



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

25th January 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

It's all Greek to me! Over the past week, I have been inspired by the Greek language. Last week, during his excellent address to the Catholic Independent

Schools Conference, the Rt. Hon. Chris Patton reminded Head Teachers of the importance for our students to be encouraged to strive for excellence in all they do – Areté.

On Thursday, the Senior School marked the beginning of the Spring Term and commemorated the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. During his encouraging homily, Father Philip used the Greek word, Anastasis, to inspire us all to 'rise up' and follow St Paul's example and renew our relationship with God. We welcomed Fr Christopher Fuse, our new Fr Provincial. We wish him every success and happiness in his new role.



START OF SPRING TERM
PREPARATORY SCHOOL MASS

Looking back on the last fortnight, we held 11+, 12+, 13+ and 14+ entrance examinations on Saturday 12th January with more 11+ examinations taking place on Wednesday 16th January. On the trips front, the Preparatory School children have been out and about visiting Lego Land Discovery Centre (Years 1 and 2), New Walk Museum (Year 4), while our Year 11 English literature students attended a GCSE Literature Poetry Live trip to Nottingham Theatre Royal to support their studies, as well as a theatre trip to see Macbeth this evening.

It was such a disappointment to our Year 8 students (and no doubt their parents) that the Alton Castle residential retreat had to be cancelled due to a problem with the heating and water supply at the centre, but this has thankfully been resolved, enabling Year 5 to enjoy their residential trip this week. You can read more about this under 'Chaplaincy'. We very much hope to publish new dates for the Year 8 Retreat shortly.

It was a pleasure to have lunch with a group of Years 7 – 11 Academic Achievers a week last Monday and to hear their thoughts on various aspects of school life. It is always uplifting and enlightening to spend time chatting to the students on these occasions, and we are very grateful to our wonderful catering team for making these lunches so special for the students and a fitting way to reward them for their continued efforts in their studies. We shall be holding another lunch, this time for Sixth Form students, next Tuesday.

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



I have been very proud to see so many students across the College participating in the co-curricular programme. Sports practices, choir, ensemble and orchestra rehearsals have been well-attended as have CCF, DofE and Chaplaincy activities. Thank you for your support of our sports fixtures, despite the very cold conditions.

I look forward to meeting many more parents this weekend on the side lines cheering on our teams. If your child has yet to sign up for an activity, please do encourage him/her to do so next week. Co-curricular activities are such an important part of life at Ratcliffe, enabling students to develop their gifts and talents or try something new.

Thank you to all parents and your sons and daughters who attended the Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday 15th January. It was an extremely positive evening for staff who were grateful to have the opportunity to speak to you and your children about their subject choices. We hope that you found the advice offered helpful in assisting your children with this important decision-making process. Please do ensure that your option form is completed and returned to your child's Tutor if you have not already done so.

Well done to our Year 12 students who have been working hard on their internal assessments. We welcomed candidates to the 7+ and 9+ entrance assessments this week along with the 11+ All Rounder Scholarship candidates. I thoroughly enjoyed my interviews with the children, and it has been lovely to get to know our internal applicants better on an individual basis, ahead of them moving up to the Senior School.

Mr Neville's busy INSPIRE programme continued on Wednesday evening when we were very pleased to welcome back, Old Ratcliffian, Tom Park, you can read more about this under 'And Beyond' towards the end of this newsletter.

No such thing as a lazy Sunday for our boarding students, as they have attended Sunday Mass and then thrown themselves into ten-pin bowling and a trip to the Snowdome, with a cinema trip planned for this Sunday. PADI diving sessions have also taken place on the last two Sundays and continue this Sunday.

I would like to draw your attention to a Parent Café next Tuesday 29th January, 5.30pm-6.30pm in the Old Library. The guest speaker for the Parent Café, Lorin LaFave, is the mother of Breck Bednar, a 14 year-old boy who tragically lost his life to an online predator in 2014. Lorin has been heavily involved with several police forces in the production and release of 'Breck's Last Game', a video highlighting the dangers of online grooming. Following on from the Parent Café on Tuesday 29th January, Lorin will speak to our Year 9 and 10 students during their PSHCE session on Wednesday 30th January.



PSHCE:ANTI-BULLYING
COMPETITION WINNERS

I wish you and your families well for the week ahead and look forward to meeting you at a future school event.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



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.



