



26th January 2012

Dear Parents,

Firstly, two 'Stop Press' notices:

The Ratcliffe College boarding community will be celebrating a *Family Mass for Education* at a special time, **5.30pm, on Saturday 4th February**. All families and friends are warmly invited to attend. Boarders will be providing lively music for the service, as we celebrate the service of the Church to society through education. Please note that the Mass has previously been advertised for Sunday 5th February. The 10.30am Mass will still take place, but without the boarding community.

Secondly, a Year 12 (male) student would very much like to gain *work experience in the legal arena, ideally with a solicitor and/or barrister*. Please contact Mrs Govan (cgovan@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk / 01509 817006) if you are able to assist, with my grateful thanks.

Thank you for the tremendous support which you gave last weekend to the excellent sporting commitments. The opening of our *new indoor cricket nets* was a huge success, with the ribbon being cut by former England players, Mr Matthew Hoggard (Captain of Leicestershire CC, and Ratcliffe College parent) and Mr Chris Read (Captain of Nottinghamshire CC), who bowled and batted with our own students. It was very good to have by Mr Peter Wright, Managing Director of Gunn and Moore, join us, too; many of our students were able to purchase excellent equipment at discounted prices, in preparation for the forthcoming cricket season.

This event was followed on Saturday morning by the *Junior Schools' Cross-Country Championships*, when we hosted over 400 children, and where Ratcliffe College recorded good successes. My sincere thanks go to our Director of Sport, Mr Gilchrist, who organised both events superbly well, with much assistance from Staff and the Parents' Association. Of course, we had the usual fixtures on top of all of this, as well as mid-week fixtures in the rugby County Cup tournament, and again we recorded some excellent wins, as you can read later in this E-Newsletter and next week's letter.

We have nearly completed the *external public examination sessions for Years 10 – 13*, after which many will start to refine their examination techniques in tackling past papers through the course of this term. If you have any concerns about any aspect of examination preparation in any subject, do please contact your child's teacher or Head of Department, and we shall be only too happy to address the concern.

This week also saw the convening of the *Governors' Sub-Committees*, which considered in detail matters pertaining to teaching and learning, pastoral care, boarding, sport and the extra-curricular activities programme. I would like to thank our Governors for their unstinting support of the School.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a visit from *The High Sheriff of Leicestershire*, Mr Resham Singh Sandhu, who looked splendid in his full uniform.



The High Sheriff of Leicestershire with our Nursery children.

That same day, Major Balmbra accompanied several of our students to *RAF Cranwell*, where they enjoyed flying lessons – something that our younger students may aspire to do should they join the CCF in future years.

Last week, Year 10 launched our *Olympic Legacy* at the Chaplain's Assembly, focussing on the virtue of equality; the students made a terrific impression on everyone present. This morning, *Year 4*, under Mr Turner's guidance, performed a truly inspirational Junior Assembly on the subject of friendship, a simple but profound message that is at the core of our School community. We are extremely privileged to share insights with such imaginative, intelligent and thoughtful young people.

On Saturday morning we shall host a large number of prospective students who will be sitting the *12+, 13+ and 14+ Entrance Examinations*, in addition to running the usual list of sports fixtures.

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

Yours sincerely,

Gareth P. Lloyd,

Headmaster.

**5th Anniversary of the opening of the Rosmini Sixth Form Centre SFC
(Thursday 26th Jan 2012)**

Thursday 26th January marks the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Rosmini Sixth Form Centre. The following notes are based on a presentation given by Head of Sixth Form, Mr Graham Sharpe, in a recent Senior School assembly

- Summer 2005 The old “Sixth Form Union” building closes.
This was a large, temporary building which was eventually demolished in 45 minutes by one man in a bulldozer. As many Old Ratcliffians might agree, it was perhaps surprising that it took him so long!
- 2005-06 The new building was constructed - with an excellent view from the top floor of the Science Block.
Temporary Sixth Form facilities were provided for the Sixth Form: a Study Centre – on the top floor of the old Church building, a locker room and shop – in the same area, close to the rose window, Year 13 work rooms – on the short corridor downstairs from the Study Centre.
Sixth Form Socials were held in the Ratcliffian Association Bar, overlooking the sports Hall, and in the locker / shop area.
- Fri 26th Jan 2007 First student visit to the Rosmini Sixth Form Centre (SFC).
- Mon 29th Jan 2007 SFC opens for routine use.
- Sun 10th Jun 2007 SFC official opening by Bishop John Arnold (OR).

