



8<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your excellent support of recent events, from last Thursday's Year 9 Parents' Evening (the presentation of which is now on the Parents' Portal) and the wonderful performances by our Senior Choir at last Friday's Menphys Carol Concert at De Montfort Hall; to the weekend's successful sports fixtures (with a superb clean sweep for the rugby teams!) and the really fantastic performances of the Year 10 Drama productions of "Beauty and the Beast" and "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations". What a privilege it is, within the frenetic business of the day, to witness such God-given talent in so many areas and across all age groups. Congratulations go to all students and staff involved.

Our penultimate week of term has certainly proven to be busy, with the annual Prefects' Trip to enjoy ten-pin bowling, a very well contested House Swimming Gala, and successful participation in the Futurechef competition. This morning saw a splendid celebration at our Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and now all the Senior School students may look forward with great relish to their respective 'Immacs' next week.

I had the dubious pleasure of a long weekend in Russia, east of the Ural Mountains, recruiting Boarders at Educational Fairs. Whilst the families I met were delightful, I saw nothing of Russia, as the work was undertaken inside and away from the minus 32 degrees. Travel between the conference centres took place at night, with the result that I had very little sleep. I was more than pleased to return to the beauty, not to mention the warmth, of Ratcliffe College!

Year 11 students have recently completed their Morrisby Careers Interviews, in light of which we are now strongly encouraging them to arrange Work Experience. Rather than using term time for this, we recommend the first week of the summer holidays, after GCSE examinations are completed. A letter from Mr Taylor (Head of Year 12 and Work Experience Co-ordinator) was recently given to each Year 11 student, and this is printed under Parent Notices for your information. Please note that your replies are due in by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

As we look to the final week of term, may I draw your attention to the following key events:

1. A full set of fixtures, home and away, on Saturday;
2. Our Annual Community Carol Service at 6.00pm here in the Chapel on Sunday, including ALL YEARS 7 AND 8, followed by seasonal refreshments;
3. Senior School celebratory feasts next Monday (Years 7 – 9), Tuesday (Years 10 & 11) and Wednesday (Sixth Form);
4. Years 3 – 6 Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm in the Chapel on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December;
5. "Singing for Fun" Concert in aid of Multiple Sclerosis at 7.30pm in the Chapel on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December;

6. Parents' Association Christmas Ball, 7.30pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December;
7. Ratcliffe College Family Vigil Mass, Christmas Eve: Carols at 6.00pm, Mass at 6.30pm, Refreshments from 7.30pm.

May I wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and blessed week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

*Gareth Lloyd,*

Headmaster.

## Parent Notices

Dear Parents,

### End of Christmas Term Arrangements

In order to enhance the safety of students at the end of term and to facilitate a safer and more effective flow of traffic through the school campus, we are again this year making a slight change of timing to the forthcoming end of term arrangements. In recent years we have operated a staggered end to the school day for the various sections of the school, which has worked well. We believe safety was further enhanced last year when we ended the school day slightly earlier on the last day of this particular term, so that the departure arrangements largely operated before it got dark.

The following arrangements will therefore operate on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:

Nursery School and Year 1	School will end at <b>3.00pm</b> . There will be no after school care, so all Nursery and Year 1 children must be collected at 3.00pm.
Junior Department (Years 2-6)	School will end at <b>3.15pm</b> .
Senior School	School will end at <b>3.50pm</b> ; buses leave at <b>4.00pm</b> .

We appreciate that there are parents who have children in different parts of the school. Arrangements will be made to look after any children who need to wait for older siblings who are in the Senior School. These children will be supervised until the appropriate time in the Newman Hall in the Junior Department, from where they should be collected.

**The parking area outside the front of the main school building will continue to be reserved for parents of boarders only.** This area is the nearest to the boarding houses and this arrangement helps those parents who have to pack their cars with their child's belongings, which can often be substantial!

We will, of course, continue to monitor these arrangements carefully, but these particular end of term times will only operate in the autumn term, because this is the only term when it is dark at the end of the school day.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

**Jon Reddin**

Second Deputy Head.

