



15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Parents,

As is customary, we have enjoyed a wonderful last few days celebrating the festive season, including the beautiful Nativity Play performed last week by the Nursery School and Years 1 and 2, Mrs Hadley's Senior School Chaplaincy Assembly which provided a thought-provoking insight into the real message of Christmas, and a wonderful Community Carol Service on Sunday evening with our grateful thanks to the Senior Choir and Orchestra, along with the Choirs of Years 7 and 8, Readers and Altar Servers. Celebration Dinners for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception have been splendid affairs throughout this week, with special thanks to Mr Studd and his Catering Team. As I write this, we look forward to our Years 3 – 6 Carols by Candlelight this evening, and tomorrow's School Carol Service and Christmas Blessing.

It was good to see so many parents and students attend the Year 12 Parent/Teacher meeting last Friday (the presentation of which may be found in the Parents' Portal), and many students enjoyed a weekend GCSE and 'A' Level Art Workshop. In addition, our students have been ever-active in Junior School House Cross Country, Senior School House Badminton and Hockey, the Leicestershire Cross Country Senior League Races, rugby and hockey fixtures last weekend and during the course of this week, and the much talked about Christmas Food Competition. Reports on all of these appear later in this E-Newsletter.

The Ratcliffe College Olympic Committee has been industrious in raising the School's awareness about the impending 2012 Games and Olympian values. Do please read this news later in the letter to find out more about this excellent initiative.

You will shortly receive the Christmas Mailing, including reports for Nursery School, Junior School, and Years 8, 11 and 13; and studies Cards for Years 7 and 10. May I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

God bless and with my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

***Gareth Lloyd,***

Headmaster.

## Parent Notices

### End of Christmas Term Arrangements

The following arrangements will 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> .



Dear Parents

### School Photographs

Please remember that all photographs taken by our professional photographers are available to purchase at the following website: [www.studio68.co.uk](http://www.studio68.co.uk). **The Nursery and Junior Schools' Nativity and the Year 10 Production photographs are now on-line.**

When asked to insert a password, please use the same password used to access the Parents' Portal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on (01509) 817072.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Kelly Smith**

Registrar/Marketing Manager



# The Christmas edition of Hello Ratcliffe is available to read via the Parents' Portal

## Senior School News

Congratulations to our Senior School students:

### Headmaster's Assembly 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 Awards

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Merit Badge	Olivia Back	Olivia Gilchrist	Jessica-May Carroll Edward-Joseph Cefai Charley Flowers Martha Gray Joseph Higham Eve Marshall Ben McMillan Caitlin McMillan Ololade Mosaku
Merit Shield			William Smith
Super Shield			

**Certificates of Commendation (Excellence Slips) were awarded to:**

Year 10	David Astill
	Edith Pearce
	Rory Thorne
Year 11	Laura Clarke
	Joseph Dickinson
	Jenny Fang
	Olivia Lau
Year 12	Klara Glufke
	Matthew Howard
	Anna Thorley
Year 13	John Baird
	Turbo Cheung
	Faye Jackson
	Felicity Norris

**2011 Christmas Food Competition**

On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, the annual Christmas Food Competition took place. We had an amazing 25 entries this year. I was truly amazed by the sheer talent that so many of our students showed. The time and energy that must have been put into the production of the vast range of products that were entered was fabulous. The judging was a very difficult challenge, and I would like to thank all my fellow judges for their comments and help. Please see results below. Well done everyone that entered. You truly are talented!

## Christmas Food Competition 2011 Results



By Beatrice Waters



By Lottie Warburton



By Anya lock



By Georgia Chilton

## **Year 7**

1<sup>st</sup> Beatrice Waters

2<sup>nd</sup> Lottie Warburton

3<sup>rd</sup> Tíree Cover

Highly commended: Niamh Delargy, Joe Smith, Zainab Hussain, Natasha Walsh

Other entries: Zoe Duffin, Maria Skaria

## **Year 8**

1<sup>st</sup> Tilly Wheeler

2<sup>nd</sup> Imogen Power

## **Year 9**

1<sup>st</sup> Anya Locke

2<sup>nd</sup> Caitlin McMillan

3<sup>rd</sup> Jenna Culpin

Highly commended: Chloe Anderson, Christina Taylor, Milli Ellis and Eve Marshall

Other entries: Lois Jones, Olade Mosaku

## **Year 10**

1<sup>st</sup> Georgia Chilton

2<sup>nd</sup> Melissa Taylor

## **Year 12**

1<sup>st</sup> Katherine Threadgold

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Lester

3<sup>rd</sup> Zoe Smith

Martha Lewis and Thomas Pawley, Year 10, were presented with the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates and badges at Headmaster's Assembly on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

George Henfrey, Year 9, passed his RLSS Life Support and Bronze medallion awards last week.

Elizabeth Rigley, Year 8, was awarded Midland Division II winner in Cycle Speedway on 4<sup>th</sup> December in her first year of Cycle Speedway. The Headmaster presented her with her trophy on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Daniel Warwick, Year 8, attained purple belt (5<sup>th</sup> kyu) in Shotokan karate at Twyford last Sunday.

