



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE

Prospectus 2022-23

Judged **Excellent** in our 2022 ISI School Inspection

Achievement of pupils and academic development - **Excellent** ✓

Personal development of pupils - **Excellent** ✓



[Click here](#) to read the full report



CONTENTS

- 03..... Welcome
- 04..... A Catholic School that welcomes all
- 05..... Encouraging Big Ideas
- 06..... Boarding
- 08..... Nursery
- 10..... Preparatory School
- 12..... Senior School
- 14..... Sixth Form
- 16..... Co-curricular
- 18..... Admissions
- 18..... Fees
- 19..... Scholarships
- 19..... Bursaries
- 20..... Term dates
- 21..... School bus service
- 22..... How to find us
- 23..... Visit us

WELCOME

We are delighted that you have shown a keen interest in Ratcliffe College. As a Catholic, co-educational, day and boarding school for students aged 3-18, we are much more than just a school; we are a family-orientated community committed to the transformation of young minds, hearts, bodies and souls, in the pursuit of all-round excellence.

At Ratcliffe College, we believe in Encouraging Big Ideas, and with an outstanding team of staff working in close partnership with parents, we nurture young people's God-given talents, to help them achieve their full potential in the classroom and beyond.

Our main intakes are into Nursery, Years 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 and Sixth Form, but we occasionally have places in other Years.

It would be wonderful to welcome you here in person, to meet our students and staff, and to share with you why we are all so passionate about this remarkable school.

The most important thing for us and our parents, is to see happy and healthy children. Happy children are receptive, productive children, who will enjoy

learning and growing in the fullest sense – which is exactly what we are about.

Our vision is to educate young people in the spirit of the Gospels, within a community based on love and kindness, striving for excellence and aiming to fulfil students' potential in all areas. We look forward to welcoming you to Ratcliffe College.

“At Ratcliffe, I feel part of a family. Everyone is so welcoming and so kind to you.”

Niara, Year 6



Watch Encouraging Big Ideas here

Encouraging **Big** Ideas

Here at Ratcliffe College, the notion of encouraging big ideas is something that goes right back to our Rosminian heritage also, and it sits firmly at the heart of our school today.

Ratcliffe is a place where you're never on your own, someone has always got your back, we believe in bringing people together and supporting their ambitions.

We have two inspirational films, one which promotes the whole school and 2022's *Big Ideas Start Small* which is focused on our Nursery and Preparatory School provision. We believe that when you encourage a young person to think big, you encourage them to be their very best; both inside and outside of the classroom.

Watch Big ideas start small here



A CATHOLIC SCHOOL THAT WELCOMES ALL

Founded by the Institute of Charity, more commonly known as the Rosminian Fathers, we are a Catholic school that welcomes all faiths within our fine traditions and buildings, while embracing the latest in new facilities and teaching practices.

The maxim of our Founding Order – Love is the Fulfilment of the Law – guides us to extend a spirit of altruistic, charitable love to all our students, of whichever denomination or none. Our deeply held values endorse a purposeful sense of 'can do', where exceptional pastoral care brings about the best in everyone. Charitable activities not only raise significant sums of money for those less fortunate than ourselves, but build good citizens of our students.

Find out more about our history and heritage here





“Boarding at Ratcliffe has made me much more independent. It’s a great community and everyone gets on well.”

Chris, Year 13



BOARDING

Boarding is at the heart and soul of Ratcliffe College. With a considerable number of staff and several families living at Ratcliffe, we appreciate the importance of creating a homely environment for your children to enjoy during their time here.

Boarders lead busy lives, focusing on their academic work while developing the transferable skills that are so important in Higher Education and the workplace. Success is achieved through hard work and the support of a caring staff team.

To complement the all-important academic work, there is an excellent programme of trips and activities, throughout the week and every weekend. Most of all, boarding at Ratcliffe is fun - come and visit us and ask the students!



