



HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

As the long Autumn Term draws to a close, the College has been busy in the classroom and also busy getting into the Christmas spirit. Celebrations began last Friday with the Year 8 pantomimes - oh, no they didn't - oh yes they did, and jolly good they were too! The various performances were absolutely hilarious.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed traditional pantomime humour mixed with some very contemporary interpretations of the well-known classic tales. Most memorable for me, however, was a goose laying golden pot-noodles with a most convincing narration by David (F)attenborough, lurking in the undergrowth!

On Sunday evening, the boarding community enjoyed their Advent Mass and dinner. It was a joyful evening as we sang traditional Christmas songs between courses. On Tuesday, the Preparatory School Choir delighted shoppers at John Lewis, High Cross.



One of the highlights of the Christmas season at Ratcliffe each year is the Nursery and Key Stage 1 Nativity. The children performed beautifully in the Chapel on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard with the children and to the parents and families who supported our youngest pupils. They all seemed to enjoy their big moment! Thank you to Mr Enoux's class, 5E, for a splendid assembly which reminded everyone of the real reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of baby Jesus.



I hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas lights this year. I think they have certainly provided a heart-warming glow as you arrive on campus. Indeed, we were all both surprised and delighted that our Director of Finance, Mr Robson, has supported the students' wish, via School Council, to celebrate Christmas this year with some additional lighting. Perhaps this is part of



Mr Robson's swan song as he retires after 12 years as Director of Finance and with our very best wishes. Or, perhaps it was a cunning plan to try and change our perception of the Bursar role from the stereotypical 'scrooge' to a generous Bob Cratchit! Whatever his motives, we have all been thrilled with the results. We welcome Mr Chris Bellamy to Ratcliffe in January as our new Bursar.

In keeping with the theme of Christmas cheer, my sincere thanks to the Parents' Association for decorating the Chapel and Refectory last Saturday and to Mr Lee and Birstall Garden & Leisure for the wonderful Christmas trees, which adorn the Chapel sanctuary. I encourage you to come to the Community Carol Service on Sunday evening at 6.00pm in the Chapel where you can enjoy the beautiful decorations as we sing carols and hear scripture to announce the coming of the baby Jesus. Afterwards, you are warmly invited to join us in the Refectory for mulled wine and mince pies. This is a special event in our calendar, so please do make the effort to come, it would be lovely to see you there.

For parents of children in the Preparatory School and Nursery, please do support our Nursery and Lower Prep Christingle Service on Tuesday 11th December at 2.15pm and the Preparatory School Carols by Candlelight at 5.30pm on Thursday. Both are in the College Chapel. It was pleasing to meet so many parents at the Year 9 and Year 13 Parents' Evening, respectively; I hope that you found the evenings helpful, and I thank Year 13 parents for supporting your sons/daughters in their work over the Christmas vacation, as they consolidate their understanding and skills.

We launched our appeal for our whole College charity last week during our Senior School Music and Worship assembly. As mentioned in my last Newsletter, we will be supporting the charity Sightbox UK this year. Please open this hyperlink if you would like to read about the work of the charity:
<http://www.sightbox.org.uk>.

You will be receiving an anti-bullying survey via in-touch from school this week. As part of our commitment to anti-bullying, we would like to gather parents' views and opinions as well as those of stakeholders within the School. We would really appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes and complete the survey, please.

This morning, we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate conception of Our Lady with Mass in the Chapel for both the Senior School and the Preparatory School. The School Chapel is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and the School is under the patronage of the Virgin Mary. The feast day is, therefore, very special to us at Ratcliffe and it is celebrated by the whole School community in a variety of ways.

As we prepare for the final week of term, may I thank you in advance for your continued support of the College, and of your children as they enjoy the 'Immac' celebrations and carol services next week amid all of their usual prep. While you have already received a letter about the 'Immac', find below the dates and times of the 'Immac' celebrations:

Years 7, 8 & 9 - Monday 10th December – Old Library/Refectory/Theatre – 7.00-9.30pm

Years 10 & 11 - Tuesday 11th December - Old Library/Refectory/Theatre – 7.00-10.00pm

Years 12 & 13 - Wednesday 12th December – Old Library/Refectory/Sixth Form Centre – 7.00-10.30pm

May I encourage as many parents and students as possible to join the Ratcliffe Community to celebrate the Family Christmas Eve Mass in the College Chapel. Mass begins at 5.00pm with seasonal refreshments in the Refectory afterwards. Do consider this, even if you are not Catholic; our Mass will be very inclusive, uplifting and celebratory.



Lastly, but by no means least, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and give thanks to Mr Michel, Resident Lay Chaplain, who leaves Ratcliffe College at the end of term to begin a new challenge in the world of finance. Mr Michel has served the College faithfully for 8 years. During that time, he has dedicated himself to the teaching of the Catholic faith with a rare warmth, generosity and enthusiasm.

