All-Rounder (in Year 7 only) **now worth up to 50%** off the School fee. Please refer to: <https://www.ratcliffecollege.com/admissions/scholarships/>

(Please note that you cannot apply for an Academic Scholarship at this time. A letter regarding the latter will be sent out to all parents during the Autumn Term.)

If you wish to apply, please contact our Registrar's Department on 01509 817072 / 817031 or email: registrar@ratcliffecollege.com for an application form. **The deadline for scholarship applications is Friday 30th November 2018**, a date to which we must strictly adhere. **No late applications can be considered.**

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 link below and enter the password).

[PARENT PORTAL](#)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents,

We were thrilled that so many parents attended the AGM on Tuesday 11th September. The review of how much the PA has contributed to school this last year was amazing to hear! Over £37,000 has been raised and many contributions to school have been made including wooden building blocks in the Nursery, herb and sand pits for Key stage 1, an I-pad for the music department, the altar missal for Key stage 2, swimming caps for the sports department, to name but a few! The development of the well-being square area, with the £20,000 donation, from the PA is well underway. It will be an amazing area for parents, students and teachers to spend quiet, reflective time. A wonderful enhancement to the School.

Everyone is invited to come along to the next second-hand uniform sale on Wednesday 7th November. Please bring your bags to Prep School Reception, for the attention of Jenny Howling, with time before the sale for the PA ladies to log and label your items.

Dates for your diaries:

- Next PA meeting, Tuesday 6th November 2018, 7.30pm
- Bicester shopping trip, Tuesday 13th November 2018. A day of merriment and shopping! Your PA year representative will post on the Whatsapp groups, when the tickets will go on sale.
- Fire and Ice Ball, Saturday 15th December 7.30pm -12.30am

Alison Ety and Sasha Bruiners, Joint Chair

