

19<sup>th</sup> March 2010



Dear Parents,

I have just witnessed extreme acts of violence, alcoholism, teenage pregnancy, failed romance, drunken and lascivious behaviour, lobotomised schizophrenics, to name but a few defining characteristics which currently define Ratcliffe College students – if said students happen to be part of the Year 12 Drama class, you will be relieved to know! For on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of this week, audiences were treated to outstanding performances of our Year 12 dramatists' examined monologues and an ensemble performance *par excellence* of Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*. Many congratulations to all the performers and the stage crew under the inspirational directorship of Mrs Caven-Henrys.

Last week saw a wonderful Mother's Day Service in the Chapel, with beautiful contributions from every child in the Nursery and the Junior Department. We also welcomed 61 families to a very successful Open Morning on Saturday, and I thank everyone, including our excellent Parents' Association, for all their hard work and effort. We have also enjoyed impressive success on the rugby field, with the U13 team being runners-up in the County Cup Plate and the U14 team winning the County Cup Plate final, whilst on a more cerebral level, six students in Year 9 beat off considerable competition to win the prestigious 'Best Overall Project' award in the science and engineering competition "Go4SET". It has also been tremendous fun to run with so many children in the Junior Department, Senior School students and staff to raise money for 'Sports Relief'.

I would like to thank the many parents who have written to me to congratulate the School on the excellent Inspection Report (which you can read in full on our new website, launched on Wednesday!), as well as those who have sponsored me in the London Marathon. Just to reiterate, if you would like to support me in raising money for the Brain and Spine Foundation, do please visit my JustGiving website ([www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)) by simply entering my name in the 'Sponsor a Friend' box (and select Gareth Lloyd when you see my photo!) – your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Please may I remind you about the **Parents' Association Spring Fair** which is taking place from **11.00am to 3.00pm tomorrow, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. There is something on offer for everyone, so please do come along and lend your support.

May I wish you a very happy and healthy weekend and week ahead.

Mr Gareth Lloyd,  
Headmaster.

## **YEAR 8 PARENTS**

Further to my letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February (see below), I would like again to draw your attention to the New Zealand Student Exchange Programme in autumn 2010. All applications must be submitted in writing no later **than Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Parents,

### **St. Peter's College, Gore, New Zealand Autumn Term 2010 Student Exchange Programme**

In the Autumn Term 2010, there will be the opportunity for four Year 9 students (two boys and two girls) to be involved in an exchange with students from St. Peter's College, Gore, New Zealand.

St. Peter's is a small and caring, Catholic co-educational day and boarding school with 380 students; like Ratcliffe College, it is a Rosminian School. The College is located in Gore, within two hours of three major airports, the university city of Dunedin, the tourist resort of Queenstown, several ski-fields and many other recreational activities - and just one hour from the Southland Institute of Technology.

A feature of the school is its boarding community, which is linked to the school buildings. Their boarding house is known as 'The Hostel' has only 75 students and they are cared for by trained staff and the Hostel manager. The school has a trained staff and fully equipped computer, music and technology rooms, as well as science laboratories, gymnasium and library.

The successful applicants would either be 'home stayed' with a family of one of the St. Peter's day students or, if the St. Peter's student were a Hostel student, would stay in the Hostel as either a 5-day or a 7-day a week boarder.

The exchange will take place during term four of the New Zealand school year. We would envisage that the Ratcliffe students would fly out on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the week prior to our half-term, and spend three weeks in New Zealand, before returning to England with a New Zealand student for a further three weeks towards the end of our Autumn Term. This would coincide with the New Zealand students' returning home at the end of November, to attend their school Prize Giving at the end of their academic Year. A member of the teaching staff will escort the students to New Zealand and remain at St. Peter's Gore, before returning with the group at the end of their three week stay.

If the Ratcliffe student were a boarder, then the St. Peter's student would also board. Students from both schools would attend academic classes and follow all normal school routines while in the host school. The families would take the visitors into their homes in a board-free situation and neither school would charge any extra fees.

