



12<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued support and good guidance of your children as we approach perhaps the busiest time in the Senior School calendar with the bulk of the GCSE examinations starting this coming Monday. Indeed, Study Leave begins after school today for our Year 11 students, and our thoughts and prayers are with them all as they prepare for the challenges which lie ahead.

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition returned on Sunday having had a successful weekend, our Boarders enjoyed basking in glorious sunshine at Bradgate Park, whilst our GCSE Drama students were, unfortunately, inside practising hard for their forthcoming productions of *Blood Brothers* and *The Passing Out Parade*, with an examiner due to be watching over them! Of course, there was also plenty of cricket to be played, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI earning a draw against a strong Emeriti team on Thursday with Rion Yapa, Aled King and Jack Nightingale all scoring 50s in reply to a robust total of 274 by the visitors.

Thank you to all of you who took time out to pop in for our second Parents' Association Coffee Morning on Monday, which I hope you found both enjoyable and useful, simply having the chance to chat and share experiences with other parents. Examinations in Art, Music and Drama continued; we held a student E-Safety meeting on Monday lunch time; and the Senior Sports Squad photographs took place. Our Year 6 pupils set off on a residential 'adventure' with PGL in Caythorpe.

I found my lunch with a group of Academic Achievers most rewarding on Tuesday, and it is always a most convivial way of sharing ideas and suggestions, and quality time to listen to these bright young people. We also hosted a presentation by Aspire USA to give food for thought to our GCSE and A Level students, if perhaps they may be thinking about embarking upon study or a career in America.

Thank you to parents who came along to the excellent Parent Café on Emotional Health and Substance Abuse. I hope you found it as informative as I did in helping keep our children well-informed about the dangers of alcohol and drugs? The slides will be posted in the parents' portal. On Wednesday, Year 3 pupils set off for the annual Beaumanor Hall residential trip on a World War II discovery, and on Friday, Year 5 were fortunate to visit the award winning, National Space Centre, which is always a highlight with its interactive galleries, planetarium, 3D simulator experience and rocket tower.

The GCSE Drama productions last evening were of a very high quality and thank you to the large, supportive audience, encouraging our examination students in these all important performances. The students and Miss Monk have worked so hard, and the set and lightning were fantastic. My thanks to the PA for supporting the evening providing the refreshments. I hope that we can look forward to a good turnout at this evening's performance when the examiner will be present. We wish all the students well.

I was delighted to be asked to join our National Hockey and Netball finalists and our coaching staff at a special lunch in the Old Library today. This was a fitting celebration for their achievements, and we shall be repeating a similar lunch for our unbeaten sports teams after half-term. Thank you to Mr Studd and his catering team for providing such a beautiful meal for us.

We have the usual programme of sporting fixtures to look forward to and, as you will see under Student News, our Boarding Girls are embarking on a 'Pretty Mudder' challenge in aid of Cancer Research, so we wish the girls (and staff) well, and hope that the event is a great success by way of personal achievement and fundraising.

I am delighted to announce that our Medical staff, Sister Debra and Sister Bridget, both trained listeners, are now providing additional lunch-time drop-in support for any student in the Senior School who needs support on any matter. The drop-in room has been named 'The Lighthouse' by students which will, I'm sure, provide many students with the opportunity to seek counsel or reassurance to support their emotional development. If you would like to know more about this new initiative, please contact the Medical Department at school, and they will be pleased to assist you.

Please note that Extra-Curricular activities for Years 7-9 are cancelled next week to allow students to focus on internal examinations. Prep after school activities will be available as normal.

Wishing you a great weekend,

Yours sincerely,



Mr J. P. Reddin,  
Headmaster.

### **School Uniform Orders with School Blazer – Free Postage & Packaging**

Any orders placed with School Blazer between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 inclusive are free of Postage and Packaging.

### **Boarding Community Photographs**

We had some lovely photographs taken of our Boarding Community recently.

Mr Sunny Hoyle regularly takes photographs at school throughout the year. These and the Boarding Community photographs can be viewed and purchased from his website: [www.showphotos.biz](http://www.showphotos.biz). The password can be found in the Parents' Secure Area in the Parent Portal, under:

**[Link to login to All School News private area; then under Photography.](#)**

## **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

We held a very productive committee meeting this week. Mr Reddin updated us on appointments and news from school, we reviewed events held in the Spring Term and put the wheels in motion for those happening this term.