Dear Parents

### **Year 11 Work Experience Placements**

As the mock examinations for Year 11 have now been completed, our thoughts are focussing on the value to Year 11 students of arranging and participating in a suitable **work experience placement**, during the first week of the summer holiday, after all GCSE Examinations have been completed (**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012**). In seeking an appropriate work placement, students should realise that work experience can help them to develop the skills and knowledge needed for adult working life. Furthermore, a suitable placement will help with planning and managing their career thoughts and also inform them about, and give them a direct insight into, their chosen organisation. Finally, evidence of work experience can offer a distinct advantage when applying to competitive courses at university, or when applying for jobs in the open market. Work experience is voluntary and not compulsory - though we hope that as many of our Year 11 students as possible will participate in our programme and take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

In light of their recent Morriby Reports, we hope that your son/daughter will have discussed their career thoughts with you. Students will soon need to consider carefully their choices for post-16 education (AS and A2 subjects) and discuss their plans with appropriate members of staff. Consideration of relevant work experience placements should also be a part of this planning process, enabling students to sample the world of work. Under current legislation for students who are not on school premises, the Health and Safety (Young Persons) Regulations impose a statutory obligation upon employers, who offer work experience placements, to undertake a comprehensive risk assessment before any such placement commences. This should take into account the age, limited experience and capability of the young person involved. Ratcliffe College now uses the WEXA organisation (Work Experience Alliance) to find suitable placements for Year 11 students, as well as carrying out all the relevant Health and Safety checks. The cost for this is £52, with no hidden extras. For self-placements in the Leicestershire area, WEXA will complete all Health and Safety checks for £45, though many parents do these themselves as the procedure is very straightforward. These costs would be added to your school bill.

If you would like your son/daughter to consider participating in work experience during the specified week, **please complete and return the attached reply slip by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**. I will then give an application form to your son/daughter. Students may discuss their proposed placement with me and/or their Form Tutor as appropriate, but **completed application forms must be returned to form tutors by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

We sometimes find that parents (especially those from a self-employed or professional/business background) can themselves offer a placement to suitable students and, should this be so, please also indicate this below. We would be required to pass your particulars onto WEXA in this case.

Please be aware that WEXA **will not be able to arrange placements** in any of the following as a choice:

**Media          Dance          Theatre/Drama          RAF          Police**

If a student wants a placement in any of these areas they will need to find a Self Placement (WEXA would then still be able to carry out Health and Safety checks if required).

We also appreciate that some students might be unable to do their Work Experience in the specified week due to other commitments. Unfortunately, WEXA can only offer us this particular week. However, many students in recent years have completed their own Work Experience at other times during the summer vacation (usually through family or friend contacts) and these placements can be just as useful and valid as the ones organised through WEXA.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

***Mr N Taylor***

(Work Experience Co-ordinator)

Please return to Mr M Sleath, Work Experience Co-ordinator, via your son/daughter.  
**Replies must be returned by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

I would like my son/daughter to participate in a Work Experience programme (organised via WEXA) to be held during the week Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Name of student: .....

Parental Signature: .....

Date: .....

My son/daughter will be unable to participate in the WEXA Work Experience programme during the week Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, but we are hoping to arrange Work Experience ourselves at some other time during the summer vacation.

Name of student: .....

Parental Signature: .....

Date: .....

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**I would, myself (or Company), be prepared to offer a work placement for a  
Year 11 student during this proposed period.**

Name/Nature of Organisation:

Type of work experience activity available:

**NEWSLETTER CONTINUED OVERLEAF**

## Senior School News

### Congratulations to our Senior School students:

The Christmas Card competition this year attracted a large number of entries from right across the School. There were some wonderful cards, and students had clearly spent a great deal of thought and effort designing and completing them. As always, with a competition such as this, coming to a decision on a winner within each category was not easy; there were a great many worthy entries to choose from and many of those have received a commendation. The three judges – Father Tobin, Mr Berry and Miss Wright – agreed on the winning cards as follows:

In the Year 12 and 13 category:

