



5th March 2010

Dear Parents,

It was very good to see so many parents and students in Years 11 and 12 attend the Higher Education evening on Monday. Our guest speaker, Yvonne Williams, Students' Recruitment Officer, University of Birmingham, gave a most informative presentation to help students identify how best to undertake research for the most suitable degree and at the most suitable establishment, how to submit the best possible application, and then how to make an effective transition between school and university. Details of the presentation will appear, in due course, within the Parents' Portal on our new Website.

It was also good to see so many Year 9 students and parents at the Parents' Evening on Wednesday. I am sure that you found the evening helpful.

Finally, may I draw your attention to the major musical concert this term, a world premier of *Word of Life* by our very own Director of Music, Mr Matthew Jones. The performance of this oratorio promises to be something very special indeed, and to avoid disappointment, I would encourage you to apply early for tickets, as space will be at a premium. Details of the concert appear under 'School Notices' in this week's E-Newsletter, and the parents' letter and pro-forma (to apply for tickets) is at the end of this E-Newsletter.

Gareth Lloyd,
Headmaster.

Student News

Senior School News

Congratulations to the following Years 8 and 9 students on being awarded Merit Shields and Badges at Headmaster's Assembly on Monday: Year 8: **Lauren White** (Shield); **Harry Bysouth-Kemp, Jenny Hall, Omar Khan** (Badge); Year 7: **Lolade Mosaku** (Badge).

Congratulations to **Greg Straw and Lorna Rowley**, Year 13, on passing the BTEC National Diploma with Distinction* and Distinction respectively, via the CCF.

Junior School News

Congratulations to the following pupils on being awarded 2nd Certificates and Merit Badges at Junior Assembly on Thursday: Year 6: **Eleanor Higton and Imogen Power** (2nd Certificates); **Megan Vincent** (Merit Badge); Year 5: **Ellie Bysouth-Kemp, Benedict Dexter, Charles Hancock, Abigale Mayne, Jess Neuberg, Alexandra Offer and Lucie Prusinski** (2nd Certificates); Year 2: **Finley Back** (Merit Badge); Year 1: **Annie Rose Reddin** (2nd Certificate).

Congratulations also to ...

Joseph Summer, Year 3, who came second place in the North East District Swimming Gala.

Louis Westwood, Year 3, who received trophies for 'Man of the Match' at a training session at Syston Rugby Club last Sunday, for scoring a great try and for training in all weathers with a smile on his face.

Sports Reports

Senior School

Boys' Sport

The 1st team played King Henry's on Wednesday in a tense match. With the score tied at nil - nil at half-time, the game could have gone either way but two contentious goals meant King Henry's ended up winning. In our close-fought match against Wisbech, we took an early lead from Dave Forry, but a few moments of loss of concentration enabled Wisbech to capitalise on this. The work rate in the second-half showed how we can play, exposing the space and making the important tackles. The final score was 3 – 3.

The 2nd team continued their impressive season with a hard earned 3 – 1 victory over King Henry's. After a poor start against Wisbech, the 2nd team eventually started to play some good hockey. Unfortunately, they could not sustain the improved level of play and Wisbech scored 2 late goals, giving them a slightly flattering 3 – 1 victory.

The U15s produced another solid performance without ever getting out of second gear. The victory was gained with a two nil score line, but in all reality, it should have been much greater, as Wisbech failed to muster a single shot in the entire match.

The U14s continued their unbeaten start to the season by beating Nottingham High School 4 – 1 in a comfortable game. 'Men of the Match' were Will Hoare and Alex Hazel. However, they lost their first game of the season to Wisbech. The final score of 5 – 3 was a fair reflection, as Ratcliffe did not mark properly and were wasteful in attack, after creating a large number of chances.

The U13s made a very poor start in their match against Wisbech, trailing 3 – 0 at half-time. A good second-half fight saw the team win the second-half 1 – 0, with a

well-taken goal by 'Man of the Match', Morgan Newby, with the final score being a 3 – 1 loss.

The U12s had a superb 3 – 1 victory with goals from Sebastian Dewhirst, Jack Watson and Richard Ward. Chris Curnick won tacking 'Player of the Match' for his great tackling, setting up many of the team's attacking moves.

**By Benjamin Palmer,
Boys' Sports Captain.**

Girls' Sport

The 1st team had a fantastic start to their game against Wellingborough, winning the first quarter 10 – 1, with good, simple passing, showing what the team are capable of. However, yet again, letting old mistakes creep into their play, left the team only just holding on for a win. Good work from 'Players of the Match', Hannah Tyler and Hazel Dearson, ensured a final score of 16 – 10.

The second team lost 11 – 21 after a slow start. Much better play in the second -half saw them win the third-quarter. Special mention must go to the defensive players for their consistent effort throughout the game. 'Players of the Match', were Ella Coulthard and Katie Gerighty.

The 3rd team put up a persistent effort in a scrappy game against a better organised Wellingborough side. The team never gave up trying to get the ball into an attacking situation. The final score was a loss of 8 – 28, with 'Players of the Match', Sarah Kerridge, who was valiant in defence, and Charlie Dickinson.