The normal termly school fee would be paid to the student's own schools. The only expense would be the return airfare to New Zealand.

I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic opportunity for our boys and girls. **We are therefore inviting applications from current Year 8 students which should be submitted to me by** the end of the spring term 2010 with a supporting letter from parents. The application should set out the willingness to host a student from St. Peter's as well as the preparedness of the student to be a fine ambassador for Ratcliffe College and England while in New Zealand. An indication of extra-curricular contributions at Ratcliffe should also be included in the application; this may include sport, music, drama or similar activities. Owing to the small size of St. Peter's College, they have opened the opportunity up to students in both Year 8 and 9. We do not envisage this being a problem.

Owing to recent changes to the safeguarding and welfare legislation and the introduction of new vetting and barring scheme (VBS), it is good practice for all parents involved in home stay visits to be registered with the VBS, which will include completing an advanced criminal records bureau check (CRB). As parents will be volunteers there will be no cost involved with these checks. Equivalent safeguarding procedures exist in New Zealand for home stays. In notifying you now, we shall hopefully have given you time to plan well in advance for the travel costs. We are sure that the youngsters from both schools will benefit enormously from this experience and our intention, if this initiative is successful, is to have this as an annual event. We hope that you will give due consideration to this opportunity. If you have any queries regarding this venture, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

***Jon Reddin***

Second Deputy Head

## **Student News**

### **Senior School**

Congratulations to **Peter Griffin**, Year 13, who has been awarded the CCF BTEC First Diploma in Public Services with Distinction\*.

Congratulations to **Sam Nightingale**, Year 7, who represented Leicestershire in U13 hockey last Sunday. They boys had two matches and won both; the first was against Warwickshire, who they beat 3-0 and the second, against Staffordshire, who they beat 4-1.

Congratulations to the following Year 8 students who were awarded Merit Badges and Shields: **Sibella Chew, Liam Harrold, Isabelle Holford, Angharad Lloyd,**

**Olivia Montague-Mason, Morgan Newby, Annabelle Tomlinson, Jessica Walker (Badge); Harry Bysouth-Kemp, Martha Lewis (Shield).**

**The triumphant Go4SET team definitely haven't sprung any leaks...**

A group of six Physics students in Year 9 have just won the 'Best Overall Project' award in the science and engineering competition "Go4SET". The triumphant students are Ed Grundy, Will Rigby, Ashley Stokes, Harry Baum, Ernie Tung and Ricky Hsu. Their rainwater harvesting project is a real and live project that has raised the pupils' awareness of the use of water around the School, especially in the laundry service. They have been working together with two professional engineers to form a plan to utilise rainwater for the school laundry's washing machines. This project has given the students an insight into how engineers work and the problems that they have to overcome on a daily basis. Pupils' research has included analysing the School's water bills, and planning different ways of catching the rain that falls. And at the Celebration Event, a panel made up of experienced engineers decided that the Ratcliffe College project was the best. The students managed to beat many other schools to the award; the scheme is a nationwide project with many schools participating.

Mr Chorley,  
Physics Teacher.



*The students with their project display*



*Proud winners with their award for best overall project*

## **School Notices and General Information**

### **Reminder from the Medical Department**

As many of you will be only too aware, there is a nasty sickness and diarrhoea bug going around school at the moment. To help prevent the spread of infection, if your son/daughter does fall ill, please keep them off school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and can tolerate a full diet and fluids.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

### **End of Term Departure Arrangements, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

<b>Nursery School pupils depart:</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>
<b>Junior Department pupils depart:</b>	<b>3.30pm (Year 1), 4.00pm (Years 2-6)</b>
<b>Senior School students depart:</b>	<b>4.20pm (bell at 4.10pm; students return to Tutor bases to be dismissed)</b>
<b>School Buses depart:</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>

### **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Change of date**

There has been a change to the date of the Silver Award Practice expedition. This will now take place on the weekend of **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of June**. A more detailed letter from Mr Ward will follow shortly. We apologise for any inconvenience this change of date may cause.