[Discover more](#) about the range of boarding options we offer here

“Ratcliffe Nursery is like an extended family. My daughter loves coming to school, the teachers bring out the best in each child and they nurture them into confident, young people. Amazing teachers, fantastic surroundings with wonderful values.”

Parent of Nursery child



NURSERY (AGES 3-5)

The Nursery at Ratcliffe College is set within our College’s magnificent grounds. It is housed in a modern, delightful, single storey building, where our children benefit from the stimulating and idyllic outdoor area.

Our highly qualified and experienced Practitioners in Early Years work in partnership with all our families to establish exceptional relationships. Our philosophy is one of shared responsibility and mutual respect; we believe that this has a significant impact on each child’s happiness and learning. We hope that your child may soon be a part of this vibrant community!

We always strive to maximise the children’s natural exuberance and their appetite for learning. We believe passionately that each child entrusted to us should enjoy School and become a happy, enthusiastic and competent learner. We establish the vital building blocks on which all future learning is based, within our loving and caring environment.

In the Nursery, we provide a broad and balanced, child-centred curriculum, based upon the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. We value every child’s experiences and then build upon them.



 For more information on our nursery visit our website

“Pupils’ knowledge, skills and understanding are highly developed, and they readily apply their knowledge to new situations. Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning and considerable willingness to participate across all areas of their education.”

ISI Inspection Report, May 2022



PREPARATORY SCHOOL

(AGES 5-11)

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

The Preparatory School is housed in its own award winning, state-of-the-art building, with bright, creative, well-resourced classrooms centred around a beautiful courtyard. Purposefully situated between the Nursery and the Senior School, the Preparatory School ensures a seamless transition for our younger children from Early Years to their Secondary education.

We provide a warm welcome to our younger Ratcliffians, offering a world of calm, purposeful and respectful learning, where the children are encouraged to recognise their God given talents and gifts. Class sizes are small, allowing for individual attention and ensuring that all children achieve their full potential, taught by highly creative and inspirational staff.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND FLAIR

The Preparatory School has a very full programme of sports fixtures, including many competitive festivals. Our children also participate in a busy and fun-filled extra-curricular programme, choosing from a whole range of exciting lunchtime and after-school clubs.

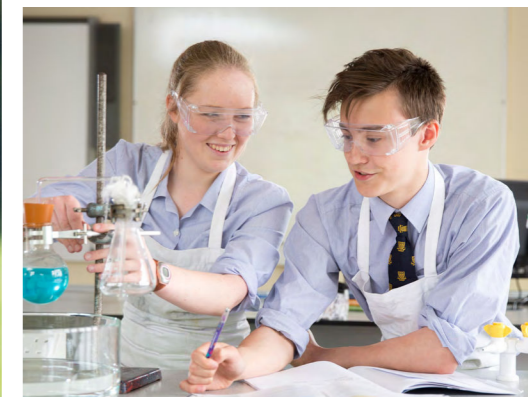
Music is a major strength, with several choirs and instrumental ensembles. There are several Year group drama productions through the year, and parents are also warmly invited to join us for our Class Assemblies.



 For more information on our Preparatory School visit our website

"My daughter joined Ratcliffe in Year 8; she was really lacking in self-confidence. Nurtured and encouraged by outstanding teachers over the ensuing years, she has grown into an insightful, independent thinker, and is now flourishing at one of the top universities in the country. Thank you, Ratcliffe."

Recent Parent



SENIOR SCHOOL (AGES 11-16)

IN PURSUIT OF HIGH STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE

Ratcliffe College has an outstanding academic record. Public examination results are consistently excellent, owing to our very high expectations, both in and outside of the classroom. Teaching is innovative and exacting of the highest standards, and regular communication between School and home supports every student's intellectual development.

All students, whatever their strengths, are helped to achieve their full academic potential.

Our extremely well qualified teaching staff, small class sizes and an emphasis on each individual student all add up to a hugely enjoyable learning

experience. A strong Learning Support Department enables all students in our care to achieve their best. The curriculum exemplifies both breadth and depth from Year 7 through to GCSE and Sixth Form.

