

30<sup>th</sup> April 2010



Dear Parents,

Many parents have said to me that they especially liked to receive the weekly E-Newsletter by e-mail as an attachment, hence this return to that format. We shall, of course, continue to publish the letter on the School Website as well.

May I thank all of you who sponsored me running last Sunday's London Marathon, and for the many good wishes you and your children sent me. It all went very well, despite difficult conditions in the second half. I flew the first half (1h 33mins) and actually picked up speed in the second, thinking a sub-3h might be on the cards. However, I saw one of the elite athletes go down with heat exhaustion (at about mile 14 humidity rose to 98%!) followed by another 7 or 8 top athletes crashing out – the air was very difficult to breathe. So for once I followed the good advice of my wife ('Don't do anything silly!') and opted to be sensible rather than heroic, bringing the pace back down and actually enjoying it all so much more, coming in at 3h 26m – the first runner in for my charity, without any blisters, just tired and very hungry! It was good to be back out with the running club for an 8-mile run on Wednesday afternoon in glorious weather. If you missed the earlier opportunity to donate to the *Brain and Spine Foundation*, please visit my account on the JustGiving website: [www.justgiving.com/Gareth-Lloyd](http://www.justgiving.com/Gareth-Lloyd).

Several parents and staff have talked informally with me about the possibility of running the London Marathon next year, and so the Senior Leadership Team and I are proposing that **Team Ratcliffe** – comprising of parents, staff and Old Ratcliffians, including any students currently in Year 13 – run to raise money to create a bursarial fund to support our fantastic Year 12 students who volunteer each year to help disabled children to attend the **HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes**. At this stage, all you need to do if you are interested is to let me know – I shall co-ordinate training, for beginners and experienced runners – and **most importantly, register through the ballot system on-line next Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 9.00am. Be warned: if you leave it for more than two hours, you will not get a place!** Go to <http://www.virginlondonmarathon.com/> right click and open the hyperlink.

We have had a super start to the term, commencing with two beautiful Masses respectively for the Senior School and for the Junior Department and Nursery School. Sporting success followed on the weekend, especially in cricket, and you can read more of this later in the letter. Late returns to School for many boarders and some staff owing to flight disruptions have largely settled down, and we are well and truly into the public examination season – where your good support is greatly appreciated, of course.

On Thursday evening, it was an absolute pleasure to attend my first Ratcliffe College Sports Presentation Awards ceremony, with our guest, Paul Anderson of Nottingham Forest (and older brother of Carrick, Year 7) kindly presenting the awards to the students. A full list of recipients is attached with this letter, and also on the School Website.

May I wish you and your family a very good Bank Holiday weekend. On returning to School on Tuesday, Mrs Clayfield will be Acting Headteacher as I shall be attending the three-day Boarding Schools' Association conference.

Gareth Lloyd,  
Headmaster.

## **School Notices and General Information**

### **House Square Races**

**Next Tuesday**, we will be holding the annual "Square Races" for Years 7 to 13. A total of 96 runners will compete in these relay races around the outside of the main school building, and parents are welcome to join the many students and members of staff who will be spectating and supporting the runners. The races will be run between 4.40 and 5.20 pm. If your son/daughter is a member of their House Square Race team, could you please remind him/her to bring PE kit to school on Tuesday (the first day back after the bank holiday weekend). Thank you.

### **GCSE Year 11 Drama Group**

Please see the School Website for a poster about the forthcoming plays: *Arbeit Macht Frei*, *Animal Farm* and *Lord of the Flies*. The dates for the plays are Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> (5.00pm – with buffet) and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Senior School Reception.

