



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

1st March 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

The unusually warm and sunny weather many of us enjoyed during half-term meant that the half-term has begun with more than a hint of spring in the air. The students across the College have enjoyed spending time together at break and lunch times, playing football and chatting in our beautiful grounds. The campus really has looked wonderful. As one student commented, "one could be forgiven for thinking the summer term had already started, Sir". It could indeed and, with Year 13 students beavering away in the sports hall this week as part of their A Level mock examinations, the atmosphere around the College has been reminiscent of the summer public examination season.

On Monday morning, as part of Headmaster's Assembly, I reflected on the recent news commentary about the warmer February temperatures being linked to global warming. This coincided with the news before half-term of students across the UK going 'on strike' as part of a global campaign for action on climate change and to call on the government to declare a 'climate emergency' and take active steps to tackle the problem.

I challenged our students to consider what more we might do as a school to arrest climate change. Having just read Professor Stephen Hawking's most recent book, 'Brief Answers to the Big Questions', I shared with them his hope that this generation of young

people take a keen interest in science, so that they can help solve one of the great problems of our time. I wish to start a new co-curricular club which enables our students to consider this question and to generate ideas for change on an individual, as well as whole-school level, in the future. Watch this space!

In keeping with the theme of science, our Nursery and Preparatory School children have enjoyed 'Science Week' this week. My thanks to Mrs Wetton, Preparatory School Science Coordinator and Mr Chorley, Head of Science in the Senior School, for organising and delivering so many different learning opportunities for the children. I had the pleasure of attending Mr Kent's Year 5 class assembly on Thursday morning. It was fantastic to see the children demonstrate their learning about the heart, circulatory system, as well as health and fitness through innovative drama.

The Preparatory School have been 'tweeting' about their Science Week achievements over the past few days and you can see more on this topic on our website. I am looking forward to finding out how the Swans class got on today at the National Space Centre, as they are having story time with Astronaut George!

Congratulations to our Year 12 Design and Technology students who achieved first place at the annual Rotary Technology Tournament held at Leicester Grammar School on Thursday. The competition welcomed 10 schools from across the County, including Uppingham, Oakham and Stamford and saw over 140 students participating

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. The full report can be found in the 'Senior School Student Achievements' section of the Newsletter.

Congratulations also to the U14 rugby team who have reached the final of the Leicestershire Schools' County Cup. This fixture will take place on Thursday 14th March at Leicester Forest East Rugby Club v Loughborough Grammar School. Kick-off is 2.10pm. Our U13 boys' and girls' hockey teams play in the county tournament at Oakham today. We wish both teams every success.

Our German language students enjoyed a fantastic week of language immersion in Koblenz over half-term as they prepare for their forthcoming public examinations. My thanks to Mr McCrindell for leading the trip. Our CCF RAF cadets enjoyed two superb days of flying over half-term taking advantage of the beautiful weather and clear skies attaining an altitude of over 6000ft on one day which provided breath taking views of the local countryside.

We wish those Year 11 and Sixth Form students who are participating in the Model United Nations International Schools' Conference at Kingswood School, every success this weekend, together with our hockey and netball teams who will be in action tomorrow. We are also hosting a Primary Schools' cross-country meeting on Saturday morning, and I am looking forward to watching some of our youngest children compete. Our Lourdes pilgrims meet on Sunday for induction training prior to their forthcoming pilgrimage in the summer. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our Sixth Form students to put the Gospel values into action.

There are still a small number of tickets available for the Parents' Association Quiz and Curry Night, which will be held in the College Refectory on Saturday evening. The evening starts at 7.30pm and I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you for your support of your children during the first week of the half-term. I look forward to seeing many parents at a school event in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to remind Year 6 parents that Open Morning on Saturday 9th March is a lovely opportunity to come and see the Senior School in action.

I would also like to plug the following events too:

- What's Next? Information on Life after Sixth Form for Parents and Students, Years 11-13, 7.00pm - Theatre and Sixth Form Centre.
- Senior School Spring Concert – Tuesday 12th March, 7.00pm – Theatre.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



OPEN MORNING - OCTOBER 2018

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT AT LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

On Thursday 28th February, Ratcliffe attended the annual Rotary Technology Tournament held at Leicester Grammar School. The competition involved schools from across the County with over 140 students participating from Key Stages 3, 4 & 5.



It was great to see the students working so well in their teams, especially the Year 12 students who thoroughly deserved their victory. [Click here to read more.](#)

Mr Seth, Head of Design & Technology

Maddy Dunstan and Keira Perry (Year 8) have both recently taken part at the Leicester MusicFest. Maddy won the Intermediate Art Song Class and came 3rd in the Advanced Art Song Category.

Keira entered the festival for the first time and won a Silver medal in the Elementary Stage and Screen Solo Junior Class.

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE BAKE OFF 2019



The annual Ratcliffe Bake Off took place on Monday 11th February during prep time. The challenge was to make a Victoria Sandwich Cake.