Students and staff enjoy strong relationships which allow them to collaborate effectively together. Work is carefully monitored and regularly marked, with appropriate targets set.

We establish close partnerships with parents because we understand that the best outcomes happen when everyone works positively with one another

 [Find out more
about our Senior
School here](#)



“Pupils demonstrate excellent levels of self-confidence, self-awareness and resilience. They are highly supportive of each other and the wider community, benefiting in this regard from the collegiate nature of the school.”

ISI Inspection Report, May 2022



SIXTH FORM (AGES 16-18)

CONFIDENCE AND VALUES FOR LIFE

We have high expectations of our students, setting the same challenge for each of them - be the best you can be and have fun in the process!

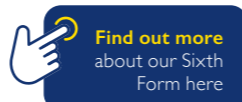
This challenge extends to all aspects of life and work in the Sixth Form:

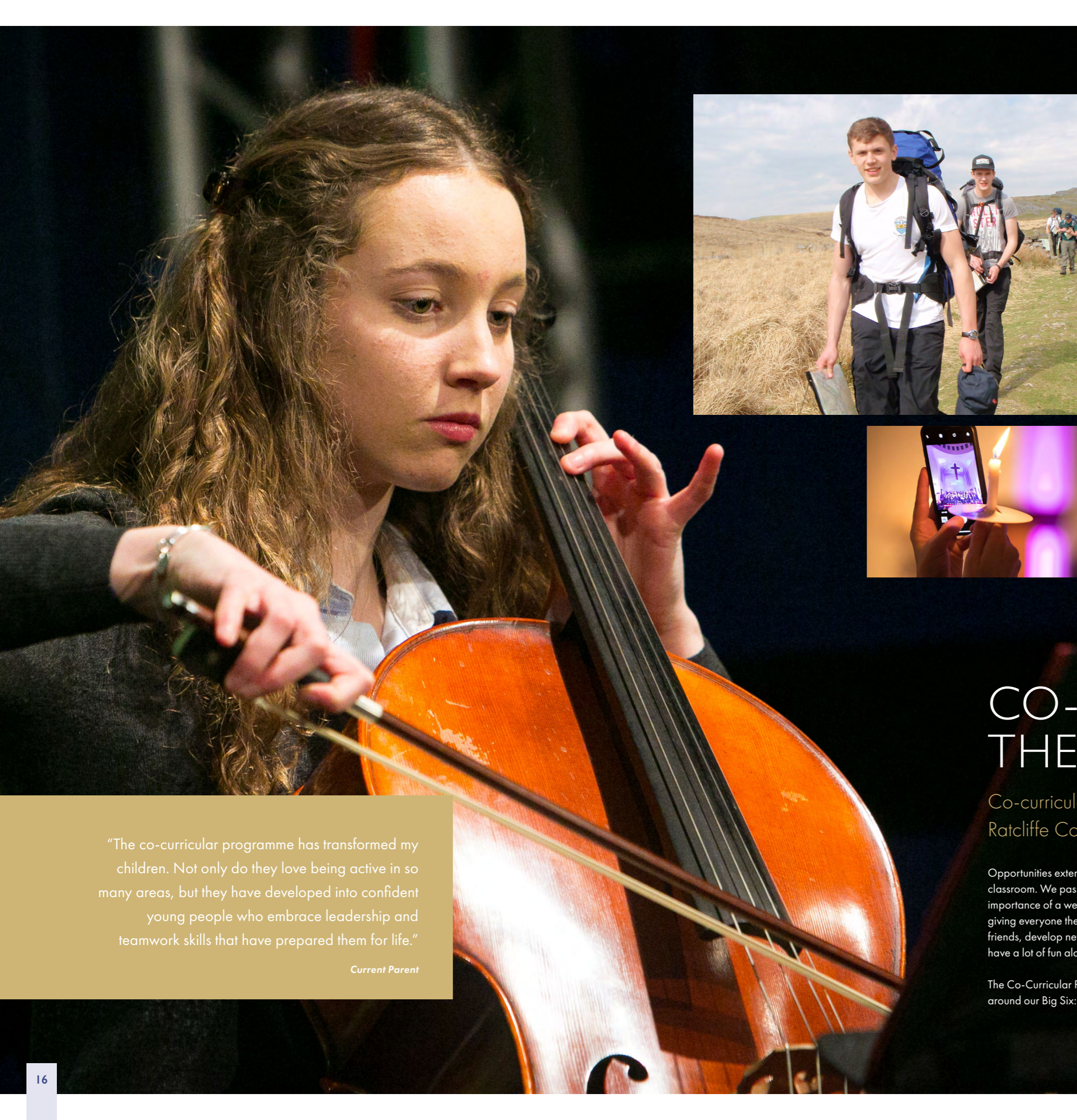
- Achievement in academic work, inculcating independent learning and work habits;
- Involvement in our extensive extra-curricular activities programme, promoting resilience and fostering life-long friendships;
- Development of positive, personal attributes, within a purposeful environment that prepares for university life and the workplace.

