



Dear Parents,

Greetings from Hong Kong! Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding and Mr Yell, Development Director, have joined me to meet with parents of some of our current boarding students,

together with alumni and also boarding agents, as part of next year's recruitment. We return early Monday morning.

The first six weeks have flown by and I hope that our new students (and parents) have established routines and are feeling settled in their new school community. It has been an excellent start to the School Year and I would like to thank you for your support of your son/daughter as well as the College community. The students enjoyed finishing the half-term with Casuals Day to raise money for the Lourdes pilgrimage. Thank you for your support. The forthcoming two-week half-term holiday will allow plenty of time for much-needed rest and relaxation. However, Year 11 students will also need to ensure that they are fully prepared for their **Mock Examinations** which are due to commence on **12th November**.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you for your support of the various Parent Teacher Meetings that have taken place in recent weeks in the Nursery, Preparatory and Senior Schools.

These all-important 'touch points' enable you to find out, in detail, how your child is progressing. If you were unable to attend a recent Parent Teacher meeting for your child, please contact your Class Teacher or Tutor so that we can update you.

INSPIRE DAY

Iwould like to thank Mr Neville, Assistant Head/Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Grant, P.A. to the Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Girls' Housemistress who, in liaison with Mrs Wright, President of the Ratcliffian Association and Mrs Slack, Ratcliffian Association Executive Manager, hosted our first INSPIRE Day last week. Our Year 12 students enjoyed workshops delivered by members of our parent body on interview technique, CV writing and building resilience. My thanks to Mr England, Mr Cummins, Mrs Spillane and Mrs Wright for giving up their valuable time. Afterwards, students from Years 9 to 13 enjoyed a very productive evening, meeting representatives from universities, as well as a wide range of careers, in the Theatre. Once again, many thanks to the large number of current parents and Old Ratcliffians who supported the evening.



LEARNING WALKS

The final two weeks of the half-term have been extremely productive in our classrooms. Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Faculty have undertaken Learning Walks as part of the whole College Quality Assurance Cycle. Our focus was Year 11 students' learning. Over the past fortnight, we have observed almost 50 lessons across the subject range.

It has been wonderful to witness the energy and creativity of the students, inspired by excellent teaching, reflecting our vision for Strength of Mind. Further Learning Walks will take place after half-term for other Year Groups.

THE 'BIG SIX'

Our assemblies have continued to provide the students and staff with wonderful opportunities to explore history and the example of modern and latter day heroes. Students in Year 6P celebrated the wonderful example set by the twentieth century athlete and Christian, Eric Liddell, as part of our focus on humility. In the Senior School, we celebrated European Day of Languages as well as Black History month, commending the wonderful diversity we enjoy in our community.

The CCF contingent participated in a fantastic Field Weekend at Swynnerton Camp, while our Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award participants have been preparing for their training walk this coming weekend.



The Senior School Choir, under the expert guidance of Miss Argo, performed beautifully for our Preparatory School children. India Clarke led the Choir with a spine-tingling solo. I am delighted that our Senior Choir now boasts well over 50 students and I would like to encourage any more students who have a singing talent to join our ranks after half-term.

Our sports teams have continued to represent their school with pride, passion and skill. Pick of results last week was the First XV rugby team's 60-20 victory over Hill House and the U13A girls' hockey team's 8-1 victory over Nottingham High School in the 2nd round of the ISHC Cup. The Chaplaincy Teams in both the Preparatory School and Senior School have been busy preparing assemblies and getting ready for the Soup Lunch to raise money for CAFOD.



TRIPS AND VISITS

We wish well all those students who will be participating in the various trips and visits over the October half-term. Our GCSE and A Level History students depart for a weekend in London on Saturday, closely followed by the Year 9 and 10 Rugby and Hockey Tour to Gloucester on Sunday.

Following their successful Field Day, the CCF contingent head off once more on an Adventure Training week to Lancashire. On the final weekend of the half-term, our A Level Biologists will enjoy a weekend fieldwork trip to Preston Montford, in part fulfilment of their syllabus requirements. We hope all participants enjoy themselves and return safely.



STUDENT ABSENCE

Ratcliffe College Term Dates for 2019-2020 are being e-mailed to parents (these are also available on the [website](#)).

