



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

24th May 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

The last fortnight has been an incredibly busy period, leading up to the half-term break. Reflecting back to the Bank Holiday weekend, our Boarding

community enjoyed a trip to Twycross Zoo and in-house activities on the Monday, including soft ball and rounders. Thank you to the Boarding Team for helping make the weekend so pleasurable for all our boarders, particularly those who were revising for their examinations.

On Tuesday 7th May, I hosted our Academic Achievers in Years 7-11 who were rewarded with a delicious meal in the Old Library. I hope this group enjoyed the occasion as much as I did?

Study Leave commenced on Friday 10th May for Years 13 and 11, and it was a splendid last day for Year 13 students, who really embraced all that was on offer on the last day of formal lessons. The weather allowed them to have fun on the various inflatables, to enjoy a BBQ and to review their Leavers' Book. The Leavers' Service at the end of the day was beautiful, and all students were received into the Ratcliffian Association, with thanks to Emma Wright, President of the Association, followed by a convivial Reception in the Refectory – a most fitting way to round off the Year group's hard work and co-curricular achievements ahead of the A Level examinations.

The public examinations commenced on Monday 13th May, and I have been impressed with the way that the students have focused on their examinations, so please keep your sons and daughters motivated and calm. Thank you for your invaluable support in supporting them.

We were thrilled to host a group of children from Grace Dieu Manor School for a Science Taster Day on Thursday 16th May. You can read more about this under 'And Beyond' and thank you to Mr Chorley, Head of Science, for organising this most enjoyable day. I think you can tell by the looks on the children's faces, that they had a fabulous time.



That evening, The Ratcliffian Golf Shield (Old Ratcliffians v. Staff and Students) took place at Rothley Park Golf Club and ended in a victory for the Staff and Students (2-1); this week, it was the turn of Staff v. Students, which concluded in a 3-1 win for the Staff. These competitions are always great fun and never taken too seriously although, naturally, the competitive spirit comes to the fore in all who take part.

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE



We were delighted to raise money for Faith in Families, as we customarily do, via a Casuals Day on Friday 17th May. Thank you for helping us achieve a total of £600, which is fantastic. If there are any further donations, please do ask your son/daughter to pay their money to his/her Tutor.

Internal examinations for Years 7-9 began last Monday, and we hope that your sons and daughters have done themselves proud. At Key Stage 3, the aim of the examinations is to help prepare the students for their GCSEs. Learning how to sit, focus and apply themselves fully for an hour at a time, not merely developing examination techniques.

Iattended the Year 10 Drama Production last evening, and it gave me great pleasure to see this talented group of students performing a wide range of devised work which reflected so many of the major social and political issues of our day. Across the seven separate plays, the students gave their interpretations on matters such as the effects of de-forestation; they tackled the influence of social media, including self-harm and bullying; the plight of modern day refugees; substance abuse and the dangers associated with addiction; modern day slavery and gender inequality. Well done, Year 10 drama students, and I would like to extend my grateful thanks to Mrs Munton, Mrs Caven-Henrys and their budding behind the scenes support.

The Preparatory School children have had an interesting couple of weeks. Year 3 embarked on a residential trip to Beaumanor and Year 6 had a week-long residential at Caythorpe. Yesterday morning, Year 2 presented an Assembly on the theme of diversity. During their class discussions, they had established that, in their class of 18 children, they had representation from 14 different countries! They took their audience on a wonderful trip around the globe, courtesy of Phileas Fogg and his hot air balloon. We witnessed music from Ghana, Irish dancing, French cuisine, Indian Bollywood and too many more to mention.

Their assembly reminded us of the richness of the Ratcliffe community as well as the importance of understanding different faith backgrounds, cultures and languages to promote the value of tolerance and respect to bring peace. Half-term concluded in the Preparatory School with the final of the House Music Competition. Congratulations to all the students who have been selected to go through to the final.

On Saturday, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Practice Expedition departs for Derbyshire, and we hope that this lovely weather continues for the duration of their expedition. Year 12 and 13 A Level Drama students are heading down to London on the Wednesday of half-term. We wish them a productive and enjoyable day, and thank you to the staff leading this trip.

Please remember to visit Senior School reception in order to complete a ticket request form for the Picnic Concert. All tickets are purchased on a first come, first served basis; unfortunately, we are unable to reserve or book tickets via e-mail.

Iwish you a happy half-term with your families.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



Official opening and blessing of the Lockhart Garden, Sunday 19th May





hospice for children and young people



Year 9 Challenge: Step Everest!

