



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

14th December 2018

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents and
Guardians,

We have enjoyed a very productive Autumn Term, living out our visionary values, Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose and culminating in the beautiful carol services, Christmas blessings and nativity plays. Thank you for your tremendous support of your children in all aspects of their schooling.

THE RATCLIFFIAN

I hope you will enjoy reading this year's Edition of The Ratcliffian which gives a real flavour of life at Ratcliffe and the fine achievements of your daughters and sons, in addition to the fortnightly newsletter, Head-Lines, which you customarily receive. Please share the magazine with your family and friends.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The building work on the new Fitness Suite remains on-track to be completed in the week after February half-term 2019. Ground has been broken on the site of the second Sports Hall, adjacent to the Preparatory School and, if all goes to plan, is due to be completed for October half-term 2019. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the fountain which will sit proudly in the Lockhart Garden and provide a beautiful focal point at the very heart of the Senior School, providing a fitting symmetry with the Preparatory School Square.

The final pieces of furniture are due to arrive at the beginning of January. Once everything is installed, we shall consider a date in the Summer Term for a blessing and official opening.

PREPARATIONS FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

As we approach Christmas, the summer Public Examinations may seem a long way off. However, it is essential that all candidates prepare as thoroughly as possible, taking the long-term view and maintaining a sustained effort; it is very much a marathon and not a sprint. In particular, I would wish to encourage Year 12 students to prepare thoroughly over the holiday period for their internal assessments (commencing on 21st January) and Year 13 students to make full use of their mock examinations after half-term (commencing on 25th February), to maintain their momentum. They can do this not only by undertaking thorough revision, but also by completing set examination style questions to help them to hone their examination technique.

Following their mock examinations, it is absolutely critical that Year 11 continue to keep the momentum going with their work in the New Year. Now is the time to make the sacrifices necessary for examination success in the summer. Therefore, I encourage Year 11 to use some of their holiday to review files and exercise books to ensure that there are no gaps in their notes, while also making lists of topics that may require further clarification on or help with from their teachers. On their return in January, students can seek appropriate support.

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Preparatory School String Stars is once again bursting at the seams with over 20 musicians this year from Years 1-6, and we have enjoyed some wonderful performances by the children.

Our newest initiative, a Year 5-8 Orchestra has gone from strength to strength, and Mrs Markham, Miss Vickers and Mr Matthews are so proud of the progress that the children have made since forming in September, as well as their beautiful singing in assemblies and the recent carol services. The children, once again, sang in John Lewis in Leicester High Cross which was also very well-received.



On the sports field, Mr Faulconbridge and Miss Stanley have been overwhelmed by the children's positive attitude to training and fixtures, culminating in a number of excellent results, the highlight being our Under 11 Girls achieving 4th in the IAPS National Hockey Finals and our Under 11 Boys winning the first IAPS Regional Rugby Tournament.

In the Senior School, the excellent lunchtime debates have routinely attracted over 40 students each week. It is so encouraging to witness students from across the year groups exchanging views on the real issues dominating the news. Those who may flippantly describe teenagers as monosyllabic hermits who grunt, eat and sleep, should come and listen to our weekly debates. Our young people are quick-witted, politically and socially aware, sensitive and funny. They listen and consider. They have original ideas

and they articulate their views with passion. The term began with the Ratcliffe College Public Speaking Championship in October and has continued to attract a wide range of students with enticing topics, such as "This House believes Feminism has gone too far, men's rights are being overshadowed". If your son or daughter has yet to sample Debate Club, please encourage him/her to make this a New Year's resolution, as who knows where it might lead?



The Last Night of the Proms was a superb evening of music-making in the Senior School, whilst the Scholars' Concert gave the opportunity for students to play some very technically demanding repertoire to appreciative friends and family. The Senior School choirs and orchestras have leant wonderful support to our end of term Christmas celebrations. Please do encourage your children to take up an instrument or join one of our choirs or bands. Music is such great fun, and you are never too old to start learning an instrument or singing! Indeed, the Senior Choir and Orchestra, under the expert guidance of the Music Department staff, are proof of this.



Out on the sports field, the students have enjoyed a wonderful term playing rugby and basketball (boys) and hockey and netball (girls). It has been a privilege to support our home fixtures each week. Win, lose or draw, every student has given their all for their team while living out the Physical Education Department's vision of R.E.S.P.E.C.T, under the enthusiastic leadership of Miss Stafford. My sincere thanks to the Heads of Sport, Mr Kaye (rugby), Mr Willcock (hockey), Mr Edwards (basketball) and Miss Gentle (netball) for their leadership and all the sports staff across the College for their enthusiasm and commitment to the students.