### **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**

### **Senior School**

Congratulations to ...

the following students on being awarded Super Shields, Merit Shields and Merit Badges:

Edward Grundy, Harriet Wheeler, Year 9 (Merit Shields); Helen Baird, Mir Patel, Emma Rayns, Connor Reid, Harriet Wheeler (Merit Badges); Sophie Foston, Year 8 (Super Shield); Jack Archer, Matthew Chen, Alice Daniel, Liberty Jackson, Rosie Jones, Niamh Philpott, Niken Shah, Eric Tuttey, Year 7 (Merit Badges).

the following students on passing AB Music Examinations:

David Astill, Year 8, Grade 1 Clarinet  
Niamh Philpott, Year 7, Grade 2 Flute  
Francesca Beresford, Year 8, Grade 3 Flute  
Victoria Moreton-Straw, Year 7, Grade 3 Alto Saxophone  
Caitlin Sheehy, Year 11, Grade 4 Violin  
Nicola Williams, Year 10, Grade 4 Oboe with distinction  
Opale Fugulin, Year 10, Grade 5 Violin with Merit  
Sally Croysdale, Year 8, Grade 6 Clarinet with Merit  
William Rigby, Year 9, Grade 7 Flute.

In recognition of the outstanding contribution that Rob Herrick, Year 13, has made to the CCF, Air Commodore Stewart, Commandant Air Cadets, awarded Rob with a Certificate of Outstanding Service. This was presented at Headmaster's Assembly on Monday.

Josh Taylor, Year 11, completed and passed his Level 2 Squash Coaching Course this weekend. So we now have a fully Licensed Level 2 England Squash and Racketball Coach in School. He will be doing his Racketball Coaching Certificate in May.

Emily-Rose Faulks, Year 10, has recently passed her Royal Academy of Dance Grade 6 ballet examination and she has also passed her Grade 3 piano.

Sam Nightingale, Year 7 (centre of photograph), represented Leicestershire at U13 again this weekend in the final Midlands County classification matches. The team played really well and won. They are now the U13 Midlands County Champions.



## **United Kingdom Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2010**

In this year's challenge, there were over 181,000 entries from over 3,000 schools. Ratcliffe achieved the following results:

### ***24 Bronze***

#### **Year 9**

Katherine Carter, Ricky Hsu, Benjamin Trudgill

#### **Year 10**

Amy Burle, Dipesh Chauhan, Ella Delargy, Patrick Joy, Edward Rayns, William Watts

#### **Year 11**

Joseph Adcock, Joseph Brown, Samuel Coulton, Charlotte Dickinson, William Higham, Nathan Lee, Hayley Marvin, Arjun Nayar, Felicity Norris, Joseph Shaw, Caitlin Sheehy, Tom Smith, James Thirtle, James Waymont, Jacky Wong

### ***15 Silver***

#### **Year 9**

Matthew Nutter, William Rigby

#### **Year 10**

Adam Donegani, Arai Kwok, Ken Li, Ryan Patel, Katherine Threadgold, Kyle Turakhia, Monica Zhang

### **Year 11**

Jacob Dealey-Tucker, Hazel Dearson, Othello Fugulin, Tom Parslow, Sam Porter, Liam Griffin

### **8 Gold**

### **Year 11**

John Baird, Stefan Gackowski, George Herrick, India Kirkpatrick, Stanley Leung, Ruth Hall, Joseph Smith, Sachin Turakhia

### **Best in School Certificate is awarded to:**

John Baird, George Herrick, Sachin Turakhia

Three qualifiers for the Pink Kangaroo, John Baird, George Herrick, Sachin Turakhia

On the weekend of 23rd-25th April, eight CCF army cadets took part in the Welbeck leadership exercise. The cadets undertook fourteen challenging activities to build their leadership and teamwork skills. These ranged from problem solving exercises, physical challenges, with a bit of army style physical training (PT) thrown in for good measure. The teams best events were on the first aid challenge, and the communications where they achieved near full marks. The cadets, seven from Year 10 and one from Year 9, made a good impression on the exercise staff and their Welbeck hosts. The team was:

George Cooper  
Matthew Howard  
Amrik Soar  
Kiran Soar  
George Rumming  
Sam Bellamy  
Andrew Curnick

### **Junior Department**

Congratulations to the following pupils on being awarded Certificates and Merit Badges:

### **22<sup>nd</sup> April**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE</b>
<b>YEAR 3</b>	
Joseph Summer	2 <sup>nd</sup> certificate
<b>YEAR 4</b>	
Olivia Carpenter	Shield
Matthew Lindley	Shield
Nicole Spencer	Merit badge