To help students to meet these challenges successfully, we provide outstanding levels of support:

- A stunning, purpose-built Sixth Form Centre;
- Small teaching sets;
- Teaching staff of the highest calibre.

The vast majority of our students go to their university of first choice, most of which are Russell Group and other prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge.





“The co-curricular programme has transformed my children. Not only do they love being active in so many areas, but they have developed into confident young people who embrace leadership and teamwork skills that have prepared them for life.”

Current Parent

CO-CURRICULAR: THE BIG SIX

Co-curricular activities are extremely important at Ratcliffe College, complementing our academic programme.

Opportunities extend well beyond the classroom. We passionately believe in the importance of a well-rounded education, giving everyone the opportunity to make new friends, develop new skills and interests, and have a lot of fun along the way!

Music, Drama, Combined Cadet Force and The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, is of outstanding quality. The academic year culminates in Activities Week, when a vast array of trips for all ages promotes learning in its widest sense, enjoyed by all.

The Co-Curricular Programme, revolving around our Big Six: Chaplaincy, Sport,

ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION

When you feel that Ratcliffe College is a strong possible choice for your child, we would encourage you to complete the online application form.

APPLICATION FORM

The Admissions Team will contact your child's current school for a reference, which will be considered alongside the assessment or examination.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Entrance Examinations normally take place in the January or February, before the September your child is due to start with us.

OFFER OF PLACE

We aim to inform you of the outcome of your application within two weeks of the assessment. An offer is made by letter from the Headmaster, accompanied by acceptance paperwork.

ACCEPTANCE OF PLACE

On accepting the offer of a place, payment of your deposit along with final paperwork will secure your child's place.

To access our application form or to find out more about the admissions process [click here](#)

FEES

APPLICATION FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)	
DAY	£99
BOARDING	£125
DEPOSIT (REFUNDABLE)	
DAY	£1000*
BOARDING	£5000**

* £500 refundable after one term and the remainder on leaving the School
 ** £3,000 refundable after one term and the remainder on leaving the School

DAY FEES	PER TERM	PER YEAR
Nursery – Cygnets and Swans (Age 3+)	£3,500	£10,500
Reception – (Age 4+)	£3,951	£11,854
Preparatory School (Years 1 to 2)	£3,951	£11,854
Preparatory School (Years 3 to 4)	£4,129	£12,387
Preparatory School (Year 5)	£4,460	£13,381
Preparatory School (Year 6)	£5,151	£15,452
Senior School (Years 7 to 8)	£5,151	£15,452
Senior School (Years 9 to 13)	£6,074	£18,221
BOARDING FEES		
Weekly Boarding (Years 6 to 8)	£7,785	£23,355
Weekly Boarding (Years 9 to 13)	£8,711	£26,134
Full Boarding	£11,697	£35,092



SCHOLARSHIPS

Ratcliffe College offers a wide range of Scholarships to recognise academic, sporting, musical, dramatic and artistic talent amongst students for the Senior School.

to Years 7 and 12 and may be awarded up to the value of 50% of the school fee.