The Centre was not really ready by January – but the Year 13s at the time had shown great patience and character in putting up with the temporary arrangements since the start of Year 12, and we wanted to give them as much time as possible in the new Centre.

So how have things changed in the Sixth Form Centre ‘5 years on’? To quote Mr Sharpe:
“Well, it is no longer a novelty – students now in Year 13 were just finishing Year 6 when the old Union building was demolished, and they were in Year 8 when the Centre first opened. There are over twice as many books in the library than 5 years ago, and more displays on the walls. We get lots of visitors to Ratcliffe – mainly parents who are trying to decide whether this is the best school for their children. When I tell them that the Centre has been open for 5 years, they always comment on what good condition it is in – and that the students clearly value the facility. In reply, I tell them that we will keep working hard to ensure it stays that way, ready for when their children start Year 12.”

Parents' Notices

Drama Update

The performances on **2nd February at 5.00 and 7.30pm** will be selected pantomimes from the Year 9 students, in the pursuit of their study of Pantomime!

There is **no charge** for these performances and your presence is warmly welcomed, as well as the importance of joining in with the performers at every opportunity!

Mrs Caven-Henrys

Year 9, 10 and 11 Charity Disco

Thursday 9th February

7.30pm - 10pm



Year 9, 10 and 11 students are warmly invited to celebrate the end of the half term at the...

♥♥♥ **Valentine's Day Charity Disco** ♥♥♥

This has been organised by Year 11 students, to raise money for the charity the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA). Tickets for this event can be purchased from reception at a cost of £2. All proceeds will go to the charity.

WHAT WILL YOU BE ABLE TO ENJOY AT THE DISCO?



FOR JUST 50p, YOU CAN ENJOY A SELECTION OF GOOEY CHOCOLATE COVERED MARSHMALLOWS WITH A CHOICE OF 2 DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE FOUNTAINS. ONE WITH **MILK** CHOCOLATE AND ONE WITH **PINK** CHOCOLATE!



DJs PLAYING YOUR CHOICE OF MUSIC



PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE GROUP



REFRESHMENTS



WEARING AN ITEM OF **RED** OR **PINK** CLOTHING COULD WIN YOU SOME SWEETS IN OUR PRIZE DRAW!

Senior School News

Senior School Student Achievements

Headmaster's Assembly 23rd January 2012 Awards

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Merit Badge	Beatrice Waters		Chloe Anderson Christopher Curnick Myles Doran Milli Ellis Rosie Jones Sam Tyler Annabel Wright
Merit Shield			Matthew Harris Joseph Higham Caitlin McMillan Niall McWhir
Super Shield			Eve Marshall Ben McMillan Ololade Mosaku

Duke of Edinburgh Awards were presented to:

