



# RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

# HEAD-LINES



Dear Parents,

Today, the curtain finally closes to end the academic year and, what a marvellous year it has been. The College has buzzed with energy and endeavour since September. The end of term has, once again, been a wonderful celebration of the students' gifts and talents. It has been a privilege for me to attend various events across the College: Nursery Sports Day and Key Stage 1 Celebration Day, Preparatory School Exhibition Day and the Year 6 end of year show, 'The Wizard of Oz, together with the Picnic Concert, Senior School Exhibition Day, Sports Day and the Sixth Form Ball.

These occasions have enabled family and friends to share in our community's happiness and good fortune, and we have felt incredibly proud of one another's achievements. After all, being at Ratcliffe should be a time in our lives, not merely going to school. So, at last, we can finally draw breath and reflect with great pride and satisfaction on a job well done.

I would like to thank you, the parent body, for your unstinting generosity of spirit throughout the School year. I hope that you also feel the immense pride in our school as I do. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thankyou to my staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who work diligently on behalf of the students, daily, to ensure that we are a community that inspires happiness, enjoys exceptional facilities within

our magnificent grounds and fulfils our Vision of *Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, Strength of Purpose.*

## STAFF VALETE



I would like to formally record my thanks to the following teaching staff for their loyal service and commitment and wish them well in their new ventures:

Mrs Caven-Henrys (Drama and Ballet) retires following 22 years' service; Mrs Smith (Mathematics) retires after 20 years' service; Mrs Cluley (SENCo) retires after 13 years' service; We also say farewell to Mrs Leite (Head of Boarding), as she takes up her new role as Deputy Head Pastoral at Sidcot School; Mr McCall (Director of Music) has been appointed Head of Creative Arts Faculty at Dr Challoner's High School; Mrs Bennett (Head of Media) commences as a Learning Leader at Lutterworth College; Miss Argo (Music) is moving to a new music post at East London Arts and Music Academy; Mrs Beddoes (Modern Foreign Languages) will be relocating with her family to Aberdeen;

STRENGTH OF MIND STRENGTH OF VALUES STRENGTH OF PURPOSE





Miss McKenna (English) returns to full-time study to pursue a Master's Degree, Mr Willcock (Hockey) takes up a new role working for a Sports Tour company, Mr Anagnostaras (Head of Latin) is moving to Millfield School to teach Classics and Mrs Sellars (Mathematics) is departing for personal reasons. We wish them every success and happiness in their new posts or in retirement and thank them for their service to the College.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS: (TEACHING STAFF) FROM SEPTEMBER 2019

Mrs Alberola	Teacher of Spanish (P/T)
Mr Bobath	Head of Latin
Miss Chapman	Teacher of Chemistry; Resident Assistant Housemistress
Mrs Cook	Teacher of English (P/T)
Mr C Doherty	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr N Doherty	Director of Music
Mrs Donegan	Teacher of Music (P/T)
Ms Johanson	Head of Learning Support
Mr Laycock	Head of Hockey and Teacher of LS (Autumn Term only)
Mrs Milligan	EAL Teacher
Miss Sapiano	Teacher of Drama (P/T)
Miss Simms	Head of Media Studies
Mr Wong	Teacher of Mathematics

## FROM JANUARY 2020

Miss da Costa	Assistant Head Pastoral/ Senior Housemistress
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## SENIOR PREFECTS 2019-2020

The prefect system helps to fulfil the aims of the Mission Statement by providing recognition and reward for those who have made positive contributions to School life.

This year's Prefects have worked tirelessly for the good of the community and on Exhibition Day the outgoing Head Girl, Alicia Boothroyd, and Head Boy, Toby Snell, transferred the baton of leadership to our new team as they presented their successors



2019/20 Senior Prefects

badges of office. Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Girl, Eve Millward and Head Boy, Carter Walker, together with Deputy Heads of School: Charlotte Bailey, Hattie Lawrie, Sophie Pole, Matthew Eltham, Luke Millett and Edward Smellie. Congratulations also to Heads of Boarding, Siri Sin and Matthew Eglington and our Sports Ambassadors, Mia Atkinson and Oliver Welch. We wish them and all the other Year 13 Prefects and Ambassadors every success in their roles next academic year.



Ratcliffe College Exhibition Day:  
26th June 2019





Ratcliffe College Picnic Concert



## SCHOOL MAILING

Please may I request that you carefully read through any letters being e-mailed to you as this will include important information to round off this School Year. There will be a second mailing, towards the end of the summer holiday, in preparation for the new Academic Year, and this will include the Autumn Term Calendar, providing you with key dates from September to December to enter into your diaries.