We have the highest expectations of our Scholarship students; challenging each of them to fulfil their potential in all their endeavours. Scholarships are normally awarded on entry

[More information on Scholarships here](#)

BURSARIES

As a Catholic School our aim is to help children who, under normal circumstances, would not be able to benefit from a Ratcliffe education. Bursaries are available for up to 80% of a student's School Fee and in exceptional circumstances up to 100%. All awards are subject to parental means testing. For those entering Years 7 or 12, bursaries are allocated

annually, following interview and assessment of any perceived and noteworthy talent, and a formal application for bursarial assistance, which includes parental means testing.

[More details on Bursaries here](#)



SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

The School currently operates four bus services bringing in students from a wide area. The precise route in each case is determined each year based on the demand from parents, with a rough guide being one route serving the South and East of Leicester, one route from the direction of Nottingham, one route covering the Charnwood villages and Loughborough, and one route through the Vale of Belvoir.

Our aim is to have all students in School for 8.15am with a target first pick up time of around 7.20am.

Buses depart after the end of the extended school day at 6.20pm, to allow full participation in our extensive programme of extracurricular activities, and at 4.20pm, where there is sufficient demand.

The route serving Leicester is operated by a third-party coach company whereas the other two routes utilise school minibuses with our own drivers.

[Full details on the school bus service is here](#) 

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2022	
Wednesday 31st August	New Staff Induction Day
Thursday 1st September	Staff INSET Day
Friday 2nd September	Induction Day for all new students (Years 7-13)
Sunday 4th September	Existing Boarders return
Monday 5th September	Term begins
Friday 14th October	Half-Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 30th October	Half-Term ends – Boarders return
Monday 31st October	Classes begin
Friday 16th December	Term Ends (after classes)

SPRING TERM 2023	
Friday 6th January	Staff INSET Day
Sunday 8th January	Boarders return
Monday 9th January	Term begins
Friday 10th February	Half-Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 19th February	Half-Term ends – Boarders return
Monday 20th February	Classes begin
Friday 24th April	Term Ends (after classes)

SUMMER TERM 2023	
Friday 14th April	Staff INSET Day
Sunday 16th April	Boarders return
Monday 17th April	Term begins
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Friday 26th May	Half-Term begins (after classes)
Sunday 4th June	Half-Term ends – Boarders return
Monday 5th June	Classes begin
Friday 7th July	Term Ends (after classes)



