

12<sup>th</sup> March 2010



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to inform you that the new Website will launch on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, to bring us the luck of the Irish! We will be pleased to hear any feedback about our new Website. We intend to put the following items onto the Website:

- Parent/Teacher Evening Powerpoint Presentations;
- Minutes of Parents' Forum meetings;
- E-Newsletter (this will be put directly onto the Website each Friday afternoon, commencing Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March; we will, therefore, cease to send this out separately to parents).

It was good to see so many parents attend the Parents' Forum meeting for Years 3 – 6 on Wednesday, for an often lively and hopefully helpful discussion covering a wide range of issues. My thanks must go to Mrs Rigby for her excellent presentation on the extended curriculum and independent learning. Details of the discussion and the presentation will shortly appear within the Parents' Portal.

Looking ahead this term, I hope that you will have the opportunity to join us for the annual Spring Fair on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March and for the 'Word of Life' Concert on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March.



Early next term, on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April, I shall be running the London Marathon, with the aim of raising as much money as possible for The Brain and Spine Foundation (and with Ratcliffe College emblazoned on my running vest!). This is a remarkable charity which supports not only those who have suffered from the trauma of brain and spinal injuries, but also their families, carers and medical experts who provide the love, care and skills that are so badly needed. Brain and spinal injuries

occur every day and devastate thousands of people – it could be you or me in the blink of an eye. The more we raise together now, the more we improve the futures of many – sufferers and their carers alike. Having two close friends, both of whom are now wheelchair-bound owing to spinal injuries, and having lost one very dear student owing to a fatal neck injury, I have very personal reasons for supporting this particular charity. I shall be running with “Team Telegraph”, *The Telegraph* being a newspaper I am sure many of you enjoy; it is the main charitable fundraiser for the Brain and Spine Foundation. If you feel that you can support me, all you need to do is visit [www.justgiving.co.uk](http://www.justgiving.co.uk) (right click and open Hyperlink) or Google search JustGiving. If you then type in my name, Gareth Lloyd (I am appalled to discover how common I am – there are 4 of us!), you can proceed to donate. If you are a tax payer, by donating through JustGiving, you are able to support me even more. This particular Headmaster will appreciate a good head start now – I need all the help I can get! Thank you so much, and have a very good week.

Gareth Lloyd,  
Headmaster.

## **Student News**

### **Senior School**

#### **House Solo Music Competition 2010**



#### **Final Results**

- Students scored 1 point for taking part in the initial rounds of the competition.
- Students scored an additional 2 points for performing in the Grand Final.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> places scored an additional point.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> places scored an additional 3 points.
- 1<sup>st</sup> places scored an additional 5 points.

51 students took part in the initial rounds, scoring points as follows:

Arundel	15
De Lisle	13
Emery	10
Leetham	13

14 students performed in the Grand Final, scoring additional points as follows:

Arundel	12	=	27
De Lisle	4	=	17
Emery	8	=	18
Leetham	4	=	17

### Results of the Grand Final:

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1 <sup>st</sup> : Angharad Lloyd (D)	Ricky Hsu (L)	James Waymont (A)
2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sally Croysdale (Voice) (A)	Georgie Rea (A)	Stefan Gackowski (E)
3 <sup>rd</sup> : Sally Croysdale (Clarinet) (A)	William Rigby (A)	Rory Finn (D)

### Grand totals:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>Arundel</b>	<b>40 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>De Lisle</b>	<b>23 points</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Leetham</b>	<b>22 points</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>Emery</b>	<b>21 points</b>

Congratulations to the following Year 9 and 8 students on being awarded Merit Shields and Badges at Headmaster's Assembly on Tuesday: Year 9: **Sumitra Malla, Bethany Simpson** (Shield); **Connor Reid** (Badge); Year 8: **Katie Cooil, Sally Croysdale, Sophie Foston** (Shield).

### Presentation of Cheque to SSAFA – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

At Ratcliffe College, SSAFA has been presented with a cheque for an amazing £1508 as a result of Mr Howard Midgley having his beard shaved last December.

