



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

18th March 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest edition of Head-Lines. It has been another actioned-packed fortnight at Ratcliffe for the whole community, helping us to

develop Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose.

Father Philip, our Father President, and Father Cann, helped the Senior School celebrate a beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass to begin the liturgical season of Lent. We were reminded of the three great pillars of Lent; prayer, fasting and good works. Father Philip challenged us all to incorporate these three pillars into our daily lives, by thanking God each day for our family and friends, by going without certain things or by showing greater self-control. Just as importantly, Father Philip challenged us to put others' needs before our own or simply to show kindness.

The students were provided with an opportunity to meet our Lent challenge during World Book Day celebrations, where we raised money for our whole School charity, Sightbox.

Our thanks to Mrs Smith and the St Vincent De Paul Group who helped to prepare and serve drinks and cakes at break time in the Refectory for our Chaplaincy "Mad Hatters" Tea Party. Our special thanks to Mrs Haggis who donated 150 cakes on the day, which were delicious.



PREPARATORY SCHOOL
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

The Nursery and Preparatory School celebrated World Book Day in great style as all the children and staff dressed up as a character from their favourite book.



STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



Mr Finn's Year 6 class produced a dazzling assembly where the children introduced us to a myriad of famous and much-loved characters from popular stories.



Our Food Committee reviewed our menu choices for the term with our fantastic catering team and tried some Italian street food as a possible option for our Ref. Café. The theme of food has been particularly prominent of late, with our House Pancake Races on Shrove Tuesday as popular as ever with students and staff. Congratulations to Leetham on winning the competition.

Last Thursday, students from Year 3 to Year 13 came together to perform in our annual Spring Concert. A packed theatre was treated to some wonderful performances from choirs, orchestras and a variety of ensembles, as well as groups and individuals. It was affirming to see so many of our staff supporting students and helping them to reach their potential.

Tickets for the hugely popular Picnic Concert will go on sale soon so please do keep your eyes peeled for information in the coming weeks. It would be wonderful to fill the marquee again this year. The Senior School welcomed four musicians from the Carpenter's Arms who played and sang as part of our Music and Worship Assembly.

All the gentlemen had discovered a love for music while recovering from an addiction at the Carpenter's Arms Centre. As you may be aware, the College has been supporting the Carpenter's Arms for many years, particularly at Harvest Festival, when we give food parcels

to St Joseph's Store and raise funds for the charity. It was fantastic to welcome the musicians and to hear, albeit briefly, their personal stories of how finding God through Music and Worship has helped them to turn their lives around.

Open Morning gave the College an opportunity to open its doors to prospective families. I am delighted to report that we welcomed 80 families to Ratcliffe on Saturday, 75 of whom were new to the School. It was wonderful to see how proud our students are of their School and over 200 volunteered to either help in departments, with co-curricular activities or act as tour guides. I was immensely proud of the whole community – students, parents and staff, teaching and non-teaching – thank you.

Students across the College were in action last Sunday, too. Our senior rugby players participated in the Wisbech Sevens, our Borders visited London, our Preparatory School cross-country team participated in the NIPDCC event at Malvern College and we had scuba divers in the swimming pool!

In the afternoon, we then welcomed over 80 past students who played in or supported the Ratcliffian Association sports fixtures against the College teams in football, hockey and netball.

Year 10 students, Elliot Lindop, Jacob McCahill and Sam Moss led our Monday morning Headmaster's Assembly on the theme of National Science Week. With the help of Mr Chorley, Head of Science, the boys carried out a practical experiment in front of the Senior School. This took great courage and skill. The team expertly demonstrated that they could make a quantity of water in a glass bottle boil by pumping air out of the bottle, but without its temperature being increased! If you would like to understand the science behind this phenomena, please [click here](#).

Year 8 finally went on Retreat to Alton Castle, having been thwarted by a faulty



heating system earlier in the term. They had a fantastic time and were able to take time to reflect on their lives and consider the question, "Who am I?", while enjoying outdoor activities and getting very muddy! My sincere thanks to all the staff who supported the Retreat. It was lovely to hear some of their personal reflections about their visit during assembly this morning.

