



Dear Parents,

I write to you having not long left our Chapel where Father Philip and our CCF Contingent led the School community in a most moving Remembrance Day

Service to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice, as well as all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in times of war.

A special mention to Schola Rosmini who sang, most beautifully, Pie Jesu from Duruflé Requiem.



We remembered especially those Old Ratcliffians who fought in both World Wars and whose names are recorded on the wall of the Chapel. I am very proud of all our students who displayed enormous respect throughout the Service, in particular our CCF cadets who marked this poignant occasion in an appropriate manner, with the support of the Chaplaincy Team.

So much has happened since the last edition of Head Lines. The half-term break seems a distant memory now, but I am delighted to report that the holiday has done the students a power of good and they have returned to their learning full of enthusiasm. The Autumn Term is an important time when teachers are working flat-out with their classes to cover syllabus requirements, particularly in the examination years. Year 12 students were assessed on their return from the holiday.

Year 11 students take their mock GCSE examination papers next week. Year 10 and Year 13 students are also undertaking assessments in the majority of their subjects this week and next to help them check their progress and attainment. The work covered in these coming weeks will ensure that students enter the new year on-track, well-prepared for the final push in the Spring Term. Such is the rhythm of the academic year – famine and feast. I have been most impressed by the students and their wholehearted approach to their studies and I thank you, the parents, for your support of your sons and daughters.



The opportunities beyond the classroom over half-term and since have varied enormously from residential trips and days out to welcoming guest speakers to the College. In particular, I would like to congratulate our Preparatory School girls' hockey team who qualified for the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) National Finals for the first time in our history, just before half-term. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish Mr Faulconbridge and Miss Stanley and the team well for the Finals. Click [here](#) to read more.



I would also like to highlight the excellent, 'Last Night of the Proms' concert, which provided so many students across the College an opportunity to showcase their musical talents through choirs, orchestras, ensembles, duets and solos. A special mention to our Years 5-6 orchestra led by Mr Matthews. They played superbly well and included children from Years 3 and 4 too! It really was a most enjoyable occasion and I encourage all students who would like to explore their musical talents to join in.

The Chaplaincy Teams across the Senior and Preparatory Schools ensured that we celebrated All Souls Day with two beautiful Masses. The Senior School was treated to a most beautiful performance of The Gaelic Blessing by Schola Rosmini.

Our 'Big Six' is flourishing, enabling students, weekly, to develop those all-important soft skills that universities and prospective employers desire: leadership skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills and resilience.

All of this, of course, is underpinned by excellent teaching and the Gospel Values, ensuring that our students continue to develop Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose.

I hope you enjoy exploring the following action-packed pages of Head Lines which is testament to the vibrancy of this unique community and the strength of relationships that exist between the students and the students and their teachers.

I look forward to meeting you at a forthcoming event in the near future. With all good wishes for the week ahead.

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

RESULTS OF YEAR 7 PUBLIC SPEAKING HOUSE COMPETITION

At the end of last half-term, all Year 7 students took part in a public speaking competition based around their favourite memory. After a hard-fought preliminary round, 8 students took part in the final which was judged by Dr Stannard, Miss McKenna and Miss Hobbs.

The judging panel heard some extremely interesting and engaging stories and all finalists should be congratulated on their achievement. What stood out was the incredible confidence of the students as well as their ability to thoroughly engage their audience. After much deliberation from the judges, the results of the competition were: 3rd – Fin Martin (Emery); 2nd George Leite (De Lisle); 1st Frankie Turner (Arundel).

VOTE FOR JACOB ON 'GOT WHAT IT TAKES'

We hope that as many of you as possible have been watching Jacob Storey, Year 10, in the talent show 'GOT WHAT IT TAKES' (on CBBC on Mondays at 17:25 or 19:30). He has performed brilliantly so far and won one "sing-off". We are now getting close to the public voting and he is likely to need your support to have the opportunity to win the prize of singing in front of 20,000 people in BBC's 'Big Weekend' in the spring.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Year 13 students, Sarah Astill and Olivia Delargy, led a most informative and entertaining assembly for European Day of Languages which took place on 26th September. They outlined the fact that English is only spoken by a very small minority and, consequently, the importance of learning other languages. This point was highlighted through their lively quiz, which included well known lines from famous films including Star Wars, and proved to be very popular with students. The benefit of learning foreign languages was clearly and enthusiastically communicated!

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to Eleni Malhan, Year 9, on successfully gaining an Achievement Award.