A very sharp Wellingborough team outplayed our U15s in terms of tactics, especially in defence. It was a good, clean and hard-fought match, but a few silly mistakes cost us many goals and the final score was 16 – 29. Credit must go to Amy Burle who took some great interceptions and Holly Unwin who showed good versatility.

It was never going to be an easy game for the U14s, playing against East Midlands finalists. Despite playing some very good netball, at times, the final score of 7 – 25 did not reflect the balance of play. Katherine Carter played brilliantly in her first full match for the team.

The U13 hockey team played in the league finals, drawing 0 – 0 against Loughborough High school B team and Grace Dieu, won 2 – 0 against Leicester Grammar School, but lost 2 – 0 to Loughborough A team in the last three minutes.

**By Katy Campbell,
Girls' Sports Captain.**

Junior Department

Swimming Report

On Tuesday 2nd March, Ratcliffe's junior swim squad took part in another gala against Leicester Grammar School. Owing to illness, a depleted squad was taken, but despite this, some excellent races took place.

First places were gained by Max Parker, Nicole Spencer, Krishan Gupta, Richard Ward, Matthew Ward, and Matthew Lindley. Despite this, Leicester proved too strong, and they went on to win the gala. All of the swimmers did extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to represent the School. The children are already looking forward to their next gala.

School Notices/General News

The next **Parents' Forum** for parents of pupils in **Years 3 – 6** will take place from **4.30 – 5.30pm** next **Wednesday, 10th March** in the **Old Library**. The themes for the Forum are:

- The Broad enhanced curriculum (including references to extra-curricular);
- Working towards Independent Learning.

We very much hope you are able to join us.

Food Technology News

On Friday 19th March, from 7.00 to 8.30pm, the Food Technology Department is delighted to welcome back to School Virginia Convery, after a popular demonstration evening last year. In addition, Virginia will be working with Years 9, 12, 13 and myself during the day. In the evening, we warmly invite you to watch a variety of dishes being demonstrated followed by the chance to sample all the dishes produced.

Please email kburton@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk if you would like to attend the evening event, **by 15 March** as numbers are limited. Thank you.

Mrs Burton,
Head of Food Technology.

Word of Life



By Matthew P Jones

Thursday 25 March at 7.30pm in the Church

Ratcliffe College Junior Choir

Ratcliffe College Senior Choir

The Ratcliffe Chorale

Ratcliffe College Senior Band

With a combined choir of over 150 voices accompanied by a 30-piece orchestra, this is a performance not to be missed.

Tickets are still available by completing and returning the ticket request form by Thursday 11 March (please see the letter and pro-forma at the end of this Newsletter).

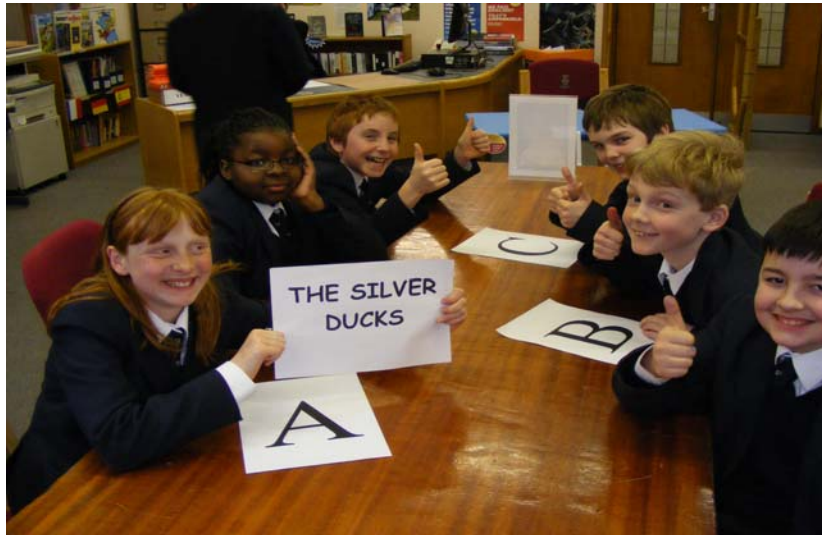
World Book Day, Thursday 4th March

Thursday, 4th March was World Book Day and here at Ratcliffe books and reading were given high priority across all year groups. As in previous years, every student at the School received a £1 World Book Day token which can be exchanged for the special World Book Day titles available from participating bookshops, or used to obtain £1 discount from other titles, and students in the Junior Department enjoyed the opportunity to spend their tokens at their Scholastic Book Fair.

As part of our celebrations for the day in the Senior School, a fun book-related competition was held in the Emery Library at lunchtime. Thirty five students from Years 7-11 took part in the closely-fought competition and tested their book skills across three rounds: "Guess the identity of the book characters", where teams had to deduce which book character was represented by teachers from the English Department, by asking questions to which they would only answer "Yes or "No";

“True or False” facts about authors; and “Opening Lines” where students were asked to identify a book by its opening lines. With three teams tying for 1st place, the eventual winners, *Team Bruce from Year 10*, had to solve the tie-break question to secure their victory.

The competition proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable and light-hearted event and, as always, the book knowledge of some of our students never fails to amaze me!