His pastoral skills have helped nurture and support hundreds of students in his care whether in the classroom, in boarding where he was Housemaster or through his love of music. We shall miss Mr Michel's humour, his wonderful musicianship, his booming voice, but we will be forever grateful for his time here and all he has achieved on behalf of the students. In January, we will welcome Miss Emma Hall as our new Resident Lay Chaplain. Emma joins us from Alton Castle, Retreat Centre, Staffordshire. We wish her every success in her new role.

The end of the Christmas term is an exciting time but our expectations of the students both in and out of the classroom remain as high as ever. Everyone is tired having given so much this term. Thank you for your support of your sons/daughters and the College in gently reminding them of the need to maintain their effort and good sense right up to and including the last day of term.

We shall provide a montage of photographs celebrating the last week of term next Friday to accompany my end of term letter.

Iwish you and your family well for the weekend and the week ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



THANK YOU TO MR LEE FOR, ONCE AGAIN, GENEROUSLY DONATING TWO BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREES TO RATCLIFFE COLLEGE FROM BIRSTALL GARDEN AND LEISURE.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

CHRISTMAS FOOD COMPETITION

On Monday 3rd December, we were, once again, mesmerised by the level of skill and originality of the Christmas food products that were entered into our annual competition. The judges, Mr Cantrill, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Postill, had a very difficult job in selecting the winners, as always.

All entries received points for their Houses; the results can be found below. We are thankful to all the contestants and their parents for the huge amount of support, once again, in entering the competition, and the hours of planning, preparing, making and calorie intake in creating your masterpieces.

Year 7

1st: Harriet Langford

2nd: Francesca Turner

3rd: Annabelle Hull and Holly McNeeney

Highly commended: Rebecca Bloor

Year 10

1st: Freya Smith

2nd: Daisy Watson

3rd: Agnes Hui

Highly commended: Toluwalope Olawoyin, Victoria Oliver Vanrell and Sophie Wilson

Year 11

1st: Yasmina Lock

2nd: Angie Lui

Mrs Burton, Head of Food & Nutrition

MEDIA STUDENTS OF THE TERM

Congratulations to the following students on their successful term in Media Studies:

Year 10: Oliver Hunt, for consistently outstanding attainment and enthusiasm and engagement in class.

Year 11: James Wilson, for an outstanding coursework production and an impressive independent approach to his studies.

Year 12: Edward Smellie, for excellent attainment and a real enthusiasm and engagement with the subject, particularly politics and news.

Year 13: Josef Hluchan, for a truly phenomenal coursework production, and impressive organisation and independence in executing this.



HARRIET LANGFORD



FREYA SMITH



YASMINA LOCK



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

ART DEPARTMENT - CHRISTMAS CARD HOUSE COMPETITION

The entries for this year's CISC/Art Department Christmas Card House Competition were judged on Tuesday 20th November by the Headmaster. The designs included entries using a variety of different media, and some were very impressive. Three winners were selected from each of the Key Stages, together with runners up from each as well:

Key Stage 5 Winner: Holly Bown, Year 13

Key Stage 4 Winner: Xavier Henderson, Year 10

Key Stage 3 Winner: Holly Clark-Pratt, Year 8

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Key Stage 5: Sophia Henderson, Year 12

Key Stage 4: Annie Bridgwood, Year 10

Key Stage 3: Maisie Ashford-Clark, Year 7



HOLLY BOWN



XAVIER HENDERSON
RUNNER-UP, CISC CHRISTMAS CARD
COMPETITION: 'CHILD OF THE PLANET'



HOLLY CLARK-PRATT



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

GOT WHAT IT TAKES - FINAL

Thank you to the School and parents for all the wonderful support for Jacob Storey throughout the show, 'Got What It Takes'. If you have been watching, you will know that your votes really counted. Jacob made it into the final and performed brilliantly. The judges: John Newman (singer-song writer), Rai-Elle (singer) and Adele Roberts (Radio One DJ) all gave great feedback including "I'm so excited to see your future blossom ... He's a star..., he's born to do this ... the tone of your voice is the next level". Jacob said: "it was an amazing experience. I loved every bit of it and I'm really thankful for all the people who supported me. I'm so Excited to see what will happen in the future".



THE 'GOT WHAT IT TAKES' FINALISTS

BRITISH CYCLING ACADEMY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Georgia Holt (2016 leaver) on her British cycling success which you can read about [here](#).

NURSERY NEWS



Mrs Rankine, former Head of Nursery, very kindly presented the Nursery with a special crucifix upon her retirement. Father Christopher Cann blessed the crucifix during Lower Prep and Nursery Mass earlier this term where we also gave thanks for the care and dedication that Mrs Rankine gave to the school for 20 years. It has now been placed on the outside of the Aftercare building, as you walk up the Nursery path. Thank you, Mrs Rankine.

