



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

3rd May 2019

HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome you and your family back to Ratcliffe for the Summer Term. I hope you managed to spend time with family and friends over the Easter holiday whilst enjoying the

glorious spring sunshine.

For those families with sons or daughters in Year 11 and 13, in particular, I trust the holiday period provided your children with the opportunity to revise thoroughly ahead of the forthcoming examinations. Study Leave for both of these Year groups begins next Friday, 10th May, and we look forward to welcoming parents of students in Year 13 to the Leavers' Mass and Reception at 4.00pm in the College Chapel.

It has been a very busy start to the new term. Year 10 students are currently taking internal examinations, and some students in Years 11 and 13 have already taken GCSEs and A Level papers in ICT, Languages and Art. Our youngest children enjoyed a wonderful creative writing experience on Thursday, while Year 4 children have just returned from their residential trip to Edgmond Hall. My thanks to all the staff who supported the trip.

The Year 9 boys' hockey squad had a wonderful experience at the National Hockey Finals at the Lee Valley Stadium. Despite not qualifying for the knockout stages, the boys played extremely well and were a credit to themselves and the College. My sincere thanks to Mr Willcock, Head of

Hockey, for his coaching and encouragement of the team and the wonderful band of parents who proudly (and loudly) supported the boys on Tuesday. We are blessed to have such a talented group of students and such supportive parents and staff.

The Easter holiday provided many Senior School students with the opportunity to enjoy some fantastic residential trips. Fifty students participated in the ski trip to Colorado and over 40 students took part in the language homestay visits to Montpellier and Valencia. The CCF contingent enjoyed a weeklong camp in Holston and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants withstood the wind and rain in the Brecon Beacons to complete their practice expedition. You will read more about these exciting trips under The Big Six.

The teaching staff enjoyed inspirational mind set training as part of our INSET day preparations last week. As you are aware, the College vision statement, *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, Strength of Purpose*, draws upon the importance of educating our students to adopt a 'growth mind set' rather than a fixed mind set.

In order to help young people to persevere with their learning, particularly when challenged with tasks of increasing difficulty, this is an essential skill, aligned to developing resilience and the ability to cope with setbacks in all aspects of their lives. The College will continue to develop its teaching and learning strategies in the future to ensure that we help our students adopt a 'not yet' rather than 'can't do' attitude to their



learning. We will be announcing dates for Parent Cafés on a similar theme in the Autumn Term, so that parents can help support this approach at home too.

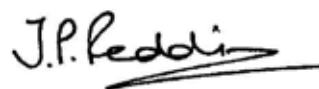
The final pieces of equipment are being installed in the Fitness Suite and we hope to have this outstanding new facility open to the students on Monday 13th May. Our PE staff will receive their induction training next week and will then be able to supervise students safely. This new facility is breath taking in the scope and quality of provision. We are delighted and excited that, through the generosity of so many benefactors, we are able to provide our students with this facility and the benefits it will bring to their health and fitness. Once the facility is open, we will provide opportunities for parents to come and tour the gym and associated rooms.

On a similar theme, building work on the second sports hall continues apace. The brickwork is now rising quickly on all sides following the successful pouring of the concrete floor over Easter. Mr Falconbridge can barely contain his excitement!

There are only three weeks before the May half-term holiday due to the unusually long Spring Term this year. Despite the brevity of this half-term, there is a great deal to look forward to and I hope to meet many of you on the touchline over the weekend (weather permitting) as we support the students enjoying their summer sports.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.

SENIOR SCHOOL

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

MEDIA MASTERMIND

It was an exciting battle of pot luck and brain-busting quizzing in the annual Media Mastermind event. Students from Years 9-13 competed for their Houses in two rounds, the first a challenging set of questions based on the students' choice of film, and the second a general knowledge round. The film choices may have plumbed the depths of popular culture (literally in the case of Edward Smellie's choice of Flushed Away!), but our students certainly impressed with their encyclopaedic knowledge.

