



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

23rd November 2018

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

A wide range of opportunities in and out of the classroom has ensured that all students have been fully engaged in their learning over the past

fortnight.

The Preparatory School children have enjoyed trips to Birstall Fire Station (Years 1 & 2), Harry Potter World (Year 5) and the King Richard III museum (Year 6). Such enrichment ensures that the children's learning remains relevant and applicable to everyday life.

Across the College, students and their teachers have continued to work tremendously hard to ensure syllabus and specifications are covered so that we all enter the new year confident and on-track.

Year 11 students (and their parents!) gave a collective sigh of relief as the GCSE mock examinations concluded this week. Well done to all the students who have worked so hard in preparation for their mocks over the last few weeks.

My sincere thanks to all of their teachers and the examinations team, as well as you, their parents, for your collective support; it has been a real team effort. We wish the students well as they review their scripts and begin to fill any gaps in their learning.

Continuing on an academic theme, a small number of Year 13 students were put through their paces at the annual Oxbridge exchange interviews at Uppingham School. Mr Ryce and Mr Neville accompanied them, joining fellow teachers from local independent schools to provide students with appropriate stretch and challenge. Such opportunities are invaluable to those who have made early applications. I hosted a most engaging Academic Achievers' Lunch for Sixth Form students last Friday to recognise those who have maintained the highest effort grades last half-term. My thanks to the catering department for serving such a delicious meal.



Year 12 students and their parents are thanked for their commitment to the all-important Parents' evening last week as well as the Presentation of GCSE Certificates on Wednesday evening. This annual event enables the College to appropriately recognise the achievements of students, past and present, following their GCSEs. It was lovely to see so many students and their families and to catch-up with those who were leavers at the end of Year 11.

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



The Gospel theme for this half-term is 'seeking out the lost sheep'. This theme has underpinned many of our assemblies and prayers and is based on the Gospels of Matthew (18:12-14) and Luke (15:1-7). It is about a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one which is lost. I'm sure many of us are familiar with this narrative.

The theme has helped us to remember those in our society who are literally or metaphorically 'forgotten', such as the homeless, the elderly or those suffering with long-term illness. It has complimented the college-wide focus on National anti-bullying week, under the banner, 'We Choose Respect', and the need to seek opportunities to include others not alienate or ignore them. As the season of Advent draws closer, our Reconciliation workshops have allowed us to spend precious time considering our relationships with one another, our families and with God.

My thanks to the Development Office who organised a lunch for Benefactors of the College following Remembrance Day Mass. Over sixty benefactors attended the lunch, some of whom left the College in the 1950s!



Our sports teams have continued to represent the College with great energy and skill. Congratulations in particular to the girls' hockey teams who won all eight fixtures last weekend and our U11 girls' IAPS hockey team who represented the College at the

National Finals on Wednesday. The team performed exceptionally well on the day to finish fourth overall. This is an outstanding achievement and we congratulate the girls, together with Miss Stanley and Mr Faulconbridge, who have nurtured their skills and a fantastic team spirit.

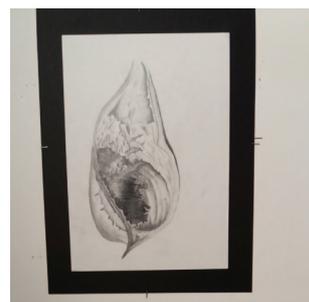


OWL BY OLIVER MCKAIG



TRIO OF ART BY HATTIE ASHFORD-CLARK

The Art Scholars' Exhibition began this week. My thanks to all those who have contributed such interesting and high quality art and to Mr Berry and his department for curating the exhibition. **You are warmly invited to come and enjoy the students' work.**



4 PIECES OF ART BY ALEXANDER TYSZKA



Year 8 have been busy rehearsing for their pantomimes and we look forward to their performances which take place on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November (oh yes they do!). Many congratulations to our Year 3 students who performed so well in assembly yesterday as part of our Year 3 Strings' scheme. Under the inspirational leadership of Mr Matthews, Mrs Markham and Mrs Finn, the students have made fantastic progress this term.

Our wonderful Preparatory School and Senior School choirs have been practising ahead of the festive season. There is something very comforting and quite magical to wander through the College on these dark, cold evenings with the distant sound of beautiful carols wafting through the corridors.

We look forward to hearing our choirs sing during the festive season, which begins in earnest when the Preparatory School sing carols at John Lewis, Leicester, at 10.30am on Wednesday 5th December, followed by the Community Carol Service in the College Chapel on Sunday 9th December at 6.00pm. Please do make a special note of this Service in your diary and come along. The beautifully decorated Chapel provides an awesome backdrop for our traditional readings and carols.

Lastly, but by no means least, please come along to the Preparatory School's Carols by Candlelight on Thursday 13th December at 5.30pm. The Service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Our boarding community will enjoy a trip to the Birmingham Christmas market this weekend before celebrating the beginning of Advent a week on Sunday with their annual evening Advent Mass and meal.

So, just three weeks to go before the end of another term. There is much to look forward to but I expect the students to retain focus on their academic studies, homework, behaviour and co-curricular activities right up until Friday 14th December.

As we enter the final few weeks, the children are very tired. It is, therefore, important that we help them manage their energy levels so that they can continue to optimise their learning whilst enjoying this very special time of year. Thank you for your support in this regard.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the many lovely events we have in our Calendar before the end of term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.

Scholarships for entry into Years 7 and 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.**



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

Please [click here](#) to see the Student Awards over the past two weeks.

ARTISTS' CORNER



MEDUSA IN PROGRESS
BY LYDIA BELLAMY



LEMON BY
XAVIER HENDERSON

BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

The British Biology Olympiad is a national competition for A level students which assesses their knowledge of the A level syllabus and their wider understanding of Biology.