## **PSHCE**

### **Year of Engagement, Legacy from 2012 – Senior School**



Our aim was to set up a Year of Engagement in the Senior School and the Junior School as part of the national campaign of creating a legacy from 2012 in the run-up to the London Games. We wanted to inspire the students to take an interest in something that will only happen once in their lifetime within our country. In addition, we wanted to enable all the students to appreciate the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games: friendship, excellence, respect, courage, determination, inspiration and equality. Each of the Senior School Year Groups has been allocated one of the values – Year 7: friendship, Year 8: Courage, Year 9: Respect, Year 10: Equality, Year 11: Inspiration, Year 12: Determination, Year 13: Excellence. These values are central to the core ethos of the School, being a co-educational school with a tremendous feeling of community, an international boarding community and mixed cultures that is in keeping with our inclusive heritage. By encouraging staff to promote these values, we can confidently enhance the students' learning right across the curriculum – through sport, culture and education.

### **Senior School**

We have set up a committee of representatives from each year in the Senior School.

Their role is to:

- Take part and organise School / Year Group assemblies based around the values;
- Organise a variety of Whole School / Year Group events.

### **Calendar**

- Monthly assemblies taken by the committee members from each Year Group in turn
- Regular updates to the School E-Newsletter.

- October - Held a competition to compose prayers for the Opening ceremony – this was very successful and the winning poems and prayers have been put on display and made into a booklet, a copy of which will be given to each tutor group.
- They have met with Heads of Department to encourage them to establish cross-curricular links.
- The GCSE Art group coursework component has been to design a new poster for the London Games (remember the iconic 1948 London one).
- November – Olympic History timeline display in the Library.
- December – we welcomed Mark Richardson, a former Great Britain Olympic 400m runner to the College on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Mark led the Junior School assembly as well as inspirational presentations to GCSE and A level PE groups. At lunchtime he met with the Olympic Legacy Committee and found out about the work which they have been doing this year to promote the London Games. This was followed by an open forum for the whole school, where he shared his own personal journey from primary school to the Olympic podium in Atlanta and answered questions from his eager audience. The students were able to see Mark's silver medal winning performance and hear first-hand about what it takes to reach the top as well as holding his precious Olympic silver medal.
- January – Year 7 Cake sale – aim to raise £201.20.
- January – Library quiz.
- June – Team GB Casuals Day – everyone to come in wearing red/white/blue clothes.

#### **Yet to organise / new ideas to be decided / further discussions**

1. Lunchtime showings of 'Olympic Dreams' TV programmes
2. How far can you run in 20.12 secs?
3. Team relay – to run 20.12 miles
4. Typing – how fast can you type 2012 words
5. Get the students to make the number 2012 with their bodies or the Olympic rings

#### **Junior School**

1. Have held an assembly on the values
2. All noticeboards in the corridors are based on the values, following a lesson for each Year Group about their chosen value
3. A noticeboard showing the count down to the start of the games
4. Planned visit by a Paralympian
5. Spring term – they are planning on having the noticeboards in the corridors about a country that is going to the Olympics and then:
6. Summer term – the noticeboards are going to be based on a sport that is happening in the Olympics
7. They are planning to have an Olympic day with lots of Olympic based activities and would like to offer a variety of sports for the children to try out, too (opening ceremony etc.)
8. They are planning to run a competition to design a Ratcliffe Olympic mascot, etc.
9. They are having a language of the month, focussing on some of the languages that are spoken by the teams taking part in the games – starting with Spanish.

Mrs Taylor, Head of PSHCE

## Junior School News

Congratulations to our Junior School pupils!

Certificates of Merit were awarded to:

<b>YEAR 1</b>	
Harry Cregeen	1st certificate
Thomas Ferrier	1st certificate
Avani Gupta	1st certificate
Zoe Howling	1st certificate
Katherine McCrindell	1st certificate
Jayde Patterson	1st certificate
Daisy Reddin	1st certificate
Sebastian Welch	1st certificate
Jessica Westwood	1st certificate
<b>YEAR 3</b>	
Ben Ashford	1st certificate
Matilda Cregeen	1st certificate
Freya Smith	1st certificate
<b>YEAR 4</b>	
Finley Back	2nd certificate
<b>YEAR 5</b>	
William Hull	2nd certificate
Dempsey Mayne	2nd certificate
<b>YEAR 6</b>	
Luke Chilton	1st certificate
Emily Grimmett	1st certificate
Bradley Smith	1st certificate
Eve Baxter	2nd certificate
Nicole Spencer	2nd certificate

Zoe and James Howling, Year 1 and Year 5, both received a medal for taking part in the Melton Santa Fun Run.

Oliver Carpenter, Year 6, has passed her Grade 2 Piano examination.

## The Nativity



Last week, Year 2, Year 1, Swans and Cygnets performed a beautiful Nativity. Traditionally, Year 2 take the lead roles and did this with poise, grace and confidence. The narrators were very clear as they effortlessly guided us through the story of Jesus' birth. Everyone looked amazing in their dazzling costumes from the shepherds to the angels and the animals in the stable.