The presentation was made by Mr Nick Walsh (AKA Santa Claus) who carried out the delicate operation to remove 41 years of facial growth. Staff and pupils, aided by former pupils and colleagues, local Town Councillors and magistrates, dug deep into their pockets to sponsor Howard Midgley who is retiring this year.

This is a fantastic amount, and Peter Spooner, who received the cheque, on behalf of SSAFA, explained who the money would help. Such is the breadth of SSAFA's remit that most pupils and staff would have relatives or acquaintances who could qualify for support.

## Eco Schools Update, March 2010



Pictured on the left is the Year 12 Eco Club. They have worked together since the autumn term to review environmental practices at Ratcliffe College.

The aim of the Eco Schools initiative is not to debate the causes of global warming (as there is still much scientific debate about the role of human

activity in this) but to focus on the ways in which we can develop a more sustainable community. The idea of being sustainable and trying not to be wasteful should not in itself generate any controversy as it is essentially common sense.

Since the group formed we have completed an Environmental Audit of the school, focusing on areas such as waste and recycling, energy, grounds biodiversity and transport. From this audit we are in the process of composing an Environmental Action Plan that will set achievable targets to improve the sustainability of the college. These targets could include:

- Reducing energy wastage from leaving classroom lights switched on and projectors left on standby when not in use, rather than being switched off at the wall.
- Developing recycling capabilities – classroom bins are now going to be used for plastic and cans along with paper and card – a big improvement thanks to a new contract with the local council
- Further encouraging recycling of clothes through the Mother Teresa group
- Transport surveys and a car share initiative

The initiative is not about identifying things that we cannot do – we know that Ratcliffe has an old building that will not become energy-efficient overnight, and that our location means students will not be walking or cycling to school. The initiative is about identifying things that we can do together as a community, but to be successful in the long-term it requires staff, students, parents and the whole community to approach things with a positive attitude and to be encouraging about it. There is work that can be done through staff and students, and also work to be done behind the scenes with the non-teaching staff.

Ultimately the ‘eco’ issue is not going to involve a small-scale student club that meets on a weekly basis. Sustainability is going to be something that all schools, colleges

and workplaces have to adopt as part of government legislation – and more importantly because it is the right thing to do. Themes of environmental awareness and sustainability are already covered in many subjects and identifying the work done and forging links between different areas of the curriculum will happen in time. Students from all year groups and staff from across the school will hopefully become involved in the initiative at one level or another. Sustainability is a whole-school issue for the future.

“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children” Kenyan proverb

Mr Lambert,  
Head of Geography.

### **School Notices and General Information**

#### **Parent helpers required to serve refreshments at the Year 12 plays next week**

Parents' Association members are serving refreshments at the Year 12 School Play, “Under Milk Wood”, next Wednesday and Thursday evening. However, they shall be a little thin in numbers and wondered, therefore, if it would be possible for any Year 12 parents to assist. If you are able to help, please can you e-mail Mrs Sam Pole ([alpole1@btinternet.com](mailto:alpole1@btinternet.com)). Thank you.

#### **Food Technology Department Demonstration from Virginia Convery, Irish Chef, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

Unfortunately, this evening has been postponed until later in the year. We apologise for this and will inform you as soon as we arrange a new date.

#### **We are delighted to announce that the following event is now open to parents, current pupils and teachers.**

The Ratcliffian Association Reynard Trophy is to be held at The Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 18th June 2010. The tee is booked from 4.30pm - 5.30pm, and there will be a light meal and drinks after the golf. The competition is open to all Old Ratcliffians, members of the Ratcliffian Association, current pupils, and staff at the School who play golf. Eligible players may also bring a family member (non OR) along to play with them if they wish. Only Old Ratcliffians are eligible to win the Reynard Trophy, but if we have another winner, an additional prize will be awarded.