ACHIEVEMENTS: 17TH JANUARY 2019



ACHIEVERS: 10TH JANUARY 2019



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
10TH JANUARY 2019



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
18TH JANUARY 2019

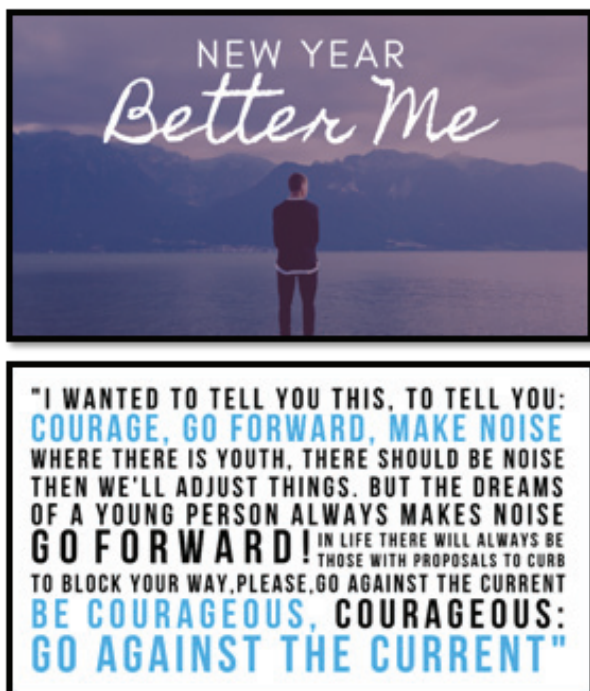
THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

We started 2019 with a wonderful assembly from the Headmaster, based upon the need to look forward this year with positivity.

There is such pressure on young people these days to be perfect, to constantly keep up with the latest fashion trends, whilst still remaining completely unique. And so, we've set the challenge of trying to better ourselves, rather than trying to re-invent ourselves. The use of the phrase 'New Year, New Me', has been replaced by the phrase 'New Year, Better Me'.

Pope Francis is calling all young people to be 'courageous' and to 'go against the current'. The students are being encouraged to 'go forth and make noise'... to be unapologetically themselves, by being the best versions of who they are.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

This year's confirmation classes are now underway and we are very excited about guiding all the candidates through this very special Sacrament. We meet every Friday, Week 2, after school.

Each time we meet we will be exploring different aspects of the Sacrament, from the Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit, to which Saint they will choose for their confirmation name. Ending each session with Mass, allows the candidates to fully understand their role within the life of the universal Church.

ALTON CASTLE - YEAR 8 RETREAT

As many of you will be aware the retreat to Alton Castle was unfortunately cancelled due to a heating issue at the castle, but since this retreat experience is one that often bears many fruits, we are trying to re-schedule the trip. It would be a shame if the students missed out on such a wonderful time of team building and self-exploration!



Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain



THE BIG SIX

Ratcliffe College Mother Teresa Group



Thank You!

Last term we were able to donate over 40 sacks of your preloved clothing and household items to LOROS. They estimate that the sale of these goods, through their shops, will raise over **£1000** for the charity.

However, we still need your help.

We welcome any donations of old clothing, shoes, household linen or books. You can drop these into the Mother Teresa basket in the Church corridor opposite the Medical Department.

Mrs S Clarke

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Bronze participants learning first aid and how to use a Trangia (cooking stove) safely.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

On Tuesday, the Year 9 recruits were split into two groups, one beginning the training on the L98 A2 rifle, starting with naming of parts and applying a sling. The other group were learning first aid. The two groups will spend a few weeks on each activity before swapping over. The Year 10 cadets took a map and compass test which is required if they want to go on SCIC. The Year 11 cadets were taught by the Year 12 cadets who have passed SCIC, passing on their knowledge and tips.

The RAF competition team joined the army cadets in first aid training whilst the other RAF cadets continued developing their navigational skills towards their First Class Cadet badge.

Lt Col Balmбра, OC CCF

DRAMA



Edward Karanja, Year 6, was in the recent production of 'Peter Pan' at De Montfort Hall in a semi-professional production. He had the role of 'Michael' and sang a solo at the end.

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama



THE BIG SIX

Year 11 GCSE PRODUCTION & DRAMA SHOWCASE



'Romeo and Juliet'

by William Shakespeare

*Brought forward to the 1950s
and set in Juliet's bedroom.
She confides in the Nurse
about her love for Romeo.*

'Bed' by Jim Cartwright

*A surreal comedy. Four
people in the later
stages of life reflect on
their memories as the
lines between reality
and sleep become
blurred.*



Wednesday 6th February 5:30pm &

Thursday 7th February at 7pm in the Theatre

Tickets £5 Adults & £1 Concessions

Available from the Senior School Reception

MUSIC

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

SPORT

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

BADMINTON

On Wednesday 23rd January, I and seven others from my badminton club put into practice our earlier Young Leader's training course, in which we were taught how to coach and present to a younger audience. We introduced forty eight children from four local primary schools to badminton, hosting a festival sponsored by the 2012 London Olympics Legacy Fund, after many hours of preparation.

It was a fulfilling, albeit stressful experience in which I and the other Young Leaders co-ordinated numerous badminton-orientated activities. Admittedly, we largely avoided genuine gameplay due to the inexperience of the children, many of whom had never held a racquet before. After an enjoyable afternoon the children left with a newfound love of badminton, showing interest in the prospect of joining the junior section of our club.