The singing and accompanying percussion was fantastic, and the church was filled to the ceiling with the most glorious sound. By the end of the performances there wasn't a dry eye in the house!



A huge thank you to everyone who came to support the production. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Miss Phillipson and Miss Dempsey,  
Year 1 and Year 2 Class Teachers

## Sports

### Senior School

#### Rugby

#### U12s

The U12s finished their season with a powerful display. Man of the Match, Ben Dexter, added some intelligent running and handling skills to the game. John Sommerville disrupted the opposition at every phase of play, along with Jamie Lanyon and Ganesh Thapa who were just too strong for the Lancaster Boys' team. Final score was 42-0 to Ratcliffe.

It was pleasing to see four students from Ratcliffe College run in the **Leicestershire Secondary Schools Cross Country league**. Alice Daniel and Kate Scarborough finished 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Junior Girls' race, Emily Hollis finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Inter-Girls' race,

Cameron Hart and Will Rigby finished 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Intermediate Boys' race. Well done to them all.

Simon Gray,  
**Boys' Sports Captain**

## **Hockey**

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

The 1st XI finished the season with a strong performance, including goals from Sarah Kerridge, Becky Pawley and Ellie Thomas, earning them a 3-1 victory over Welbeck.

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

The 2nd XI were determined to finish off their season on a high and this they did, dominating Welbeck throughout the game. They continually pressured the goal but were thwarted by some excellent saves. Goals from Hattie Lechki and Shona Traynor sealed a 2-0 victory with Hattie also gaining Player of the Match.

### **U13s**

The U13s finished off their season in style against Oakham, eventually winning 6-1. On a very cold and slippery pitch, the girls showed some excellent skills and teamwork. Goal scorers were Greta McKean, Rebecca Astill, Katherine Ralston, Olivia Latham and Captain, Olivia Gilchrist, who scored two. Player of the Match was the whole team for all the effort the girls showed.

### **U12s**

Mid-week the U12 girls' combined hockey team played against Chellaston and won convincingly 5-1. Goals from Abi Mayne, Kate Tyszka, Lucie Prusinski and two from Olivia Back earned the team a win in their last game of the season. Players of the Match were Abi Mayne, for her controlled play throughout the match and Olivia Back, for consistently playing well and a fantastic individual goal. Well played, girls!

Rebecca Pawley,  
**Girls' Sports Captain**

## **Junior School**

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, during a cold and chilly afternoon, Ratcliffe College played host to The Elms. The U11 A and B girls' hockey teams battled the elements and never stopped trying, until the final whistle blew. On this occasion, The Elms were the winning school, but the Ratcliffe girls should be proud of the way that they played. A special mention goes to Emily Grimmett for scoring a confident goal, Amy Baxter for her determination and Nicole Spencer for her bravery.

The U10 girls finished the hockey season in true style, winning by 2 goals to 0 against The Elms. All of the girls showed outstanding skill and team spirit, which led to goals being scored by Caitlin Lawrence and Ellie Hollinshead. It was a brilliant performance by all of the girls; therefore, Player of the Match was awarded to the whole team!

Over the term, all of the girls in Years 5 and 6 have behaved impeccably, learnt a lot about hockey, and used their skills in the fixtures that they have played in. We've had bumps and tears, but most of all, we've had teamwork, confidence, ability, determination and smiles! Mrs Gilchrist is extremely proud of all of the girls. Well done!

The U11 boys' rugby team had a great finish to the season. The boys were determined to stop The Elms School from scoring and made many ferocious tackles. In attack, Man of the Match, Matthew Lindley, ran hard and straight, and Alex Purcell was like a slippery eel, as he wriggled his way to score the only try of the game. Mr Sherwood is very pleased with the improvement that the boys have shown over the term. Well done!

On a freezing cold December afternoon, the brave souls of the Year 5 rugby team removed copious layers of tracksuits and hoodies, and recorded a fantastic 15-5 victory over The Elms. After some harsh words about being able to pass the ball, the boys suddenly played some amazing rugby that the senior first team would be proud of. Sublime support play from William Westwood, Oliver Welch and Dempsey Mayne allowed Billy Hull to power through The Elms' defence for a try. Two more tries came from Jo-Jo Evenden, whose running and agility was a sight to behold. Man of the Match went to Harry Best, who put his body on the line in defence and in the breakdown. Extremely well done to all the boys involved.



## **A Reflection**

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

## **Advent Prayer for Hope**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is, who was, and who is to come,  
we pray for the virtue of hope,  
that amidst the trials and difficulties of this world,  
we may keep our hearts fixed upon you,  
who reigns over the cosmos.  
May your grace enliven us, strengthen us,  
and defend us, as we await your coming in glory. Amen

O Emmanuel,  
King and Lawgiver  
Desire of the nations,  
Saviour of all people,  
Come and set us free, Lord, our God!

## **Fr President**