



28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

Half-term is already on the horizon as September draws to a close. The campus is a riot of colour as our magnificent trees begin to shed their leaves.

The horse-chestnuts have given up their fruit and we have enjoyed collecting 'conkers' for the House Conker Competition in the Senior School.

The fabulous Lockhart Garden welcomed students and staff for the first time this week. This unique development at the heart of the Senior School, designed by parent, Mr Ashley Lynch, and inspired by our beautiful Pugin architecture, has been well received by all those who have used it so far. Members of the School community have enjoyed taking time out from the hurly-burly of the school day to enjoy peace and quiet. I would like to thank the Parents' Association for their substantial donation to this development, which now provides a real focal point as we work together to raise awareness of the importance of positive emotional health amongst young people.

Once the new benches and water feature are installed, the Garden will be officially opened and the College will mark the contribution made by the Parents' Association and Mr Lynch in a fitting manner. The Garden is named after Father William Lockhart, an individual of great significance in the history of the College, as well as the Catholic Church

in England. Indeed, up until the 1970s, one of the School Houses was named Lockhart House.

To find out why the name of Lockhart has been chosen for our Garden, as well as finding out more about Lockhart's contribution to Ratcliffe College's history, [click here](#)



### BIG SIX

The Co-Curricular programme is absolutely buzzing at the moment with record numbers involved in all the major activities.

Mrs Cole is delighted to report that, at all levels, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is in good health. The CCF is also celebrating a positive period of recruitment for the RAF section as well as the Army section. Mrs Grant is delighted that so many new students are eager to experience the opportunity to experience flight.



Our student Chaplaincy Team has made a very positive impact too in the first few weeks of term, supporting Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain, with assemblies and our Harvest appeal, alongside the fantastic contribution made by the Preparatory School.



Thank you to everyone who has given so generously to our Harvest appeal as we continue to support the vital work of St Joseph's store house and the Carpenter's Arms in Loughborough. This charity provides daily food parcels for the needy in our local communities.

Ratcliffe musicians have been industrious over the past four weeks. In the Senior School, the Sixth Form 'Racapello' group, Gospel Choir, Senior Choir and Senior Orchestra have all been very active and numbers continue to grow. Please do encourage your sons/daughters to attend if they have an interest in singing or if they are receiving instrumental lessons. It really is great fun to be involved with a choir or ensemble or orchestra developing those all-important communication and team building skills.

Our youngest children in the Nursery and Preparatory School have enjoyed the first of six 'BabyGigs' concerts, where we are visited by a professional musician who leads them in music-making. String Stars is, once again, proving to be incredibly popular and I am looking forward to hearing the children perform.

Our sports teams across the College continue to impress in all they do. It has been a pleasure for me to watch so many of our students in the Preparatory and Senior Schools enjoying playing team sport and having the opportunity to play against other schools. Your tremendous support on the touch line is much appreciated by the students and the staff.

## AND BEYOND

The House Public Speaking Competition has been keenly contested at every Key Stage in the Senior School over the past fortnight.

My sincere congratulations to all those who participated and those who supported the events, particularly Mr Benjamin, Head of Public Speaking and Debate for his organisation and the preparation of the students.



Regrettably, Mr Benjamin is leaving Ratcliffe on Sunday 30th September and returning to his native Boston to care for his father. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Benjamin on behalf of the whole College community for his tremendous passion, enthusiasm and drive since he joined Ratcliffe 4 years ago. He has been an inspiration to students and staff alike, whether as a teacher of English, Head of Year or, more recently, as Head of Public Speaking and Debate. We wish Mr Benjamin and his family well for the future.





The College hosted the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association Autumn Board Meeting, where Mr Berry, Head of Art and Design, was able to showcase the outstanding work of the students and staff as part of our unique Spitfire project. We are most grateful to the Association for their kind and generous donation. If you would like to know more about the Spitfire build, please [click here](#).

## OTHER NEWS

Thank you for your support of the various Parent-Teacher meetings and information evening on Phonics and Tapestry in the Nursery, information evenings in the Preparatory School and Senior School, including the Year 11 Study Skills session and Careers Information Evening. We hope you found them useful.

It has been a real privilege for parents to attend Thursday morning Class Assemblies in the Preparatory School over the past two weeks. Year 6 students have led by example, embracing the opportunity given to them by their class teachers and producing assemblies of a very high quality. I am looking forward to watching Year 5 in the coming weeks.



Our boarding community has enjoyed several excellent trips including Alton Towers. Our new students from overseas have been made very welcome, and I am delighted to report they are all settling in very well.

So, all-in-all, it has been a fabulous start to the academic year across the College and I am very grateful to you and your sons/daughters for your unstinting support of all that we do each day. So much learning has taken place in our classrooms and I



am indebted to my dedicated team of staff, teaching and support, who help create such a warm and supportive environment for the students each day.

I look forward to meeting you at an event in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.

## HEADMASTER'S DIARY

### Public Speaking Championship, Sunday 30th September 2018

I warmly invite you to attend our Public Speaking Championship, commencing with a reception at 12.30pm, with the contest getting underway at 1.00pm in the Old Library. This year, we welcome five candidates from Saint Mary's Catholic High School, The Becket School, Rushey Mead Academy and Ratcliffe College, who will deliver speeches on topics ranging from 'Teachers Should Carry Guns' to 'Free Speech Must Include Hate Speech.'