A number of our students were very successful in the competition and will be awarded the following certificates in Headmaster's Assembly on Monday:

- Annabel Walsh – Commended
- Daniel Bastock - Highly Commended
- Finlay Buckingham – Highly commended
- Maciej Buczkowski – Highly Commended
- Ema Chmurovicova – Bronze Award
- Owen Sommerville – Silver Award

FUTURECHEF 2019 - STAGE 2

Congratulations to Teagan Rowlinson who was runner-up at the National Stage 2 FutureChef 2019 local final which took place at Loughborough College on 9th November. She made salmon with a dill sauce with dauphinoise potatoes and glazed carrots; her dessert was a chocolate lava cake.

Well done also to Kyan Gohill who competed as one of the youngest contestants and made steamed salmon with noodles and pak choi followed by a coconut pandan cupcake with red bean.



COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

You may be aware, from your children, that Ratcliffe College has chosen to support a charity called "Sightbox" for the School Year 2018-2019. The charity provides Sightboxes for visually impaired children and young people in the 3rd world countries to help go a long way in education and segregation.

We recently raised funds for the charity from a collection at the 'Last Night of the Proms' evening and we will be hoping to concentrate our efforts further, over the festive season and over the next two school terms. Here is the link if you would like to find out more about this wonderful charity: <http://www.sightbox.org.uk>



Menphys
Catholic Schools
Carol Concert
in support of Menphys

Friday 7th December 2018, 7:15pm
De Montfort Hall, Leicester

Tickets £9, available to purchase from De Montfort Hall from Tuesday 30th October
Tel: 0116 233 3111
Email: dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk
www.demontforhall.co.uk

Sponsored by

www.menphys.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 270700

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

COMING SOON!

RAF Flying Experience at RAF Cranwell, Thursday 6th December (10.30am -5.30pm).

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to the following students on successfully passing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award:-

Silver: Elliot Kelly and Dempsey Mayne (2018 leaver).

Bronze: Thomas Leite and Thomas Page.

Ratcliffe College students give up a huge amount of their time, volunteering to help others both in school and in our local community. We were sent a certificate to reflect the tremendous efforts of the 74 students who completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering section last year, but many other participants who have not yet completed that section have also given up considerable amounts of their time. Thank you to all those who spend their time helping others!



Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA

You and your family and friends are warmly invited to **Year 8 'favourite' Pantomimes:**

Jack and the Beanstalk, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Aladdin and The Three Little Pigs

On Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November, 4.30pm and 7.00pm, respectively, Ratcliffe College Theatre.

Refreshments will be available to buy from the Parents' Association on the evening.

What ... you can't come ... oh yes you can!!

SPORT

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

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport



MUSIC

Congratulations to Tom Neuberg on his stunning performance of 'The Last Post' at both Senior and Preparatory School Remembrance Services.



Congratulations also to Luke Bartlett who played 'The Last Post' at the Cossington Remembrance Sunday Service and then went on from there to Belvoir Castle where he took part in a service at midday, where he played again.



A decorative poster for a community carol service. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and a central yellow starburst. The text reads: "Ratcliffe College Community Carol Service" in a cursive font, "Sunday 9th December 6pm College Chapel" in a bold red font, and "Followed by refreshments" in a cursive font. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a nativity scene with musical notes on either side.



AND BEYOND...

OXBRIDGE INTERVIEW EXCHANGE



On Monday 12th November, students in Year 13 applying for Oxbridge and other 'early entry' courses, such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, visited Uppingham for the annual Inter-Schools Interview Exchange. Our students found it a valuable experience in preparation for their forthcoming university interviews. My thanks to Mr Ryce, Mr Chorley and Dr Robinson for joining us on the trip. We wish all of our students every success in the coming weeks with their applications.

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



YEAR 12 SIGN UP TO BECOME BLOOD AND ORGAN DONORS



Year 12 students should feel very proud as many of them signed up to become blood and organ donors. The response came after the annual appeal from the Adrian Sudbury Schools' Education Trust which has helped save the lives of over 100 people suffering from blood cancer.

Mr Spencer, Head of Business & Economics & Head of Year 12

INSPIRE: INTRODUCING LIBERAL ARTS

On Wednesday 7th November, Dr Ross Wilson from Nottingham University gave a fascinating talk on studying Liberal Arts at university. It was wonderful to hear about the many exciting opportunities to study across a broad spectrum of subjects in this multi-disciplinary degree.

Next INSPIRE (Years 10-13):
Wednesday 5th December, 5.20pm

Shaping the Future: Reflections on Pursuing a Career in Politics and Law - **Andrew Hilland** - **Political Advisor to former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown**



AND BEYOND...

PARENT NEWS

SPORTS KIT – BLACK FRIDAY PROMOTION

PlayerLayer are running a Black Friday promotion today with a 25% discount on all Ratcliffe items. The 25% discount code is **BF252018**.

In addition to today's one day special offer, PlayerLayer are also helping to raise money for the Ratcliffe 2020 Sports Appeal with 20% of the value of every retail item purchased from the top 2 lines on this page donated back to the Ratcliffe 2020 Sports Appeal Fund. Click [here](#) to visit the Ratcliffe Shop.

PARENT PORTAL

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

Year 11

- English Literature - Macbeth Letter
- English Literature - Poetry Letter

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thank you for supporting the Bicester Shopping Trip. We had a fabulous day and shopped 'til we dropped.



Looking ahead to Saturday 1st December, we will be decorating the Chapel. Any help will be greatly received and any donations of foliage and holly with red berries on would be fantastic, so please drop your contributions to the Chapel on the morning of 1st December.

Thank you.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

