



# RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,  
Oscar Wilde said conversation about it was the last refuge of the unimaginative. The weather, and our obsession with talking about it, has been particularly

prominent in school this week as the rain has, regrettably, affected so much of the School Calendar. Despite the damp weather this week, there is plenty to celebrate in this edition of Head-Lines to cheer us all up and with the marquee standing proudly at the front of the School, there is much to look forward to.

The May half-term provided an opportunity for students in Years 11 and 13 to recharge their batteries and prepare for examinations after the holiday. Mrs Cole led the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award students on a successful but soggy three-day expedition to the Peak District. Our A Level drama students enjoyed a trip to London and, here on the 1st XI square, Ratcliffe College hosted the England Women's Cricket Academy, who played against a Leicestershire County Cricket Club U15 boys' team. This was one of several matches hosted over the half-term as part of our partnership with LCCC.

Year 12 students endured a week of internal assessments and the public examinations began again in earnest. Year 10 students attended the Holocaust Centre in Newark as part of their Religious Education studies. The trip included a talk by a holocaust survivor who was able to share

with them his terrifying and brutal story of his life in a concentration camp. Mr Walsh, Head of RS, shares more about the [day here](#).

Unlike this week, our sports teams did manage to play a number of fixtures with much success in the first week of the half-term. To read the match reports, please see the Sport section of our Big Six. Students in Years 7-9 took part in the Key Stage 3 debate with the title, 'Climate Change: The World's First Priority'. Interestingly, having heard compelling arguments from both sides of the house, the votes cast by the students at the end suggested that, for this particular cohort, Climate Change is not as important as other world issues. Of course, the persuasiveness of the debater could have contributed to the result – well done to all those involved! [Click here to read more.](#)



Our youngest students in the Cygnets class enjoyed a trip to the Attenborough Arboretum to be 'wild tots' for the day, enjoying their learning in the great outdoors, hunting mini-beasts.



Cygnets' Trip



Swans' Trip

Year 1 and 2 were down on the Farm at West Lodge feeding the animals. Mrs Gilchrist's Year 3 class helped us commemorate the D-Day landings of 6th June 1944, with a wonderful assembly that painted a vivid picture of what it was like to be a child evacuee. The children clearly enjoyed learning about this important time in our history, brought to life during their recent residential trip to Beaumanor Hall.

On Pentecost Sunday, twelve children made their First Holy Communion in the College Chapel. It was a very beautiful occasion with Mass presided over by not one but three priests, as Father Philip concelebrated with Father Christopher and Father Denis from Grace Dieu Manor School. It was lovely to welcome so many families to Ratcliffe and to host such an important milestone in the children's faith journey.



First Holy Communion

This coming Sunday, we are excited to welcome Bishop Patrick McKinney who will lead our Confirmation Mass for students in Year 8 and 9. We wish candidates and their families well as they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Mrs Bennett with the assembled winners of the 2019 Ratcliffe Oscars awards, and Guest of Honour, singer-songwriter, Hana Brooks.

On Monday evening, students, parents and staff were left mesmerised by the work of our incredibly talented Media Studies students. The annual extravaganza that is, 'A Night at the Oscars' proved, once again, to be a triumph, celebrating student work in print and film. Hosted by the indomitable Mrs Bennett in her final term at Ratcliffe, the audience was treated to a very professional and enjoyable show, which included 14 separate award categories, including 'production most likely to succeed in a real world media context.' This, the prestigious award of the evening, was won by .....[click here to find out!](#)

Special thanks to Mrs Bennett and Mr Smith for all their hard work on behalf the students. We wish Mrs Bennett every happiness and success as she moves on to pastures new and we welcome her successor, Miss Simms as our new Head of Media for September 2019.



Despite the dreary weather postponing sports day for the Nursery and Years 1 and 2, decimating sports fixtures across the College, there have been many bright moments to be proud of. Indeed, as I write to you, the rain continues to fall outside, but I am excited and looking forward to our Preparatory School Exhibition Day on Friday (**sadly our second Sports Day has had to be cancelled**), as well as the Confirmation Mass on Sunday. I look forward to meeting many of you at a sun-drenched sports fixture on Saturday – every Head Teacher is an optimist!