England v Algeria kicks off at 8.30pm so players will be able to stay on and watch the game in the clubhouse. The cost will be about £25 per person for the golf (free for members of LGC) and £10 for the meal. Food will not be available to those who have not pre-booked. Players need to have an official handicap to play in this event and the maximum handicap is 28.

For further details, contact [abe.mee@harveyingram.com](mailto:abe.mee@harveyingram.com)

Bookings must be confirmed and paid for one week in advance, as the food will need to be pre-ordered. Further details nearer the time.



## Sport Relief Run a Mile, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Next Thursday, we will be holding a Sport Relief fund raising event. All students and staff from the Junior Department and Senior School will have the opportunity to take part and raise money for this worthy cause. The run will take place during lunchtime; you simply pay £2 and run. All money raised will go to Sport Relief.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible take part. You may also wish to wear your sport relief socks or t-shirts if you have them.

## Sport

### Senior School

#### *Boys' Sports*

*A mixed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team played a Derby 1<sup>st</sup> team which gave several boys the opportunity to play at a higher level. The team played well from the start, quickly gelling together and three well created goals saw us run out comfortable 3-1 winners.*

*The most one sided Old Ratcliffian game for many years saw the School on the wrong end of a 5-1 defeat. Ironically, the game was one sided in favour of the school team who enjoyed the vast majority of the possession but were taught how to convert goal scoring opportunities by an experienced OR team.*

*A mixed senior side travelled to Wellingborough to play their 1<sup>st</sup> team. Despite starting the game well, the players could not maintain any control over the game and disappointingly lost 3-1.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> rugby team played Welbeck in the quarter finals of the county cup. The game highlighted the difficulties we have in trying to compete against strong organised opposition who play two terms of rugby and, despite competing hard, we suffered a heavy loss. Stand out performances came from Gus Kelly and Alex Keyworth.*

*The U15s had to work hard against De Lisle. Their 2-1 victory was a fair reflection of an evenly matched encounter.*

*The U14s started brightly against Derby taking an early lead, but loss of composure gave Derby a 2-1 lead. The only piece of notable play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half came from 'Player of the Match', Alex Hazel, as his well taken shot salvaged a lucky draw.*

*In their semi final plate game, the U13 rugby team showed that they wanted to win which they did with commitment and determination from all. The final score was 20 points to 7. 'Man of the Match' was Rory Thorne.*

*Derby were outclassed by the U12s in their 3-0 victory. 'Player of the Match', Ben Pole set up many attacks for Sebastian Dewhirst and George Griffiths to score from.*

*By Benjamin Palmer,  
Boys' Sports Captain.*

### **Girls' Sports**

*In one of the best matches of the season, the 1<sup>st</sup> team had to play a very tactical, zoning game against Worksop. The match was all square with three minutes to go, but Worksop capitalised on a couple of Ratcliffe mistakes to run out 22-19 winners. 'Player of the Match' was Hannah Tyler.*

*Unfortunately, too few Old Ratcliffians were available to play a full match. Thanks to those students who helped them out, but they couldn't overcome the 1<sup>st</sup> team who won 18-9.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> team's loss by 7 goals to 23 did not reflect the balance of play. Worksop had some very accurate shooters, who converted their shots into goals, but Becky Pawley and Kate Castell both played very well out of position. 'Player of the Match', once again, was Katie Gerighty.*

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> team tried very hard throughout the match but, again, came up against a very tall and accurate goal shooter, who scored most of Worksop's 29 goals. Our team were depleted through injury and several girls had to play out of position. Georgina Kerridge earned 'Player of the match' for some great interceptions.*

*The 7-17 score did not reflect the U13s game against Loughborough, as the team did not convert enough of their chances. Evie Ayre was 'Player of the Match'.*

*In the U13 County Tournament, our team started the morning very hesitantly, which proved to be an expensive mistake as, despite scoring many more goals than we conceded, we went through to the quarter finals. In this tightly-fought match, we lost 3-6 to Loughborough, but we made them work very hard for their win. Katie Cooil was, once again, the strongest player in defence and Lauren White raised her game as the morning progressed.*