From the 3rd to the 7th of June, Year 9 Students will be attempting the 'Step Everest!' Challenge in support of our charity - The Rainbows Children's Hospice in Loughborough.

The Maths Part:

- ⇒ Mt Everest is 8848 metres high
- ⇒ The average step height on a stairway is 22cm
- ⇒ There are 85 students in the year group

For us to hit our target height (Mt Everest), each student will need to climb **500 steps!** Look out for the Year 9's during lunchtimes outside the Cricket Pavilion.

Sponsor a student, or make a donation and support our charity.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

SENIOR SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

STUDENT LISTENERS

Before Easter, eighteen Year 12 students and two members of staff attended a training day at Police HQ in Enderby run by the Leicester branch of the Samaritans, the aim being to give these students the knowledge and confidence to act as student listeners. The Samaritan volunteers had a lot of praise for their enthusiasm and the way in which they approached the activities and role-play. Our Year 12 students will be taking up their roles and will be available in The Lighthouse room between 1.30 and 2.00pm, Monday to Thursday each week.



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



Year 4 Informal Concert - 14th May 2019

THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



Confirmation Mass takes place on Sunday 16th June for our 18 candidates:-

Jacob Butler, Joseph Butler, Joseph Atkinson, George Atkinson, David Seidu, Marcus Wigwe-Chizindu, Ethan Starley, Ezra Starley, Henry Urwin, Guy Gamble, Emily Spillane, Annie Jarvis, Amelia Tebbutt, Victoria Wheatley, Grace Karanja, Daisy Reddin, Lucia Orsini-Rottner and Angelica Robinson. With best wishes and every blessing to them and their families.



Official opening and blessing of the Lockhart Garden, Sunday 19th May.

Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain

COMBINED CADET FORCE



On Tuesday 21st May, our CCF/RAF Cadets, along with over 40 outside guests attended an inspirational talk by 'Rusty' Waughman DFC AFC, WWII Lancaster Bomber pilot. We were also delighted to welcome two cadets from Long Eaton ATC.

Over the first week of the summer holidays, cadets and staff are looking forward to the Army and RAF section camps. The Army section are now going to Beckingham. As it has been such late notice for the Army section camp, there is a need for a very quick turnaround with the required paperwork.

The RAF Cadets are also preparing for their Summer Camp to RAF St Mawgan on 6th July with weapon handling tests and swim tests to be completed by just after half term.

Click [here](#) to read the full report from Tuesday's talk.

Flt Lt Grant



THE BIG SIX

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Congratulations to our successful students on completing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award:-

Silver

Alexander Bown

Bronze

Lucy Antill, Joshua Beet and Eisha Patel

On Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May, fifty-two Year 10 students headed off on their Bronze Practice Expedition near Rutland Water. The eight groups of participants followed their own pre-planned walk, then cooked their own supper, put up their own tents and tried to sleep at camp (although the 5am dawn chorus was particularly loud).



They then got up, organised their breakfast, packed their own rucksacks and walked another pre-planned route on the Sunday. The groups have all made a good start to their DofE expedition section and are ready (with just a few improvements) to go forward to assessment in June.



Congratulations to Luke Charnock, Alex Jarvis, Olutomi Mosaku, Sophie Riley, Charlotte Warburton, Chris Curnick and Finbarr Lloyd, Old Ratcliffians who collected their Gold Awards in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

SPORT



If you would like to hear how our students got on during their Easter Ski Trip to Winter Park, Colorado, please [click here](#).



THE BIG SIX

WISDEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack Nightingale (Old Ratcliffian, 2017) has been ranked 10th best batsman in the country by average and Toby Snell, Year 13, 31st.

The 1st XI were rated by Wisden as having an Outstanding Season due to their very high win percentage of 71.4%.

STAFF VS STUDENTS GOLF DAY

The staff played against the students on Wednesday evening in the second golf match of the term. We are, once again, indebted to Mr Spillane, parent and PGA Professional and the Rothley Golf Club for hosting us on their beautiful golf course. The weather was very kind with glorious sunshine throughout the early evening. Click here to read how we got on.



Congratulations to Thirawooth Sraunson, aka KP, who has been selected to represent Thailand U19s in the Panda Cup in China from 23-30 May 2019. We look forward to hearing how he gets on.

Please [click here](#) to read the latest sports reports.

Miss Stafford, Director of Sport

DRAMA



Students in Year 10 performed their 'Devised Pieces' this week, bringing to an end weeks of hard work.