Voting is on-line and there is a 24 hour window to place your votes which are held on 19th/ 20th November. Please put this into your diaries and VOTE FOR JACOB. Votes are placed by logging onto or registering with bbc.co.uk and search for CBBC Got What It Takes.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



PUPILS OF THE WEEK: 12TH OCTOBER



ACHIEVEMENTS: 2ND NOVEMBER



PUPILS OF THE WEEK: 2ND NOVEMBER



ACHIEVEMENTS: 11TH NOVEMBER



NURSERY PREPARATIONS FOR DIWALI



COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



PREPARATORY ALL SAINTS MASS

SCHOLA ROSMINI SINGS AT ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

On Thursday 1st November, Ratcliffe's new chamber choir, Schola Rosmini, offered a beautiful rendition of John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing accompanied by members of Senior Strings and harp. This was the first public performance of the group which comprises some of our most talented singers in Years 10-13.

Our sopranos from the group, with cello soloist, Hebe Jackson, gave a stunning performance of 'Pie Jesu' at the Senior School Remembrance Service.

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



SCHOLA ROSMINI CHOIR

SPORT

The following boys from Ratcliffe College represented Leicestershire U18s v Welbeck College 1st XV at the 100 Memorial Service Rugby match held at Coalville RFC on 4th November: George Morgan-Jones, Fly-half, Melton Mowbray RFC 2nd XV & Ratcliffe College 1st XV; Toby Snell, Fullback, Ratcliffe College 1st XV; Mathew Lindley, Hooker, Ratcliffe College 1st XV; Oliver Welsh, Wing, Birstall RFC & Ratcliffe College 1st XV.

Welbeck won the match 22-10, but the County U18s got stronger towards the end of the match scoring two tries in the last quarter. All the boys were presented with a special commemorative pin to mark the day.

Mr Morgan-Jones, Parent



TENNIS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Louie Fletcher, Year 10, who had a fantastic experience in Israel last week and won the international 16 and under tennis tournament!

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

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

Over half-term, the CCF continues to be busy with cadet courses and trips. Arran Grant attended a rock climbing course at Halton, Lancaster, for a week, gaining skills in indoor and outdoor rock climbing (read more below). Four cadets attended the demanding Senior Cadet Instructors' Course at Beckingham in the first week of the break.

Congratulations to Capil Soni, Harry Culpin, Dom Baggott and Jacob Dawe. This course demands a great deal from the cadets as they have extremely long days and are being constantly assessed on the lesson preparation and delivery. Their success on gaining a pass will develop their leadership as well as enable them to integrate with the other senior cadets delivering lessons to the younger cadets.

[Click here](#) to read more about the half-term activities.

Congratulations to Arran Grant who completed a rock climbing course with the Cadet Centre of Adventure Training. He attended the week-long course which taught him the basics in rock climbing and had to climb several indoor walls and many outdoor rock faces to pass the course to gain a level one qualification, which allows him to attend more advanced rock climbing courses and to lead climbs.

Lt Col Balmбра, Contingent Commander



DRAMA

[Click here](#) to see the LAMDA results



Starlights Youth Theatre put on a fantastic production of 'JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT' last week. Three students from Ratcliffe were amongst the cast and these included Jacob Storey, Year 10 (brother Dan and Potifer), Holly Clarke-Pratt, Year 9 and Charlotte Rees, Year 7 (both in the Ensemble).

The show went extremely well with 4 out of 5 of the shows selling out. The acting and singing was of such a high standard. All the children came out of the show buzzing with pride. Jacob said: "This was probably the best show I have ever had the chance to act in". Many thanks to all the volunteers of 'Starlights Youth Theatre' who tirelessly instruct the children every week.

Fr Anthony Meredith was able to join us to watch the children which was a special delight Having his company.

Mrs Storey, Parent



MUSIC

Congratulations to Deborah Potter, Year 12, who is taking part in a concert at De Montfort Hall this weekend with the Cathedral Choir: <https://www.bardi.org.uk/event/britten-war-requiem/>

The Music Department held a wonderful Last Night of the Proms concert last Thursday, the first major event of the school year. We were delighted to hear the newly formed Year 5-8 Orchestra at their inaugural concert, playing a Waltz and a Tango to a very high standard. Pleasingly, there were a large number of ensembles, including the Senior Choir. It is excellent to see this, especially since we are early on in the school year.



Every performance was of a high standard and the Theatre was packed with an excited audience who fully entered into the spirit of the evening, singing along to the Senior Orchestra with Rule Britannia as the final number! £281 was raised for 'Sightbox', the School's chosen charity.

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to the Scholars' Concert on Tuesday 4th December in the Music Hall at 7.00pm, when we will be officially opening the refurbished Music Department facilities. It promises to be another lovely celebration of the flourishing music at Ratcliffe.

Mr McCall, Director of Music



Ratcliffe College Music Department

Scholars Concert

Tuesday 4th December 7pm

Music Hall

*Free entrance & refreshments with a tour of the new
Music Department facilities*



THE BIG SIX

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

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

Gold: Charlotte Warburton (Year 13, 2017-2018)

Silver: Harry Culpin and Matthew Wetton.

Bronze: Charlotte Bailey, Harry Culpin, Connor Foster, Charlie Foulds, Madeleine Lindop, Yasmina Lock and Tom Neuberg.