Winner Rebecca Taylor  
Commended Rebecca Pawley  
Hayley Marvin  
Simon Gray

For Years 10 & 11:

Winner Sophie Riley  
Commended Elinor Thomas, Jess Gray, Olivia Lau and Sophie Foston

For Years 7 to 9:

Winner Finbarr Lloyd  
Commended Alex Patecki, Isobelle Walkett, Beatrice Waters, Christina Taylor, Olivia Walkett, Nicole McBallantine, James Ainscough, Lydia Satchell, Tilly Wheeler, Annabel Wright, Yasmin Gill, Olivia Gilchrist, Olivia Perchard, Isobel Thomas, Emily Marsh, Ben McMillan, Anya Stokes, Kim Cheetham, Zoe Duffin, Greta McKean and Jody Foxall

For Year 6 (Junior School):

Winner Paul Hayes  
Commended Joe Chapman and Luke Chilton

David Astill, Year 10, was presented with his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Certificate and badge.

Annabelle Tomlinson, Year 10, has been attending Stagecoach for the last 2 years and has had a part in each of their plays over that time. This time, she played the part of Baron Smug in Jack and the Beanstalk. She is working with two different groups and had to pull in three performances last Saturday, as well as performances last Monday and Tuesday evening.

### Futurechef Stage 2

In September, Stage 1 of the Futurechef competition took place. The following contestants were awarded certificates and badges:

Sasha Farzin-Nia, contestant  
Beatrice Waters, runner up  
Lottie Warburton, winner

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at Loughborough College, Stage 2 of the Futurechef competition took place. The challenge was to prepare 2 courses consisting of a main meal and a dessert for 2 people within a budget of £6. This was to be prepared in 90 minutes.



Lottie Warburton was the contestant from Ratcliffe College and was the youngest in the competition. She made fish pie that she was told by the chefs showed fabulous flavours and great finishing techniques followed by a beautifully presented chilled lemon flan. Lottie took everything in her stride and worked with enthusiasm and skill. Lottie was not the winner on this occasion but she was told she has a lot of potential. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lottie and her parents for all the hard work and effort over the last few months on the approach to this competition. Very well done!



Mrs Burton  
Head of Food Technology

## Junior School News

**Congratulations to our Junior School pupils!**

Certificates of Merit were awarded at Junior Assembly to:

<b>YEAR 3</b>	
Chloe Gordon	1st certificate
<b>YEAR 5</b>	
Dominic Baggott	1st certificate
Layla Bott	1st certificate
Harry Culpin	1st certificate
Joseph Evenden	1st certificate
Connor Fernandes	1st certificate
Sofia Henderson	1st certificate

<b>YEAR 5</b>	
Thomas Holt	1st certificate
Kit Jackson	1st certificate
Darcey McKean	1st certificate
Tom Neuberg	1st certificate
Kapil Soni	1st certificate
Joseph Taylor	1st certificate
<b>YEAR 6</b>	
Eleanor Brambell	1st certificate

Imogen Ferrier, Year 3, has received a 20 metre and a Level 2a swimming badge.  
Owen Lloyd, Year 4, has received a trophy for becoming the Judo champion at his club.

Amy Baxter, Year 6, has received a medal for taking part in the Lutterworth Rotary Santa Fun Run.

## Sports

### Senior School

#### Rugby

##### 1<sup>st</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV played some excellent rugby to beat Lincoln Minster 27-6. An early Ratcliffe try by James Head calmed the nerves and two more good tries by the excellent Matt Howard extended the lead by half-time. It was good to see our backs dominating and good play by Walter Yell and Man of the Match, Ross McWhir, led to two more tries, including a great individual effort by Tom Roalfe.

##### U15s

The U15s ran out convincing winners after producing a dominant display in both the forwards and backs. Rucking was excellent and created quick-ball, enabling a large number of the team, including Morgan Newby, Omar Khan and Danny Hsu to score tries. Captain Rory Thorne was at the fore with his rucking and tackling, therefore winning the Man of the Match award.

