



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

29th March 2019

HEAD - LINES



Dear Parents,

Our wonderful Nursery School children led our Mother's Day celebrations on Thursday with beautiful words, actions and song, which helped us to reflect

and show our gratitude for our Mums and all that they do or have done for us. The confidence shown by our youngest children was humbling to witness. Congratulations to all the children and well done to Miss Green and her team on a super assembly.



Preparatory School Mother's Day Mass

During the past two weeks, the students have been incredibly busy in their academic work, the core business of our school. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work diligently towards their public examinations next term. These final weeks are crucial to their preparations. On Wednesday morning, I urged them to plan their Easter holiday carefully, ensuring that they have plenty of rest and sleep, so that they can revise effectively according to their revision plans.

Year 10 students will also sit examinations post Easter. It is important that they also take time to rest over the holidays as well as allocating appropriate time to revise.

Students in Years 8 - 9 will sit their examinations before the May half-term. The Easter holidays should be used to rest and have fun, although it may be a good opportunity for some to check books and files to ensure they have a full set of notes before the revision starts in earnest at the beginning of next term.

For all students sitting examinations in the coming months, it is so important to get the balance right between rest and study so that they return to school refreshed and confident. Thank you, parents, for your support and encouragement in this regard.

Over the past fortnight, our students have enjoyed great successes in academic pursuits, the performing arts, as well as sporting endeavours. Our physicists have grappled with challenging theories as part of the Science Olympiad and our U12 boys' hockey team performed with great maturity and skill to finish runner's up in the Regional competition at Cannock Hockey Club.

This success followed quickly on the heels of the U11 boys' and girls' hockey teams who both won their respective county championships. You can read more about this in the Sport section of this newsletter.

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE





Year 12 Students performing an extract from 'The 39 Steps'

Our A Level Drama students performed in a series of five plays last week. Those present witnessed an incredibly high standard of acting in a range of genres. Educating Rita and The 39 Steps provided the audience with moments of great mirth, juxtaposed to the darker devised pieces in the style of Antonin Artaud, which left some of us terrified! Congratulations to all the students for their stunning performances and to Mrs Munton and Mrs Caven-Henrys and their team for such professional productions.

On Sunday 24th March, Ratcliffe hosted the Catenian Public Speaking Competition. Over 100 guests supported the event, including Bishop Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham and Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam. I am delighted to report that Dalila Watson, Year 11, achieved second place on the day, beating candidates in Year 12 and 13 from schools across the Midlands region. To read more about Dalila's success, [click here](#).



The Catenian Public Speaking Contest 2019

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding, has been appointed as Deputy Head Pastoral at Sidcot School, Somerset, for September 2019. Mrs Leite has served Ratcliffe College boarding community for 9 years and fully deserves her promotion. We wish her and her family every happiness and success in their new life in the South West. The College will be advertising for her successor shortly.

Easter Sunday is the climax to the Christian liturgical calendar and this is reflected in our celebrations in school each year. We are eagerly looking forward to next week's Preparatory School Easter Service on Tuesday, followed by the whole College Service on Wednesday morning in the sports hall, which will be led by Year 4 children.

Our sportsmen and women in the Senior School will attend the Sports Presentation Evening on Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Sports Hall. This annual celebration of Ratcliffe's sporting life this year welcomes Old Ratcliffian, Georgia Holt (2016), to present the awards. Georgia is part of the Great Britain cycling team, and we look forward to welcoming her back to Ratcliffe to share with us her journey into elite sport.

The much anticipated House Music Competition will pit our four Houses against one another on Thursday afternoon. This is always an enjoyable, yet feisty affair!

We wish our senior hockey teams well as they head off to the Bath Hockey Festival on Friday for the weekend.

