



Dear Parents,

May I wish you and your families a very happy and restful half-term. For our examination candidates in Years 11 – 13, your support of their time management in organising some daily revision will be much appreciated. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff and our students for their excellent work and commitment, both in and out of the classroom, during this first half of term. Much industry has been in evidence, regardless of the Inspection, and I am delighted to inform you that the Inspection Team assessed Ratcliffe College in glowing terms. They noted the outstanding sense of community that exists throughout the entire School and which impacts upon every aspect of teaching and learning. The full report will become available to read in due course. My thanks and congratulations go to all of my colleagues, to our students and, of course, to you the parents for your continued support and encouragement.

You will shortly receive through the post various letters of information, including one from me in which I ask you for your opinions on some key features to Ratcliffe College. Your responses will certainly assist us in deciding on a number of areas.

I shall now share with you something of a personal nature as the Headmaster of Ratcliffe College. I do so because I suspect it will resonate with many of you as parents. We live in a society where change is so rapid and is now such a constant feature of everyday living, that very often it is immensely difficult as both parents and educators to know how best to teach values to our children and students without sounding 'old fashioned', out of touch with young people's lives, or preaching. To achieve balance between values which we hold dear, and to which we hope our own children may espouse; to be true to our Christian heritage; to be true to being respectful human beings, living a life of altruism whilst also being realistic to the fact that the real world requires basic (and some more luxurious) needs to be met; these are genuinely very challenging tasks. And so I thought you might like to read the text from this week's Headmaster's Assembly, where I was assisted by our Head Boy, Tom Hazell, and Head Girl, Sophie Yell, as we launched our Haiti Appeal:

*"We find ourselves in the final week of this first half of term and yes, it is a week that will largely be dominated by the School Inspection; and I wish each and everyone, my colleagues and our students, all the very best in our efforts to show the Inspectors what a fine school we are.*

*Yet at the same time, school inspection should not allow us to get distracted from enjoying life in its deepest sense, a life that is only fully realised when we consider the love others have for us, and the love we have for others.*

*Next week, while we are enjoying half-term, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday will be celebrated throughout the world, and both remind us of the love that God has for each and every one of us, and both remind us of the capacity that we each have to show love to others.*

*Shrove Tuesday is a term commonly known in English-speaking countries, and is generally known as Mardi Gras through much of the world. Shrove Tuesday is associated with the Christian tradition of marking the day preceding Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Christian season of fasting and prayer called Lent.*

*The word shrove is the past tense of the English verb shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by repenting, saying sorry, for the wrong we have done and doing penance, or an act of kindness, to make up for that wrong. It is really about recommitting ourselves to showing love and respect, to oneself as well as to others, and is thus very closely related to our School Motto, Love is the Fulfillment of the Law.*

*The popular celebratory aspect of the day had developed long before the Protestant Reformation, and was associated with releasing high spirits and having fun before the somber season of Lent. In the United Kingdom and many other countries, the day is often known simply as Pancake Day, as we ourselves shall celebrate on Wednesday with the Inter-House Pancake Races in the Square. Making and eating such foods was considered a last feast with ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs, whose consumption was traditionally restricted during the ritual fasting associated with Lent.*

*Lent, then, commences a week Wednesday, during half-term. Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the priest applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance. But what are the history and the meaning of this Christian holy day?*

*One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in a book, *The Lives of Saints*, written in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Anglo-Saxon Abbot Aelfric. In it, he writes:*

*“We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.”*

*Aelfric then proceeds to tell the tale of a man who refused to go to church for the ashes and was accidentally killed several days later in a boar hunt – so be careful not to forget to observe Ash Wednesday properly!*

*Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in Scripture and is not commanded by God. Christians are free to either observe or not observe it. It should also be obvious that the imposition of ashes, like similar external practices, is meaningless, even hypocritical, unless there is a corresponding inner repentance and change of behaviour, a recommitment to love, living out the message of our School Motto. This is made clear in Isaiah 58:5-7 when God says:*

*“Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this*

*the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”*

*So with this in mind, I would now like to invite our Head Boy, Tom Hazell, and Head Girl, Sophie Yell, to address the School about how we can live the Lenten message of putting others' needs ahead of our own in a meaningful way, to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.*

**Tom:** *Nearly 4 weeks ago today, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010, at 4:53pm local time, an earthquake struck the Caribbean island of Haiti, measuring 7 mega-watts in magnitude. It is confirmed that over 170,000 people have lost their lives, and with bodies still being discovered, an estimated total of 200,000 deaths is by no means an exaggeration. As well as the enormous death-toll, there are now an estimated 1.2 million people homeless. These people need our help. Although there are rescue efforts already in place, there needs to be a continuation of donations so money is available to help get Haiti back on its feet. That is where we come in.*

