



19<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to you all from everyone here at Ratcliffe College, after what I hope has been a lovely Easter break for you and your family.

I am taking the unusual step of sending you this week's E-Newsletter at the start of the week, rather than on Friday, and reverting – for this occasion – to e-mail prior to posting the letter on the School Website. The reason for this is the disruption caused by the restrictions on flights into the UK owing to the continued volcanic eruption in Iceland.

A significant number of our boarders are unable to fly back into the UK; some Hong Kong students may not be able to return to Ratcliffe College until as late as mid-May. This may affect not only their on-going work but also important preparation for external public examinations. We shall therefore be:

- contacting the Examination Boards to alert them to the names of the relevant students, if necessary;
- posting onto the School Website (within the Parents' Portal) specific work to be undertaken by students, with instructions regarding the return of completed work for marking, where appropriate;
- where a member of staff wishes to set work for just a very small number of students, they may contact you direct by e-mail.

A small number of staff are also stranded abroad, but they are making plans to return at the earliest opportunity, and staff cover is fully in place for all students of all ages.

You may be interested to read the minutes from the recent Parents' Association meeting, and minutes will be posted on the website following each meeting in the future.

May I encourage all parents of students in Years 7 – 13 to visit the Parents' Portal within our website, to view a proposal from Miss Schlotfeldt. She is currently undertaking an MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology, for which she must complete a dissertation. This requires a survey regarding children's life styles, their eating and exercise habits, and self-image; it is hoped that this survey will inform both Ratcliffe College and other schools on how best to support our children. Please read the information sheet and, if you are then interested in participating, print off a consent form, complete it, and send it to Miss Schlotfeldt. Thank you for your support.

I would like to draw your attention to a letter and poster about a Charity Night in aid of the HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage; details appear on the website. Also on the website, you will find details about a Family Fun Run.

May I wish you a very happy and healthy week and Summer Term ahead, and thank you for your continued support of Ratcliffe College. There is much work to do this term, especially for those with GCSE, AS and A2 examinations, yet there are also many opportunities to enjoy the wider life that Ratcliffe has to offer you and your children, from sport, music and drama to Parents' Evenings and Forum Discussions, and of course Exhibition Day at the very end of term. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to these occasions.

With all good wishes,

Gareth Lloyd,  
Headmaster.

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

Following the unprecedented closure of large areas of European airspace due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland, it is very unlikely that the Ratcliffe students and staff will be able to fly back to the UK on their scheduled flight from Madrid to Luton on Tuesday afternoon. We have managed to secure coach transport for the group from Salamanca to Calais. The group will depart Salamanca at 1200 hours on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April as per their original schedule. It is estimated that they will arrive in Calais at 0800 hours on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Currently, we have been unable to pre-book ferry tickets for the group (we will continue to try and do so), and the group will catch the first available ferry back to Dover. The School will arrange transport to collect the group from Dover and bring them back to Ratcliffe.

Any further updates to the group's travel details will be published on the website. If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Mr Reddin on 07850 709 887.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience.

**Jon Reddin**  
**Second Deputy Head**

### **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 July). Planning is well-advanced for this formal, 'black-tie' event; the jazz band, magicians and 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.

## **Student News**

Congratulations to ...

Josh Taylor (Year 12): won the U19 squash competition at the Abbeydale Junior Open in Sheffield on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> April.

Will Higham (Year 11): qualified as a football referee in 2008, and this season, he was selected to be part of the Leicestershire and Rutland County FA Referees’ School of Excellence. Will is the youngest referee taking part by some stretch (the rest being adults!) and, as part of this, he has been refereeing Leicester City FC academy games on a regular basis, against the likes of Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest, Birmingham City, Sheffield Wednesday, etc. His latest achievement is that he was recently one of only a few officials selected to referee a prestigious (in the football world!) County Cup final (the U15 Girls’ final between Measham and Barwell) at Holmes Park, the Leics and Rutland FA headquarters, which he successfully on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Shona Traynor (Year 10): has passed her Grade 4 Clarinet examination.

Jenna Culpin (Year 7) has passed her Grade 1 Piano examination with merit.

***AMDG***