Miss Green, Head of EYFS



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



YEAR 3 STRINGS ASSEMBLY

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



PUPILS OF THE WEEK: 23RD NOVEMBER



PUPILS OF THE WEEK: 30TH NOVEMBER

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

NURSERY AND KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PERFORMANCE



STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

In these final weeks of term, we have had plenty of opportunity to live the values of hard work, determination, and seeking support from teachers, fellow students and colleagues. Year 11 and 13 students, in particular, are very aware of the upcoming challenges they face and we are committed to help them achieve their best. A second group of values, of course, has been shared among our community, made very present by the celebrations and meditations on the upcoming feast of the Birth of Our Lord.

The season of Advent allows us to move toward the central mystery of our tradition – the Incarnation of the Son of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Father President, Philip Sainter, spoke beautifully of the “Three Comings of Christ” that we celebrate during Advent. The first is the historical event of his birth. This calls to mind the mystery of the Incarnation, and then extends to us a challenge to see the absolute dignity of the human being, for God himself became one of us in order to bring reconciliation in our hearts, our relationships and our reverence of him.

Christmas Eve Mass 24th December 2018

Family Vigil Candlelight Mass at 5pm, Ratcliffe College Chapel followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Refectory, All welcome.

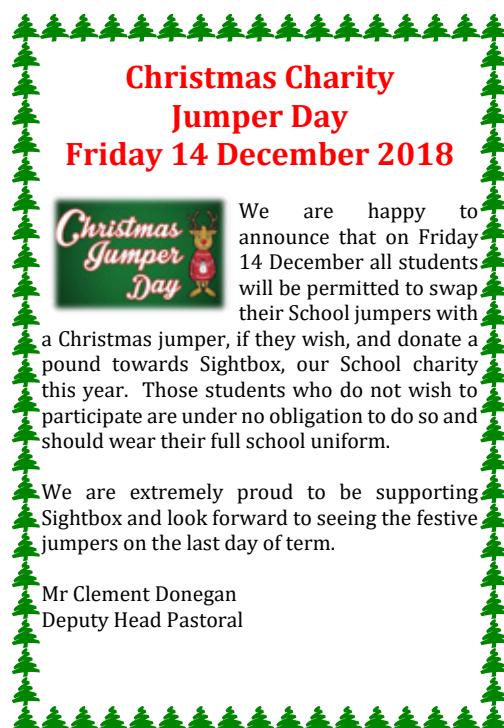
Boarding Community Masses will resume on Sunday 13th January 2019, at the regular time of 9:30am. Visitors are, of course, welcome to attend our Sunday Masses.

The second of the comings is Christ present today. As our Lord and Captain, Jesus is the role model of the fullest humanity – found in his emptying himself of concern for self. The third coming of Christ is that at the end of days, when we will be judged against the standard he set. The firm hope of the Christian is that this judgment will be positive, a culmination of the wisdom of God, his generosity to us, and our loving response in the Spirit to him.

Let's keep these thoughts in our hearts and minds as we celebrate Advent and Christmas, so the world of justice and peace we all desire may become manifest among us.

Mr Michel, Lay Chaplain

Ratcliffe College proudly collected £246.50 for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

The CCF, on its final parade of the term, carried out a whole contingent exercise within the school grounds. This was planned by the senior cadets and involved Year 9 and 10 cadets navigating to a series of ammunition tins spread out within the school grounds. The remaining cadets were to act as a distraction to the younger cadets to ensure tactical movements were made. Some Year 11/12 cadets had the opportunity to carry out section attacks using the laser tag equipment. The seniors did a great job in the planning and briefing of this exercise and they also found out how difficult it is to manage a large group of 60 plus, to do what they had hoped for.

This term has been extremely busy for the unit, with Tuesday training sessions, an exercise on the Swynnerton Training Area, RAF activities such as flying and mountain biking and adventure training at INSKIP.

Next term, we will be looking forward to more flying days including some gliding, a recruits (Year 9) day on 17th March and an Easter camp 6th to 12th April to the Lake District and a second trip to INSKIP is planned.

Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to the following students, past and present, on gaining their awards:

Tom Brambell and Luke Charnock (Gold)
Luke Chilton (Silver)
William Oswell (Bronze)



The DofE groups have enjoyed doing some practical training over the last few weeks including first aid videos, food training and practical first aid.



Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



THE BIG SIX

DRAMA

This is what some of our Year 8 students had to say about their pantomimes:

*"It was really enjoyable and I loved having all the funny sound effects put into our show".
Maddie.*

*"We all worked together really well and it was so much fun to do".
Zoe.*

*"It was a mesmerizing experience and I would love to do more acting here".
Folsade.*

*"It was a really good experience and I really want to do more drama throughout the year!"
Ejemen.*



LAST YEAR'S HOUSE DRAMA WINNERS

We're looking forward to the House Drama Competition on Friday 14th December.