Looking ahead to the Easter holiday, the Senior School ski trip to Colorado departs on the first Saturday of the holiday, together with the CCF Easter Adventure Training Camp to Halton. On Sunday 7th April, the French homestay trip to Montpellier and the Spanish homestay to Valencia depart. We wish all the students and staff safe and enjoyable trips. At the end of the holiday, our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award students embark on their



practice expedition to the Brecon Beacons for four days. Walking and camping in 'wild country' requires great skill and confidence, so we hope that the weather helps them in their quest.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your children. As this edition of Head-Lines testifies, the students continue to astound us each day as they develop their gifts and talents in our nurturing community that helps them to embody our vision of *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values and Strength of Purpose*.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Saturday at the Parents' Association Spring Fair (11.00am-3.00pm). If you cannot attend, I would be grateful if you could buy some raffle tickets from either the Preparatory School or Senior School Reception for the chosen charities: Children with Cancer UK and Sightbox.

Yours sincerely,

J.P. Reddin

Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

UNITED KINGDOM INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE 2019

Over 200,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge, with roughly the top 6% receiving a Gold Certificate, the next 13% a Silver Certificate and the next 21%, a Bronze Certificate. [Click here](#) to see Ratcliffe's results.

Mr Higham, Head of Mathematics

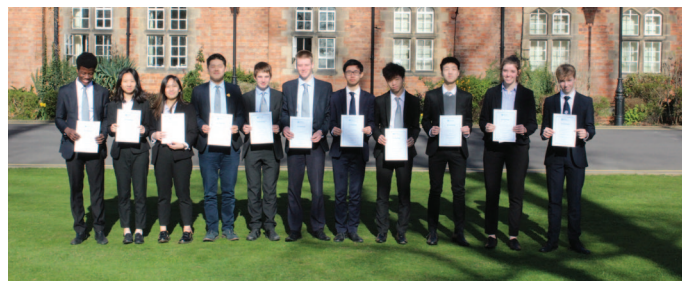
INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Year 13 Chemistry students sat the 51st International Chemistry Olympiad paper in January, a very challenging test written by members of the University of Cambridge's Chemistry Department. Over 7000 students took part in this test across the UK, with 21 of the entries coming from our Year 13 Chemistry students.

Congratulations to Joanna Chan, Dan Bastock, Falak Gajebasia, Matthew Garcia, Owen Sommerville, Steven Lai, Ema Chmurovicova, Josh Bellamy and Emiliano Orsini-Rottner who all achieved a Bronze award, putting them in the top 60% of all students in the Country.

Mr Chorley, Head of Science

BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD CHALLENGE



YEAR 12

In the Spring Term, all of our Year 12 Physics students sat the AS Challenge British Physics Olympiad. Nearly 3500 students took this test across Britain, with 14 of the entries coming from our Year 12 Physics students. Particular congratulations must go to Jacob Dawe, who achieved a Silver Award, placing him in the top 8.5% of all the students taking the test. A further three students, Siri Sin, James Howling and Thomas Binnie, achieved a Bronze 2 Award, placing them in the top 18.9%. All of the other Year 12 Physics students at Ratcliffe achieved a Commendation Award.

YEAR 11

Earlier this month, all Year 11 Triple Award Physics students sat the Year 11 Physics Challenge British Physics Olympiad, a very challenging test written by members of the University of Oxford's Physics Department. Congratulations to Max Chapman, who achieved a Bronze 2 Award, placing him in the top 48% of all the students taking the test. All other Ratcliffe students achieved a Commendation Award, which they will receive in their Physics lesson next week.

[Click here](#) to see the list of those students receiving awards for both Year 11 and 12.

Mr Chorley, Head of Science



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



Students of the week: 15th March 2019



Achievers: 14th March 2019



Students of the week: 22nd March 2019



Under 11 Boys and Girls County Hockey Champions



THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

Last week, Year 8 students enjoyed time away with their friends, and were given the chance to really test themselves. The retreat was based upon the theme of 'Who Am I?', and the team at Alton led the students through the experience, giving them the opportunity to properly explore the answer to this question.

Even though the weather was not as kind as it could have been, the students had a great time, and it was wonderful to see them pushing themselves and encouraging each other to persevere during the challenging activities.



"Climbing was enjoyable for everyone, as we were all laughing throughout the activity. Overall, my favourite part of the trip was crating because it helped us build trust with one another."