## **Sixth Form End of Year Ball**

The final event of this academic year will be the Sixth Form Ball, to be held in an impressive marquee close to the Sports Hall on the evening of Exhibition Day (Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July). Planning is well-advanced for this formal, 'black-tie' event; the jazz band, magicians and a disco have all been booked, and the students have voted for an extensive hot buffet menu entitled "Cuisine from around the World".

For the first time this year, parents are invited to purchase tickets and join the students and members of staff at this event which marks the end of a school career for each student in Year 13. Through the "Ratcliffe Grapevine" we understand that some parents might have delayed requesting tickets in case they were the only ones there. Please be assured that we already have 35 parents due to attend and that there is room for plenty more! To order your tickets at £35 each, please send a cheque, payable to Ratcliffe College, to Miss G. Adams in the School Administration office.

## **Sport**

### **Senior Sport**

#### *Boys' Sports*

#### *Hockey*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> team earned a well deserved three all draw against Denstone. Strong defensive play set up fast counter attacks and some well worked goals, two from Mat Rees and one from Michael Rayns. James Dearson was 'Player of the Match'.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> team created many scoring chances from some excellent attacking play as they ran out 4-0 winners against Denstone. Goals were from Adam Brandish and a hat trick from Josh Taylor.*

*The U15s played well below their usual high standard and struggled to adapt to a fast pitch. Daniel Lewis was 'Player of the Match' for his hard work. The team lost 1-0.*

*The U14 team performed poorly in the first half against Denstone and, despite a better second half, were outplayed in their 7-1 loss.*

*The U13s performed well in their hockey match against a weak Humphrey Perkins team winning 9-0, with Cameron Gilchrist and Ben Shaw scoring hat tricks. Unfortunately, they got off to a slow start against Loughborough and, despite a good second half fight back, saw them create a number of goal scoring opportunities in their 3-0 loss. Rory Thorne worked hard at the back, and 'Man of the Match', Eddie Waller, made some excellent saves. In their best performance of the season, they lost an excellent game 5-4 against a strong Denstone side. Good play at the back by Rory Thorne and Matteo Fugulin allowed 'Man of the Match, Nathaniel*

*Higton, to work well in midfield, resulting in a number of well taken goals, including two excellent efforts by Ben Shaw.*

*The U12s lost 7-1 despite Max Wheeler making several excellent saves, and 'Player of the Match', Niall McWhir gave a committed performance throughout the whole game.*

### **Rugby**

*The U14 rugby team enjoyed a 37-5 semi final win against Lutterworth in the County Cup Plate competition.*

### **Football**

*The senior football team earned a well deserved three all draw in their match against QE. Goals scorers were Calum Houston (2) and Jackie Wong (1).*

*By Benjamin Palmer,  
Boys' Sports Captain.*

### **Girls' Sports**

#### **Netball**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> team had an easy 32-2 win against Melton Netball club. The match gave us the opportunity to work on our tactical play which resulted in some flowing passes down the court, as a result of brilliant interceptions from Hannah Tyler and Hazel Dearson. 'Player of the Match' was India Kirkpatrick for her excellent shooting statistics.*

*Against Loughborough, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team made too many basic errors in their 16-11 loss, but the U16 team faired much better, winning 22-7.*

*A combined 2<sup>nd</sup>/U16 team played a very calm, controlled match against Melton Mowbray Netball club. It took the first half for the team to gel together but they pulled away to win 24-12. Edda Coulthard was 'Player of the Match'.*

*The U15 team were taught a lesson by a strong, well drilled Loughborough side. Credit goes to the team for their dogged, determined play, but it was not enough. The final score was 11-27.*

*The U13 A team enjoyed a very comfortable win against Samworth Academy. Despite numerous switches of playing positions, they kept their standard high, winning 35-0, with Katy Westwood scoring many of the goals.*

