

6<sup>th</sup> October 2011



Dear Parents,

It was very good to see many parents and students in Years 10 – 13 at the Higher Education Convention last Thursday. The numerous representatives from universities across the United Kingdom spoke highly of the quality of discussions which they had had with our students; I do hope that you found it a useful evening. My thanks to Mrs Grant for her excellent organisation of the event.

Friday morning saw a splendid Chaplaincy Assembly focusing on Olympic Values, delivered by our newly formed Olympics Committee under the guidance of Mrs Taylor within the context of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education curriculum as we approach London 2012. The ensuing successes in sports fixtures over the weekend were, therefore, all the more fitting.

Our CCF enjoyed their two-day visit to the Beckingham Ranges on Sunday and Monday, whilst on Tuesday we held our inaugural Music Department Parents' Evening, preceded by a lovely concert, under the direction of our new Director of Music, Mr McCall. Wednesday evening saw the return of the ever-popular 'Tropical Inc', hosted by our Head of Science, Mrs Schofield and the Sixth Form Science Society – great fun to have snakes and Meerkats scurrying around the Old Library!

Year 2 led a beautiful Junior Assembly this morning, under the direction of Miss Dempsey, on the theme of sharing, as in the story 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister while Years 11 and 13 Art and Design students will benefit greatly from their visit to London art and design galleries today.

I would like to draw your attention to the Tuilagi Rugby Course to be held here at Ratcliffe College from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Your son should have brought home details of this very exciting initiative, but if you have not received anything, please contact our Acting Director of Sport, Mr Phil Gilchrist: [pgilchrist@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:pgilchrist@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk) who will be pleased to discuss the matter with you (please also see the poster at the end of this Newsletter).

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

Yours sincerely,

Gareth P. Lloyd,

**Headmaster.**

## Higher Education Convention - Thursday 29/09/11



On Thursday evening, 29<sup>th</sup> September, around 300 students and parents attended a Higher Education Convention in the Sports Hall.

Representatives from 24 universities, UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), GAP year and other organisations were available for visitors to talk with, and we were pleased to welcome several students and parents from local schools and colleges.

Delegates were impressed by the “unusually high quality” of questions asked by the students, from Years 10 to 13. Feedback from students and parents was equally positive.

Towards the end of the evening, a presentation on the hot topic of “Student Finance” took place in the Theatre.

Mr Sharpe, Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form

## Parents' Association News



Tickets available from  
Senior School Reception

*Ratcliffe College Parents' Association*



# Quiz & Curry Night

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

### Senior School News

**Congratulations to our Senior School students!**

#### Police Filming Shoot

Year 13 students, Dan Delargy, Alex Gardner, Gee Kerridge and Jay Thobhani embarked upon a project working in conjunction with the police to produce a film as part of their Media coursework. The students survived the first gruelling shoot on 29<sup>th</sup> September (16 hours in total) and returned safely!

Not only this, but it was commented by both the Police Commander for the city centre unit and Steve Walsh, the ex-Leicester City Football Club Manager, that the students conducted some of the best interviews they had ever experienced. They really were a credit to the School.

Miss Gregory, Head of Media Studies

## **Young Hockey Stars of the Future.**

As a result of training and matches within the Junior Regional Performance Centres, Charlie Dolan (Year 12) and Ellie Thomas (Year 11) have moved on to the next rung of the ladder towards representing England.

Charlie will be involved in the High Performance Assessment Camp where players from the U15 and U17 age groups come together and train with some of the country's finest coaches to prepare them for possible future involvement in the National age group squads.

Ellie has been selected to participate in the Futures Cup, which aims to give players in the U16 age group first-hand experience of an international tournament environment, in preparation for potential future involvement in a National Age Group Squad.

Congratulations to both players.

## **Junior School News**

### **Congratulations to our Junior School pupils!**

Emily McBallantine, Year 4, has received a rosette for dog handling. Well done, Emily.

### **Visit to Ratcliffe College by Children's Author, Linda Chapman Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

There was a real sense of excitement in our School Hall last Thursday when the local children's author, Linda Chapman, came to talk to the students in the Junior School about her books and the inspiration behind them.

Many of our students were familiar with some of Linda's books, particularly the series "*My Secret Unicorn*" and "*Sophie and the Shadow Woods*" but they were amazed to learn that Linda has written over 150 books in total. She told the children how important it is to persevere as an author as it had taken her over 7 years and many attempts before she finally had a manuscript accepted by a publisher, but she now writes about 20 books a year.



The main focus of her talks was the series "*Sophie and the Shadow Woods*". After reading some excerpts from the books, Linda told the children how she gets the inspiration to develop the characters in her books and she challenged them to help her create a new character that could feature in a future book. After lots of discussion and some very inventive ideas, Linda invited different children to draw an aspect of the creature they had created and discuss what special attributes this creature could have.