In the end, it was a victory for De Lisle with Yasmina Lock (Year 11) placing first, thanks to her quick-fire knowledge of the Disney adventure Mulan, and Matthew Egglenton



(Year 12) placing second thanks to his obvious love for StepBrothers. Well done also to Edward Smellie (Year 12) of Emery who came third for Leetham. All in all, great fun was had; congratulations to all the competitors!

Results

1st place: Yasmina Lock (Year 11; De Lisle)

2nd place: Matthew Egglenton (Year 12; Arundel)

3rd place: Edward Smellie (Year 12: Emery)

Mrs Bennett, Head of Media Studies



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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

NURSERY

The Nursery welcomed our Chinese visitors, Bowie, Head of Oasis Kindergarten in China and Sandy, Class Teacher, at the end of last term.

They were here to find out more about the EYFS curriculum and the different teaching and learning styles that are used across the classroom and outdoor environment. One of their highlights was experiencing our 'Minibeast Bug Ball'!



Students of the week: 5th April 2019



This term, we have a 'Superhero' theme. The children delighted in their storytelling day, creating and performing their own Superhero stories.

Miss Green, Head of EYFS



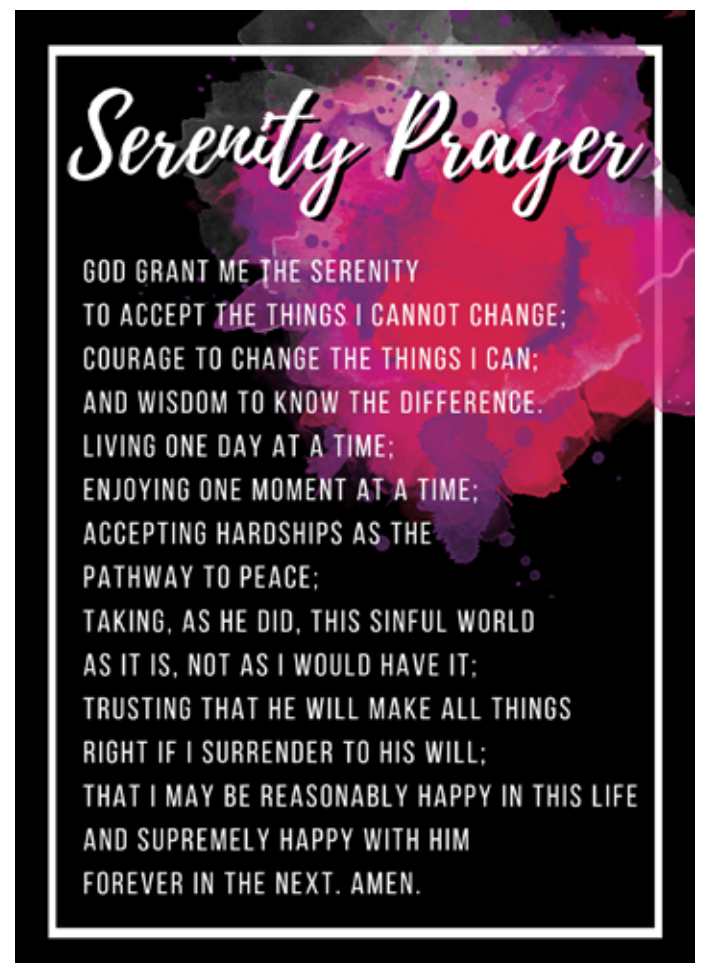
THE BIG SIX

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



The Headmaster and I had pleasure in visiting De Lisle College in Loughborough yesterday, to meet with Dr Pye, Headteacher and Mrs Jinks, Head of Religious Studies, to explore best practice and ways in which we may be able to support one another's schools, in bringing our students together and in sharing resources.

Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain



Year 4 Passion Play



THE BIG SIX

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Over the first week of the Easter Holidays, twelve cadets travelled to Halton training camp in Lancaster for the CCF's Easter Camp. Once settled in, they were told of the week's training plan. The first day, we all went up into the Lake District to walk up the Old Man of Conistone.