**Sophie:** *Although it would be easy for us to ignore what has happened, as we still have water coming out the taps, and plenty of food to eat, the fact is that as a school, it would be wrong to sit back and do nothing. The senior prefects have had a think, and come up with some ideas, which we shall tell you about now.*

**Tom:**

- *The first week back after half term, Years 7-11 will have chance to attend what we've called 'Mid-morning breakfast with the Sixth Form' .*
- *The Sixth Form café will be open for you to try out some Sixth Form luxuries! There will be no Sixth Formers in the café, except the servers, so your Year Group will have it exclusively to yourselves.*
- *At just £2 per person, each Year group will have a separate day to come into the café. Upon entry you will be entitled to a pain-au-chocolat and a drink of your choice, as well as access to the Sixth Form's pool tables and our tuck shop, which does sell fizzy drinks, crisps and chocolate!*
- *Most importantly, the costs for the food and drink will be covered by the Sixth Form social fund, so therefore 100% of your £2 donation will go straight to the Haiti.*
- *Oh and not to forget, you get a 10-minute extended break time!*

**Sophie:**

*And then we shall have the Haiti Appeal **House Competitions!** The Sixth Formers are also leading another event to raise money for the Haiti appeal. Over the course of four days, a few Sixth Formers from each house have a designated day each to come up with and carry out schemes to raise money around the School. As it is a house competition there will be house points available for the house that manages to raise the most money. You will be given more information on this in your house assemblies this week. Thank you.”*

I am sure that you will help your sons and daughters to support our Haiti Appeal in this meaningful, relevant and fun way. Thank you for your continued support of Ratcliffe College.

**Gareth P. Lloyd,  
Headmaster.**

***French Thought for the Week, presented by Joseph Adcock and Angus Maxwell  
(Year 11) at Headmaster's Assembly***

*Do you have the "joie de vivre"? Don't worry. It's not an illness. Joie de vivre is a French expression that we use in English. It literally means "pleasure of living". If you describe someone as having "joie de vivre", it means that they have a zest for living or cheerful enjoyment of life. We hope all of you have the "joie de vivre".*

### **Senior School Notices**

The collection taken at the end of the Spring Concert on Tuesday raised **£531.82** for the Kwediboma Education Centre for orphans. Well done to all performers, and thank you to all those who donated so generously.

#### **Request from the Food Technology Department**

There are a number of GCSE, AS and A2 pieces of coursework from last year in the Food Technology Department. I need to make space for this year's coursework. If you would like your coursework or are in contact with students who have left, please let them know too. Please collect your folder by the Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you.

Mrs Burton,  
Head of Food Technology.

### **Senior School News**

Farewell to our departing German students: **Florian Pering, Kitty Schoeller and Rebecca Wolk**, and also to **Carolyn Moeller** who left at the end of January. We wish them every happiness and success for the future.

Following a recent review of Year 12 students, the following students have been appointed Monitors:

**Graham Borrajo, Ellie March, Alex Rankine, Kitty Schoeller and Rebecca Wolk.**

Well done to the students who received their badges and ties during Headmaster's Assembly.

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Merit Shields, Merit Badges and Certificates of Commendation (Excellent Slips):

Merit Shields: **Georgia Chilton, Bethan Lawrence, Martha Lewis, Edith Pearce** (Year 8).

Merit Badges: **Helen Croysdale, Alice Gilbert, Alexander Hazell, Bethany Simpson** (Year 9); **Phoebe Merriman, Katy Westwood** (Year 8); **Chloe Flowers, Emma Furlong, Caitlin McMillan, William Smith** (Year 7).

Certificates of Commendation (Excellence Slips): **Helen Beresford, James Mason, Emily Taylor** (Year 13); **Kate Castell, Nakkieren Lawrence, Tom Rigby** (Year 12); **Felicity Norris, Rebecca Pawley, Caitlin Sheehy** (Year 11); **Georgina Rea, Emma Redding, Nicola Williams** (Year 10).