Our sports teams have been in action too despite the wet and very windy weather. The U14 boys have enjoyed significant success in both rugby and hockey of late, and I would like to congratulate them for their endeavours. On Thursday, the U14 rugby team lost narrowly in the final of the County Cup, 10-7. Despite the defeat, Mr Kaye was immensely proud of the team as is the whole College. [Click here to read](#) the match report. We hope that their recent victory at the Midlands Hockey Finals will spur them on to greater success as they compete in the National Finals at the Lee Valley National Hockey Stadium, set within the Olympic

Park, on 30th April. This is an outstanding achievement and we wish them every success.

Looking ahead, there is a great deal to look forward to in the final 3 weeks of the term. May I encourage you to come along to support the Parents' Association Spring Fair on Saturday 30th March. This is always a hugely enjoyable day and one where so many students, staff and parents give up their time to raise money for charity. This year, the money raised will be shared between two very worthwhile charities, our whole College charity, Sightbox and Children with Cancer UK.

I look forward to meeting many of you at one of these events.

I wish you and your family well for the week ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 19th March French Homestay Visit to Montpellier Information Evening, *Old Library, 6.30pm*
- Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March: Parents' Evening Nursery - Year 5, *Classrooms, 4.00pm-6.00pm*
- Thursday 21st March: Years 6 Parents' Evening with Prep & Senior School Staff, *Old Library, 4.00pm-7.00pm*
- Friday 22nd March: Year 11 Prom, *Sixth Form Centre Lounge, Café and Foyer, 7.00pm-10.30pm*
- Friday 22nd March: Year 12 & Year 13 A Level Drama Production, *Devised Pieces, Theatre, 7.00pm*
- Sunday 24th March: Catenian Public Speaking Contest at Ratcliffe College, *12.30pm-4.30pm*
- Thursday 28th March: Preparatory School Mothers' Day Assembly led by Nursery, *College Chapel, 8.50am, followed by refreshments in Refectory (all families are welcome)*
- Saturday 30th March: Parents' Association Spring Fair, *11.00am-3.00pm*
- Tuesday 2nd April: Preparatory School and Nursery Easter Service, *College Chapel, 9.00am, followed by refreshments in the Refectory*
- Wednesday 3rd April: Sports Presentation Evening, *Sports Centre, 7.00pm*



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES HOUSE COMPETITION

The Modern Foreign Language's departmental House Competition has been running for several months. All you have to do is come to the Languages block and complete a short vocabulary test, which will win a point for your House and help you with your vocabulary learning. The vocabulary tests are updated twice a month, so there are plenty of points up for grabs!

At the moment, Emery have made a fantastic start, with the highest number of points for every year group except Year 11, which is being led by Arundel. Come and take part and see if you can help your House top the leader board!

Mrs Mullan, MFL Teacher

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Thirteen students from Years 11 and 12 travelled to Kingswood School, Bath, to represent the School at the Bath International Schools' Model United Nations conference.

Students took on the roles of delegates for Uganda, Indonesia and New Zealand, debating a wide range of geopolitical issues in a range of committees including environment, human rights, disarmament, economics and the Security Council. [Click here to read more.](#)

Mr Cantrill, Head of History



Congratulations to Sophie Bardsley and Francesca Best who spent last Sunday baking, assembling and decorating cakes to sell in aid of Children in Need and raised a brilliant £60. The Malteser gravity cake was made entirely by Sophie.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

HOUSE PANCAKE RACES

On Shrove Tuesday, we celebrated the day with our annual House Pancake Races. This event is always well supported by the students, although I am not sure that they would like to eat the pancakes after the races have finished.

Each Year group has a race which earns points towards crowning the final winner which, this year, was Leetham, winning 4 out of the 5 races.

Senior House Pancake Race Results 2019

1st Leetham
2nd Arundel
3rd Emery
4th De Lisle



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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

Nursery and Lower Prep enjoyed having a pancake day, learning about the meaning behind Shrove Tuesday as well as making their own pancakes. The afternoon culminated with our annual Pancake Race.