After a few groans of tired legs, the group managed to get to the top; unfortunately, due to mist, the view was somewhat limited. The next day, the weather was glorious, so we managed to go outdoor rock climbing to a place called Hutton Roof. The whole day was a challenge, with constant determined efforts to get to the top of each route.



On the Tuesday, everybody travelled to a mountain bike centre and had a great day riding the blue and red routes. On the Wednesday, a group went walking and another opted for another mountain bike day. The last day was a more chilled day as we went to Keswick and spent the day at the indoor climbing wall and the escape rooms. Although the week was challenging, by the end of it, all the cadets had developed new skills and learnt a great deal about themselves. Many thanks to Mr Edwards and Mr Dziemianko Junior who assisted with the instructing over the week.



Lt Col Balmbra, Contingent Commander

Despite the strong winds which forced the cadets to stay on the ground, they were still able to enjoy a morning at RAF Syerston undertaking their ground school training towards their Blue Gliding wings, which will be completed once we can get new slots from HQ. We were also grateful to the VGS staff who gave us a tour around their hanger and the RAF base.



THE BIG SIX

Congratulations to Eleanor Taylor, who was awarded her Blue AEF wings (the ground school element); alongside her AEF flights already undertaken at RAF Cranwell, this meant that she passed her badge. Max Chapman and James Wilson have already got their Blue AEF wings.



Mrs Helen Grant, OC RAF Section CCF

DRAMA

We are excited to announce our involvement in this year's Shakespeare Schools' Festival where we will be performing a version of 'The Tempest' at The Curve theatre in Leicester on 13th November 2019.

This is a unique opportunity for performers and designers to work in a professional setting. Auditions will be held in the theatre on Monday 13th May from 4:30-6:10pm. Anybody who is interested in auditioning or finding out more should come and see Mrs Munton for more information.

Isaac Warren, Year 7, is performing in Kilworth House's: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat this summer. The productions are always wonderful, if you would like to see further details please [click here](#).

Mrs Munton, Head of Drama



Isaac Warren in Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat



THE BIG SIX

SPORT

U14 BOYS' HOCKEY NATIONAL FINALS

The Ratcliffe College U14 boys' hockey team competed in the Tier 2 National Finals at the Lee Valley Olympic Stadium on Tuesday 30th April. The boys performed professionally throughout the day, drinking in the atmosphere of the Olympic Stadium and enjoying the opportunity to play on the same pitch as some of their favourite Olympians.

As expected, the standard was high with the top four teams in the country at Tier 2 competing for the honour of being National Champions. The team performed well but, unfortunately, they could not quite replicate the level of play that they showed at the Regional Finals and results did not go our way.



Following losses in the opening two games, the team knew that they could no longer win the tournament. However, they demonstrated tremendous character and resilience in their final match and were unlucky to lose a close game. Players' of the Tournament go to Matthew Heywood for some outstanding saves in the second match

and Thomas Leighton for a brilliant defensive effort throughout the day.

The College is incredibly proud of this group of players and the team should be very proud of qualifying and competing in their first National Final. We hope that they use these treasured memories to inspire them to achieve even greater accolades next season. The team were a pleasure to coach on the day and throughout a very successful season.

Mr Wilcock, Head of Hockey



SPORTS REPORT

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

Mrs Stafford, Director of Sport

MUSIC

Please [click here](#) to see the successes of our music students in their practical examinations. Very well done to all of them.

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



THE BIG SIX

On 6th and 7th April, Southview in Cheshire hosted the British Show Jumping Winter Championships. I had a successful show, winning six classes and lots of placings. The highlights were winning the 128cm Grand Prix, the 138cm Grand Prix and the 128/138 Special.



From 12th – 14th April, Lier in Belgium was the venue for my first FEI International competition, it was a fantastic experience. The competition started well, with a win on the first day. As this is an International, they play the winning riders National Anthem at prize giving. This was amazing. Along with various placings, I also won the 1.20 Children on Horses class on “Bart”. This was only my second competition on him so I couldn’t be happier with how the show went. From 19th – 21st, I found myself in Cavan, Ireland. It was a busy 3 days and I had nine ponies to compete over the weekend. It was another successful show, winning seven classes and many placings. I was lucky enough to win the 128cm Grand Prix, the 138cm Grand Prix and 3rd in the 148cm Grand Prix.