"The team leaders made the story personal to everyone by putting us in the shoes of the characters in the story."



"I really enjoyed the trip and, if possible, would love to do it again."

A SPECIAL LENTEN PRAYER

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
Give up complaining: value what you have.
Give up stress: take up prayer.
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain



THE BIG SIX

MUSIC

The Music Department has had a very busy week preparing students for their practical examinations, with large numbers being entered this term. Auditions have been taking place, ahead of the Picnic Concert on Saturday 22nd June. Please do be ready to purchase your ticket when they become available for sale (details to be released soon). Finally, the Senior School has seen a flurry of activity as we get ready for the annual House Music Competition taking place next week. It is a lovely event, always hotly contested! There is much to look forward to, musically, in the coming days and weeks.

Mr McCall, Director of Music

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Upcoming events are:

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.

RAF summer camp, from 6th to 13th July.

Lt Col Balmбра, Contingent Commander



DRAMA

Congratulations to the following Year 13 and Year 12 students who performed brilliantly in the A Level devised pieces last week:

Louis Massarella, Tia Dhanjal, Isabella Orsini-Rottner, Chantelle Creighton, Joanna Chan (Year 13).

Edward Smellie, Caitlin Lawrence, Alexander Bown, Finlay Matthews (Year 12).

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama



THE BIG SIX

SPORT

Congratulations to the U12 Boys' Hockey Team (listed below) who finished runners-up in the Regional Midlands Hockey finals on Tuesday in a competition between all the best schools from the Midlands Counties.

Olly Clark – Captain, Harrison Walker, Harry Bird, Sam Leake, Ayo Abiodun, Fin Martin, Theo Pope, Kim O'Sullivan, Michael Joy and Xav Illsley-Ridge.



Congratulations to Hattie Walne who danced in the British Theatre and Dance Association (BTDA) London and Essex All England Championship heats last weekend. This consists of 5 heats throughout the year at locations around England. If dancers place 1st or 2nd in their section or score higher than 88 marks, they qualify for the All England Championship final in November. Out of her 8 dances, Hattie placed in 7 and has qualified for the BTDA All England finals in November, with 6 of her dances modern, lyrical, national, Greek, tap and acro. Hattie has also successfully auditioned for "Boogie nights", a production by Leicester Theatre Group at the Sue Townsend Theatre in Leicester in September.

Congratulations to Fred Jackson who has been selected for the Home International Pony Club Mounted Games Team to compete in the DAKS Mounted Games Championships at Royal Windsor Horse Show.



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

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to Isabella Whalley on successfully passing her Bronze award.

Last weekend, Year 11 and 10 students went on a Navigation Training exercise in Leicestershire.



Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



AND BEYOND...

OUTREACH WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Ratcliffe College have well established links with primary schools in the local community and run regular taster days which provide pupils with practical experience of what it is like to study here. When pupils are invited in, they get a real feel for our campus and facilities as well as meeting the staff and getting a flavour of various subjects through exciting activity sessions.

On Thursday 21st March 2019, we invited 23 pupils from Plumtree Primary School, together with their teachers, Mr Osborne and Mr Moss, to join our Science Department for a selection of thought-provoking workshops exploring the topic of Forces.

[Click here](#) to read more about our Science Workshop for Plumtree School pupils.

PARENT PORTAL

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

- Ratclifian Recorder (2017/18)
- Year 10 Examination Timetable
- Year 12 & 13 - What's Next?

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.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Jenny Howling and her team of second hand uniform volunteers for yet again hosting another fantastic uniform sale last week. A truly big THANK YOU to all involved as a great deal of time and energy goes into organising and holding the sales behind the scenes.

The Parents' Association warmly look forward to welcoming you and your families and friends to the Annual Spring Fair being hosted this Saturday from 11am - 3pm.

We are providing a family fun filled day. Our two chosen charity's this year are **Children with Cancer UK** and **Sightbox**. Please come along and support the event and these incredible charities. Thank you and let's hope for a lovely, sunny day.

Sasha Bruiners, Chair