The results were as follows:

- 1st Teresa Wawra
- 2nd Reuben Taylor
- 3rd Charlotte Langford

Other contestants were Harriet Langford, Charlotte Rees, Cherry Lee, Joe Marsden and Kyan Gohill. Congratulations to all contestants who will receive House points and to our photographers and judges, Rachel Perry and Beverly Kwok.

Mrs Burton, Head of Food Technology

Congratulations to Kristian Brocksopp, Year 11, who was given the opportunity to present live at The Curve during the '1city1celebration' event on Saturday 23rd February live on Takeover Radio.

To hear Kristian's promo for the show, [please click here.](#)



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



Preparatory School Chaplaincy Assembly (12th February) on the theme of CAFOD – to raise awareness ahead of Casuals Day on Friday 15th February. Ratcliffe College collected £835 for CAFOD.



ACHIEVERS: 7TH FEBRUARY 2019



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
8TH FEBRUARY 2019



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:
15TH FEBRUARY 2019



THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



On Friday 1st March, we had the pleasure of welcoming Angela and Nigel Williams to the College. Their visit on behalf of the charity, 'Sightbox', was to inform and engage the students and staff with the mission of Sightbox.

Since the charity's beginning only two years ago, they are already having a huge impact on the lives of visually impaired children across the world.

At the heart of their fundraising is the 'sightbox' or as Angela called it, "a magic box". This box contains various toys, tools and items, such as a speaking pedometer, musical balls and other basic games, that improve the quality of life for the children who use them.

Thank you so much to both Angela and Nigel for giving up their time to speak to the School. We look forward to supporting Sightbox in the future.

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

Congratulations to Alicia Boothroyd and Molly Edwards on successfully completing their BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community.

Lt Col Balmбра, Contingent Commander

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to Robyn Warwick on successfully passing her Silver Award and to Emily Wetton on successfully passing her Bronze Award.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

MUSIC

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS



SPRING CONCERT 2019
Thursday 7th March - 7pm
Ratcliffe College
Theatre



Free Entry & refreshments
during the interval.
Collection for Sight Box Charity.



THE BIG SIX



Auditions!

Senior School students are invited to come along to audition with the piece/song you would like to perform at the Picnic Concert!

Your piece doesn't have to be perfect at the audition, but please prepare, as we want to get a clear idea of what type of music you hope to perform at the concert on Saturday 22nd June.

We would welcome auditions from either soloists or small groups.

Good Luck!



SPORT

During half-term, I competed at Southview for the 3rd of the small Pony Premier shows. It was a busy show with around 250 competitors competing each day. The show went very well for me, as I won three classes and came 2nd in three classes along with some other placing. One of the classes I won was a Hicksted qualifier which means I now have seven ponies qualified at Hicksted Royal International in July. It is a fantastic ring to compete in and I am really excited to be going.

Tabitha Kyle, Year 7

Please [click here](#) to read an article published in 'Horse & Hound' about Tabitha Kyle's equestrian achievements.



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

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport



AND BEYOND...

GERMAN EXCHANGE 2019



Students from Year 12 enjoyed an eventful week in Koblenz during the February half-term holiday. Organised trips and activities included a cable car trip across the majestic river Rhine, and trips to Cologne and Trier. Students stayed with their German partners, attended lessons on school days and impressed throughout with their willingness to communicate in the target language. They were treated to a number of activities, including laser tag, swimming, bowling, cycling and the inevitable shopping. We were blessed with sunny, warm weather throughout. We now look forward to welcoming our German friends to Ratcliffe after the Easter holidays.

Mr McCrindell, Head of German

EPQ TRIP TO LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

On Thursday 14th February, students in Years 12 and 13 visited the Pilkington Library at Loughborough University for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) study day.

The visit started with a seminar led by Mrs Culpin of the Academic Services Team, outlining key study skills for EPQ, including online search tools such as Google Scholar. Our sixth formers then enjoyed a taste of university life as they undertook independent research in the library using the university's outstanding resources.

Next month, EPQ students will be benefiting from a talk on presentation skills from Mr Andrew Wright as well as individual progress reviews with Dr Emma Thompson who will be visiting from the University of Southampton.

Mr Neville, Head of Sixth Form & Assistant Head

PREFECT JUMPERS

Our Year 13 female prefects are now the proud owners of their first ever prefect jumper. For many years, the boys have been given prefect ties and all had a badge, but now that has changed with the prefect girls in Year 13.

Mrs Grant, Sixth Form Centre Supervisor



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.

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

PARENT PORTAL

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

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

I hope everyone has had a restful half-term and enjoyed the unusually good weather.

Before half-term, we were very pleased to announce and award the winners and runners-up of this year's Spring Fair poster competition with Waterstones gift vouchers.

They were: Phoebe Smith, Year 5 Winner, Marley Deacon, Year 4 runner-up and Lila Murphy, Year 1 runner-up.



Thank you to everyone that entered the competition. We were overwhelmed by the beautiful art work submitted.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