By Tabitha Kyle, Year 7

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD

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

Gold

Chris Curnick (Old Ratcliffian, 2016),
Arran Grant, Louis Massarella

Silver

Oliver Foulds

Bronze

Stanley Chell, Tess Duffin, Eva Hluchan,
Mia Baker, Ellie Baker

Over Easter, nineteen of our Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants travelled to the Brecon Beacons to undertake their practice expedition. They performed really well in rather grim conditions – we had hail, rain, fog, strong winds and it was often a little cold at the end of the day. The sun did appear briefly on one day but other than that it rained for four days in a row!

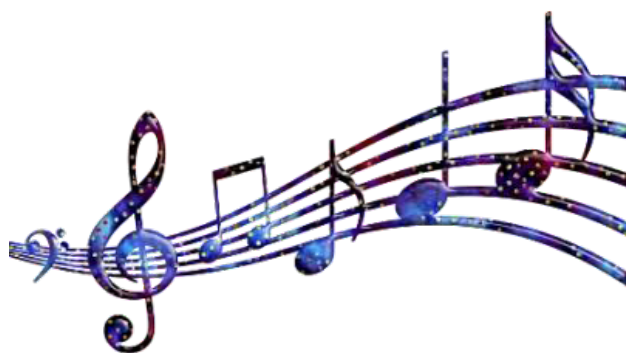
Unfortunately, Storm Hannah forced us to cancel the final day’s walk and come home early. Despite the challenges, they demonstrated some really good navigation skills and worked well together on their camp-craft. Having endured heatwaves on their Bronze and Silver expeditions and cold, wet weather on their Gold training and practice expeditions, I can now say that they are definitely prepared for anything that Dartmoor can throw at them. We are all looking forward to the assessed expedition on Dartmoor and wish the teams Good Luck!

Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator





**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...

TRIP TO MONTPELLIER: 7TH - 13TH APRIL



On Sunday 7th April, a record number of thirty-four students, accompanied by four members of staff, set off for a week in the south of France. Noted for its beautiful coastline and stunning scenery, our primary aim was to practise and improve our French, which we did in three hours of intensive lessons every day, at a dedicated language school. Staying with French families, negotiating public transport and finding their way to and from the school each day, challenged the students to use their French in situations that cannot be replicated in a classroom, and is one of the reasons why these trips are such an essential part of learning a foreign language.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Mrs Cushing, Head of MFL

SPANISH TRIP TO VALENCIA

Also on Sunday 7th April, fifteen excited students left Ratcliffe College very early in the morning to fly to Valencia for the annual Spanish trip with Miss Casas and Mrs Leite. It was an action packed week of language learning, enhancing existing language skills, visiting places of interest and having the opportunity to experience the wonderful Spanish way of life.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



Mrs Leite, Head of Boarding & Senior Housemistress



AND BEYOND...

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

I hope that everyone had a lovely and relaxing Easter Break. Before we broke off, the busy Spring Term culminated with our popular and enjoyable Parents' Association Spring Fair.

The demanding organisation of the many stalls and activities for the children were all worthwhile given how much everyone seemed to enjoy himself or herself ... even the sun joined in with the fun! Such an event could not take place if it were not for the amazing support from our committee members and parent volunteers as well as those families who came and made the most of this annual event. Very warm thanks to you all. The amount we collected for both charities: Children with Cancer UK and Sightbox, will be announced following our meeting next week.

We will be holding our next Parents' Association meeting on Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm; please do come and join us if you can.

Looking ahead, the Summer Term will be mainly about Sports Days, where we will provide refreshments in June. We will also decorate the marquee for the Picnic Concert. Please keep an eye on our notice board and on this newsletter for our upcoming events.

We look forward to a busy and sunny term and wish our Chair's baby a safe arrival. With many thanks for your valuable support,

Kind regards,

Séverine Proctor, Secretary