Picnic Concert tickets are still available from the Senior School Reception. Whether your son or daughter is taking part or not, I strongly encourage you to come along for what promises to be a fantastic evening of music making. I do hope you can join us.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## SENIOR SCHOOL

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

## HOUSE MATHS COMPETITION

Please [click here](#) to see the House Mathematics Competition Results.

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



Year 2 Assembly - Diversity



Pupils of the Week - 17th May 2019



Pupils of the Week - 24th May 2019



Year 1 Assembly - Animals facing extinction and how we can help them



Achievers - 23rd May 2019



# THE BIG SIX

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY

**T**he following students are being Confirmed by The Bishop of Nottingham this Sunday: Jacob Butler, Joseph Butler, Joseph Atkinson, George Atkinson, David Seidu, Marcus Wigwe-Chizindu, Ethan Starley, Ezra Starley, Henry Urwin, Guy Gamble, Emily Spillane, Ben Spillane, Annie Jarvis, Amelia Tebbutt, Victoria Wheatley, Grace Karanja, Daisy Reddin, Lucia Orsini-Rottner and Angelica Robinson.

**H**oly Spirit, strengthen our Ratcliffe College Confirmation candidates with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, as a disciple of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit. Help them to experience and trust your dwelling within, so that they may count on your guidance today and every day. Show us the way to help one another become better disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing your love with our world and with each person we encounter. *Amen.*

**Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain**



## COMBINED CADET FORCE

**B**oth Army and RAF Cadets are preparing for their forthcoming Summer Camps: RAF Cadets will be going to RAF St Mawgan and Army Cadets will be going to Beckingham from 6th-13th July. LCpl James Wilson is also attending a National Aerospace Camp at RAF Syerston in August, and we look forward to hearing from all the camps in September.

**C**urrently, cadets are completing their weapons training and Senior Army cadets are working on field craft. Cadets are also preparing for their weekend exercise at Swynnerton. Our Year 9 RAF Cadets have now passed their Part I written test and Part I drill test and will be awarded their Second Class Cadet badge, which is worn on their brassards.

**Mrs Grant, OC RAF Section,  
Lt Col Balmbra, CCF Contingent  
Commander**

## MUSIC

**T**ickets are selling well for the annual Picnic Concert on Saturday 22nd June. Please come to Senior School Reception to purchase your tickets if you have not managed to do so yet.

**T**he evening will be filled with a wonderful and varied programme of musical highlights.

**Mr McCall, Director of Music**



# THE BIG SIX

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

On Saturday 25th May, 31 Year 11 and 2 Year 12 students headed to the Peak District to undertake their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition. We had a good day on Saturday, but then the rain arrived on Sunday morning and the groups spent two days toiling through the drizzle, mist, torrential rain, more drizzle, brief sunny period (5 minutes) then more drizzle.

It was a tough weekend, especially when the most exercise some had done recently was to walk from the library to the exam hall and back again. However, all the groups demonstrated some great campcraft and their navigation improved. They are all ready to go forward to assessment at the end of the summer vacation. Well done to all the participants!



**Mrs Cole, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator**

## SPORT

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

**Miss Stafford, Director of Sport**

## DRAMA



On 29th May, Year 12 and 13 Drama students went to London to visit The National Theatre for a backstage tour and to look at the artists' workshops where they create intricate sets. We were able to visit all three stages and learned about what could become the future of theatre. In the Dorfman studio space, they were preparing for a performance of 'Anna' where the audience enter into an interactive experience in which they decided which narrative path they undertook. We enjoyed a fantastic performance from Ruth Wilson whilst immersing ourselves in a private screening of 'Hedda Gabler' at the National Theatre archives. After a delicious Italian feast, we made our way to the Lyric Hammersmith to view a performance of Kneehigh Theatre's 'Dead Dog in a Suitcase and Other Love Songs'. The play demonstrated incredible satire and was an imaginatively staged breath-taking spectacle. We hit the monopoly with our front row seats, where we were able to get up close and personal with the cast.

Written by all the students on their way home!

