



3rd November 2011

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you all enjoyed a lovely half-term with your children. Students in Years 10 – 13 travelled to Koblenz on the annual German exchange, where they had a marvellous time in the care of host families, developing their linguistic skills and sampling local culture. I would like to thank Mrs Cushing and Mrs Caven-Henrys for accompanying the trip. Six students from Years 8 and 9, under the care of Mr and Mrs Taylor, are thoroughly enjoying themselves on the New Zealand exchange, and will no doubt return with many memorable stories.

Over half-term, I read some outstanding pieces of English work written by students from across the Senior School, all of whom were recognised at Headmaster's Assembly on Monday. The list of students appears later in this E-Newsletter, together with one remarkably impressive example by Philip Gyesi-Appiah in Year 7.

We celebrated All Saints' Day in the usual manner on Tuesday, with a beautiful Mass for all sections of the School. It was good to see so many parents at the Year 10 Parent / Teacher Meeting that evening; the details of the presentation may be accessed via the website under Parents' Portal.

There was a delightful Junior Assembly explaining the historical significance of Bonfire Night this morning, presented by Year 1 and Miss Phillipson, while Year 6 have enjoyed their first Geography field trip of the year today, Year 11 drama students have participated in an excellent workshop in the Theatre, and Years 12 and 13 students will shortly depart to attend a performance of 'Faustus' at the Warwick Arts Centre.

There are many sporting fixtures over the weekend, Mass of course will be at 10.30am on Sunday, and you are warmly invited to the Boarders' Fireworks Display on Saturday evening at 8.00pm (refreshments will be provided for our Boarders, so do bring along anything you may wish to eat/drink).

With colder weather forecast over the coming weeks, may I remind all parents that we shall place any notices that affect the School as a result of snow, on the School Website, with the reassurance that School will remain open under all but the most extreme of circumstances; thank you.

With all good wishes for the week ahead,

Yours sincerely,

Gareth P. Lloyd,

Headmaster.

NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEKS

14th-25th NOVEMBER 2011

As parents, one of our worst fears is that our children may be bullied (or perhaps that they may become a bully themselves!). Although incidents of bullying do not occur very often at Ratcliffe, it is vital that all students feel safe and free from harassment in the School environment. It is equally important that students, parents and staff feel secure in the knowledge that any report of an incident of bullying is treated with the utmost seriousness by the School. The Anti-Bullying Policy, alongside other School pastoral policies with regard to behavioural management and rewards and sanctions, assists in achieving the aims of the School's Mission Statement.

National Anti-Bullying weeks begin on Monday 14th November. As a School we shall be using the national theme, which this year is, **“Stop and think – words can hurt”**, to help us embed the anti-bullying message amongst all our students. We are delighted that students in Years 7 and 8 will be leading the Headmaster's Assembly with the support of Mrs Reeves, Head of Year 7, and Mr Dziemianko, Head of Year 8. Mrs Rigby, Head of the Junior School, will lead the assembly for the Junior School children and the Swans class from the Nursery School.

The assemblies will be followed up in PSHCE lessons which take place during period 4 on Monday, where the theme will again be anti-bullying. Students in Years 7-11 will focus on a different aspect of bullying and strategies to beat the bullies. The Junior School children will follow the SEAL resources on anti-bullying in their PSHCE lesson that week. On Wednesday 16th November, there will be an information evening about E-Safety for all parents of children in the Junior School and Nursery School to help them keep their children safe on-line and make them aware of the dangers of cyber-bullying.

On Friday 18th November, the Student Listeners, consisting of Sixth Form students who have received training on how to listen to and support students with issues such as bullying, will lead the Chaplaincy Assembly. They will be ably supported by three Year 11 students, Helen Baird, Emily Bruiners and Elinor Thomas, who will highlight the trauma associated with cyber-bullying through their own improvised piece of drama.

As a parent, you can play your part in National Anti-Bullying Week, too. We encourage you to talk to your children about what they have seen and heard in assemblies and lessons at School and to reinforce the School's anti-bullying message. The School's Anti-Bullying Policy and the Safety and On-line Technology Safety Policy can be found on the School website, ratcliffe-college.co.uk by clicking on *The College* on the top of your screen and then *Other School policies*. We are also offering parents the opportunity to order a copy of the very popular and useful *101 Tips for parents: Preventing and dealing with bullying* by Julie Casey. This comprehensive, invaluable parent guide answers a variety of questions which many parents may have about the things they can do to help, and what advice they can give their children. These guides were sent to all parents last year at a cost of £1.50. If you would like a copy, please pick one up from the School Office and the cost will be added to your end of term account.