The major event is, of course, the Fashion Show next week. The rest of the term, we will be supporting school events with provision of refreshments at the Drama Productions and at the various Sports Days. At the meeting, we discussed the funding applications sent through from the staff to purchase those items / services that the School budgets simply can't stretch to. We were happy to pass requests put in from both the Senior and Prep School across a spectrum of departments. These included an information screen for the Prep School, a camera for the Media Department and a contribution to the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

I hope to see some of you at the Fashion Show next week; if you would like to get involved in any of the PA activities, do please get in touch.

### **Dates for the Diary:**

Wednesday 17th May, 7.30-10.30pm, Fashion Show – tickets on sale now;

Tuesday 23rd May, Uniform Sale in the Prep School, 3.30-5.30pm. We are taking in excess Prep and Senior uniform and sports kit to sell on your behalf. Guidelines on the website.

***Jenny Howling, PA Chair***

[pa@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:pa@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk) [www.ratcliffeparents.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffeparents.co.uk)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017

7.30pm-10.30pm

Doors open 7.30pm Show starts 7.45pm



.....  
*Fundraising*  
**FASHION SHOW**  
*& Shopping Event*  
.....

Tickets from Prep School Reception

**£5** entrance (non refundable)

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In The Newman Hall, Ratcliffe College, LE7 4SG

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## CHAPLAINCY

*For the Year 11 Final Liturgy this year, readings were chosen to put a challenge to students. Molly Edwards of Year 11 and I spoke about the readings, and the following is a summary of those reflections. I ask you all to remember our Year 11 and Sixth Form students as they begin a season of great importance for their future. We pray for success in their examinations and in their deliberations about the future.*

Four challenges arise from these readings – to live with authenticity, to trust in God, to remember we’re always a part of a community, and to use the gifts and talents we have, and have developed.

The first reading is from Isaiah (58:5-9), speaking for God to the Jewish people. He reminds them that true fasting is not about rituals, but about looking after those who need help. God is telling the people to live with authenticity – don’t just say the words, but stand behind the words. To be authentic means to be true to who you are, and to be dependable in doing what you say you’ll do. The responsorial psalm (Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my shepherd”) reminds us of the trust that the Jews put in God as their “shepherd”. It lists in metaphors the blessings given to the Jews – God provides for them, he gives them rest, guidance, fearlessness and comfort. The second reading comes from St Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (12:12-19, 24b-26), who is advising the early Christians to remember they are always in a community, and they should always work together – each in their own way. His metaphor is that of the body – an eye cannot do what an ear does, and it shouldn’t. We all take our role and care for those other members as we can.

The Gospel from Matthew (25:14-30) is a parable from Jesus, who is telling us to be bold and use our talents and gifts. They are given to us with the expectation to do something with them. Just as fear made the last servant miss his opportunities, it can do the same to us. The challenges from the readings are challenges to anyone:

- Be an authentic person – say what you’ll do, and do what you say.
- Recognise your blessings – what you have and where you want to go.
- Remember those around you – support them and ask for support if you need it.
- Use your talents and gifts – try to become the best you can.

*Mr Michael, Lay Chaplain.*

## STUDENT NEWS

### Senior School

#### Senior School Achievement Awards, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

	<b>Merit Badge</b>	<b>Merit Shield</b>	<b>Super Shield</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Maisie Ashford-Clark Joseph Butler Ibrahim Hussain Grace Karanja Thomas Murray Jack Tang	Rebecca Dias Annie Jarvis Lucy Tuttey	
<b>Year 8</b>	William Marsden	Temi Abiodun Alex Dring Daniel McGunnigle	Elise Atkinson

<b>Outstanding Reward Voucher 1</b>	
<b>Year 12</b>	Alexandra Mitchell
<b>Year 13</b>	Swapna Pooboni

### **Practical Music Examination Results – March 2017**

Sarah Astill – Grade 6 Oboe – Pass  
 Emily Wetton – Grade 3 Voice – Merit  
 Emilia Lawden – Grade 8 Euphonium - Distinction

### **Media Students of the Term**

Year 10: Jhanvi Sharma: for incredible dedication to the subject and self-improvement. This has led to the biggest rise in attainment in Year 10.

Year 11: Mollie Page: for consistently excellent examination preparation, following an outstanding coursework performance.

Year 12: Ines Munoz Torre: for consistently excellent examination preparation, and response to teacher feedback. This has led to consistently excellent attainment.