Miss Monk, Head of Drama

SPORT

Loughborough Foxes (U15) football team, led by team captain, Amy Mason (Year 10), were confirmed runners up at the recently held Charnwood Sports award evening. The award is given for success or for competing at a consistently high level throughout the year and demonstrating fair play and a good sporting attitude. The nomination and award recognition was in the under 18 junior category and was based upon the hugely successful 2017-2018 season during which the team remained unbeaten over the 30 games played.

This saw the team winning the Leicester City and County Girls' Football League (U15) as well as the Leicestershire Girls' (U15) County and League cups. The season was capped off by an invitation to participate in the prestigious Pitchero Nationals in June and, more recently, playing a top regional touring side from Kentucky, USA. Well done Amy and "Go, Loughborough Foxes"!

[Click here](#) to read the latest sports reports:

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport



THE BIG SIX

MUSIC

We were very grateful to three of our students who gave of their time to play the Last Post for Remembrance Services both in and out of school. It was especially poignant that these students were able to perform during the centenary year since the end of World War One. Well done to: Luke Bartlett, Tom Neuberg, Richard Pullan.

Congratulations to the following students who have passed music examinations this term:

Violet Rudkin, Flute Grade 2, Distinction
Ihuoma Osuji, Theory Grade 5, Distinction
Ethan Zhang, Piano Grade 6, Distinction

The Music Department hosted a lovely Scholars' Concert on Tuesday evening, with nine of our most gifted musicians performing to a very appreciative audience. It was lovely to see such a breadth of repertoire being performed to such a high level, especially since the performers had recently played other pieces at the Last Night of the Proms Concert last month.

Guests were invited to have a tour of the newly refurbished Music Department facilities after the concert. The students certainly enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate the versatility of the resources which they enjoy lesson by lesson!



The Senior School choirs and orchestras have leant wonderful support to our end of term Christmas celebrations.

The Year 5-8 Orchestra continues to develop and we are looking forward to seeing them perform in the Spring Term. 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. Amazing performances can be put on with dedication and the sense of 'team' that joint music making allows.

Mr McCall, Director of Music



AND BEYOND...

SECOND SPORTS HALL DEVELOPMENT

Atcliffe College is proud to announce that it is about to commence work on a £2.8 million second Sports Hall development to complement its outstanding facilities. Headmaster, Mr Jonathan Reddin, commented: "We are delighted that we will be able to nurture the sporting gifts and talents of our students further by providing this wonderful state-of-the-art facility."



"The new Sports Hall is being built to accommodate the requirements of children across the age range so that everyone's needs can be completely fulfilled. We are so pleased that Pure Construction and architects, Franklin Ellis, won the tender and have the opportunity to build the second phase of the Preparatory School project, having built the fabulous new Preparatory School which opened in 2014. We look forward to sharing our new facility with the local community as we further develop partnerships with other local schools."

[Click here](#) to read more about the Sports Hall development.

A NEW FOUNTAIN FOR THE LOCKHART GARDEN

Work is now well advanced on the fountain which will form the centrepiece to the newly-created Lockhart Garden in the very heart of the School.



Andre Schuberth and his team at specialist architectural stone masons, Carvero Ltd, are currently putting the finishing touches to the stunning limestone fountain which will be in position in time for the start of the new term in January.



schoolblazer

January Sale

Up to **1/3rd** Off

Selected Lines*

Begins 27th December

*While stocks last
Online Only

Ends 11th January

AND BEYOND...

PARENT NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Mr Sunny Hoyle regularly takes photographs at our school events throughout the year. These can be viewed and purchased from his website: www.showphotos.biz

The password can be found in the [Parents' Secure Area in the Parent Portal](#), under: Photography

Events include (or will include shortly):

Ratcliffe Football Festival, 22.9.18
Last Night at the Proms, 1.11.18
Rugby and Hockey Fixtures, 3.11.18
GCSE Presentation Evening, 21.11.18
Nativity, 5.12.18
Nursery & Lower Prep Christingle, 11.12.18
Carols by Candlelight, 14.12.18

Mrs Nuttall, Marketing Manager
wnuttall@ratcliffecollege.com

PARENT PORTAL

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

All School News

- Parent Cafe, January 29th - Online Safety

Year 13

- Parents' Evening Presentation

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped decorate, in preparation for the Christmas events, the Chapel and Refectory. I think you will agree from the photographs that it was a real success and good fun too, helping to get us all into the festive spirit.



A huge thank you to all PA members and supporters for all your efforts so far this School Year.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year,

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