Pictured above are the Year 7 team, *The Silver Ducks*

Mrs Williams,
School Librarian.

Junior Science Week

‘Design a Kite’ competition winners are:

Amy Mason Year 1

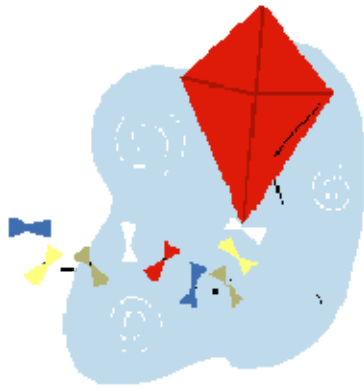
Rebecca Lindley Year 2

Joseph Summer Year 3

Elliot Fawdington Year 4

Lucie Prusinski Year 5

Congratulations to the winners and all those children who took part!



The winner of the furthest throw of a paper aeroplane (a whopping 27.73 metres) was Joshua MacQueen and the winning House was Arundel.

Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Mrs Ety,
Year 3 Class Teacher.

It is **Casuals Day** next **Tuesday, 9th March**, so please can we remind the pupils to bring in their money to support the HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage? Thank you.

Junior Department Charity Coffee Morning

On **Thursday 11th March**, we will be holding our annual Mother's Day Assembly in Church for the Nursery School and Junior Department at 9.00 a.m. This year, there will be a charity coffee morning afterwards in the Refectory in aid of the **Rosminian Education Centre in Kwediboma**, Africa. There will be a charge of £2.00 for entry to the coffee morning including a drink and a cake, and if any of you are able to make cakes for this event, they would be very gratefully received.

Vouchers for Schools

The Junior Department are currently collecting vouchers from Sainsbury's for *Active Kids* and Tesco for *Schools and Clubs*. Many thanks in anticipation for any vouchers that you can contribute to these schemes.

Mrs Rigby,
Head of Junior Department.

Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)
Mon 8th March	Samworth Academy	2.00pm	U13 A & B Netball	H
Mon 8th March	Tournament	2.00pm	U12 Girls' Hockey	A St Margaret's
Wed 10th March	Leics HS Tournament	1.30pm	U11 Netball	A
Wed 10th March	Derby GS Tournament	2.00pm	U11 Rugby	A
Wed 10th March	Wyggeston & QE College	2.30pm	1st XI Football	H
Wed 10th March	Loughborough HS	4.30pm	U15 & U14 Netball	H
Thurs 11th March	Loughborough HS	5.00pm	2nd & U16 Netball	A

Thurs 11th March	Lutterworth HS	3.45pm	U14 Rugby County plate semi-final	H
Thurs 11th March	Loughborough GS	4.30pm	U13 Boys' Hockey	H
Fri 12th March	Brooke Priory	3.30pm	U11 Girls' & Boys' Hockey	A
Sat 13th March	Melton Mowbray	10.00am	1st & U16 Netball	H
Sat 13th March	Denstone	2.30pm	Boys' Hockey	H
		3.45pm	1st U15 & U14	A
			2nd U13 & U12	H A

From Father President

Hope

Father, make us more like Jesus.
 Help us to bear difficulty, pain,
 disappointment and sorrow,
 knowing that in your perfect
 working and design you can use such
 bitter experiences to shape our characters
 and make us more like our Lord.
 We look with hope for that day when
 we shall be wholly like Christ,
 because we shall see him as he is. Amen.

(Ignatius of Antioch d. 107; written at a time of terrible persecution.)

AMDG

12 February 2010

Word of Life



By Matthew P Jones

On **Thursday 25 March 2010**, the combined choirs of Ratcliffe College (Junior and Senior) will be joining forces with The Ratcliffe Chorale to perform *Word of Life*, accompanied by the Senior Band. The performance will take place in the Church and will start at 7.30pm.

Entry to the concert is by ticket at a charge of £6.00, which includes refreshments after the performance. Tickets for Ratcliffe College students are available at £2.00. Performers do not require a ticket. The money raised by the performance will be donated to the 'Nicholas Branston Foundation', a charity set up to support young aspiring musicians in the local area. Our choirs supported the same charity through a memorable concert in Leicester Cathedral earlier in the year.

Tickets will be on sale to members of the public through The Ratcliffe Chorale, and to parents of Ratcliffe College students using the booking form below. Demand for tickets is expected to be high, so parents are encouraged to complete and return their ticket requests as soon as possible and no later than **Thursday 11 March 2010**, after which tickets (subject to availability) will have to be purchased in person at the senior school reception.

This is a very exciting project, involving over 150 performers, and I hope that you will be able to support our students, both in their performance and in raising money for a very worthwhile cause.

Kind regards

Matthew Jones

Director of Music

Please see overleaf for pro-forma to apply for tickets.

To: Mr M P Jones, Director of Music

I wish to purchase.....adult tickets at £6.00 and.....child tickets at £2.00 for the performance of *Word of Life* on Thursday 25 March 2010 at Ratcliffe College.

The cost of tickets will be added to my school bill.

Parent's signature:..... Date.....

Student's name:..... Year Group.....