Year 13: Prajwol Khamcha: for a thorough and concerted effort in examination preparation, including extensive redrafting of essays which has led to an excellent rise in attainment.

### **BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork & Personal Development in the Community** Congratulations to Harry Bellamy and Finbarr Lloyd on gaining the Diploma.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Congratulations to Olutomi Mosaku, Year 12, on successfully gaining his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### **Boarding Students' Challenge in Aid of Cancer Research**

Cancer Research UK, the charity which the boarding community has chosen to support over the last five years, is close to all our hearts. This year, in order to raise even more money for this amazing cause, we will be asking the school community to support us in a variety of ways.

Firstly, on Sunday 14th May 2017, 9 members of staff and 25 students from the Girls' Boarding House will be running, walking and even crawling the Race for Life, 'Pretty Mudder' at Prestwold Hall. If you wish to sponsor us, please use the link below or you can make donations via the Senior School Reception:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RatcliffeCollegeGirlsBoarding>



Secondly, during the last week of this half-term, we will be holding a 'Bottle Flipping' competition. This will be open to all members of the Senior School community and will take place at lunch times. Pay a pound to have the opportunity to flip five bottles and win prizes if they land!

Thirdly, the boarders will be coming into tutor groups to ask pupils to donate change in our 'Change for Cancer' appeal. Please can you ask your children to bring in their 'coppers' as every penny counts?

Finally, we look forward to holding a Prep School Cake Sale on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

We would like to thank you all for your support. We raised £2000 pounds last year and it would be a great achievement to raise even more this year.

***Mrs Leite and Mr Gilchrist***

## Preparatory School

### Practical Music Examination Results – March 2017

Amelie Wilson-Knight – Grade 2 Voice – Merit  
Eloise Allsager – Debut level Drums – Distinction  
Isabella Boothroyd – Grade 1 Voice – Distinction  
Lily Grieff-Mulvey – Grade 3 Voice – Distinction  
Isha Sidhu – Grade 2 Voice – Distinction  
Annabelle Hull – Grade 3 Voice – Distinction

## OLD RATCLIFFIANS' NEWS



*The winning team with trophy*

Congratulations to the Old Ratcliffians' Golf Team who won the recent Old Boys' Centenary Salver at Luffenham Heath Golf Club.

The day involved 18 holes in the morning and 18 holes in the afternoon, with the two best scores qualifying from the three pairs representing each school with alumni from **Loughborough Grammar, Oundle, Stamford, Uppingham and Ratcliffe College**. This year's Old Ratcliffians were represented by Abe Mee (afternoon session), Scott Piecha (morning session), Declan and Sean McAuley, Dominic Howkins, Lindsay Buckingham and Saroj Ekanayake.

After the morning session, the ORs sat in third place, only by one point, which still meant they were in contention and also hoping to better the last five years of playing and finishing in the bottom two! The ORs finished with two strong rounds in the afternoon. This was firstly led by Abe Mee and Lindsay Buckingham with 44 points, which was followed by the last pair, Declan and Sean McAuley, coming in with 43 points.

The Old Ratcliffians' team won with a total of 166 for the day, with the Old Oundelians coming second with 159 points.

## SPORT

### Senior School

#### Athletics

Princethorpe won 67.5 – 52.5

On Saturday, the under 12's Athletics Team competed as Ratcliffe hosted their first Athletics meet against Princethorpe College. Each team consisted of 10 girls all of whom had to compete in a track and field event. After some strong performances in the track events, from Fisayo Abiodun and Isabella Illsley-Ridge, the scores were close, with Ratcliffe just four points behind Princethorpe with all to compete for in the field events. The field events were again a close affair. Victoria Wheatley and Tallulah Wood achieved a joint 1<sup>st</sup> in High Jump, Amelia Haggis achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the shot put and Holly Clark Pratt, a 1<sup>st</sup> in Javelin. Princethorpe again just edged it, scoring 3.5 more than Ratcliffe taking their lead to 7.5.

The relays were worth double points, and so a win was still within touching distance, but a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place saw Princethorpe win overall, 67.5 – 52.5. Well done to all the girls who competed and a special thank you to Dalila Watson, in Year 9, who came to help manage the team and help with events.



#### Girls' Tennis

##### U12

The U12 tennis team had their first experience of competitive tennis where they made impressive improvements in their play throughout the sets. Despite losing the match, the score did not reflect their performance. There were some good rallies and they tried to move the ball around the court, and even put away some volleys. Well done girls.