Silver

George Hutchison
Walter Yell

Bronze

Edward Waller

History Department

Winners of the Year 7 Castles Project

1. Zainab Hussain, Emery
2. Philip Gyesi-Appiah, Emery
3. Tom Wetton, Leetham

Highly commended

1. Joseph Smith, Arundel
2. Anya Stokes, Emery
3. Lara Gee, De Lisle
4. Max Jarvis, De Lisle
5. Niamh Delargy, Leetham

Winners of the Year 8 Tudor Houses project

Models

1. Rebecca Astill, Emery
2. Arun Stokes, Arundel
3. Josh MacQueen, Arundel

Highly commended

1. Olivia Gilchrist, Leetham
2. Holly Bown, Arundel
3. Tilly Wheeler, De Lisle

Plans

1. Megan Vincent, Emery
2. Nick Heywood, Leetham
3. Charlie Nicholson, De Lisle

Highly recommended

1. Kate Scarborough, De Lisle
2. Rasee Lawrence, Emery
3. Tom Unwind, Arundel
4. Harry Antill, Leetham

Senior School and Junior School LAMDA Achievements

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) Senior School & Junior School December 2011 Results		
	Entry Level Award in Communication (Entry 3) (QCF)	Entry Level Award in Performance (Entry 3) (QCF)
Name	Speaking Verse and Prose Entry	Acting Solo Entry
Olivia Carpenter	Distinction	
Hermione Lanyon	Distinction	
Luke Gyesi-Appiah		Distinction
Philip Gyesi-Appiah		Distinction
Max Jarvis		Merit
Finbarr Lloyd		Distinction
Mollie Page		Distinction
Aarin Popat		Distinction
Nicole Spencer		Distinction
Evelyn Wood		Distinction
Name	Level 1 Award in Performance (QCF) Acting Combined Grade 2	
Freya Beaumont	Distinction	
Eve Marshall	Distinction	
Name	Introductory Award at Preparatory Level	
Maya Brookes	Distinction	
Jasmin Jarvis	Merit	



Grand Opening of the Indoor Cricket Nets, 20th January 2012

Whilst the cricket season may seem a life-time away, cricket was very much at the forefront of discussion on Friday 20th January 2012, which saw the eagerly anticipated opening of the new indoor cricket nets. The four indoor nets are of the highest quality, and provide first-class facilities for all concerned, courtesy of an extremely generous donation from an anonymous parent.

It promised to be a very lively event, with England cricketers, Matthew Hoggard and Chris Read, cutting the ribbons to signify the official opening of the nets. As the current captains of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire CC respectively, their active participation in the event was hugely appreciated, batting and bowling against each other, as well as the students with passion, enthusiasm and healthy rivalry!

Both students and parents alike came out in force to witness the event. We were delighted to have the preeminent cricket manufacturing company, Gunn and Moore, with us and, in particular, their Managing Director, Mr Peter Wright, thus giving everyone the chance to try on and buy the latest top of the range equipment which the manufacturer has to offer.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, students were allowed to use the nets. This ranged from young cricketers from the Junior School to current players in the 1st XI having a bowl at Matthew Hoggard, himself a parent at Ratcliffe, who showed us his batting skills albeit without the presence of pads! He also took time to talk to the senior cricketers on an individual basis, getting to know them and their views on cricket both at Ratcliffe and beyond.

Headmaster, Mr Gareth Lloyd, commented that “there is no doubt that the addition of the new indoor nets, complemented by a complete refurbishment of the outdoor nets, will significantly enhance the development of cricket at Ratcliffe, especially with the launch of the Ratcliffe College Cricket Academy with Matthew Hoggard and guest coaches.” With many promising cricketers throughout the age groups, combined with the addition of the new nets, it is clear to see that cricket at Ratcliffe is going from strength to strength.

Rishi Soni, Year 12.



£201.20 for 2012!

Year 7 Olympic Cake Sale raises over £200 for the charity Lepra



Year 7 Olympic Committee members, Aaron Popat and Jack Nightingale, help sell cakes for Lepra



Ratcliffe Students gather to buy their cakes!

Year 7 students at Ratcliffe College who are members of the school's Olympic Committee, organised a cake sale with the proceeds going to LEpra, their nominated charity. Parents, students and staff baked hundreds of cakes, brownies, muffins and flapjacks, which went on sale at break time on Tuesday to the delight of the other students. Olympic Committee co-ordinator, Mrs Anne Taylor, was overwhelmed by the response not only in terms of the number and range of delicious cakes, but also by the number of students

who flocked to the stall during morning break. Year 7 students, Lara Addison and Jack Nightingale, even invaded the sanctuary of the staff room to sell their wares. The total raised surpassed their expectations and the dream of raising £201.20 was achieved. London 2012 here we come!



Junior School News

Certificates of Merit were awarded to:

YEAR 1	
Madeleine Dunstan	1st certificate
Aarav Kandiyil	1st certificate
Sophie Packwood	1st certificate
Ranai Popat	1st certificate
Charles Smith	1st certificate
Finlay Spencer	1st certificate
Jennifer Summer	1st certificate
Edward Zalesny	1st certificate
YEAR 3	
Louis Westwood	1st certificate
YEAR 4	
Lucy Antill	2nd certificate
Connor Foster	2nd certificate
Thomas Leite	2nd certificate
Rebecca Lindley	2nd certificate
Owen Lloyd	2nd certificate
Annabel Mills	2nd certificate
Frederick Thomas-Atkinson	2nd certificate
YEAR 6	
Alexander Purcell	2nd certificate
Amy Baxter	Merit badge

Rebecca Lindley, Year 4, has received three medals, a salver and two cups for various disciplines in swimming.