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama

MUSIC

Our annual Picnic Concert will be upon us towards the end of this term. Please do ensure that you have booked your tickets if you have yet to do so. It is always a wonderful event – certainly one not to miss!

Mr McCall, Director of Music





**Ratcliffe College Music Department
presents**



The Picnic Concert

**Bring your family, friends, and a picnic,
and enjoy a selection of music from
the Ratcliffe College Orchestra,
Preparatory School, Gospel and Senior Choirs,
the Swing Band,
and lots more!**

**On
Saturday 22nd June
At 6.00pm prompt
In the Marquee**

**The Marquee will open at 5.30pm.
The concert will start at 6.00pm prompt
and will include an interval
for you to enjoy your picnic.**

The concert is scheduled to conclude by 9.00pm

AND BEYOND...

YEAR 8 AND 9 ONATTI PRODUCTION - EL VIEJO SALOON

On Friday 10th May eighty-nine students from Year 8 and 9 were treated to a Spanish play, called El Viejo Saloon, performed by Onatti Productions. The audience was transported to the Wild West in 1882, where the Old Saloon needs to make some money quickly. As a result, the owner's daughter organises a talent show.



Two native speakers played all of the characters, which entailed several changes of clothes. There was lots of interaction with the audience and this was very much appreciated by the students. Filip Chmurovic (Year 8) must have a special mention. The actors needed a volunteer and Filip stepped up to the challenge. They briefed him before the audience arrived and he was on stage for the whole play, asked to speak (in Spanish!) and act throughout the play. Other spontaneous volunteers were Curtis Lui and Victoria Wheatley (Year 9) and Riley Kirk (Year 8).

Many thanks go to Ms Casas for organising the play and to Mrs Crebbin, Mrs Reddin and Sra Zaragoza for their help.

Mrs Mullan, Languages Teacher

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE TO HOST SWIMONE SWIM SCHOOL



SWIMONE Swim School will be hosted at Ratcliffe College on Saturday mornings. Offering lessons for stage 1-10, absolute beginners right through to competitive swimming level.

If you are interested, call 07860140322 or email s12mfreeman@gmail.com.

GRACE DIEU MANOR SCHOOL SCIENCE TASTER DAY

Please [click here](#) to read about the Grace Dieu Manor School Science Taster Day.



Mr Chorley, Head of Science



AND BEYOND...

BOARDING GIRLS GET 'PRETTY MUDDY'

On Sunday 12th May, thirty female boarders and four members of staff took part in the Race for Life Pretty Muddy event at Prestwold Hall. There was great excitement in-house as we all got ready to take on the challenge of this 5k fun run to raise funds for Cancer Research UK, a charity close to all our hearts.

As always, the girls did themselves proud as they moved around the course, squelching through muddy water, crawling under nets and climbing over an array of obstacles. They entered into the spirit of the race, some showing grit and determination to put in their best time, whilst others meandered their way to the finish line.

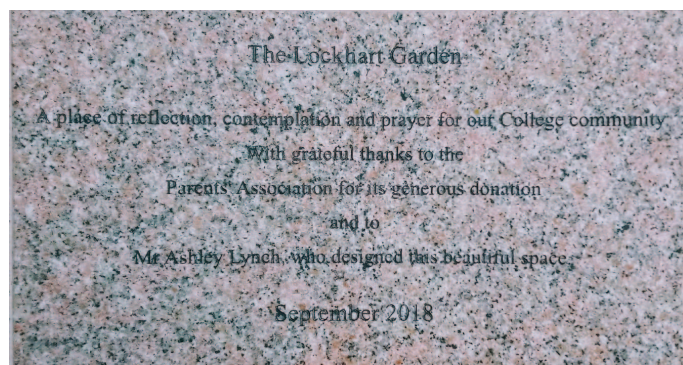
We are delighted to have raised around £800 and would like to thank everyone who donated. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, please use our Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ratcliffe-college-girlsboarding>



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The parents Association are pleased to announce that the Spring Fair raised £4,000. This amount will be split equally between our two selected charities: Children with Cancer UK and Sightbox. We cannot thank you enough for having supported these two worthy charities.

Last Sunday, a group of committee members attended the official opening of the Lockhart Garden. Mr Reddin delivered a touching speech thanking the Parents' Association for contributing to its construction. A plaque was unveiled in appreciation of our £20,000 donation. We hope the children will enjoy the peace and tranquility of the beautiful setting during the Summer Term.



We look forward to seeing you at the various sports events after the half-term break.

Wishing you all a happy holiday,

Kind regards,
Sasha Bruiners, Chair