### HMC Annual Conference, Monday 1st October to Wednesday 3rd October

I will be attending the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) in Manchester next week, returning on Wednesday.

### Hong Kong, Wednesday 10th October to Monday 15th October

Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding and Mr Yell, Development Director, will accompany me to Hong Kong where we will meet with current parents and alumni, as well as prospective parents and boarding agents.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## SENIOR SCHOOL



PREFECTS ON PARADE!



OUR SENIOR PREFECTS

## YEAR 13 MATHS AMBASSADORS FOR 2018/19

The Mathematics Department is very pleased to announce its Mathematics Ambassadors: Dennis Ding and Megha Patel. Given the popularity of Mathematics at Ratcliffe, the department selects ambassadors from the Sixth Form every year, who are able to wear the special badge, designed by Tom Cusack last year.

Both Dennis and Megha are superb Mathematicians themselves and will be great Ambassadors to the department, helping to promote the subject, support other students with revision and prep, as well as running competitions throughout the year.

**Dr S. Jones, Second in Mathematics & Academic Data Co-ordinator**

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## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Please [click here](#) to see the successes of our Preparatory children in the last fortnight.



PREPARATORY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS



YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY



# THE BIG SIX

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



PREPARATORY SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE



Macmillan delights bringing a smile to our young students' faces and raising over £1100 at the same time for such an amazing charity. It's a win-win!

## COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)



Year 9 recruits took part in a three-part carousel, consisting of basic drill, a command task and some team building activities. Year 10 cadets went with CPT Dziemianko to begin their map skills section in preparation for their exercise on the forthcoming Swynnerton camp. Year 11 cadets carried on with their CFIT course by preparing a lesson on a military aspect like Bergen packing or uniform presentation. Year 12 cadets began their BTEC by starting to fill out the first of two booklets which will take a couple of weeks to do but is well worth the end result of achieving a BTEC.



The RAF took full advantage of the unit's laser tag rifles by playing war games in the woods. This is the first time the RAF have been able to use them due to the exponential increase in numbers of new recruits wanting to join the RAF. This is great news for the RAF as it will allow them to expand their training and try new methods.

**Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander**





# THE BIG SIX

## DRAMA



**M**addy Dunstan had an amazing time last week performing in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Haymarket Theatre. The play was reported as “very professional and hugely entertaining.”

**Mrs Munton, Head of Drama.**

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## GOLD AWARD TRAINING

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

**C**ongratulations to our bronze award achievers: Dominic Baggott, Adam Bartlett, Sophie Brown, Harry Cusack and Lily Stevenson-Ward.

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

## MUSIC



**T**he Music Department welcomed Mrs Zoe Curlett to give a series of masterclasses to singing students in the Senior School. Zoe has played many leading roles in the West End and brought such incredible expertise and enthusiasm to the time she gave us. The event finished with a joint masterclass where the students could sing to each other and witness what they had achieved during the sessions earlier in the day. It was wonderful to see the students rise to the challenge given by Zoe to improve their skills as they considered ways to communicate the message of the songs they had worked on. We very much look forward to running similar events in the near future.

**T**he annual Parents' Evening with Peripatetic staff will be held next Thursday 4th October between 6.00 – 7.00pm in the Music Hall. We hope that you will take the opportunity to meet with your child's instrumental teacher and find out more about the progress that he/she is making.

**Mr McCall, Director of Music**

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## SPORT

Click here to read the [latest sports report](#).

**Miss Stafford, Director of Sport**





# AND BEYOND...

## SIXTH FORM INSPIRATION

It gives me great pleasure to invite all students and parents of Years 9 to 13 to attend the following event next week, which is the final part of our new Careers INSPIRE Day:

### CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER  
6:00PM - 7:30PM IN THE THEATRE

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS IN  
YEARS 9 - 13

This will be an invaluable opportunity to meet a superb line-up of careers experts, university representatives from the across the UK and specialist providers such as the military, all in one place.

**We strongly recommend that all students in Years 9 to 13 take advantage of this opportunity, and do hope that you will be able to join us for the evening.**

If you are unable to accompany your son/daughter to this event, they are still most welcome to attend and to meet with representatives on their own. Students may wear school uniform or smart casual clothing.

I am very grateful to the Ratcliffian Association for their support of this event and to the many parents who have generously volunteered their time for the benefit of our students.

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

### 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...



## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

The annual Bicester shopping extravaganza is on **Tuesday 13th November**. Tickets will be on sale at Senior School Reception early next week. Please act quickly as the tickets sold out in 4 days last year! £15 ensures you have a bus to Bicester for a day of shopping and some sparkling refreshment for the journey!

Please bring in any second-hand uniform, to the Prep School asap, prior to the sale on Wednesday 7th November, 3.30pm until 6pm.

**Dates for your diaries:**

### THE FIRE AND ICE BALL

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER  
7:30PM - 12:30AM

BLACK TIE DRESS CODE WITH A TOUCH OF  
RED AND SILVER!

TICKETS ARE ON SALE EARLY NOVEMBER

Thank you for supporting the PA events.

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

## MEDICAL

Please note: to report your child ill, please e-mail: [absences@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:absences@ratcliffecollege.com).

## 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

Posted on the Parents' Portal this fortnight are the following letters/items of information:-

#### **Year 9**

- Science Revision Guide letters

#### **Year 13**

- Theatre trip - The Madness of King George III by Alan Bennett

