



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

11th January 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed a lovely Christmas with your families and I wish you a very happy and healthy New Year, and welcome to the Spring Term. It doesn't

take long to get back into normal routines, as I hope you and your children are finding. This morning's Chaplaincy Assembly, led by our new Lay Chaplain, Miss Emma Hall and the student Chaplaincy Team, focused on the theme of 'New Year – Better Me.'

I'm sure many of us have made resolutions over the past week or so and today's assembly challenged the students and staff to use the New Year to reflect on areas of our lives where there is room for growth, whether in our relationships, our work or our play. Whatever your New Year resolutions may be, I invite you to consider the challenge, 'New Year – Better Me', as a simple way of reminding ourselves to stick to our New Year commitments.

We were delighted to welcome seven new students into the School community on Monday, and it is pleasing to see their smiling faces around the campus. Speaking of the campus, I am delighted that the stonework for the fountain has been installed in the Lockhart Garden and we are just now awaiting the final pieces of stone to be installed along with the benches. We hope to be in a position to announce a date for the official opening in the Summer Term and, once the weather improves, we will organise

a timetable for the children to use the Garden for morning prayer as well as at other times of the School Day. The building work on the Fitness Suite continues but the completion date has been pushed back to the end of this term. Work on the Second Sports Hall, weather permitting this winter, is due to be completed by October half-term 2019.

On the staff front, it was lovely to hear of the birth of Mr Thorpe's (Head of Biology and Head of Year 10) third child – a baby boy, and we congratulate Mr Matthews (Peripatetic Music Teacher) on his marriage during the Christmas holidays. I also have pleasure in announcing several new members of staff to the College community to you: Miss Emma Hall takes up post as Resident Lay Chaplain; Miss Sarah Tidy commences in the English Department and she also has responsibility for Public Speaking for the remainder of this year; Mr Chris Bellamy joins us from Pitsford School in Northamptonshire, as our new Bursar; and our new Marketing and Communications Manager, Mr Ian Blackmore-Allen, takes up post on 21st January.

From a Teaching and Learning perspective, this is another extremely busy and important term for all the students. Year 6 children will be taking the Senior School entrance examinations along with external candidates who sit papers this Saturday 12th January and the following Wednesday; Talent Scholarship Assessments for Art & Design, Drama, Music and Sport will take place over the coming weeks; Year 12 will be taking internal assessments on 21st January; and Year 13 are working towards their mock

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



examinations which commence immediately after February half-term. Year 11 students, with their mocks now completed, will be focused on completing syllabuses by the end of this term and revision. Public examinations will begin earlier this year, and Year 11 and Year 13 students will commence study leave on Friday 10th May due to the longer public examination season.

Thank you for your on-going support of the co-curricular programme. For future reference, please note that all Senior School clubs and societies commence in the first week of every term and continue in the last week of term unless individual staff communicate to the contrary.

The co-curricular programme in the Preparatory School commences in the second week of term and finishes at the end of the penultimate week.

Please can you remind your sons and daughters that all clubs and societies are published on the notice boards and screens around the School, and permission slips must be returned ahead of your sons'/daughters' activities. May I also take this opportunity to request student attendance at sports fixtures and practices as well as other events required by staff.

I look forward to seeing parents of Year 9 students next Tuesday (6.30pm) at the Year 9 GCSE Options Information Evening (Theatre & Rosmini Sixth Form Centre) and please do note the key dates on the School Calendar in your diaries.

With best wishes for the week ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



YEAR 10 AND 11 STUDENTS ENJOYING THEIR IMMAC MEAL

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



5E ASSEMBLY - 6TH DECEMBER 2018



ACHIEVEMENTS: 6TH DECEMBER 2018



ACHIEVEMENTS: 13TH DECEMBER 2018



PUPILS OF THE WEEK: 7TH DECEMBER

THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR – CELEBRATING THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY AT THE 'IMMAC' MASSES. FOLLOWING ON FROM THE MASSES, STUDENTS OF ALL YEAR GROUPS ENJOYED THEIR VARIOUS FUN CELEBRATIONS, AS ALWAYS, TO MARK THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY.

We are delighted to welcome to Ratcliffe College, Miss Emma Hall, our new Lay Chaplain. Emma joins us from Alton Castle Retreat Centre in Alton, Stoke on Trent. As it happens, one of Emma's first 'missions' is to return to Alton Castle with Year 8 next week to accompany them on their retreat. We wish them an enjoyable and successful time.

Emma looks forward to meeting you all in the near future.