## SUMMER WORKS

We have scheduled a busy programme of summer works and maintenance which will be taking place on the School campus over the summer holidays, including the continuation of the building of the second Sports Hall. It is vital (from a Health & Safety point of view) that students sign in at Reception, if they are coming into school for whatever reason or, for however short the time of the visit. Regrettably, we are not able to offer the use of the school sports facilities out of school time.

## PARENT APP

The College successfully launched the Parent App to families of children in the Preparatory School and Year 10 only on a trial basis following the May half-term. The purpose of the App is to streamline the way in which information is shared with the parent body. The App will be launched College wide from September 2019, so please do look out for a letter regarding the App in the start of term mailing.

## PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Mr Sunny Hoyle regularly photographs our school events throughout the year, and there are some lovely ones from recent events. These can be viewed and purchased from his website: [www.showphotos.biz](http://www.showphotos.biz). The password can be found under 'All school news' [here](#).

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENTRY INTO YEARS 7 AND 12 FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

If you are a parent of a child in current Year 5 or 10, may I draw your attention to the Ratcliffe College Talent Scholarships, which are available for entry into Years 7 and 12 in September 2020. We offer a range of Talent Scholarships – Creative: Art and Design, Drama, Music, Sport and All-Rounder (in Year 7 only) worth up to 50% off the School fees. Please refer here for [Scholarships](#) and [Bursaries](#).

Please note that you cannot apply for an Academic Scholarship at this time. A communication regarding this will be sent out to parents of children in the appropriate year groups during the Autumn Term. If you wish to apply, please contact our Registrar's Department on 01509 817072 / 817031 or email: [registrar@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:registrar@ratcliffecollege.com).

The deadline for scholarship applications is Friday 29th November 2019. No late applications can be considered.





## USE OF MOBILE PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOL

I would like to draw your attention to our Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy. Wireless in-ear headphones are not permitted at School for students in Year 7-13. Students in Cygnets to Year 10 may not bring a mobile phone or electronic device into School. Students in Year 11 may have their phones in School, but they must be kept in their lockers during the day. Sixth Form students may keep their phones with them during the day. Parents and students are reminded that iWatches or Apple Watches are not permitted in school. Fitbits may be worn. The School monitors the Policy and reserves the right to make amendments in future if deemed appropriate. I would be grateful if you would read the policy with your son/daughter prior to the beginning of the Autumn Term to ensure that everyone is clear on our expectations in this regard.

### E-SAFETY

Our policy has meant that our younger students' learning has not been distracted and there have been far fewer behavioural issues to manage with regard to inappropriate use of electronic devices over the past two years. While we recognise that the majority of students have the good sense to use their mobiles appropriately, there continues to be a small number of students who flout the rules and bring mobiles into School and use them in School inappropriately.

I ask for your support of the School in this regard by speaking to your sons/daughters over the holiday and to impress upon them that the School has a duty of care to keep young people safe and fully engaged with their school work. To this end, parents may wish to explore an App called Our Pact which can be downloaded onto your own mobile phone as well as your sons'/daughters' phones. This App enables parents to control when their children are able to go on-line. A number of our current parents are using

this App to help them successfully manage the amount of time that their child is using social media or the internet.

## LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND BYOD

Parents should be aware that students in Years 10-13 are permitted to use laptop computers or tablets in lessons in accordance with the Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYOD) and with the express permission of the teacher. In all other year groups, laptops may only be used by students who have been assessed as having a Special Educational Need which recommends the use of a laptop, or if the laptops belong to the School.

If you feel that your child has a Special Educational Need which requires the use of a laptop, please do not hesitate to contact our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Ms Johanson who will be able to advise you. Ms Johanson will join the College in August so please do not e-mail her until the last week of the holiday as she is unlikely to access e-mails before this time.

## PRE-SEASON RUGBY AND HOCKEY TRAINING

We look forward to welcoming Senior School students to pre-season rugby and hockey training prior to the start of the Autumn Term. Letters regarding arrangements can be found by [clicking here](#).

## PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

For students in Years 11 and 13 who will be anxiously awaiting their public examination results, I wish them all every success on their respective results days (A Level and AS results on 15th August and GCSE results on 22nd August). For parents of students in Year 13, a reminder that UCAS Track for students opens at 8.00am on Thursday 15th August.





## BANK HOLIDAY 2020 – CHANGE OF DATE

The government has decided that the early 2020 May bank holiday will be moved back four days next year to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Therefore, Ratcliffe College has amended the published term dates to coincide with this national change, moving the bank holiday from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May. The amended date is also available on the School Website. Many thanks for your understanding.