Music Department Notice



Tuesday 15th November: Chamber Concert, 7.30pm in the Theatre

Please come and support those in the choir and ensembles, as well as solo musicians. It promises to be a fabulous concert.

Mr McCall
Director of Music

Parents' Association News



The poster features a green header with the Ratcliffe College crest and the text 'Ratcliffe College Parents' Association'. A speech bubble indicates 'Tickets available from Senior School Reception'. Below the header is a row of three 'The Thinker' statues in different colors: green, blue, and red. The main text reads 'Quiz & Curry Night' in large white letters, with '£10 a ticket, 12th November at 7.30pm prompt start' in white text on a purple background at the bottom.


Ratcliffe College Parents' Association

Tickets available from
Senior School Reception

Quiz & Curry Night

£10 a ticket, 12th November at
7.30pm prompt start

Senior School News

Congratulations to our Senior School students!

Students rewarded for excellence in English:

Year 7: Philip Gyesi-Appiah, Natasha Walsh

Year 8: Luke Gyesi-Appiah, Charlie Nicholson

Year 9: Chloe Flowers, Matthew Harris, Sam Nightingale

Year 10: Matteo Fugini

Year 11: Jenny Fang, Levina Ma

A Dark Place

As I departed reluctantly, I solemnly gave him a meaningful stare then I slowly let go of his warm, tender hand. For the first time in what seemed like a decade, I felt truly alone. A sense of overwhelming anguish dispersed from a quiet corner in my mind and made me shiver like I was in the middle of the Antarctic. I began to amble along the rough curb. Before long, my naked foot made unpleasant contact with a long, jagged rock, which mercilessly ripped off an alarmingly large amount of skin from the sole of my right foot. However, the phenomenal pain was like nothing compared to the indescribable distress which froze my whole body as I heard a loud creak coming from an old, battered, wooden door which was illuminated by the beautiful moonlight; not for long though. As a dark shadow swept over the moon, a vague, sinister silhouette of a broad man stepped through the doorway. A bead of sweat trickled down the dry surface of my face.

By Philip Gyesi-Appiah, Year 7

Congratulations also to:

Ella Markham, Year 11, who races Autograss Mini cars. She displayed them at last year's Spring Fair and she races all over the country most weekends. Ella has won numerous trophies and had many wins. Ella has now been selected to drive in the Autosport Show at the NEC Birmingham in front of thousands of spectators in January. Ella's proud father is her sponsor and chief mechanic.

Christopher Curnick, Year 9, who has passed his Grade 1 Guitar examination.

Rion Senavirathna-Yapa, Year 8, who has been selected for the North District Under 13's cricket coaching squad.

In recognition for achieving over 600 house points in Year 6, I got to spend time with Mr Lloyd, seeing what his role as Headmaster involves.

On Wednesday 2nd November, I accompanied Mr Lloyd and Mr Reddin on a visit to a local primary school. The purpose of the visit was to promote Ratcliffe College and all that it has to offer. We were met by the Headmistress and time was spent discussing both of the schools and the differences and similarities there were between them. We then had a tour of the School and met some of the children which I enjoyed and found interesting.

Mr Lloyd and Mr Reddin explained to me how busy their jobs are, and how time, both during the day and in the evenings is taken up managing the running of the School and the various activities that take place. Our school day is from 8.50am until 6.20pm, but, as I have found out, that of a Headmaster is much, much longer.

By Lottie Warburton, Year 7

Combined Cadet Force (CCF) News

Over half-term, the CCF had a number of great successes. Oliver Steer, Joe Dickinson, Harry Baum and Tom Park attended the Senior Cadet Instructor week-long course, gaining excellent C passes. The RAF section sent three cadets to RAF Syerston for a day of gliding. Major Balmbra and Captain Reeves attended a Skill at Arms Course at Frimley Park, Camberley, to enable them to train and test on the new weapon system – a necessity for training the cadets.

Junior School News

Congratulations to our Junior School pupils!

Certificates of Merit were awarded at Junior Assembly to:

YEAR 5	
Priyam Ghelani	1 st certificate
Dempsey Mayne	1 st certificate
YEAR 6	
Krishan Gupta	1 st certificate
Matthew Lindley	1 st certificate
Jenna Pole	1 st certificate
Alexander Purcell	1 st certificate

Olivia Crawley, Year 3, has received a certificate for stage 7 swimming.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Sharpe, Assistant Head, and Head of Sixth Form, who became the Leicestershire Chess Champion 2011 during half-term!