##### U14s

The U14s won a tight game 31-24. Some impressive off-loading by the forwards saw some nicely worked tries. Sam Tyler scored twice, whilst Charlie Pickering scored his first try of season. Declan McAuley looked a threat all game, scoring a try in the first-half. Billy Savoury was the other Ratcliffe try scorer. Man of the Match was Sam Tyler.

## **U12s**

The U12s took on a mixed U13/U12 Lincoln Minster team. In a high scoring match, Ratcliffe outscored Lincoln 6 tries to 5 with Ganesh Thapa always a threat with the ball. Men of Match, Matthew Ward and John Sommerville, both scored tries and battled hard throughout the match. The final score was close but Ratcliffe were victorious 34-31.

Simon Gray

**Boys' Sports Captain**

## **Hockey**

### **1<sup>st</sup>**

A penalty flick 2 minutes from full-time by Player of the Match, Eli Thomas, secured Ratcliffe 1<sup>st</sup> XI a hard fought 2-1 win. Although King's High enjoyed most of the possession, Ratcliffe always looked the more dangerous in front of goal. Excellent defending restricted the King's forwards and when they did create opportunities, Charlie Dickinson was on fine form in goal. Special mention must be made of Rebecca Pawley and Hayley Marvin, both of whom played despite struggling with injuries.

### **2<sup>nd</sup>**

After a slow start, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI found themselves 3-1 down at half-time with Chloe Theobald finishing a well worked penalty corner. Despite an improvement in the second-half where Ratcliffe dominated play, excellent goalkeeping and last ditch defending kept us at bay. Players of the Match were Hattie Lechki and Moyo Mosaku

## **U15s**

The U15s lost to King's High although the score didn't reflect how well the girls had played. At half-time, Ratcliffe were only 2 down and still in the game. The second-half was evenly poised and the Ratcliffe defence was marshalled excellently by Player of the Match and Captain, Martha Lewis. Two unfortunate injuries in the space of 5 minutes meant Ratcliffe had to play the last 15 minutes with only 10 players; as tiredness set in, Ratcliffe conceded further goals which meant the score line was not a true reflection of the game.

## **U14s**

The U14s lost against a well organised King's High who caught the home team off-guard with a couple of early attacks. Despite going 3-0 down in the first-half, Ratcliffe kept fighting for goals the whole game and broke through King's defence on numerous occasions, but, unfortunately, couldn't find a way past their goalkeeper. Players of the Match were Emma Milner for her strength against a determined King's defence and also Molly Brooks for an excellent performance in goal.

## **U13s**

The U13 girls had a tough match as they only had 10 players in their team. They had a slightly shaky start and by half-time were 2 goals down; however, this could have been more had it not been for Katie Winston's determination in defence and Imogen Power in goal. In the second-half the

girls really fought back and much more of the play was in our attacking end but the final score was 4-0. Player of the Match goes to Katie Winston but all the girls deserve recognition for their effort.

### **U12 A**

The U12A team played well against King's High, but unfortunately lost 4-1. There was some great counter attacking play by Olivia Back and Isobel Thomas to set up Ratcliffe's goal which was scored by Isobel Thomas. Strong defensive play kept Ratcliffe in the game for long periods; however, two very quick goals by King's High resulted in an underserved loss. Player of the Match was Callista Tsatsa for some great midfield play.

### **U12 B**

The U12B team lost to a much more experienced King's High team; however, the girls worked hard throughout the game. Player of the Match was Lottie Warburton.

Rebecca Pawley  
**Girls' Sports Captain**

### **Running**

Last Sunday, students from the Senior Games running group (accompanied by Mr Dziemianko and Mr Robson) took part in the Edwinstowe Christmas 10k Trail Race. Everyone had a good race, with all the students managing to finish the race within their target times; the staff were impressed with the students' level of effort.