Please may I appeal to parents to keep family holidays/flights within the school holiday dates. With advance notice of holiday dates and the long holiday periods afforded to you, requests for family holidays in term time should not be made and, more crucially, time out of lessons may have a detrimental effect on your children's education. Whilst writing, please can I also remind parents of the importance of your child committing fully to school sports teams whether it be for weekly training or weekend matches and for the Senior School or Preparatory School. Thank you.

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 remind you about 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) **worth up to 50%** off the School fee. Please refer to: <https://www.ratcliffecollege.com/admissions/scholarships/>. If you wish to apply, please contact our Registrar, Miss Kelly Smith, 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 I must strictly adhere. **No late applications will be considered.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Looking ahead to the Calendar next half-term, here are the key events scheduled to take place before the next newsletter (but please check the Calendar for other events, too):-

Tuesday 30th October

- Years 3 & 5 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm
- Year 10 Parents' Evening, 6.10pm

Thursday 1st November

- Years 4 & 6 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
- Music Department Presents: Last Night of The Proms, 7.00pm

Monday 5th November

- Sixth Form Information Evening, 6.30pm

Tuesday 6th November

- Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm

Monday 12th November

- Babygigs Concert 2: Nursery & Lower Preparatory, Newman Hall, 10.00am

Tuesday 13th November

- Parents' Association Trip to Bicester Village, 9.00am-6.00pm

Wednesday 14th November

- Nursery: Helping Your Child with Mathematics, 2.00pm

I hope that you will be able to take a well-deserved break at some point over the holiday period, and I wish you a happy and healthy fortnight.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

'STRANGER SAGAS' CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

In English, last year, we had some students participate in the 'Stranger Sagas' creative writing competition. The students had to create a 100-word story with an opening sentence that was already provided.



The following students were lucky enough to get their stories accepted and have now been published in a book. Their own copies of the books will be given to them by their English teacher.

Jenson Curtis, Ewan Metcalfe, Lily Stevenson-Ward, Sophie Shield, Sophia Buczkowska, Finley Hollington, Jonathan Bellamy, Samantha Seidu, Ezra Starley, Aimee Cleminson, Kiera Perry, Charlotte Langford, Emilia Griffiths-Turner, Romi White, Faith Howard, Eleanor Newberry, Jess Westwood and Maisie Ashford-Clark.

Well done to all those that participated.

Miss Hobbs, English Teacher

FUTURECHEF COMPETITION STAGE I

Stage 1 of the annual FutureChef competition took place in the Food Science Department on Monday 8th October during prep time. The challenge was to make a main course meal for 2 people costing no more than £5 in 60 minutes. There were 5 competitors on the evening and the atmosphere in the department was one of excitement and anticipation. All entries received points for their House. The winner of this stage was Teagan Rowlinson who made fishcakes with a stunning lemon sauce, demonstrating many different skills in the time given. Kyan Gohill, runner-up, made egg fried rice with chicken.

Congratulations to all competitors and we would all like to wish Teagan and Kyan good luck as they both go forward to Stage 2 of the competition in November at Loughborough College.

Mrs Burton, Head of Food & Nutrition



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL HOUSE CONKERS COMPETITION

In the recent House Conkers Competition, the student with the most wins was Grace, of Leetham, who triumphed against five different opponents. [Click here to read more.](#)



On Saturday 29th September, Takeover Radio hosted a charity music concert in aid of Takeover Radio and Rainbows. We raised over £400 for each of the charities which will help young children in Leicestershire. I was in charge of lights and sound for the concert, which was really fun and challenging, but it was good to know I was doing it for good causes. The concert started at 11.00am and ended at 2.00am, so I was really tired by the end of it. Overall, it went really well, and I cannot wait to hopefully do it again after my GCSEs!

By Kristian Brocksopp, Year 11



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



PREPARATORY SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



PREPARATORY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY



MUSIC & WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



LOURDES ASSEMBLY

DRAMA

You are cordially invited ("oh yes you are"!) to the Year 8 Pantomimes on the following dates:

- THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 4.30PM
- FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 7.00PM

Please come along and bring your friends.

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama.