Year 6 - 'The Wizard of Oz'

## SUMMER SCHOOL

### AFTERNOON ACTIVITY PROGRAMME YEARS 6-8

Would your child be interested in taking part in the Summer School Afternoon Activity Programme on the dates listed below? The Ratcliffe Summer School will be run by current Ratcliffe Teaching Staff and Sports Graduate Assistants. It will also be an opportunity to mix with similar aged international students who are at Ratcliffe on our international Summer School.

Week 1 - Monday 8th July, Wednesday 10th July, Friday 12th July.

Week 2 - Monday 15th July, Wednesday 17th July, Friday 19th July

Week 3 - Monday 22nd July, Wednesday 24th July, Friday 26th July

Timings - 12.30pm – 5pm

Cost - £20 per day (this can be added to your School bill)

Food - Lunch and tea will be provided on the day as well as two activities

Activities - including Drama, Orienteering as well as various sports including Football, Netball, Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, Basketball, Gym and Volleyball.

To book your place now, contact us on [summerschool@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:summerschool@ratcliffecollege.com)

## SUMMER HOLIDAY TRIPS

Of course, Ratcliffe never really sleeps, and we wish well all those students and staff who are participating in school trips over the summer holidays, including the Golf Tour to the Wirral, CCF Army and RAF Summer Camps and our annual HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We hope and pray that the students will enjoy their trips and return safely.

I hope that you will enjoy a well-deserved family holiday at some point over the long summer holiday period, and I look forward to seeing you at the beginning of the Autumn Term, if not before.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. P. Reddin, Headmaster.



Ratcliffe College Sixth Form Ball



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## SENIOR SCHOOL

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

### BIOLOGY CHALLENGE COMPETITION 2019

This year, nineteen of the best Biologists in Year 10 took part in the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Challenge competition. This competition stimulates students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in Biology outside of school. All the students achieved a commendation at some level.

Six students achieved Silver awards: Xavier Henderson, Elise Atkinson, Jacob McCahill, Daniel McGunnigle, Sam Moss and Dominic Goodman.

Marley Totton and Emily Curnick both achieved Gold awards with marks in the top 5% of all 47,000 entries from 570 schools worldwide. Marley was selected to receive her award at the Royal Society of Biology's award ceremony at the Institute of Engineering, Savoy Place, London.



Dr Robinson, Teacher of Biology

## GO4SET CELEBRATION AND ASSESSMENT DAY, THURSDAY 27TH JUNE

On Thursday 27th June 2019, 47 teams representing 21 schools from the East Midlands region attended the Go4SET Celebration and Assessment Day at Pride Park in Derby. This event concluded the Science and Engineering competition Go4SET, and Ratcliffe had two teams in the competition, each made up of students from Year 9. Both of our teams' projects were well received by the judges and other students in the competition. Indeed, one group made a particularly good impression, perhaps due to the inclusion of a working water wheel in their model that actually generated electricity! [Click here to read more.](#)



Ratcliffe College's Go4SET Teams





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE



**O**n Friday 21st June at 1.00pm, I left school to get on a minibus to travel from Sileby to Scotland. There were three minibuses all together carrying 27 walkers. When we got to Scotland, we stayed in a hotel overnight before the big climb.

**T**he first mountain we climbed was Ben Nevis. It took us 5 hours up and down. It felt great to get the tallest out of the way. The next hurdle was Scafell Pike, a 260 mile drive away. I was starting to feel a little tired after the hot weather for this mountain.

**T**he final climb was Snowdon, a 210 mile drive away. We started at 6.00am straight off the minibus. We had no breaks during the whole challenge. I will never do it again, but I felt that I had enjoyed the experience and we raised over £6000.

**Tristan Turner, Year 9**

## CARNEGIE MEDAL SHADOWING SCHEME ANNOUNCEMENT PARTY, 18TH JUNE

**F**or the past 10 weeks, our enthusiastic group of 20 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 in the Carnegie Medal Shadowing Group have been avidly reading the 8 books on this year's shortlist to select what they considered to be the most outstanding book for young people written in the past 18 months.



**W**e have met once a week to discuss our thoughts on each book and to try to choose our winner. This year, opinion was divided between 4 or 5 of the titles as to which was the most deserving winner, with the students vigourously defending their choices in our debates. [Click here to find out which book was the winner.](#)

### Miss Hobbs and Mrs Williams

**C**ongratulations to Harry Culpin, Year 12, who has been awarded a place on the Army Officer Scholarship Scheme to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) after University following the 3-day Main Board assessment centre (and a very long and thorough assessment process!).