Times (minutes):

Arjun Nayar	52.08
Samuel Colton:	53.10
Thomas Park:	53.30
William Rigby:	54.14
John Baird:	55.00
Will Hunt:	59.50
David McKenna:	60.44
Daniel Delargy:	63.00

### **Junior School**

Ratcliffe U11 football team produced a much improved performance against a strong Foremarke Hall team; there was a tremendous amount of effort from all the boys, closing people down and chasing every loose ball. Although Ratcliffe failed to score on this occasion, and the final result was a win to Foremarke Hall, all of the boys can be proud of their efforts. Man of the Match went to Matthew Lindley, for the second time in a week; this time for some tremendous tackles and clearances.

Some confident passing from Ratcliffe and Foremarke in the U10A fixture made for a very interesting game, and the Ratcliffe defenders, including some good goal keeping, kept the opposition at bay. Man of the Match went to Will Westwood who scored a well-deserved hat trick.

In a very physical game, Foremarke Hall scored early on within the match, and this set the trend for the game in the U10B fixture on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Despite improving their performance, and trying very hard in the second half, the boys were unable to score a goal themselves and the fixture finished with a win to Foremarke.

The U9s, bored of winning in rugby, showed their diversity in the sporting world by beating Formarke Hall 5 goals to 2. The opponents had a fantastic centre back but 2 goals each from Finley Back and Connor Foster, and an expertly finished header from Tom Page, proved too strong. Special mention must go to Man of the Match, Owen Lloyd, who was a rock at the back and never stopped running. The boys have been fantastic all term and a credit to the School. Can any school stop these young superstars?

### **Leicestershire Cross Country League Race, December 2011**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 17 children from the Junior School took part in the final race of the Leicestershire Cross Country League. Once again, many of the children improved on their personal best performances and we were delighted that our Year 6 Girls' Team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. A special mention must go to Annie Rose Reddin (Year 3), Owen Lloyd (Year 4), Rebecca Lindley (Year 4), Lucy Antill (Year 4), Connor Foster (Year 4), Cleo Loizzo (Year 4), James Howling (Year 5) and Molly Edwards (Year 6) who all finished in the top 50 in their race.

Congratulations to all of the runners who took part and a big thank you to all of the parents who have supported us during the league races.

Mrs C Rigby  
Head of Junior School



On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Mark Richardson (a 4 x 400m relay Silver medallist in the Atlanta Olympic Games, 1996) visited the Junior School and gave an inspirational talk about achieving goals and ambitions. Mark told the children all about his own story and journey, which he made, in order to reach his amazing achievements. The children were buzzing with excitement as they got to touch a real Silver Olympic medal, and the Junior School children are counting the days down until the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



The Junior School have a number of activities planned, in the coming months, to celebrate this historical sporting event.

Mrs Gilchrist  
Year 6 Class Teacher

### Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)	Meet Time
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Lancaster Boys	10.15 am	U12 Rugby	H	9.15 AM
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Derby G.S.	10.30 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Rugby	H	9.30 AM
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Welbeck	1.30 pm 2.45 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Girls Hockey 2 <sup>nd</sup> Girls Hockey	A A	12.15 PM 1.15 PM
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Oakham	2.00 pm	U15 B Girls Hockey	H	1.00 PM
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	King Henry VIII	10.30 am 11.30 am	U15 A Girls Hockey U14 Girls Hockey	H H	9.30 AM 10.45 AM
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Oakham	1.30 pm 3.00 pm	U 13 B Girls Hockey U13 A Girls Hockey	A H	11.45 AM 2.00 PM
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Hastings	2.45 pm	U14 Rugby – County Cup	H	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth College	2.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Rugby – County Cup	H	

### A Reflection

O Key of David,  
O Royal Power of Israel  
Controlling at your will the gate of heaven:  
Come, break down the prison walls of death  
for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;  
and lead your captive people into freedom

### Advent Prayer to be Freed from Sin and Death

God our Father,  
you loved the world so much  
you gave your only Son to free us  
from the ancient power of sin and death.

Help us who wait for his coming  
and lead us to true liberty.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

*Liturgy of the Hours, Fridays in Advent*

**O** Radiant Dawn,  
Splendour of eternal light,  
Sun of justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death

**Fr President**