MUSIC



Mr McCall, Director of Music



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

CCF Cadets on a mission at Swynnerton Camp, [click here](#) to read the camp write-up.

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to Jacob Dawe, James Howling and Jake Kirkby on successfully achieving their Silver Award and to Louie Banks, Matthew Elton, Ihuoma Osuji and Joseph Summer on successfully achieving their Bronze Award.

Good luck to our Year 12 Gold DofE participants who are off to the Peak District on an expedition training weekend on Saturday.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

SPORT

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

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport

 **RATCLIFFE COLLEGE**

NATALIE PANAGARRY & ELLA CLARK NETBALL ACADEMY


In association with:
RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm
Ratcliffe College Sports Hall

The academy will run every Wednesday
31st October to 5th December
£30 for six sessions


Payment via school account or cheque.
To sign up, please email Miss Gentle:
lgentle@ratcliffecollege.com
with your child's name and age.

R4E5P&C4T

**OPEN TO GIRLS
AGED
11 - 15**



Ella and Natalie play for England Roses & Loughborough Lightning.



AND BEYOND...

INSPIRE EVENTS

FOOD SCIENCE AND THE EXCITING WORLD OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY

On Wednesday 10th October, Dr Emma Weston from Nottingham University spoke to our students about the exciting opportunities and developments within Food Science and about the wide range of degree courses and occupations in this rapidly growing sector. We learnt some fascinating facts about how Jaffa Cakes are made and gained insight into how the sector is addressing major global challenges, such as food shortage and the effects of global warming.



ROMAN LEICESTER

On Wednesday 26th September, Archaeologist, Dr Matthew Morris, gave a fascinating talk on Roman Leicester. Through his extensive experience of major urban excavations in Leicester, Dr Morris emphasised the importance of the location of Roman Leicester as a hub for military units for other areas in Roman Britain and elaborated on some of the distinctive features of Roman architecture in Leicestershire with examples of inscriptions and objects.

**Next INSPIRE (Years 10-13):
Wednesday 7th November, 5.20pm**
Introducing Liberal Arts, by Dr Ross Wilson,
Nottingham University

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE - CAREERS INSPIRE DAY



AND BEYOND...



Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 28 th August	New Staff Induction Day
Thursday 29 th August	Staff INSET Day
Friday 30 th August	Induction Day for all new students (Years 7-13)
Sunday 1 st September	Existing Boarders return
Monday 2 nd September	Classes begin; all day students arrive for registration by 8.25am
Friday 18 th October	Half Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 3 rd November	Half Term ends - Boarders return
Monday 4 th November	Classes begin
Friday 13 th December	Term Ends (after classes)

Spring Term 2020

Friday 3 rd January	Staff INSET Day
Sunday 5 th January	Boarders return
Monday 6 th January	Classes begin
Friday 14 th February	Half Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 23 rd February	Half Term ends - Boarders return
Monday 24 th February	Classes begin
Friday 27 th March	Term Ends (after classes)

Summer Term 2020

Friday 17 th April	Staff INSET Day
Sunday 19 th April	Boarders return
Monday 20 th April	Classes begin
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 22 nd May	Half Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 31 st May	Half Term ends - Boarder return
Monday 1 st June	Classes begin
Friday 3 rd July	Term Ends (after classes)

PARENT PORTAL

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

All School News

- End of Term Arrangements

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thank you to the members who kindly attended Open Morning last Saturday; they thoroughly enjoyed meeting and greeting prospective parents.

Dates for the Diary

The next PA Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6th November at 7.30pm** in the Senior School Conference Room. All parents are very welcome to attend.

Second Hand Uniform Sale: **Wednesday 7th November, 3.30pm-6.00pm** in the Preparatory School.

The annual Bicester Village Trip, **13th November** (apologies, now sold out).

The Fire and Ice Ball, **Saturday 15th December, 7.30pm-12.30pm**, Dress Code Black Tie; tickets on sale early November.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Parents' Association.

Mrs Alison Ety has made the difficult decision to stand down as Joint Chair of the Parents' Association with immediate effect due to family and work commitments. The Parents' Association and Ratcliffe College community would like to thank Alison enormously for her hard work, efficiency and loyal commitment to the Association. I will continue as Chair, supported by the PA Committee.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