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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



Pupils of the Week - 7th June 2019



Achievers - 6th June 2019

## 3M STEM COMPETITION



Janvi and Vidhi Nair entered the 3M STEM competition in May. After presenting their work to a panel of judges, they made it to the finals. The girls had to design and build a structure with links to a monument that would support 5kg of weight 90cm from the floor. Janvi and Vidhi used a King Richard III theme on their model and they came second in their category. A huge well done to the girls for a fantastic entry.



Year 3 Assembly - Father's Day



Picnic Concert - Newman Orchestra



# THE BIG SIX

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / CHAPLAINCY



**C**ongratulations to our students who were confirmed in June.

**Miss Hall, Lay Chaplain**

## MUSIC

**T**hank you to all of the families who attended the Picnic Concert and to our wonderful performers.

**M**ay I also take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support throughout my time at Ratcliffe and wish you every happiness and success for the future.

**Mr McCall, Director of Music**

## DRAMA



**I**t was great to be able to showcase excerpts from some of our drama productions at Exhibition Day.

**Mrs Munton, Head of Drama**





# THE BIG SIX

## COMBINED CADET FORCE

**W**e look forward to our Army and RAF Summer Camps and to reporting back on these with some lovely photographs.

**Lt Col Balmbra, CCF Contingent Commander**

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

**O**n 15th June, 51 students from Year 10 set off on their Bronze assessed Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. They got a little wet in the recent heavy rain but, for much of the rest of the time, it was a pleasant weekend.

**E**ach group managed to demonstrate some good navigation and campcraft and all of the students received a pass for this aspect of the section. Well done to everybody who overcame the challenge and showed just what they were capable of!

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

## SPORT

**P**lease [click here](#) to read the latest sports reports.

**Miss Stafford, Director of Sport**





# AND BEYOND...

## FRENCH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

**T**hursday 13th June saw two French actors, from the Onatti theatre company, arriving at Ratcliffe to perform 'La Salle des Engimes' to Year 9 and 10 French students. It was a comical, energetic and colourful performance, acting out an escape room scenario. Tallula Wood, Danai Masiyakurima, Frances Daly and Toby Nesbitt volunteered to come onto the stage to interact with the actors and performed bravely, showing a good understanding of French. Some Year 10 students reviewed the play in their next French lesson and all commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the performance and would recommend it for future French classes.

**T**he following week, three Year 6 classes and Year 7 French students came together to watch 'Ticket pour l'espace', a French play aimed at beginners of French. It was the story of an American boy's and a French girl's adventure into space. Once again, it was a fast paced, enthusiastic and entertaining performance. Esme Slade, Michael Joy and Andrés Kassner were brave volunteers, who came onto the stage and participated with the French actors.

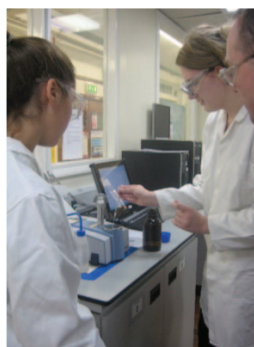
### Mrs Reddin, Teacher of French



## UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER'S CHEMISTRY DAY

**O**n 25th June, Year 12 Chemistry students attended the 'Chemistry Day' at the University of Leicester. They were tasked with synthesising and purifying a chemical used as a food flavouring, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working in the undergraduate laboratories. The students were given the opportunity to use Quickfit glassware specific for their Year 13 practical work, and they analysed their final product using Infrared and NMR, two techniques very important to the Chemistry A-Level course.

**A**ll worked exceptionally well and were successful in making the correct final product. A thoroughly enjoyable experience, especially the chemical quiz at the end of the day.



### Dr Standen, Teacher of Chemistry



## AND BEYOND...

### OUTREACH SCIENCE WITH HALL ORCHARD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, BARROW UPON SOAR

**A**s part of Ratcliffe's initiative to support Science education in the local community, I have been visiting Hall Orchard Primary School in the village of Barrow upon Soar to deliver practical Science sessions to Year 6 students. Groups of ten students participated extremely enthusiastically in a variety of activities covering all three disciplines of Science: Physics, Biology and Chemistry.

**T**hey investigated the effect that shape has on the movement of an object through liquids, learning about the importance of streamlining in design. They thoroughly enjoyed a session on ventilation and circulation; they measured their own ventilation rate and pulse, blew up a set of lungs with a tyre pump, observed a dissection of a full pluck, tongue to diaphragm and dissected a heart individually.