Owen Sommerville, Year 6, was recently awarded his Chief Scouts Silver Award.

Sport

Senior School

Boys' Hockey

1st

Ratcliffe made the long journey to Wrekin for their first game of the season after the weather forced the previous week's fixture to be cancelled. Ratcliffe were fast out of the blocks and dominated possession from the first whistle against a good Wrekin side. Ratcliffe were limited to only a few chances in the first 20 minutes; unfortunately they could not convert any of them. This did not affect Ratcliffe's focus and they maintained their organisation and discipline, culminating just before half-time with a well taken goal by Daniel Lewis who was quickest to react in the D and finish well from the top of the circle. At the start of the second-half, Wrekin pressed as hard as they could towards the Ratcliffe goal, but they remained firm and composed. With 20 minutes to go, Ratcliffe went on the attack again, showing their dominance by overpowering Wrekin and scoring 4 more goals with some lovely hockey. The goals came from a mixture of good, open passing and new penalty corner routines. Goal Scorers were Daniel Lewis with a superb hat-trick and Fred Notman with two. Captain, James Montgomery-Stuart, Joe Hesketh, Joe Gerighty and Bradley Parker all had excellent games. Player of the Match was Daniel Lewis.

2nd

The 2nd XI lost 2-1 to Wrekin with the final play of the game. Wrekin took the lead in the first half but Ratcliffe replied with a well-constructed goal by Ross McWhir and seemed in control of the game until the unexpected twist at the end.

U15s

The U15 'A' team carried the hopes of the year group as the 'B' fixture was called off. Despite playing below their best, and having to withstand some late pressure from Wrekin, a hard working performance saw Man of the Match, Jacob Bird, score the winning goal.

U14s

The U14s got off to a winning start to their season with a scrappy 1-0 win away at Wrekin, with a well taken goal by Sebastian Dewhirst the difference between the sides. Despite being the better players, the team played as individuals and made hard work of what should have been an easy win. There were excellent performances by Sam Nightingale and Man of the Match, Chris Curnick.

**Simon Gray,
Boys' Sports Captain.**

Netball

1st

Despite losing 34-26 to Welbeck, the 1st team should be pleased with their overall performance. Excellent shooting from Claudia Mills and Player of the Match, Sorcha Grant, was a result of good attacking play through the whole court. However, a loss of focus and unforced errors in the third-quarter enabled Welbeck to pull ahead, and although Ratcliffe won the final-quarter, the gap was too great.

2nd

The 2nd team's 16-4 win over Welbeck resulted from a scrappy game in quite windy conditions. Katherine Threadgold and Player of the Match, Gee Kerridge, took control in centre-court, denying Welbeck many attacking passages of play.

**Rebecca Pawley,
Girls' Sports Captain.**

Cross Country

Six students represented Ratcliffe College at the 5th and final cross country league race at Market Harborough last Saturday morning. Despite atrocious weather conditions, everyone finished their races. Congratulations to Emily Hollis who finished 4th in the Inter Girls' Race and 5th overall in the county for her age group. Congratulations also to Alice Daniel, who came 9th on Saturday to finish the season placed 11th overall in the county in the Junior Girls' category. Well done to our other placed runners, Damon Chan, Danny Hsu, Dick Wong and Will Rigby. Thanks also to Mr Cluley who braved the awful weather to cheer them on.

Junior School

On Saturday 21st January, Ratcliffe College hosted our annual cross country festival, with fourteen schools taking part. The event took place in very muddy, wet and cold conditions, but nobody minded, as a good time was had by all!

The first race was the fun run for boys and girls in Years 1 and 2; the supporters were amazed at the children's high spirits in such testing conditions, and the children from Ratcliffe College all ran very well.

The rest of the festival saw both boys and girls from Years 3 to 6 compete and earn points towards their team scores.