SPORT

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



December was a busy month with 10 days competing. Here are the highlights. I competed at Cavan Equestrian Centre in Ireland on the weekend of 8th and 9th December. Due to the heavy wind forecasts, we left 12 hours earlier than planned [they will not allow ponies or horses to travel on the ferry in stormy seas]. Saturday was a busy day, as my first class was at 8am. I only had one class to have a break throughout the whole day. My last class was at 12pm [midnight]. It was a great weekend and I won 5 classes with numerous other placings.

I qualified to compete at Olympia International in London on 23rd December – one of the best horse shows in the world, with only 12 ponies qualifying to compete in my class. It didn't go as I expected so no rosettes – that's ponies! I qualified 4 ponies to compete at Liverpool International Horse Show on 31st December. Another amazing show and an honour to be there. Placing 5th in the 128 class was only bettered by winning the 138 class on Royal to retain my 2017 International title.

Tabitha Kyle, Year 7



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)



At 7am on Sunday 9th December, four cadets and myself travelled to Norfolk in order for our cadets to undertake a PTT (Part Task Trainer) course. 614 VGS (Volunteer Gliding Squadron) form part of 2 Flying Training School at Swanton Morley and have the equipment needed in order to do this. This course is both the Ground School and Synthetic Training element (but not the Flying Training element, which we undertake at RAF Cranwell) of the Aviation Training package, and I am pleased to say that Sgt Josh Bellamy, LCpl Max Chapman and LCpl James Wilson all passed, earning themselves both certificates for the Familiarisation Course and their Blue Wings Aviation Package plus badge.

Cdt Steven Lai also passed both sections and once he has undertaken his first flight at RAF Cranwell, this will then earn him his Blue Wings badge. These courses, along with both gliding and powered flight, are highly sought after, and I will be making further bids for more places on these courses for our RAF section.

Unfortunately, due to low cloud base, the RAF Flying at Cranwell had to be cancelled on Thursday; however, we shall be going on Friday 15th February, as published in the Calendar and

we will also now be able to go on Wednesday 20th February.

Congratulations to Mrs Batten who successfully passed her Initial Officers' Training course at RAF Cranwell before Christmas and she now becomes Plt Off Batten.

Flt Lt Grant RAFAC

As well as the above RAF opportunities, the unit is also looking forward to a Recruits Training Day on 17th March with mountain biking for the senior cadets, and the cadets will be going to the Lake District for the annual Adventure Training Camp in the first week of the Easter holidays.

Lt Col Balmбра, OC CCF



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to Finley Hollington, Morgan Britt and Rebecca Lindley on passing their bronze award.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



THE BIG SIX

MUSIC

PRACTICAL MUSIC EXAMINATION RESULTS DECEMBER 2018

We have a new e-mail address for parents who wish to make contact with the Music Department regarding instrumental or singing lessons. Please use this address if you would like to inform us of your child's absence for an instrumental or singing lesson or to send information about starting (or stopping) lessons or any other general music enquiry: Music@ratcliffecollege.com

Thank you!

Mr McCall, Director of Music

Ratcliffe College Music Department

Scholars Concert

Wednesday 30th January

5.30pm

The Old Library

Free entrance & refreshments



DRAMA



On Saturday 5th January, the Drama Department enjoyed a trip to the Pantomime, Peter Pan, at De Montfort Hall in Leicester. Edward Karanja has been performing the role of Michael and, on his day off, came with us to watch the show.



It was a delightful afternoon and a huge amount of fun; Sam Bailey and Kev Orkian were a hilarious double act and soaked us with water pistols as well as encouraging some of us to hurl a rope of toilet rolls onto the stage! We are already excited for their production of Aladdin next year!

Year 11 students are currently rehearsing for their GCSE performances of 'Bed' by Jim Cartwright and 'Romeo and Juliet' on Wednesday 6th February at 5.30pm and Thursday 7th February at 7.00pm. Tickets will be available in the next week from Senior School Reception.

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama



AND BEYOND...

INSPIRE - A mathematical journey to infinity... and beyond?



On Wednesday 9th January, we welcomed Dr Tom Wicks from the University of Nottingham as our guest speaker. He gave our students a flavour of the exciting world of Mathematics at degree level and the superb career prospects for Maths graduates. The talk ended with some intriguing Maths problems for our students to solve and opportunity for questions.

Mr Neville, Head of Sixth Form

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome back, and I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year?

A reminder that the first Parents' Association meeting of the Spring Term is next Wednesday, 16th January, at 7.30pm, in the Conference Room.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

PARENT NEWS

OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT In Aid of Ratcliffe College Music Scholarship

Saturday 6th April 2019

Tickets: £45.00 each

Performances by Ratcliffe College Music Scholars and professional opera singers will take place before and after the dinner.

A very popular black tie event for Ratcliffe families and friends.

Please obtain your tickets from Mrs Govan (cgovan@ratcliffecollege.com) early to avoid disappointment.

PARENT PORTAL

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