*The U13 B team also beat Samworth, winning 15-3, playing a controlled game against very weak opposition.*

## *Hockey*

*In the U12 county hockey tournament, the team won all but one of their group matches. In the semi final, they beat Loughborough's B team 1-0. In the final, they played Loughborough's A team who were still full of speed and skill, winning 4-0. An excellent performance from the whole team.*

*By Katy Campbell,  
Girls' Sports Captain.*

## **Junior Sport**

### **Mini Squash Festival, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

Five pupils from the Junior Department (Isobel Knight, Megan Vincent, Richard Ward, Billy Kaul, and Harry Stokes) went to a Mini Squash Festival at Humphrey Perkins High School. It was a great opportunity for the children to be able to try out a different sport. They performed very well and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall out of eleven schools taking part. Our children were impeccably behaved and a credit to the School. Thank you to Mrs Taylor for inviting us once again to take part.

### **Inter School Cross Country Event**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Ratcliffe College Junior Department played host to an inter school cross country event for seven schools. Over one hundred children took part in the event and it was a great opportunity for our cross country runners, who have been training hard all winter, to have an opportunity to race against others. The event was a great success and all of the children did very well. Mollie Page (Year 4) and Katie Winston (Year 6) did particularly well in their races and achieved silver medals. I would also like to add a huge thank you to Sam Stabler (Year 13), Elliot Hart and Tom Rigby (Year 12) who acted as hares for the event, and to a number of my Year 6 children who also helped at the event. Well done to all of the runners for taking part.

Mrs Rigby,  
Head of Junior Department.

### **Girls' U11 Hockey Tournament**

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, the girls' U11 hockey team played in a County Hockey Tournament at St Margaret's in Leicester. We knew that if we played our best hockey, we were in with a chance of doing well.

Our first game was against Fairfield and unfortunately we didn't really get going. As a result we lost to them.

We had to win our next two games to stand a chance of doing well in the tournament. Our next game was against Leicester Grammar. With a much more determined approach and some super play, Ratcliffe managed to score an early goal and hold onto the lead, making the final score 1-0.

Our next game was against Brooke Priory. This was probably our best match with Ratcliffe demonstrating a tremendous amount of effort and skill. Unfortunately, it was not to be. With Brooke's keeper and sweeper having an outstanding game, between them, they managed to save all of Ratcliffe's shots and sweep them away! Before we knew it, Ratcliffe were suddenly 1-0 down; even though they had most of the attack, they could not score!

Disappointment all round, but Ratcliffe should not be too down. They have made a tremendous amount of progress this season and I am sure that they will do well in the future.

Mrs Curran,  
Year 5 Class Teacher.

### Sporting Fixtures

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Home/Away (H/A)</b>
<b>Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>County hockey tournament</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>U13 Boys hockey</b>	<b>A (St Margaret's)</b>
	<b>County hockey tournament</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>U13 Girls hockey</b>	<b>A (St Margaret's)</b>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>King Edward VII Birmingham</b>	<b>2.45pm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> XI Boys hockey</b>	<b>A</b>
	<b>King Edward VII Birmingham</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI Boys hockey</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>King Edward VII Birmingham</b>	<b>2.45pm</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> XI Boys hockey</b>	<b>H Mountsorrel</b>
	<b>Stoneygate College</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>U11 Rugby</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Loughborough HS</b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>U14 Netball</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>P.T.O.</b>				

<b>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Loughborough GS</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>U14 Boys hockey</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>Loughborough GS</b>	<b>4.40pm</b>	<b>U15 Boys hockey</b>	<b>H</b>

*From Fr President*

**For Justice - a Blessing**

Lord,  
bless all those who are  
deprived of basic justice  
and who are trapped.

Give them the light of hope  
and help us to be attentive to them.

Release in us the flow of attentive love  
for all in need  
and for the beauty of your Word.

Bless us with the justice which  
you alone can give.  
Amen.

***AMDG***