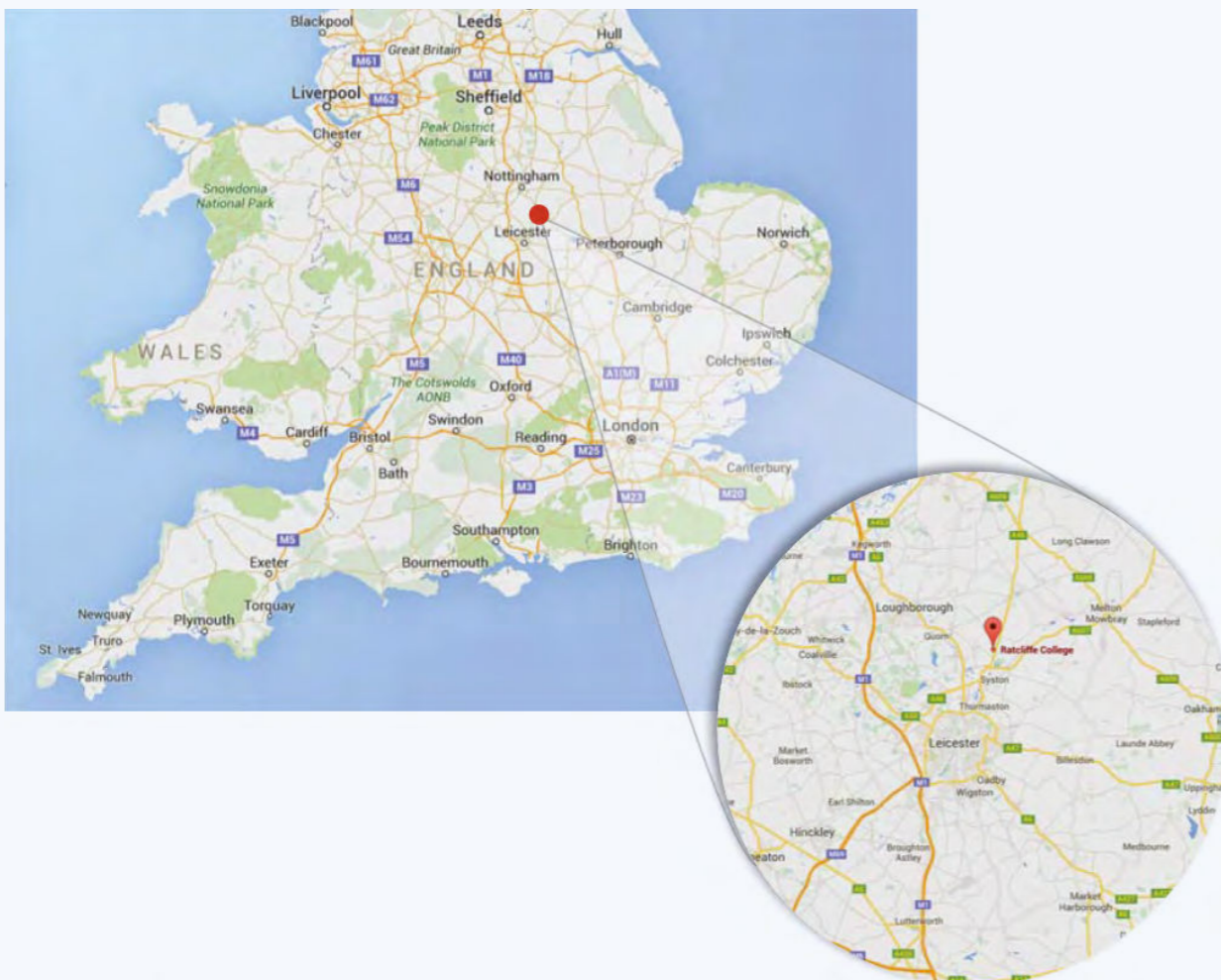


HOW TO FIND US

The College is easily accessible from all directions and benefits from being free of traffic congestion at peak times.

Situated in the East Midlands, on the A46 seven miles north of Leicester, close to the towns of Loughborough and Melton Mowbray and the city of Nottingham, Ratcliffe College is conveniently located for the national motorway network.

Access by train is equally easy – the College is only 20 minutes from Leicester’s railway station, with its regular services to London and the North. For air travellers, the M1 and M42 links bring both Birmingham (around one hour) and East Midlands (45 minutes) airports within easy reach, while London - Heathrow and London - Stansted are around 2½ hours away.



VISIT US

We believe that the best way for you to get a real feel for what we have to offer is to come and visit and experience it for yourself in person. Once you set foot on our amazing campus, you'll feel the magic come live! We offer a range of visiting experience to choose from:

OPEN MORNINGS

Our twice-yearly Open Mornings take place during September and March each year, these public events are useful if you are looking to get a taste of the college, tour the grounds and speak to teachers. These events are relaxed and informal and provide the opportunity to ask any questions you might have and pick up any important information you might need.

TASTER DAYS

Your child may wish to spend a Taster Day at Ratcliffe on a normal school day either prior to taking the Entrance Examination or Assessment or after being offered a place with us. We find this works very well in terms of each child becoming familiar with the school grounds and classrooms, the daily schedule, the content of lessons and how they are delivered, the personalities of teachers and children at the school and generally the overall culture of the school.

[Book your place online now](#) 



RATCLIFFE
COLLEGE

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Encouraging **Big-Ideas**