**Mrs Munton, Head of Drama**





# AND BEYOND...

## THAI SCHOLARS AT LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB AWARDS CEREMONY, 22ND MAY

The King Power Awards Night on 22nd May was attended by all of the LCFC Thai Football Academy Scholars, LCFC staff and a number of Ratcliffe College staff who are involved in the programme. The evening served to celebrate the season and bid farewell to 'GEN 2' (the second cohort of Academy Scholars) with a Thai-style buffet dinner, followed by the watching of a video of the season's highlights. The following awards were presented:

- 1) Most improved English language 2018/2019: Baw Churung (Fox Hunt 3)
- 2) Save of the season 2018/2019: Neo Khadee (Fox Hunt 3)
- 3) Goal of the season 2018/2019: Pom Khetsamut (Fox Hunt 2)
- 4) Player of the season 2018/2019: Toey Thipaksorn (Fox Hunt 2)

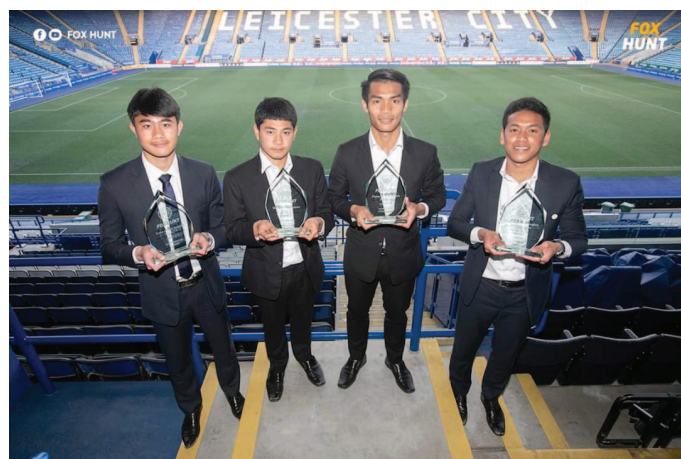
The Awards Ceremony concluded with an inspirational speech by Master Kanongpoj, translated by Miss Charvong. Everyone had a great evening, although it finished with mixed feelings from cohort 2 scholars – they really enjoyed celebrating their time here but are also very sad to leave.

We wish Fox Hunt cohort 2 all the very best as they leave Ratcliffe to take on new challenges in the world of professional football.

**Mrs Reeves, EAL Co-ordinator**



Pictured: Scholars, LCFC staff and Ratcliffe College staff; Award winners



# AND BEYOND...

## FESTIVAL OF CHEMISTRY COMPETITION



**O**n 6th June, four Year 8 students, Alexandra Mawby, Rosie Dickerson, Katherine McCrindell and Charlie Smith, took part in the Festival of Chemistry Competition at the University of Leicester, organised by the Salters' Group. They were set a challenge to establish 'Who Stole the Element?', and by using many different techniques such as precipitation reactions and chromatography, were able to correctly determine the identity of the culprit.

**T**he students were exemplary in their behaviour and worked together, faultlessly, as a team. Although not victorious on this occasion, they enjoyed the day immensely, and we are very proud of them.

**Dr Standen, Teacher of Chemistry**

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

**S**adly, the very wet weather meant the postponement of the Lower Prep Sports Day planned for 11th June. Please note that it will now take place on Tuesday 18th June 2019 from 1.30pm. No doubt the children will show some amazing athletic prowess!

**W**e look forward to meeting new Prep School parents at the Information Evening for new Parents on Monday 17th June at 6.30pm and there will be a uniform sale on from 4.00pm that day.

**O**n Friday 21st June, from 1.00pm, the Parents' Association shall be decorating the marquee in preparation for the forthcoming Picnic Concert on Saturday 22nd June. This is a fun and enjoyable afternoon, so if you would like to put your artistic skills to good use, please let your Year Rep know and come and join us.

**L**ast Tuesday, the PA had its last meeting of the academic year. I cannot believe that we are nearing the end of it! We were fortunate to hold it in the new meeting room above the Fitness Suite – what a wonderful addition to the School.

**W**ishing you all a very good week and fingers crossed for reasonable weather.

Kind regards,

**Mrs Sasha Bruiners,  
PA Chair**