Particular congratulations to the U13 girls who were runners-up at the county netball finals and have progressed to the Quarter Finals of the National Independent Hockey Schools' Cup. My sincere thanks to you, the parents, for your unstinting support of the teams. It has been lovely to speak with so many of you each week whilst enjoying a cup of coffee courtesy of the Ratcliffe barista!

A selection of Year 8 students delighted audiences this term with their inventive versions of four pantomime stories including Aladdin, The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk and Snow White. The students got into the pantomime spirit with plenty of audience participation, the sharing of sweets and topical jokes.

In the House Drama Competition, our four Houses have dramatised extracts from Grimm's Fairy Tales. The plays were cast from students across the year groups. A number of our talented Sixth Form students took the lead as directors, shaping the scripts and organising rehearsals. Leetham opened proceedings with their version of Rapunzel, starring Matthew Lindley in the lead role, complete with human flowers and some great set pieces made by Mr Seth. Arundel followed with a charming version of 'The Frog Prince, directed by Grace Lindop. Harry Culpin played the princess and Jenny Summer gave a confident performance as the Frog.

De Lisle followed with Briar Rose, similar to the story of Sleeping Beauty where Louis Massarella and Harry Ainscough made a hilarious prince and princess under the fantastic direction of Joanna Chan and Anna Williams. Finally, Emery truly made it a whole House event with the inclusion of staff as well as students across the year groups in 'The Twelve Dancing Princesses'. Thank you to House Guardians, Mr Seth, Miss Bakewell, Mr Walsh, Mr McCall and their team of Sixth Form House Captain and helpers, who worked so hard to produce such polished performances from the students.

Exciting dramatic events to look forward to in the Spring Term will include: Year 11 GCSE performance of extracts from 'Bed', a surreal and touching comedy by Jim Cartwright and 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare which will take place on Wednesday 6th January at 5.30pm and Thursday 7th January at 7.00pm in the theatre. These are two highly contrasting performances which promise to showcase the extra-ordinary talent of our Year 11 drama students. The plays will be accompanied on the night with short performances from some of our LAMDA students, Drama scholars and Drama Club students. Tickets will be available from Senior School Reception at the start of term.

In March we look forward to presenting our A Level performances. Year 12 will be performing an extract from The 39 Steps in the style of Kneehigh theatre company, Year 13 will perform scenes from Educating Rita by Willy Russell and Agnes of God by John Pielmeier as well as two devised pieces. These performances will take place on Thursday 21st March and Friday 22nd March at 7.00pm.

CASUAL AND FLEXI-BOARDING

We are delighted, once again, to have seen many of our 'day' students in boarding throughout the term, and they all seem to have enjoyed the experience. The students



have been able to benefit from the company of peers, the mentoring and support of staff during mid-week evenings, and immediate access to the learning and recreational facilities which the School has to offer during the week in boarding time.

Owing to the popularity of Casual and Flexi-Boarding, there are now fewer vacancies available. I would, therefore, urge anyone who is considering either option in the future to inform the School as soon as possible so that we can, hopefully, accommodate your requests. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Leite jleite@ratcliffecollege.com or Mr Gilchrist pgilchrist@ratcliffecollege.com if you wish to know more about the boarding options for next academic year.

Looking ahead to next term, we look forward to welcoming the boarding community back on Sunday 6th January 2019.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS TO DATE

So far, this school year, we have raised a whopping £7,000 which is an excellent achievement. Thank you for your generous support towards our fundraising efforts.

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS WITH CAROLS

This year, we are celebrating the extremely popular Christmas Eve Mass on Monday 24th December at **5.00pm**. It is very much a family Mass and, once again, we will be inviting the younger children to participate in the Christmas story. Everyone is welcome. Following the service, seasonal refreshments will be served. **Please note that there will be no Midnight or Christmas morning Masses in Ratcliffe College Chapel.**

Trustees, Governors, Teaching and Support Staff join me in wishing you and your families a blessed, peaceful and very happy Christmas, and a joyful New Year of good health and every happiness.

With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORM DURING THE HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION



May God Bless You
and your family

Happy Christmas



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE



Nativity



Senior Carol Service



Year 8
Pantos

Farewell to Mr Michel,
Lay Chaplain



Christingle



Christmas Lunch



Christmas Jumpers



A Visit from Santa



Great Central Railway



'Immac' Celebrations



Carols By Candlelight