After the presentation, Linda answered the many questions that the children had prepared for her and signed copies of her books that were available to buy. The visit was an enormous success which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students and staff, and it certainly created a buzz about books and reading.

Miss Phillipson, Deputy Head, Junior School

## **Staff News**

Miss Gregory, Head of Media Studies, will be appearing on “Weakest Link” next Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15pm on BBC2. Whilst not giving too much away, Miss Gregory claims that she knew that the answer to the question in the final round was “Burma”, but that she simply didn’t go with her gut instinct!

## **Sport**

### **Senior School Sport**

#### **Boys’ Rugby**

Poor defence cost the 1<sup>st</sup> XV victory against Birkdale. The boys showed an excellent attitude, led from the front by skipper James Montgomery-Stuart, and narrowed the gap with tries from Harry Jackson and John Wallace. Stand out players were Will Watts for his solid defence and Man of the Match, Matt Howard, who had an excellent all-round game. Final score was 21-10.

The 2nd XV continued their 100% record with a 26-7 win in their first home game of the season. Ratcliffe forwards dominated the breakdown and scored tries through Ed Stiven, Ernest Tso and two by Tom Roalfe. Special mentions go to James Horner, Ed Grundy, Matt Nutter and Patrick Joy who made excellent debuts for the 2nd Team. Man of the Match was Tom Roalfe.

The U15s ran in four tries in a well-earned 26-17 win, their second win in a row, with superb defence in the last 15 minutes from the whole team. All players tackled fiercely and were rewarded with tries from Nat Higton, Tom Smith and Eddie Waller (2). Joint Man of the Match went to Nat Higton and Dick Wong for fantastic work at the breakdown.

The U14s continued their 100% record but were faced with their toughest opposition yet. A close second-half saw Ratcliffe edge the game, with Joey Higham scoring the final try to end the game 24-21. Man of the Match was Declan McCauley.

The U13s also continued their 100% performance, winning 52-5. Joint Man of the Match went to Ryan Wong and Alex Patecki.

The U12s were unlucky to lose 21-20 against Birkdale. Man of Match, Barnaby Carroll and the rest of the forwards, dominated the game but a poor ten minutes allowed the opposition to sneak a victory.

Simon Gray, Boys’ Sports Captain

## Girls' Hockey

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI played against Trent College U17s. They appear to have learnt the lessons from their previous match and recorded a fine 3-1 win against a strong Trent side. Ellie Thomas made all 3 goals which were well taken by Sarah Kerridge (2) and Gee Kerridge. Joint Players of the Match were Ellie Thomas and Becky Taylor.

The 2nd X1 sneaked a 1-0 win over Trent with a goal from Alice Gilbert. Several players stepped their game up and Abi Hau, in particular, was impressive with her never-say-die approach.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI continued their winning ways with another victory, beating Trent by 2 goals to 1. The whole team defended well and created some good attacking breaks, and Faye Jackson earned Player of the Match for her strong play in midfield.

U15 A lost 3-0 to Uppingham. The girls battled bravely, with special mention to Lauren White who was excellent in goal, and Player of the Match, Edith Pearce, made her debut for the 1<sup>st</sup> team.

The U15 B had a hard task on their hands in their encounter; down to 10 players from the start, the team never gave up. Lois Jones, who never stopped running, was the star player, in a hard fought defeat.

The U14s drew 0-0 with Lincoln Minster. The girls worked tirelessly in the heat to create chances, in particular Amelia Lallo (Player of the Match) and Martha Gray who were unlucky not to score.

The U13 A **Netball** team had a convincing 35-6 win over Our Lady's Convent School mid-week. Holly Blount was Player of the Match.

The U13 B Netball team had a convincing win over an inexperienced Convent team 19-1. All the girls showed improvements throughout the game, and Player of the Match went to Rebecca Astill.

On Saturday, a combined U13 A & B Netball team beat Lincoln Minster 30 goals to 8, with superb shooting from Rebecca Astill, Holly Blount and Olivia Gilchrist. Captain, Olivia Gilchrist, was Player of the Match.

An enthusiastic U12 squad played in a 'friendly' tournament in Loughborough. Although the umpires were not counting goals, Ratcliffe scored their share, with 'Players of the Tournament', Kate Tyszka and Olivia Back dominating in attack.

Charlotte Huband and Hattie Lechki both competed in the National Schools BE 100 event at Brooksby last month. Hattie rode an extremely competent dressage test, had a clear round show jumping and also a clear on the cross country course – a great achievement for her first BE event. The competition was a very high standard and she eventually finished in 12th place. Charlotte also rode a good dressage test, also clear show jumping but, unfortunately, a skid into a cross country fence, resulted in a 20 point penalty (she managed to demolish a fence!), so no points on this occasion. A very good effort from both riders.

Rebecca Pawley, Girls' Sports Captain

## Junior School Sport

### Swimming

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Ratcliffe's Junior Swim Squad took part in their first gala of the year against Leicester Grammar School. Unfortunately Ratcliffe had a depleted squad for a variety of reasons, but nevertheless the swimmers who took part swam superbly.