**I**n an extremely messy session on acids and alkalis, students ate sherbet lemons, observed change in pH with litmus paper and Universal Indicator solution and made their own indicators from red cabbage.

**I** have really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this initiative and it was a genuine pleasure to be able to give thirty potential scientists of the future an opportunity to experience some practical Science.

**I** would like to thank Mrs Widger, Biology Technician, for her time and effort in helping me prepare all of the resources for these sessions.

**Mrs Dungey, Teacher of Biology**

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### BUSY BEES

**R**atcliffe College has been doing its bit for the safety of the students on campus and for the natural environment by saving five swarms of bees this year here at Ratcliffe. Mr Howling, parent and bee keeper and Mr Batten, who assists with D of E, have taken these bees from the campus, for which we were both grateful and relieved. As you know, bees play such an important role and, like our students, they are very hard working and deserve rewarding.

**T**hank you, Mr Merison, Head of Maintenance, for reporting this good news!





# AND BEYOND...

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY FURTHER MATHEMATICS TRIP, JULY



**F**our Year 12 Further Mathematics students: Jacob Dawe, Flora Hippisley-Cox, Han Liu, and Obiora Nnaji, along with well over a hundred other A-Level Further Mathematics students from schools throughout the UK, attended the 'Further Maths - What Next?' event at Oxford University on 19th of July. The day draws together subject areas from across the University which are suitable for prospective students with a real aptitude for Maths. All participants attended a range of short taster sessions on subjects that list Further Maths as either a 'highly desirable' or 'helpful' A-level for Oxford applicants to have. During the day, our students enjoyed sample lectures and talks from familiar subjects to others not on the school curriculum. They learned more about the Oxford application process, were able to talk to current Oxford University students and see a demonstration interview. The day ended with a tour of St Peter's College to find out what it's really like to live and study at Oxford University. All of our students thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained a lot from it.

**Dr Jones, Teacher of Mathematics**

## SIXTH FORM BALL



**T**he 2019 Ball certainly lived up to the high expectations set last year, with a stunning evening of fine food, entertainment and celebration. This year's 'Carnival' theme saw a nostalgic mix of gourmet hot dogs, wood-fired pizza, candy floss and popcorn, as well as live funfair stalls, a stilt walker, high striker and fancy dress photo booth. At sunset, the spectacular fire show was a suitable prelude to the eagerly anticipated dance dome, where guests danced the night away to the beats of DJ Dex.

**Mr Neville, Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form**



# AND BEYOND...



## OLD RATCLIFFIAN SUPPORTS KEY RATCLIFFE EVENTS

**M**yself and my amazing team have been looking forward to our yearly summer job of supporting the last few (and largest) events of the school year. With a fabulous team of 7 - 14 people, including some students, namely Tom Binnie, Kristian Brocksopp, Jacob McCahill and some great help from media students, we managed to setup and run the technical aspect of Music Department Picnic Concert and Senior School Exhibition Day. With an 8 tonne lorry turning up full of kit, it was yet another mammoth task to setup for the concert, but my team managed to pull it off with time to spare. OR, Peter Cotter, helped out and even created the professional grade graphics that were used on the TV screens throughout the events.



**M**y company, Light Up Creative, was proud to be supporting the students in this large concert and also in their award ceremony. We also thoroughly enjoyed setting up for the Sixth Form Ball as well as supporting the Year 6 and Year 7 plays.

**Dave Ricks (2007 Leaver)**





# AND BEYOND...

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The rescheduled Lower Prep and Nursery Sports Day took place on Tuesday 18th June and we were pleased to test the new school hospitality tent for the first time. However, we did not serve refreshments at the Upper Prep Sports Day as it had to be cancelled again because of the persistent rain – such a shame for the children who had been practising so hard and who were excited about their afternoon.

We had a lovely time decorating the marquee for the Picnic concert and we hope those who attended the event had a wonderful evening.

The missed engagements do not mean that we are resting on our laurels! We have been busy finalising dates for the Autumn Term; please refer to the School Calendar at the end of the summer to note our meetings, uniform sales, social events due to take place in September, October, November and December.

We were pleased to provide refreshments at the Year 7 drama productions on Tuesday 2nd July and on Wednesday 3rd July.

As the academic year arrives, I do not have the opportunity to thank you all in person but be assured that the committee members and myself are truly grateful for your fantastic and continued support.

Wishing you all a very good Summer Holiday.

**Mrs Sasha Bruiners,**  
PA Chair