<b>YEAR 6</b>	
Harry Antill	Merit badge
Rishi Ghelani	merit badge
Katie Winston	2 <sup>nd</sup> certificate
Tilly Wheeler	2 <sup>nd</sup> certificate

**Year 2 Merit badges 25 March 2010**

Mimi Khan  
Owen Lloyd  
Tom Page  
Freddie Thomas-Atkinson  
Daisy Watson

**29th April**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CERTIFICATE</b>
<b>YEAR 1</b>	
Ben Ashford	2 <sup>nd</sup> certificate
Roman Carpenter	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Matilda Cregeen	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Abbie Hancock	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Jasmin Jarvis	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Wilson Lee	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Amy Mason	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Louis Westwood	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>YEAR 3</b>	
Ellie Hollinshead	Merit badge
James Howling	merit badge
<b>YEAR 4</b>	
India Beresford	Merit shield
Joseph Chapman	Merit badge
Bradley Smith	Merit badge
Millie Smith	Merit shield
Evie Wood	Merit badge
<b>YEAR 5</b>	
Ellie Bysouth-Kemp	Merit badge
Abigale Mayne	merit badge
Joe Smith	merit badge
Charlotte Warburton	merit badge
<b>YEAR 6</b>	
Charles Evenden	merit badge
Olivia Latham	merit badge

Congratulations to Olivia Latham, Year 6, on passing her Grade 1 Alto Saxophone examination, and to Elena Frankland, Year 6, on passing her Grade 1 Clarinet examination.

## **Sports Reports**

### **Boys' Sports**

#### **Cricket**

*An excellent opening set of fixtures against Mount St Mary's resulted in wins from all the teams.*

*Mount's 1<sup>st</sup> team put Ratcliffe into bat 212 for 4, and an unbeaten 160 not out for Mike Phillips, a school 1<sup>st</sup> team record, suggested that Mount had made the wrong decision. Ratcliffe then bowled superbly with all three debutants picking up wickets, including 3 for Joe Hesketh and 3 for opening bowler, Fred Notman. The other debutant, Ed Stiven, took the final wicket as Ratcliffe completed a fine victory.*

*The U15 team had a convincing win against a weak Mount side. Charlie Dolan, Tom Allen and, in particular, Rishi Soni, who scored 64 not out, all batted well to achieve a team total of 168 for 1. A great opening bowling stint by Kyle Turakhia, who took 4 wickets and Charlie Graham who took a hat trick, led to Mount being bowled out for 70. 'Men of the Match' were Kyle and Rishi.*

*The U13s made a successful start to the season, despatching Mount for 41 and scoring the required runs for the loss of only one wicket. In a good team performance, all of the bowlers contributed, with Rory Thorne taking 3 wickets in his first over. Tom Pawley and Omar Khan each scored 14 not out in Ratcliffe's reply.*

*The U14s had a convincing 74 run victory. Batting first and scoring 183 for 3, with 'Man of the Match', Tom Roalfe 62 not out, and 46 from Oliver James, gave confidence to the bowlers. Tight bowling restricted Mount with Harry Baum performing well.*

*In the U12 game, Ratcliffe scored 88 for 7, and good fielding secured a win by 10 runs.*

*By Benjamin Palmer,  
Boys' Sports Captain*

### **Girls' Sports**

#### **Tennis**

*Despite some passages of good play from all of the Ratcliffe girls, we weren't consistent enough under pressure and allowed Wrekin to dominate at 1<sup>st</sup> team level. Our 2nd team fared much better and were unlucky to lose the match 4 sets to 5, with Lorna Rowley, Laura Yell, Holly Allison and Charlotte Dickinson sharing the honours for the best performance.*

*Both the U15s and U14s drew with Wrekin 2 sets all. The 1st couples both won both of their matches, but the leap to team tennis was a big step, and they rallied well but struggled to find the winning shots.*