## **Olivia Gilchrist, Girls' Sport Captain**

### **Cricket**

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

The 1st XI cricket enjoyed a much more successful week, picking up a win and a draw. On Thursday, they faced a strong XL Club side who posted a commanding 255 for 5. The run rate proved too daunting for the team but they comfortably played out for a draw, with Toby Snell taking Man of the Match for his 72. On Saturday, they faced Welbeck. Welbeck batted first and found the going difficult with every bowler picking up wickets, including three for Marshall Sandawana, as the home side were dismissed for just 50. After Ratcliffe lost their opening three wickets for one run, struggling to cope with the conditions, Toby Snell and Captain, Rion Yapa, steadied the ship and saw the team home by 6 wickets.

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI enjoyed two wins this week. On Thursday, they beat Wyggeston & QE by six wickets. Louis Massarella took 4 for 13 whilst Alex Keay and Richard Ward batted well with 26 and 20, respectively, to knock off the runs. They followed this up with a 65 run victory against Welbeck on Saturday. The pick of the performances came from the bowlers, with Matthew Ward taking 2 for 8, Harry Heaney 3 for 7 and Nicole Spencer mopping things up with a fine spell with 4 wickets for 5 runs. Sebastian Cook turned down the opportunity of an afternoon of revision to turn out when the team found themselves one short and took the final wicket of the match.

#### **U15**

With a number missing to The Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition, the U15s struggled against Mount St Mary's, eventually losing by 28 runs. Mount batted first and scored 90. In reply, Ratcliffe lost crucial early wickets and could only muster 62, with Joe Collier the only batsman to get into double figures. Men of the Match were Hugo Tuttey and Henry Wells who got three and two wickets, respectively.

#### **U14**

Ratcliffe U14s had their first game of season this Saturday and they came through convincingly with a five wicket win against Mount St Marys. Having not played the week before, this was a good test for the U14s and it was also a good opportunity to see what depth was in the side with the team missing a couple of their stronger players. Player of the Match and Captain, Tom Page, won the toss and opted to bowl. Ratcliffe bowled superbly to dismiss the opposition for a modest total of 73 in the 14th over. It was a great team effort with the ball as Tom Page, Krishan Jivanji, Anuj Savani, James Turner and Owen Lloyd all picked up wickets. Tom Page also dismissed the number three batsman with an excellent run out first ball. In reply with the bat, Ratcliffe chased down the total with relative ease in the 13th over. Tom Page top scored with 24 not out and James Turner chipped in with a useful 16.

## U13

The U13s continued their good start to the season with a 36 run win over Mount St Mary's. Batting first, we set them a target of 140 to win off 20 overs. Man of the Match Joe Davies was top scorer, finishing on 64 not out, while a number of other batsman got into double figures. Joe was also the pick of the bowlers, taking two wickets from his four overs. Temi Abiodun took two wickets from his three overs to stop Mount from reaching their target.

## U12

The U12s chased down a target of 61 to beat Mount. Fielding first, Ratcliffe kept the run rate low in the opening few overs and it wasn't until Mount had 26 runs on the scoreboard that we claimed our first wicket. However, from then on, the wickets kept coming for very few runs. Mount finished up with a total of 60 – 8 from their 20 overs with the pick of the bowlers being Tristan Turner with figures of 4 – 13 from 4 overs. Ratcliffe chased down their target with 22 balls to spare losing no wickets in the process, with George Binnie and Tilak Pabari opening the batting. George Binnie played some excellent shots including 5 boundaries and retired on 30 runs whilst Tilak Pabari batted solidly for the whole innings. Player of the match goes to George Binnie.

## Harry Stokes, Boys' Sports Captain

### Sporting Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Start	Team	Venue	Meet
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Wellingborough	10.30am	U15A Tennis	Home	8.45am
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Wellingborough	10.30am	U15, U14 A and B Rounders	Home	9.45am
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Derby GS	10.30am	U15,U14,U13,U12 Cricket	Away	9.00am
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Welbeck	1.30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Cricket	Away	12.30pm
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Welbeck	1.30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cricket	Away	12.30pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Denstone	2.00pm	U15,U14,U13,U12,U13/12 Rounders	Away	12.15pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Birkdale	10.30am	1 <sup>st</sup> , U15 Cricket	Home	9.30am
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Birkdale	10.30am	U13,U12 Cricket	Away	8.15am