Nursery was awash with colourful book characters on World Book Day! The children had a wonderful time completing different book-related activities.

Mrs Green, Head of Nursery



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



ACHIEVERS: 7TH MARCH 2019



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
8TH MARCH 2019



ACHIEVERS: 28TH FEBRUARY 2019



PANCAKE RACES:
5TH FEBRUARY 2019



PANCAKE RACES:
5TH FEBRUARY 2019



THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

On Friday 8th March we had the joy of welcoming the worship group from The Carpenter's Arms.

For the past few years, the College has given generous support to The Carpenter's Arms, through food donations at Harvest and various charity events. Welcoming the worship group to the College was a wonderful opportunity for the students to hear how the Christian programme is making a difference in the lives of men who need it.

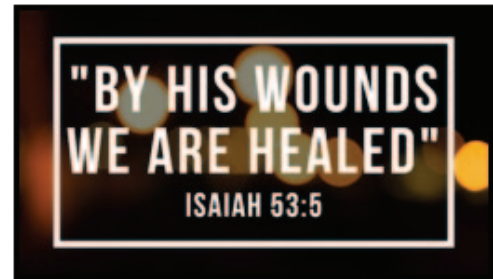
Their visit had two main purposes:

- To encourage the students to worship through song.
- To inform the students about the work The Carpenter's Arms does as a Christian rehabilitation centre for men.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to Ema Chmurovicova and George Linnett on successfully gaining their Silver Awards

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



From speaking to students, it is clear that the most powerful part of their visit were the testimonies given by the young men who were a part of Phase 2 rehabilitation. It was incredible to hear a little bit of their stories and about the way that music has had such a positive impact on their journeys.

Thank you so much to James and his team for giving up their time and for leading us through such a beautiful time of worship! We look forward to continuing our support for The Carpenter's Arms in the future.

Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain

DRAMA

Congratulations to Will Evans who will be playing 'dad' in the production of 'Our House' at Melton Theatre, from 25th to 27th April. Maddy Dunstan and Phoebe Greenaway will also be part of the cast.

This musical includes popular songs from the much-loved seventies group, 'Madness'. I am sure that the students would be thrilled to see you at one of the performances, so do please book your tickets and go along.

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama



THE BIG SIX

MUSIC

The annual Spring Concert was held last Thursday, with students performing to the Theatre at its fullest capacity. [Click here to read the programme](#) where you will see a variety of music, with a large number of ensembles taking part. It would be wrong to single out specific performers since we enjoyed the highest quality of music from everyone. Sincere thanks to all the staff who so willingly gave of their time to ensure the evening was a success.

Please be ready to order your Picnic Concert tickets when they go on sale at the end of this term!

Congratulations to Richard Pullan who won the MusicFest Advanced Art Song for under 18s, singing 'Après un rêve' by Fauré in French



Here he is with the judge and his accompanist, Jeremy Kimber, and a rather big cup! He also came second in both Adult categories: Advanced Art Song and Advanced Stage and Screen. Richard was also Highly Commended at the Loughborough Singing Competition in the U18 Classical section early last month.

Mr McCall, Director of Music



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
SPRING CONCERT 2019



THE BIG SIX

SPORT



Fred Jackson, Year 10, was put forward by his Atherstone pony club to trial for the England pony club mounted games team. The trial took place last weekend at Dallas Burston polo club and, after an intense trial for 3½ hours against the top 35 riders in England, he was called forward at the end of the trial as being chosen to be in the team of 5. This means that not only will Fred compete in the DAKS Windsor Horse Show in May and meet The Queen, against teams from Scotland, Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Wales, but he will also compete in Ireland later in the year against the same teams.



FINLAY NOBLE AT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

[Click here](#) to read the full article in our latest sports report.

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Congratulations to Owen Sommerville on successfully completing his BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community.