Ratcliffe had some very good results and won the boys' Year 5 and girls' Year 6 team awards.

Special individual mentions must go to:

Owen Lloyd (1st)
Joe Joe Evenden (2nd)
Louis Westwood (3rd)
Annie Rose Reddin (4th)
Nicole Spencer (4th)
Connor Foster (5th)

An enormous thank you must also go to the parents and staff of all of the children taking part, the runners, our ground staff and the Parents' Association for their team effort in making the festival another hugely successful and enjoyable occasion. A very special mention must be given to Mr Gilchrist for organising the event and to Mr Lloyd for being a fantastic hare.

Swimming Gala

On Monday 23rd January, swimmers from the junior squad teamed up with members of the senior squad to make a combined team for another gala against Stonegate School. The standard of swimming continued to be high and, in the closest meet to date between the two schools, there were some excellent performances from Ratcliffe swimmers. After a noisy and successful gala, the final points were Stonegate 119 points and Ratcliffe were the winners with 129 points.

Netball

Ratcliffe U11 'A' team played a very even match against Fairfield on 25th January. Ratcliffe stormed ahead confidently, catching Fairfield off-guard, and India Beresford scored an amazing first goal from the edge of the 'D'. The goals continued from both teams, but it was the Ratcliffe girls who moved the ball around the court with pace, skill, poise and more confidence. However, a final goal was scored by Fairfield and, on this occasion, it resulted in a 7-6 win to Fairfield. Player of the Match was voted for by the team and was awarded to Evie Wood for her strong defending.

In their first fixture of the season, against a strong Fairfield team, the Ratcliffe U11 'B' team performed well, continuing to improve their skills throughout the game. All the girls played extremely well, but were unable to take the win. Player of the Match, for her outstanding defending skills and versatility was awarded to Eleanor Bramble

Sports Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)	Meet Time
Fri 27 th Jan	County Tournament – Oakham	2.40 pm	U14 Boys Hockey	A	
Sat 28 th Jan	Wisbech	10.30 am 11.30 am 12.45 pm 2.00 pm	U13 Boys Hockey U13B Boys Hockey U15 Boys Hockey U15B Boys Hockey	A A A A	8.15 AM 8.15 AM 10.30 AM 12.00 PM
Sat 28 th Jan	Wisbech	10.30 am 11.30 am 12.45 pm 2.00 pm	U14 Boys Hockey U12 Boys Hockey 1 st Boys Hockey 2 nd Boys Hockey	H H H H	9.45 AM 10.45 AM 12.00 PM 1.15 PM
Sat 28 th Jan	Ockbrook	10.30 am	2 nd , U15, U13 & U12 Netball	H	9.45 AM
Sat 4 th Feb	Kimbolton	10.30 am 10.30 am 11.45 am 11.45 am 1.30 pm	U12 Boys Hockey U13B Boys Hockey U13 Boys Hockey U14 Boys Hockey 3 rd Boys Hockey	A A A A A	TBC TBC TBC TBC TBC
P.T.O.					

Sat 4th Jan	Kimbolton	10.30 am 11.45 am 1.30 pm 2.45 pm	U15 Boys Hockey U15B Boys Hockey 2nd Boys Hockey 1st Boys Hockey	H H H H	9.45 AM 11.00 AM 12.45 PM 2.00 PM
Sat 4th Feb	Denstone	2.00 pm	U13A, U13B, U12A, U12B Netball	A	TBC
Sat 4th Feb	Denstone	11.00 am 2.00 pm	1st Netball 2nd, 3rd & U15 Netball	H H	10.15 AM 1.15 PM
Sat 4th Feb	Denstone	2.00pm	U14A U14B/U15B Combined Netball	A	TBC

From Fr President

Unless we repent we cannot hear the good news.

Good News

Today we are in danger of being drowned in bad news.

Jesus began his ministry by announcing good news.

What was this good news?

That the kingdom of heaven had come.

The kingdom stands for the fulfilment of promises,

the fullness of God's blessings,

in short, the new order of things.

Forgiveness is available. Recovery is possible.

God's love is unconditional

and is available to us in Christ

All we have to do is recognise our need,

and seek his help with humility and sincerity.

A M D G