Sports

During half-term, Ratcliffe College held the Tuilagi Rugby course; it was very well attended, not only by many students from Ratcliffe but also from the surrounding areas. Four days were spent learning new rugby skills and improving those already known. The course was led by Freddie Tuilagi, who was supported by his coaches. On the third day, the pupils got a very special visitor, younger brother, Manu Tuilagi, who arrived after returning from the Rugby World Cup. This is certainly something the boys will not forget! We hope to see Freddie, Manu and their brothers visiting the School in the future, with Ratcliffe College holding more of their rugby courses. Headmaster, Mr Gareth Lloyd, was delighted with the inaugural course: "It has been a fantastic experience for our boys to learn at first-hand from such distinguished players as Freddie and Manu. All the boys had a lot of fun, and it was excellent to see them developing their rugby skills. Here's to the next course!"

Senior School

On the Thursday before half-term, the 1st XV played out an exciting 19-all draw with Highfields School. Good tries by Walter Yell and Harry Jackson saw us take a 19 – 12 lead, only for Highfields to score and convert from out wide with two minutes to go. A fantastic last ditch tackle by Matt Howard, with the last play of the game, prevented a loss. Matt Brunton was Man of the Match for his excellent all-round game.

The under 14 girls faced a big challenge at the county tournament against strong opposition. The team worked hard both in defence and pushing forward in search of goals, but were unlucky to lose their first two games. The team could have let this affect the rest of their tournament but, instead, picked up their game and put in a great performance against Dixie Grammar, winning 2 – 0. The forwards transferred the ball well, using what they have learned in training and getting the shots away early. Similarly, the defence tackled fantastically, clearing the ball accurately and with speed. The midfield gained a great deal of recognition from everyone involved, as their work rate was outstanding during this tournament, supporting both the attacking and defending play. Although they narrowly lost the two remaining games, the girls played their most confident hockey this year and it would be invidious to name one player of the tournament. The stand out performances were from Nima Patel in her first game this year in goal, Millie Ellis for excellent work throughout in defence, and Chrissie Taylor who played in many different positions and worked extremely hard in each one.

Junior School

Ratcliffe Junior School children played a series of fixtures against Foremarke Hall before half term. The U11, U10 and U9s all had fixtures. The games were played with a great atmosphere and were well supported by a large number of parents; this support was very well welcome. The outstanding result was in the U9 game which we won 3 – 0. Goals were scored by Tom Page (2) and Finley Back. All the children who took part enjoyed the experience, and will have another chance to play against Foremarke Hall on 3rd December, when we entertain them here. We are also staging our **Ratcliffe College Football Festival on 12th November**, starting at **10.00am**. All support for the children will be most appreciated. Refreshments will be available, kindly organised by the Parents' Association.

Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)	Meet Time
Thurs 3 rd Nov	County Tournament	2.30 pm 2.15 pm	U13 Rugby U14 Rugby	H	
Sat 5 th Nov	Wisbech	12.00 pm	1 st & 2 nd & U15 Rugby	A	9.15 AM
Sat 5 th Nov	Wisbech	12.00 pm	U12, 13 & 14 Rugby	H	11.00 AM
Sat 5 th Nov	Wrekin	12.30 pm 1.30 pm	U14 Girls Hockey U13 Girls Hockey	A A	10.15 AM
Sat 5 th Nov	Wrekin	11.30 am	U15 Girls Hockey	A	9.15 AM
Sat 5 th Nov	Wrekin	1.15 pm 2.15 pm	1 st Girls Hockey 2 nd Girls Hockey	H H	12.15 PM 1.15 PM
Mon 7 th Nov	Humphrey Perkins	4.00 pm	U12, 13 & 14 Boys & Girls	H	
Wed 9 th Nov	County Tournament at Loughborough H.S.	4.30 pm	1 st & 2 nd Netball	A	

Spiritual News

All Saints & All Souls

The shops are full of rubbish trying to tempt us to part with hard earned cash for skeletons, bats, pointy hats and other such Halloween tat. Perhaps a sign of the 'Americanisation' of our culture but certainly an indication of a society that has completely lost its compass for the spiritual world. For the Christian, the spiritual world is not about ghouls and ghosts but about the Holy Spirit who transforms and ennobles our weak human nature. That's what we'll be celebrating on the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls.



The feast of All Saints, once known as All Hallows, brings to our gaze the countless host of men and women who have lived the spiritual life of the full and now enjoy the life of heaven.

The Commemoration of All Souls reminds us that the dead are not to be feared but loved and helped with our prayers. These are days of visiting cemeteries and consciously reuniting in thoughts and prayers with loved ones who have died.

The wonderful things proclaimed in these two days are not to be passed over lightly. Both tell us of the triumph of Christ over sin, evil and death. Both tell us of the power of his resurrection. Both show us where our real destiny lies.

Let us ask the saints to pray for us, and let us pray for our loved ones now departed. We can do so because we believe in the communion of saints – a community created by Christ that shares in his risen, healing love.

Fr President