Congratulations to the Gold participants who completed their training weekend in the Peak District at the beginning of half-term. They faced challenging conditions but all gained from the experience and are now ready to proceed to their practice expedition next Easter.

New participants to DofE

Over the past few months, small groups of participants have been meeting for an induction session, learning how to use the on-line database (eDofE) and discussing ideas for each of their sections. Everybody who has enrolled has now been invited to a session and begun working on their activities. Anybody who has missed their session or wishes to discuss their activities further should now drop into the weekly Thursday lunchtime sessions in CR2. Please contact me with any further questions or if you think you have been missed.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



WALKING ALONG RUSHUP EDGE



RELAXING, REFUELING AND REWARMING AT CAMP



NOT SO LOVELY WEATHER AT THE TRIG POINT ON BROWN KNOLL



AND BEYOND...

HISTORY TRIP TO LONDON



On Saturday 13th October, 18 Ratcliffe students, accompanied by Mrs Grant and Mr Cantrill, embarked upon a packed Historical programme in London. Our first stop took us to the Churchill War Rooms where we learned of the subterranean existence of Churchill and his war cabinet during the Second World War. We also gained a fascinating insight into the career of Winston Churchill himself.

THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES HOUSE COMPETITION

The Modern Foreign Languages Department has recently launched a House Competition for each year group. Simply turn up and complete a short vocabulary test which will win a point for your House and help you with your vocabulary learning. The quizzes are updated twice a month so there are plenty of points up for grabs!

Mrs Mullan, MFL Department

From here, we went to the Imperial War Museum to help further our courses on Warfare Through Time and the Blitz of London. After a quick lunch, we went to the Theatre to watch the outstanding musical, Wicked. Sunday saw a short walk across the road to the Natural History Museum and then to the National Portrait Gallery to focus on the portraits of the Tudors, especially Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I and her courtiers.

Our last day involved a visit to the Tower of London for a specific workshop and tour with the focus on our GCSE course on Elizabeth I's reign. Our presenter was outstanding, and visiting sites in the Tower to learn about specific events from her reign was fascinating and really brought the subject alive. The students were an absolute pleasure to take away and a real credit to themselves and the School.

Mr Cantrill, Head of History

FOOD SCIENCE CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Task: To make a Christmas themed product of your choice. Your product will be marked on taste, flavour, appearance and originality.

Bring your finished product up at the beginning of the day on Monday 3rd December.

Please see Mrs Burton if you need any other details.



AND BEYOND...

SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING - MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2018



On Monday, the Theatre and Sixth Form Centre were bustling with more than 230 students and parents attending our annual Sixth Form Information Evening. It was excellent to see so many current and external students taking up the opportunity to find out more about all the wonderful opportunities in our Sixth Form at Ratcliffe. Students and parents were able to seek the advice of our superb teaching to help them make informed decisions about their subject choices and to discover more about the support available to help them fulfil their Higher Education and career aspirations.

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



STAFF NEWS

PLANTING THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY



The Woodland Trust have been giving away trees to the public to form part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), a network of global forest conservation initiatives to mark Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the Commonwealth. As part of this, our Receptionist, Mrs Postill, contacted them, and subsequently found that she was a lucky winner! She received five saplings (a mix of hazel, rowan and silver birch) and presented them to our Head Groundsman, Mr O'Hara, to plant on our Campus.

We really hope that the rabbits don't disturb them! The saplings we plant will help the Woodland Trust reach their target of planting 64 million trees by 2025.



PARENT NEWS

Mr and Mrs Baker, parents of Andrew and Matthew (who left Year 13 in July) presented me, on behalf of the College, a stunning framed cross stitch picture of Ratcliffe College which involved 64,000 stitches and took some 7 months to complete.



Mrs Baker also made a cross stitch picture of Grace Dieu Manor School when Matthew moved from Grace Dieu to Ratcliffe. This magnificent piece of work has been mounted outside the Headmaster's Study where we are sure it will be admired by all of our visitors for many years to come. Thank you very much indeed for taking the trouble to take the photograph and adorn our wall with such a fitting tribute to the Baker boys' time at Ratcliffe College.



Mr Reddin, Headmaster

PARENT PORTAL

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

Year 7

- Parents' Evening Presentation
- Parents Social Invitation

Year 9

- ECDL Information Letter

Year 10

- Parents' Evening Presentation

Year 11

- Mock Examination Timetable

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We are looking forward to the forthcoming Bicester trip.

Please can all parents who are going on the trip, park on the grass below the staff overflow car park as you come up the school drive; a parking steward will guide you there on Tuesday morning.

The tickets are going like hot cakes for the Fire and Ice Ball on Saturday 15th December, so do please purchase your tickets (in person) from Jane or Chantelle on Reception, to avoid disappointment. I am sorry but you cannot reserve tickets over the telephone.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