We were delighted to congratulate the following students, during Headmaster's Assembly, on having their pieces of art displayed in the Parlour and the Headmaster's office:

Venue	Name of Student	Year	Piece of art work
Head's office	<b>Lucy Clark</b>	13	Poppy
Head's office	<b>Lottie Fenton</b>	13	2 Aboriginal pieces in encaustic wax
Parlour	<b>Jack Theobald</b>	12	2 pieces: Screen Print of Venetian Masks
Parlour	<b>Susie Pollard</b>	produced in Year 11	Birds Screen Print
Head's office Parlour	<b>Caitlin Sheehy</b>	11	1: Venice; 2: City Scape Beach Huts textile hanging
Parlour	<b>Abbi Hau</b>	10 produced in Year 9	1: Monet (Water Lilies) 2: Painting to Music
Head's office	<b>Keyan Patel</b>	10	Faith Competition poster
Head's office Parlour	<b>Nicola Williams</b>	10 produced in Year 9	Painting to Music Painting to Music

## Junior Department News

Congratulations to the following pupils on being awarded Certificates of Merit:  
 1<sup>st</sup> Certificate: **Finlay butler, Megan Gray, Sam Kaul, Isobel Knight, Max Parker** (Year 6); 2<sup>nd</sup> Certificate: **Charles Evenden, Rishi Ghelani, Rasee Lawrence, Mia Mordecai-Smith, Olivia Perchard** (Year 6); **Joseph Chapman, Niamh Noble, Evie Wood** (Year 4); **Ellie Hollinshead** (Year 3); Merit Badge: **Olivia Carpenter** (Year 4).

Congratulations also to **Jonah Carroll** (Year 3) who was awarded 'Man of the Match' last weekend for his local football team.

### **Year 6 French Breakfast**

All three Year 6 classes enjoyed a delicious French breakfast in the refectory, as part of their French lessons. They have been learning how to talk about their daily routines and how to say what they have had to eat and drink for breakfast. They experienced how to drink hot chocolate out of a bowl and what it was like to dunk in their pain au chocolat! It was great fun and a fantastic way to end this half term's unit of work.



*What a wonderful start to the day!*

### **Years 3 & 4 Visit to the Hindu Mandir in Leicester**

Years 3 and 4 visited the Hindu Mandir in Leicester last Friday. They attended an aarti ceremony with members of the public worshipping. The children were allowed to have a close look at the various deities in the shrines. They all had a go at ringing the bell and were allowed a bindi (red dot), if they wished, on their foreheads. The lively guide was very pleased with the variety of questions which the children asked. The children were impeccably well-behaved, and were told they would be welcomed back in the future.

**Thank you to Mrs Higton** (mother of Eleanor, Year 6 and Nathaniel, Year 8) who came in to talk to Year 3 last week about her wallpaper designs as part of their art lesson. The children thoroughly enjoyed all that she had to tell them and show them.

## **Sports Reports**

### **Senior School**

#### **Boys' Sport**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> XI have had a disappointing week, losing 3 – 1 to Nottingham High School on Wednesday and 1 – 0 to Kimbolton. Most frustratingly, both of these games could easily have been wins with silly mistakes, lapses in discipline and a lack in clinical finishing costing us dear.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI by contrast enjoyed two good wins beating Nottingham 2 – 1 and Kimbolton 4 – 1.*

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI can count themselves unfortunate to have lost 2 – 1 on Wednesday. Whilst Alex Rankine made several good saves, Ratcliffe certainly had the balance of play, but a late penalty corner settled the game in favour of Nottingham High.*

*The U15s produced another superb display. This time, they did find the final pass into the D, resulting in an 8 – 1 demolition of a perfectly good Kimbolton team.*

*The U14s started strongly going 2 nil up inside 10 minutes. However, a complete lack of composure in the second-half meant they were under almost constant pressure. What could not be questioned was their lack of effort, which helped them cling on at the end for a 2 – 1 victory.*

*The U13s drew a very exciting game against Kimbolton, two all. A well taken goal by Cameron Gilchrist and some excellent saves by Eddie Waller saw them in the lead, but Kimbolton snatched the equalising goal in the last 2 minutes. 'Players of the Match' were Eddie Waller and Harry Bysouth Kemp.*

*Goals from Jack Watson and Sebastian Dewhurst led to a 2 – 1 victory for the U12s against Kimbolton. Captain, and 'Player of the Match', George Griffith, controlled the game for the Ratcliffe team.*

*By Benjamin Palmer,  
Boys' Sports Captain.*

## **Girls' Sport**

*An impressive 9 Netball teams were played at the weekend against Denstone.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> team had a tough game and despite some excellent play in parts, too many unforced errors cost them the game, 11 – 13. However, excellent centre court play from Alice Foulds and Holly Houghton earned them 'Players of the Match'.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> team had a pleasing 13 – 9 win. Improved teamwork in the second-half enabled them to pull away in the final quarter with tight defending from 'Players of the Match', Katie Gerightly and Hazel Dearson.*