Robyn Warwick, Year 12



THE BIG SIX

EQUESTRIAN

Despite early starts and long days, I had an amazing weekend at Keysoe Equestrian in Bedfordshire. On Saturday, I placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in my first class then won the next two classes qualifying my ponies called 'Living The Dream' & 'Playboy Van De Zoetowi' for the main ring at Hickstead Royal International show in July. Sunday, I managed to place 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th in the first class, and 1st and 2nd in the second class, qualifying another pony, 'Borderhill William' for Hickstead. Three ponies qualified at the first Winter Premier show – fantastic!

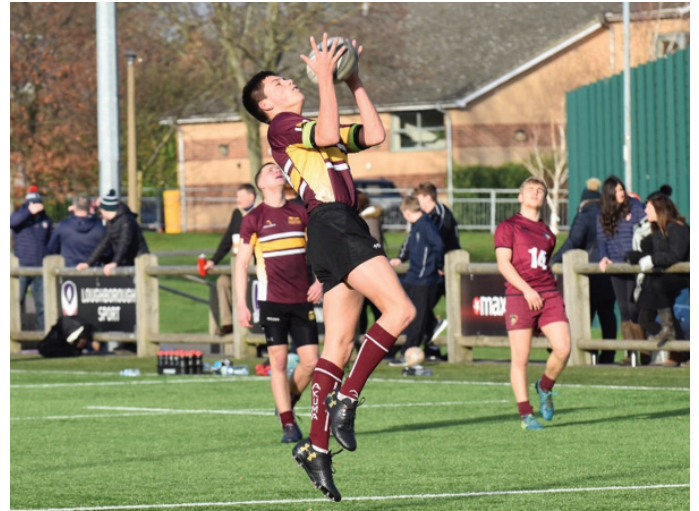
AINTREE

Once again, a long weekend competing, this time at the amazing Aintree Equestrian Centre on the actual Aintree racecourse grounds. It was special to walk down the track where famous racehorses have once been. This weekend was the first of the Big Winter Premier Shows, for 148cm (14.2hh) ponies ridden by up to 16 year old children. My ponies were on great form and I was hoping for a few placings, which I achieved, but I also won six classes over the two days. It certainly makes all the hard work worth it when it goes so well.

Tabitha Kyle, Year 7



RUGBY



Connor Foster, Year 11, has been selected for and has been putting in some eye catching performances for the Leicestershire County U16 Rugby Team. In their recent match versus Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire, Connor made a significant contribution in Leicestershire's win with one try assist, and he also scored two tries of his own and put in a very strong defensive effort. Well done to Connor on this fantastic achievement and good luck in the remaining County Matches to come.



AND BEYOND...

INSPIRE: HOW TO SKI, TRAVEL AND GAIN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AT UNIVERSITY... AND GET PAID!

On Wednesday 23rd January, we welcomed Old Ratcliffian Tom Park as our guest speaker.

He talked to our sixth form students about his experiences as a member of the Army reserves at university, which involved travel to Germany, Gibraltar, Switzerland, Belgium and France, all in just three years.

In his current role as a 2nd Lt Officer of the 5th Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Tom spoke about his career to date and about the opportunities for aspiring vets, doctors and dentists to have all university fees paid by the Army in return for a short period of service.

Mr Neville, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST 2019

Sunday 24th March
Hosted by Ratcliffe College

Entries will be coming from across the region as well as from Ratcliffe College itself.

The day promises to be full of powerful, dynamic speakers on a variety of topics. We would like to invite you to come along and support this exciting event.

All are welcome.

Time: 1pm for a 2pm start.

Light refreshments will be served from 1pm.

Admission by ticket or payment at the door. Ticket price is £5. Tickets available via email – province15@publicspeaking@gmail.com

RATCLIFFE BAKE OFF 2019

**Monday 11th February
4:40 - 6:10pm**

Challenge: to produce a victoria sponge cake using a given recipe. See Mrs Burton to get a recipe sheet and to register your interest by Friday 8th February.



AND BEYOND...

PARENT NEWS

OPERA BY CANDLELIGHT IN AID OF RATCLIFFE COLLEGE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Saturday 6th April 2019

Tickets: £45.00 each, available from Mrs Govan: cgovan@ratcliffecollege.com or tel: 01509 817006

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 early to avoid disappointment.

PARENT PORTAL

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

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

- [Year 11 Drama Performances Booking Form](#)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The first month of 2019 is almost over, and the Parents' Association is already busy sorting the forthcoming events of this term. Let's first look at the last major event of 2018: The Fire and Ice Ball. The final figures were presented at our meeting last Wednesday and we are delighted to announce that the evening raised just under £7,000. The feedback we received from guests and the School was phenomenal; we certainly delivered on the theme this year!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in its organisation and the parents for their continued support.

Looking ahead, please save the date for:
The Curry and Quiz night on Saturday 2nd March from 7.00pm

The Spring Fair on Saturday 30th March from 11.00am.

Here's to a successful 2019.

Best wishes,

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