*By Katy Campbell, Girls' Sports Captain*

*Ratcliffe College Equestrian team consists of Lauren Bates, Charlotte Huband, Francesca Beresford, Katie Cooil, Eleanor Bournes, Hattie Lechki and Carrick Anderson. They meet once a month for team practice and compete at school events and none school events. At Princethorpe, they got through to the finals. Charlotte came 12<sup>th</sup> out of 150. A big thank you must go to the parents who fund the training and give up their time to take the students to the different competitions.*

*On the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, the team competed again at Princethorpe where Harriet Lechki finished 6th in the combined training on the Saturday and 4th in the show jumping on the Sunday. Sadly, the team weren't placed but were very pleased with the results. Charlotte Huband was unlucky not to be placed with a fast double clear.*

*By Mrs Hadley.*

### **Sporting Fixtures**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Home/Away (H/A)</b>
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Denstone	2.15pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Girls tennis	A
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Kings Grantham	2.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Cricket	A
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Nottingham HS	2.30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cricket	H
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Derby GS	2.30pm	U11 Cricket	A
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Leicester HS	4.40pm	U13 & U12 Rounders	
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	King Henry VIII Coventry	11.00am	1 <sup>st</sup> , U14 & U12	H
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	King Henry VIII Coventry	11.00am	2 <sup>nd</sup> , U15 & U13	A
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Denstone	2.00pm	U15 & U14 Girls Tennis	A
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Denstone	2.00pm	U13, U13B & U12 Rounders	A

## **Springtime Jesus**

You, Springtime Jesus,  
just as I'd settled down for winter,  
you broke into my heart  
and danced your love right across it  
in a mad excess of giving.  
Just as I'd got comfortable  
with bare branches and unfeeling,  
just as my world was neatly black and white, there you were,  
kicking up flowers  
all over the place.  
Springtime Jesus,  
I tried to find a way to tell you  
that there were places  
where you could or could not dance.  
I wanted to guide you on my paths  
and have you sign the visitors' book;  
but you laughed right through my words  
and sang to me your melting song,  
causing sap to fire the branches,  
causing the flames of buds  
to flicker into green bonfires,  
causing a windquake of blossom,  
causing burstings, searings, breakings,  
causing growth-pain,  
causing life.

Springtime Jesus,  
the fullness of life can be frightening  
and I'm lacking in courage.  
It isn't easy to live with a heart  
that's wide open to invasion.  
Teach me, Jesus, how to move with you,  
step for step, in your love dance.  
Touch my fears with your melting song.  
Gift me with your laughter,  
and, in the mystery of your Springtime,  
show me the truth of the blossoming Cross.

Joy Cowley.

*AMDG*

*Please turn over*

*Please see the attached LOROS flyer, sent with this Newsletter,  
about 'The Twilight Walk' on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010.*

Dear Parents,

### Party for the Princesses

Ratcliffe has very kindly allowed us to use the marquee on the afternoon of Sunday May 9th, after your Picnic Concert, to raise money for the orphanage that our daughter, Alice Pulford (Old Ratcliffian), founded in Malawi. Alice has booked her flight out there again on 13th May and will be working out there until the 29th August. Every single penny we are able to raise will go directly to the girls now living in the orphanage and towards its further development. I still have about 80 tickets to sell. Ideally, the tables are in 6 or 12, but we can obviously be flexible. There are already some parents and children coming from Ratcliffe, but if we could completely sell out, with your help, that would be amazing.

The website, [www.lovetilinanu.org.uk](http://www.lovetilinanu.org.uk) has been updated and now includes a video if you get the opportunity to have a look and see the project. Our poster also appears on Ratcliffe's website.

To book tickets, please contact Yvonne/Nina Pulford on 0116 2301166/07740 724491 or by e mail to: [latimerdesign@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:latimerdesign@hotmail.co.uk). Please make cheques payable to "Tilinanu Orphange"; the address to send them to is: Latimer Design, 21 Woodgate, Rothley, Leicester, LE7 7LL.

Alice is collecting bras, flip-flops, wellington boots, children's underwear, backpacks suitable for school books, old sports clothes/clothes and any old computers that could be utilised out there. She will take them out with her in May. If any parents are having a clear-out, anything that they think would be suitable would be gratefully received and put to good use.

Thank you so much for your support.

Kind regards,  
Yvonne Pulford.