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> team lost 6 – 25 after a slow start and a fast frenetic game ensued, full of unforced errors. 'Players of the Match' were Georgina and Sarah Kerridge.*

*An excellent high scoring win, 37 – 5 by the U15 team was tribute to their calm, collected, tactical play. Tight defensive play from captain, Amy Burle and Ella Delargy, meant that Denstone had few shooting opportunities. 'Players of the Match' were Amy Burle, and shooters, Rose Borrajo and Laura Keay.*

*The U14 team were outplayed by Denstone who took command from the start. Despite excellent defending from Ellie Thomas and some good movement in the circle from shooter, Erin Hughes, the game was out of reach.*

*The combined U15/U14 team had a very close, nail biting game. Careless passing at key points of the match cost them the game, narrowly losing 15 – 16. 'Player of the Match' was Katherine Carter.*

*The U13 'A' team never quite got themselves into top gear, with a 10 – 7 loss. Olivia Dexter was 'Player of the Match'.*

*The U13 'B' team had a very successful win where shooter, Annabel Tomlinson, found her rhythm, resulting in the final score, 11 – 5. 'Players of the Match' were Annabel and Sophie Riley.*

*The Under 12 side was defeated 7 – 11, despite a spirited second-half come-back, led by Emma Furlong, and 'Player of the Match', Rosie Jones.*

*By Katy Campbell,  
Girls' Sports Captain.*

## Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)
Tues 23rd	Girls' Hockey league finals	3.45pm	U13	A: St Margaret's
Wed 24th	Grosvenor: Netball	4.00pm	U11 B & C	A
	King Henry VIII: Hockey	2pm	1 <sup>st</sup>	H
	Gateway: Football	3.15pm	2 <sup>nd</sup>	H
	Loughborough GS: Hockey	2.30pm		H
		4.45pm	U15	A
Thurs 25th	Nottingham HS	4.30pm	U14	A
Sat 27th	Wellingborough: Netball	10.30am	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	H
	Wellingborough	10.30am	U15, U14 & Combined U15/U14 V11s	A
	Wisbech GS: Hockey	11.30am	U14	A
		12.30pm	U12	H
		1.30pm	U15	A
		1.30pm	U13	H
		2.45pm	1 <sup>st</sup>	H
			2 <sup>nd</sup>	H

## Prayer for the Week

### Mardi Gras Prayer

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for it is from your goodness that we have this day  
to celebrate on the threshold of the Season of Lent.**

**Next Wednesday we will fast and abstain from meat.  
Today we feast.  
We thank you for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us.  
We thank you especially for one another.  
As we give you thanks,  
we are mindful of those who have so much less than we do.  
As we share these wonderful gifts together,  
we commit ourselves to greater generosity toward those  
who need our support.**

**Prepare us for next week.  
Tasting the fullness of what we have today,  
let us experience some hunger tomorrow.  
May our fasting make us more alert  
and may it heighten our consciousness  
so that we might be ready to hear your Word  
and respond to your call.**

**As our feasting fills us with gratitude  
so may our fasting and abstinence hollow out in us  
a place for deeper desires  
and an attentiveness to hear the cry of the poor.  
May our self-denial turn our hearts to you  
and give us a new freedom for  
generous service to others.**

**We ask you these graces  
with our hearts full of delight  
and stirring with readiness for the journey ahead.  
We ask them with confidence  
in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

Fr Tobin,  
Fr President.

## ***A M D G***

**To all Junior Department students who took part in the  
2010 Spring Fair Poster competition.**

Thank you to all the Junior Department children who entered the Spring Fair Poster competition. Once again, the children have produced some beautiful designs with imaginative drawings bursting with colour.

As always it was very difficult to make a decision, but we all agreed on the Winning Poster which was designed by:

**Megan Vincent (Year 6B)**

We decided that this year we would also choose one runner-up from each Year group. They are as follows:

Year 1: **Abbie Hancock**

Year 2: **Aimee Cleminson**

Year 3: **Sharmel Yapa**

Year 4: **Louis Massarella**

Year 5: **Joe Smith**

Year 6: **Rasee Lawrence**

Congratulations and well done.

All the remaining drawings will be used to decorate the halls on the day of the Spring Fair, and will be entered into a Spot Prize Game where there could be a hidden prize behind one of the posters. So good luck in finding a winner!

Once again, congratulations, and a big thank you from the Spring Fair Committee. We hope you have fun on the day!

**Spring Fair Sub Committee 2010**