The competition was tough but Ratcliffe managed to keep battling with some extremely close finishes. Special mention must go to Matthew and Rebecca Lindley who each achieved a first place. Despite this, Leicester proved too strong and they went on to win the gala. All of the swimmers did extremely well and are looking forward to their next gala.

**Mr Turner, Swimming Coach**

### Leicestershire Cross Country League – October Race



On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the cross country season started with a very warm and sunny start. The new location of Prestwold Hall gave the runners a good chance to encounter different challenges including hills and flats. All of the 26 children who took part did very well to run in the warm conditions, and they achieved some excellent results with more than 200 children running in each of the races. A special mention must go to Annie Rose Reddin (Year 3), Louis Westwood (Year 3), Rajen Gupta (Year 3), Cleo Loizzo (Year 4), Owen Lloyd (Year 4), Connor Foster (Year 4), James Howling (Year 5), Nicole Spencer (Year 6), Evie Wood (Year 6) and Molly Edwards (Year 6) who all finished in the top 50 in their race.

Well done to all of the runners who took part and thank you to the parents for bringing the children to the event and supporting the runners. We look forward to the next league race on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Rigby, Head of Junior School

All the girls from Years 5 and 6 played Grace Dieu on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, in a set of hockey fixtures.

The U11 A team played some good hockey but were beaten 6 - 2 by a well drilled Grace Dieu team. Our goal scorers were Olivia Carpenter and Mollie Page.

The U11 B team produced an excellent performance and won their game 6 - 1. Goals were scored by Amy Baxter, Eve Baxter, Molly Edwards and Ru Tsatsa.

The U10s drew 2 - 2 in a very even game and the superb goals came from Sharmel Yapa and Ellie Hollinshead.

Mrs Gilchrist, PE Co-ordinator

**Sport continued overleaf**

## Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Time	Team	Home/Away (H/A)	Meet Time
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	2.30 pm	U12, 13, & 14 Rugby	H	1.30 PM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	2.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> & U15 Rugby	A	11.45 AM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	1.00 pm 2.00 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Girls Hockey 1 <sup>st</sup> Girls Hockey	A A	10.45 AM 11.30 AM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	3.00 pm	U12 A & B Hockey	A	1.00 PM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	11.00 am	U15 Girls Hockey	H	10.15 AM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	2.00 pm	U14 Girls Hockey	H	1.15 PM
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mount St Mary's	3.00 pm	U13 Girls Hockey	H	2.15 PM
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Grace Dieu	4.30 pm	U12 Rugby	H	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Loughborough H.S.	4.50 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Girls Hockey	H	
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Highfields	3.00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Rugby	H	
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tournament	TBC	U12 Netball	A	
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Stoneygate	12.45pm	Netball U13 & U12 A & B	H	
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	St Margaret's	TBC	U14 Hockey	A	

## Spiritual News

### The Prayer of Saint Francis (1182-1242)

Feast Day: 4<sup>th</sup> October

*"O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace!*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;*

*Where there is discord, harmony;*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness, light, and*

*Where there is sorrow, joy.*

*Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved  
as to love; for it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life."*

"The simple prayer of St. Francis of Assisi provides for us a mold in which to cast our own life's conduct and character. It provides a blueprint upon which to pattern our living in our thoughts, speech and actions within our day to day relationships with our fellow beings and with all life around us."

**Fr President**

***Please turn overleaf to see details about the Rugby Course.***



# RUGBY COURSE at Ratcliffe College

3 Day Course - £90

4 Day Course - £115

Daily Rate - £35

Course Start - 9.30am - 4.30pm

Extended hours

8.30am - 5.30pm (extra charge)

4 Day Course For children 9 - 16 years

17th - 20th October 2011



Tuilagi Rugby Skills would like to offer you a unique opportunity to learn from an International Rugby Union and League Coach and ex Leicester Tigers and Samoa International star, Freddie Tuilagi.

An action packed exciting 4 days for young rugby players aged 9 - 16 years covering every aspect of rugby coaching, aimed to inspire children to lead a healthier lifestyle by becoming more active and to give young rugby players the chance to learn the skills and techniques to play the game and become future rugby stars.

TRS coaching team provide top professional age appropriate coaching in the following: Speed & Agility, ball handling, passing, kicking, rucking, mauling, scrums(age specific) lineouts, lines of

running, tackle & ball retention, game sense & tactics, strength & conditioning, video analysis.

- Coach appearances from the Tuilagi brothers and other Rugby super stars.
- All coaches are RFU qualified and CRB cleared.
- Groups based on ages, abilities, size and experience of attendees.

For further details please log on our website:  
[www.tuilagirugbyskills.com](http://www.tuilagirugbyskills.com)

**COACHING YOUR KIDS THE FUTURE OF THE GAME**