*In the U12 match against Loughborough, all players worked the ball well down the court to shooters, Charley Flowers and Vicki Moreton-Straw. The game went with centre passes, but unfortunately the final whistle went whilst Loughborough were a goal ahead; the final score was 8-7.*

*By Katy Campbell,  
Girls' Sports Captain.*

## Junior Sport

*On Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Year 6 hockey A team played away against Fairfield.*

*Despite lots of good play from both teams it was still 0-0 at half time. The opposition goal keeper was immense, with some skilful saves.*

*Louis Hurst scored the first goal for Ratcliffe but Fairfield equalised and then struck again to make it 2-1. After a tackle and pass to Richard Ward, it went on to Harry Stokes. He passed to Harry Antill who placed it in the bottom corner of the net to score an equaliser, making it 2-2.*

*Fairfield came back with another goal. We were 3-2 down but we weren't beaten yet because Richard Ward struck again, making the final score 3-3.*

*All the players had a good game and 'Man of the Match' went to Harry Antill.*

*By Harry Antill*

*On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the U11 netball team took part in the first Ratcliffe College Festival of Sport. The tournament was arranged so local schools could play competitive netball in a friendly and fun atmosphere. Although there were no overall winners and no trophies, Ratcliffe performed extremely well. Despite starting slowly in a couple of their matches, they eventually started to play together as a team. They ended up winning three of their matches and drawing one. 'Player of the Tournament' was Megan Vincent. Well done to all of the girls who took part.*

## Sporting Fixtures

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Home/Away (H/A)</b>
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Inter Schools</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Junior Cross Country</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Loughboro' HS</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>U12 Girls' Hockey</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>King Henry VIII</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Netball</b>	<b>A</b>

<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Rugby U13 County Plate Final</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Loughborough GS</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Hockey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hockey</b>	<b>H A</b>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Brooke House</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Football</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Worksop</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>U15, U14 &amp; Combined U15/U14 Netball</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Hockey Tournaments</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>U11 Boys' &amp; U11 Girls'</b>	<b>St Margaret's</b>
	<b>Samworth Academy</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Hockey U13 Boys'</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Bath Hockey Tour</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>U18 Boys' Hockey &amp; U18 Girls' Hockey</b>	<b>King Edward's, Bath</b>
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Princethorpe</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>U12 Boys' Hockey</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>Stonehill</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Swimming Boys' &amp; Girls' U12, U13, U14</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Princethorpe</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>, U15, U14 &amp; U13 Netball</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>Princethorpe</b>	<b>10.00am 10.30am 11.15am 11.45am</b>	<b>Hockey 2<sup>nd</sup> Hockey U13 Hockey U15 Hockey U14</b>	<b>H Away Home Away</b>

<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Tournament</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>U12 Netball</b>	<b>Soar Valley College</b>
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*From Fr President*

### **A Prayer for Guidance**

Lord show us clearly what you  
Want us to do with the gifts  
You have given us.

Grant us the strength that we  
Need to answer your call with  
Courage and love.

Make us generous people so  
That others may experience  
Your love through us.

Help us always to look to  
you as the One who will  
show us the way you  
want us to go.

Amen.

***AMDG***

***Please see overleaf for information about an Easter Squash Camp.***

**Calling all young people**  
**For**  
**Easter Squash**  
**Camps!**



at

**Loughborough Leisure  
Centre**



**On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**9.50am – 1.10pm**

**and/or Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.50am – 1.10pm**

£10 per session (£9.00 to Wild Card Holders)

To include full morning of coaching including drink and a  
biscuit!

**with Kevin Emery**

**Level 3 Squash Coach**

**And Josh Taylor – Level 1 Coach**

## **Age groups from 6 - 16**

**To book your place on either or both day/s,  
please contact Linda Taylor on 07748 338471 or  
01509 889575, or e mail on  
[taylorlinda13@btinternet.com](mailto:taylorlinda13@btinternet.com)**