The CCF, Army and RAF continue to carry out a variety of training during the Tuesday parades. Activities such as radio communications, first aid and rifle training continue to stretch the cadets and develop new skills. Many of the activities have fantastic support from the senior cadets. Cpl Kapil Soni has been helping Capt Dziemianko extremely well with the radio communication sessions, helping run and plan an exercise for the Year 10 cadets. Congratulations to James Wilson, Max Chapman and Jonathan Bellamy who have recently passed their RAF cadet instructor training. Eventually, the weather was kind to the RAF section over half-term where two flying slots were used. [Click here](#) to read the article by Cadet Steven Lai, Year 13. This week, the RAF completed the Heart Start first aid award. My congratulations go to all the RAF cadets.

Upcoming events are the Easter Adventure Training Camp to Halton, from 6th to 12 April, INSKIP, from 27th to 30 May, Army section Field training to Swynnerton, from 23rd to 25th June and the RAF summer camp, from 6th to 13th July.

Lt Col Balmбра, Contingent Commander



AND BEYOND...

UCAS EAST MIDLANDS EXHIBITION



Year 12 students attended the UCAS East Midlands Exhibition at De Montfort University on Thursday March 7th. Over 150 Universities, the British Army, RAF, Rolls Royce and the National Apprenticeship Service had stands at the event, giving students an excellent opportunity to gather prospectuses, ask questions and collect free bags and stress balls from their shortlisted establishments. The trip should be the catalyst for them now to start their university applications, including their first draft of their personal statement. Exciting times!

Mr Spencer, Head of Year 12

LEARNING LEADERS PROGRAMME



This year's Learning Leaders programme has got off to another great start. A timetable of GCSE subjects is offered Monday to Thursday each week for the duration of this half-term from 4.40-5.10pm in the Sixth Form Meeting Room.

Each of the Year 12 Learning Leaders has achieved grades 8 or 9 in their chosen GCSE subjects and gives tutorials on revision technique to those preparing for GCSEs. While students in Years 10 and 11 benefit from their advice on revision technique, our sixth form volunteers gain valuable leadership and teaching experience.

Mr Neville, Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Head

WHAT'S NEXT? INFORMATION ON LIFE AFTER SIXTH FORM

On Monday 4th March, the College welcomed 180 students and parents of Years 11 to 13 to its annual 'What's Next?' event.

This year, our guest speakers were Ross Guy from Durham University, who gave an invaluable insight into the UCAS process, university life and student finance and Hollie Sturgess from the National Apprenticeship

Service, who delivered a stimulating talk on the rapidly expanding world of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

Mr Neville, Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Head



AND BEYOND...

INSPIRE: ENGINEERING - PRINCIPLES OF STRUCTURES



On Wednesday 13th March, we welcomed Dr Nick Thom from The University of Nottingham, who gave a fascinating presentation on the way that forces distribute themselves in a structure. This was followed by an interactive activity in which students worked together to design and construct a simple structure that was then tested to destruction!

Thank you to Dr Thom for a very enjoyable talk – a fitting end to this year's INSPIRE programme. INSPIRE will recommence in the Autumn Term, starting on Wednesday 11th September.

Mr Neville, Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Head

PARENT PORTAL

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

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.

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



AND BEYOND...

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association would like to thank everyone who supported the busy refreshments stall at our annual hosted cross country event.

The PA Quiz and Curry night was another great success on Saturday 2nd March. It even drew in contenders from other independent schools! Teams battled for the coveted quiz trophy and answered questions on general knowledge, current affairs, music and sport, in addition to some fun table top rounds. Thank you to the catering team for the delicious curry and congratulations to 'Family Affairs', the winning team!

The meeting and greeting of prospective parents at last Saturday's Open Morning was enjoyable, and it was pleasing to see so many families looking around the College.

If you are interested in Adults' hockey, please come along from 6.30-8.00pm on Thursday evenings. All are welcome. It is very casual, simply turn up and play some friendly games. Please contact Jenny Daynes on 07951 956568.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair



**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
QUIZ AND CURRY WINNERS**

